Preface

The Bayesian Modeling Applications Workshop (BMAW) has been held in conjunction with the annual Conference on Uncertainty in Artificial Intelligence thirteen times since 2003. The workshop brings together researchers and practitioners who apply the technologies pioneered by the UAI community to address important real-world problems in a diverse set of fields. The workshop fosters discussion on the challenges of building applications, such as understanding and addressing stakeholder needs; integrating Bayesian models and tools into larger applications; validating models; interacting with users; construction of models through knowledge elicitation and learning; agile model and system development strategies; and deploying and managing Web based Bayesian applications.

The theme of the Workshop has adapted from year to year, as real-world problems change and technologies evolve to meet them. The frenzy to apply conventional machine learning methods for commercial applications has the danger of overwhelming Bayesian methods where they might be best applied. Bayesian methods face a similar challenge to the one they faced a decade ago by this community: To demonstrate their timeliness in the current environment of intelligent systems and a long tail of related decision and prediction tasks. This Workshop demonstrates that through several tools and current applications of Bayesian methods.

A call for papers encouraged submissions in a variety of domains, but not limited to any specific vertical market or discipline. Submissions were expected to foster discussion of critical issues within the community of practice. There were 9 submissions. Each submission was reviewed by at least three program committee members. Eight papers were accepted and presented at the Workshop. Seven of these appear full length in these proceedings. One appears as extended abstract to facilitate future publication. In addition, three invited speakers have blessed the Workshop with the presentation of their poster paper accepted at the main conference.

The Thirteenth Annual BMAW was held on June 25, 2016, in New York City, NY, USA. About 30 people attended the Workshop, which consisted of eleven paper presentations, questions, and the accompanying discussions. Papers and presentations addressed Bayesian learning algorithms, tools, and several applications involving medical, government, tax, robotics, soccer, corruption, and education domains. We are grateful to the paper authors and presenters for their contributions, and to the program committee members for their careful efforts reviewing and commenting on submissions. We also appreciate the help EasyChair has always provided us and the organizational support provided by the UAI conference organizers, without whom the workshop would not be possible. Finally, we also thank the authors of the main conference for accepting our invitation to present an invited talk.

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