

ECML PKDD, the *European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases* (<http://www.ecmlpkdd2011.org/>) took place in Athens, Greece, from September 5th to 9th, 2011. The event was co-organized by the Athens University of Economics and Business, the University of Athens, the University of Bari, the University of Ioannina and the University of Piraeus.

The conference provided an international forum for the discussion of the latest high quality research results in all areas related to machine learning and knowledge discovery in databases as well as other innovative application domains. Over the years it has evolved as one of the largest and most selective international conferences in machine learning and data mining, the only one that provides a common forum for these two closely related fields.

ECML PKDD 2011 followed a full week schedule, from Monday to Friday. It featured six plenary invited talks by Rakesh Agrawal (Microsoft Search Labs, California), Albert-László Barabási (Harvard University), Christopher Bishop (Microsoft Research Labs, Cambridge), Andrei Broder (Yahoo! Research), Marco Gori (University of Siena) and Heikki Mannila (University of Helsinki). Monday and Friday were devoted to workshops, tutorials and an interesting industrial session, with distinguished speakers from the ML and DM industry.

The main conference program unfolded from Tuesday to Thursday, where 121 papers selected among 599 full-paper submissions were presented in the technical parallel sessions and in a poster session open to all accepted papers. The acceptance rate of 20% supports the traditionally high standards of ECML PKDD conference.

Following an earlier tradition, the Best Paper Awards and Best Student Paper Awards in Machine Learning and in Data Mining, most of them sponsored by Springer, were awarded to the selected papers. As ECML PKDD completed 10 years of joint organization, the PC chairs, together with the steering committee, initiated a 10-year Awards series. This award was established for the author(s), whose paper appeared in the ECML PKDD conference 10 years ago, and had the most impact on the machine learning and data mining research since then. Peter Turney was the recipient of this prestigious award.

Besides the scientific activities, the conference offered the delegates an attractive bunch of social activities in a circle around the Acropolis hill: the welcome reception at the roof garden of the conference venue (sponsored by Springer for its

ECML PKDD 2011

ΕΥΡΩΠΕΑΝ CONFERENCE ON MACHINE LEARNING
AND PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE
OF KNOWLEDGE DISCOVERY IN DATABASES

25th anniversary of the Machine Learning Journal), a poster session at “Technopolis” Gazi industrial park, the conference Banquet at the conference venue (sponsored by Google, the platinum sponsor of the conference), and a farewell party at the new Acropolis Museum, one of the most impressive archaeological museums worldwide.

All delegates renewed their rendezvous for the 2012 ECML PKDD to take place in Bristol, UK, next year.

Athens, September 2011

Prof. Yannis Theodoridis, Univ. Piraeus

ECML PKDD General co-Chair