Authors' Biographical Statements

Mark Last is currently a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Information Systems Engineering, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel and the Head of the Data Mining and Software Quality Lab. Prior to that, he was a Visiting Research Scholar at the National Institute for Systems Test and Productivity, University of South Florida, USA (Summer 2001, 2002, and 2003), Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, University of South Florida, USA (1999 – 2001), a Senior Consultant in Industrial Engineering and Computing (1994-1998), and the Head of Production Control Department at AVX Israel (1989-1994). He obtained his Ph.D. degree from Tel Aviv University, Israel. His main research interests are focused on data mining, multi-lingual text mining, cyber intelligence, and software assurance. He has developed a unified approach to knowledge discovery in databases called IFN (Info-Fuzzy Network), which has been applied by him to the real-world problems of classification, feature selection, anytime model induction, data quality assurance, and data stream mining.

Dr. Last is a Senior Member of the IEEE Computer Society and a Professional Member of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). He currently serves as an Associate Editor of IEEE Transactions on Systems, Man, and Cybernetics - Part C. Dr. Last has published over 120 papers and chapters in scientific journals, books, and refereed conferences. He is a co-author of two monographs and a co-editor of six edited volumes. He has also been a consultant to government institutions and industry.

Sigal Elnekave is currently a M.Sc. student in Information Systems Engineering at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Israel. She has obtained her B.Sc. degree from the same department in 2006. Her main research field is mining spatio-temporal data.

Amos Naor received his M.Sc. (1981) and Ph.D. (1988) degrees in soil science from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. He is a research fellow in the Golan Research Institute of the University of Haifa, Israel since 1985, and serves as the scientific coordinator of research activities in deciduous orchards and winegrapes in the Northern R&D of Israel since 1995. Amos Naor has published over 40 papers and chapters in scientific journals, books, and refereed conferences. Amos Naor is an applied environmental physiologist and he is focused on: 1) Irrigation and crop load interactions in perennial trees; 2) Trees water relations; 3) Soil and plant water status indicators. His current research activities are: 1) Water stress indicators for irrigation scheduling, mainly concentrating on midday stem water potential; 2) Optimizing irrigation at different phenological stages in apple, pear, nectarine, prune, and cherry; almond 3) Modeling the effects of temperature and light intensity on apple sunscald.

Victor Schoenfeld received his degree in Fermentation Science (Enology) in 1988 from the University of California at Davis. After working at several prestigious wineries in California and France, Mr. Schoenfeld was appointed (1992) Chief Winemaker of Yarden- Golan Heights Winery, considered to be Israel's leading quality wine producer. Yarden- Golan Heights Winery is the leader in wine and vineyard research and development in Israel. Under Victor Schoenfeld's stewardship, the winery has established its own vine material propagation block (one of two in Israel), has carried out a joint research project on Botrytis cinerea growth with Baruch Sneh, Department of Plant Sciences and the Institute of Nature Conservation Research, Tel Aviv University, has established a network of meteorological stations, has partnered in a project resulting in the ability to correlate diurnal trunk diameter measurements to pressure bomb data, has been the pioneer in Israel in the use of NDVI and ECS technologies in wine vineyards and has established a complete small scale experimental winery. Yarden- Golan Heights winery has the largest agricultural database in Israel and has developed a unique system for data collection, storage and analysis. Victor Schoenfeld is a Professional Member of the American Society for Enology and Viticulture.