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Principles of Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery

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Preface

We are pleased to present the proceedings of the *13th European Conference on Machine Learning* (LNAI 2430) and the *6th European Conference on Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases* (LNAI 2431). These two conferences were colocated in Helsinki, Finland during August 19–23, 2002. ECML and PKDD were held together for the second year in a row, following the success of the colocation in Freiburg in 2001. Machine learning and knowledge discovery are two highly related fields and ECML/PKDD is a unique forum to foster their collaboration.

The benefit of colocation to both the machine learning and data mining communities is most clearly displayed in the common workshop, tutorial, and invited speaker program. Altogether six workshops and six tutorials were organized on Monday and Tuesday. As invited speakers we had the pleasure to have Erkki Oja (Helsinki Univ. of Technology), Dan Roth (Univ. of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign), Bernhard Schölkopf (Max Planck Inst. for Biological Cybernetics, Tübingen), and Padhraic Smyth (Univ. of California, Irvine).

The main events ran from Tuesday until Friday, comprising 41 ECML technical papers and 39 PKDD papers. In total, 218 manuscripts were submitted to these two conferences: 95 to ECML, 70 to PKDD, and 53 as joint submissions. All papers were assigned at least three reviewers from our international program committees. Out of the 80 accepted papers 31 were first accepted conditionally; the revised manuscripts were accepted only after the conditions set by the reviewers had been met.

Our special thanks go to the tutorial chairs Johannes Fürnkranz and Myra Spiliopoulou and the workshop chairs Hendrik Blockeel and Jean-François Boulicaut for putting together an exiting combined tutorial and workshop program. Also the challenge chair Petr Berka deserves our sincerest gratitude. All the members of both program committees are thanked for devoting their expertise to the continued success of ECML and PKDD. The organizing committee chaired by Helena Ahonen-Myka worked hard to make the conferences possible. A special mention has to be given to Oskari Heinonen for designing and maintaining the web pages and Ilkka Koskenniemi for maintaining CyberChair, which was developed by Richard van de Stadt. We thank Alfred Hofmann of Springer-Verlag for cooperation in publishing these proceedings. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Academy of Finland and KDNet.

We thank all the authors for contributing to what in our mind is a most interesting technical program for ECML and PKDD. We trust that the week in late August was most enjoyable for all members of both research communities.

June 2002

Tapio Elomaa
Heikki Mannila
Hannu Toivonen

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