



International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

President: Iven Van Mechelen

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Editor: Paul McNicholas

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 Caribbean Society of Classification and Data Analysis, The Classification Society, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Greek Society of Data Analysis, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, 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 the “Journal of Classification” and the journal “Advances in Data Analysis and Classification (ADAC)”.

IFCS Homepage:

<http://www.ifcs.info>

The website contains, among other things: the IFCS Constitution and By-Laws, IFCS newsletters, and links to the websites of member societies.

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Words from the IFCS President

The preparations for the IFCS-2013 conference in Tilburg (The Netherlands) have now reached cruising speed, with already 177 paper submissions and 21 invited sessions, in addition to no less than 8 distinguished invited speakers and 4 pre-conference tutorials. The federation can therefore look forward to a most stimulating meeting this July! More information on it can be found on the conference website, www.ifcs2013.org. The deadline for paper submissions has been extended to 30th April, after which the submission window will be closed. In this Newsletter you will find a final call for papers. If you have not yet submitted your contribution, please respond to this call at your earliest convenience! Otherwise, April 30th is also the deadline for applications for the 2013 Chikio Hayashi Awards. More information on the rules for application and the application form can be found on the IFCS-2013 website.

In the past, a smooth coordination of the timing of the conferences of the different IFCS member

societies and of the federation has appeared to be a major challenge. An obvious first step to deal with this challenge and to be considerate of each other is to inform one another as timely as possible on the different conference dates. For this purpose, the IFCS Executive Committee decided to install a calendar with conference dates on the IFCS website (www.ifcs.info); until this happens, a copy of the calendar will be included in each issue of the IFCS Newsletter. To facilitate long-range planning, the calendar will not only include information on the present year but also on all following years (insofar as it is available). To make the calendar work, it is of key importance to update this information on a permanent basis. I look forward to your help and collaboration on this issue!

Finally, it is with deep regret that I have to inform you that Jean-Paul Rasson passed away on January 9th 2013 after a long period of illness. Jean-Paul was IFCS President in 2000-2001. We will never forget his dedication to the domain of classification research, and the many services he paid to the federation, in particular through the organization of the very fruitful IFCS-2000 conference in Namur (together with Henk Kiers). You may find a more extensive obituary in the present issue of the Newsletter (with thanks to Marcel Remon). May he rest in peace.

Iven Van Mechelen
IFCS President

Third (and Final) Call for Papers IFCS-2013

The IFCS-2013 conference will be held in Tilburg, The Netherlands, from July 14 to July 17. Most information is available now from the website (www.ifcs2013.org), including information on the invited speakers, dates, preconference workshops, social events, conference dinner, lodging, and the Chikio Hayashi awards. We have received over 200 abstracts to date.

By request, the deadline of the abstract submission has been extended to April 30th, so abstract submission is still possible. The possibility to organize a symposium is also still open. A symposium consists of four presentations by different presenters on the same topic (or three

papers and a discussion). The advantage of a symposium is a homogeneous session on a certain topic, which will put the topic in the spotlight. There are no financial benefits for symposia. Proposals for symposia can be sent to info@ifcs2013.org

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you in Tilburg in July 2013.

Jeroen Vermunt, Chair Scientific Program Committee
Andries van der Ark, Chair Local organizing Committee
Iven Van Mechelen, President IFCS

Chikio Hayashi Awards Program

Researchers who want to apply for a CHA award, for the occasion of the IFCS'13 Conference (July 14th through July 17th 2013 in Tilburg, The Netherlands), are invited to submit their application to the Chair of the Awards Committee (Dr. Michel Wedel, attention of Carol Cron e-mail address: ccron@rhsmith.umd.edu).

The award committee consists of Edwin Diday (University of Paris-Dauphine), Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter (Vienna University of Economics and Business), James Ramsay (McGill University) and Michel Wedel (University of Maryland).

The Chikio Hayashi award is given to young, promising researchers on the basis of their scientific track record and impact on Classification Research. Applicants are requested to submit a one-page statement of expertise and impact, a recent CV (pdf), and three selected published papers (pdf). The statement of expertise and impact needs to refer to these papers and include a recent dated Web-of-Science citation count for each. The application form can be downloaded from the conference website www.ifcs2013.org.

All candidates must be under the age of 35 years at the time of the conference and need to be authors of a paper to be presented at the IFCS Conference. All candidates will be notified the evaluation results no later than May 30th, 2013.

Michel Wedel

News from JCS

(I) The 31st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 31st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society was held at Chuo University, Tokyo on *March 5, 2013*. The speakers and the titles of their talks were as follows:

Structure of Religious mind and Sense of Trust, Fumi Hayashi (Toyoeiwa University).

A Study on the Measurement of Social Distance, Hiromasa Hattori (Aoyama Gakuin University).

Toward the Progress of Data Analysis in Cross-National Comparative Survey: A Case of Survey on Values and Religiosity, Kazufumi Manabe, (Aoyama Gakuin University).

Comparative Analysis on Subject Categories and Topic Classification of the Database of Grants-in-Aid for Scientific Research, Kei Kurakawa (National Institute of Informatics), Yuan Sun (National Institute of Informatics), and Yasumasa Baba (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics).

Variational Bayesian Inference in Dirichlet Process Mixture Linear Gaussian State Space Model and its Application to Sports Player Classification, Keisuke Yanagisawa (Chuo University) and Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University).

Spatial Clustering for Multidimensional Spatial Data Using Echelon Analysis, Fumio Ishioka (Okayama University) and Koji Kurihara (Okayama University).

On Similarity of Clusters Based on Clustering of Evaluation Data and its Application, Ryunosuke Chiba (University of Tsukuba) and Mika Sato-Ilic (University of Tsukuba).

Three-way Three-mode Hierarchical Clustering with Variable and Occasion Weights, Kensuke Tanioka (Doshisha University) and Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University).

Multiple-Layer Cluster Analysis of Brand Switching, Akinori Okada (Tama University) and Satoru Yokoyama (Teikyo University).

(II) Notice of the 32nd Annual Meeting of JCS

The annual meeting will be held in *March, 2014* at Tokyo Metropolitan University, Tokyo. For additional information, please visit our website at <http://www.bunrui.jp>.

(III) Publication of the Journal

The volume 2 Number 1 of the Journal of the Japanese Classification Society, Bunrui no Riron to Oyou (Bulletin of Data Analysis of Japanese Classification Society), was successfully published in the last September (all papers are written in the Japanese language).

Atsuhō Nakayama

News from CLAD

JOCLAD 2013

The XX Annual Meeting of the Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados (CLAD), JOCLAD 2013, will be held on April 11-13 2013 at the Universidade do Minho - Campus de Azurém. The scientific program includes three invited talks, two thematic sessions, contributed papers and posters. JOCLAD 2013 invited talks are the following: *Statistical models for clustering data* (Maurizio Vichi, Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy), *Estimation of labour force indicators in counties of Galicia using a multinomial mixed model* (Maria José Lombardía Cortiña, Universidade da Coruña, Spain) and *Data analysis in the large data era* (Ana Maria Pires, Instituto Superior Técnico de Lisboa, Portugal). JOCLAD2013 thematic sessions are sponsored by INE-Instituto Nacional de Estatística and Banco de Portugal. A short course will take place on April 11: *"Métodos de reamostragem - o bootstrap"*, by Conceição Amado (Instituto Superior Técnico). For further information see the web site <http://w3.math.uminho.pt/joclad2013>.

CLAD Publication

The book entitled '*CLASSIFICAÇÃO E ANÁLISE DE DADOS. Métodos e Aplicações*', a new CLAD Publication, will be introduced and distributed at the JOCLAD2013 meeting. This volume contains eleven refereed articles covering a variety of methodological and/or applied topics, presented in previous JOCLAD meetings. INE is again the Publisher. Editors are Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (Universidade de Lisboa), Fernanda Sousa (Universidade do Porto) and Carlos Ferreira (Universidade de Aveiro).

CLAD Sponsored Courses

Following the series of CLAD sponsored courses, a one day course was held on February 16 under

the topic "*Análise de Dados Simbólicos*". The course, presented by Paula Brito (Faculdade de Economia, Universidade do Porto), was hosted by the ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa.

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau

News from the VOC

The VOC is proud to announce the second VOC conference, which will take place the 31st of May 2013 in Antwerp, Belgium. A keynote speech will be given by Stijn Vansteelandt (Ghent University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine) "On Confounding, Prediction and Efficiency in the Analysis of Longitudinal and Cross-sectional Clustered Data". We would like to invite you to attend the conference. Contributed papers can be submitted on topics such as classification, clustering, scaling, data analysis, machine learning, pattern recognition, statistical modeling, and applications of classification and data analysis. To encourage PhD students to participate, the conference fee is kept very low. Please consult the conference website for more information: <https://ppw.kuleuven.be/english/mesrg/voc-conference-2013/registration-form-for-the-second-voc-conference>.

Katrijn Van Deun and Tom Wilderjans

News from The Classification Society

The 2013 Classification Society Meeting: June 13th-15th, UW-Milwaukee

We are happy to announce that this year's CS meeting is being held June 13-15th at the Lubar School of Business at UW-Milwaukee. The conference website can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/classification2013/home> Registration is now open and registration details are available on the registration tab of the website:

<https://sites.google.com/site/classification2013/registration>

Abstract submission is open and abstracts are due by April 30. Abstract acceptance is rolling. Please send abstracts to Stephen France at france@uwm.edu. The call for papers can be found at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/classification2013/call-for-papers-1>

We offer three different accommodation options depending on your budget.

<https://sites.google.com/site/classification2013/accommodation>

We have an active social program planned. The conference banquet will be held at the Sprecher Brewery on Friday, June 14. Sprecher is famous for both its beers and its non-alcoholic sodas and the banquet includes a free tour of the production facilities:

<http://www.sprecherbrewery.com/index.php>

If you have any questions or have any ideas for conference sessions/activities then please do not hesitate to email Stephen France at france@uwm.edu. We hope to see you in Milwaukee in June!

Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award (2013)

The Classification Society each year offers an award for an outstanding PhD dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, related areas of data analysis, encompassing both associated theory and/or applications (defended in the last 5 years and completed by December 2012). The 2013 Award totals US\$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC and the winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special plenary session at the CS Annual Meeting. CS will cover travel expenses to the 2013 Annual Meeting of at most US\$1000 for a North American based Award winner or at most US\$1500 for an Award winner based elsewhere.

Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, advisor/supervisor or related person by emailing the chair of the Dissertation award evaluation committee, Nema Dean at nema.dean@glasgow.ac.uk. After the nomination has been received, the evaluation committee chair will request that the nominator obtain two external referee reports. It is suggested that these reports be completed by knowledgeable persons other than the author, their advisor/supervisor or similarly related person. The deadline for full submission of these reports is April 15th, 2013. Full details are available on the website: <http://www.classification-society.org/clsoc/dissaward2013.php>

Turning 50! Come Celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Classification Society

The Classification Society was founded April 17th, 1964, and next year marks our 50th anniversary. Please mark your calendar for June 2014 well in advance for our celebration! More details to come.

Rebecca Nugent

News from the Greek Society of Data Analysis

7th Panhellenic Data Analysis Conference September 12 to 14 2013, Kavala, Greece

The 7th Panhellenic Data Analysis Conference with International Participation will take place from 12th-14th September 2013 in Kavala. The conference is co-organized by GSDA and Kavala Institute of Technology. The conference will focus on recent theoretical developments and applications of Multivariate Data Analysis, Clustering, Classification and related methods. The scientific program will include sessions with invited talks and contributed presentations from a broad range of topics. Special emphasis will be laid on interdisciplinary research and the interaction between theory and practice. Contributed papers from scholars and practitioners are invited on any of the topics below:

- Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods
- Clustering and Classification
- Text Mining, Web Mining
- Analysis of Large and Complex Data
- Bioinformatics and Biostatistics
- Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition

The conference accepts the following types of submissions:

- abstracts intended to be published in an Abstracts volume
- full post-conference papers to be published in "Data Analysis Bulletin", the academic journal published by the Greek Society of Data Analysis.

The conference languages are Greek and English. All abstract and full paper submissions will be subject to a peer review process.

Deadlines for abstracts and post-conference papers:

- 15 June 2013: Deadline for abstract submission
- 30 June 2013: Notification of acceptance
- 31 October 2013: Deadline for full paper submission
- 31 December 2013: Notification of acceptance of full post-conference papers

Single page plain text abstracts and full papers should be submitted electronically before the deadlines at info@gsda.gr.

Further information will be available on the conference website www.gsda.gr/conference

Angelos Markos

News from Polish Statistical Society

The 27-th Annual Conference of Section on Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society "Classification and Data Analysis: Theory and Applications" (local organiser: Wroclaw University of Economics) will be held in Karpacz (September 11-13, 2013). Additional information may be obtained from the web page <http://skad2013.ue.wroc.pl>

Marek Walesiak

News from GfKI (AG DANK) / BCS

The AG DANK is a working group of the German Classification Society GfKI. It recently got a new web page: <http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucakche/agdank/indexeng.html>

On this web page, there are slides of presentations of the last two annual autumn meetings on medical applications in Duesseldorf, 11./12. November 2011 and on archaeological applications in Bonn, 5./6. October 2012.

Variable selection and dimension reduction in classification and clustering A joint BCS/AG DANK conference in London, 8-9 November 2013

On 8-9 November 2013 I will host a joint conference of the British Classification Society

BCS and the Working Group on Data Analysis and Numerical Classification AG DANK of the German Classification Society GfKI at University College London. The focus topic will be "Variable selection and dimension reduction in classification and clustering", but following the tradition of the annual meetings of these societies, presentations on other topics are welcome, too. As another traditional feature, a data set will be sent out prior to the conference to participants who can present their analyses on the conference.

Gilles Celeux and Mario Figueiredo have already agreed to give keynote presentations.

Currently the plan is that the conference will take from lunchtime to lunchtime; AG DANK and BCS conferences are often rather informal and more detailed information will only be available much later on <http://www.homepages.ucl.ac.uk/~ucakche/agdan/indexeng.html>

If you are interested in further information and participation, please contact me at c.hennig@ucl.ac.uk.

Christian Hennig

PLS '14

8th International Conference on PLS and Related Methods (PLS'14)

26-28 May 2014: Paris, France

Following the long tradition of PLS'99 in Jouy-en-Josas (France), PLS'01 in Anacapri (Italy), PLS'03 in Lisbon (Portugal), PLS'05 in Barcelona (Spain), PLS'07 in Ås (Norway), PLS'09 in Beijing (P.R. China) and PLS'12 in Houston (USA), we are pleased to announce the 8th International Symposium on PLS and Related Methods (PLS'14).

PLS'14 will take place on May 26th-28th, 2014 in Paris (France), jointly organized by CNAM (www.cnam.eu) and ESSEC Business School (www.essec.edu). This eighth edition will focus on original methodological contribution in both PLS Regression, PLS Path Modeling and their related methods with application relevance in areas and disciplines related to Management, Social Sciences, Chemometrics, Sensory

Analysis, Industry and Life Sciences including genomics.

Submission of Abstracts for Papers and Posters will be open in September 2013.

Papers: 2 page abstract due December 27th, 2013

Posters: 2 page abstract due March 14th, 2014

Registration will be open in November 2013. Contact for info: pls14@essec.edu. Conference website: www.pls14.org or www.plsconference.com.

Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi

SDA 2012

The 3rd Workshop in Symbolic Data Analysis Madrid, Spain, from November 7th to 9th, 2012 in Universidad Pontificia Comillas.

SDA 2012 was the third edition of the workshop with the previous editions held in Vienna and Namur. The workshop was organized by Javier Arroyo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain), Carlos Maté (Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Spain), Paula Brito (Universidade do Porto, Portugal) and Monique Noirhomme-Fraiture (Facultés universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Belgium), and sponsored by IFCS, EGC and Bank of Santander.

The meeting was a very successful and fruitful event, where experts from academia and industry shared research results and experiences. This edition attracted more than 30 participants from different countries such as France, Portugal, Italy, Belgium, Slovenia, Netherland, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Brazil, Costa Rica, United States of America and Spain. The proceedings of the workshop can be downloaded at: <http://eprints.ucm.es/17547/>

During the workshop it was announced that the IFCS supported journal *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification* will publish a Special Issue on Symbolic Data Analysis. More information at: <http://www.springer.com/statistics/statistical+theory+and+methods/journal/11634>

Javier Arroyo and Maria Paula Brito

Obituary: Prof. Jean-Paul Rasson

In memoriam:

**Prof. Jean-Paul Rasson (1949-2013),
University of Namur, Belgium.**

Jean-Paul Rasson was born on May 9th, 1949 in Avelgem (Belgium). He was married and had one daughter as well as three grand children. He got his PhD Thesis in 1977, after a research period in Cambridge under the supervision of Prof. D.G. Kendall and in Paris with Prof. K. Kriekeberg. His thesis was about convexity, Poisson process and spatial statistics. He published his first important paper with D.B. Ripley, "Finding the edge of a Poisson forest", in the Journal of Applied Probability (1977).

He supervised 11 PhD students and more than 75 master's students. He wrote nearly 150 papers, such as "A new Sobolev Test for uniformity on the Circle", with M. Hermans, published in Biometrika (1985), "Multivariate discriminant analysis and maximum penalized likelihood density estimation", with V. Granville, published in Journal Royal Statistical Society (1995). He made many contributions to data analysis and classification like the proceedings of the 2000 IFCS Namur meeting: "Data Analysis, Classification and Related Methods". He was a frequent speaker in IFCS, SFC, GfKI, Cladag, Clad, SFdS, CompStat, Kesda, SODAS, NTTS, IGARSS, ERIM, and ISI meetings. He collaborated on several European projects like Rainbow (Statistics for public administrations) and Sodas or Asso (Symbolic Data) as well as Belgian projects like "Remote sensing data analysis for deforestation in Philippines" or "Prediction of the failure of Walloon private companies".

He was member of the board of the Belgian Statistical Society from 1993 till 1997, fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, Vice-president and President of the Société Francophone de Classification (SFC) from 1995 till 1998, and Vice-president and President of the International Federation of Classification Societies in 2000 and 2001.

His contributions were in the field of stochastic geometry, non convex spatial statistics, classification, discriminant analysis, symbolic data analysis, non homogeneous Poisson process

estimation, remote sensing detection analysis, kernel density estimation, wavelet applications to signal processing and many more. He was keen to collaborate with as many researchers as possible. He was always, and at any time, doing research, even in a bar on a beer mat. Many of these scientific collaborations led to true friendships.

He liked to teach probability and statistics to students, to give them a taste of research and innovation. After a long period of illness, he passed away on January 9th, 2013.

For more memories, visit <http://www.dansnospensees.be/fr/avis-de-deces/rouwregister/09-01-2013/jean-paul-rasson>

Marcel Rémon
Namur University

Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

April 2013

JOCLAD 2013, April 11-13, Universidade do Minho - Campus de Azurém: <http://w3.math.uminho.pt/joclad2013>.

May 2013

2nd VOC conference, May 31, Antwerp, Belgium: <https://ppw.kuleuven.be/english/mesrg/voc-conference-2013/registration-form-for-the-second-voc-conference>

June 2013

Classification Society 2013 meeting, June 13-15, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: <https://sites.google.com/site/classification2013/>

July 2013

IFCS-2013, Tilburg, The Netherlands, July 14-17 www.ifcs2013.org

September 2013

27th Annual Conference of Section on Classification and Data Analysis of Polish Statistical Society "Classification and Data Analysis: Theory and Applications", Karpacz September 11-13: <http://skad2013.ue.wroc.pl>

7th Panhellenic Data Analysis Conference,
September 12-14, Kavala, Greece:
www.gsda.gr/conference

CLADAG 2013: 9th Scientific Meeting of the
Classification and Data Analysis Group of the
Italian Statistical Society, Modena,
September 18-20: <http://www.cladag2013.it>

10th Applied Statistics International Conference,
September 22-25, Ribno (Bled), Slovenia:
<http://conferences.nib.si/AS2013/>

November 2013

AG DANK autumn meeting, UCL, London,
November 8-9.

May 2014

PLS '14: 8th International Conference on PLS
and Related Methods, May 26-28, Paris, France:
www.pls14.org

Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 46

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the
IFCS newsletter should be sent to

paul.mcnicholas@uoguelph.ca

before June 25, 2013.

Plain text or Word files are preferred.

Thanks!

Paul McNicholas

IFCS Publication Officer