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Machine Learning: ECML 2005

16th European Conference on Machine Learning
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Preface

The European Conference on Machine Learning (ECML) and the European Conference on Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (PKDD) were jointly organized this year for the fifth time in a row, after some years of mutual independence before. After Freiburg (2001), Helsinki (2002), Cavtat (2003) and Pisa (2004), Porto received the 16th edition of ECML and the 9th PKDD in October 3–7.

Having the two conferences together seems to be working well: 585 different paper submissions were received for both events, which maintains the high submission standard of last year. Of these, 335 were submitted to ECML only, 220 to PKDD only and 30 to both. Such a high volume of scientific work required a tremendous effort from Area Chairs, Program Committee members and some additional reviewers. On average, PC members had 10 papers to evaluate, and Area Chairs had 25 papers to decide upon. We managed to have 3 highly qualified independent reviews per paper (with very few exceptions) and one additional overall input from one of the Area Chairs. After the authors' responses and the online discussions for many of the papers, we arrived at the final selection of 40 regular papers for ECML and 35 for PKDD. Besides these, 32 others were accepted as short papers for ECML and 35 for PKDD. This represents a joint acceptance rate of around 13% for regular papers and 25% overall. We thank all involved for all the effort with reviewing and selection of papers.

Besides the core technical program, ECML and PKDD had 6 invited speakers, 10 workshops, 8 tutorials and a Knowledge Discovery Challenge. Our special thanks to the organizers of the individual workshops and tutorials and to the workshop and tutorial chairs Floriana Esposito and Dunja Mladenić and to the challenge organizer Petr Berka. A very special word to Richard van de Stadt for all his competence and professionalism in the management of CyberChairPRO. Our thanks also to everyone from the Organization Committee mentioned further on who helped us with the organization. Our acknowledgement also to Rodolfo Matos and Assunção Costa Lima for providing logistic support.

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Finally, our word of appreciation to all the authors who submitted papers to the main conferences and their workshops, without whom none of this would have been possible.

July 2005

João Gama, Rui Camacho, Pavel Brazdil,
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