



International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

Number 9

October 1994

President: Allan Gordon

Editor: Keiji Yajima

The International Federation of Classification Societies, founded in 1985, is composed of: British Classification Society, Classification Society of North America, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Japanese Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Società Italiana di Statistica, Association des Sociétés Yougoslaves de Statistique, Vereniging voor Ordinate en Classificatie and Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Society. (Other societies are currently joining.)

The IFCS is a non-profit, non-political scientific organization, the aims of which are to further classification research. Among other activities, the IFCS organises a biennial conference, and supports the Journal of Classification.

From the President

Council recently approved an application for IFCS membership from Sekcja Klasyfikacji i Analizy Danych PTS. It is a great pleasure to welcome into IFCS our colleagues from Poland, whose Society becomes the ninth member of the Federation.

You will find information about a proposed new bibliography project, for which we wish to discover the level of support. If you feel that this is a development which you would like to support, let me encourage you to contact the Classification Society to which you belong. More generally, if you have views on other activities which you believe that the Federation should be considering, please pass them on to me or another Council Member.

Allan Gordon
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Proposed Bibliography

The suggestion has been made that the IFCS should expand its activities by sponsoring the publication of a bibliography on classification. This might take the form of a set of chapters, each written by a subject expert and providing an overview and annotated bibliography of a topic in classification and related areas of data analysis. Interest in publishing such a book has been expressed on behalf of Springer Verlag, provided that we undertake to purchase a specified number of copies of the final product (estimated price: DM 80 for a 350-page book).

In order to allow the IFCS Council to assess the feasibility of this project, readers who would be interested in purchasing such a volume are encouraged to contact the president of their Classification Society before the end of December. Please also bring this information to the attention of colleagues who might be interested in such a volume.

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Classification Society of North America

I am pleased to call your attention and invite you to the next annual meeting of CSNA.

CSNA '95

The Classification Continuum:

Theories, Methods, and Applications

June 22-25, 1995

Denver, Colorado, USA

The meeting is supported by the College of Business, University of Colorado at Denver. A short course is planned for Thursday, June 22. The regular meeting, including the CSNA business meeting, conference banquet and regular paper sessions will be scheduled from Friday morning, June 23 until Sunday noon, June 25, 1995.

CSNA meetings are traditionally interdisciplinary and informal, with few (if any) parallel sessions. Abstracts of papers presented are distributed, but no formal proceedings are produced. Speakers often discuss work in progress, and both applications and methodological issues are usually represented.

Sessions tentatively planned include:

Classification and Clustering in Marketing (P. Green, the Wharton School and J. D. Carroll, Rutgers University, organizers);

New Optimization and Neural Network Approaches to Discriminant Analysis, with Applications (Fred Glover, University of Colorado at Boulder, organizer);

Neural Networks for Classification (Manavendra Misra, Colorado School of Mines, organizer);

Model Selection Methods in Classification and Clustering.

Graduate Student Session, in which graduate students will present their research and will meet with mentors who will review the work and make suggestions.

The organizers of the meeting are particularly interested in including a wide variety of contributed papers in applications of classification, clustering and related methods as well as methodological issues in the 1995 meetings. Suggestions for topics, symposia, panel discussions or other contributions are solicited, and may be directed to the

Program Chair: Peter Bryant

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Denver, Colorado 80217-3364 USA,

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Email: pbryant@cudnvr.denver.colorado.edu

A formal announcement and call for papers will be issued in early 1995, but you may expect that abstracts will be due in March 1995.

We welcome participation from everyone, particularly members of our colleagues in other member societies of IFCS.

Michael P. Windham, President

Email: windham@sunfs.math.usu.edu

Gesellschaft für Klassifikation

The 19th Annual Conference of the GfKI
Basel/Switzerland, March 8-10, 1995

The next GfKI conference will be held in Basel (Switzerland) with the title:

Learning and Knowledge:

Structural aspects, quantitative methods, and new applications.

The conference addresses all topics related to classification and data analysis as well as methods for ordering and processing knowledge.

The main theme emphasizes models, methods and systems for learning from data and learning of knowledge whilst special subject sections include:

- * Mathematical and statistical methods for classification and data analysis
- * Empirical learning and Bayesian inference
- * Visualization of data, information and knowledge
- * Computer-intensive methods: genetic algorithms, neural networks, Gibbs sampling
- * Analysis of spatial data, geographic information systems
- * Uncertain data and fuzzy methods
- * Software and software validation in classification and data analysis

- * Information systems and data bases
- * Learning of knowledge, inductive reasoning, expert systems
- * Knowledge structuring in electronic information networks
- * Semantic information retrieval
- * Conceptual approaches for knowledge retrieval
- * Subject indexing, knowledge ordering and thesauri in libraries

- * Linguistics and natural language data processing
- * Multivariate methods and classification in medicine and pharmaceutical research
- * Data analysis and information systems for molecular biology and sequence data
- * Knowledge bases and data analysis in psychology and social sciences
- * Semantic ordering systems and computer linguistics in medicine
- * Data mining and classification in industry and engineering
- * Information processing in finance and marketing
- * Data analysis in archeology and archeobotanics.

Several tutorials and workshops will take place during the conference, e.g. on:

- * genetic programming algorithms
- * Geographic information systems
- * Computer-based experimental design in the pharmaceutical industry
- * Knowledge processing in the social sciences
- * Vocational course for librarians on: Libraries in INTERNET.

Conference languages are German and English. Contributed papers should be submitted (1 page, preferably by e-mail) to, and more information can be obtained from, the local organizer:

Prof. Dr. W. Polasek
 Institut für Statistik und Oekonometrie
 WWZ, Universität Basel
 Petersgraben 51
 CH-4051 Basel, Switzerland
 Tel.: (+41)(61) 267-3313, -3311
 Fax: (+41)(61) 267-3327
 Email: gfk1-95@iso.wwz.unibas.ch

Accepted papers can be submitted for a Proceedings volume which will be published in the series 'Studies in classification, data analysis, and knowledge organization' by Springer-Verlag.

P.S.: Since the carnival season in Basel takes place from 6 to 8 March 1995, it is recommended that eventual participants their hotel reservation well in advance to: Offizielles Verkehrsbüro Basel, Schiffslaende 5, CH-4001 Basel, Switzerland. (A limited number of hotel rooms has been reserved there until November 7, 1994.)

Fall Meeting 1994 of the Working Group on 'Data Analysis and Numerical Classification' of the GfKI will be held at Ulm 7-8 October 1994.

The Working Group on 'Data Analysis and Numerical Classification' of the GfKI will hold its regular Fall Meeting at the Center of Scientific Research of Daimler Benz AG at Ulm

(Donau) on Friday and Saturday, 7 to 8 October 1994. The scientific program includes several practically oriented contributions and real-case studies:
 G. NAKHAEZADEH, Ulm: Applications of classification methods in industry
 Dr. KRESSEL, Ulm: Optical character recognition and classification
 A. DRESS, Bielefeld: Mathematical bases and software applications of split decomposition techniques.
 W. VACH, Freiburg: Neural networks as an alternative to logistic regression in the biometrical practice
 H. MUCHA, Berlin: Adaptive cluster analysis in XploRe, SAS and SPLUS
 Th. Weber, Magdeburg: Classification of inventories of paleolithic flints
 G. HERDEN, Essen: Ordinally compatible mappings
 H. BOCKLISCH, Chemnitz: Structure reconstruction by fuzzy pattern classification based on a subjective and an objective evaluation of data
 Audience: Discussion of the classificatory results obtained for two real-case data sets.

H.H. Bock
 Email: bock@stochastik.rwth-aachen.de

BCS-British Classification Society

The Summer Meeting of the British Classification Society took place at the Institute of Zoology, Regent's Park London. There were 9 members present. Helen Stanley gave an overview of the work of the Institute and introduced members to Mike Bruford and Paul Curtis. Bruford explained how he was working on techniques for aiding the conservation of species with limited resources. He discussed the relative uses of Mitochondrial DNA (very fast but no error correcting) and of Chromosomes (slower but with error correcting). Paul Curtis discussed the release of crickets to new sites and issues regarding the maintenance of populations of Polynesian tree snails which was being conducted as part of an international effort. He showed members around the laboratories where this work is done. Afterwards the Annual General Meeting took place and then John Gower gave a paper entitled a Biometrician in Systematics in which he discussed the development of a variety of techniques with which he had been involved.

The next meeting of the British Society will take place on December 6th 1994 and will be a joint meeting with the British Region of the British Region of the International Biometric Society on "Classification in Medicine". The speakers will be I. Poole, N. Chrichton and I. Ford; it will take place at 2.15pm at the Royal Entomological Society, 41 Queen's Gate, S. Kensington.

SKAD-Section on Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society

Section on Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society (SKAD) held its annual conference on 28th of September 1994 in Cracow. The following papers were presented during the conference:

1. Zdzislaw Hellwig - Robustness and stability of taxonomic structures.
2. Andrzej Sokolowski - Identification of axes in multidimensional scaling.
3. Jan Owsinski - The issue of simultaneous aggregation and grouping of preference relations - formulation and basic problems.
4. Danuta Strahl - Classification of matrices for the research on economic structures.
5. Krzysztof Jajuga - On neural networks in classification and data analysis.
6. Grzegorz Kowalewski - Robust estimators in linear regression.
7. Edward Nowak - Classification and analysis for financial and accountancy data.

In the second part of the conference the meeting of the section took place. The Board of the section gave the summary of their work in the last year. Then the elections to the Board took place. The following persons were elected for the period of January 1, 1995 - December 31, 1996:

1. Krzysztof Jajuga - chairman (Academy of Economics in Wrocław);
2. Michał Wozniak - vice-chairman (Academy of Economics in Cracow);
3. Marek Walesiak - secretary (Academy of Economics in Wrocław, Jelenia Góra campus);
4. Kazimierz Zajac - member (Academy of Economics in Cracow);
5. Zdzislaw Hellwig - member (Academy of Economics in Wrocław).

It has been decided that the next conference of the section will take place in September 1995.

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ul. Komandorska 118/120, 53-345 Wrocław,
POLAND
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VOC-Dutch/Flemish Classification Society

The 1994 Spring Meeting of the VOC was dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Classification. At this meeting new officers were selected:

Dr. H.A.L. Kiers (president)
Prof. dr. P.A.L. de Boeck (treasurer)

Dr. I.A.L. Stoop will remain secretary of the VOC. Other members of the board are drs. C.W.N. Looman, dr. O.F.R. van Tongeren and dr. P.J.F. Groenen. The latter is also editor of the VOC-Newsletter.

The former president, Prof. Dr. W.J. Heiser, will remain member of the board for another year.

The 1994 Fall Meeting of the VOC is very special in many ways. The meeting will have as a central theme "No Classification without Discrimination" and will take place in a convent on the 10th and 11th of November. On this special occasion the 5th anniversary of the VOC will be celebrated.

The programme comprises three aspects of discriminant techniques:

- * discriminant analysis by means of estimating densities and applying Bayesian rules (R.P.W. Duin);
- * logistic regression as discriminant analysis, i.e. regression of binary variables by means of logistic response curves (S. Le Cessie, J. Engel and Norman Verhelst);
- * non-linear discriminant analysis (Jacqueline J. Meulman, Peter J. Verboon en Iven van Mechelen).

Key-note speakers will be Emmanuel Lesaffre and David Hand.

The official language of the meeting is Dutch, though individual contributions will be in English.

Anyone who is interested in attending the Jubilee Meeting can send an e-mail to the secretary of the VOC, Ineke Stoop

Ineke A.L. Stoop
Email: stoop@scp.nl

SFC - Société Francophone de Classification

(1) The council of the SFC is as follows:

Jean-Pierre Barthelemy (President, Telecom Bretagne - France)
 Edwin Diday (Vice-President, Lise-Ceremade; Université Paris 9, France)
 Andre Hardy (Secretary, Facultes Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur and Facultes Universitaires Saint-Louis, Bruxelles, Belgium)
 Olivier Hudry (Treasurer, Ecole Nationale Supérieure des Telecommunications, Paris, France)
 Pascale Kuntz (Editor of the SFC Bulletin, Telecom Bretagne, Brest, France)
 Jean-Pierre Asselin de Beauville, organizer of the "Second Meeting of the SFC", Université François Rabelais, Tours, France)
 Jean-Paul Rasson, organizer of the "Third Meeting of the SFC", Facultes Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur, Belgique).

(2) The second meeting of the SFC was held in Tours (France) on September 12-13, 1994; it was organised by the SFC and the Laboratory of Informatics of the Engineering School in Informatics for Industry in Tours (J.P. Asselin de Beauville).

The fifteen scientific sessions were concentrated, e.g., on topics like theory and methods, symbolic and statistical methods, quality control, biology, exploratory methods, Image analysis, dissimilarities, exploratory and combinatorial methods, shape recognition, connectionist and genetic methods, partitioning, tree, graph, decision aid, ... with some 38 speakers.

The meeting was well attended and lively discussions followed.

(3) The third meeting of the SFC will take place in Namur (Belgique) on September 21-22, 1995; it is organised by the SFC and the Statistical Unit of the Department of Mathematics of the University of Namur.

Further information can be obtained from the organizer:

J.P. Rasson, Department of Mathematics,
 Facultes Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix,
 8 Rempart de la Vierge, B-5000 Namur, Belgium.
 Tel: +32 81 72 49 28;
 Fax: +32 81 72 49 14;
 Email: jpr@math.fundp.ac.be

4. The issue number 3 of the "SFC Bulletin" was published in July 1994. Its contents is the following:
 From the President (J.P. Barthelemy),
 From the vice-president (E. Diday, Event and Event)
 Editorial (A. Hardy, Validation in classification),
 Survey on the foundations of Classification (A. Guenoche, Data Analysis and Biological Sequences),
 Presentation of the Informatics Laboratory of the School of Engineers in Informatics for Industry (E3I/ University of Tours), Thesis, Books, Announcements, Open Forum (I.C. Lerman, Coefficients of association and/or criteria of comparison between two combinatorial structures).

The next issue will appear in March 1995.

André HARDY: Secretary of the SFC.
 Email: ahardy@cc.fundp.ac.be

New Foundation(1)

CLAD-The Portuguese Association for Classification and Data Analysis

The Portuguese Association for Classification and Data Analysis - CLAD launched out this summer.

The number of CLAD members is currently around 65.

President: Helena Bacelar-Nicolau
 Vice-President: Paula Brito
 Treasurer: Otilia Dias

Office: Laboratorio de Estatística e Análise de Dados, Faculdade de Psicologia e de Ciências da Educação,
 Universidade de Lisboa, 1600 Lisboa, Portugal
 Tel: +351 1 7934554
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An application for membership of the IFCS is expected.

New Foundation(2)

KCS - Korean Classification Society

The first annual conference which was held on June 6, 1993 at the Korean University, Seoul, Korea established the Constitution and selected officers.

President: Yoo-Keun Shin

The annual conference this year was held on July 9 at the Korea Air and Communications University and the following talks were given:

- * Seok-Kyun Kwon(Sook-Myung Womans Univ.), Event sequence analysis.
- * Boo-Yong Shin(Transportation Environment Research Institute), Transportation problems and prospects.
- * Doo-Seung Hong(Seoul National Univ.), Classification in Sociology.
- * Suk-Hoon Lee(Choong Nam National Univ.), Clustering by neural networks.
- * Tae-Rim Lee(Korea Air and Communications Research), Tree-structure modelling for discrete multivariate data.
- * Myung-Hoe Huh(Korea Univ.), Optimal scaling using SAS.

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An application for membership of the IFCS is expected.

JCS - IFCS-96

The Fifth Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies - "Data Science, Classification and Related Methods"

The Japanese Classification Society extends a cordial invitation to attend the Fifth Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS-96), scheduled to convene March 27 through 30, 1996. The Conference will mark the first in the series to meet in Asia, and we look forward to the participation of as many delegates as possible from around the world.

The Conference will be hosted by the Japanese Classification Society and co-sponsored by various academic associations. This was explained in our IFCS Newsletter No. 8. The present newsletter gives an outline of the City of Kobe, where the big event will take place.

The First Announcement and call for papers will be ready for distribution soon (about the time this newsletter reaches you); please refer to it for more information. We sincerely hope you can arrange your presumably busy calendar to include attendance at this important gathering.

Kobe

The Japanese archipelago lies off the eastern coast of Asia as a vast arc extending from northeast to the subtropical southwest. The City of Kobe, situated in the Kansai district of western Honshu, Japan's principal island, has a population of approximately 1.5 million. Kobe long flourished as a trading port, but it was not until 1868, when opened to world exchange, that the city really began to take on international significance. Today it ranks as one of Japan's most vibrant and modern ports.

Kobe is a refined city, nestling amid scenic majesty, and it maintains sister city relations with both Marseilles and Seattle. Kobe faces Japan's Seto Inland Sea, often compared to the Mediterranean, and as its backdrop towers the beautiful and verdant Rokko Mountain Range, a popular tourist spot served by winding roads and serial tramways. The view of Kobe below and the sea beyond from atop the range is absolutely gorgeous. In the vicinity of Kobe one can find the picturesque Arima Spa, making it easy to enjoy luxuriating in its health-giving hot spring baths.

Not far from Kobe are Osaka, the commercial hub of Kansai and until 1867 the great stronghold of the Shogun in western Japan, and Kyoto, the "Classic City" and one of the nation's early cradles of culture, which, incidentally, this year celebrates the 1200th anniversary of Japan's capital being transferred there. Also nearby are Nara, which preceded Kyoto as the capital, Hiroshima, Okayama and Himeji, all of which have very long and colorful histories. In ancient times

the fulcrum of Japan's politics and culture was Kansai. In particular Nara, Kyoto and Osaka prospered well. Edo (now Tokyo) had been a mere fishing village until Iyeyasu, the first Tokugawa Shogun, made it the seat of his military regime in 1603. Even then, Kansai continued to play a leading role in the nation's history until young Emperor Meiji transferred his capital to Edo in 1867, banished the final shogun, and renamed the city Tokyo.

Having flourished as an important international port for over twelve decades, Kobe has been influenced by a variety of foreign cultures, and this gives it an exotic mood unlike any other in the Orient, as made evident, for instance, among the residences of early foreign settlers, many of which still stand in Kitano, and in Kobe's Chinatown of Motomachi.

As a point of interest, during the years following Japan's opening of her ports, the foreign quarter at Kobe, which like the others as Yokohama, Nagasaki, Osaka, Tokyo and Hakodate, enjoyed extraterritoriality, was known as the "Model Settlement" for its residents' ability to maintain law and order.

Access to Kobe

The Kansai International Airport, Japan's lone facility of its type operating twenty-four hours a day, feted its grand opening this September, making it much easier to reach Kobe from abroad and elsewhere in the country. Jet-foils, called "Jet Shuttles," whisk travelers between the airport and Kobe Port Island, the Conference venue, in a mere thirty minutes. Japan's famous "Bullet" trains called "Shinkansen" flash between Tokyo and Kobe in a little over three hours, and flying time Tokyo to the new Kansai International airport is only forty minutes. And Kobe's nearby places of interest are easily accessible by the region's highly efficient rail and highway networks.

Conference Venue

The Fifth Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies will meet in the International Conference Center Kobe, a superb complex with all the state-of-the-art equipment money can buy located at the center of Kobe Port Island, itself conveniently situated since a new transit

system called "Port Liners" can deliver Conference delegates to and from the heart of Kobe in only ten minutes. The Center was opened in 1981 as an ideal place for world gatherings, and is managed by a semi-official nonprofit organization.

The International Conference Center Kobe is surrounded by tasteful parks and squares, plus excellent hotels and restaurants, and smart shops, all of which combine to form a relaxation-oriented complex for delegates and citizens alike. Kobe Port Island also affords splendid views of Kobe's famous bay and port facilities, which can be enjoyed during coffee breaks between meetings.

Climate

Like most of Japan, Kobe is blessed with four distinct seasons. The Conference will assemble in late March, when spring is underway and the weather is extremely pleasant. Since Kobe lies along the shore of the Seto Inland Sea, its climate is much like that found among Mediterranean locales. The mean annual temperature is about 16°C, and rainfall is relatively small. March temperatures average a comfortable 20°C. An added feature of March, when the Conference meets, is its presenting the cherry blossom season, when these lovely, delicate pink flowers display their yearly magnificence. Cherry blossom viewing can also be appreciated in nearby Kyoto, Yoshino and Nara.

More to Come

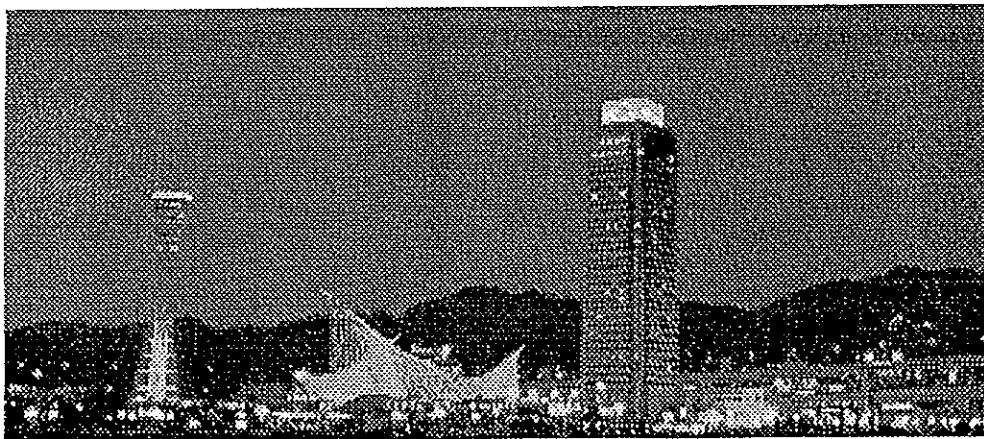
Detailed information on hotel accommodations and reservations, bank services, access to Japan and Kobe, tourist spots, and optional tours will be announced to IFCS academic societies and other organizations at a later date. International Communications Specialists, Inc. (ICS), as the Conference Secretariat, will handle information processing and release, plus related office work. But before ICS begins its tasks, please make your contact regarding IFCS-96 matters the reference shown in the First Announcement.

Conference President: Chikio Hayashi

Local Organizing Committee, Chairperson: Noboru Ohsumi

Japanese Classification Society Publicity Services: Atsuhiro

Hayashi Email: hayashi@csadm.oka-pu.ac.jp



Various Events

Special Issue

on Optimization Approaches in Clustering, *Control and Cybernetics*, English language quarterly, published by the Systems Research Institute of the Polish Academic Sciences is to appear.

Guest Editor: Jan W. Owsinski

Anuska Ferligoj(Slovenia):Constrained Clustering:Theory and Applications

Thierry Gafner(Switzerland):Dynamic Programming:A Valuable Algorithm for Optimization Approaches in Clustering?
Gerard Govaert(France):Simultaneous Clustering of Rows and Columns.

Krzysztof Jajuga(Poland):Optimization in Fuzzy Clustering.
Piotr Kadluczka and Konrad Wala(Poland):Tabu Search and Genetic Algorithms for Generalized Graph Partitioning Problem.

Erzsebet Kovacs(Hungary):Multidimensional Scaling and Comparing of Dendrograms.

Philippe Lehert(Belgium):Percolation Theory to Prove Existence of a $O(n)$ Expected Time Clustering Algorithm for Constructing Single Linkage.

Sadaaki Miyamoto, Yudi Augusta(Japan):Efficient Algorithms for Hard Clustering and Fuzzy Clustering in the L-Space.

Jan W. Owsinski(Poland):On Avoiding Locality and the Cluster Number Problem.

T. Tagami, S. Miyamoto, S. Minami(Japan):Optimal Clustering and Conceptual Clustering Using Genetic Algorithms.

SPSS Manual in French

SPSS manual is translated into French:SPSS pour Windows, Manuel d'utilisation, Systeme de base, version 6.0, Marija J. Norusis, SPSS Inc., Translation revised by Dominique Desbois, INRA.

STAT'expo, April 11-13, 1995

The meeting point of data and exhibition of products and services.

Location:Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie, Paris

Information:Data Services International, c/o STAT'expo, 41 rue Ybry, F-92522 Neuilly sur Seine, France

Tel:+33 1 46709868 Fax:+33 1 46709780

Statistical Methods and Statistical Computing for Quality and Productivity Improvement, August 18-20, 1995

International Conference: Satellite meeting to the 50th Session of the International Statistical Institute in Seoul Korea.

Information:Prof. Sung H. Park, Department of Computer Sciences and Statistics, Seoul National University,

Shinrim-dong, Kawanak-ku, Seoul 151-742, Korea
Email:parksh@krsnucc1

50th Biennial Session, International Statistical Institute, August 21-29, 1995

This session includes meetings of Bernoulli Society, International Association for Official Statistics, International Association for Statistical Computing, International Association of Survey Statisticians, and The International Association For Statistical Education.

Location:Beijing, People's Republic of China

Information:ISI Permanent Office, 428 Prinses Beatrixaan, P.O.Box 950, 2270 AZ Voorburg, The Netherlands

Next issue deadline:February 15, 1995

Message has been given from the first Newsletter editor, Dr. Fionn Murtagh that the current schedule for IFCS Newsletter fits in with some societies but not with all societies. I could not deviate from the established schedule and would like to get support for the new editor.

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