

ECML
08
PKDD

ECML PKDD 2008 Newsletter

WEATHER

TODAY



High: 18°C/64°F

Low: 7°C/44°F

TOMORROW



High: 18°C/64°F

Low: 8°C/46°F

ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTERNET

All rooms on the ground floor of building R have wireless internet available. To connect to the network, choose the network with SSID 'ECMLPKDD' and password 'EP08wifi'. Another way of accessing the internet, is using the computers in room R006. The room will be open during the conference between 8.00 and 18.00.

REGISTRATION DESK

For any questions about the conference or about the city of Antwerp, you can go to the registration desk which is located in the right corner of the ground floor of building R. The desk is open between 8.00 am and 18.00 pm. Or don't be shy to just ask any of the local team members that are walking around. You can recognize them by their red 'crew' shirts.



FLICKR

Everybody who makes nice pictures of the conference can share them with all of us! You can upload your pictures to Flickr with the tag 'ecmlpkdd2008'.

Welcome to Antwerp

This year the ECML PKDD conference is hosted by the University of Antwerp. To make things easy for everybody, we provide this daily newsletter with information on where to be and what to do; both about the conference and about the city. The printed newsletter will be delivered every morning in the Aula rector Dhanis before the first invited talk together with a nice cup of coffee. We hope that you will enjoy your time here in Antwerp.



Today's Events

Keynote talk by Anil K. Jain

Today at 6pm in Aula Rector Dhanis the keynote talk by **Prof. Anil K. Jain** from Michigan State University, USA, will be held. His talk is entitled "Data Clustering '50 Years Beyond K-means'" and will give an overview of the history, key challenges and future of unsupervised data discovery using clustering techniques



Anil K. Jain is known for his work in pattern recognition, computer vision and biometric recognition. His articles on biometrics have appeared in Scientific American, Nature (Q&A), IEEE Spectrum, Comm. ACM, IEEE Computer, Proc. IEEE1,2, Encarta and Scholarpedia.

Yesterday's event

Pre-Registration

Sunday afternoon, participants could already pick up their bags at 'De Groote Witte Arend' and enjoy one of the many Belgian beers.



He has received a number of awards, including a Guggenheim fellowship, Humboldt Research award, Fulbright fellowship, IEEE Computer Society Technical Achievement award (2003), W. Wallace McDowell award (2007), and the IAPR King-Sun Fu Prize (2008) for contributions to pattern recognition and biometrics.

He has written several handbooks about biometrics. According to CiteSeer, his book, *Algorithms for Clustering Data* is ranked #91 in the *Most Cited Articles in Computer Science* (over all times) and his paper *Data Clustering: A Review* (ACM Computing Surveys, 1999) is consistently ranked in the top 10 most popular magazine and computing survey articles downloaded.

For more information, visit Prof. Jains website: <http://www.cse.msu.edu/~jain/>

Tonight's Events

Welcome Reception

The official opening and award ceremony of the conference takes place in Aula **Rector Dhanis** at 17.20, followed by the invited talk by Prof. Jain. The conference chairs present the awards for the best papers and best student papers. Also the winners of the Discovery Challenge in the new area of social bookmarking are announced. You are all invited to the ECML PKDD 2008 welcome reception at 19.00. The reception follows the invited talk and takes place at the same location, downstairs in the hallway. There will be a walking dinner to accompany the drinks. We will also have some musical entertainment brought to you by a live band.

CONTACT

For questions, remarks, or if you made a picture that you would like to see in tomorrow's edition, please mail to newsletter@ecmlpkdd2008.org

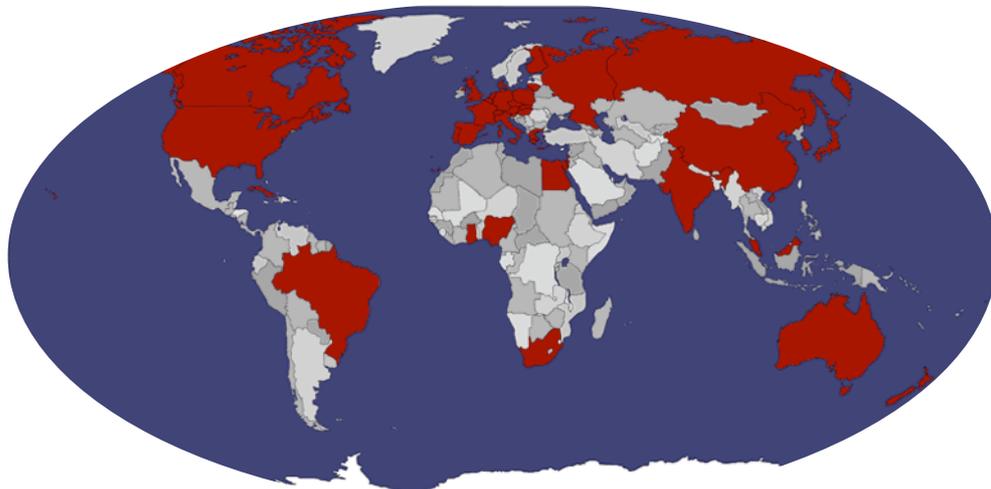


◀ City of Antwerp Skyline as seen from the Left Bank

ECML PKDD Statistics

Where are we from?

ECML PKDD 2008 continues the trend of attracting researchers from Europe and far beyond. We are very excited to welcome visitors from six continents. As expected, Europeans constitute the biggest contingent (75%), while about 14% of the people you will meet at this conference are North-Americans. Asia takes the bronze medal with 6% participation. Smaller delegations travelled far and wide from the Middle East, Africa and Australia (1-2%). We hope that future editions of ECML PKDD will be able to further color in the **global coverage map** you see on the right.



Did you know that:

- Andreas is the most common first name for an ECML PKDD 2008 participant?
- And that the most common last name is Wang?
- Anybody called *Andreas Wang* is very likely to get his paper accepted for future ECML PKDD conferences?
- More than 80% of the participants are male? We established this ratio rather unscientifically by making a calculated guess on the basis of the participant's first name. The data further suggests

that Europe has the best established gender equality in our research field, with the highest female-to-male ratio.

- The data in the aforementioned bullet point has prompted us to cancel the speed dating social event?
- The most common ordered T-shirt size is Medium? And that the statistics shatter the stereotype of the rotund North-

American: Europeans beat North-Americans in ordering shirt sizes of Extra-large and above (19% vs 12%).

- 83% of countries participating in ECML PKDD 2008 have an "a" in their name? Host country Belgium is excluded from this majority. [Reference to the Belgian political situation regarding *FIAnders* and *WAlloon* removed by editor-in-chief]

TODO in the City

Antwerp Insider tips

A favorite among visitors in Antwerp is the pub **De Pelgrom** (www.pelgrom.be, **Pelgrimsstraat 15**). It is located in a dungeon-like cellar, filled with wooden tables and benches, and is lit only by candles, giving you a medieval feel. We particularly recommend the Witbier in this place!

Food from all across the globe can be found at the traveler's cafe **Via Via** (www.viaviacafe.com, Wolstraat 43), a 15-minute walk from the conference venue. Friendly service and great and affordable dishes make this an ideal place for a good lunch. **Façade** and **Mamado**, in the same area, likewise offer great food at reasonable prices.

TODO in the City

Where to go and what to do in Antwerp

Shopping

If you want to do some shopping, here are the places to go:

- Meir:** popular brands
- Hopland:** designer shops
- Kloosterstraat:** antiques
- Wolstraat, Pelgrimstraat:** art

Bars, restaurants, clubs

Hotspots in Antwerp to enjoy the night life: **Grote Markt**, Groenplaats, Hendrik Conscienceplein and 't Zuid (the trendy south side of town)

Nature

The conference location is very close to the train station (at 1km), where you can find:

- **The Antwerp Zoo** (Koningin Astridplein 26), one of the oldest zoos in the world!
- **Aquatopia** (Koningin Astridplein 7) has 35 aquaria with a fascinating collection of exotic fish and animals.



Sudoku

Each row, each, each column and each square can only contain a particular letter once. Hint: one of the lines in the table will form an existing word.

		O			R		
	D		I	V			
R	V						E
	O				D	S	
			C				
Y			E		O	D	V
							C O
			R				
	S		Y	C	I		R