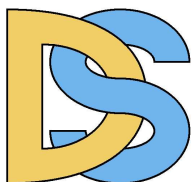




# The 17th International Conference on Algorithmic Learning Theory and



# The 9th International Conference on Discovery Science

Casa de Convalescència, Barcelona  
Spain, October 7 - 10, 2006

## ALT '06 / DS '06 – Conference Program

The 17th International Conference on Algorithmic Learning Theory (ALT '06) and the 9th International Conference on Discovery Science (DS '06) will be held at the Casa de Convalescència in Barcelona, Spain, during October 7–10, 2006 as part of the PASCAL Dialogues 2006. The Conferences are sponsored by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science, the Generalitat de Catalunya, the PASCAL network of excellence, Idescat, Statistical Institute of Catalonia, the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, and Google financing the E. M. Gold Award as well as Yahoo! Research financing the C. Smith Award. Further support has been provided by the Division of Computer Science of Hokkaido University and the Institute for TCS of the University at Lübeck.

This ALT conference is the 17th in a series of annual meetings established in 1990. For information concerning previous ALT meetings visit the Archives of ALT conferences at <http://www-alg.ist.hokudai.ac.jp/~thomas/>

The ALT series is focusing on all areas related to algorithmic learning theory including (but not limited to): *Comparison of the strength of learning models and the design and evaluation of novel algorithms for learning problems in established learning-theoretic settings such as inductive inference, the PAC model, on-line learning, query models. Analysis of the theoretical properties of existing algorithms, where families of algorithms could include: boosting, kernel-based methods, Bayesian networks, methods for reinforcement learning or learning in repeated games, graph- and/or manifold-based methods, methods for latent-variable estimation and/or clustering, methods based on Dirichlet processes, MDL, decision tree methods, information-based methods. Analyses could include generalization, convergence or computational efficiency.*

*Elucidation of new theoretical principles to guide the design of learning algorithms, possibly including new measures of algorithm quality, general algorithm-design techniques, hypothesis classes, inductive biases.*

*Definition and analysis of new learning models. Models might identify and formalize classes of learning problems inadequately addressed by existing theory or capture salient properties of important concrete applications. The use of theory to improve the efficiency with which existing principles, such as Bayesian ideas, can be exploited.*

The ALT conference program comprises 24 lectures selected by its program committee from 53 submissions.

This DS conference is the ninth in a series of annual meetings established by the Discovery Science Project of Japan in 1998. The DS conferences provide an open forum for intensive discussions and interchange of new information among researchers working in the area of Discovery Science including (but not limited to) the following topics: *logic and philosophy of scientific discovery; knowledge discovery, machine learning and statistical methods; active knowledge discovery; text and web mining; information extraction from scientific literature; knowledge discovery from text and the web; knowledge discovery from unstructured and multimedia data; knowledge discovery in network and link data; knowledge discovery in social networks; data and knowledge visualization; human-machine interaction for knowledge discovery and management; biomedical knowledge discovery, analysis of microarray and gene deletion data; applications of the above techniques to natural or social sciences.*

The DS conference program comprises 23 long papers and 18 regular papers selected by its program committee from 98 submissions.

Additionally, we are fortunate to present five invited lectures by:

Andrew Ng, Stanford University, USA

Carole Goble, University of Manchester, UK

Padhraic Smyth, University of California, Irvine, USA

Gunnar Rätsch, Max Planck Society, Germany

Hans Ulrich Simon, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

which are shared by both conferences.

The E.M. Gold Award winner in 2006 is Alp Atıcı and the C.H. Smith Award winner is Rita Ribeiro.

Congratulations !!!

For any further information as well as for **registration**, we refer to the following web-pages:

<http://www-alg.ist.hokudai.ac.jp/~thomas/ALT06/alt06.jhtml>

<http://www-ai.ijs.si/~ds06>




Saturday, October 7



## ALT '06 and DS '06 Joint Tutorials

organized by DS

and with the support of  **idescat**

Idescat, the Statistical Institute of Catalonia.

Saturday, October 7, Morning

### REGISTRATION:

from 9.30 to 13.30 and from 15.00 to 18.30 at the Casa de Convalescència

**Tutorial SESSION 1:** Saturday, October 7, Morning

Chair: Nada Lavrac

10.00–13.30: **Tutorial 1:** Geographic and Spatial Data Mining

**Presenter:** Michael May, Fraunhofer Institute for Autonomous Intelligent Systems, Germany

13.30–15.00: Lunch

**Tutorial SESSION 2:** Saturday, October 7, Afternoon

Chair: Ljupco Todorovski

15.00–18.30: **Tutorial 2:** Using R for Data Mining and Scientific Discovery

**Presenter:** Luís Torgo, University of Porto, Portugal

18.30–20.00: **Steering Committee Meeting (ALT and DS)**

19.30–21.30: **Welcome reception (Casa de Convalescència)**



# PROGRAM

Sunday, October 8, Morning

9.50–10.00: **Opening of ALT and DS 2006:**

José L. Balcázar and Klaus Peter Jantke

**SESSION 1:** Sunday, October 8, Morning

Chair: Phil Long

10.00–11.00: **Invited talk by Andrew Ng**

*Reinforcement Learning and Apprenticeship Learning for Robotic Control*

11.00–11.30: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 2:** Sunday, October 8, Morning

**Query Learning**

Chair: Henning Fernau

11.30–11.55: Nader H. Bshouty and Ehab Wattad

*On Exact Learning Halfspaces with Random Consistent Hypothesis Oracle*

**Gold Award Winner's talk**

11.55–12.20: Alp Atıcı and Rocco A. Servedio

*Learning Unions of  $\omega(1)$ -Dimensional Rectangles*

12.20–12.30: **Short Break**

**SESSION 3:** Sunday, October 8, Morning

**Applications of Query Learning**

Chair: Efim Kinber

12.30–12.55: Matti Kääriäinen

*Active Learning in the Non-realizable Case*

12.55–13.20: Jorge Castro

*How Many Query Superpositions Are Needed to Learn?*

13.30–15.00: **Lunch**

**SESSION 4:** Sunday, October 8, Afternoon

Chair: Nada Lavrac

15.00–16.00: **Invited talk by Carole Goble**

*Putting Semantics into e-Science and the Grid*

16.00–16.10: **Short Break**

**SESSION 5:** Sunday, October 8, Afternoon

**Complexity of Learning**

Chair: Sandra Zilles

16.10–16.35: Frank J. Balbach and Thomas Zeugmann

*Teaching Memoryless Randomized Learners without Feedback*

16.35–17.00: Stephen Fenner and William Gasarch

*The Complexity of Learning  $SUBSEQ(A)$*

17.00–17.25: Matthew de Brecht and Akihiro Yamamoto

*Mind Change Complexity of Inferring Unbounded Unions of Pattern Languages From Positive Data*

17.25–17.55: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 6:** Sunday, October 8, Afternoon

**Inductive Inference**

Chair: Nader Bshouty

17.55–18.20: Sanjay Jain and Efim Kinber

*Learning and Extending Sublanguages*

18.20–18.45: Sanjay Jain and Efim Kinber

*Iterative Learning from Positive Data and Negative Counterexamples*

18.45–19.10: Sanjay Jain, Steffen Lange and Sandra Zilles

*Towards a Better Understanding of Incremental Learning*

19.30–20.30: **Business Meeting**

**SESSION 7:** Monday, October 9, Morning

Chair: Frank Stephan

10.00–11.00: **Invited talk by Hans Ulrich Simon**

*The Usage of the Spectral Norm in Learning Theory: Some Selected Topics*

11.00–11.30: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 8:** Monday, October 9, Morning

**Online Learning**

Chair: Hans-Ulrich Simon

11.30–11.55: Nader H. Bshouty and Iddo Bentov

*On Exact Learning from Random Walk*

11.55–12.20: Eyal Even-Dar, Michael Kearns and Jennifer Wortman

*Risk-Sensitive Online Learning*

12.20–12.30: **Short Break**

**SESSION 9:** Monday, October 9, Morning

**Predicting with Experts**

Chair: Marcus Hutter

12.30–12.55: Vladimir Vovk

*Leading Strategies in Competitive On-Line Learning*

12.55–13.20: Chamy Allenberg, Peter Auer, László Györfi and György Ottucsák

*Hannan Consistency in On-Line Learning in Case of Unbounded Losses under Partial Monitoring*

13.30–15.00: **Lunch Break**

**SESSION 10:** Monday, October 9, Afternoon

Chair: Ljupco Todorovski

15.00–16.00: **Invited talk by Padhraic Smyth**

*Data-Driven Discovery using Probabilistic Hidden Variable Models*

16.00–16.10: **Short Break**

**SESSION 11:** Monday, October 9, Afternoon

**Algorithmic Forecasting**

Chair: Steffen Lange

16.10–16.35: Marcus Hutter

*General Discounting versus Average Reward*

16.35–17.00: Jan Poland

*The Missing Consistency Theorem for Bayesian Learning: Stochastic Model Selection*

17.00–17.25: Shane Legg

*Is there an Elegant Universal Theory of Prediction?*

17.25–17.55: Coffee Break

**SESSION 12:** Monday, October 9, Afternoon

**Boosting, Support Vector Machines and Kernel Methods**

Chair: Olivier Bousquet

17.55–18.20: Leonid Kontorovich, Corinna Cortes, Mehryar Mohri

*Learning Linearly Separable Languages*

18.20–18.45: Kohei Hatano

*Smooth Boosting Using an Information-Based Criterion*

18.45–19.10: Hsuan-Tien Lin and Ling Li

*Large-Margin Thresholded Ensembles for Ordinal Regression: Theory and Practice*

20.30–: **Banquet**

**SESSION 13:** Tuesday, October 10, Morning

Chair: José L. Balcázar

10.00–11.00: **Invited talk by Gunnar Rätsch**

*The Solution of Semi-Infinite Linear Programs using Boosting-like Methods*

11.00–11.30: Coffee Break

**SESSION 14:** Tuesday, October 10, Morning

**Reinforcement Learning**

Chair: Vladimir Vovk

11.30–11.55: Daniil Ryabko and Marcus Hutter

*Asymptotic Learnability of Reinforcement Problems with Arbitrary Dependence*

11.55–12.20: Takeshi Shibata, Ryo Yoshinaka and Takashi Chikayama

*Probabilistic Generalization of Simple Grammars and Its Application to Reinforcement Learning*

12.20–12.30: Short Break

**SESSION 15:** Tuesday, October 10, Morning

**Statistical Learning**

Chair: Rocco Servedio

12.30–12.55: Andreas Maurer

*Unsupervised Slow Subspace-Learning from Stationary Processes*

12.55–13.20: Atsuyoshi Nakamura

*Learning-Related Complexity of Linear Ranking Functions*

13.30–15.00: Lunch

**Adjorn**



## PROGRAM

Sunday, October 8, Morning

9.50–10.00: **Opening of ALT and DS 2006:**

José L. Balcázar and Klaus Peter Jantke

**SESSION 1:** Sunday, October 8, Morning

Chair: Phil Long

10.00–11.00: **Invited talk by Andrew Ng**

*Reinforcement Learning and Apprenticeship Learning for Robotic Control*

11.00–11.30: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 2:** Sunday, October 8, Morning

**Regression**

Chair:

**Smith Award Winner's Talk**

11.30–11.55: Rita Ribeiro and Luís Torgo

*Rule-based Prediction of Rare Extreme Values*

11.55–12.20: Marc Boullé and Carine Hue

*Optimal Bayesian 2D-discretization for Variable Ranking in Regression*

12.20–12.30: **Short Break**

**SESSION 3:** Sunday, October 8, Morning

**Data Streams**

Chair:

12.30–12.55: Albert Bifet and Ricard Gavaldà

*Kalman Filters and Adaptive Windows for Learning in Data Streams*

12.55–13.20: Milton Severo and João Gama

*Change detection with Kalman Filter and CUSUM*

13.30–15.00: **Lunch**

**SESSION 4:** Sunday, October 8, Afternoon

Chair: Nada Lavrac

15.00–16.00: **Invited talk by Carole Goble**

*Putting Semantics into e-Science and the Grid*

16.00–16.10: **Short Break**

**SESSION 5:** Sunday, October 8, Afternoon

**Brief Poster Presentations**

Chair:

16.10–16.15: Hanene Borchani, Nahla Ben Amor and Khaled Mellouli

*Learning Bayesian Network Equivalence Classes from Incomplete Data*

16.15–16.20: Laurent Brisson

*Interesting Patterns Extraction Using Prior Knowledge*

16.20–16.25: Alípio M. Jorge, Fernando Pereira and Paulo J. Azevedo

*Visual Interactive Subgroup Discovery with Numerical Properties of Interest*

16.25–16.30: Lobna Karoui, Nacéra Bennacer and Marie-Aude Aufaure

*Contextual Ontological Concepts Extraction*

16.30–16.35: Fabio B. Losa, Pau Origoni and Gilbert Ritschard

*Experiences from a Socio-Economic Application of Induction Trees*

16.35–16.40: Ricardo Martinez, Nicolas Pasquier, Claude Pasquier and Lucero Lopez-Perez

*Interpreting Microarray Experiments Via Co-expressed Gene Groups Analysis (CGGA)*

16.40–16.45: Shin-ichi Minato

*Symmetric Item Set Mining Based on Zero-suppressed BDDs*

16.45–16.50: Mizuho Mishima and Makoto Kikuchi

*Mathematical Models of Category-Based Induction*

16.50–16.55: Makoto Miwa, Daisaku Yokoyama and Takashi Chikayama

*Automatic Construction of Static Evaluation Functions for Computer Game Players*

16.55–17.00: Isabel Nepomuceno Chamorro, Juan Antonio Nepomuceno Chamorro, Roberto Ruiz and Jesús S. Aguilar-Ruiz

*Databases Reduction simultaneously by Ordered Projection*

17.00–17.05: Mihaela Oprea

*Mapping Ontologies in an Air Pollution Monitoring and Control Agent-based System*

17.05–17.10: Aritz Pérez, Pedro Larrañaga and Iñaki Inza  
*Information Theory and Classification Error in Probabilistic Classifiers*

17.10–17.15: Joe Phillips, Ronald Edwards and Raghuvver Kumarakrishnan

*Checking Scientific Assumptions by Modeling*

17.15–17.20: Gonzalo Ramos-Jiménez, José del Campo-Ávila and Rafael Morales-Bueno

*Incremental Algorithm Driven by Error Margins*

17.20–17.25: Nazha Selmaoui, Claire Leschi and Dominique Gay

*Feature Construction and delta-Free Sets in 0/1 Samples*

17.25–17.30: Roberto Therón

*Visual Knowledge Discovery in Paleoclimatology with Parallel Coordinates*

17.30–17.35: Hye Sung Yoon, Sang Ho Lee, Sung Bum Cho and Ju Han Kim

*A Novel Framework for Discovering Robust Cluster Results*

17.35–17.40: Li Juan Zhang and Zhou Jun Li

*Gene Selection for Classifying Microarray Data Using Grey Relation Analysis*

17.40–17.55: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 6:** Sunday, October 8, Afternoon

**Poster Session**

17.55–19.00: See the list of papers above

19.30–20.30: **Business Meeting**

**SESSION 7:** Monday, October 9, Morning

Chair: Frank Stephan

10.00–11.00: **Invited talk by Hans Ulrich Simon**

*The Usage of the Spectral Norm in Learning Theory: Some Selected Topics*

11.00–11.30: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 8:** Monday, October 9, Morning

**Scientific Discovery**

Chair:

11.30–11.55: Catherine Blake and Meredith Rendall

*Scientific Discovery: A View from the Trenches*

11.55–12.20: Jean Sallantin and Christopher Dartnell

*A Pragmatic Logic of Scientific Discovery*

12.20–12.30: **Short Break**

**SESSION 9:** Monday, October 9, Morning

**Data and Knowledge Visualisation**

Chair:

12.30–12.55: Yukihiro Nakamura, Shin Ando, Kenji Aoki, Hiroyuki Mano and Einoshin Suzuki

*Strategy Diagram for Identifying Play Strategies in Multi-view Soccer Video Data*

12.55–13.20: Antti Rasinen, Jaakko Hollmén and Heikki Mannila

*Analysis of Linux Evolution Using Aligned Source Code Segments*

13.30–15.00: **Lunch**

**SESSION 10:** Monday, October 9, Afternoon

Chair:

15.00–16.00: **Invited talk by Padhraic Smyth**

*Data-Driven Discovery using Probabilistic Hidden Variable Models*

16.00–16.10: **Short Break**

**SESSION 11:** Monday, October 9, Afternoon

**Remote Sensing and High Dimensional Data**

Chair:

16.10–16.35: Armando Fernandes and Susana Nascimento  
*Automatic Water Eddy Detection in SST Maps Using Random Ellipse Fitting and Vectorial Fields for Image Segmentation*

16.35–17.00: Ata Kabán, Jianyong Sun, Somak Raychaudhury and Louisa Nolan

*On Class Visualisation for High Dimensional Data: Exploring Scientific Data Sets*

17.00–17.25: Tomasz Stepinski, Soumya Ghosh and Ricardo Vilalta

*Automatic Recognition of Landforms on Mars Using Terrain Segmentation and Classification*

17.25–17.55: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 12:** Monday, October 9, Afternoon

**Clustering**

Chair:

17.55–18.20: Heidi Koivistoinen, Minna Ruuska and Tapio Elomaa

*A Voronoi Diagram Approach to Autonomous Clustering*

18.20–18.45: Jae-Seong Ahn, Yang-Won Lee and Key-Ho Park

*Clusterized Classification of Changing Regions Based on Temporal Context of Local Spatial Association*

18.45–19.10: Jan Poland and Thomas Zeugmann

*Clustering Pairwise Distances with Missing Data: Maximum Cuts versus Normalized Cuts*

20.30: **Banquet**

**SESSION 13:** Tuesday, October 10, Morning

Chair: José L. Balcázar

10.00–11.00: **Invited talk by Gunnar Rätsch**

*The Solution of Semi-Infinite Linear Programs using Boosting-like Methods*

11.00–11.30: **Coffee Break**

**SESSION 14:** Tuesday, October 10, Morning

Chair:

**Document Clustering and Classification**

11.30–11.55: Krzysztof Ciesielski and Mieczysław Kłopotek

*Text Data Clustering by Contextual Graphs*

11.55–12.20: Yaakov HaCohen-Kerner, Hananya Beck, Elchai Yehudai and Dror Mughaz

*Identifying Historical Period and Ethnic Origin of Documents Using Stylistic Feature Sets*

12.20–12.30: **Short Break**

**SESSION 15:** Tuesday, October 10, Morning

**Text Mining**

Chair:

12.30–12.55: György Szarvas, Richárd Farkas, András Kocsor

*A Multilingual Named Entity Recognition System Using Boosting and C4.5 Decision Tree Learning Algorithms*

12.55–13.20: Xin Wang and Ata Kabán

*Model-based Estimation of Word Saliency in Text*

13.30–15.00: **Lunch**

**SESSION 16:** Tuesday, October 10, Afternoon

**Itemset and Sequence Mining**

15.00–15.25: Yasuto Higa, Shunsuke Inenaga, Hideo Bannai and Masayuki Takeda

*A New Family of String Classifiers Based on Local Relatedness*

15.25–15.50: Takashi Katoh, Kouichi Hirata and Masateru Harao

*Mining Sectorial Episodes from Event Sequences*

15.50–16.15: Taneli Mielikäinen, Panče Panov, Sašo Džeroski

*Itemset Support Queries using Frequent Itemsets and Their Condensed Representations*

16:15–16:30: Short Break

**SESSION 17:** Tuesday, October 10, Afternoon

**Applications in Bioinformatics**

16.30–16.55: Pedro Ferreira, Paulo J. Azevedo, Rui Brito and Cândida G. Silva

*Mining Approximate Motifs in Time Series*

16.55–17.20: ThanhPhuong Nguyen and Tu Bao Ho

*Prediction of domain-domain interactions using inductive logic programming from multiple genome databases*

Adjourn

## Acknowledgments

### Conference Chair ALT 2006:

José L. Balcázar, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya

### Conference Chair DS 2006:

Klaus P. Jantke, FIT Leipzig, Germany

### Local Arrangement Chair:

Ricard Gavaldà, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya  
altds06@lsi.upc.edu

### Tutorial Chair

Johannes Fürnkranz, TU Darmstadt, Germany

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Sandra Zilles (DFKI, Germany)

The continuing success of these ALT-meetings has been managed and supervised by its

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Takeshi Shinohara (Kyushu Institute of Technology, Iizuka, Japan)  
Osamu Watanabe (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan) and the current PC Chairs, who are one-year members of the ALT steering committee, i.e.,  
Frank Stephan (National University of Singapore, Singapore)



## DS 2006 Program Committee:

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Thomas Zeugmann (Hokkaido Univ., Japan)



We look forward to seeing you in Barcelona.

## Conference Information

The conferences, including the reception and tutorial sessions, will be held at the Casa de Convalescència, hosted by the Casa de Convalescència (Institute for Catalan Studies).

Institut d'Estudis Catalans  
Casa de Convalescència  
Carrer del Carme, 47 (=Carme street, 47)  
Phone: +34 932 701 620

Please note that this phone is not the conference organization phone. It should be used only during the duration of the conferences as a quick way to contact conference participants.





The Casa de Convalescència, is a beautiful, 17th century building initially designed as a hospital. It is centrally located in downtown Barcelona, within walking distance of many of the major attractions and cultural centers.

**How to get there?** Generally speaking, you want to get to La Rambla street (also written Las Ramblas or Les Rambles). This is the main the main artery in Barcelona's old town, leading from the central Catalunya Square to the Old Port. If you are taking the metro to get there, take Line 3 (the green line) and exit at either the Plaça Catalunya or Liceu stops.

Carme Street goes west from La Rambla. You can identify it by the baroque church on the corner. Walk for 5 minutes: the Casa de Convalescència is on the left, immediately after a small square on your left.

From the Catalonia Duques de Bergara hotel, exit to Catalunya Square, find Las Ramblas on your right and follow the instructions above. From the Residencia de Investigadores: The Residencia is on the corner of Hospital Street and Egipcíacques Street. Just follow Egipcíacques Street to the next corner, which is Carme Street, and go right. The entrance to the conference venue is a few meters away.

### **Travel Information:**

El Prat is Barcelona's international airport. It is located about 15 km south of Barcelona. You can get to the city by bus, train or taxi. If you are staying in the recommended accomodation, your general destination is Plaza Catalunya (Catalunya square).

- **By taxi:** There is a taxi stop in front of each of the terminals. The expected time to Plaza Catalunya is 20-25 minutes, but depends largely on traffic conditions. At the end of the trip, the driver will add a few euros over what the meter indicates, as airport fare. The total should be in the 20-25 € range.
- **By bus (“Aerobus”):** It runs every 12 minutes from 6 am to at least midnight. It stops in front of each of the terminals and takes you right to Plaza Catalunya in about 30 minutes. Buy the ticket on the bus; 3,75 € one way, 6,45 € roundtrip. Better option than train if you are staying in the recommended accomodation.
- **By train:** Line C10 runs every 30 minutes, starts at the airport and takes you to Sants and Passeig de Gracia train stations. Passeig de Gracia station is a 10-minute walk away from Plaza Catalunya. From Sants station you can change to other train lines going to Plaza Catalunya train station. Price is about 2,60 €.

**Weather:** The weather is still warm during October. The average maximum temperature is 23 degrees Celcius and the average minimum temperature is 15 degrees Celcius.

**Conference City:** Barcelona is the second largest city in Spain, and the capital of Catalonia. Its cultural richness, its location next to the Mediterranean coast, and its closeness to the French border has made it one of the most

visited cities in the world, with over 4 million visitors per year.

Barcelona is best known for its architectural treasures. It features many unique buildings from the “Modernist” period (late 19th-early 20th centuries), seven of which have declared World Heritage Sites by UNESCO. Furthermore, in the last two decades, Barcelona has been an experimentation ground for the most innovative architectural concepts.

For more information see

<http://www.lsi.upc.edu/~altds06/>