

**Report on**  
**National Workshop on Support Vector Machines (NWSVM)**

**November 9-11, 2006**

**Organized by: Center for Soft Computing Research (CSCR): A National Facility**  
**Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata**

The three day workshop was advertised in mid-August 2006 with a deadline of October 5, 2006. There was an overwhelming response from researchers in different parts of the country. But based on their academic background, and our infrastructural limitation, the number of external participants, selected for attending the workshop was restricted to 15. These participants were from IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Roorkee, IIT Guwahati; NIT Surat, NIT Jaipur; BIT Mesra, Jadavpur University, Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur; Burdwan University; MBM Engineering College, Jodhpur, and Asansol Engineering College. The categorywise distribution of the participants was Faculty – 9 and Students – 6. In addition, 7 faculty and research scholars from other units of ISI attended the workshop.

The workshop, with 22 participants, was inaugurated by Prof S K Pal, Director of ISI and Principal Investigator while Prof M. K. Kundu, Co-Principal Investigator, presided over the inauguration ceremony held on November 9, 2006 during 10:15-10:30 AM.

Speakers were -- Prof. C. A. Murthy (Co-Principal Investigator, CSCR), Prof. Jayadeva (IIT Delhi), Dr. Ravi Kothari (IBM-India Research Lab., New Delhi), Dr. Pabitra Mitra (IIT Kharagpur) and Dr. A. K. Deb (Assistant Professor, CSCR). The topics discussed were -- Optimization Theory, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning, Learning from Examples: A Gentle Introduction, Support Vector Machines: Classification and Regression, Advanced topics in Support Vector Machines and Applications of Support Vector Machines.

Emphasis was given to make the lecture sessions interactive so that the participants could understand the theory and applications of Support Vector Machines in order to apply them in their domain areas. The lecture slides were made available to the participants in CD for their future recapitulation of the lectures and to delve deeper into any topic of interest. The workshop ended with a valedictory session chaired by Prof. Bhabatosh Chanda, Professor-in-Charge, Computer and Communications Sciences Division where the certificates of participation were presented to the participants, and some of the participants shared their experiences regarding the workshop. While some of the participants from the NITs and engineering Institutes expressed their views about the workshop and their keenness to undertake collaborative projects with the center, research scholar participants wanted in future an application-oriented course focused on a specific application or research area. The experience gained by the organizers while conducting the workshop would surely be invaluable in organizing the future schools.

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