General CIDM Co-chairs' Welcome Letter.

Welcome to the First IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Data Mining (CIDM 2007), a part of the 2007 IEEE Symposium Series on Computational Intelligence, taking place at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa in famous Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawaii, April 1-5, 2007.

Sponsored by the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society, this international event brings together at one location 12 symposia running concurrently, each highlighting various aspects of computational intelligence: from Foundations of Computational Intelligence, through Data Mining, to many specialized topics, such as Approximate Dynamic Programming and Reinforcement Learning, Bioinformatics and Computational Biology, Games, Scheduling, Multicriteria Decision Making, Artificial Life, Swarm Intelligence, Security and Defense Applications, Evolvable and Adaptive Hardware. CIDM is the largest Symposium among all of these.

For starters, CIDM offers four free tutorials: 1) Evolving Intelligent Systems: The Knowledge Engineering Approach; 2) Blind Signal Separation and Blind Information/Features Extraction: Tools and MATLAB Software for Analysis of Multi-sensor and Multidimensional Data; 3) Weka: a tool for exploratory data mining, and 4) Spectral Clustering and Nonnegative matrix factorization. Together with other symposia we have no less than 34 free tutorials on all aspects of computational intelligence! CIS may have set a world record in this respect.

Other highlights of our program include two excellent plenary talks, 7 special sessions, 9 regular sessions and two poster sessions. We have thought hard on how to avoid numerous parallel sessions and came up with an experimental program that should allow you to have more time for discussions and to hear more talks, as most of them are now in a single track and only a few sessions are run as double tracks. As a result, most papers in the regular sessions will have only a short oral introduction followed by poster presentation.

We also have an International Challenge: classifying clinical free text using natural language processing, organized by Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center Division of Biomedical Informatics, the University of Cincinnati, Department of Radiology, Ohio State University's Department of Linguistics, Nicolaus Copernicus University, and the Center for Computational Pharmacology at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. In mid-February, 130 groups from all over the world have already registered as participants in this challenge. A summary of results will be presented during the last session of CIDM.

Thank you for joining us for this exciting event at a beautiful place.

Wlodek Duch   Joydeep Ghosh
Nicolas Copernicus University   University of Texas at Austin
Torun, Poland   Texas, USA

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