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Editorial

Dear Colleague:

Welcome to volume 6(1) of the journal *Intelligent Data Analysis*! With this issue of IDA we are celebrating the beginning of our sixth year of success.

Volume 6(1) of IDA consists of 5 articles that are a combination of applied and joint research.

In the first article, Yang and Harrison discuss a new approach for providing explanations to support any discovered predictions. They apply their approach to identify whether or not a company may fail, on top of which they explain why this may occur. Their method is based on searching templates using probabilistic neural networks and the results are from analyzing data collected from a number of construction companies. In the second article, in a similar research, Szczesny introduces an approach called Grade Correspondence Analysis to detect association trends in data. The article includes two examples, a contingency table and a survey questionnaire. This approach involves a search strategy to detect and present trends in objects (rows) and attributes (columns) in any data set.

Cubiles-de-la-Vega etal, in the next article, introduce a multi-layer perceptron to predict time-series data by generating a set of non-linear forecasting models. The proposed approach is intended to help users to specify a simple model in a time series forecasting application. The results given from two precise studies are performed in two different domains of tourist and geodynamic domains. The next article by Cao and Gu, is also related to the analysis of time-series data. Their approach is about the use of dynamic support vector machines to model non-stationary time-series data. Unlike the standard support vector machines which use fixed values in all training data points, this approach uses an exponentially increasing regularizing constant and an exponentially decreasing tube size to deal with changes in the data. The results of their work included evaluating this approach using both simulated and real data. The last article of this issue by Anderle etal present a graphical method for evaluating the quality of a feature extraction mapping. They use a new plotting approach to evaluate dimension reduction mappings to measure the relative quality of the reduction map. The plot is easy and fast to construct and gives much more insight than other approaches. The article includes a detailed evaluation of their approach.

And finally we are planning to have one special issue this year, that will include some of the best papers from the IDA-2001 conference that was held in Lisbon. Portugal, from September 13–15, 2001. We are also working with a selected number of our colleagues to present the extended version of their best papers from other IDA related conferences. These articles will be included in the future issues of our journal. Thanks for your continuing support.

Best wishes,
A. Famili
Editor-in-Chief