

# Preface

We are proud to present the proceedings of the 15th International Symposium on Intelligent Data Analysis, which took place during October 13–15 in Stockholm, Sweden. The series started in 1995 and was held biennially until 2009. In 2010, the symposium re-focused to support papers that go beyond established technology and offer genuinely novel and game-changing ideas, while not always being as fully realized as papers submitted to other conferences.

IDA 2016 continued this approach and sought first-look papers that might elsewhere be considered preliminary, but contain potentially high-impact research. In addition, for the first time this year, IDA introduced an industrial challenge track. For the industrial challenge, researchers were invited to participate in a machine learning prediction challenge, where the task was to devise a prediction model for judging whether or not a vehicle faces imminent failure of a specific component, exploiting data collected from heavy Scania trucks in everyday usage.

The IDA symposium is open to all kinds of modelling and analysis methods, irrespective of discipline. It is an interdisciplinary meeting that seeks abstractions that cut across domains. IDA solicits papers on all aspects of intelligent data analysis, including papers on intelligent support for modelling and analyzing data from complex, dynamical systems.

Intelligent support for data analysis goes beyond the usual algorithmic offerings in the literature. Papers about established technology were only accepted if the technology was embedded in intelligent data analysis systems, or was applied in novel ways to analyzing and/or modelling complex systems. The conventional reviewing process, which favors incremental advances on established work, can discourage the kinds of papers that were selected for IDA 2016. The reviewing process addressed this issue explicitly: referees evaluated papers against the stated goals of the symposium, and any paper for which at least one program committee advisor wrote an informed, thoughtful, positive review was accepted, irrespective of other reviews. Indeed, this had a notable impact on what papers were included in the program.

We were pleased to see a very strong program. We received 75 submissions by 198 authors from 30 different countries, out of which 15 were accepted as regular papers, 12 as regular poster papers, and 4 as short papers (industrial challenge papers). All submissions were reviewed by three PC members and one PC advisor.

In addition, we were happy to accept two abstracts to the IDA horizon track:

- “Usable analytics at societal scale”, by Daniel Gillblad
- “Cognitive Computing for the Automated Society”, by Devdatt Dubhashi

We were honored to have the following distinguished invited speakers at IDA 2016:

- Samuel Kaski, Aalto University and University of Helsinki, Finland; on the topic “Bayesian Factorization of Multiple Data Sources”

- Sihem Amer Yahia, CNRS at LIG, Grenoble, France; on the topic “Worker-Centricity Could Be Today’s Disruptive Innovation in Crowdsourcing”
- Foster Provost, New York University, USA; on the topic “The Predictive Power of Massive Data about Our Fine-Grained Behavior”.

The conference was held at the Department of Computer and Systems Sciences of Stockholm University, Sweden.

We wish to express our gratitude to all authors of submitted papers for their intellectual contributions; to the program committee members and advisors and additional reviewers for their effort in reviewing, discussing, and commenting on the submitted papers, and to the members of the IDA steering committee for their ongoing guidance and support. We thank Isak Karlsson for running the conference website. Special thanks go to the industrial challenge chair, Tony Lindgren, for handling the submission and reviewing process of the industrial challenge papers. We gratefully acknowledge those who were involved in the local organization of the symposium: Lars Asker, Isak Karlsson, Jing Zhao, and Ram Gurung. We are grateful to our sponsors: Stockholm University, Scania AB, Vetenskapsrådet, Springer, The Artificial Intelligence Journal, and SERSC. We are especially indebted to KNIME, who funded the IDA Frontier Prize for the most visionary contribution presenting a novel and surprising approach to data analysis in the understanding of complex systems.

July 2016

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Advances in Intelligent Data Analysis XV

15th International Symposium, IDA 2016, Stockholm,  
Sweden, October 13-15, 2016, Proceedings

Boström, H.; Knobbe, A.; Soares, C.; Papapetrou, P.  
(Eds.)

2016, XIII, 404 p. 146 illus., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-319-46348-3