

8th French-speaking conference on Knowledge Discovery and Management (EGC2008): conference report

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, we provide a report about the 8th French-speaking conference on Knowledge Discovery and Management (EGC'2008) [1] held in Sophia Antipolis, France, from January 29th to February 1st, 2008. Since 2001, this annual conference has been supported by the French-speaking association (EGC Association) which aims at promoting Data Mining and Knowledge Management for both research issues and applications in companies. EGC2008 may be summarized in some key figures: 130 submitted papers, 40 accepted long papers (33% selection ratio) published in a special issue of a review and completed with 30 short papers, 15 posters, and 8 software demonstrations; 9 joined workshops and 2 tutorials; 4 keynote talks; a best paper contest rewarded by 2 prizes of 1500 euros each; and 250 participants from 14 countries.

The 9th EGC conference will be held in Strasbourg, France, in January 27-30, 2009 [2].

Keywords

Conference report, French-speaking community, Data mining, Knowledge Management and Engineering.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the last decade, the French-speaking scientific community has been very active in the research and application framework of *Knowledge Discovery and Management (KDM)*, which is concerned with: Data Mining, Knowledge Discovery, Business Intelligence, Knowledge Engineering, Semantic Web, etc. This recent framework has also been strongly stimulated by the rapid growth of information systems and the web semantic issues.

In this context, in 2002, was founded the *EGC¹ French-speaking association* which aims at promoting the exchanges between researchers and companies concerned with issues and applications in KDM. The association offers a *website* [3] and a moderated *mailing list*² registering 1000 members, supports an annual *French-speaking conference*, and delivers an *award* to the best research and application papers (2 prizes of 1500 euros each). The success of the first conference, EGC2001 in Nantes, led to the creation of the EGC association in 2002 and to 8 subsequent editions of the conference: Montpellier (2002), Lyon (2003),

Clermont-Ferrand (2004), Paris (2005), Lille (2006), Namur Belgium (2007), and Sophia-Antipolis (2008).

While the conference has been dedicated to Knowledge Discovery and Management, it remains a large spectrum conference addressing a large variety of research topics and applications in this area.

2. SELECTION AND PROCEEDINGS

The selection policy of EGC consists in both selecting high value papers, and giving a chance to preliminary works. Hence, 4 formats of acceptance distinguish the different kinds of works in order of relevance: *long papers* (12 pages) for advanced and valued works, *short papers* (6 pages) for intermediate results and works in progress, *posters* (2 pages abstract) for relevant works that remain to be improved, and *software demonstrations* (2 pages abstract).

Each submission is reviewed by at least 3 referees of the program committee, which includes members from 12 countries (Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Morocco, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Tunisia, and USA).

Of the 150 abstracts received, *126 full papers* were submitted to the cyberchair of EGC2008. The recommendations of the 378 referees' reports led to the selection of: *42 long papers* (33% *selection ratio*), 27 short papers, 15 posters, and 6 software demonstrations.

The conference proceedings include the whole selected papers completed with the invited talks. Since 2001, and in order to guaranty the visibility of the publication, the proceedings have been published in French-speaking reviews: RIA-ECA review , Hermès Science Publication, Lavoisier ([4], [5], [6]), then RNTI review, Cépaduès [7], [8], [9], [10], [11]). In complement, the visibility of the publications is improved with the full indexation of the Proceedings by DBLP [12], and the availability of paper abstracts on the website of EGC Association.

3. PROGRAM

The conference takes place over 4 days and the program is composed of a large variety of events: tutorials, workshops, regular talks, invited talks, demonstrations, posters, a best paper contest, and social events.

3.1 Honorary Chair and Invited Talks

Since 2004, an *Honorary Chair* is attributed to a confirmed and internationally recognized researcher on the topics of the

¹ EGC: "Extraction et Gestion des Connaissances", translated by KDM: "Knowledge Discovery and Management"

² EGC mailing list: liste-egc@polytech.univ-nantes.fr

conference. The Honorary Chair of EGC2008 was conducted by Osmar Zaiane from the University of Alberta, Canada. In previous editions, we were pleased to welcome Gregory Piatetky-Shapiro (2004 and 2005), Heikki Mannila (2006), and Einoshin Suzuki (2007).

The EGC2008 program included 4 valuable *invited talks*: (1) *Françoise Soulié Fogelman*, KXEN, France, Data Mining in companies: issues and perspectives; (2) *Daniel Dardailler*, W3C consortium, France, Semantic Web and open standards; (3) *Usama Fayyad*, Yahoo!, USA, Inventing the New Sciences of the Internet: Towards Understanding the New Interactive Media; (4) *Osmar Zaiane*, University of Alberta, Canada, Mining Social Networks.

The invited talks were recorded and the videos are available on the conference website [1].

3.2 Tutorial and workshops

The first day of the conference was dedicated to 2 *tutorials* and 9 *workshops*. It met a great success with about 140 participants. The workshops addressed a large variety of topics: Mining Complex Data, Multimedia Data, Data Flows, Post-processing and Knowledge Quality, Visualization, User Models and Interfaces, Semantic Measures, Usage Analysis & Urban Mobility, Knowledge Modelling, completed with the 2 tutorials on Bayesian Networks, and Languages of Semantic Web.

The full proceedings of the tutorial and workshop sessions are published by the EGC Association in a paper version. A full electronic version is also downloadable from the conference and association websites ([1],[3]).

3.3 Regular sessions

The program was composed of 8 sessions for regular papers, addressing a wide set of topics: Semantic Web, Ontologies, Information Retrieval, Visualization, Large Data, Classification, Clustering, Patterns and Associations Mining, Multimedia Mining, Data Streams and Sequence Mining, Graph Mining, Text Mining.

The regular sessions were completed with a plenary session devoted to 3 minute presentation of each poster and demonstration abstract.

The conference met also a real success with more than 220 participants.

3.4 Best Papers Contest

The EGC Association awards 2 prizes of 1500 euros each to the best scholar paper and to the best application papers. In a first stage, and on the basis of the referees' reports, the steering committee nominated 12 best papers among the whole accepted long papers. Then, the Steering Committee selected the 2 best works, which were about "Actionable SVM" and "Spatio-temporal patterns".

4. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are thankful to the EGC association and the steering committee for providing the opportunity to organize this event

and for their assistance. Special thanks to the members of the EGC2008 program committee for the high quality papers reviews and to the members of the EGC2008 organizing committee for the assistance in the successful organization of the conference and local arrangements this year.

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