



International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

President: Akinori Okada

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

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, The Classification Society, Central American and Caribbean Society of Classification and Data Analysis, 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

As announced at the IFCS-2015 in Bologna more than a year ago, the next IFCS conference, IFCS-2017, will be held from August 8 through 10 in Tokyo, Japan. For further details, see the website <https://ifcs.boku.ac.at/conference/index.php/ifcs2017/ifcs2017>. The Japanese Classification Society (JCS) will host the conference. There will be Workshops on August 7. The JCS introduces an initiative named “Invited by JCS”; the JCS will invite about 10 researchers mainly from Asian countries (including researchers from communities which are not member societies of the IFCS) to whom the JCS will ask to organize sessions at the conference. This will help to increase the number of participants at the conference from these communities, and to interest them in the IFCS.

It is unfortunate that the budget of the IFCS-2017 had to be modified. The reason is the drastic change of exchange rate between the Japanese Yen (JPY) and Euro or US Dollar (US\$). When the budget was compiled in May 2015, 1 Euro is equal to 135 JPY, and 1 US\$ is equal to 120 JPY. But, at present, 1 Euro is equal to around 113 JPY, and US\$ is equal to around 101 JPY, suggesting that the Euro or the US\$ decreased its

value more than 15% for the JPY. Because the budget was based on the Euro, and the fee for participation is paid in Euro, this means that the amount of expenses, in JPY, that is going to be paid in Japan to host the IFCS-2017 increases by more than 15%. This drastic change of the exchange rate between the Euro (or the US\$) and the JPY is a political or economical event outside of the JCS and the IFCS. The modified budget is based on the Japanese Yen to avoid the influence of the change of the exchange rate. In the original budget, the standard fees for members and students are 300 Euros and 150 Euros, respectively. In the modified budget, they are 40,000 JPY and 15,000JPY, which are about 354 Euros and 133 Euros, respectively, at present. Another category of fee, an “early bird fee”, will be introduced where standard fees for members and students are 35,000 JPY (310 Euro at present) and 15,000JPY (133 Euro at present), respectively. The “early bird fee” is planned to start on November 1, 2016, which will make it possible to pay the fee when the exchange rate is favorable to the participant.

I am very much looking forward to seeing all of you in Tokyo in August.

Akinori Okada
IFCS President

News from the IFCS Secretary

A major task for the IFCS Executive Committee at the moment is the preparation of the IFCS-2017 conference in Tokyo. During the July meeting of the Executive Committee, it was confirmed that the Awards Committee members will be Hans Bock, Jean Diatta, Stan Sclove, Iven Van Mechelen, Isabella Morlini, Shizuhiko Nishisato (prospective chair), and Christian Hennig (ex officio, as Secretary). There will be a Research Medal, one or two Student/Postdoctoral Awards and up to three Chikio Hayashi Awards. Also the IFCS Budget was decided.

The IFCS Executive Committee is currently working on an update of the IFCS Constitution in order to remove some ambiguities and to adapt some of its definitions to recent developments. The governance page of the IFCS website now hosts the IFCS Directory with contact information about office holders of the member

societies. I am currently updating this information, so please notify me when there is a change of President, IFCS Council Delegate, Treasurer, or distributor of the IFCS Newsletter in your society. The IFCS website now also lists events that are sent to the IFCS Publication Officer for the Newsletter. The IFCS Council elected Henk Kiers and Anuska Ferligoj as members of the IFCS Election Committee. The other current members are Krzysztof Jajuga and Claus Weihs. With all the best wishes for the remaining months of the year,

Christian Hennig
IFCS Secretary

News from the IFCS Publication Officer

As always, I will begin by extending my thanks to everyone who contributed to this newsletter. I am particularly happy to receive the first contribution from the Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research (SEIO-AMyC)! Over the past few months, there has been quite some activity on the publication front and so this will be a little longer than my usual news item. As you probably know, an events page has been added to the IFCS website. All events that are submitted for the newsletter will automatically be added to the events page. Otherwise, you can write to me or Christian Hennig (IFCS Secretary) with details of events you would like added to the website.

IFCS Sponsored Workshops will also be added to the events page. In fact, this is a good time for me to formally call for proposals for IFCS Sponsored Workshops. Please send such proposals to Christian or me. You may have already noticed that there is a special announcement on the home page of the IFCS website concerning the IFCS Benchmark Repository, and a link has been added to the resources section of the website. I encourage you to check out the repository. I have been remiss in forgetting to add a copy of Maurizio Vichi's report to Council, presented in Bologna last year, to the website. I will do this shortly. Finally, we are updating the IFCS flyer and some help is needed. In particular, we used to have a map included in the flyer that highlighted the countries covered by IFCS member societies. The person who made the original is not available

to repeat the exercise. If anyone is willing and able to help out with this, please let me know.

Paul McNicholas
IFCS Publication Officer

Call for Nominations: The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award

Each year, the Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award (the Award, hereafter) for an outstanding Ph.D. dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The 2017 Award totals US \$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC. The winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2017 Classification Society Annual Meeting, which will be held at the University of California, Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley Campus, 3175 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, CA, from June 21-24. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2017 Annual Meeting of at most US \$1,000 for a North America-based Award winner or at most US \$1,500 for an Award winner based elsewhere. Criteria for nomination for the Award include: (i) the dissertation contains innovative or impressive work in theory/methodology, or innovative or well-developed application(s); and (ii) the literature review is thorough. To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed – including successful defense – within the calendar year 2016.

Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, advisor/supervisor, or a related person. A nomination must include contact information for the nominator and nominee (if different), a URL where an online copy of the dissertation can be accessed by the members of the Award Committee, and an electronic (e.g., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of completion of the Ph.D. dissertation and outlining why the dissertation merits the award. The nominator must also arrange for two external referee reports to be sent directly to the chair of the Award committee. If possible, the referees should be arms length from the dissertation author and their supervisor. Cover letters should include full bibliographic details for

any published papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material that has arisen from the dissertation. For non-English language dissertations, nominators are requested to provide an extended abstract in English and, where relevant, to highlight any papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material associated with the thesis that has been published in English.

The 2017 Award Committee is comprised of:

- Stanley Sclove (University of Illinois at Chicago, United States),
- David Banks (Duke University, North Carolina, United States), and
- Bobby Gramacy (Virginia Tech, United States).

Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Stanley Sclove, at sclslove@uic.edu, on or before **February 5, 2017**. Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline.

Stan Sclove

News from CLAD

JOCLAD 2017

The XXIV Annual Meeting of the Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados (CLAD) will be held April 20-22 2017, at the Faculdade de Engenharia - Universidade do Porto (FEUP). JOCLAD 2017 scientific program includes plenary sessions, thematic sessions, panels, contributed papers and poster sessions. A short course will take place April 20th. The meeting will also be an opportunity to visit the city of Porto, one of Europe's oldest tourist destinations, with its historical core proclaimed a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

Like in previous conferences, authors of the best research papers presented at JOCLAD 2017 will be invited to submit full papers for publication in the next issue of CLAD's Book Series, *CLASSIFICAÇÃO E ANÁLISE DE DADOS. MÉTODOS E APLICAÇÕES III*. The JOCLAD 2017 program and further information will soon be available at the CLAD website, <http://www.clad.pt/>.

CLAD sponsored courses

Following the series of CLAD sponsored courses, the next short course, “Data Mining Using Python”, by Prof. Jaime Cardoso from University of Porto, will take place at the University of Aveiro, Mathematics Department, on November 26th.

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau

News from The Classification Society

The 2017 Classification Society Annual Meeting will take place June 21-24 at University of California, Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley Campus, 3175 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, CA. For more information, please visit www.theclassificationssociety.com

Hans Friedrich Köhn

News from JCS

(I) The Japanese Classification Society Symposium on “Forefront of the classification theory”.

The symposium was held on September 5th, 2016 at Kanazawa University, Kakuma Campus in Kanazawa City under the 2016 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting.

The organizer, discussant, speakers were as follows:

- Organizer & Chair: Satoru Yokoyama (Teikyo University)
- Speaker and co-speaker(s): Kensuke Tanioka (Wakayama Medical University) and Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University); Michio Yamamoto (Kyoto University) and Atsushi Kawaguchi (Saga University); Naoto Yamashita (Keio University); Yusuke Matsui (Nagoya University), Satoru Miyano (The University of Tokyo) and Teppei Shimamura (Nagoya University).

The official Web site of the 2016 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting is <http://www.jfssa.jp/taikai/2016/>.

(II) Information about the 35th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 35th Annual Meeting will be held on March 6th and 7th, 2017 at Hosei Business School of

Innovation Management, Hosei University, Tokyo. The chairperson of the organizing committee is Yuki Toyoda (Hosei University). For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.bunrui.jp/>.

Satoru Yokoyama

News from SEIO-AMyC

II International Workshop on Proximity Data, Multivariate Analysis and Classification

Annual meeting of the SEIO Working Group in Multivariate Analysis and Classification (AMyC), Barcelona (Spain), October 20–21, 2016. The organizers are José Fernando Vera (Universidad de Granada) and Eva Boj del Val (Universitat de Barcelona). Within the workshop will be held a special session entitled “Statistics for Automated Mass-Crowd Counting” organized by Albert Satorra, in which will act as guest Haroon Idrees, from the Department of Computer Vision at the University of Central Florida (<http://today.ucf.edu/ucf-researchers-perform-worlds-first-automated-mass-crowd-count/>).

The topics of interest comprise any related problem to Multivariate Analysis and Classification both from a theoretical or a computational point of view, and their applications. It also includes problems related to unsupervised or supervised statistical learning related to big data analysis. Researchers and practitioners are invited to present works in the form of oral communications or posters. All the information regarding the meeting is available at the meeting web site <http://www.ub.edu/wamyc/>

José Fernando Vera

News from SKAD

The 25th Jubilee Scientific Conference of Classification and Data Analysis Section (SKAD) of Polish Statistical Society (the 30th Taxonomic Conference) on “Classification and Data Analysis – Theory and Applications” was held on 19th-21st September 2016 in Wodnik Hotel in Słok near Bełchatów. The conference was organized by both SKAD and the Department of Statistical Methods of the University of Łódź. There were 91 participants. The conference program included: 2 plenary sessions, 14 parallel sessions

and a poster session. The participants presented 55 papers and 24 posters.

The conference topics focused on theory (taxonomy, discriminant analysis, linear ordering, multivariate statistical analysis, continuous variables analysis, discrete variables analysis, symbolic data analysis, data visualization) and 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 2017 and 2018:

- Józef Pociecha (Cracow University of Economics), President. E-mail: jozef.pociecha@uek.krakow.pl
- Marek Walesiak (Wrocław University of Economics), Vice-President. E-mail: marek.walesiak@ue.wroc.pl
- Barbara Pawełek (Cracow University of Economics), Secretary. E-mail: barbara.pawelek@uek.krakow.pl
- Krzysztof Jajuga (Wrocław University of Economics), Member. E-mail: krzysztof.jajuga@ue.wroc.pl
- Andrzej Sokołowski (Cracow University of Economics), Member. E-mail: andrzej.sokolowski@uek.krakow.pl
- Eugeniusz Gatnar (Katowice University of Economics), Member. E-mail: egatnar@ue.katowice.pl
- Krzysztof Najman (University of Gdańsk), Member. E-mail: knajman@wzr.ug.edu.pl
- Grażyna Dehnel (Poznań University of Economics), Member. E-mail: g.dehnel@ue.poznan.pl

The 26th Annual Conference of Section of Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society “Classification and Data Analysis: Theory and Applications” (local organizer: Cracow University of Economics) will be held in 2017, presumably in October.

Mateusz Baryła

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

October 2016

AMyC 2016, II International Workshop on Proximity Data, SEIO-AMyC, Barcelona-Institut d'Estadística de Catalunya, October 20-21, <http://www.ub.edu/wamyc/>

November 2016

European Data Science Conference (EDSC), University of Luxembourg, November 07-08, <https://euads.org/edsc/>

March 2017

35th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society, Hosei Business School of Innovation Management, Hosei University, Tokyo. <http://www.bunrui.jp/>

First Conference of The Moroccan Classification Society SMC2017: Data Engineering in Bioinformatics, Image and Data Analysis, Tanger (Morocco), March 23-25, <https://msc2017.sciencesconf.org>

April 2017

JOCLAD 2017, Faculdade de Engenharia – Universidade do Porto, April 20-22, <http://www.clad.pt/>

June 2017

The Classification Society Annual Meeting, University of California, Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley Campus, June 21-24, www.theclassificationssociety.com

August 2017

IFCS 2017, Tokyo, August 8-10, <https://ifcs.boku.ac.at/conference/index.php/ifcs2017/ifcs2017>

September 2017

[CLADAG 2017](http://www.unimib.it/go/49084/Home/Italiano/CLADAG-2017), the 11th Scientific Meeting of the CLAssification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society, Milano-Bicocca University, September 13-15, <http://www.unimib.it/go/49084/Home/Italiano/CLADAG-2017>

ECDA2017, the Fourth European Conference on Classification and Data Analysis, Wrocław, September 27-29.

Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 55

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the IFCS newsletter should be sent to Paul McNicholas, IFCS Publication Officer, at mcnicholas@math.mcmaster.ca by March 10, 2017.

Plain text or Word files are preferred.

Thanks!

Paul McNicholas

IFCS Publication Officer