

# Preface

MOD is an international workshop embracing the fields of machine learning, optimization, and big data. The second edition, MOD 2016, was organized during August 26–29, 2016, in Volterra (Pisa, Italy), a stunning medieval town dominating the picturesque countryside of Tuscany.

The key role of machine learning, optimization, and big data in developing solutions to some of the greatest challenges we are facing is undeniable. MOD 2016 attracted leading experts from the academic world and industry with the aim of strengthening the connection between these institutions. The 2016 edition of MOD represented a great opportunity for professors, scientists, industry experts, and postgraduate students to learn about recent developments in their own research areas and to learn about research in contiguous research areas, with the aim of creating an environment to share ideas and trigger new collaborations.

As program chairs, it was an honor to organize a premiere workshop in these areas and to have received a large variety of innovative and original scientific contributions.

During this edition, four plenary lectures were presented:

Nello Cristianini, Bristol University, UK

George Michailidis, University of Florida, USA

Stephen H. Muggleton, Imperial College London, UK

Panos Pardalos, University of Florida, USA

There were also two tutorial speakers:

Luigi Malagó, Shinshu University, Nagano, Japan

Luca Oneto and Davide Anguita, Polytechnic School, University of Genova, Italy

Furthermore, an industrial panel on “Machine Learning, Optimization and Data Science for Real-World Applications” was also offered:

Amr Awadallah, Founder and CTO at Cloudera, San Francisco, USA

Giovanni Giuffrida, CEO and co-founder at Neodata Group, Italy

Andy Petrella, Data Scientist and co-founder at Data Fellas, Liege, Belgium

Daniele Quercia, Head of Social Dynamics group at Bell Labs, Cambridge, UK

Fabrizio Silvestri, Facebook Inc., USA

Moderator: Donato Malerba, University of Bari, Italy and Consorzio Interuniversitario Nazionale per l’Informatica (CINI)

MOD 2016 received 97 submissions, and each manuscript was independently reviewed via a blind review process by a committee formed by at least five members. These proceedings contain 40 research articles written by leading scientists in the fields of machine learning, computational optimization, and data science presenting a substantial array of ideas, technologies, algorithms, methods and applications.

This conference could not have been organized without the contributions of these researchers, and we thank them all for participating. A sincere thank goes also to all the Program Committee, formed by more than 300 scientists from academia and industry, for their valuable work of selecting the scientific contributions.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation to the keynote speakers, tutorial speakers, and the industrial panel who accepted our invitation, and to all the authors who submitted their research papers to MOD 2016.

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