In recent years, more and more researchers have been involved in research on both agent technology and distributed data mining. A clear disciplinary effort has been activated toward removing the boundary between them, that is the interaction and integration between agent technology and distributed data mining. We refer this to agent mining as a new area. The marriage of agents and distributed data mining is driven by challenges faced by both communities, and the need of developing more advanced intelligence, information processing and systems. In this paper presents an overall picture of agent mining from the perspective of positioning it as an emerging area. We summarize the main distributed data mining, driving
forces, disciplinary framework, applications, and trends and directions, data mining-driven agents, and mutual issues in agent mining. Arguably, we draw the following conclusions: (1) agent mining emerges as a new area in the scientific family, (2) both agent technology and distributed data mining can greatly benefit from agent mining, (3) it is very promising to result in additional advancement in intelligent information processing and systems. However, as a new open area, there are many issues waiting for research and development from theoretical, technological and practical perspectives.

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**Index Terms**

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