International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

President: Berthold Lausen

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Editor: Katrijn Van Deun

The International Federation of Classification Societies, founded in 1985, is composed of:

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Central American and Carribean Society of Classification and Data Analysis, The Classification Society, Classification and Multivariate Statistics Group of the Hungarian Statistical Association, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Greek Society of Data Analysis, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Moroccan Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Multivariate Data Analysis Group of the South African Statistical Association, Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research, Società Italiana di Statistica, Statistical Society of Slovenia, Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie and Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Society.

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 two journals: *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification* and the *Journal of Classification*.

IFCS Homepage: http://www.ifcs.info

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Words from the IFCS President

We have our next IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, August 26-29, 2019.

In preparation of IFCS 2019 I have met with Theodore Chadjipadelis as conference chair, the local organisers and the company supporting the organisation in June. We have looked at different conference sites and have discussed various options. IFCS 2019 will take place in a conference centre at the waterfront with beautiful views. We hope and aim that many representatives of our member societies contribute to the IFCS 2019 conference and that the IFCS and its member societies grow further.

As announced in the first call for the IFCS 2019 last year we have several awards related to the conference:

- IFCS Research Medal for outstanding research
- Chikio Hayashi Award
- Helga and Wolfgang Gaul Stiftung Award

- Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Paper Competition and Travel Award

The deadline for nomination is January 15, 2019. The Award Committee does not guarantee that nominations received thereafter would be considered. Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the award committee Maurizio Vichi email: maurizio.vichi@uniroma1.it.

The guidelines are included in the IFCS newsletter and will be available via the conference webpage.

I am looking forward to meet you at IFCS 2019 in Thessaloniki.

Berthold Lausen
IFCS President

News from the IFCS Secretary

Since the last newsletter, the IFCS Executive Committee (EC) had two Skype meetings on 3 July 2018 and 29 August 2018. Much of the two meetings was devoted to the preparation of the IFCS 2019 conference in Thessaloniki; a report on this can be found elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The EC has received expressions of interest for hosting the IFCS 2021; we expect to receive a full bid in the near future.

Finally, in the third attempt, the IFCS Council has approved a set of changes to the IFCS Constitution and Election Rules that had been proposed by the EC first in 2016 and had then been amended twice. The updated versions are now accessible on the IFCS website. The majority of proposed changes are just clarifications of some procedures (such as including the borderline number of members a member society must have in order to have two delegated in the Council and in order to pay higher dues); furthermore Data Science is integrated in the statement of scope and purpose, conferences, awards and Protocol Agreements with other societies are also now described more explicitly in the Constitution.

For some time the EC plans to produce a new visualisation of the worldwide distribution of IFCS Member Societies and their members. This is not trivial because not all Member Societies are organised in line with the borders of nations and many have an international membership. Please contact me or the President Berthold Lausen if you have any ideas for this.

In previous months the EC has asked Council Representatives, Presidents, Treasurers and Newsletter Distributors of the IFCS Member Societies for their consent for publishing the IFCS Directory with names and email addresses on the IFCS Website. This was made necessary by the new data protection regulations of the European Union. The IFCS Directory is now online again (with some names still missing; if you are currently not listed but belong on the list you can still inform me and then you will be added).

Please note that the IFCS Directory needs to contain updated information on the Societies' Presidents, Treasurers, Council Representatives and Distributors of the IFCS Newsletter (names, email adresses and terms of office). Any change should be emailed to the IFCS Secretary (c.hennig@ucl.ac.uk).

A bit of personal news is that I will move in December to Bologna, Italy, in order to take a new position there.

With all the best wishes,

Christian Hennig
IFCS Secretary

News from the IFCS Publication Officer

There is not much news from my side. I would just like to take the opportunity to thank all of the member societies who have contributed to this newsletter. Also, I would like to point out that the conference website http://www.ifcs2019.gr has been updated and has just opened for registrations.

Katrijn Van Deun
IFCS Publication Officer

IFCS 2019: Report & Second Call for Papers

Conference Setup
The 2019 conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) will take place at the Thessaloniki Concert Hall (Thessaloniki, Greece) from August 26 to August 29, 2019. The venue is located along the coast of the city, close to the city center and the airport. The conference opening will take place on August 26 late afternoon and pre-conference workshops will be held. The conference sessions will start on

August 27 in the morning, and will close on August 29 with a full day conference program and a conference dinner. The conference will include a President's invited session and a Presidential address, invited presentations, invited and contributed sessions. The following awards and medals ceremony will be scheduled at the conference.

- Helga and Wolfgang Gaul Stiftung Award (age < 30)
- Chikio Hayashi Award (age 30–35)
- IFCS Research Medal for outstanding research achievements (age > 35)
- Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Paper Competition and Travel Award (age 22–29)
- Cluster Benchmarking Competition Award

For more information, see the IFCS 2019 Guidelines for Awards and the call for the Cluster Benchmarking Challenge further on in the IFCS newsletter.

Contributed papers from scholars and practitioners are invited on any of the topics below as well as on related issues: Data Analysis and Classification in the Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medicine and Biology / Banking and Finance / Bioinformatics and Biostatistics / Biomedical Data Analysis and Imaging / Business and Industry / Classification, Discriminant Analysis, and Supervised Learning / Clustering and Unsupervised Learning / Complex Event Processing / Data Analysis in Archaeology / Databionics / Exploratory Data Mining / Formal Concept Analysis / Functional Data Analysis / Geospatial Planning / Graphics and Vision / High Dimensional Data and Dimension Reduction / Image Analysis and Computer Vision / Information Retrieval and Library Science / Impact of Technical Revolution, Globalization on Statistical Process / Knowledge Discovery / Linguistics and Musicology / Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition / Marketing and Management / Medical and Health Sciences / Neural Networks and Deep Learning / Psychology and Educational Sciences / Social Network Analysis / Sparse Modeling / Statistical Data Analysis, Statistical Models and Model Selection / Swarm Systems / Symbolic Data Analysis / Text Mining, Web Mining, and Ontology Learning / Visualization.

In addition, invited sessions will focus on the following topics:

History-Philosophy / Methodological Advances in Clustering and Classification / Exploratory Data Analysis and Data Visualization / Official Statistics Data Analysis in Economics and Business / Symbolic and Complex Data Analysis / Data Analysis in Biological and Medical Sciences / Statistical Modeling of Psychological Processes / Statistics and Data Analysis in the Social Sciences / Data Analysis in Education and Learning Analytics / Compositional Data Analysis / Analysis of Network Data / Social Networks

Preliminary list of Invited Speakers
- Maria-Florina Balcan, Carnegie Mellon, USA (to be confirmed)
- Vladimir Batagelj, University of Ljubljiana, Slovenia
- Theodoros Evgeniou, INSEAD, France
- Michael Greenacre, Pompeu Fabra University, Spain
- David Hunter, Penn State, USA
- Julie Josse, Ecole Polytechnique, France
- Andy Mauromoustakos, University of Arkansas, France
- Sofia Olhede, UCL, England

Scientific Program Committee
- Theodore Chadjipadelis, Conference Chair
- Berthold Lausen, ViceChair and IFCS President
- Tae Rim Lee, Vice-Chair
- Angela Montanari, IFCS President Elect
- Akinori Okada, IFCS Past President Elect
- Christian Hennig, IFCS Scientific Secretary
- Sugnet Lubbe, IFCS Treasurer
- Katrijn Van Deun, Publication Officer
- Eva Boj, SEIO-AMyC
- Paula Brito, CLAD
- Sanjeena Dang, CS
- José Dias, CLAD
- Giannoula Florou, GSDA
- Krzysztof Jajuga, SKAD
- Hans Kestler, GfKl
- Simona Korenjak Černe, SSS
- Peter Kovacs, HAS-CMSG
- Koji Kurihara, JCS
- Angelos Markos, GSDA
- Paul McNicholas, CS
- Fionn Murtagh, BCS
- Mauricio Vichi, CLADAG
- Roberto Rocci, CLADAG
- Mark de Rooij, VOC
- Niel le Roux, SASA-MDAG

Local Organizers

- Theodore Chadjipadelis, Chair, Aristotle University Thessaloniki
- Giannoula Florou, President GSDA
- Sofia Anastasiadou, University of Western Macedonia
- Dimitris Karapistolis, Alexandrian Technological Institute of Thessaloniki
- Nikos Koutsoupias, University of Macedonia
- Angelos Markos, Democritus University of Thrace
- George Menexes, Aristotle University Thessaloniki
- Odysseas Moschidis, University of Macedonia
- Thanos Thanopoulos, Hellenic Statistical Authority
- Christos Tzimos, Hellenic Statistical Authority
- Despoina Amarantidou, ARTION conferences & events
- Vicky Bouranta, Secretary
- Marina Sotiroglou, Secretary

Email: ifcs2019@polsci.auth.gr
Website: http://www.ifcs2019.gr

Submission of Abstracts

Abstract submission and registration will be open on Monday, November 19, 2018 via http://www.ifcs2019.gr. The new deadline for abstract submission and early bird registration is May 05, 2019. All abstracts will be subject to a peer review process. Notifications of acceptance will be sent on June 02, 2019.

Important Dates

Monday, November 19, 2018	Start early bird registration and abstract submission
Sunday, May 05, 2019	Deadline for abstract submission
Sunday, May 05, 2019	Deadline for early bird registration
Sunday, June 02, 2019	Notification of acceptance for abstract submission
Sunday, June 23, 2019	Deadline for standard registration
Sunday, July 21, 2019	Deadline for late registration
Monday, August 26, 2019	Conference opening and pre-conference workshops
August 27-29, 2019	IFCS-2019 conference sessions

Fees (which include conference materials, an extended reception, coffee breaks)

	Early Bird until May 5, 2019	**Standard** until June 23, 2019	**Late** until July 21, 2019	**On Site**
IFCS Societies Member*	260,00 €	300,00 €	340,00 €	370,00 €
Non-Member	340,00 €	380,00 €	420,00 €	450,00 €
Student	150,00 €	150,00 €	150,00 €	150,00 €

* IASC members are entitled to IFCS societies members reduced fees

Guidelines for Awards of IFCS 2019

IFCS Research Medal for outstanding research

Description of the award

The International Medal for Outstanding research achievements in Classification, is an award to recognize the exceptional achievements of an individual scientist (at least 35 years old on 1 July 2019) who has made fundamental contributions to the advancement of Classification, Clustering, Data Science and related topics over a number of years, with at least 10 year from studies. The award is open to individuals whose research, teaching, service and advocacy has had international impact and significantly benefited Classification, Clustering and other topics of interest of IFCS. Members of the societies affiliated to IFCS are invited to submit and/or sustain nominations.

Applicability and disbursement of the award

Awards: $1000, plus medal (one award).
Disbursement of the award: It is compulsory that a candidate who has been selected for an award attends the IFCS conference and presents a paper in a scientific session. Under this condition, the IFCS Treasurer (or a designated representative by the President of IFCS) shall pay the award and give a certificate to the winners during the ceremony for awards of the IFCS Conference.

Application for the award

The candidate has to be nominated by a nominator who has to provide:

- an application form with his/her name and contact details; the candidate's name and

contact details; a letter of reference of no longer than one A4 page of 11pt text;

- a report of a maximum 1500 characters (spaces not included) on the fundamental contributions to the advancement of Classification, Clustering, Data Science and related topics;
- a CV of the candidate with information according to the template provided, including the list of the top recent publications with citation count for each paper (google scholar);
- two referees, who will provide, in the due time (under the responsibility of the nominator), reports of a maximum of 1500 characters (spaces not included) in length on the scientific contributions of the candidate. If documents exceed the stated length, the extra content will **not** be passed to the Awards Committee.

Criteria of the evaluation:
Originality of research, impact of research, quality of publications, innovation, other indicators of esteem reported by the nominator

Required information:
- the candidate's name and date of birth;
- contact details of the candidate (address, phone, e-mail);
- the candidate's memberships in IFCS Member Societies;
- the candidate's experience, expertise or education in classification, data analysis and related areas and contributions to these domains including any publications (with full references).

Chikio Hayashi Award

Description of the award
This award is given biannually to young researchers working in the area of Classification, Clustering and related topics. All candidates must be aged at least 30 years but no more than 34 years on 1 July 2019 and <u>must be authors of a paper to be presented at the IFCS Conference</u>.

Applicability and disbursement of the award
Awards: $1000 each award, plus plaque (the maximum number of awards for a given year will be set by the Executive Committee based on budgetary constraints).
Applicability: The number of awards should not depend on the number of applications, just on quality and budgetary constraints.
Disbursement of the award: It is compulsory that a candidate who has been selected for an award

attends the IFCS conference and presents a paper in a scientific session. Under this condition, the IFCS Treasurer (or a designated representative by the President of IFCS) shall pay the award and give a certificate to the winners during the ceremony for awards of the IFCS Conference.

Application for the award
The young researcher has to be nominated by nominator who has to provide:
- an application form with his/her name and contact details; the candidate's name and contact details; a supporting statement of no longer than one A4 page of 11pt text;
- a CV of the candidate with information according to the provided template, including the list of the top recent publications with citation count for each paper;
- two referees who will provide, in the due time (under the responsibility of the nominator), reports of a maximum of 1500 characters (spaces are not included) in length on the list of papers and CV of the candidate. Please note that if documents exceed the stated length, the extra content will **not** be passed to the Awards Committee. One letter can be written by the nominator.

Criteria of the evaluation:
Originality of research, impact of research, quality of publications, innovation, collaborations and teamwork, other indicators of esteem reported by the nominator.

Required information:
- the candidate's name and date of birth;
- contact details of the candidate (address, phone, e-mail);
- the candidate's memberships in IFCS Member Societies;
- the candidate's experience, expertise or education in classification, data analysis and related areas and contributions to these domains including any publications (with full references);
- the title of the paper submitted by the candidate at the conference.

Helga and Wolfgang Gaul Stiftung Award

Description of the award
This award is given biannually to a young researcher with high potential working in the area of Classification, Clustering and related topics. All candidates must be aged less than 30 years on 1

July 2019 and <u>must present a paper at the IFCS Conference</u>.

Applicability and disbursement of the award
Award: €2000 (one award).
The winner has to have demonstrated scholarly achievements in the field of classification and data analysis; if and only if this is not the case for any candidate, no award will be given.

Disbursement of the award: It is compulsory that a candidate who has been selected for an award attends the IFCS conference and presents a paper in a scientific session. Under this condition, the IFCS Treasurer (or a designated representative by the President of IFCS) shall pay the award and give a certificate to the winners during the ceremony for awards of the IFCS Conference.

Application for the award
The young researcher has to be nominated by a nominator who has to provide:
• an application form with his/her name and contact details; the candidate's name and contact details;
• a CV of the candidate with information according to the provided template, including the list of the publications; the list may include preprints and conference presentations of which the nominator believes that they should be taken into account.
• two referees who will provide, in the due time (under the responsibility of the nominator), letters of support of a maximum of 1500 characters (spaces are not included) in length. Please note that if documents exceed the stated length, the extra content will **not** be passed to the Awards Committee. One of the two letters of support should be from a former or present supervisor, collaborator, or mentor. The other letter must be from a senior researcher in the field who neither is nor was supervisor, collaborator, or mentor of the person to be awarded, and is not from the same university. One letter can be written by the nominator.

Criteria of the evaluation:
Demonstration of ability for high quality original research, originality of research, through quality of publications including, if requested by the nominator, preprints and conference presentations, innovation, collaborations and teamwork, other indicators of esteem reported by the nominator.

Required information:
• the candidate's name and date of birth;
• contact details of the candidate (address, phone, e-mail);
• the candidate's memberships in IFCS Member Societies;
• the candidate's experience, expertise or education in classification, data analysis and related areas and contributions to these domains including any publications (with full references);
• the title of the paper submitted by the candidate at the conference.

Student/Postdoctoral Fellow Paper Competition and Travel Award

Description of the award
This award is given biannually to graduate students (age less than 30 years on 1 July 2019) working in the area of Classification, Clustering and related topics who submit, as first author, papers to this competition. The paper is meant to be largely the work of the student/Postdoctoral Fellow. The paper should involve original methodological research, or a novel application, or a software, related to some aspect of Classification, Clustering, Data Science and related topics. The winners are invited to present their papers at a special junior research session of the IFCS and invited to submit their paper to ADAC or JOC for possible publication. The IFCS will offer a grant towards their attendance expenses, conference fees and the local/university hotel.

Applicability and disbursement of the award
Awards: $200 travel reimbursement for winners in the same continent of the IFCS conference and $600 otherwise, plus certificate (up to two awards).
Applicability: The number of awards should not depend on the number of applications, just on quality.
Disbursement of the award: It is compulsory that a candidate who has been selected for an award attends the IFCS conference and presents a paper in a scientific session. Under this condition, the IFCS Treasurer (or a designated representative by the President of IFCS) shall pay the award and give a certificate to the winners during the ceremony for awards of the IFCS Conference.

Application for the award

The competition candidates must submit a paper to the IFCS conference. The young researcher has to provide:

- an application form with his/her name and contact details; the candidate's name and contact details; a reference letter of no longer than few lines 11pt text and the name and contact details of a referee who will provide the report on the paper (at maximum 1500 characters, spaces not included) in the due time (please note that if the report will not arrive in time, the candidate will be excluded from the competition);
- a CV of the candidate with information according to the provided template.

Criteria of the evaluation:

Originality of research, impact of research, quality of publications, innovation.

Required information:

- the candidate's name and date of birth;
- contact details of the candidate (address, phone, e-mail);
- the candidate's memberships in IFCS Member Societies;
- the location from which the candidate would travel to the conference;
- the candidate's experience, expertise or education in classification, data analysis
- and related areas and contributions to these domains including any publications (with full references); the title of the paper submitted by the candidate at the conference.

All awards

Deadline. Deadline for nomination is January 15, 2019. The Award Committee does not guarantee that nominations received thereafter would be considered. Nominations must be submitted to the chair of the award committee Maurizio Vichi email: maurizio.vichi@uniroma1.it

Awards Committee: Maurizio Vichi (chair), Tadashi Imaizumi, Rebecca Nugent, Józef Pociecha, Christian Hennig (IFCS secretary).

Cluster Benchmarking Challenge Call: Neutral Benchmarking Studies of Clustering

The Cluster Benchmarking Task Force of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) is calling for neutral benchmarking studies in cluster analysis. This call is part of a challenge connected with the 2019 IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, August 26-29.

To achieve a cumulative building of knowledge on clustering and classification, careful attention to benchmarking (performance comparison of methods) is very important. New methods of data pre-processing, new data-analytic techniques, and new methods of output post-processing, should be extensively and carefully compared with existing alternatives, and existing methods should be part of neutral comparison studies. Benchmarking studies can frequently been found in supervised learning, but are less common in unsupervised learning.

The Task Force has written a white paper (for a preprint, see: https://arxiv.org/abs/1809.10496) that addresses the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of benchmarking in cluster analysis, and some practicalities for performing sound benchmarking studies. The Task Force is now calling for individuals to contribute neutral benchmarking studies on cluster analysis as part of a challenge.

Rules for submission:

- Contributions for the challenge must be e-mailed to Iven.VanMechelen@kuleuven.be .
- A contribution should comprise a report on a benchmarking study in the context of cluster analysis. This report should have a length of between 5 and 15 pages, including text, tables, figures and references; other materials can be submitted as separate files.
- The benchmarking study may compare methods of data pre-processing, clustering (potentially but not necessarily including the estimation of cluster parameters such as the number of clusters), and/or output post-processing, and may use empirical or simulated data.
- Contributors should have a neutral point of view with respect to the methods studied in the contribution. This means that they should not

be an author or co-author of one or more of the studied method(s). It is also expected that the contributors do not have a personal interest to promote any of the involved methods in particular.
- The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2019, 12:00 pm CET.

Competition guidelines:
- Contributions to the challenge will be evaluated by the IFCS Task Force on Benchmarking.
- Major evaluation criteria will be:
  o the technical correctness and clarity of the report,
  o that the study shows a critical reflection on principles on which a sound benchmarking study should be based (which may be either in line or at odds with the principles outlined in the white paper contributed by the Task Force),
  o a detailed specification of the choices made in the benchmarking study at issue along with a justification of these based on the principles referred to above.
- Up to 8 contributions will be selected for a short presentation during one or two invited sessions at the 2019 IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (such a presentation will not conflict with giving another presentation at that conference). The authors of the selected contributions will be notified no later than April 25, 2019. Authors of selected contributions who cannot attend the conference will be invited to prepare a few slides on their contribution.
- During the closing session of the IFCS conference one or two of the selected contributions will be proclaimed winners of the challenge. The winners will receive a CRC/Chapman and Hall book voucher.
- Contact for questions: Iven.VanMechelen@kuleuven.be .

All researchers interested in clustering and classification are most welcome to participate in this challenge!

Anne-Laure Boulesteix, Rainer Dangl, Nema Dean, Isabelle Guyon, Christian Hennig, Friedrich Leisch, Douglas Steinley, Iven Van Mechelen, and Matthijs Warrens.

News from SKAD

The 27th Scientific Conference of Classification and Data Analysis Section (SKAD) of Polish Statistical Society (the 32nd Taxonomic Conference) on "Classification and Data Analysis − Theory and Applications" was held between 9th-12th September 2018 in Austeria Hotel in Ciechocinek. The conference was jointly organized by SKAD, the Department of Econometrics and Statistics of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, and WSB University in Toruń. There were 68 participants, who presented 34 papers and 15 posters during 2 plenary sessions, 10 parallel sessions and a poster session.

The conference topics included: (a) theory (taxonomy, discriminant analysis, linear ordering, multivariate statistical analysis, continuous variables analysis, discrete variables analysis, symbolic data analysis, data visualization), and (b) applications (spatial data analysis; data analysis in finance, marketing, medicine, psychology, archaeology, etc.; computer applications of statistical methods).

During the Section of Classification and Data Analysis members meeting, the following Council of the Section was elected for years 2019 and 2020:
- Krzysztof Jajuga (Wrocław University of Economics), President,
- Andrzej Dudek (Wrocław University of Economics), Vice-President,
- Barbara Pawełek (Cracow University of Economics), Secretary,
- Józef Pociecha (Cracow University of Economics), Member,
- Marek Walesiak (Wrocław University of Economics), Member,
- Krzysztof Najman (University of Gdańsk), Member,
- Grażyna Dehnel (Poznań University of Economics), Member,
- Andrzej Sokołowski (Cracow University of Economics), Member.

The 28th Annual Conference of Section of Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society "Classification and Data Analysis: Theory and Applications" (local

organizer: University of Szczecin) will be held in September 2019.

Mateusz Baryła

News from MDAG

Registration is now open for the first Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods (CARME) conference outside of Europe. MDAG is hosting the CARME 2019 conference which will take place in Stellenbosch (South Africa), 4-6 February 2019. Plenary sessions will be presented by: Cajo ter Braak, Peter Filzmoser, Frédéric Lebaron, Johan Gower (via Skype), Angela Montanari, Riaan de Jongh and Hervé Abdi (to be confirmed). We invite all IFCS members who are intrigued by the wide range of applications of correspondence analysis and relevant related methods to consider this conference for your 2019 calendar. Information is available on the conference website: https://carmesa2019.wixsite.com/conference. The annual MDAG meeting will take place during the SASA 2018 conference in Johannesburg, South Africa (26-29 November).

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel

News from CLAD

JOCLAD 2019

The XXVI Annual Meeting of the Associação Portuguesa de CLassificação e Análise de Dados (CLAD) will be held April 11-13 2019, at the School of Technology and Management of Viseu of Polytechnic Institute of Viseu. The meeting is addressed to researchers, teachers, students and users who share interests in the area of Classification and Data Analysis and related methods. It aims to promote and develop research in data science; increase scientific dialogue, cooperation, discussion and exchange between data scientists and companies; and stimulate the national scientific production in data science.

JOCLAD 2019 scientific program will include plenary and thematic sessions, contributed papers and poster sessions. Short courses will take place April 10th. Authors of the best research papers presented at JOCLAD 2019 are invited to submit full papers for publication in CLADMAp III, the next issue of CLAD's Book Series.

The meeting will also be an opportunity to visit the wonderful city of Viseu, in the center of Portugal: City of Viriato, Winemaking City, Garden City … and a milestone of sacred art and religious architecture.

JOCLAD 2019 program and further information will soon be available at website http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2019/, as well as at the CLAD website http://www.clad.pt/.

CLAD Workshop on behalf of Fernando da Costa Nicolau

A one-day workshop was held June 25 on behalf of Fernando da Costa Nicolau, who passed away last December 2017. The aim of the meeting was to celebrate his life and pioneer work in favor of CLAD and Data Science, either in academic or institutional perspectives among colleagues, students and friends, through scientific invited talks and personal testimonies.

On the occasion, a booklet of abstracts was published under CLAD and INE (the National Institute of Statistics) support. An online copy is available at de CLAD´s site. The workshop was hosted by the Faculty of Psychology of the University of Lisbon, CLAD headquarters.

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau

News from SEIO-AMyC

IV International Workshop on Proximity Data, Multivariate Analysis and Classification. The annual meeting of the Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group, AMyC, of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research, will be held in the University of Salamanca of Spain in January 2019. For the news of the event see the web site: http://amyc.seio.es/.

Eva Boj del Val

News from GfKl

The sixth European Conference on Data Analysis (ECDA) takes place March 18-20, 2019 at the University of Bayreuth, Germany (www.ecda2019.de). The ECDA format emerged from the annual meetings of the Gesellschaft für Klassifikation (GfKl), organized in cooperation

with other member societies of the IFCS as well as the Gesellschaft für Informatik (GI) and the Deutsche Arbeitsgemeinschaft für Mustererkennung (DAGM). Researchers and practitioners from mathematics, statistics and computer science, but also from the natural, human, economic, engineering, and social sciences are brought together in an appealing conference format. Central concern is method development and application for the extraction of knowledge from data. The ECDA format is very successful. Following conferences in Luxembourg (2013), Bremen (2014), Colchester (2015) and Wroclaw (2017), the last conference at the University of Paderborn (2018) had 338 participants (www.ecda2018.de). About 200 plenary, semi-plenary and session lectures covered topics like Big Data, Text, Image and Web Mining, Knowledge Representation and Discovery, Online Algorithms and Algorithms for Data Streams, Social Network Analysis and their applications in psychology, marketing, linguistics or biostatistics. The participants liked the quality of the talks and the atmosphere as well as the interdisciplinary format. Submission of abstracts for ECDA2019 in Bayreuth is possible until December 1, 2018 (www.ecda2019.de). We look forward to your submissions as well as an exciting conference. Please not, that immediately after the ECDA2019 in Bayreuth, the fifth DAGStat Conference of the German Statistical Society takes place nearby at the LMU University of Munich, a conference to which you are also cordially invited (www.dagstat2019.de).

Daniel Baier

News from The Classification Society

Report on the 2018 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society

The 47th annual meeting of The Classification Society was held at the campus of Stony Brook University, Long Island, New York, from Thursday, June 21 to Saturday, June 23 2018. The meeting was hosted by former Classification Society president F. James Rohlf. He and Paul McNicholas, the current president of the Classification Society, had prepared an impressive conference program.

The President's Invited Address was given by Charles Bouveyron, Université Nice Côte d'Azur, France, who discussed state of the art techniques for modeling and clustering network data with textual edges as they are generated by communications between individuals using, for example, social media like Facebook, Twitter, and Linkedin.

In his presidential address, Paul McNicholas, McMaster University, Canada, provided an in-depth review of current approaches of mixture-based modeling to a variety of key problems in classification such as the analysis of longitudinal data and three-way data, or the detection and handling of outliers.

Keynote lectures were given by Tanzy Love, University of Rochester, USA, on outlier detection in model-based cluster analysis; by Volodymyr Melnykov, University of Alabama, USA, on matrix mixture modelling within a model-based clustering framework; and Katrijn Van Deun, Tilburg University, The Netherlands, on statistical methods for multi-source high-dimensional data.

The Distinguished Dissertation Award 2018 of The Classification Society had been awarded to Yang Tang, McMaster University, Canada, and Michael Fop, University College Dublin, Ireland. Both recipients presented their research during a special invited session.

Invited sessions were also held on recent advances of clustering and applications of classification, with speakers Sanjeena Dang, Binghamton University, Stanley Sclove, University of Chicago at Illinois, Stephen France, Mississippi State University, and Justin Gross, University of Massachusetts Amherst.

The 2019 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society

The 2019 annual meeting of The Classification Society will be held at MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada from June 19-22, 2019. The current secretary/treasurer Brian Franczak is chairing the organizing committee with Paul McNicholas, the current president of The Classification Society. Paul McNicholas is the chair of the Scientific Program Committee (SCP); other members of the SCP are Brian Franczak, Stephen France, and Abby Flynt. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Antonio Punzo, University of Catania, Italy, Dr. Bei Jiang,

University of Alberta, Canada, and Dr. Meredith Wallace, University of Pittsburgh, USA. A special session will be held in honor of longtime society member Stanley Sclove. (Please, see The Classification Society website for further details: https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting)

The 2019 Distinguished Dissertation Award of The Classification Society

Each year, The Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation on clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The winner is invited to make a presentation in a special session at the annual meeting of The Classification Society. Dissertations to be nominated for the 2019 Distinguished Dissertation Award must have been completed in 2018. The award committee is chaired by Prof. Volodymyr Melnykov, Department of Information Systems, Statistics, and Management Science, University of Alabama. The deadline for nominations is February 1, 2019. (Please, see The Classification Society website for further details: https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Dissertation-Award.)

Hans-Friedrich Köhn

News from VOC

The Dutch/Flemish classification society (VOC) will be celebrating its 35th anniversary with a two-day Jubilee Meeting in early November 2019. The programme will cover exciting topics related to classification and ordination reflecting the width of the field. Please keep an eye on www.voc.ac for more information.

Pieter Schoonees

News from JCS

The 37th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 37th Annual Meeting was held on June 9th and 10th, 2018 at The Institute of Statistical Mathematics, Tachikawa, Tokyo.The chairperson of the organizing committee was Nobuo Shimizu (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics).The speakers and the titles of their talks were as follows:

Student Session
- Sparse factor analysis using a majorization algorithm for providing cardinality prespecified loadings, Jingyu Cai (Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University), and Kohei Adachi (Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University).
- Canonical correlation analysis for contaminated data, Seigo Mizutani (Graduate School of Culture and Information Science, Doshisha University), and Hiroshi Yadohisa (Department of Culture and Information Science, Doshisha University).
- Clustering method considering features between two domains, Masaaki Okabe (Graduate School of Culture and Information Science, Doshisha University), and Hiroshi Yadohisa (Department of Culture and Information Science, Doshisha University).
- Deep Architecture for Multiple Sentences, Ryoma Hirose (Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University), and Yoshikazu Terada (Graduate School of Engineering Science, Osaka University).
- Characterization of basketball players using tweet data, Kazuki Konda (Graduate School of Science, Tokai University), and Yoshiro Yamamoto (School of Science, Tokai University).

Special Lecture
- Classification model of Convenience Stores: by problem types and problem solving methods, Kenji Fukumizu (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics), Yuki Saito (The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI)), Peng K. Hong (Chiba Institute of Technology), Takafumi Niihara (University of Tokyo), and Hideaki Miyamoto (University of Tokyo).

Contributed Session 1
- Continuous-discrete transformation and quantification, Yasumasa Baba (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics).
- Regularized fuzzy clustering of high dimensional data and its property, Kohei Uno (Graduate School of Human Sciences, Osaka University).
- Statistical matching method using multinomial logit model, Isao Takabe (School of Multidisciplinary Sciences, The Graduate University for Advanced Studies (SOKENDAI)), and Satoshi Yamashita (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics).

Contributed Session 2
- The use of multiple correspondence analysis as "factor analysis", Takashi Murakami (Department of Sociology, Chukyo University).
- Cultural Manifold Analysis of deep structure of peoples' minds -- "Science of Data" on religious mind and spirituality --, Hiroko Tsunoda (Nihon Wellness Sports University), Fumi Hayashi (Toyo Eiwa University), and Ryozo Yoshino (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics).

Contributed Session 3
- Visualization for grasping changes over time in Tweet information at the time of disaster, Takamitsu Funayama (Tohoku Medical Megabank Organization, Tohoku University), Yoshiro Yamamoto (School of Science, Tokai University), and Osamu Uchida (School of Information Science and Technology, Tokai University).
- Regional differences to lifesaving activities by Utstein data, Sanetoshi Yamada (Tokai University Research and Information Center), Yoshiro Yamamoto (School of Science, Tokai University), Kazuo Umezawa (School of Medicine, Tokai University), and Tomoko Ozeki (School of Information Science and Technology, Tokai University).
- Characterization of model innovators for innovation human resource discovery and training support service, Takafumi Kubota (Tama University), Toshihiro Shiga (Tama University), Minoru Shikada (Japan Research Industries and Industrial Technology Association), and Kazuo Kobayashi (Japan Research Industries and Industrial Technology Association).

Information about the Japanese Classification Symposium 2018

The Japanese Classification Symposium 2018 will be held on November 24th and 25th, 2018 at the Okinawakenseinenkaikan, Okinawa. The chairperson of the organizing committee is Yoshiro Yamamoto (Tokai University). For additional information, please visit website at http://bunrui.jp/sympo/ (in Japanese).

Kensuke Tanioka

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

November 2018
The Japanese Classification Symposium 2018, Okinawakenseinenkaikan, Okinawa, November 24th and 25th, 2018, http://bunrui.jp/sympo/.

The 60th conference of the South African Statistical Association SASA 2018, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26-29 November, https://sastat.org.za/sasa2018.

January 2019
IV International Workshop on Proximity Data, Multivariate Analysis and Classification. Annual meeting of the Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group, AMyC2019, of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research, University of Salamanca, Spain, January 2019, http://amyc.seio.es/.

February 2019
CARME, the conference on Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods outside of Europe, Stellenbosch, South Africa, 4-6 February 2019, https://carmesa2019.wixsite.com/conference.

March 2019
The sixth European Conference on Data Analysis, ECDA 2019, University of Bayreuth, Germany, March 18-20, 2019 at (www.ecda2019.de).

April 2019
JOCLAD 2019, the XXVI Annual Meeting of the Associação Portuguesa de CLassificação e Análise de Dados (CLAD), the School of Technology and Management of Viseu, Portugal, 11-13 April 2019, http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2019/.

June 2019
CS2019, the annual meeting of The Classification Society, MacEwan University in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, June 19-22, 2019, www.theclassificationsociety.org

August 2019
IFCS 2019, conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS), Thessaloniki, Greece, August 26-29, http://www.ifcs2019.gr.

September 2019

The 28th Annual Conference of the Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Society, University of Szczecin, Poland, September 2019.

Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 59

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the IFCS newsletter should be sent to Katrijn Van Deun, IFCS Publication Officer, at k.vandeun@uvt.nl by March 15.

Plain text or Word files are preferred. Thanks!

Katrijn Van Deun
IFCS Publication Officer