



International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

Number 20

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President: Jean-Paul Rasson

Editor: Paul De Boeck

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

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Classification Society of North America, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Società Italiana di Statistica, 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 the Journal of Classification.

A new society has joined the IFCS: the Central American and Carribean Society of Classification and Data Analysis.

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From the President

I hope that the numerous participants of the IFCS-2000 meeting have enjoyed the meeting as much as we, the organizers, have. The preparation was a very stimulating experience and the collaboration with our friends from the VOC was excellent. Thank you again for coming and for your brilliant contributions and sorry again for the weather, but we had absolutely no control over it.

During the conference, the Council meeting was held and, as can be seen in the following pages, some very important matters were discussed, for example, the future of the Journal of Classification, of this newsletter, the next IFCS meetings, nominations for the coming elections, ...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank again four important figures who are leaving the Council after a term of four years, namely: our vice President Chikio Hayashi, our treasurer Atsuhiro Hayashi, and two additional members: Hans Herman Bock and Ludovic Lebart (for an official vote of thanks, see the minutes of the Council meeting).

I am sure they will continue to inspire and stimulate the activities of the Federation.

Finally, I would like to welcome a new Society to the Federation: the Central American and Carribean Society of Classification and Data Analysis.

Jean-Paul Rasson

The next IFCS conference will be held in Kraków (Cracow), Poland, July 16-19, 2002

*The organizing society is SKAD (Section of Classification and Data Analysis of the Polish Statistical Association)
The chairman of the Local Organizing Committee is Andrzej Sokolowski (Cracow University of Economics),
the chairman of the Scientific Program Committee is Krzysztof Jajuga (Wroclaw University of Economics)*

Report on IFCS-2000

Data Analysis, Classification and Related Methods

(the 7th Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies)

The 7th Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies took place from July 11 to 14, 2000 in Namur, Belgium, and was organized jointly by the Société Francophone de Classification (SFC) and the Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie (VOC). Previous conferences were held in Aachen (Germany, 1987), Charlottesville (USA, 1989), Edinburgh (UK, 1991), Paris (France, 1993), Kobe (Japan, 1996), and Rome (Italy, 1998).

IFCS conferences are held biannually, and their aim is the dissemination of technical and scientific information concerning classification, data analysis, and related methods, as well as their application. The conference was held in the Namur University Notre-Dame de la Paix, close to the center of the town. More than 300 researchers from 30 countries attended the Conference.

The organization of this important event started more than two years ago by constituting the Scientific Program Committee (chaired by Henk Kiers, The Netherlands) as well as the Local Organizing Committee (chaired by Jean-Paul Rasson, Belgium). Because the scientific program committee consisted of a large number of researchers, a core group of "executive members" was formed for frequent consultation. The Executive Members were H.A.L. Kiers (The Netherlands), J.-P. Rasson (Belgium), P. De Boeck (Belgium), P.J.F. Groenen (The Netherlands), Y. Lechevallier (France), and F.A. van Eeuwijk (The Netherlands). Other members of the Scientific Program Committee were P. Arabie (USA), D. Banks (USA), V. Batagelj (Slovenia), H.-H. Bock (Germany), J.D. Carroll (USA), F. da Costa Nicolau (Portugal), W. Gaul (Germany), A.D. Gordon (UK), J.C. Gower (UK), C. Hayashi (Japan), S.C. Hirtle (USA), K. Jajuga (Poland), N.C. Lauro (Italy), J.C. Lee (Korea), T.R. Lee (Korea), B.G. Mirkin (Russia), C.B. Moncrieff (UK), N. Ohsumi (Japan), O. Opitz (Germany), A. Rizzi (Italy), M. Vichi (Italy), and, from the organizing societies, J.-P. Asselin de Beauville (France), J.-P. Barthélemy (France), L. Devroye (Canada), E. Diday (France), G.B. Dijkstra (The Netherlands), P.H.C. Eilers (The Netherlands), B. Fichet (France), A. Hardy (Belgium), W.J. Heiser (The Netherlands), L. Lebart (France), I.C. Lerman (France), J.J. Meulman (The Netherlands), P.J. Rousseeuw (Belgium), G. Saporta (France), T.A.B. Snijders (The Netherlands), J.M.F. ten Berge (The Netherlands), C.J.F. ter Braak (The Netherlands), I.A. van der Lans (The Netherlands), I. van Mechelen (Belgium), M. Wedel (The Netherlands). The Local Organizing Committee consisted of J.-P. Rasson (Chair), A. Hardy (Secretary), M. Rémon (Financial Responsibility), V. Bertholet, C. Charles, H. Claes, E. Depiereux, A. Dessy, L. Dumortier, D. Jacquemin, M. Noirhomme-Fraiture, and F. Orban-Ferauge (all members of the Namur University), as well as H.A.L. Kiers.

Already in 1998, the first announcement was prepared. It was available at the IFCS'98 conference in Rome, and it was sent to all member societies for further distribution, as well as to numerous researchers not affiliated to any member society. Invitations to four renowned key-note speakers were extended by early 1999, so that their names (A. Buja, B. Efron, D.J. Hand, and J.A. Hartigan) could be mentioned in the call for papers sent out in May 1999. Further suggestions for invitations to invited speakers or invited session organizers were solicited from the member societies and the scientific programme committee. Upon these suggestions, six further invited speakers were selected and eleven invited sessions were organized. Because of the special year, indicating the transition from the second to the third millennium, as a special feature of this conference, a representative from each member society was asked to give a so-called "*millennium talk*" of 25 minutes. The millennium talks were devoted to the past and/or upcoming millennium, with a historical and/or visionary nature, focusing on Classification, Data Analysis, and Related Methods in the member society that one represented, or, as far as historical aspects are treated, in the geographical region(s) represented by the member society. In total, ten such millennium talks were given.

Besides the many invited lectures, many contributed papers, and posters were presented. All in all, about 200 oral presentations were given, and some 20 posters were presented.

The topics of the conference were very diverse, and included Innovative and Specialized Clustering Methods, Decision and Regression Trees, Discriminant Analysis, Neural Networks, Pattern Recognition, Factor analysis and Principal Component Analysis, Dissimilarity Measures, Multidimensional Scaling and Unfolding, Multivariate Analysis, Robust Multivariate Statistics, Categorical Data Analysis, Multiway Analysis, Analysis of Longitudinal Data and Time Series, Time Series and Survival Analysis, Mixture Models, Symbolic Data Analysis, Data Mining, Bayesian Data Analysis, Data Science, Internet Survey, Combinatorial Algorithms, Missing Data in Cluster Analysis, Validation and Comparison of Clusterings, Credit Scoring, Phylogenetic Methods, Classification in Genomics and Proteomics, Applications, and Software Demonstrations for Classification.

Following the novel procedure of IFCS-98, a book of a selection of reviewed papers presented at IFCS-2000 was published just before the conference, and handed to all participants (in addition to a book of abstracts for *all* contributions). In fact, 96 papers were submitted for publication in this book, and were sent to two reviewers. The reviewers did a quick but thorough job, and on the basis of these reviews, 65 papers were accepted for publication (usually after a revision). As the book gives considerably more detail than the abstracts, this forms an important possibility for quick transfer of research results presented at the conference. In addition, the book gives an impression of the kind of research results presented at IFCS2000. The title of the book is "Data Analysis, Classification and Related Methods", and it was edited by H.A.L. Kiers, J.-P. Rasson, P.J.F. Groenen, and M. Schader, and belongs to the series *Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization*, published by Springer Verlag.

The social program comprised a welcome reception on Tuesday evening in the beautiful (and totally renovated) theater of Namur. On Wednesday evening, a Whisky tasting "Whisky Classified 2000" was held, organized by D. Wishart, who also presented a paper classifying the whiskies that were actually to be tasted. On Thursday afternoon excursions took place, with as destinations a visit to the caves of Han, a walking tour through the old Namur and its gardens, and a steam train journey in the countryside. In the evening a banquet was held in the prestigious castle Château de la Rocq, near Namur. A special feature of the conference was that joint conference lunches were arranged in a special restaurant, offering places and excellent lunches to a large number of persons. This possibility was used by about 150 participants each day, and turned out to successfully generate an ambiance for further social as well as professional contacts.

The organizers of this conference are grateful to all participants for their contributions and enthusiastic participation to the Conference. We further thank all organizers of invited sessions and all colleagues who chaired sessions during the conference. Finally, we are obliged to all reviewers of papers submitted for publication in the book associated with the conference.

The next IFCS conference is to be held in Krakow (Poland), to be organized by Kzysztow Jajuga and Andrzej Sokolowski, in July 2002. We wish them all the best in the organization of this event.

André Hardy, Henk A.L. Kiers, Jean-Paul Rasson, Marcel Remon

Minutes of the IFCS-2000 Council Meeting

A regular meeting of the Council of the International Federation of Classification Societies was held on Wednesday, July 12, at the Hotel Les Tanneurs in Namur, Belgium.

Jean-Paul Rasson, President of the IFCS, chaired the meeting.

The other officers present were the Vice-President, Chikio Hayashi, the Secretary, David Banks, the Treasurer, Atsuhiko Hayashi, and the Publication Officer, Paul De Boeck.

The Council members present were Gavin Ross and Clive Moncrieff (BCS); Fernando Nicolau and Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (CLAD); Francois-Joseph Lapointe and F. R. McMorris (CSNA); Wolfgang Gaul (GfKI); Fionn Murtagh (IPRCS); Noboru Ohsumi and Yoshiharu Sato (JCS); Sukhoon Lee and Tae Rim Lee (KCS); Bernard Fichet and Alain Guenoche (SFC); Alfredo Rizzi and Maurizio Vichi (SIS); Krzysztow Jajuga and Andrzej Sokolowski (SKAD); Patrick Groenen and Michel Wedel (VOC); Anuska Ferligoj (the Group-at-Large); Hans Bock, Ludovic Lebart, Phipps Arabie, and Jacqueline Meulman of the Four Additional Members.

Also present were Henk Kiers and Javier Trejos, at the invitation of the President.

1. Minutes of the 1998 Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting of the IFCS Council, in Rome, were distributed for review. They had been previously approved in an email ballot on Sept. 4, 1998.

2. Report of the President 2000

Jean-Paul Rasson and Chikio Hayashi jointly summarized the activities of the IFCS during since the Rome meeting in July, 1998.

3. Report of the Publication Officer

Paul De Boeck indicated that four IFCS Newsletters have been published since the Rome meeting in PDF, Word, and plaintext formats. The next issue is scheduled for September 2000. Past Newsletters are available on the IFCS website.

Paul also included a short report from the IFCS Webmaster, David Dubin. David reported that all member society webpages except for the BCS and the Group-at-Large have been linked to the IFCS website--David can find no BCS webpage.

At the Council meeting, Anuska Ferligoj indicated that the website for the Group-at-Large had moved, and that David should contact her for the new location. Also, David is trying to select a domain name for the IFCS, and would appreciate guidance from the Executive Committee on what name should be chosen.

4. Report of the Secretary

David Banks reported on the election at the end of 1998, in which Jean-Paul Rasson became Vice-President, Jacqueline Meulman and Phipps Arabie became members of the Four Additional Members, and Anuska Ferligoj became Secretary of the Group-at-Large.

At the end of this year, the IFCS will need to elect a new Vice-President, a Secretary and Treasurer, and two new members of the Four Additional Members.

The Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society was elected to membership in the IFCS on January 2, 2000. Fionn Murtagh is its representative, and will notify us when a second representative is elected.

The new regulations for the Travel Award Program were approved in a ballot on October 12, 1999.

5. Report of the Treasurer

Atsuhiko Hayashi presented the financial reports for 1998 and 1999, and the newly established TAP (Travel Award Program) fund. He indicated that the IFCS is solvent and healthy, and (as of January 15, 2000) had about \$12,721 in the general fund, and \$14,226 in the awards fund. These numbers will change a bit after the Namur meeting, to reflect disbursements to award winners, collection of dues from several societies, contributions, and other activity. [Note: On July 25. I received an update from Atsuhiko. All societies have now paid their dues, and all TAP payments have been made. The current total in the General Account is \$19,236.65, and the TAP Account contains \$11,725.64.

Also, there is a residual loan from the IFCS to the organizers of the Namur conference, and when this is repaid the General Account will increase.]

In the Council discussion that followed the report, it was suggested future reports contain a general long-term summary of IFCS finances, as well as the yearly specifics.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee, consisting of Noboru Ohsumi (chair), Wolfgang Gaul, Henk Kiers, and Ludovic Lebart, reported that they had examined the Treasurer's accounts through 1/15/00 and found them to be accurate and proper. Their decision was unanimous. Their written opinion, signed by all members, was given to the Secretary to archive.

7. Report of the Fund Raising Committee

The Fund Raising Committee consists of Hans Bock (chair), J.-P. Barthelemy, John Gower, Bill Day, Alfredo Rizzi, and Yoshiharu Sato. This committee was instrumental in developing the guidelines for TAP awards, and in exploring ideas for future funding.

The FRC reported that an anonymous donation had been received for the TAP fund.

Also, they suggested that the IFCS to consider ways to develop new revenue sources, such as a small additional fee included in meeting registration costs, or a solicitation of businesses at the occasion of a biennial meeting, or small and regular donations from the membership (the full report considers eight possible situations, some of which have subcategories---this will be of use to the next FRC). And they indicated that the IFCS President should soon develop new appointments to the Fund Raising Committee, perhaps replacing half of the present committee.

8. Report of the TAP Committee

The Travel Award Program Committee, consisting of Hans Bock (chair), D. Banks, F. Critchley, W. Day, A. Hardy, K. Jajuga, A. Rizzi, and Y. Sato, worked with Chikio Hayashi to identify seven awardees, of whom six attended the conference and received their reimbursement. The six who attended were Christian Hennig (GfKI), Michael Larsen (CSNA), Sung-Hee Lee (KCS), Vladimir Marenkov (SFC), Marc Sebban (SFC), and Takahiro Tsuchiya (JCS). The two SFC awardees split the allocation.

The awards were made under the rules developed by the Fund Raising Committee and approved in an email ballot on October 12, 1999. The sum of \$600 US was awarded to European winners, and \$1100 US to overseas awardees. A total of \$5000 was disbursed.

The IFCS President has appointed Chikio Hayashi to chair the TAP Committee for the 2002 meeting, and will appoint new committee members at the appropriate time.

9. Report of the Committee on Long-Range Planning and Conferences

The Committee on Long-Range Planning and Conferences, consisting of David Banks (chair), Doug Carroll, David Hand, Fionn Murtagh, and Jean-Paul Rasson, reported that they had received a proposal to host the 2002 meeting in Krakow, Poland. As a backup plan, the meeting could be held in Chicago.

Also, it was noted that before 1/1/01, the Council must elect a new Vice-President, two new members of the Group of Four Additional Members to replace Bock and Lebart, a Treasurer and a Secretary.

All nominations should be sent to David Banks, the IFCS Secretary. It is hoped that nominations can be received before October 1, in order to allow the timely completion of elections.

10. Report on IFCS-02

Andrzej Sokolowski presented a proposal to hold the 2002 meeting of the IFCS in Crakow, Poland on July 16-19. The host society would be SKAD.

The IFCS Council voted unanimously to have approve the proposal, and thanked Sokolowski and Jajuga for their leadership in undertaking to organize the meeting.

11. Report on IFCS-00

Henk Kiers reported that there were in excess of 300 participants at IFCS-2000.

The scientific success of the conference was clear to us all, and it appears to have been financially successful also. The Council took a formal vote of thanks to recognize the efforts and successes of Professors Rasson, Kiers, Hardy, Remon, and other Local Organizing Committee members.

12. New Business

A) Javier Trejos formally requested that the IFCS admit the Central American and Carribean Society of Classification and Data Analysis (SoCCCAD) as a member. The documents required by the Consitution had been examined by Jean-Paul Rasson and David Banks, who reported that they were complete. After a brief floor discussion (during which Javier withdrew), there was a unanimous vote to admit the new society. Javier Trejos will serve as one of their representatives, and report to the IFCS when a second representative has been elected.

B) Paul De Boeck indicated that several people were interested in the possibility of establishing a new journal, and others were interested in deepening the relationship between the IFCS and the Journal of Classification. The floor discussion was complex---the upshot of the vote was that Paul De Boeck would contact the Council to solicit input on possible journal issues, and summarize these for the Council. Jean-Paul Rasson would probably follow that by appointing a committee to make recommendations.

- C) Paul De Boeck indicated that the IFCS Newsletter was becoming less useful as a hardcopy document. He felt that in the near term, it would be more convenient to the membership to have an entirely electronic distribution. After a discussion in which advocates for both email and hardcopy versions expressed their opinions, The Council agreed about the trend but asked that hardcopy production continue for the present. This issue should be revisited periodically.
- D) Regarding a meeting site for 2004, no clear candidate has emerged. Ireland and Portugal are both possibilities. The CSNA is willing to host as well.
- E) Following up on an action-item from 1998, there is still no document on the Web that describes the history of the IFCS. Jean-Paul Rasson agreed to appoint a committee to undertake the creation of such a document and transmit it to Paul De Boeck who would get David Dubin to post it.
- F) Patrick Groenen suggested that IFCS have someone design a logo and housestyle for use with official correspondence, the website, and other publications. The Council agreed that this was a good idea and that the Publication Officer should follow up on it.
- G) It was noted that the size of the IFCS Council was growing, and that the number of representatives was already so large that it made Council meetings difficult to house. It was suggested that the Executive Committee examine this issue, make a recommendation as to whether or not it would be desirable to amend the Constitution so that each society had only a single representative.
- H) The Secretary was directed to find out whether the IFCS was an affiliate member of the ISI. Ultimately, the IFCS would like to coordinate with ISI meetings, and perhaps arrange a special session devoted to topics of IFCS interest.

13. Vote of Thanks

Jean-Paul Rasson proposed a vote of thanks to recognize the contributions of Chikio Hayashi, Hans-Hermann Bock, Ludovic Lebart, and Atsuhiko Hayashi, all of whom will be stepping down from the Council at the end of this year. The vote was unanimous.

The IFCS Travel Awards Program: The Winners from IFCS-2000

As it is well-known to most classificationists, the IFCS has created, under the presidency of Prof. Ch. Hayashi, a Travel Award Program (TAP) for young researchers. This program is designed in order to enable advanced students or researchers in the begin of their career to attend one of the biannual IFCS conferences and to present there a lecture on a topic from classification, data analysis and related domains.

This is realized by donating a certain sum from the IFCS TAP budget which depends on the distance of the travel to the conference site. The prize winners are selected by the members of a TAP Committee on the basis of the presidents of the IFCS Member Societies and approved by the IFCS president (for details see the IFCS website).

The TAP Committee for the conference IFCS-2000 in Namur comprized the following 8 members:

David Banks (Washington DC, USA; ex officio), Hans-Hermann Bock (Aachen, Germany, Chair), Frank Critchley (Milton Keynes, UK), André Hardy (Namur, Belgium), W.H.E. Day (Port Maitland, Canada), Krzysztof Jajuga (Wroclaw, Poland), Alfredo Rizzi (Roma, Italy), and Yoshiharo Sato (Sapporo, Japan). Five Member Societies nominated candidates (up to five) chosen according to their scientific rank on a regional basis, and one candidate was applying directly at the TAP Chair.

The TAP Committee and the IFCS president have finally determined and approved the following 7 winners:

Michael D. Larsen (Chicago, USA), Sung-Hee Lee (Taejon, Korea), Takahiro Tsuchiya (Tokyo, Japan), Christian Hennig (Hamburg, Germany), Vladimir Makarenko (Montréal, Canada), Marc Sebban (Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe). Unfortunately, the seventh winner, i.e., Mille Hasna Chamlal (Rabat, Maroc) could finally not attend the conference.

The IFCS president, Jean-Paul Rasson, handed over the prizes during the inauguration ceremony of the Namur conference.

Congratulations to our prize winners!

H.H. Bock (Chair TAP Committee)

News from the member societies

News from the SFC

- 1) The "Société Francophone de Classification" (SFC) and the "Vereniging voor Ordinatie and Classificatie" (VOC) have organized the "7th Conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies" (IFCS-2000). It took place from July 11 to 14, 2000 in Namur (Belgium) (information in this newsletter).
- 2) The issue number 13 of the "SFC Bulletin" was published in June 2000.
- 3) The next SFC meeting (SFC'2001) will be held in Pointe-à-Pitre (Guadeloupe) from December 17 to 21, 2001 (information in this newsletter).
- 4) SFC's 2002 meeting will take place in Toulouse (France) in September 2002.

André Hardy, SFC Secretary

News from the VOC

The VOC keeps on going strong. The Spring meeting was held in April, at Groningen University. The subject was "Classification with Mixture Models". Presentations were given by Titterton (Glasgow University), van der Maas (University of Amsterdam), Jansen (Center for Biometry, Wageningen), Berkhof (University of Leuven) and Molenberghs (Limburg University Center). For a detailed program you might take a look at our website (www.voc.ac). The meeting was well attended and there were lively discussions. Groningen, in the far North of the Netherlands, uses the slogan: "nothing goes above Groningen". We started to believe that.

In Groningen also the formal meeting of members was held. There were some changes in the board: Fred van Eeuwijk left after a period of duty of three years and Henk Kiers after a double period. Henk was chairman for five years. He did an excellent job. We welcomed a new member of the board: Stef van Buuren. He also is the editor of our Newsletter and our website, a job he took over from Ivo van der Lans.

Our next meeting will be at December 1, in Tilburg. The subject will be the use of non-parametric techniques. The program will also appear at our website.

Paul Eilers, secretary

News from the KCS

1. The Korean Classification Society had its biannual meeting on July, 7th, 2000 at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul. Over 90 members have attended and 7 contributed papers were presented. Assistant professor, Sungzoon Cho (Seoul National Univ.) gave the attendants a tutorial session, titled "Unsupervised learning using neural network".
2. Professor Myung-Hoe Huh (Korea Univ.) was elected as new president of the Korean Classification Society. His term of office is till July, 2002.

News from the CSNA

The 2000 annual meeting of the Classification Society of North America was held at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales in Montreal, Quebec, from Thursday June 8th until Sunday, June 11th. The conference chair was Pierre Hansen and the program committee was David L. Banks, Pierre Hansen, Stephen C. Hirtle, Francois-Joseph Lapointe and Pierre Legendre. The conference was supported by the Group for Research in Decision Analysis (GERAD). Approximately 60 persons attended.

Two short courses on "Introduction to Classification and Clustering" (instructors: Stephen C. Hirtle, Pierre Legendre and Glenn W. Milligan) and on "Data Mining: Comparing New Wave Nonparametric Regressions" (instructor: David L. Banks) were held on Thursday, June 8th.

There was a Reception and the Board of Directors Meeting (June 8th), the CSNA General Meeting (June 9th) and a banquet (June 10th). A "Classification of Single malt Whiskies and Tasted Tasting" was organized by David Wishart prior to the banquet, and the Address from the IFCS' President (Jean-Paul Rasson) was read by Pierre Hansen during the banquet. William Shannon also presented some recent progress in the field of Gene Chips.

Invited addresses were given by:

Boris Mirkin (Birkbeck College, London) - Data Driven Classification and Clustering.

Jim O. Ramsay (McGill University, Montreal) - Classification of Curves using Derivative Information.

Jonathan E. Robbin (Ricerca Inc., Bethesda) - Prizes and Pitfalls in Clustering Geo-Demographic Data.

Invited sessions were held on the following topics:

Bayesian Computation (organizer: Herbert Lee, Duke University)

Clustering Algorithms and Applications (Pierre Hansen, Ecole des Hautes Etudes Commerciales)

Combinatorial Species and Tree-like Structures (organizer: Pascale Rousseau, Universite du Quebec a Montreal)

Distance Methods in Medicine and Classification (organizer: David L. Banks, Bureau of Transportation Statistics)

Generalized Canonical and Correspondence Analysis (organizer: Yoshio Takane, McGill University)

Information Retrieval (organizer: David Dubin, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Mixture Models (Peter Bryant, University of Colorado at Denver)

Reticulate Evolution (organizer: Francois-Joseph Lapointe, Universite de Montreal)

Contributed paper sessions were held on the following topics:

Applications, Data Mining, Classification and Biology, Economic Applications, Hierarchical Classification and Segmentation, Methods, Mixture Models, Multidimensional Scaling, Regression and Segmentation.

Next year's meeting will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, in mid-June. William Shannon of the Washington University School of Medicine is the organizer. For further information, consult the CSNA web site at www.pitt.edu/~csna/

The address of the IFCS Group-at-Large home page is:

<http://vlado.fmf.uni-lj.si/ifcs/GatLarge.htm>

25th Annual Meeting of the GfKI München, March 14-16 2001

An important theme of the conference will be explorative data analysis in empirical research. Various thematic sessions will be organized.

Associated with the conference also the following activities are planned: a tutorial on symbolic data analysis, a workshop on data mining, a workshop on E-mining and E-intelligence.

The deadline for submitting papers is November 15. More information on the conference can be found on the internet:

www.efoplan.bwl.uni-muenchen.de/gfkl.html

The contact person is Prof. Dr. M. Schwaiger,
email: gfkl2001@bwl.uni-muenchen.de

SFC Meeting 2001 in GUADELOUPE

Université des Antilles et de la Guyane, Faculté des Sciences Exactes et Naturelles, Département de Mathématiques et Informatique
Campus de Fouillole
Standard: 93-86-00 / Secrétariat Maths-Info: 93-86-93 / Fax: UFR Sc. 93-86-43 et 93-86-64
Pointe-à-Pitre (GUADELOUPE)

After the 7th Conference of the IFCS (International Federation of Classification Societies) which was held at the University of Namur, in July, in Belgium, the annual rhythm of the SFC (Société Francophone de Classification) meetings will resume with the 8th Conference. It will be organised *in Guadeloupe at the University of French West Indies and Guyana from 17 to 21, December 2001.*

It will be jointly organised by the Computer Sciences team TRIVIA and the statisticians group INSTAN. Because of the exceptional trip duration, the Conference will be held over a whole week, two days for a special course, and three days for standard sessions.

The "Simon Régnier" award will be granted to a young researcher for his applied and/or theoretical results in classification.

The local organisation committee will do his best to make this scientific meeting also a pleasant stay.

Contact : sfc2001@univ-ag.fr

The final version of the paper must be received by April 12, 2001. For more informations, visit

<http://www.hds.utc.fr/asmda2001>

AMSDA 2001 10th International Symposium on applied stochastic models and data analysis Compiègne (France), 12-15 juin 2001

The preceding AMSDA Symposia were organised in Brussels (1981, 1983, 1985), in Nancy (1988), in Granada (1991), in Chania (1993), in Dublin (1995), in Anacapri (1997) and in Lisboa (1999).

Following the success of these meetings, it was decided in Lisboa to organise the 10th International Symposium on Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis in Compiègne, France, from 12th to 15th June 2001.

The Symposium 2001 will focus on new trends in theory, applications and software of Applied Stochastic Models and Data Analysis.

Particular interest will be given to interesting applications in engineering, productions and services (maintenance, reliability, planning and control, quality, finance, insurance, management and administration, inventory and logistics, marketing, environment, human resources,...).

Methodological approaches: Poisson, Markov, semi-Markov processes, Point processes, Martingales, Stochastic calculus, Random evolutions, Decision and Controlled Processes, diffusion and Poisson approximations, Asymptotic models and Weak Convergences, Statistical inference for Stochastic processes, Hidden Markov and semi-Markov processes, Fitting models for data, Reliability and survival analysis, Bayesian inference, Functional data analysis, Discriminant and Regression Analysis, Mixture model and Probabilistic approach to Clustering, Analysis of complex data (incomplete, censored, missing, spatio-temporal, imprecise, fuzzy,...), Theories of uncertainty, Graphical models and Bayesian networks, Multidimensional Scaling and Multi-way Data Analysis, Sensory Analysis, Data and Test Mining. Special techniques and algorithms: Neural Networks, Genetic and Fuzzy Algorithms, Support Vector Machine, Monte Carlo Methods.

The Symposium includes three types of presentations:

- Invited papers
- Contributed Papers
- Specialized sessions

Software exhibitions are also planned.

Invited speakers

N. Balakrishnan, McMaster University (Canada), D. Bohning, Freie Universität Berlin (Germany), J. M. Buhman, University of Bonn (Germany), G. Celeux, INRIA Rhône-Alpes (France), E. Cinlar, Princeton University, (USA), M. Hollander, Florida State University (USA), J. Glaz, University of Connecticut (USA), S. M. Ross, University of California at Berkeley (USA), M. L. Ting Lee, Harvard University (USA), P. Smets, Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium).

Instruction for authors / instructions aux auteurs

Prospective authors are invited to submit their papers (6 pages) to G. Govaert or N. Limnios before January 12, 2001. The authors will be informed about paper acceptance by March 12, 2001.

Festkolloquium for Hans-Hermann Bock

This year on September 8th, Prof. Dr. Hans-Hermann Bock from the *Gesellschaft für Klassifikation* (GfKI) completed the 60th year of his life. On the occasion of this event the German Classification Society organized a Festkolloquium in honour of Hans-Hermann Bock, which took place on September 15th at RWTH Aachen. About 30 participants came from Austria, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, France, Great Britain, Italy, the Netherlands and Slovenia. Further 50 participants were GfKI members, former and present colleagues from RWTH Aachen and personal guests of Hans-Hermann Bock.

The celebration was opened by Prof. Dr. Aloys Krieg, the dean of the faculty for Mathematik, Informatik und Naturwissenschaften. He emphasized H.-H. Bock's activities as a member of the University Council and other Communities at RWTH Aachen as well as his general readiness for cooperation and undertaking any kind of tasks and responsibilities.

In the following Laudatio the president of GfKI, Prof. Dr. Otto Opitz, started with presenting a letter of congratulations to H.-H. Bock received from Prof. Bernard Harris by order of the directors of CSNA. Subsequently, O. Opitz appreciated Hans-Hermann Bock as a highly successful and recognized researcher with a long list of publications and many important contributions to the discipline of classification and data analysis in a wide sense. Furthermore, O. Opitz reported about the management activities of H.-H. Bock: He was one of nine founding members of GfKI in 1977 and its president from 1986 to 1995. After the foundation of IFCS at Cambridge/UK in 1985 H.-H. Bock was appointed as the first president of IFCS. He also organized the first international symposium of IFCS at RWTH Aachen in 1987. Finally, O. Opitz handed over a Festschrift initialized by W. Gaul, O. Opitz and M. Schader, which contains more than 40 papers and is dedicated to H.-H. Bock by his friends and colleagues, who are coming from 17 different countries.

Subsequently two invited lectures took place. First, Prof. Dr. Helmut Strasser from the Wirtschaftsuniversität Wien talked about "Automatic Classification: Theoretical Concepts as a Bridge between Tradition and Innovation". Second Prof. Jean-Paul Rasson from the Faculté des Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix Namur gave a lecture on "A Generalization of the Hypothesis of Convexity in Classification and Pattern Recognition". Finally, the GfKI invited all participants for a reception. All organizers and participants hoped that the Festkolloquium has been a pleasure to H.-H. Bock who returned his thanks to the organizers, the invited speakers and all participants.

After the official part of the celebration Hans-Hermann Bock invited his friends and colleagues for a dinner across the boarder to the Netherlands at Kasteel Bloemendal in Vaals where his guests enjoyed excellent dishes and drinks.

Prof. Dr. Peter Ihm and his wife have brought along a barrel-organ and performed a moritat on H.-H. Bock.

Prof. J.C. Gower gave a toast while Prof. Gaul in his dinner speech convinced the audience that "consider it done" is a slogan that is very well suited to describe the way Hans-Hermann Bock handles situations for which he has decided to care about.

Finally, H.-H. Bock as a collector of corkscrews showed some of his specimens and gave some "scientific" remarks. So we enjoyed several pleasant hours with H.-H. Bock.

Thank you once more, dear Hans, for this final highlight of your jubilation day. Let us send once more our congratulations to H.-H. Bock and let us hope that he will be active in his and our fields of interests in the future as he has been in the past. All the best to you – ad multos annos!

Otto Opitz

IFCS Newsletters on Internet:

<http://edfu.lis.uiuc.edu/~class/ifcs/newsletter.html>
The newsletters are available as PDF files, to be read with AcrobatReader. Click on AcrobatReader to download.

IFCS Homepage:

<http://edfu.lis.uiuc.edu/~class/ifcs/>
Designed and maintained by David Dubin.
The website contains among others:
the IFCS Constitution and By-Laws, the IFCS newsletters, and pointers to the websites of the member societies.

News for the coming issue of the IFCS can be sent to:

Paul.Deboeck@psy.kuleuven.ac.be

Text files are by preference in ascii, wordperfect, or word, with pc format (mac is difficult, although not impossible). For graphical materials, by preference BMP, GIF, or PCX are used.

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