



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, Classification Society of North America, 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.classification-society.org/>

Designed and maintained by David Dubin. 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

IFCS is facing quite a few thrilling challenges! It is a privilege to be given the opportunity to serve the Federation in the role of President at such a time, and I very much look forward to collaborating with the IFCS Executive Committee, the IFCS Council and the broad community of researchers in classification and data analysis to move our research and interactions to a next level.

Of course, I would also like to take the opportunity to warmly thank my predecessor, Geoff McLachlan, for the involvement and the dedication with which he piloted the federation through the past two years. I look forward to continuing the collaboration with him on the Executive Committee. Otherwise, I am also most happy that Geoff accepted to act as convener of an IFCS thematic session at the forthcoming Compstat conference in Limassol, Cyprus.

Thanks also go to André Hardy for his tireless efforts to produce the IFCS Newsletter during his two terms as IFCS Publications Officer.

Finally, I would like to convey special thanks to Buck McMorris, who left the IFCS Executive Committee after serving on it for six consecutive years. However, as has already been mentioned in the previous Newsletter, Buck will retain some links with the Executive Committee as he has been co-opted to be a special advisor on the expansion by the Federation into new membership regions. I look very much forward to working with Buck on this. Otherwise, during the past few months, we received several very enthusiastic and encouraging messages that imply a significant expansion of the Federation in several directions could be feasible. I hope to be able to give you more information on this in future issues of this Newsletter.

It is further my pleasure to congratulate Maurizio Vichi on being elected the next IFCS President. Maurizio has a long record of service in the Federation and on the IFCS Council, and has been a dynamic President of SIS. The Federation is fortunate to have him now during six years on the Executive Committee (two years as President-Elect, two years as President, and two years as Past President).

Moreover, I am also very happy to welcome Paul McNicholas on the Executive Committee upon his election as the new IFCS Publications Officer. In the new millennium, we will have to come up with several new publication channels and initiatives, and I trust that with Paul the publication challenges facing the Federation are in very good hands.

One of the major IFCS initiatives in the coming two years will be the biannual conference of the Federation, IFCS-2013. I am delighted that the Department of Methodology and Statistics of Tilburg University, in cooperation with the Dutch/Flemish Classification Society (VOC), has composed an excellent bid for the organization of this conference that has been enthusiastically approved by the IFCS Council. Personally, I have already had several interactions with the local organizers, Jeroen Vermunt and Andries van der Ark, and I must say that I am most impressed by the professionalism and sound pragmatism with which they are dealing with a very demanding

conference organization. In another place of this Newsletter you will find more information about IFCS-2013 along with a first call for papers. I trust that you will mark the conference venue (Tilburg, The Netherlands) and the conference dates (July 14-17, 2013) in your calendar, and I look forward to meeting all of you in Tilburg in July 2013!

At the occasion of IFCS-2013, the Federation will award again a small number of prizes (named after the late Chikio Hayashi) to (relatively) young, promising researchers on the basis of a solid scientific track record and impact on classification research. The federation considers these prizes most important, as they may give significant support to the winners in the development of their academic career. I am very proud that once more a group of very distinguished scholars has accepted to act as the Chikio Hayashi Awards committee that will evaluate the applications for the prizes: Edwin Diday (University of Paris-Dauphine), Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter (Vienna University of Economics and Business), James Ramsay (McGill University), and Michel Wedel (chair; University of Maryland). Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find more information on the application procedure. I would like to strongly encourage all promising, young researchers in the areas of classification and data analysis to submit an application.

Finally, I would like to point out that nowadays new methods, algorithms, and data-analytic devices are very often being proposed in the classification domain without adequate comparison with current best practices or gold standards, and without sufficient evidence of good performance on benchmark data sets. This practice is prohibitive as it hampers the building of a cumulative body of knowledge. The standards within the classification domain are in this regard somewhat inferior to those in a few other disciplines (including medicine and parts of the engineering sciences) that have a more established benchmarking culture. Within the Federation, we want to answer this challenge and at a meeting in Frankfurt, the IFCS Council approved a proposal from the Executive Committee to launch a project on this. This project includes the establishment of a benchmarking task force, the current composition of which is: Christophe Biernacki, Bernd Bischl,

Nema Dean (chair), Christian Hennig, Friedrich Leisch, Geoff McLachlan, Douglas Steinley, and Iven Van Mechelen. The task force has already met a couple of times and I very much look forward to seeing preliminary results during the next few months. Moreover, several representatives of the committee agreed to contribute to an IFCS invited session on benchmarking (scientifically sponsored by both IFCS and IASC) at the World Statistics Conference (ISI) in Hong Kong, August 2013. Indeed, the Federation is facing quite a few thrilling challenges!

Iven Van Mechelen
IFCS President
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News from the IFCS Publication Officer

I would like to begin by thanking Iven Van Mechelen for his warm words of welcome and André Hardy for his help with the changeover. Thanks also to all of those who have contributed to this newsletter.

There follow short updates on several initiatives that are underway at this time.

- The IFCS website is undergoing some renovation. Soon, I expect there to be a page for upcoming conferences and meetings. This will be followed by further updates.
- From 2013, our newsletter will move to a new schedule to accommodate three newsletters per year. They will be published in March, July and November. We are doing this as part of an effort to better share information within the community.
- We expect to have book reviews in our newsletter starting with the November 2012 issue. Please contact me if you are interested in doing a book review.

Some colleagues contacted me earlier this year about adding calls for conference papers to the newsletter where the deadline was before May 31, 2012. By now, the deadlines have passed but the conferences are nonetheless very interesting. Therefore, I have included them as items later on in this newsletter.

Going forward, I hope to be able to add such calls

to the website within just a week or two of receipt. Furthermore, conferences with submission deadlines before March 31, 2013 can be advertised in the November 2012 newsletter.

Paul McNicholas
IFCS Publication Officer
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Call for Papers IFCS-2013 July 14-17, 2013 Tilburg, The Netherlands

Conference Setup

The 2013 conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) will be held at Tilburg University, The Netherlands from July 14 to July 17, 2013. The conference theme will be 'United through Ordination and Classification'.

On July 14, preconference workshops will be held. The conference itself starts on July 15 in the morning, and will close on July 17 with a full day conference program and a conference dinner. The conference will include a president's invited session and a presidential address, keynote presentations, invited presentations, invited and contributed symposia, and oral and poster presentations.

The opening session will further feature the presentation of the Chikio Hayashi Awards, which are scientific prizes for young researchers with promising track records in the areas of classification and data analysis, as a support of their professional career; for 2013,. The members of the Awards Committee are: Michel Wedel (chair), Edwin Diday, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter and James Ramsay.

Tilburg

Tilburg is a lively student city - with 200,000 inhabitants of which 30,000 are students! When you have finished your studies for the day, a short trip to the city centre takes you to theatres, cinemas, museums, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs and a concert hall – with enough variety for every taste. Or if you want to go further, other cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Cologne are within easy reach of Tilburg. Festivals are

organized throughout the year in and around Tilburg and the University. Tilburg is also host to the largest funfair in the Benelux.

Tilburg has good train connections to two major airports, Schiphol (Amsterdam) and Brussels, as well as to the smaller “budget flights” airport of Eindhoven. Tilburg University has its own train station and within town there is a good public (bus) transportation system.

Conference Topics

Contributed papers from scholars and practitioners are invited on any of the topics below as well as on related issues:

Applications in 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

Geospatial Planning

Graphics and Vision

Image Analysis and Computer Vision

Information Retrieval and Library Science

Knowledge Discovery

Linguistics and Musicology

Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition

Marketing and Management

Medical and Health Sciences

Psychology and Educational Sciences

Social Network Analysis

Statistical Data Analysis and Models

Swarm Systems

Symbolic Data Analysis

Text Mining, Web Mining, and Ontology
Learning

Visualization

Scientific Program Committee

Jeroen Vermunt (Chair, Tilburg Uni., NL)

Carlos Cuevas (Uni. Anahúac, MX).

Rozenn Dahyot (Trinity College, Dublin, IE)

Anuška Ferligoj (University of Ljubljana, SI)

Patrick Groenen (Erasmus Uni. Rotterdam, NL)

Christian Hennig (UCL, London, UK)

Krzysztof Jajuga (Uni. of Wrocław, PL)

Tae Rim Lee (Korea National Open Uni., KR)

Friedrich Leisch (Uni. Für Bodenkultur, AT)

Niel le Roux (University of Stellenbosch, ZA)

Geoff McLachlan (Uni. of Queensland, AU)

Fred R. McMorris (Illinois IT, Chicago, US)

Angelos Markos (Demo. Uni. of Thrace, GR)

Boris Mirkin (University of London, UK)

Mohamed Nadif (Uni. Paris Descartes, FR)

Rebecca Nugent (Carnegie Mellon Uni., PA, US)

Akinori Okada (Tama University, JP)

Fernanda Campos de Sousa (Uni. Porto, PT)

Iven Van Mechelen (IFCS President,
University of Leuven, BE)

Maurizio Vichi (University Rome, IT)

Claus Weihs (University Dortmund, DE)

Junjie Wu (Beihang University, Beijing, CN)

Local Organizers

Department of Methodology and Statistics,
Tilburg University in cooperation with the
Dutch/Flemish Classification Society (VOC).

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Website <http://www.ifcs2013.org>

Submission of Abstracts

Titles and abstracts should be submitted and uploaded via the conference website <http://www.ifcs2013.org> before March 1, 2013. All abstracts will be subject to a peer review process. Notifications of acceptance will be sent on April 15, 2013.

Important Dates

June 1, 2012	First call for Papers
March 1, 2013	Deadline abstract submission
April 15, 2013	Notification of acceptance
May 15, 2013	Deadline standard registration
June 15, 2013	Deadline late registration
July 14, 2013	Preconference workshops
July 15-17, '13	IFCS 2013 conference

Publications related to the conference

Special issues linked with the conference are planned in journals such as the *Journal of Classification*, *Advances in Data Analysis* and

Classification, and Computational Statistics and Data Analysis.

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

	Registration		Pre-conference
	Early	Late	Workshop
Member*	€250	€300	€50
Non-member*	€350	€420	€50
Student	€125	€150	€25

*Here, 'member' means a member of an IFCS member society.

Further information

Further information will be posted on the conference website www.ifcs2013.org

Please, note that IFCS 2013 is scheduled just after the Meeting of the German Classification Society, held in nearby Luxemburg (www.gfkl.org); and just before the International Meeting of the Psychometric Society held in nearby Arnhem, The Netherlands (www.psychometricsociety.org).

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 (this form), 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.

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

IFCS-sponsored Courses: Call for Applications

The IFCS Council has adopted a proposal from the IFCS Executive Committee to sponsor each year one course on IFCS-related topics. All individual members of the IFCS member societies are invited to consider submitting a proposal. Below, one may find the rules for sponsoring as approved by the IFCS Executive Committee.

- Eligible for sponsoring by IFCS are courses:
 - open for an international audience, in the English language, on topics within the domains of classification and data analysis as those may be typically encountered in the mainstream of IFCS conferences
 - that are supported by at least two IFCS member societies (as made clear by the explicit mentioning of members from those societies in the organizing committee)
 - that are attended by participants from at least two IFCS member societies
 - that are non-profit (in the sense that no financial gain is aimed at by the organizers)
- Pre IFCS conference workshops are excluded from sponsoring.

News from JCS

(I) The 30th Annual Research Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 30th Annual Research Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society was held at Doshisha University (Kyoto) on *March 8, 2012*. The speakers and the titles of their talks were as follows:

Simultaneous Classification and Multidimensional Scaling
Yoshikazu Terada (Osaka University)
Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University)

A Generalization of Multi-Layer Cluster Analysis
Akinori Okada (Tama University)
Satoru Yokoyama (Teikyo University)

Centrality and Overlapping Clustering for Signed Graph
Michiharu Kitano (Doshisha University)
Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University)

The Utility of Data Analysis Focusing on the Structure of Interrelationships among the Question Items
Kazufumi Manabe (Aoyama Gakuin University)

Classification of Novel written by O. Henry from Figure-ground Relationships of Characters
Tetsuya Matsu (Kobe University)
Eugene S. Kitamura (Kobe University)
Yukio-Pegio Gunji (Kobe University)

Visualization of the Curriculum Structure of Liberal Arts Education
Takao Ishizuka (Asia University)

Evaluation of Curds & Whey Method in Flexible Discriminant Analysis
Toshio Shimokawa (University of Yamanashi)
Hiroki Motogaito (GREE, Inc.)
Mitsuhiro Tusuji (Kansai University)
Masashi Goto (Biostatistical Research Association, NPO)

Normal mixture models for time censored data
Nagatomo Nakamura (Sapporo Gakuin University)
Takahiro Tsuchiya (Josai University)

- Sponsoring can only be used to cover costs directly pertaining to the organization of the course (e.g., for lecture rooms, announcements, travel costs, etc.), herewith excluding financing of teachers (except for a reimbursement of expenses). In addition to financial sponsoring, IFCS will mention the course on its website and in other media, if possible. Conversely, in all announcements of the course, IFCS has to be mentioned as sponsor.
- Requests for sponsoring shall be made to the President of IFCS by the organizer of the course, at least 6 months before the course starts. The request should contain:
 - A description of the aim of the course
 - A preliminary program of the course
 - A list of the IFCS member societies involved in the organization of the course as well as the composition of the organizing committee, which should include an IFCS Council member from a society not involved in the organization of the course
 - A description of the size and kind of the intended audience
 - A detailed budget for the course, including the height of the fees, and the amount requested from IFCS
- Decisions on sponsoring shall be made by the IFCS Executive Committee.
- Each budgetary year, only one course can be sponsored, with a maximum amount of \$1000. In this respect, the dates of the course determine with which budgetary year the course is associated.
- If the local situation of the course organizers allows to apply for matching funds, the organizers are encouraged to make use of this possibility; if needed, upon request of the organizers, the IFCS Executive Committee will state that IFCS sponsoring is granted conditional upon the awarding of matching funds.
- The sponsoring is paid after the course, upon receipt of a report on the course (mentioning at least the topics on the program, the number of participants and their countries of residence, as well as the number of days the course lasted), and a full financial account.

Nema Dean
IFCS Treasurer

(II) The 4th Japanese-German

Symposium on Classification (JGSC 2012)

JGSC 2012 was held on March 9th to 10th at Doshisha University, Kyoto Japan. The symposium was organized together with the German Classification Society (GfKI). The 1st Japanese-German Symposium on Classification was held in 2005 in Tokyo. Since then, the 2nd German-Japanese Workshop (Berlin, 2006) and the 3rd German-Japanese Workshop (Karlsruhe, 2010) have been actively organized by German and Japanese researchers in classification and related fields. The symposium included 33 talks in eight sections in which 11 German participants with 50 Japanese participants discussed and shared their insights of data analysis. This symposium aroused great interest as the research papers of the 1st and the 2nd symposium were published by Springer-Verlag in a book entitled 'Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization'. The research papers of the 3rd and the 4th Symposium will also be published by Springer-Verlag.

Atsuh Nakayama

News from CLAD

JOCLAD 2013 - Call for Participation

The XX Annual Meeting of the Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados (CLAD), JOCLAD 2013, will be held on April 10-13 2013 at the Universidade do Minho - Campus de Azurém. The web site of the meeting will be available soon.

JOCLAD 2012

The XIX Annual Meeting of the CLAD, JOCLAD 2012, was held on March 28-31 2012 at the Instituto Politécnico de Tomar. About 70 participants, among researchers, students and professionals, attended the conference.

The JOCLAD 2012 scientific program included four types of presentations: plenary sessions - "*Data Analysis and Mining of Narrative: Supporting Search and Navigation through Pattern Recognition in Narrative*" by Fionn Murtagh (Science Foundation Ireland and Department of Computer Science – University of London), "*Two-mode partitioning: State of the art*" by Iven Van Mechelen (Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences - Katholieke Universiteit Leuven), "*Intuição,*

Realidade, Análise de Dados e Inferência", by Carlos Agra Coelho (Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia - Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and "*A combinação fixo+móvel nas sondagens telefónicas*" by Paula Vicente (ISCTE - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa); thematic sessions – "*Projectos Inovadores nas Estatísticas dos Bancos Centrais*" sponsored by the Banco de Portugal, "*Desafios nas estatísticas Oficiais*" sponsored by the Instituto Nacional de Estatística; contributed papers and posters.

A short course took place on March 28: "*Introdução à Análise de Dados com R*", by Manuela Neves and Jorge Cadima. More information on the JOCLAD 2012 program can be found at the website <http://www.joclad2012.ipt.pt/>

CLAD-sponsored courses

CLAD sponsored a one day course held on February 25 at the Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto. The course, entitled "*Modelos com Classes Latentes*", was presented by José Gonçalves Dias (ISCTE- Instituto Universitário de Lisboa).

CLAD- Publication

So far CLAD has mainly sponsored publications issued from JOCLAD's meetings or from some international meetings CLAD (co-)organized (e.g. ASMDA-1999, EMPG-2001, JISS-2003, ISBIS-2007, ISMRA-2007). They appeared mostly in the form of extended abstracts books and were published by the Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE). During the year (hopefully in the first semester) of 2012 a new CLAD-Publication containing a cluster of refereed articles which were presented in previous JOCLAD meetings will be distributed. Editors are Helena Bacelar-Nicolau, Fernanda Sousa and Carlos Ferreira. Publisher is again the INE.

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau
hbacelar@fp.ul.pt

News from ClaDAG

Seventh ClaDAG Scientific Meeting, Report

The seventh ClaDAG scientific meeting was held in Pavia from September 7th to 9th, 2011. Professor Salvatore Ingrassia chaired the

Scientific Programme Committee and Professor Paolo Giudici chaired the Local Organizing Committee. The meeting registered more than 200 participants and approximately 150 talks. Three keynote lectures were given by M. Titterington, F. Palumbo and V. Batagelj.

A book of selected and extended papers will appear in the Springer series on Data Analysis and Classification and it is expected by the end of the year.

ClaDAG Scientific Council (2012-2013).

On the occasion of the last ClaDAG conference held in Pavia, the ClaDAG has partially renewed its Scientific Council. Professor Francesco (Federico II University of Naples) took turns with professor Andrea Cerioli (Univeristy of Parma) in chairing the Council. Professor Paolo Giudici (University of Pavia) has been elected as Vice President, he will be the next President in 2013. The Scientific Council has now the following composition: F. Palumbo (President), P. Giudici (Vice President), members are S. Ingrassia (University of Catania), C. Rampichini (University of Florence) and D. Vicari (Sapienza University, Rome).

Eigth ClaDAG

Scientific Meeting, Announcement

The next (8th) ClaDAG Scientific Meeting will be held in Modena from September 18th to 20th. The University of Modena and Reggio-Emilia hosts the conference and the professor Tommaso Minerva chairs the Local Organizing Committee. During its last meeting, the ClaDAG Scientific Council has indicated the following colleagues for the Scientific Programme Committee:

Francesco Palumbo, Chair, Federico II
University of Naples
Marco Alfò, Sapienza University of Rome
Stefano Campostrini, University of Padua
Maurizio Carpita, University of Brescia
Marcello Chiodi, University of Palermo
Pier Alda Ferrari, University of Milan
Leonardo Grilli, University of Florence
Salvatore Ingrassia, Univeristy of Catania
Tommaso Minerva, University of Modena and
Reggio Emilia
Isabella Morlini, University of Modena and
Reggio Emilia
Domenico Perrotta, Joint Research Centre - Ispra
Giovanna Ranalli, University of Perugia

Cinzia Viroli, University of Bologna

Other scientific events co-organized or endorsed by the ClaDAG

Analysis and Modeling of Complex Data in Behavioural and Social Sciences

Anacapri, September 2-3, 2012

The ClaDAG organizes the meeting on 'Analysis and Modeling of Complex Data in Behavioural and Social Sciences', jointly with the Japanese Classification Society. The meeting will be held in Anacapri on the enchanting isle of Capri, September 2-3th. The conference will focus on the analysis and modeling of complex data in behavioral and social sciences. The joint meeting aims at enhancing the scientific cooperation between Italian and Japanese data analysts, and at establishing new cooperation between members of the two Societies. Donatella Vicari (Italy) and Akinori Okada (Japan) co-chair the SPC, Giancarlo Ragozini chairs the LOC. The conference is also a Compstat 2012 satellite meeting; IASC members are entitled to a reduced fee. More information is available at the conference web site: <http://www.jcs-cladag12.unina.it/>.

Model Based Clustering and Classification, September 6-7th, Catania

The International meeting 'Model Based Clustering and Classification' will be held in Catania, under the auspices of the ClaDAG. Andrea Cerioli (Italy), Salvatore Ingrassia (Italy), Angela Montanari (Italy) and Roberto Rocci (Italy) are in the Scientific Committee. The workshop aims at providing a focus on the state-of-the-art research in the field of model based clustering and classification as well as a forum of scientific discussions and comparisons among young and senior researchers. More information is available at the conference WEB site: <http://www.economia.unict.it/mbc2/>

Francesco Palumbo

News from the Classification Society

The 2012 Distinguished Dissertation Award joint winners are Dr. Theodoros Damoulas for his dissertation "Probabilistic Multiple Kernel Learning" defended at the University of Glasgow,

Scotland under the supervision of Professor Mark Girolami and Dr. Ondrej Vencalek for his dissertation "Weighted Data Depth and Depth Based Discrimination" defended at the Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic under the supervision of Dr. Daniel Hlubinka.

In 2012 the Award totals US\$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC and the winners are invited to make a presentation in a special plenary session at the Classification Society's 2012 Annual Meeting.

Nema Dean

News from SFC

The 19th meeting of the French-speaking Classification Society (SFC) will be held at Marseille (France) on October 29-31, 2012: <http://sfc12.centrale-marseille.fr/>

The meeting will be organized by the engineer school Centrale Marseille. The scientific program will include sessions with invited talks and selected presentations.

The main topics of the conference are:

- * Bioinformatics
- * Classification and discrimination
- * Classification in social sciences
- * Clustering and distance analysis
- * Combinatorial methods
- * Data mining
- * Hierarchical and non-hierarchical classification
- * Image and signal analysis
- * Mathematical and statistical approaches
- * Neural networks and genetic algorithms
- * Optimization approaches
- * Representation and visualization
- * Similarities and dissimilarities
- * Symbolic data analysis
- * Trees, graphs and lattices
- * Validation

Important dates:

- Submission of short papers (2-4 pages): 17 June, 2012
- Notification of acceptance: July, 2012
- Camera-ready copy due: September, 2012.

Submission website:

<http://sfc12.centrale-marseille.fr/node/3>

Program committee: P. Bertrand; H. H. Bock; P. Brito; F. Brucker; G. Cleuziou; J. Diatta; E. Diday; A. Douzal; G. Drouet d'Aubigny; M. Elloumi; A. Gély; G. Govaert; A. Guénoche; A. Hardy; P. Kuntz; I.C. Lerman; V. Makarenkov; I. van Mechelen; E. Mephu Nguifo; A. Napoli; R. Nock; L. Ralaivola; G. Ritschard; F. Rossi; J. Saracco; R. Verde

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- * Optimization approaches
- * Representation and visualization
- * Similarities and dissimilarities
- * Symbolic data analysis
- * Trees, graphs and lattices
- * Validation

Important dates:

- * Submission of short papers (2-4 pages long): June, 2012
- * Notification of acceptance: July, 2012
- * Camera-ready copy due: September, 2012

François Brucker

SDA 2012

The 3rd Workshop in Symbolic Data Analysis (SDA 2012) will be held in Madrid, Spain, from November 7th to 9th, 2012. The SDA 2012 workshop follows the spirit of the previous editions held in Vienna and Namur, respectively, and aims to be a forum where the symbolic community comes together to share research results and experiences.

Aims And Scope

Symbolic Data Analysis is a relatively recent field (less than two decades old) that focuses on the analysis of data sets where individuals are described by variables that can represent internal variation and/or structure. Symbolic data values can be intervals, histograms, distributions, lists of values, taxonomies, etc.

The workshop presents itself as an excellent opportunity for crossover of ideas between the community members and to open the way to future cooperation between them.

This workshop invites oral presentations that contain recent developments, from a theoretical or methodological point of view, practical applications and new software tools. The workshop will also include sessions for open discussions about the recent achievements and the open challenges in the field.

Target Audience

The workshop aims to provide a forum for the symbolic community, the old and the new. Thus, people who recently became interested in the symbolic domain or who want to lay out their view on the topic are especially encouraged to participate and share their experiences with the rest of the community.

All the relevant information about SDA 2012 can be found at: <http://www.sda-workshop.org/>

Maria Paula Brito, Javier Arroyo and Carlos Maté

Joint Conference of GfKl and SFC July 10-13, 2013

Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The 2013 Joint Conference of the German Classification Society (GfKl) and the French Classification Society (SFC) will take place in July 10-13, in Luxembourg. The title of the conference will be "European Conference on Data Analysis". 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 of theory and practice. Conference language is English. Local organizer is Prof. Dr. Sabine Krolak-Schwerdt (University of Luxembourg)

and the Scientific Program Chair is Prof. Dr. Dirk Van den Poel (University of Ghent, Belgium).

The broad range of relevant topics is illustrated by the following list of intended sections. Contributed papers from scholars and practitioners are invited to any of these as well as to related topics: (1) **Theory and Methods**, including but not limited to Multivariate Methods, Exploratory Data Analysis, Clustering and Classification, Pattern Recognition and Machine Learning, Visualization and Scaling Methods, Evaluation of Methods, (2) **Data Science**, including Data Pre-Processing, Text and Web Mining, Information Extraction and Retrieval, Personalization and Intelligent Agents and (3) **Applications**, involving Marketing and Management Science, Banking and Finance, Production, Controlling and OR, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Genome and DNA Analysis, Medical and Health Sciences, Archaeology and Geography, Linguistics and Statistical Musicology, Psychology and Education, Library Science.

Participants intending to present a talk are invited to submit an abstract by email. After blind reviewing, accepted abstracts will appear in the pre-conference volume. After the presentations at the conference, authors can submit full papers to the post-conference proceedings, which will be published in the Springer Series "Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organisation".

Important Dates:

Feb. 28, 2013: Deadline for abstract submission

March 30, 2013: Notification of acceptance

July 10-13, 2013: European Conference on Data Analysis

August 30, 2013: Deadline for full paper submissions

November 15, 2013: Notification of acceptance of full paper submissions

January 15, 2014: Deadline for Camera ready paper submissions

Conference Location:

The conference will be hosted by the University of Luxembourg. Luxembourg City has been honoured as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, located at the crossroads of Europe. It is one of the three seats of the European Union's main institutions and a renowned financial service center. Luxembourg City has excellent flight and

train connections to the major cities of Europe. A stimulating program and the attractiveness of an exciting European capital will be worthwhile participating in the European Conference on Data Analysis 2013.

Sabine Krolak-Schwerdt

MBC²

Extended Deadline for Poster Session Extended Paper Submission

As mentioned within the ClaDAG report, MBC² is an International workshop on Model Based Clustering and Classification that will be held in Catania (Italy), September 6-7th, 2012.

Extended Deadline for Poster Session

The deadline for the poster session has been extended to July 15, 2012.

Extended paper submission

After the workshop, papers can be submitted for publication in a special peer-reviewed issue of the Journal [ADAC - Advances in Data Analysis and Classification](#) on "Model Based Blustering and Classification" (Guest Editors: H.H. Bock, S. Ingrassia, J. Vermunt)

Remaining Important Dates

1. June 30, 2012: Deadline for early registration (120 euro). Note: space is limited to 80 people and so early registration is encouraged.
2. July 15, 2012: Submission of an abstract (max 500 words) and some background literature (max 3 papers or technical reports) **for poster session**.
3. July 25, 2012: Notification of the acceptance of the papers for poster session
4. August 31, 2012: Submission of the slides (for oral presentations) or short papers (for poster session). Such documents will be available to the participants of the workshop.

Website: <http://www.economia.unict.it/mbc2/>

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Classification Society Meeting 2012

The Classification Society 2012 meeting will be held at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from June 14-16, 2012. The Keynote Speaker will be Doug Steinley from the University of Missouri (Psychology); the Presidential Address will be given by Rebecca Nugent from Carnegie Mellon University (Statistics). Although attendees are primarily from the United States, there are scheduled speakers from six countries. We will be honoring Bob Sokal and Phipps Arabie with memorial sessions. We will also present this year's CS Dissertation Award to Theodoros Damoulas (Cornell University) and Ondrej Vencalek (Charles University in Prague). More details can be found at <http://cs2012.stat.cmu.edu> (last year's meeting is at <http://cs2011.stat.cmu.edu>).

Rebecca Nugent

KDD-2012

The 18th ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD-2012) will take place in Beijing, China from August 12-16, 2012. Please see <http://www.kdd.org/kdd2012/> for further details.

Ming Hua

Advances in Interactive and Visual Data Clustering

There will be a special session on Advances in Interactive and Visual Data Clustering within the 16th International Conference on Information Visualisation, which will take place from July 10-13 2012, LIRMM CNRS Univ. Montpellier II, Montpellier, France. Further details are available at: <http://www.graphicslink.co.uk/IV2012/>

Gilles Venturini

Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 44

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

paul.mcnicholas@uoguelph.ca

before November 16, 2012.

Please remember that calls for papers that need to appear in the newsletter before March 31, 2013 should be in the November newsletter.

Plain text or Word files are preferred.

Thanks!

Paul McNicholas

IFCS Publication Officer