



# International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

**President:** Buck McMorris

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November 2009

**Editor:** André Hardy

**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 others:

the IFCS Constitution and By-Laws, the IFCS newsletters, and pointers to the websites of the member societies.

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## **Words from the IFCS President November 2009**

Since the last Newsletter, things have been fairly quiet. Vincenzo's Scientific Secretary report gives an update on Executive Committee activity. One particular newsworthy event is that IFCS has welcomed the Greek Society of Data Analysis (GSDA) as a new member society. I look forward to seeing many contributions to the activities of IFCS from the members of GSDA.

In January 2010, Geoff McLachlan will succeed me as President of the IFCS. One thing I know that Geoff will experience is the enthusiastic willingness of members to serve on committees and perform other tasks that are needed to keep IFCS a vital organization. Many thanks to

everyone who has responded to my requests on behalf of IFCS.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season, and a productive and healthy 2010.

**Buck McMorris,**  
**IFCS President,**  
**mcmorris@iit.edu**

## **News from the IFCS Scientific Secretary – November 2009**

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the Classification,

Here is a report on the activities run and the decisions taken by the IFCS Executive Committee (EC) and Council over the past few months:

**1. Greek Society of Data Analysis (GSDA) is a new member society of the IFCS:** Since September, after official voting of the IFCS Council, the Greek Society of Data Analysis (GSDA) has been officially accepted as a new member society of the IFCS. GSDA counts 122 members. The President of GSDA is Iannis Papadimitriou. GSDA is represented on the IFCS Council by George Menexes (gmenexes@uom.gr).

**2. IFCS new member societies:** The EC members are still pursuing previously established contacts with a group from China to investigate the possibility of submitting an application to become a new IFCS member society. Furthermore, the IFCS shall have the objective to broaden its audience and interests by addressing novel domains and groups of classification researchers outside the classical IFCS community.

**3. Representatives of IFCS member societies on the IFCS Council:** The IFCS Scientific Secretary got in touch with Presidents of the IFCS member societies whose representatives on the IFCS Council had their terms expired during the year 2009. Following these contacts, the representatives of the IFCS member societies on the IFCS Council are:

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (CLAD)

Patrice Bertrand (SFC)  
Rozenn Dahyot (IPRCS)  
Anuska Ferligoj (SSS)  
Krzysztof Jajuga (SKAD)  
Berthold Lausen (GfKI)  
Tae Rim Lee (KCS)  
George Menexes (GSDA)  
Boris Mirkin (BCS)  
Angela Montanari (CLADAG-SIS)  
Fionn Murtagh (CS)  
Akinori Okada (JCS)  
Andrzej Sokolowski (SKAD)  
Javier Trejos (SoCCCAD)  
Alfred Ultsch (GfKI)  
Maurizio Vichi (CLADAG-SIS)  
Ron Wehrens (VOC)  
Kazunori Yamaguchi (JCS)

**4. IFCS invited papers session at COMPSTAT 2010:** Henk Kiers (VOC) and Maurizio Vichi (CLADAG-SIS) are organizing an invited papers session on behalf of IFCS at COMPSTAT 2010, the 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Computational Statistics ([www.compstat2010.fr](http://www.compstat2010.fr)) taking place in Paris on 22-27 August 2010. The theme of the session will be “New developments in two or highermode clustering and in model based clustering and reduction for high dimensional data”. The following speakers are announced:

Donatella Vicari (La Sapienza University, Rome, Italy)

Iven van Mechelen (University of Leuven, Belgium)

Marieke Timmerman and Eva Ceulemans (University of Groningen, The Netherlands)

**5. IFCS'11 Conference in St. Andrews (Scotland):** The 12th Bi-Annual Conference of the IFCS will be organized by the British Classification Society and will take place in St. Andrews (Scotland) on 10-17 July 2011. Keep these dates in mind! A first announcement with preliminary information is available at: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/management/ifcs2011/>

**6. IFCS Election Committee:** The IFCS Council has approved Berthold Lausen (term till spring 2013) as a new member of the IFCS Election Committee. The Election Committee is now made of: Fionn Murtagh (CS, BCS, GfKI), Ron

Wehrens (VOC), Tae Rim Lee (KCS) and Berthold Lausen (GfKI).

**7. IFCS Elections:** At present, the IFCS Election committee is getting ready to run the election for the next IFCS President-Elect. The result of this election will be most likely known within the first quarter of 2010.

Finally, please have a look at the IFCS website ([www.classification-society.org](http://www.classification-society.org)) for the latest news on member societies, the journals officially supported by the IFCS (Journal of Classification – JoC, and Advances in Data Analysis and Classification - ADAC) and up-to-date information on the IFCS Council composition with contact details of member societies.

I take this opportunity to wish you and your beloved ones all the best for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Vincenzo Esposito Vinzi**  
**IFCS Scientific Secretary**

**About the Greek Society of Data  
Analysis (GSDA) –  
Ελληνική Εταιρία Ανάλυσης Δεδομένων  
(in Greek)**

Founded in 2001, the GSDA is a non-profit, scientific organization, whose purposes are to promote the scientific study of classification and data analysis, and to disseminate scientific and educational information related to its fields of interests. The Society presently consists of 122 members from various disciplines.

Amongst its scientific activities, the GSDA organizes a biennial Data Analysis Conference. The 5th conference of the GSDA took place in Rethymnon (Greece) last 10-12 September. More than 60 contributed papers were accepted for the conference program, in 11 sessions (1 invited). The conference was attended by 116 participants. Invited speakers were Michael Greenacre (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain), Jörg Blasius (University of Bonn, Germany), Ludovic Lebart and Bernard Burtschy (École Nationale Supérieure des Télécommunications, Paris, France) and Patrick Mair (University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna, Austria).

At this biennial conference a new board has been elected:

- President, Prof. Dr. Iannis Papadimitriou, Department of Applied Informatics, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, email: [iannis@uom.gr](mailto:iannis@uom.gr)
- Vice-President, Prof. Dr. Grigoris Kiosseoglou, Department of Psychology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, email: [kios@psy.auth.gr](mailto:kios@psy.auth.gr)
- Treasurer, Dr. George Menexes, Lab of Agronomy, School of Agriculture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, email: [gmenexes@uom.gr](mailto:gmenexes@uom.gr)
- Member, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Giannoula Florou, Department of Accounting, Technological Educational Institute of Kavala, Greece, email: [gflorou@teikav.edu.gr](mailto:gflorou@teikav.edu.gr)
- Member, Lecturer Dr. Angelos Markos, Department of Primary Education, Democritus University of Thrace, Alexandroupolis, Greece, email: [amarkos@eled.duth.gr](mailto:amarkos@eled.duth.gr)

The society is about to publish the 11<sup>th</sup> volume of “Data Analysis Bulletin”, a peer-reviewed journal which is published twice a year. The journal accepts articles in both English and Greek in the field of correspondence analysis & related methods and their applications.

It is a great honour and pleasure for the GSDA to join and contribute to the IFCS community.

GSDA IFCS representative: George Menexes, [gmenexes@agro.auth.gr](mailto:gmenexes@agro.auth.gr)

The GSDA website is at: <http://www.gsda.gr>

**Iannis Papadimitriou,**  
**President of GSDA**

## News from GfKI

**GfKI 2010: International Symposium on the Data Analysis Interface,  
Karlsruhe, Germany, July 21 - 23, 2010  
– Abstract Submission Deadline Feb. 28, 2010**

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The 34th Annual Conference of the German Classification Society -Gesellschaft für Klassifikation (GfKI), a member of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) - will focus on the interface that data analysis has in common with such areas as computer science and operations research when a best interpretation of data that describe an underlying application is at stake. 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. The program will be complemented by an advanced Japanese-German workshop on data analysis and classification. Conference languages are English and German. Participants intending to present a talk are invited to submit an abstract by email. All abstracts will undergo a reviewing process. Accepted abstracts will be distributed to the conference participants. The post-conference proceedings will be published in the Springer Series 'Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization'. Detailed information about submission and refereeing procedure as well as formatting instructions can be found on the conference website.

**Topics** addressed by GfKI 2010 are: Theory and Methods: Supervised Classification, Discrimination, Pattern Recognition, Machine Learning; Cluster Analysis and Similarity Structures; Evaluation of Clustering Algorithms; Frequent Pattern Mining; Neural Networks and Fuzzy Systems; Relational Logical Learning; Data Streams and Online Algorithms; Java Data Mining; Mixture Analysis in Clustering; Analysis of Time Series, Longitudinal and Panel Data; Multivariate Statistical Methods; Graph and Social Network Analysis; Operations Research and Data Analysis; Data Visualization and Exploration; Visualization and Scaling Methods; Exploratory Data Analysis and Mining; Recovery

of Data Structures; Data Preprocessing and Information Extraction; Tools for Intelligent Data Analysis. Applications: Marketing and Management Science; Database Marketing and CRM; Banking and Finance; Production, Controlling, and OR; Data Analysis and Revenue Management; Business Intelligence and Personalization; Image and Signal Analysis; Text Mining, Web Mining, and Ontology Learning;



Biostatistics and Bioinformatics; Genome and DNA Analysis; Medical and Health Sciences; Archaeology and Geography; Engineering and Environment; Linguistics and Statistical Musicology; Psychology; Data Analysis and Higher Education; Administrative Record Census; Subject Indexing and Library Science.

### **Important Dates:**

Feb. 28, 2010:	Deadline for abstract submission
April 15, 2010:	Notification of acceptance
July 21 - 23, 2010:	Conference
August 15, 2010:	Deadline for full paper submission
Sept. 30, 2010:	Notification of acceptance
Oct. 31, 2010:	Deadline for camera-ready papers

**Conference location:** GfKI 2010 will be held at Universität Karlsruhe (TH), Karlsruhe, Germany. Karlsruhe was founded in 1715 and became soon the official residence of Baden. It is located in the southern Rhine Valley between the mountains of the "Black Forest" on the German and the "Vosges" on the French side of the river. The unique layout of its city center - radial in shape, similar to a fan – aroused intense international interest. Today, Karlsruhe is home to Germany's two highest courts - the Federal Constitutional Court and the Federal Supreme Court - and to Universität Karlsruhe (TH), the oldest German technical university dating back to 1825 when a technical college commenced its teaching program. Now, Universität Karlsruhe (TH) and Forschungszentrum Karlsruhe have merged to

KIT (Karlsruhe Institute of Technology) and belong to the “elite” universities of Germany. In a region focused on technology and as a very important center of European research, Karlsruhe is -nevertheless- a green metropolis with a variety of cultural programs and scientific events.

**Local organizers:** Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Gaul (Chair), Prof. Dr. Andreas Geyer-Schulz, Prof. Dr. Martin E. Ruckes, Prof. Dr. Detlef Seese, Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Waldmann (Universität Karlsruhe (TH), Germany).

**Program Committee:** D. Baier (Cottbus, Germany); H.-H. Bock (Aachen, Germany); A.-L. Boulesteix (München, Germany); M.P. Brito (Porto, Portugal); J.M. Buhmann (Zurich, Switzerland); A. Cerioli (Parma, Italy); R. Decker (Bielefeld, Germany); L. de Raedt (Leuven, Belgium); W. Gaul (Karlsruhe, Germany); M. Greenacre (Barcelona, Spain); P.J.F. Groenen (Rotterdam, The Netherlands); M. Grötschel (Berlin, Germany); Ch. Hennig (London, Great Britain); K. Hornik (Vienna, Austria); O. Hudry (Paris, France); R. Klein (Augsburg, Germany); P. Kuntz (Nantes, France); G. McLachlan (Brisbane, Australia); A. Okada (Tokyo, Japan); S.T. Rachev (Karlsruhe, Germany); M. Schader (Mannheim, Germany); L. Schmidt-Thieme (Hildesheim, Germany, Chair); W. Seidel (Hamburg, Germany); M. Spiliopoulou (Magdeburg, Germany); M. Vichi (Rome, Italy); C. Weihs (Dortmund, Germany).

**Lars Schmidt-Thieme**

### **News from the Working Group for Data Analysis and Numerical Classification (AG-DANK) of the GfKI**

The 31st Fall Meeting 2009 of the AG-DANK took place at the guest house of the Aachen University of Technology (RWTH) jointly with the first German-Polish Symposium on Data Analysis and its Applications GPSDAA2009 from Thursday, Oct 8 till Saturday, Oct 10. It was invited by Hans-Hermann Bock and perfectly organized by Erhard Cramer and Udo Kamps. There were 17 talks given by members of the AG-DANK. The topics comprised clustering, robustness, model selection, validation, software, and applications to various fields, in particular problems in economics. Besides the scientific

contributions the now already traditional clustering experiment took place on Friday evening. Two numerical data sets had been previously posted at [www.fim.uni-passau/ritter](http://www.fim.uni-passau/ritter) for analysis by the participants. Five of them, among them a participant in the GPSDAA2009 from Poland, analysed the data with various methods (spectral clustering, MCLUST, PCA, and SOMs). The results gave rise to a lively discussion.

I take pleasure in announcing the publication of the report on the Fall Meeting last year at the WIAS Berlin. The WIAS Report No. 26 was edited by Joachim Mucha and myself and may be downloaded from [www.wias-berlin.de/publications](http://www.wias-berlin.de/publications) -> Publications -> WIAS-Publications. You obtain a printed version by contacting [mucha@wias-berlin.de](mailto:mucha@wias-berlin.de).

**Gunter Ritter**

### **First Bilateral German-Polish Symposium on Data Analysis and its Applications RWTH Aachen University, 8-10 October 2009**

About 25 years ago, the 1<sup>st</sup> IFCS Conference (IFCS-87) was held at RWTH Aachen University in Germany with the title 'Classification and related methods of data analysis' (29.6. to 1.7. 1987). For this conference the organizers from the German Classification Society (GfKI) had invited a dozen of Polish scientists from the field of data analysis and classification that thereby had the opportunity to get in contact with their 'Western' colleagues, in particular also with those from the former FRG, some for the first time in their life. In the following years, these contacts were intensified and extended in various ways, and Polish scientists were regularly attending the annual GfKI conferences. In 2003 SKAD was even co-organizer of the annual GfKI conference in Cottbus. Considering these multiple mutual contacts, the time was ready to organize also special joint meetings for members from GfKI and members from SKAD.

Such a meeting, the *First German-Polish Symposium on Data Analysis and its Applications (GPSDAA-2009)* took place in October 2009, again at RWTH Aachen University: The organizers, Prof. Dr. Udo Kamps and Prof. Dr. Erhard Cramer from the Institute of Statistics of

RWTH had invited 24 Polish and German scientists for a three-day meeting in the familiar atmosphere of the university guesthouse. The scientific program was compiled by Prof. Dr. Jozef Pocięcha (Cracow) und Prof. Dr. H.-H. Bock (RWTH Aachen). The meeting was combined with the traditional Fall Meeting of the working group DANK (DatenAnalyse and Klassifikation) of GfKI with 8 participants, organized by Prof. Dr. Gunter Ritter (Passau).

The scientific program comprised 25 presentations in all, divided into 9 sections with titles:

- Data analysis and statistics (3 sections)
- Clustering methods (3 sections)
- Data analysis in finance
- Data analysis in economics
- Data analysis in social and cultural sciences.

This program provided an interesting mixture of theoretical topics and subject-oriented applications in various fields. It can be seen, together with the abstracts, at the conference website <http://gpsdaa2009.rwth-aachen.de>.

In addition to the scientific exchange of information and experience the participants enjoyed a very nice social program including a city tour, a visit to Charlemagne's cathedral and its treasury, and a stimulating evening dinner in a rotating restaurant on a hill near Aachen. Note that the conference had been kindly supported by the German Research Foundation DFG. A similar meeting is scheduled for 2011 in Cracow, suggested and organized by Jozef Pocięcha.

**H.-H. Bock**

**Joint Meeting GfKI – CLADAG  
8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> September 2010 - Firenze (Italy)**

**Organized by  
the Classification and Data Analysis Group of  
the [Italian Statistical Society](#)  
& the German Classification Society**

"Following a biennial tradition, the Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society - CLADAG will have its international meeting in 2010 jointly with the German Classification Society - GfKI.

The conference serves the aim to deepen existing scientific cooperation between Italian and

German data analysts, to establish new cooperation between members of the two societies, and to provide a forum for exchange of ideas between them. We do hope that this call will arouse your interest in taking part in the conference."

**Scientific Program Committee**

Antonio Giusti (co-chair)	Gunter Ritter (co-chair)
Filippo Domma	Daniel Baier
Luigi Fabbris	Reinhold Decker
Andrea Giommi	Christian Hennig
Carlo Lauro	Berthold Lausen
Isabella Morlini	Hermann Locarek-Junge
Gabriele Soffritti	Lars Schmidt-Thieme
Rosanna Verde	Alfred Ultsch
Donatella Vicari	Claus Weihs

**Local Organizing Committee**

Andrea Giommi (chairman)

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Bruno Bertaccini  
Matilde Bini  
Antonio Giusti  
Anna Gottard  
Leonardo Grilli  
Riccardo Innocenti  
Alessandra Mattei  
Alessandra Petrucci  
Carla Rampichini  
Emilia Rocco

**Session arrangement**

- Plenary sessions.
- Specialized sessions.
- Contributed sessions (self-organized sessions are encouraged).

**Conference language: English**

Deadlines (for contributed papers, included the ones in the self-organized sessions)

- a) Title and pre-registration: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- b) Abstract: April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- c) Notification to Authors: May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010.
- d) Abstract final version and payment of the registration fee: June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- e) Extended paper submission (Springer

volume): November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

An automatic web procedure for Title, Abstract and Post-conference proceeding submission will be arranged.

### Venue

The Joint Meeting GfKl – CLADAG will be held in Firenze at the “Polo Universitario delle Scienze Sociali”, Via delle Pandette.

<http://www.polosociale.unifi.it/CMpro-v-p-20.html>

### Information:

Bruno Bertaccini, Alessandra Mattei.

**e-mail:** [gfkl\\_cladag2010@ds.unifi.it](mailto:gfkl_cladag2010@ds.unifi.it)

**website:** <http://gfkl-cladag.ds.unifi.it>

**Fax:** +39 0554223560

Local Organizing Committee Gfkl - Cladag  
Department of Statistics  
University of Firenze  
Viale Morgagni, 59  
I - 50134 FIRENZE (Italy)

### Conference Themes (for the classification of the contributed papers)

#### Classification Theory

T1. Fuzzy Methods – T2. Hierarchical Classification – T3. Non Hierarchical Classification – T4. Pattern Recognition – T5. Bayesian Classification – T6. Classification of Multi-way and Functional Data – T7. Probabilistic Methods for Clustering – T8. Consensus of Classifications – T9. Spatial Clustering – T10. Validity of Clustering – T11. Neural Networks and Machine Learning Methods for Classification – T12. Genetic Algorithms – T13. Classification with Constraints – T14. Mixture and Latent Class Models for Clustering.

#### Multivariate Data Analysis

D1. Categorical Data Analysis – D2. Correspondence Analysis – D3. Bi-plots – D4. Factor Analysis and Dimension Reduction Methods – D5. Discrimination and Classification – D6. Multi-way Methods – D7. Symbolic Data Analysis – D8. Non Linear Data Analysis –

D9. Bayesian Multivariate Analysis – D10. Multilevel Analysis – D11. Covariance Structure Analysis – D12. Partial Least Squares – D13. Regression and Classification Trees – D14. Robust Methods and Data Diagnostics – D15. Spatial Data Analysis – D16. Graphical Methods – D17. Nonparametric and Semi-parametric Regression – D18. Causal Analysis – D19. Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery.

#### Proximity Structure Analysis

P1. Multidimensional Scaling – P2. Similarities and Dissimilarities – P3. Unfolding and Other Special Scaling Methods – P4. Multi-way Scaling.

#### Software Developments

S1. Algorithms for Classification - S2. Data Visualization - S3. Algorithms for Multivariate Data Analysis.

#### Applied Classification and Data Analysis

A1. Classification of Textual Data – A2. Data Analysis in Business Administration, Economics and Finance – A3. Data Analysis in Environmental Sciences – A4. Classification in Medical Science – A5. Cognitive Sciences and Classification – A6. Classification in Biology and Ecology – A7. Data Analysis in Demography – A8. Classification of Microarray Data – A9. Data Analysis for Customer Satisfaction and Service Quality Evaluation – A10. Applications of Data and Web Mining – A11. Business Intelligence – A12. Geospatial Data Analysis – A13. Classification in Signal Analysis.

**Antonio Giusti**

### News from the Classification Society, the British Classification Society, and IFCS 2011

#### The Classification Society Dissertation Award supported by Chapman and Hall/CRC

The Award will be for the best PhD (or approximately equivalent doctoral) dissertation nominated by an annual deadline. The theme is clustering, classification, related areas of data analysis, encompassing both associated theory and/or applications.

Typical criteria for nomination for the Award include: (i) the most innovative or impressive work in theory/methodology, or the most innovative or well developed application(s); and (ii) the literature review has to be thorough. For the next submission deadline, 1 January 2010, nominated PhDs have to have been successfully completed in the 2009 calendar year.

Nominations are to be made through the evaluation committee chair and will be received from the author (PhD), their advisor/supervisor, or other related person. Nomination includes the name and contact points, an online copy of the dissertation, and a short description of why the dissertation merits the award (see above). Web-accessible versions of the nomination and dissertation must be made available. Printed copies may be requested.

For non-English language theses, it is requested to provide an extended abstract, and (where relevant) pointers to papers associated with the thesis that have been published.

In 2010 the Award totals US\$500 in book vouchers from Chapman and Hall/CRC. The winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special plenary session at the CS Annual Meeting. Up to \$500 of the Award winner's travel expenses to the Annual Meeting will be covered by CS.

Contact for information and nominations: Dr. Samantha C. Bates Prins, prinssc (at) jmu (.) edu . More information on the award can be found at the CS website: [www.classification-society.org/csna](http://www.classification-society.org/csna)

## **2010 Classification Society Annual Meeting, June 17-19, 2010.**

Venue: [Farrell Learning and Teaching Center](#)  
Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis.

The schedule is June 17-19 and possibly June 16th for short courses. The meeting will again be held at the Farrell Learning Center at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. Local host is Bill Shannon (wshannon at wustl.edu) and organizing committee includes Drs Bates-Prins (prinssc at jmu.edu), Dubin (ddubin at illinois.edu), Steinley (steinleyd@missouri.edu), and Tanenbaum (Erin.Tanenbaum at nielsen.com).

Proposals now accepted for (1) short courses on June 16th, and (2) invited sessions. ©

Contact: Bill Shannon, PhD ©Associate Professor of Biostatistics in Medicine ©Washington University School of Medicine St. Louis, MO. ©Telephone 314-454-8356, wshannon at wustl dot edu

## **News from the British Classification Society**

A meeting and Annual General Meeting of the British Classification Society is being held on 20 November 2009 at Royal Holloway, University of London. There will be presentations by Dr Berthold Lausen (Department of Mathematical Sciences, University of Essex) and Pedro Contreras (Departement of Computer Science, RHUL).

## **News from IFCS 2011 – International Federation of Classification Societies 2011 Conference**

Venue: University of St Andrews, Scotland's oldest university, founded in 1411 by the medieval Scottish Church and King James I of Scotland. Be sure to be in St Andrews at IFCS 2011, for the sexcentary of St Andrews. St Andrews is well-known as the "Home of Golf", where the rules of golf are set by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, founded in 1764. See <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/business/ifcs201> for a preliminary page.

Now is an excellent time to propose the organisation of sessions at IFCS 2011!

**Buck McMorris, Geoff McLachlan, David Hand, David Wishart (organisation) and Fionn Murtagh (chair, fmurtagh at acm dot com)**



## News from JCS

### (I) Reporting Result of Election for the Executive Members of JCS

The new staff of the Japanese Classification Society was elected as the following list according to the articles of the JCS for electing the Executive Members. The tenure is for *April 1, 2009 - March 31, 2011*.

#### PRESIDENT:

Yasumasa Baba  
The Institute of Statistical Mathematics  
10-3 Midori-cho, Tachikawa, Tokyo 190-8562, Japan  
Tel: +81-(0)50-5533-8500  
baba@ism.ac.jp

#### SECRETARIAT MEMBERS:

##### Secretary

Atsuhiko Hayashi  
Kyushu University Center for Research and Advancement in Higher Education  
6-10-1 Hakozaki Higashi-Ku Fukuoka, 812-8581, Japan  
Tel: +81-92-642-4489  
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hayashi@rche.kyushu-u.ac.jp

##### General affairs

###### Treasurer

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#### Auditors

Kazuo Shigemasu, Teikyo University  
Fumi Hayashi, Toyo Eiwa Women's University

#### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kouhei Adachi, Tadashi Imaizumi, Akinori Okada, Noboru Ohsumi, Yutaka Kano, Akinobu Takeuchi, Takahiro Tsuchiya, Yuki Toyoda, Atsuhiko Hayashi, Masahiro Mizuta, Masakatsu Murakami, Hiroshi Yadohisa, Keiji Yajima, Haruo Yanai, Kazunori Yamaguchi, Yoshiro Yamamoto, Ryoza Yoshino

### (II) Information about 25th Annual Research Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society

The 25th Annual Research Meeting is in the planning stage to be held on February, 2010. The detailed announcement will be appeared on the JCS Web-page as <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/jcs/> in the future.

Yoshiro Yamamoto

## News from VOC

On November 12 and 13, the VOC returned to the city of its origin, Wageningen, to celebrate its twentieth anniversary. The symposium was attended by about fifty people; two sponsors, Biometris (Wageningen), and the Institute of Molecules and Materials (Radboud University Nijmegen), provided financial support to make this symposium possible. The programme covered a broad gamut of subjects, with focal points on psychometrics and biostatistics, and featured twelve speakers.

Trudy Dehue opened the meeting with a philosophy-of-science point of view on classification, in particular concentrating on the question why depression seems to become much more prevalent in developed countries nowadays. The session on biological and social networks contained contributions by Age Smilde, Christian Steglich, Cajo ter Braak and Marcel Reinders. It was a good example of a typical VOC-session, where speakers from very diverse fields find common ground.

The morning of the second day was devoted to psychometrics and featured speakers from Leuven (Iven Van Mechelen, Francis Tuerlinckx),

Amsterdam (Ingmar Visser, Han van der Maas) and Leiden (Marian Hickendorff). In the final session, again devoted to biostatistics, Ritsert Jansen talked about gene and QTL networks, and Mark van der Laan from UC Berkeley presented very good results for a strategy that combines super learning (aggressive use of crossvalidation to combine many different models) with targeted maximum-likelihood estimation.

During the meeting, the brand new website of the VOC was presented as well - you can have a look at <http://www.voc.ac>. There, you also will find information on membership benefits, newsletters, and activities of the VOC, such as the upcoming spring meeting 2010.

**Ron Wehrens**

## News from SFC

### Elections

- Gilles Venturini (University of Tours) has been elected as President of the SFC
- François-Xavier Jollois (University of Paris) has been elected as treasurer of the SFC
- Guillaume Cleuziou (University of Orléans) has been elected as Editor of the SFC Newsletter
- André Hardy (University of Namur) has been reelected as secretary of the SFC.

**André Hardy,  
SFC Secretary**

## SFC'2009

The 16th Meeting of the French Speaking Classification Society (SFC 2009) organized by the TIMC laboratory (<http://www-timc.imag.fr/>) in collaboration with LIG, GIPSA-lab and LJK laboratories took place from 2 to 4 September in Grenoble. The meeting held on the campus of the

University Joseph Fourier (UJF) in the buildings of the Science Department and Applied Mathematics (UFRIMA) and the "Maison Jean Kuntzmann" (MJK). The meeting held on the campus of the University Joseph Fourier (UJF) in the buildings of the Science Department and Applied Mathematics (UFRIMA) and the "Maison Jean Kuntzmann" (MJK).

About 80 researchers coming from different countries participated to this meeting in a very friendly ambiance and 44 papers selected by the program committee were presented during the three days of the conference.

To reinforce the traditional links between SFC and CLADAG, a common session was organized the Thursday afternoon allowing to present 5 papers selected by the Italian program committee. There were 5 invited speakers during this conference:

- Michel Verleysen (UCL, Belgique) : "Réduction non-linéaires de dimension et visualisation"
- Niclías Vayatis (ENS Cachan) : "Ordonnement et optimisation de la courbe ROC"
- François Denis (Univ. Provence) : "Inférence de langages stochastiques rationnels"
- Bernard Fichet (Univ. Aix Marseille) : "Approximation en norme du supremum : simplicité et complexité"
- Jean-Michel Poggi (Univ. Orsay et Paris Descartes) : "Forêts aléatoires : importance et sélection de variables".

The proceedings of the conference and the slides of some of the invited talks can be downloaded on the web site of the conference (<http://sfc-2009-grenoble.imag.fr/>) as well as some photos of the conference dinner which held at « la Bastille » situated on top of a mountain overlooking the Grenoble town.

Following this conference a new call for papers will be issued in December to allow the participants and more generally the members of the classification community to publish an extended version of their papers in the French journal RNTI (<http://www.antsearch.univ-tours.fr/rnti/>).

The next seventeenth Meeting of the "Société Francophone de Classification" (SFC 2010) will be held in Reunion island, a French overseas

department, June 9-11, 2010. All the information are on the web site: <http://sfc2010.univ-reunion.fr>

*Alhame Douzal  
Gilles Bisson*

## **SFC'2010**

The seventeenth Meeting of the French Speaking Classification Society (SFC2010: <http://sfc2010.univ-reunion.fr>) will be held in Reunion island, a French overseas department, June 9-11, 2010.

Papers in English are accepted as well.

Important dates and deadlines:

- January 15: Short abstract due (200 words)
- January 22: Extended abstract due (2 to 4 pages)
- March 12: Notification to authors
- April 16 : Final version due

Tutorials in French will be organized on June 7, 8, 2010:

- Data analysis of complex data (E. Diday)
- The R software (G. Ritschard)
- Data mining and prediction (G. Saporta and M de Bollivier).

**Jean DIATTA**

## **IFCS-sponsored courses: Call for applications**

In its meeting at the Dresden conference, the IFCS Council has adopted a proposal from the IFCS Executive Committee to sponsor each year one course on IFCS-related topics. **The call for applications is now open!** 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 Council.

- 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.
- 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 \$750. 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.

**Iven Van Mechelen**  
**IFCS Treasurer**

### **Special issue of ADAC related to IFCS-09**

The journal 'Advances in Data Analysis and Classification (ADAC)' has edited a special issue with seven papers that were presented during the conference IFCS-09 in Dresden (March 2009) and have passed the ADAC reviewing process. This issue contains the following articles:

- Francois Brucker, Alain Gely: *Parsimonious cluster systems*
- Francois Bavaud: *Aggregation-invariance in general clustering*
- Véronique Carou: *Comparison of three hypothesis testing approaches for the selection of the appropriate number of clusters of variables*
- Christoforos Anagnostopoulos, Dimitris K. Tasoulis, Niall M. Adams, David J. Hand: *Temporally adaptive estimation of logistic classifiers on data streams*

- Domenico Perrotta, Marco Riani, Francesca Torti: *New robust dynamic plots for regression mixture detection*
- Stephan Dlugosz, Ulrich Müller-Funk: *The value of the last digit – fraud detection with digit analysis*
- Jean Diatta: *On critical sets of a finite Moore family: the case of weak hierarchies*
- Bernard Fichet: *Metrics of  $L_p$ -type and distributional equivalence principle*
- Yoshio Takane, Sunho Jung: *Tests of ignoring and eliminating in nonsymmetric correspondence analysis*

These articles are already available in electronic form, the paper version of the special issue will be sent out in December 2009 to the subscribers. (Note that, additionally, a Proceedings volume of IFCS-09 is in preparation, will be published in 2010, and sent to the participants of the conference.)

**Hans Bock**

### **COMPSTAT 2010**

The COMPSTAT 2010 symposium will take place in Paris, August 22- August 27, in the premises of Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers (CNAM), located in the heart of Paris. Contributed papers as well as posters are welcome in the following fields :

- Biostatistics, Bio-computing and Genomics
- Categorical Data Analysis
- Clustering and classification
- Computational Bayesian Methods
- Computational Econometrics and Finance
- Data Mining
- Design of Experiments
- Functional Data Analysis
- Graphical Models
- Graphics and Data Visualization
- Machine Learning and Support Vector Machine

- Numerical methods and software
- Multivariate Data Analysis
- Nonparametric Statistics and Smoothing
- Risk Analysis
- Robustness
- Simulation and Resampling Methods
- Spatial Statistics and image analysis
- Symbolic Data Analysis
- Time Series Analysis and signal processing

The deadline for submitting a contributed paper or a poster presentation is January 10, 2010.

Best contributed papers will be published together with invited papers in the proceedings book by Physica Verlag.

Three prizes of 500 € each will be granted for the best contributions of young researchers (all coauthors under 35)

Refer to the website <http://www.compstat2010.fr/> for details about submission and registration.

**Three keynote lectures will be given by:**

- Luc Devroye McGill University, Montreal
- Lutz Edler German Cancer Research Center, Heidelberg
- David Hand Imperial College, London

**Three tutorials will be organized:**

- Bayesian computation method
  - \* Organiser : Jean-Michel Marin ( Université Montpellier II, France)
- Machine learning and association rules
  - \* Organisers : Petr Berka, Jan Rauch (University of Economics, Prague, Czech Republic)
- Statistical approaches for complex data
  - \* Organiser : Lynne Billard (University of Georgia, United States)

The programme of the 14 invited sessions is now

available on the website  
<http://www.compstat2010.fr/>

Contact e-mail: info@compstat2010.fr

**Gilbert Saporta**  
**Chairman of COMPSTAT 2010**

**ISBIS-2010**

The Biennial International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS-2010) will be held in Portorose (Slovenia), June 5-9, 2010. ISBIS-2010 will be focused on important contemporary statistical issues in Business, Industry and Financial Services. For more informations:

<http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010>

**Erasmus Mundus Master Course  
 Data Mining & Knowledge  
 Management.**

**A European Master in Data Mining and  
 Knowledge Management**

The primary social and economic value of modern societies is knowledge. For this reason, mastery of Information technology for structured or unstructured information recorded in Data warehouses such as the web and containing dormant knowledge is indispensable for the development of both the individuals and the society where they live. *Data mining* and *knowledge management* (DMKM) have become essential for improving the competitiveness of businesses and increasing access to knowledge. DMKM still, however, comes up against major scientific and technological obstacles.

The **Erasmus Mundus Master Course in Data Mining and Knowledge Management (DMKM)** proposes specialist training in this field. This is a two years course.

The higher education consortium that organizes the master is composed of six universities in four countries:

- France (University Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris 6, University Lumière Lyon 2, Polytech'Nantes - Polytechnic Graduate School of Nantes University),
- Romania (Technical University of Bucharest),
- Italy (University of Eastern Piedmont Amedeo Avogadro) and
- Spain (Technical University of Catalonia)

The Master's in DMKM is based on experience in multi-site teaching gained from the Master's degree in Knowledge Extraction from Data, which has been running since 1999 within three members of the consortium. The Master's in DMKM is aimed at students from all over the world. Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree (or equivalent) in *computer science*, *applied mathematics* or *statistics*, as well as a good level of English (TOEFL 550 or equivalent). Admission is granted on the basis of a selection procedure. Classes are taught in English and the course is composed of 18 modules of around sixty hours each.

The course runs over 4 semesters on at least two countries of the European Union. The first semester is devoted to basic training that includes theoretical mathematics, statistics, databases, logic, knowledge representation etc. whereas the two following semesters are dedicated to acquire 2 specialities among 6 in "E-Science", "Data Mining and Complex System Modelling, Application in Social Science", "Knowledge and Decision", "Statistical Modelling and Data Mining", "Web Semantic" and "Relational Data Mining". The fourth semester is devoted to the writing of a dissertation in either a laboratory or a company.

Language classes will also be provided to ensure that students integrate as well as possible in socio-cultural terms in the host country. Each student must spend (6-12) months in at least two of the 4 countries. Students that have obtained 120 ECTS, will automatically obtain national Master's degrees from the countries in which they have studied. Classes are transmitted via video-conferencing. They are also recorded and accessible on line. Students can benefit, on their site of residence, from support in the form of tutoring for each course. Tuition fees are 4,000 €

for European students and 8,000 € for other students.

The European Union provides up to 20 scholarships that covers transportations, subsistence and tuition fees. It offers also up to 6 scholarships to scholars. The deadlines for applications are:

- 2 January 2010 for Scholarships for Non European students and scholars
- 15 April 2010 for Scholarships for European students
- 20 June 2010 for DMKM Master Course

[www.em-dmkm.eu](http://www.em-dmkm.eu)

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**Contributions for the coming issue of the IFCS newsletter can be sent to:**

[andre.hardy@fundp.ac.be](mailto:andre.hardy@fundp.ac.be)

Text files are by preference in ascii or word, with pc format. For graphical materials, by preference GIF is used.

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