

KDD 2019 Program Chairs' Welcome

Welcome to the 25th ACM SIGKDD International Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining. The record number of papers submitted and accepted in this year's conference highlights the breadth, depth, and impact of the research and applied data science practices on our vibrant fields in this exciting time in history. It is with great pleasure and joyful anticipation that we present this proceedings to you. We have given our uttermost best effort to ensure that these papers meet high standards of quality in terms of presentation, citations, and experimental methodology. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy this year's program and that you will find the papers insightful, inspiring, and energizing. We expect them to contribute to the foundation and tool chest that you can draw value from for your future contributions to the fields of knowledge discovery and data mining.

This year's KDD continues the trend of record high number of submissions, a total of 1808 submissions, out of which 321 were accepted for publication in these proceedings; thus reaching an acceptance rate of 17.8%. The submissions came from a total 7966 authors from over 1200 organizations across 58 countries.

One of the changes in this year's Research Track is the introduction of a double-blind review process. Double-blind reviewing has been adopted by many conferences in our field, and SIGKDD's Executive Committee (EC) along with the KDD 2019's General Chairs and PC Chairs felt that the time has come for KDD to also embrace this review process. Double-blind reviewing is a tool that attempts to eliminate implicit biases that all of us possess and can influence our reviews in imperceptible ways. To a large extent, the double-blind review process went smoothly. We hope that this is a first step towards improving the reviewing process and that this initial attempt will stimulate further discussions and allow SIGKDD to design a permanent policy for double-blind reviewing.

The Applied Data Science Track witnessed a higher growth rate in terms of submissions, with approximately 40% more papers submitted to the track this year relative to last year. In addition, for the first time in KDD, we introduced mandatory training sessions for all Program Committee members, prior to the start of the review process. This allowed us to share best practices about reviewing applied work, emphasizing the key role of the track in advancing the understanding of issues related to deploying/leveraging these technologies in the real world. We were excited to see that over 90% of the reviewers went through the training. We also introduced a step in the submission for authors to declare their paper topics. This provided additional insight about the diverse topics that we are working on and helped us identify reviewers during the reviewing process. Finally, like the research track, given the importance of reproducibility in data mining work, this year we emphasized reproducibility and allowed authors to use up to two extra pages to include information that would help readers reproduce the work.

We would like to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Senior Program Committee members (85 for the Research Track, 32 for the Applied Data Science Track), the Program Committee members (627 for the Research Track, 222 for the Applied Data Science Track), and more than 800 external reviewers. Together they wrote well over 6500 reviews, and held multiple rounds of discussions for most of the submissions. We are especially indebted to the Senior Program Committee members for their guidance to PC members and valuable input to us.

We would also like to thank the general chairs, Vipin Kumar and Ankur Teredesai, and the rest of the organizing committee. Thank you for the great team work and for a joyful time together.

Lastly but most importantly, we are grateful to all authors who made the submissions, and attendees at KDD. Your work and your presence are part of what made KDD one of the best conferences we all love. We look forward to meeting you in person at the conference and in future venues.

Ying Li and Romer Rosales

KDD'19 Applied Data Science Track Chairs

Evimaria Terzi and George Karypis

KDD'19 Research Track Chairs