Preface

It is our genuine honor and pleasure to welcome you at the 4th International Conference on Machine Learning and Applications – ICMLA 2005 in Los Angeles, California. The ICMLA conference series was initiated in 2002 and since then we are happy to observe a significant growth of interest in subjects related to the conference.

This year, the conference brings forward a variety of new methods, algorithms, and applications. We are amazed to witness how new research directions related to both theory and applications of machine learning are being unveiled and explored. Today, machine learning not only has to deal with various aspects related to data analysis, but it becomes an applied discipline that very often interfaces with other fields, such as biology, engineering, marketing and business, to name just a few.

This ICMLA conference is highly international, which strongly demonstrates the truly universal character of machine learning. We received submissions from a number of countries from all over the world, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States. This clearly shows how vibrant and interesting the topics related to machine learning are. We are very pleased with this level of international participation, and we hope the trend continues to grow.

There are a lot of people and organizations who have made this event possible. Our sincere thanks go to the members of the Organizing Committee; it is amazing how their talents, dedication, and expertise helped to overcome numerous obstacles and problems. We also deeply thank members of the Program Committee, who despite the holiday season timely examined and reviewed many difficult papers from a broad range of areas and applications. Our thanks also go to the Association for Machine Learning and Applications, California State University Bakersfield, and IEEE Systems, Man and Cybernetics Society for sponsoring this conference. Our special thanks go to JD Cantarella for the efforts she has put in the editorial production process. Last, but not least, we wish to thank all the speakers and participants who significantly contributed to the success of the conference.

We are confident that this conference will offer a unique environment that will help exchange ideas and foster a truly collaborative interaction between the participants.

In the past we had the ICMLA conference in Los Angeles only once, three years ago. We hope that this year the city, the people, and the atmosphere will live up to your expectations – let’s make this conference a unique, genuinely enjoyable, and long-lasting experience.

We hope to meet you all again next year at the 5th ICMLA conference.

Lukasz Kurgan
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ICMLA ’05 Program Chairs