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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Colleague:

Welcome to Volume 1(4) of the *Intelligent Data Analysis* journal!

Electronic publications are becoming the cornerstone of theoretical and applied research in many fields. In today's world, the success of research and the dissemination of information to the world depends on a number of factors:

- How quickly the results of research can be published;
- How effectively the results can be accessed throughout the world; and
- How sophisticated the method of publication is.

For over 100 years, researchers have counted on hard copy publications and have faced many limitations that no longer exist in electronic publications. Continuous developments of new tools and methods, and progress in all forms of electronic publishing (on-line journals) allow us to offer the best method in bringing the results of our work to the world. Volume 1(3) of IDA journal is an example.

In this issue we have four articles. The first article by Zoltán Alexin and his colleagues presents a method for interactive revision of multiple predicates of logic programs. They introduce a method for specialization of logic programs and test their algorithm in three domains of *rectangle*, *sentence*, and *shuttle*. The article includes the results of integrating and evaluating their method with an Electrocardiograph (ECG) waveform classifier. In the second article by Torgo and Gama, a method is presented that could be considered as an alternative approach to the problem of regression. This method allows the use of many machine learning algorithms in regression problems. The results include testing the approach with three different classification systems where it confirms the validity of the approach to class discretization.

The third article, by Bellazzi and colleagues, discusses the problem of interpreting data coming from a dynamic system. Their approach includes use of Causal Probabilistic Networks for reconstructing the state of any dynamic system based on Markov Chain Monte Carlo algorithms. This approach allows to make explicit the dependence relationships among variables. The article provides an example from the field of signal deconvolution. Finally, the last article by Bailleux and Chabrier is about using Knuth's method (a simple statistical method for investigating search trees) to generate statistics on search trees related to NP-Complete problems. They demonstrate that depending on domain reductions, tree-based estimates have a lower variance than estimates based on uniform sampling from the entire search space.

This issue is the last issue of Volume 1 (our first year of great success!). Starting January 1, 1998, accessing IDA will be based on subscription only. Subscribers will be given passwords that will be valid for one year. We are grateful for the support and encouragement that we have received over the last year

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since IDA has been on-line. We are confident that we will succeed in our goals and we will do our best to enhance this journal on a regular basis.

Best wishes,  
A. Famili  
Editor-in-Chief