This volume contains the papers accepted to the 4th Asian Conference on Machine Learning (ACML 2012), following successful preceding conferences held in Nanjing, China, Tokyo, Japan and Taoyuan, Taiwan in 2009, 2010 and 2011 respectively. The conference aims at providing a leading international forum for researchers in machine learning and related fields to share their new ideas and achievements, and welcomed papers from the Asia-Pacific regions and internationally. ACML 2012 was held 4-6th November in Singapore.

The papers in this volume were accepted to ACML following a selective review process. We had 138 paper submissions receiving a full review that were submitted in two rounds, an early round of 39 papers and a later round of 99 papers. Some of the early round papers where revised and resubmitted. We eventually accepted 26% of the papers, 12 papers for long oral presentation and a further 24 for short oral presentation. Every paper was double-blind reviewed, initially by at least 4 reviewers who were chosen from our program committee members according to their bidding results. To ensure the quality, each reviewer had a quota of no more than 6 papers to review. Every paper was also assigned to first and second senior program committee member who oversaw the review process by moderating discussions among reviewers and resolving their differences. Finally, the program committee co-chairs or additional reviewers read borderline papers and reviewers' comments to make confident decisions for all papers.

All accepted papers received both an oral and poster presentation. Following the tradition of previous ACMLs, all oral presentations are plenary. Constraints imposed by the length of the conference and a policy of avoiding parallel sessions restrict the number of papers that can be accepted.

This year, the submissions came from 30 countries around the world including the Americas, Europe and Asia. The submissions covered a wide range of topics, including supervised, unsupervised learning, clustering and classification and a wide range of applications.

In addition to submitted papers, we were excited to have three keynotes. Dale Schuurmans talked about "Convex Methods for Representation Learning", Robert Williamson talked about "Multiclass Losses and Multidistribution divergences" and James Rehg talked about "Behavior Imaging and the Study of Autism". As is tradition, the conference was preceded by a day of tutorials. The tutorials included "Bandit Games" by Sebastien Bubeck, "Domain Adaptation in Real World Applications" by Fei Sha, Ivor W. Tsang and Sinno Jialin Pan and "Probabilistic Modeling of Ranking" by Jose A. Lozano and Ekhine Irurozki. We thank them for their great contributions to the program. In addition to the tutorials, a parallel track ran on the first day with two workshops, the first time in ACML conference series.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all authors who submitted their work to this conference. Our special thanks go to the Local Arrangement Committee with co-chairs Jing

Jiang and Ivor Tsang and members Yi Wang and Sintiani Dewi Teddy, the Finance chair Jianxin Wu, the Sponsorship chair David Lo, and the Publication chair Sinno Jialin Pan. We are also grateful to the many universities and research organizations who contributed organizational support and premises: Singapore Management University, National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, A*STAR Institute for Infocomm Research, DSO National Laboratories, Singapore University of Technology and Design.

November 2012

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Invited Talks

Speaker: Prof. Dale Schuurmans (University of Alberta)
Title: Convex Methods for Representation Learning

Abstract: Automated feature discovery is a fundamental problem in data analysis. Although classical feature learning methods fail to guarantee optimal solutions in general, convex reformulations have been developed for a number of such problems. Most of these reformulations are based on one of two key strategies: approximating pairwise representations or exploiting induced matrix norms. Despite their use of relaxation, convex reformulations can demonstrate significant improvements in solution quality by eliminating local minima. I will discuss several convex reformulations for representation learning problems, including clustering, subspace learning, multi-view learning, and hidden-layer network training—demonstrating how feature discovery can co-occur with parameter optimization while admitting globally optimal solutions.

Biography: Dale Schuurmans is a Professor of Computing Science and Canada Research Chair in Machine Learning at the University of Alberta. He received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Toronto, and has worked at the National Research Council Canada, University of Pennsylvania, NEC Research Institute and the University of Waterloo. He is an Associate Editor of JAIR and AIJ, and currently serves on the IMLS and NIPS Foundation boards. He has served as a Program Co-chair for NIPS-2008 and ICML-2004, and as an Associate Editor for IEEE TPAMI, JMLR and MLJ. His research interests include machine learning, optimization, probability models, and search. He is author of more than 130 refereed publications in these areas and has received paper awards at IJCAI, AAAI, ICML, IEEE ICAL and IEEE ADPRL.

Speaker: Prof. Robert Williamson (Australian National University and NICTA)
Title: Multiclass Losses and Multidistribution Divergences

Abstract: Binary prediction problems (and their associated loss functions) are perhaps the simplest machine learning problems and have been extensively studied. Similarly, divergence measures between two probability distributions are well understood, for example the classical Csiszar f-divergences. There is a natural bridge between binary proper losses and f-divergences via the Bayes risk of a binary learning problem induced by the loss.

Multiclass prediction problems and multiclass loss functions are less well understood. It is not even clear (at first) what the "divergence" between k distributions even means when $k > 2$.

In this talk I will show how the binary "bridge" extends to the multiclass case and allows simple proofs of the properties of multidistribution f-divergences which are analogous to those satisfied by the classical f-divergences. I will also outline the theory of composite multiclass losses, which are the composition of a proper loss with a link function, including a characterisation of when they are convex.

(Joint work with Dario Garcia-Garcia, Mark Reid, and Elodie Vernet)

Biography: Professor Bob Williamson is the leader of the Machine Learning group at NICTA and professor in the Research School of Computer Sciences at the ANU. He obtained a PhD in Electrical Engineering from the University of Queensland in 1990. From 2003 to 2006 Professor Williamson was the Director of NICTA's Canberra Research Laboratory. In 2006 he was appointed as NICTA's Scientific Director. Since 2011 he has been leading the Machine Learning group. He is a member of the advisory board of the National Institute of Informatics (Japan) and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max-Planck Institute for Biological Cybernetics. In 2012 he was elected a fellow of the Australian Academy of Sciences.

Speaker: Prof. James Rehg (Georgia Tech)
Title: Behavior Imaging and the Study of Autism

Abstract: In this talk I will describe current research efforts in Behavior Imaging, a new research field which encompasses the measurement, modeling, analysis, and visualization of social and communicative behaviors from multi-modal sensor data. Beginning in infancy, individuals acquire the social and communicative skills which are vital for a healthy and productive life, through face-to-face interactions with caregivers and peers. However, children with developmental delays face great challenges in acquiring these skills, resulting in substantial lifetime risks. Autism, for example, affects 1 in 88 children in the U.S. and can lead to substantial impairments, resulting in a lifetime cost of care of $3.2M per person. The goal of our research in Behavior Imaging is to develop computational methods that can support the fine-grained and large-scale measurement and analysis of social behaviors, with the potential to positively impact diagnosis and treatment. I will present an overview of our research efforts in Behavior Imaging, with a particular emphasis on the use of machine learning methods to extract behavior measurements from weakly-annotated video data. Specifically, I will describe a new approach to video analysis based on the concept of temporal causality, which leverages a novel representation of video events as multiple point processes. Our method provides a new bottom-up approach to video segmentation based on the temporal structure of video events. I will present results for retrieving and categorizing social interactions in collections of real-world video footage. I will also highlight our recent efforts in recognizing activities in video which is acquired by a wearable camera (also known as egocentric vision). This is joint work with Alireza Fathi, Yin Li, Karthir Prabhakar, and Sangmin Oh.

Biography: James M. Rehg (pronounced "ray") is a Professor in the School of Interactive Computing at the Georgia Institute of Technology, where he is the Director of the Center for Behavior Imaging, co-Director of the Computational Perception Lab, and Associate Director of Research in the Center for Robotics and Intelligent Machines. He received his Ph.D. from CMU in 1995 and worked at the Cambridge Research Lab of DEC (and then Compaq) from 1995-2001, where he managed the computer vision research group. He received the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award in 2001, the Raytheon

Faculty Fellowship from Georgia Tech in 2005, and a Senior Faculty Research Award from Georgia Tech in 2011. He and his students have received a number of best paper awards, including best student paper awards at ICML 2005 and BMVC 2010. Dr. Rehg is active in the organizing committees of the major conferences in computer vision, most-recently serving as the Program co-Chair for ACCV 2012 and the General co-Chair for IEEE CVPR 2009. He has served on the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Computer Vision since 2004. He has authored more than 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers and holds 23 issued US patents. Dr. Rehg is currently leading a multi-institution effort to develop the science and technology of Behavior Imaging, funded by an NSF Expedition award (see `www.cbs.gatech.edu` for details).

Tutorials

Speaker Name: Sebastien Bubeck
Title: Bandit Games

Abstract: In the recent years the multi-armed bandit problem has attracted a lot of attention in the theoretical learning community. This growing interest is a consequence of the large number of problems that can be modeled as a multi-armed bandit: ad placement, website optimization, packet routing, *etc.* Furthermore the bandit methodology is also used as a building block for more complicated scenarios such as reinforcement learning, model selection in statistics, or computer game-playing. While the basic stochastic multi-armed bandit can be traced back to Thompson (1933) and Robbins (1952), it is only very recently that we obtained an (almost) complete understanding of this simple model. Moreover many extensions of the original problem have been proposed in the past fifteen years, such as bandits without a stochastic assumption (the so-called adversarial model), or bandits with a very large (but structured) set of arms.

The tutorial will be divided into three parts:

- In the first part we discuss the state-of-the-art results on the basic multi-armed bandit problem (both stochastic and adversarial).

- In the second part the focus will be on continuously-armed stochastic bandits, with a Lipschitz assumption on the mean-payoff.

- Finally in the third part we consider the case of adversarial bandits, with a linear loss and a very large set of arms with some combinatorial structure.

Biography: Sebastien Bubeck is an assistant professor in the department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering at Princeton University. He joined Princeton after a postdoc at the Centre de Recerca Matematica in Barcelona, where he was working with Gabor Lugosi. He received his PhD in mathematics from the University of Lille 1, advised by Remi Munos, after undergraduate studies at the Ecole Normale Superieure de Cachan. His research focuses on the mathematics of machine learning, with emphasis on problems related to multi-armed bandits. His work was recognized by several awards, such as the COLT 2009 best student paper award, and the Jacques Neveu prize 2010 for the best French PhD in Probability/Statistics.

Organizers: Fei Sha, Ivor W. Tsang, Sinno Jialin Pan
Speakers: Ivor W. Tsang, Sinno Jialin Pan
Title: Domain Adaptation in Real World Applications

Abstract: Domain adaptation (a.k.a., cross-domain learning or transfer learning) has become an increasingly important research direction in machine learning and many other application areas. It is well-known that features sampled from different domains may differ tremendously in their distributions, such as mean, intra-class/inter-class variance. Domain

adaptation methods have been developed to cope with such mismatch among domains. Recently they have also been successfully used in a broad range of real-world applications, in which the (target) domain of interest contains very few labeled samples, while an existing (auxiliary) domain is often available with a large number of labeled examples. We propose this tutorial with three specific objectives: i) provide an overview of this fast-growing research area; ii) describe representative methods and their real-world applications to natural language processing, speech recognition and computer vision; iii) raise awareness of research challenges and engage discussions on future directions in this area.

Biographies: Fei Sha is currently an Assistant Professor with U. of Southern California, Department of Computer Science. He received his PhD in 2007 from U. of Pennsylvania, Department of Computer and Information Science. Afterwards, he worked as a postdoctoral research at U. of California (Berkeley) and as a research scientist at Yahoo! Research. His primary research interests include statistical machine learning with applications to speech and language processing, computer vision, robotics and others. He received outstanding student paper awards at NIPS and ICML. He was a member of DARPA 2010 Computer Science Study Panel, and an awardee of Army Research Office 2012 Young Investigator Award.

Ivor W. Tsang is currently an Assistant Professor with the School of Computer Engineering, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore. He is also the Deputy Director of the Center for Computational Intelligence, NTU. He received his Ph.D. degree in computer science from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2007. His research focuses on support vector machines, large scale machine learning, transfer learning and their applications to data mining and pattern recognitions. He has more than 80 research papers published in refereed international journals and conference proceedings, including JMLR, T-NN, T-PAMI, Neural Computation, NIPS, ICML, UAI, AISTATS, SIGKDD, IJCAI, AAAI, EMNLP, ICCV, CVPR, ECCV, *etc.* Dr. Tsang received the prestigious IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks Outstanding 2004 Paper Award in 2006, and the second class prize of the National Natural Science Award 2008, China in 2009. His research earned him the Best Paper Award at ICTAI 11, the Best Student Paper Award at CVPR 10, and the Best Paper Award from the IEEE Hong Kong Chapter of Signal Processing Postgraduate Forum in 2006. He was also conferred with the Microsoft Fellowship in 2005. He has delivered a tutorial regarding Domain Transfer Learning for Vision Applications at CVPR 2012. He also gave an invited lecture about Structural Feature Selection for Very High Dimensional Problems in Machine Learning Summer School 2011. He has served as the workshop co-chair of NIPS 2009 workshop on Transfer Learning for Structured Data. He will serve as the local arrangement co-chair of Asian Conference of Machine Learning (ACML 2012) in Singapore.

Sinno Jialin Pan is currently a research scientist with the Data Mining Department, Institute for Infocomm Research (I^2R), Singapore. He received his PhD degree in computer science from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2010. His research interests include transfer learning, semi-supervised learning, active learning, and their applications to wireless-sensor-based data mining, text/Web mining, sentiment analysis, and Bioinformatics. He has published more than 20 research papers in refereed international journals and conference proceedings, including IEEE TPAMI, IEEE TNN, IEEE TKDE,

IEEE/ACM TCBB, AIJ, AAAI, SIGKDD, IJCAI, ACL, WWW, UbiComp, *etc.* He was invited to give a lecture on Transfer Learning in Machine Learning Summer School 2011 in Singapore. He served as workshop co-chairs of the NIPS 2009 workshop on Transfer Learning for Structured Data and the ICDM 2009 workshop on Transfer Mining respectively. He also served as a co-guest editor of ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology (ACM TIST) on the special issue: Domain Adaptation in Nature Language Processing. He is serving as the publication chair of Asian Conference of Machine Learning (ACML 2012) in Singapore.

Speakers: Jose A. Lozano, Ekhine Irurozki
Title: Probabilistic Modeling of Ranking

Abstract: Rankings and permutations have become, nowadays, ubiquitous. They appear in numerous areas of computer systems: information retrieval, recommender systems, identity tracking or chemical compound classification, *etc.* Dealing with rankings, and particularly with rankings of many objects is a complex computational task as the number of permutations of n objects scales factorially in n. Recently a number of approaches have come to the machine learning arena to address this kind of data. Most of these approaches are based on the building of a probability distribution over the space of rankings. However, given the complexity of storing, learning and making inference on this kind of models, different simplifying assumptions have been considered: the use of parametric models, models based on low-order statistics, models based on kernels and the definition and use of notions of independence and conditional independence in the space of permutations. In this tutorial we will review the literature on the topic, explaining the different approaches in detail that have emerged in the literature, putting them in relation with other non-probabilistic ranking models and giving a collection of open problems in the area. In addition we will present the most relevant applications in the field as well as the most common benchmark datasets and software.

Biographies: Prof. Jose A. Lozano received an MSc degree in mathematics and an MSc degree in computer science from the the University of the Basque Country, Spain, in 1991 and 1992 respectively, and a PhD degree in computer science from the University of the Basque Country, Spain, in 1998. Since 2008 he is s full professor in the Department of Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence in the University of the Basque Country, where he leads the Intelligent Systems Group. He is the co-author of more than 50 ISI journal publications and co-editor of the first book published about Estimation of Distribution Algorithms. All his publications have received more than 3500 citations with an h-index of 24 (Google Scholar). His major research interests include machine learning, pattern analysis, evolutionary computation, data mining, metaheuristic algorithms, and real-world applications. Prof. Lozano is associate editor of IEEE Transactions on Evolutionary Computation and a member of the editorial board of Evolutionary Computation journal, Soft Computing, Applied Intelligence, Neural Computing and Applications and several non-ISI journals. He has been member of the program committee of the most relevant conferences in Machine Learning: ICML, ECML/PKDD, UAI, *etc.* and has given several tutorials in those conferences.

Ekhine Irurozki received the MSc degree in computer science from the University of the Basque Country, Spain, in 2008. She is currently a PhD student of the Intelligent Systems Group at the same university. Mrs. Irurozki is supported by a PhD grant of the Spanish Ministry of Science. She has co-authored a publication in the field of Bioinformatics in the IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and Bioinformatics and another one in the field of Machine Learning in Lecture Notes in Computer Science. She has also reviewed for the journal IEEE/ACM Transactions on Computational Biology and attended several international conferences. Her research interests include combinatorial optimization and machine learning. She is particularly interested on probability distributions on the space of permutations where currently work on the development of new techniques for efficiently learning and sampling permutations of that kind of models.

Workshops

First International Workshop on Learning with Weak Supervision (LAWS'12)
The Workshop consider semi-supervised learning, PU learning, multi-instance learning, constrained clustering, multi-label learning, partial label learning (learning from candidate labeling sets), multi-instance multi-label learning (MIML), domain adaptation, transfer learning and multi-task learning. For more information on the workshop see
`http://cse.seu.edu.cn/conf/LAWS12` .

FDMA 2012: International Workshop on Fraud Detection in Mobile Advertising
Online advertising flourishes as the ideal choice for both small and large businesses to target their marketing campaigns to the appropriate customers on the fly. An advertiser provides an advertising commissioner with its advertisements, plans a budget, and sets a commission for each customer action. The content publishers, on the other hand, make a contract with the commissioner to display advertisements on their websites. However, since publishers earn revenue based on impressions and clicks they drive to advertisers, there is an incentive for dishonest publishers to inflate the number of impressions/clicks their sites generate-a phenomenon known as click fraud. Click fraud hinders the reliability of online advertising system, and the market for online advertising will eventually contract in a long-term. Moreover, it may lead to expensive litigations from unsatisfied advertisers and bad reputation for the commissioner. It is important for the commissioner to proactively prevent click fraud so as to convince their advertisers the fairness of their accounting practices. Accordingly, a reliable click fraud detection system is needed to help identify dishonest publishers and maintain the commissioner's credibility.

The goal of this competition is to build effective data-driven models for proactive detection of fraudulent publishers and the workshop presents the competition result. For more information on the competition and workshop please see
`http://palanteer.sis.smu.edu.sg/fdma2012/` .

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