Olga Cristina Santos, Jesus Gonzalez Boticario, Cristobal Romero, Mykola Pechenizkiy, Agathe Merceron, Piotr Mitros, José María Luna, Cristian Mihaescu, Pablo Moreno, Arnon Hershkovitz, Sebastian Ventura, Michel Desmarais

*International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM) 2015*
Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Educational Data Mining
Olga Cristina Santos, Jesus Gonzalez Boticario, Cristobal Romero, Mykola Pechenizkiy, Agathe Merceron, Piotr Mitros, José María Luna, Cristian Mihaescu, Pablo Moreno, Arnon Hershkovitz, Sebastian Ventura, Michel Desmarais (eds.)
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Preface

The 8th International Conference on Educational Data Mining (EDM 2015) is held under auspices of the International Educational Data Mining Society at UNED, the National University for Distance Education in Spain. The conference held in Madrid, Spain, July 26-29, 2015, follows the seven previous editions (London 2014, Memphis 2013, Chania 2012, Eindhoven 2011, Pittsburgh 2010, Cordoba 2009 and Montreal 2008).

The EDM conference is a leading international forum for high-quality research that mines large data sets in order to answer educational research questions that shed light on the learning processes. These data sets may come from the traces that students leave when they interact with learning management systems, interactive learning environments, intelligent tutoring systems, educational games or when they participate in a data-rich learning context. The types of data therefore range from raw log files to eye-tracking devices and other sensor data.

This year’s conference features three invited talks by Luis von Ahn and Matt Streeter (Duolingo), George Siemens, Ryan Baker and Dragan Gasevic (Athabasca University, Columbia University and University of Edinburgh respectively) and Pekka Räsänen (Niilo Mäki Institute). To facilitate further discussion of the increasingly important research issues, three interactive panels have been organized; on grand challenges in EDM, ethics and privacy considerations in EDM, and practical applications of EDM at scale. This year, together with the Journal of Educational Data Mining (JEDM), we started the JEDM Track with the intention to accommodate researchers who want to contribute a more substantial contribution than space allows in the conference proceedings, and yet to present their work to a live conference audience. The papers submitted to the track followed the regular JEDM peer review process; 4 paper have been accepted to the track and will be presented at the conference. The abstracts of the invited talks, panels and accepted JEDM Track papers can be found in these proceedings.

The main conference calls for papers invited contributions to the Research Track and Industry Track. We received 121 full and 59 short paper submissions, each of which was reviewed by three experts in the field, resulting in 43 full (41 research and 2 industry), and 50 short (46 research and 4 industry) papers accepted for presentation at the conference (some of the full paper submissions have been accepted as short paper). From a separate call for posters we also accepted 39 poster and 3 demo papers. All accepted submissions appear in these proceedings.

The EDM conference traditionally provides opportunities for young researchers, and particularly for PhD students, to present their research ideas and receive feedback from the peers and more senior researchers. This year, the organized Doctoral Consortium will feature 12 presentations.

Besides the main conference program, the participants are program conference also includes 3 workshops (Graph-based Educational Data Mining, SMLIR: Workshop on Tools and Technologies in Statistics, Machine Learning and Information Retrieval for Educational Data Mining, and International Workshop on Affect, Meta-Affect, Data and Learning) and 2 tutorials (Using Natural Language Processing Tools in Educational Data Mining, and Student Modeling Applications, Recent Developments & Toolkits).

We would like to thank UNED for the sponsorship and hosting of EDM’2015. We would like to thank the commercial sponsors (MARi, Pearson and duoLingo), student support sponsors (NSF and Professor Ram Kumar Memorial Foundation) and academic support (UNED). We also want to acknowledge the amazing work of the program committee members and additional reviewers, who with their enthusiastic contributions gave us invaluable support in putting this conference together. Our special thanks to ConferenceNavigator – a social system for conference attendees that provided services for personal scheduling, social linking and personalized recommendations of papers. Last but not least we would like to thank the local organizing team.

June 2015
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