1st Hands-on Training Workshop on Forecasting with Artificial Neural Networks

17–19 September, 2009
Wallenberg Centre, Stellenbosch, South Africa

Related Events

The workshop will run at the same venue immediately before the 2009 conference of the Operations Research Society of South African (ORSSA), 20-23 September 2009. Visit www.orssaconf.co.za

Sponsors

National Research Foundation of South Africa (NRF) www.nrf.ac.za

Organisation

Dr Chipo Mlambo, University of Cape Town (UCT) Graduate School of Business
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chipo.mlambo@gsb.uct.ac.za

Lecturer

Dr. Sven F. Crone, Lancaster Uni UK & Centre for Forecasting
s.crone@lancaster.ac.uk

Your lecturer, Dr. Crone, is deputy director of the Lancaster Centre for Forecasting, one of the world's largest research units dedicated to forecasting. With a PhD in neural forecasting, he frequently speaks at international conferences and runs forecasting competitions. Sven regularly teaches forecasting, both at university, in practitioners courses and in tutorials for IBF and IEEE CIS. He has over 8 years of corporate experience, having consulted with companies incl. retailer Tesco UK, manufacturer of FMCG Beiersdorf GER, Chemicals producer Celanese USA, copper producer Codelco Chile, and insurance AXA Switzerland etc.

Course description: Artificial neural networks (NN) have revolutionized the way researchers and practitioners solve complex, real-world problems in business, finance, economics, and engineering. Today, NNs are being routinely used by specialists in a wide range of predictive tasks such as forecasting electrical load, financial data, consumer packaged goods in retail and supply chain management, call volumes in call centres etc. However, their modelling and specification requires expert knowledge often not available in companies. We are pleased to announce the first 3-day NN training workshop on time series prediction and forecasting to be held right here in South Africa.

Course design: The course will be *3 full days* of *maths-lite lectures* and *hands-on exercises* using a free NN software simulator – so bring along your laptop to run experiments!

Target audience: Whether you are a demand planner, engineer, financial analyst, researcher, or student, the course is designed to help you acquire the knowledge, the skills and the competence you need to utilize this cutting-edge technology for solving predictive problems. You will be exposed to the theoretical concepts and hands-on applications of NN that will be invaluable in your day-to-day decision-making processes. The hands-on format will allow you to follow the course even without a sound mathematical or statistical background. Even if you are already familiar with ANN, you will learn tricks-of-the-trade and explore or develop your own. Don't miss out! Get your organisation ahead of the competition by equipping yourself with this futuristic technique.

Course Coverage: History of neural networks, specifying neural network architectures (number of layers, number of nodes, feedback etc.), Backpropagation and other learning algorithms for neural networks, Applications of neural networks in function approximation, linear and nonlinear time series prediction, and nonlinear system identification, hands-on examples in time series and causal modelling, Fundamentals of time series forecasting, Modelling neural networks for smoothing and regression, Evaluating Neural Network forecasting accuracy, Out-of-Sample Empirical Design of Neural Network Experiments
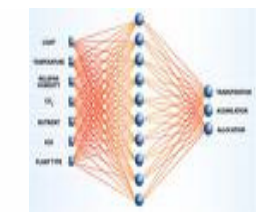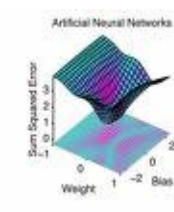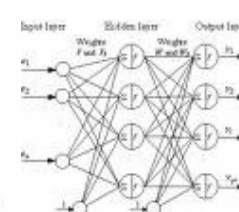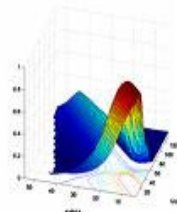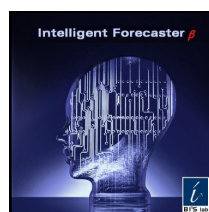
Registration Fee for 3 full days:

ZAR 3000 (€260/$365) **before 31 July 2009**

ZAR 3900(€340/$475) **after 31 July 2009**

The fee includes a NN software simulator on CD for experiments, data, stationery & coffee/tea & lunches.

Accommodation is not included - for a list of accommodations please visit the ORSSA conference website (see left) held at the same venue

Hurry, only limited seats are available!!! Participants will be accepted on a first-come first-serve basis

For informal enquiries and reservations please contact Dr. Mlambo via email.

Co-Sponsor

Software is provided by BIS lab - The Business Intelligence Laboratory, Germany
http://www.bis-lab.com

Venue address:
STIAS
Wallenberg Centre
Marais Street,
Stellenbosch, 7600
Tel: 021 808 2185
Fax: 021 808 2184

Accommodation Close to the Venue:
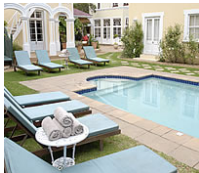
River Manor
Distance: 5 min.
Tel: +27 218879944
Fax: +27 218879940
Website:
www.rivermanor.co.za

Auberge Rozendal Wine Farm
Distance: 15-20 min.
Tel: +27 218092600
Fax: +27 218092640
Website:
www.aubergerozendal.co.za

Knorhoek Wines and Guesthouse
Distance: 15-20 min.
Tel: +27 218652114
Fax: +27 218652115
Website:
www.knorhoekguesthouse.co.za

Directions to Venue

From Paarl R44
From Cape Town R304
From Helshoogte R310
From Airport R310
From Strand R44

Cloetesville
Nietvoorbij
Kayamandi
Tennantville
Helshoogte Road
Stellenbosch Motors
7Ele
School
Eikestad
Idas valley
Bird Street
Fire Brigade
Simons rust Spar
Jan Celliers
Cluver Str
AutoMark
Merriman Ave
Marias Park
Caltex
University
We are here
Market
Marais Str
Sport grounds
Jonkershoek
Alexander Str
Town Hall
Braak
Post
Station
Link
Plein Str
v Riebeeck Str
vd Stel Str
Checkers
Dorp Str
Distell
Stears
Safraan
Schools
Van Reede

All distances are estimated driving times by car.

Rusthuiz Guesthouse
Distance: 5-10 min.
Tel: +27 218866948
Fax: +27 218866929
Website:
www.atrusthuiz.co.za

Stellenbosch Lodge Country Hotel
Distance: 10-15 min.
Tel: +27 218880100
Fax: +27 218801408
Website:
www.stblodge.co.za

Eendracht Boutique Hotel
Distance: 5-10 min.
Tel: +27 218838843
Fax: +27 218838842
Website:
www.eendrachthotel.co.za

Batavia Boutique Hotel
Distance: 5-10 min.
Tel: +27 218872914
Fax: +27 218872915
Website:
www.bataviahotel.co.za

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Complete this registration/sponsorship form and fax or mail to:
Dr. Chipo Mlambo, UCT Graduate School of Business,
Private Bag X3, Rondebosch 7701, Cape Town, South Africa
Tel: +27 (0) 21 406 1442 Fax: +27 (0) 21 406 1412

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name : _____   Last Name : _____

Title :_____   Institution/Organization: _____

Phone : _____   Fax:_____   Email:_____

BILLING ADDRESS

Address:_____

City:_____   Zip Code:_____   State/Country:_____

REGISTRATION / SPONSORSHIP

☐   Early bird (before 31 July 2009): R3,000   Discounts for multiple attendees per company are
☐   Late registration (after 31 July 2009): R3,900   available upon request.

I want to sponsor the workshop: Amount: _____
(All sponsors will be announced, referenced and linked on the website, and receive the right to exhibit at the workshop.)

METHOD OF PAYMENT

☐ Check is enclosed, payable to **UCT-Graduate School of Business** (in South African Rand)
☐ Payment was made by direct deposit (Proof of payment enclosed)

ACCOUNT DETAILS

Account name: UCT-GSB Account (Graduate School of Business)
Account type: Current account
Bank: Standard Bank of South Africa
Account No.:   072953004
Branch: Rondebosch
Branch Code: 02500911
Bank Address: Riverside Centre, Main Road, Rondebosch, 7700, South Africa
Swift code: SBZAZAJJ - for payments made outside the rand currency area
Reference: Please use "NN Workshop" as reference.

Signature: _____   Place: _____   Date: _____

Upon receipt of registration/sponsorship form and the amount indicated above,
a confirmation letter/email will be sent to you.