ifcs

International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

President: Iven Van Mechelen   Number 44   November, 2012

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 Carribean 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

During the past few months, the local organizers of the forthcoming IFCS-2013 meeting in Tilburg (The Netherlands) have been working diligently on the preparation of the conference, in consultation with the IFCS-2013 Scientific Program Committee and the IFCS Executive Committee. These efforts have been very successful, leading to the foundations of a most impressive conference program, with seven distinguished invited speakers, eleven thematic invited sessions (that cover a broad range of IFCS-related topics), and four interesting pre-conference tutorials. More information on all of this, as well as many practical details, can be found on the conference website: www.ifcs2013.org. In this Newsletter you will find a second call for papers, with an invitation to submit both individual papers and proposals for thematic sessions. Let me warmly encourage all of you to respond to this call at your earliest convenience!

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, at the occasion of IFCS-2013, the Federation will again

award a small number of Chikio Hayashi prizes to (relatively) young, promising researchers on the basis of a solid scientific track record and impact on classification research. For researchers in earlier stages of their scientific career, it is typically quite a challenge to fill out the honors and awards section of their CV. I trust that a Chikio Hayashi Award will imply a significant support at this point, especially so if one takes into account that the 2013 Chikio Hayashi Awards committee comprises once again a group of very distinguished scholars. Elsewhere in this Newsletter you will find more information on the application procedure, and the application form can be downloaded from the IFCS2013 website. Let me strongly encourage once again all promising, young researchers in the areas of classification and data analysis to submit an application!

As also mentioned in the previous Newsletter, the IFCS has launched a benchmarking task force. This will help to address the problem that, nowadays, new methods, algorithms, and data-analytic devices are very often proposed within the classification domain without adequate comparison with current best practices or gold standards, and without sufficient evidence of performance on benchmark data sets. Since the appearance of the previous Newsletter, this task force has had an intensive two-day meeting, during which significant progress has been made on several initiatives to support and promote benchmarking within the classification domain. More details on this will be communicated within the next few months. Moreover, in addition 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), several members of the task force will also contribute to a plenary Presidential invited session on benchmarking at the forthcoming IFCS-2013 conference in Tilburg.

One of the other challenges IFCS wants to address in the coming year is establishing more effective communication with the IFCS member societies and their individual members. Key elements at this point include an upgrade of the IFCS website (which will have a new URL, owned by the federation, www.ifcs.info). This upgrade will imply a more flexible and regular updating of information, and the addition of a calendar with up-to-date information on conferences and other scientific activities that may be relevant for significant parts of the IFCS community. Moreover, the IFCS website will also be given a pivotal role in the distribution of information resulting from the IFCS task force on benchmarking, including a broad repository of benchmarking data sets. All these changes will go with a migration of the IFCS website to the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU) in Vienna, Austria. This migration implies the closing of a very lengthy period in which David Dubin served as IFCS webmaster. At this occasion, I would like to take the opportunity to warmly thank Dave for the invaluable efforts he has paid to the federation during so many years. I would also like to thank Friedrich Leisch and his co-workers at BOKU for their hospitality and their invaluable help in the setting up of the new website. And of course, many thanks also go to IFCS Publications Officer Paul McNicholas for all his efforts on this project.

A second element in the establishment of a more effective communication will be the publication of three (rather than two) issues per year of the Newsletter. We hope that this will allow us to be right on the ball for spreading more urgent information (including various calls, and announcements of scientific meetings). Moreover, the publication of this additional issue will also go with the introduction of a new book reviews section. More information on this and on the deadlines for submitting contributions for the different issues of the Newsletter can be found further on in the present issue. Enjoy the reading!

Iven Van Mechelen
IFCS President

News from the IFCS Scientific Secretary

During the past year, several proposals were put to an electronic Council vote. Below, you may find information on these proposals and on the voting results (items 1–4), together with the composition of the Chikio Hayashi Awards Committee for the next IFCS conference, IFCS-2013 (item 5).

1. Vote on a proposal of the IFCS Executive Committee on the financial involvement of the

federation in IFCS conferences (December, 2011 – January, 2012)

During the Frankfurt meeting, several IFCS Council members informally suggested revising the rules for the financial involvement of the federation in IFCS conferences. These suggestions were motivated because of the risk the organization of an IFCS conference implies for the organizing IFCS member society, especially in view of the global financial crisis.

The IFCS Conference Guidelines had been based on the principle of an equilibrium: On the one hand, the federation did not bear any conference risks, but on the other hand, the federation did not claim any share in a possible conference profit. Up to now, the financial involvement of the federation has further been limited to the possibility of a loan (up to USD 10,000), to be paid back within six months after the conference.

The IFCS Council approved a proposal of the IFCS Executive Committee to modify the financial involvement of the federation in the organization of IFCS conferences as follows: The federation may share the financial risk of the conference organization with the conference organizers, 50% for the federation and 50% for the organizers, up to a maximum of USD 10,000 for the federation; the federation will then also share the possible profit of the conference organization with the conference organizers, with the same distribution as for the risk, 50% for federation and 50% for the organizers, and with the same maximum amount of USD 10,000 for the federation. The IFCS Council finally approved the greater financial involvement of the federation be accompanied by a somewhat greater involvement in the conference organization.

2. Vote on the bid from Tilburg/VOC to host the conference IFCS-2013 (March 2012)

The IFCS Council has approved the Tilburg/VOC bid for the organization of IFCS-2013.

3. Election of a new member of the Finance Committee (August - September 2012)

As the term of Stanley L. Sclove (CS) on the IFCS Finance Committee recently expired, one position of member on this Committee had to be filled. Daniel Baier (GfKl; Brandenburgische Technische Universität, Cottbus, Germany) was nominated for this position by the IFCS Executive Committee, and he accepted this nomination. This nomination was subsequently approved by a formal Council vote.

The current composition of the Finance Committee is then as follows:
Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (CLAD), 'til 31/12/2014
Vladimir Batagelj (SSS), until 31/12/2014
Krzysztof Jajuga (SKAD), until 01/01/2013
Daniel Baier (GfKl), until 31/12/2015

4. Approval of the Minutes of the Council meeting in Frankfurt (August - September 2012)

The IFCS Council has approved the text of the Minutes of the Council meeting in Frankfurt.

5. Chikio Hayashi Awards Committee (IFCS-2013 – Tilburg, The Netherlands)

The composition of the Chikio Hayashi Awards Committee for the IFCS-2013 conference (Tilburg, The Netherlands) is as follows:
Edwin Diday (University of Paris-Dauphine)
Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter (Vienna University of Economics and Business)
James Ramsay (McGill University)
Michel Wedel (University of Maryland), chair
Patrice Bertrand (University of Paris-Dauphine), ex officio as IFCS Secretary

Patrice Bertrand
IFCS Scientific Secretary

News from the IFCS Publication Officer

I would like to begin by thanking all of the member societies who have contributed to this newsletter. I mentioned in the last newsletter that the IFCS website was undergoing some reneovation. The initial fruits of this work can be seen at www.ifcs.info. Echoing Iven's comments, I want to thank Dave Dubin for his service to the IFCS over the past years. I also want to thank Fritz Leisch and Robert Wiedermann, with whom it has been a pleasure to work on the new website. The content currently at www.ifcs.info is just the beginning and we expect further updates, including a page devoted to conferences organized by member societies, shortly. As I also mentioned last time, anybody interested in carrying out a book review is encouraged to contact me.

Paul McNicholas
IFCS Publication Officer

Second Call for Papers
IFCS-2013
July 14-17, 2013
Tilburg, The Netherlands

The IFCS-2013 conference will be held in Tilburg, The Netherlands, from July 14 to July 17. We are working hard on the organization of the conference, more and more details have been handled, and the website (www.ifcs2013.org) contains a tentative skeleton program schedule, information on the invited speakers, the preconference workshops, the current invited thematic sessions, the social events, lodging, important dates, Chikio Hayashi awards, and fees. Information on the conference dinner will be added soon. Within a few weeks, abstracts can be uploaded via the website.

In this second call for papers, we would like you to consider organizing a thematic symposium. A symposium consists of four presentations by different presenters on the same topic (or three papers and a discussant). The advantage of a symposium is a homogeneous session on a certain theme, which will put the topic in the spotlights. There are no financial benefits for symposiums. Proposals for symposiums can be send to info@ifcs2013.org (until December 31).

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 Japanese Classification Society Symposium on Data Analysis and Classification: Its Theory and Applications

The symposium was held on September 8, 2012 at Hokkaido University, Sapporo under the 2012 Japanese Joint Statistical Meeting. The organizer, discussant, speakers, and the title of their papers were as follows:

- Organizer: Koji Kurihara (Okayama University)
- Discussant: Yasumasa Baba (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics)
- *New Turns of Constrained Cluster Analysis* Akinori Okada (Tama University)
- *Applicability of Symbolic MDS for large dissimilarity data* Yoshikazu Terada (Osaka University) and Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University)
- *Classification and Application for Spatial data using Echelon analysis* Fumio Ishioka and Koji Kurihara (Okayama University)

- *On how to use data analysis to accomplish our research goals*
  Tadashi Imaizumi (Tama University)

(II) Joint meeting of the Japanese and Italian Classification Societies (JCS - CLADAG 2012)
The meeting was held on September 3 to 4, 2012 at Villa Orlandi in Anacapri (Capri Island, Italy). The Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society (CLADAG) and the Japanese Classification (JCS) society jointly organized the meeting. The 24 sections were given on Analysis and Modeling of Complex Data in Behavioural and Social Sciences. Participants form Italy and other countries as well as about 30 Japanese participants discussed, shared, and enjoyed the new sight of data analysis and good atmosphere of the meeting as well. We would like to say thank the CLADAG who ran the meeting at such a nice place.

(III) Notice of the 31st Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society
The annual meeting will be held in March, 2012 at Chuo University, Tokyo. For additional information, please visit our website at
http://www.bunrui.jp.

Atsuho Nakayama

News from CLAD

New elected CLAD Officers
The Executive Committee, General Assembly and Fiscal Council of CLAD for the years 2012-2014 are the following:

Executive Committee
President: Fernanda Sousa (FEUP, Universidade do Porto);
Vice-President: José Gonçalves Dias (ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa);
Secretary: Carlos Marcelo (INE, Instituto Nacional de Estatística);
Secretary: Nuno Lavado (ISEC, Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra);
Treasurer: Isabel Silva Magalhães (FEUP, Universidade do Porto).

General Assembly
President: Helena Bacelar-Nicolau (FPUL, Universidade de Lisboa);
Secretary: Ana Sousa Ferreira (FPUL, Universidade de Lisboa);
Secretary: Margarida Cardoso (ISCTE, Instituto Universitário de Lisboa).

Fiscal Council
President: Adelaide Figueiredo (FEUP, Universidade do Porto);
Secretary: Fernando Costa Nicolau (FCT, Universidade Nova de Lisboa);
Member: Irene Oliveira (DM.UTAD, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro)

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 **JOCLAD 2013** scientific program includes four types of presentations: three key note speakers, thematic sessions, contributed papers and posters. Maurizio Vichi (Sapienza Università di Roma, Italy), María José Lombardía Cortiña (Universidade da Coruña, Spain) and Ana Maria Pires (Instituto Superior Técnico de Lisboa, Portugal) will be the **JOCLAD 2013** key note speakers. More information will be available soon at the web site of the CLAD.

One-Day Course
CLAD sponsors a one day course to be held on November 24 at the Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Coimbra. The course, entitled "Introdução ao PLS Path Modeling", will be presented by Catarina Marques.

Helena Bacelar-Nicolau

News from ClaDAG

IX Scientific Meeting of the ClaDAG

The IX Scientific Meeting of the Classification and Data Analysis Group (CLADAG) of the Italian Statistical Society will be held in Modena, a nice city in Northern Italy, from September 18th to September 20th. Modena is an ancient town, it is the seat of an archbishop, but is now best known as "the capital of engines", because the factories of the famous Italian sports car makers Ferrari, Lamborghini, and Maserati are located here. The University of Modena, founded in

1175, is the second oldest athenaeum in Italy, sixth in the whole world. Modena is also well known in culinary circles for its production of balsamic vinegar.

Professor Tommaso Minerva chairs the Local Organizing Committee. The LOC and Prof. Minerva will be glad to welcome you in Modena. The symposium will focus on multidisciplinary approach to data analysis, with special interest on classification, computer science, data mining. Information about the program and on the deadlines for the submission of the papers are available on the conference web pages at the following URL: www.cladag2013.it. Self-organized contributed paper sessions can also be proposed on specific themes that are selected from the list of the conference topics. Interested contributors can send a tentative title and a list of 3/4 potential speakers to the conference email address, or to the Scientific Programme chair professor Palumbo, whose email address is fpalumbo@unina.it. The deadline for contributed session submission is the end of February, however proposals will be considered according to submission time.

Francesco Palumbo

News from the VOC

After a tradition of biannual thematic meetings, the board decided to open up the meetings more to the members and to young professionals. This resulted in the organization of the first VOC conference on May 25th, 2012 in Tilburg with a full day program including 15 contributions by VOC members and a keynote speech from Emmanuel Lesaffre (Erasmus MC Rotterdam and KU Leuven) on 'Measures of predictive ability for clustered data'. The conference was successful with approximately 50 participants, mainly from Belgium and the Netherlands but also from abroad (including Peru!) and attracted several new members. This motivated the board to organize the second VOC conference, which will take place at the end of May 2013 in Belgium. Please consult the VOC website (www.voc.ac) for more information. The VOC is also planning its 25th anniversary jubileum meeting which will take place in the fall of 2014.

Katrijn Van Deun

News from the Classification Society

Classification Society Meeting 2013
The Classification Society conference will be held in Milwaukee in June, 2013. The conference allows you to learn about cutting edge research, meet with researchers from your both from own discipline and from other disciplines, and most of all to have fun! Milwaukee is the quintessential Midwestern city. It is the ancestral home of the American brewing industry. The Pabst and Miller breweries still produce beer and have been joined by several boutique brewing companies. The Milwaukee area has a vibrant business scene and is home to major corporations such as Harley Davidson, Rockwell Automation, and Kohl's. After the long hard winter, Milwaukee comes alive in the summer. Milwaukee is famous for its two week long Summerfest music festival, as well as numerous ethnic and Lakefront festivals.

The academic program will run for three days (June 13, 14, and 15) and will consist of contributed talks, keynote talks, tutorials, data analysis forums and cross-disciplinary discussion sessions. We would like to invite you to submit contributed talks or sessions. Please email abstracts to Stephen France at france@uwm.edu. Abstracts can be submitted individually or together as part of a session. Submission and acceptance will be rolling until the final deadline of **April 15, 2013**. Abstracts should be submitted either in Microsoft Word or in ASCII text format. Abstracts should be no longer than 400 words long.

Stephen France

News from SFC

Elections
Part of the SFC board renewed this year with the departure of André Hardy (secretary of the SFC since 1993!):
• Pascale KUNTZ (Ecole Polytechnique de l'Université de Nantes, France) has been elected as Vice-President of the SFC.
• Mustapha LEBBAH (Université Paris 13, France) has been elected as Secretary of the SFC.
• Guillaume CLEUZIOU (Université d'Orléans, France) has been elected as editor of the SFC NewsLetter.

Nineteenth SFC meeting (2012)

The 19th meeting of the SFC held in Marseille (France) on 29-31 October, 2012: http://sfc12.centrale-marseille.fr/. It was co-organized by "Ecole Centrale de Marseille" and "Laboratoire d'Informatique Fondamentale de Marseille" and located at "Ecole Centrale de Marseille". About 50 researchers participated to the meeting and 35 papers were presented in 4 plenary and 31 contributed sessions.

One of the plenary session was devoted to the "Simon Régnier Prize" awarded to Charles Bouveyron (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne) for his research about "High dimensional data classification".

Twentieth SFC meeting (2013)

The 20th meeting of the French speaking Classification Society will coincide with the 37th annual meeting of the German Classification Society (GfKl) on 10–12 July, 2013 in Luxembourg (www.sfc2013.lu). Abstract submissions are expected until February, 28.

Guillaume Cleuziou

News from SKAD

In September 2012, the new Council of the Section of Classification and Data Analysis (SKAD) for term 2013-2014 was elected:

- Józef Pociecha (Cracow University of Economics), chairman, jozef.pociecha@uek.krakow.pl
- Marek Walesiak (Wroclaw University of Economics), vice-chairman, marek.walesiak@ue.wroc.pl
- Barbara Pawełek (Cracow University of Economics), secretary, barbara.pawelek@uek.krakow.pl
- Krzysztof Jajuga (Wroclaw University of Economics), member, krzysztof.jajuga@ue.wroc.pl
- Andrzej Sokołowski (Cracow University of Economics), member, andrzej.sokolowski@uek.krakow.pl
- Eugeniusz Gatnar (Katowice University of Economics), member, egatnar@ue.katowice.pl
- Krzysztof Najman (University of Gdańsk), member, knajman@wzr.ug.edu.pl

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 Szklarska Poreba or Karpacz (September, 2013).

Krzysztof Jajuga and Marek Walesiak

News From KCS

The 20th Anniversary KNOU Department of Statistics, KCS annual Meeting

How to prepare the Big Data era?
New Trend of advanced Analytics

This conference will take place on Wednesday, November 21, 2012 from 10:00 to 17:00. The location is Korea National Open University, History Museum, 2nd Floor Seminar Room.

- Part 1: R Program Tutorial (10.00-12.00). Moderator: Professor Gi-Jae Lee (KNOU)
- Part 2: Big Data Analysis of Tred (13.30-16.00). Moderator: Professor Geung-Hui Lee (KNOU)
- Part 3: Big Data Analysis Utilized (16.00-17.30). Moderator: Professor Tae-rim Lee (Department of Information and Statistics, Korea National Open University).

Tae Rim Lee