AUTHORS' BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENTS

Xiaoting Wang received her B.S. degree in Mechatronics Engineering at Nanchang Institute of Aeronautical Technology, Nanchang, China, in 1999, and M.S. degree in Mechatronics Engineering at Northwestern Polytechnic University, Xi'an, China, in 2002. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate in Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering department, Louisiana State University. Her current research activities mainly focus on the theory and applications of Multi-Criteria Decision Making and Data Mining. More details of her research work can be found in her web site (http://www.csc.lsu.edu/~xiaoting).

Peng Zhu received the B.S. in Management Information System from Beijing Technology and Business University, Beijing, China. He is currently an MS candidate in Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering department at Louisiana State University. His research interests focus on data mining and knowledge discovery, especially identification of scientific discovery from bibliographic databases.

Dr. Felici graduated in Statistics at the University of Rome "La Sapienza". He received his M.Sc. in Operations Research and Operations Management at the University of Lancaster, UK, in 1990, and his Ph.D. in Operations Research at the University of Rome "La Sapienza" in 1995. He is presently a permanent researcher in IASI, the Istituto di Analisi dei Sistemi ed Informatica of the Italian National Research Council (CNR), where he started his research activity in 1994 working on research projects in logic programming and mathematical optimization. His current research activity is mainly devoted to the application of optimization techniques to data mining problems, with particular focus on integer programming algorithms for learning in logic and expert systems.

Dr. Triantaphyllou did his graduate studies at Penn State University from 1984 to 1990. While at Penn State, he earned a Dual M.S. degree in Environment and Operations Research (OR), an M.S. degree in Computer Science and a Dual Ph.D. degree in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research. Since the spring of 2005 he is a Professor in the Computer Science Department at the Louisiana State University (LSU) in Baton Rouge, LA, U.S.A., after he has served for 11 years as an Assistant, Associate, and Full Professor in the Industrial Engineering Department at the same university. He has also served for one year as an Interim Associate Dean for the College of Engineering at LSU.

His research is focused on decision-making theory and applications, data mining and knowledge discovery, and the interface of operations research and computer science. Since the years he was a graduate student, he has developed new methods for data mining and knowledge discovery and also has explored some of the most fundamental and intriguing subjects in decision making. In 1999 he has received the prestigious IIE (Institute of Industrial Engineers), OR Division, Research Award for his research contributions in the above fields. In 2005 he received an LSU Distinguished Faculty Award as recognition of his research, teaching, and service accomplishments. Some of his graduate students have also received awards and distinctions including the Best Dissertation Award at LSU for Science, Engineering and Technology for the year 2003. In 2000 Dr. Triantaphyllou published a bestseller book on multi-criteria decision-making. Also, in 2006 he published a monograph on data mining and knowledge discovery, besides co-editing a book on the same subject.

He always enjoys sharing the results of his research with his students and is also getting them actively involved in his research activities. He has received teaching awards and distinctions. His research has been funded by federal and state agencies, and the private sector. He has extensively published in some of the top refereed journals and made numerous presentations in national and international conferences.

Dr. Triantaphyllou has a strong inter-disciplinary background. He has always enjoyed organizing multi-disciplinary teams of researchers and practitioners with complementary expertise. These groups try to comprehensively attack some of the most urgent problems in the sciences and engineering. He is a strong believer of the premise that the next round of major scientific and engineering discoveries will come from the work of such inter-disciplinary groups. More details of his work can be found in his web site (*http://www.csc.lsu.edu/trianta/*).