A Conversation with Professor Zhi-Hua Zhou

Zhi-Hua Zhou
National Key Laboratory for Novel
Software Technology
Nanjing University
Nanjing 210046, China
zhouzh@lamda.nju.edu.cn

1. Please share with us your view on the history and important milestones of the Chinese KDD research and application areas.

I came into the KDD area in late 1990s. From my point of view, an important event of Chinese KDD development was the 3rd **PAKDD** conference, which was held in Beijing in April 1999. That was the first international conference on KDD held in China, and it helped to form the Chinese KDD community. Later, in 2007 the 11th PAKDD conference was held in Nanjing, for which I was the program chair. The PAKDD 2007 conference attracted more than 730 submissions and more than 270 attendees from China as well as other Asia-Pacific countries/regions; I think this is a good sign of the growth of the Chinese KDD community. Another important event is the **CCDM** (China Conference on Data Mining) conference held in Yantai in August 2009. This is a biennial conference, sponsored by the Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition Technical Committee of the China Computer Federation (CCF), and the Machine Learning Technical Committee of the China Association of Artificial Intelligence (CAAI); fortunately I served as the general co-chair. The origin of the conference was two editions of China Conference on Classification Technology and Application (CCTA), held in 2005 and 2007, in Beijing and Zhengzhou, respectively. With the growth of the Chinese data mining community, and the lack of a domestic data mining conference, the CCTA conference changed to CCDM from 2009, while in 2011 the CCDM conference was held in Guangzhou, attracting about 150 attendees. I think the **IEEE ICDM** 2006 conference held in Hong Kong is also a milestone, which greatly promoted the communication of China and international KDD community. I believe **KDD** 2012 will definitely become a milestone.

2. Please describe your expertise and contribution to KDD.

My research group, LAMDA (abbreviation of "Learning And Mining from DatA") at Nanjing University, mainly works in the areas of machine learning, data mining, pattern recognition and artificial intelligence. Our research spans over theory, algorithm as well as application aspects. For theory and algorithm aspects, we have some work on ensemble methods, semi-supervised and active learning, multi-instance and multi-label learning, cost-sensitive and class-imbalance learning, metric learning and dimensionality reduction, and structure learning and clustering; for application aspects, we have worked on image retrieval, computer-aided medical diagnosis, bioinformatics, software mining, etc. We have also worked on theoretical foundations of evolutionary computation. More information on our research can be found at http://lamda.nju.edu.cn

3. Please share with us your view on the future of KDD both in China and the world.

I believe that KDD will become a fundamental field of computer science, and all applications of computing technologies will involve KDD in some sense in the future, since "data" is more and more crucial and important for all disciplines and domains. I believe both the China and international KDD community will grow greatly in the coming decade. I also think that more and more branches or sub-branches of KDD will be established, providing more chances for researchers and practitioners. Particularly, China may be able to provide important chances for KDD development since China has potentially the largest online user population and social network in the world. Many companies in China are accumulating or have already accumulated invaluable large data sources, and KDD results may help to promote the growth of the e-commerce market of China, which again is potentially the largest in the world.

About the author:

Zhi-Hua Zhou is a Professor at Nanjing University, China. He is an Associate Editor-in-Chief of "Chinese Science Bulletin", Associate Editor of "IEEE TKDE" and "ACM TIST", and on the editorial boards of various other journals. He is the founding steering committee co-chair of ACML, and steering committee member of PAKDD and PRICAI. He served as program chair/co-chair of PAKDD'07, PRICAI'08 and ACML'09, area chair of various conferences including major data mining conferences KDD, ICDM, SDM, ECML PKDD, and will serve as KDD 2012 workshop chair. He is the chair of the CAAI Machine Learning Technical Committee and the CCF Artificial Intelligence and Pattern Recognition Technical Committee. He has published more than eighty papers in leading international journals or conferences, and holds eleven patents. According to Google Scholar, his papers have more than 6,500 citations. He has achieved many awards such as the Fok Ying Tung Award, Microsoft Young Professorship Award, and a number of paper/competition awards. http://cs.nju.edu.cn/zhouzh