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Preface

These proceedings contain the technical papers presented at the 2012 European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (ECML-PKDD 2012), held in Bristol, UK, during the week of 24–28 September 2012. ECML-PKDD is a highly successful and selective international conference series, which was first organised in its present form in 2001 in Freiburg, Germany, when it joined together the hitherto separate ECML and PKDD conferences. Since then, the two strands of machine learning and data mining have been increasingly integrated in the joint conference, and today it is well-known as the only top-tier international conference that exploits the synergy between these two exciting fields. It is therefore particularly pleasing that the achieved level of synergy is evident from the list of topics in which the research track papers are categorised in these pages: Association Rules and Frequent Patterns; Bayesian Learning and Graphical Models; Classification; Dimensionality Reduction, Feature Selection and Extraction; Distance-Based Methods and Kernels; Ensemble Methods; Graph and Tree Mining; Large-Scale, Distributed and Parallel Mining and Learning; Multi-relational Mining and Learning; Multi-task Learning; Natural Language Processing; Online Learning and Data Streams; Privacy and Security; Rankings and Recommendations; Reinforcement Learning and Planning; Rule Mining and Subgroup Discovery; Semi-supervised and Transductive Learning; Sensor Data; Sequence and String Mining; Social Network Mining; Spatial and Geographical Data Mining; Statistical Methods and Evaluation; Time Series and Temporal Data Mining; and Transfer Learning.

The format of the 2012 conference follows the tried-and-tested format of previous instalments, with workshops and tutorials on Monday and Friday; research papers in parallel tracks on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday; and plenary keynote talks on each of the five conference days. The proceedings start with abstracts and bios of our five eminent invited speakers: Pieter Abbeel, Luc De Raedt, Douglas Eck, Daniel Keim and Padhraic Smyth. The bulk of the proceedings is then taken up by 105 research papers. These were carefully selected from 443 submitted papers (acceptance rate 23.7%) on the basis of reviews by 275 Programme Committee members and 36 Area Chairs, assisted by 161 additional reviewers. In acknowledgment of their essential contribution to the success of the conference you will find their names on the following pages.

The final sections of the proceedings are devoted to Demo and Nectar papers. Ten system demonstration papers were selected from 19 submissions to the Demo track by a small committee chaired by Bettina Berendt and Myra Spiliopoulou. The Nectar track is new this year and features significant machine learning and data mining results published or disseminated no earlier than 2010 at different conferences or in journals. One goal of this track is to offer conference attendees the opportunity to learn about results published in other communities but related to machine learning or data mining (or both). Submissions compactly

presenting well-founded results which appeared in a series of publications that advanced a single novel influential idea or vision were also welcomed. A dedicated committee chaired by Gemma Garriga and Thomas Gärtner selected 4 Nectar papers from 14 submissions. Our sincere thanks to everyone involved for these valuable additions to the conference.

Elements of the conference not directly represented in the proceedings include 11 workshops (Mining Ubiquitous and Social Environments; New Frontiers in Mining Complex Patterns; The Silver Lining – Learning from Unexpected Results; Instant Interactive Data Mining; Learning and Discovery in Symbolic Systems Biology; Sentiment Discovery from Affective Data; Active Learning in Real-world Applications; Mining and Exploiting Interpretable Local Patterns; Community Mining and People Recommenders; Collective Learning and Inference on Structured Data: and the Discovery Challenge workshop), as well as 8 tutorials (Understanding and Managing Cascades on Large Graphs; Advanced Topics in Data Stream Mining; Mining Deep Web Repositories; PAC-Bayesian Analysis in Supervised, Unsupervised, and Reinforcement Learning; Random Projections for Machine Learning and Data Mining; Decomposing Binary Matrices; Advanced Topics in Ensemble Learning; and Probabilistic Modeling of Ranking). Many thanks to the workshop organisers and tutorial presenters, as well as the Workshop Chairs Arno Knobbe and Carlos Soares and the Tutorial Chairs Alessandro Moschitti and Siegfried Nijssen for putting together this exciting programme. We would also like to draw attention to the programme of presentations by representatives from industry put together by Industry Track Chairs Cédric Archambeau and David Barber, consisting of a series of talks centred around Big Data as well as a programme of ‘Startup Stories’ sponsored by the PASCAL2 Network of Excellence.

Finally, it is our pleasure to announce the winners of the best paper awards, as selected by a small committee chaired by the Awards Chair Johannes Fürnkranz. The paper ‘Active Evaluation of Ranking Functions based on Graded Relevance’ by Christoph Sawade, Steffen Bickel, Timo von Oertzen, Tobias Scheffer and Niels Landwehr wins the best machine learning paper award sponsored by the *Machine Learning* journal. The paper ‘Socioscope: Spatio-Temporal Signal Recovery from Social Media’ by Jun-Ming Xu, Aniruddha Bhargava, Robert Nowak and Xiaojin Zhu receives the best data mining paper award sponsored by *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*. Our congratulations to the authors of both papers and in particular to their student main authors. We also continue the tradition started at ECML-PKDD 2011 in Athens of selecting a most influential paper published at the conference 10 years ago. Following a poll organised by the Awards Chair among selected participants the most influential paper presented at ECML-PKDD 2002 in Helsinki is ‘Mining All Non-derivable Frequent Itemsets’ by Toon Calders and Bart Goethals. We look forward to finding out which paper from these proceedings will be deemed to have been most influential in 2022!

July 2012

Peter Flach
Tijl De Bie
Nello Cristianini

Organisation

ECML-PKDD 2012 was organised by the Departments of Computer Science and Engineering Mathematics of the University of Bristol, UK. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of our academic sponsors (the University of Bristol (the aforementioned Departments as well as the Faculty of Engineering), the PASCAL2 Network of Excellence and the EternalS FP7 Coordination Action), our business sponsors (Winton Capital Management, Hewlett-Packard Research Labs Bristol, Rapid-I, Cambridge University Press, Google, KNIME, IBM UK and Microsoft Research) and our award sponsors (the journals of *Machine Learning* and *Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery*).

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