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# International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

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President: Carlo Lauro

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

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Central American and Caribbean Society of Classification and Data Analysis, Classification Society of North America, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Società Italiana di Statistica, 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.

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I would like to wish all readers the best in New Year 2004 !!!!!

Krzysztof Jajuga, Publication Officer

I would like to wish new IFCS President, Henk Kiers and new Vice-President, Carlo Lauro, taking their offices from January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2004, all the best in their job.

Krzysztof Jajuga, Publication Officer

## 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.

## Report from the IFCS Secretary

I am pleased to report that the IFCS does not have any elections scheduled for this year. Henk Kiers will assume the presidency on January 1, 2004, and at that time Carlo Lauro will become the Vice-President and provide advice and guidance for the new administration. The Four Additional Members have staggered terms, but all are seated until at least 1/1/05, which is when the terms of the current Secretary and Treasurer expire. The chair of the Group-at-Large and the Publications Officer both continue as well.

Regarding the IFCS-2006 meeting, this is an excellent time for member societies to consider plans to propose themselves as hosts. At the moment, there is word that the Council will receive a proposal to hold the 2006 meeting in Slovenia, with Anuska Ferligoj and Vladimir Batagelj as the hosts and organizers. But we warmly welcome other proposals, and it would be good for the IFCS to have tentative plans that extend further into the future.

Regarding on-going business, the two main items are the revision to the Constitution and By-Laws, and the report from the Finance Committee. Hans Bock and Jean-Paul Rasson have presented a draft revision of the IFCS Constitution and By-Laws to Carlo Lauro – he is reviewing it, and we can expect to hear more on this soon. And the final report from the Finance Committee is still not available, but I want to emphasize that this delay does not reflect any insecurity about the either the solvency of the IFCS or the ability of Treasurer – it is the result of a series of unfortunate illnesses, and the complicated schedules of the very busy people who have volunteered to serve on that committee.

Additionally, it is worth noting that the IFCS is sponsoring an invited session at COMPSTAT'04, which will be held in Prague this summer, and another invited session at the International Statistical Institute meeting, which will be held in Australia in 2005. We warmly encourage all IFCS members to consider attending both of these conferences.

**David Banks**  
**IFCS Secretary**

## Report on the IFCS-2004 Meeting in Chicago

Many members of the IFCS are busy with the preparations for the 2004 meeting in Chicago. The invited sessions and special invited speakers have been finalized, and the short courses are nearly complete. The information on lodging has been posted, and we intend to have on-line registration forms available on January 1, 2004. We continue to work on the social programs; it will be hard to meet the high standards set by the hosts of previous IFCS meetings, but we plan a cruise, a skyscraper reception, and a whiskey-tasting party. More detail on these and related matters is on the conference website at [www.classification-society.org/ifcs04/](http://www.classification-society.org/ifcs04/).

The editorial process for the refereed proceedings of the meeting is moving ahead quickly, thanks in large part to the efforts of Leanna House, who is organizing that work. I hope that all IFCS members will help her to meet our tight publication schedule by refereeing any papers they receive quickly and carefully. We need to have camera-ready copy for Springer-Verlag by the last week of February.

**David Banks**

## News from SKAD

The Section of Classification and Data Analysis (SKAD) held its annual, 12<sup>th</sup> conference on September 15-17, 2003 in Skorzecin. The conference was hosted by Department of Statistics of Poznan University of Economics. Almost 90 participants took place at the conference. They presented 72 papers. The papers will be published in the post-conference proceedings.

During the conference the meeting of the members took place. It has been decided that the next annual conference will take place in September 12-15, 2004 in pretty region of Bialowieza.

The information about SKAD is given at new Website: [www.skad.pl](http://www.skad.pl)

**Krzysztof Jajuga**

## News from the VOC

By the time this newsletter appears, the autumn meeting of the VOC on November 21 will have been taken place in Leiden. The central theme is Item Response Theory. A varied program is offered, in which both aspects of modelling and applications will be covered. The speakers are S. van Buuren, F. Rijmen, M. Berger, A. van der Ark and N. Verhelst.

The next year promises to become a special one for the VOC. A joint meeting with the GFKL will take place from March 9 to 11 in Dortmund, Germany. Four sessions will be organised by a number of VOC members. The topics (and organisers) are optimal scaling (A. van der Kooij and E. Dusseldorp), mixture modelling (J. Vermunt), psychometric methods (P. de Boeck) and three-way methods (H. Kiers).

At the end of November, a special conference will be organised to celebrate the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the VOC. The working title "All in Good Place" (in line with the theme of the previous lustre meeting "All in Good Time") promises a nice and interesting meeting.

All up-to-date information on the activities of the VOC is available via [www.voc.ac](http://www.voc.ac).

**Marieke Timmerman**

## News from the SFC

### 1. SFC'2003 Neuchâtel

The 10th annual conference of the Francophone Classification Society took place at the main building of the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on September 10-12, 2003. It was a successful event with the organizers Giuseppe Melfi and Yadolah Dodge, who was also the chairman of the scientific committee. More than 80 participants attended the meeting, and apart from French participants there were participants from Belgium, Switzerland, Canada, Italy, Netherlands, Algeria, Cameroon, Portugal, Austria, Lebanon, Reunion and Martinique. An interesting and versatile program was presented, with 8 invited plenary lectures given by Helena Bacelar (Portugal), François Brucker (France), Guy Cucumel (Canada), Louis Ferré (France),

Hans Goebel (Austria), Willem Heiser (The Netherlands), Ludovic Lebart (France), Djamel Zighed (France). Presses Académiques de Neuchâtel published the volume « *Méthodes et Perspectives en Classification* » (Y. Dodge and G. Melfi eds., ISBN 2-88333-021-2) containing the 47 papers.

### 2. SFC' 2004 Conference, September 8-10, Bordeaux, France

The "11<sup>èmes</sup> rencontres de la Société Francophone de Classification", yearly meeting of the SFC, will take place in Bordeaux, France, from September 8 to September 10, 2004. This conference is organized by the "Laboratoire de Mathématiques Appliquées de Bordeaux" (MAB) (Bordeaux 1 and Bordeaux 2 Universities) and it will be located at the Mathematical Institute of Bordeaux on the campus of Talence.

Prof. Michel Langlais is the chairman of the scientific program committee.

Together with the usual topics of classification and clustering, the main themes of the conference are: Pattern Recognition, Environment, Data Mining, Genomic, Scoring, Symbolic Data Analysis, Taxonomic Cognitive Models.

For further details, members of the scientific committee, organizers, invited speakers, accommodation facilities, deadlines, please visit our website: <http://www.math.u-bordeaux.fr/SFC04>  
e-mail : [SFC04@math.u-bordeaux.fr](mailto:SFC04@math.u-bordeaux.fr)

### 3. 12th Annual meeting of the SFC

SFC'2005 meeting will take place in Montreal from May 30 to June 1, 2005

**André HARDY,**  
**SFC Secretary**

## 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, 2003 - March 31, 2005*.

#### **PRESIDENT:**

Keiji Yajima  
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#### **SECRETARIAT MEMBERS:**

##### **Secretary**

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#### **THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

Masashi Goto, Atsuhiko Hayashi, Tadashi Imaizumi, Yoshiro Matsuda, Hideo Miyahara, Masahiro Mizuta, Masakatsu Murakami, Mariko Murata, Tatsuo Ohtsu, Yasuo Ohhashi, Mika Sato, Yoshiharu Sato, Nobuo Shimizu, Shingo Shirahata, Tokuhisa Suzuki, Toshiro Tango, Shoichi Ueda, Keiji Yajima, Kazue Yamaoka, Osamu Yoshimura, Ryozo Yoshino

### (II) The JCS Symposium

The Japanese Classification Society hold the symposium on "Data Science and Education for Statistics" at the Institute of Statistical Mathematics on December 19, 2003. The three special talks were presented as the following:

#### **(1) The Present Situation of Statistical Education in Japan -- Needs of Statistical Literacy as Lifelong Education --**

Michiko Watanabe (Toyo University)

Recently, it has been seen in both the academic and business world that the global abilities demanded of students and working people have begun to change with dizzying rapidity. Particularly in the social science department, the need for integrated statistical ability, data analysis and information processing has been growing intensively. On the other hand, the recent surprising coverage of computer networking technology and multimedia capabilities have brought a great impact and change on education systems over every department of university. Large demands of abilities for statistical data analysis especially in economics, commercial science, psychology, pharmacology or any other social science section having timely matched for help with these electronic situations around universities or companies have been extending the dimension of statistical education. In addition, easier getting over various kinds of data than before through computer network has carried stronger needs for these phenomena. In this talk, we introduce the present situation of statistical education in Japan.

## **(2) Integrated database for statistical science**

Hiroshi Yadohisa (Kagoshima University)

The rapid development of the computer and network environment in recent years has made it possible to release data to the public on a number of web sites. By data, here we mean not only statistical data but we also include various resources such as teaching materials on statistics, lists of research papers and links to related sites. In the past, those resources were collected and owned by individual researchers. There is, however, a limit to what individuals or small groups can do. In recent years there have been more free-access databases created for the public by governmental organizations and academic societies. However, few databases, even those created by such above mentioned groups, are as extensive as those created in Europe and the U.S. Of various factors preventing us from creating extensive databases in Japan, we would like to point out two major problems. The first problem is the enormous human and financial resources required to create and maintain a database on a large enough scale. The other problem is the lack of cooperation between the groups or individuals who are working towards the same or similar goals.

In order to promote dissemination of statistical science, we have undertaken several projects on releasing data for public use. In this paper, we will introduce and discuss our findings and suggest how statistical databases currently available on the web and operated by individuals or small groups can be integrated.

## **(3) A proposal curriculum and software supports for educating statistical education**

Shoichi Ueda (Ryukoku University)

Since certain gap exists between school education and social needs, a data-oriented curriculum and software tools are proposed to promote statistical education. The curriculum start from basic idea of EDA and lead student to DDA, namely designing data analysis to settle input data for informative output. The software contains explanation programs of statistical method, demonstration programs of computational procedures with sample data and computing programs for practice.

## **(III) Information about 20th Annual Research Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society**

The 20th Annual Research Meeting is in the planning stage to be opened on March, 2004. The detailed announcement will be appeared on the JCS Web-page as <http://wwwsoc.nii.ac.jp/jcs/> in the future.

**Nobuo Shimizu**

## **News from the CSNA**

### MEETINGS

CSNA 2003. A very successful and interesting annual meeting took place in mid-June in the DoubleTree Hotel in Tallahassee, Florida, hosted by Professor Mike Brusco of Florida State University. The meeting was immediately preceded by a DIMACS Workshop.

CSNA 2004. The 2004 meeting will be combined with that of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS). The Chicago arrangements committee is headed by Professor Buck McMorris, Dean of Science & Letter at Illinois Institute of Tecnology (I.I.T.). The program committee is headed by Professor David Banks, Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences, Duke University.

The meeting is slated for Thursday to Sunday, 15 to 18 July, 2004, preceded by short courses on Wednesday, 14 July. The theme is "Classification, Clustering, and New Data Problems." Please look elsewhere in this newsletter and in the IFCS Newsletter for more details, and see the Website at <http://www.classification-society.org/ifcs04/>.

CSNA 2005. The 2005 meeting will be joint with that of the Interface Foundation (interface between computing and statistics). It will be hosted by Professor William Shannon of the Washington University Medical School, St. Louis. The tentative date is for the third week in June, 2005, at the Chase-Park Plaza Hotel.

## ELECTION 2003

The CSNA nominating committee this year consisted of Phipps Arabie (chair), Mike Brusco, Chris Fraley, Lawrence Hubert and Stan Sclove. The following slate has emerged through the nomination process (action of the committee, and nomination from the floor).

For President-Elect

Melvin F. Janowitz, Associate Director, DIMACS, Rutgers University

F. R. "Buck" McMorris, Dean, College of Science and Letters; Prof. of Applied Mathematics; Prof. of Computer Science, Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT)

For two positions on the Board of Directors

Michael Brusco, Marketing, Florida State University

David I. Holmes, Mathematics and Statistics, The College of New Jersey

Victoria G. Laidler, Senior Software Engineer, Computer Sciences Corp. at the Space Telescope Science Institute, Baltimore

William D. Shannon, Biostatistics, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis

Stanley L. Sclove

CSNA Secretary/Treasurer

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## GfKI Annual Conference

The German Classification Society (GfKI, Gesellschaft für Klassifikation) will hold its 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference under the title

### **Classification: the ubiquitous challenge**

March 9–11, 2004 in Dortmund (Germany).

The scientific program will include plenary and semi plenary lectures as well as contributed paper sessions on special topics. This time, it is organized jointly with the Dutch/Flemish Classification

Society VOC (Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie). The conference will emphasize interdisciplinary research and the interaction between theory and practice.

Conference languages are German and English.

The deadline for submitting an abstract has been expired by now. Accepted abstracts will be included in a summary volume that will be distributed to conference participants. Speakers will be notified of acceptance by **January 15, 2004**. Upon acceptance, a complete manuscript can be submitted for the proceedings volume published in English by the Springer-Verlag. Such a manuscript will have to pass a review process. Formatting instructions for abstracts and manuscripts can be obtained from the above conference website.

The broad range of relevant topics from classification, data science, information systems, and innovative applications is illustrated by the following list of planned sessions:

Innovations in Classification and Data Science

Classification (supervised Learning), Clustering (unsupervised Learning), Clustering and Classification for Time Related Data, Data Analysis, Graphical Models, Nonparametric Methods, Computational Aspects: Algorithms and Complexity, Ontology in Software Engineering, History of Classification and Clustering Methods, Statistical Graphics, Three-way Data Analysis (VOC), Mixture Modelling (VOC), Optimal Scaling (VOC)

Classification in the Biosciences

Biometrics, Biostatistics and Bioinformatics, Pharmaceutical Research and Development (Novartis), Phylogenomics, Psychometrics (VOC)

Classification in Socio-Economics

Banking, Finance Economy, Insurance, Marketing, Risk Management, Social Milieu Analysis (City of Dortmund)

## Classification in technical Applications

Classification in Diagnostics (Roche Diagnostics), Quality Optimisation, Wearable Electronics

## Classification, all the other challenges

Archaeology, Fine Arts and Music, Libraries, Linguistics, Sport, Vision, World-Wide-Web

Some sessions are organized together with industrial partners (Novartis, Roche Diagnostics).

## Special Events

- Contest: Social Milieus in Dortmund (see below)
- Celebration: 30 Years Statistics in Dortmund (in German) (March 8, 2004, before the conference)
- Workshop: Statistics in Media (in German) (March 10, 2004)
- Workshop: Multimedia in Education (in German) (March 10, 2004)

Special Event "Conference region related": Contest "Social Milieus in Dortmund": On the occasion of this conference the GfKI carries out a contest about the classification of "Social Milieus in the city Dortmund".

For this contest the City of Dortmund prepared data for 170 statistical subregions of Dortmund.

There will be two prizes, both worth 500 €:

- one prize for the mathematically best solution,
- one prize for the most relevant solution for the city of Dortmund.

The prize winners will be honored at a reception of the City of Dortmund, and the papers will be presented at a special session at the conference.

Conference city Dortmund: The Heart of Westphalia. Strong on Europe. Westphalia's first city lies on the north-west edge of the Ruhr area. Dortmund Airport provides the town and the region with direct flights to 38 destinations in 13 different countries and to the most important hub airports in Europe. Other nearby international airports are Düsseldorf and Cologne/Bonn. Dortmund is one of

Germany's most important railway stations. There are 130 EC, IC and ICE trains to other large cities in Germany and Europe. Dortmund is also right at the centre of the European motorway network. Seven regional and supra-regional motorways meet in Dortmund. For further information on how to get to the university, see the appropriate link at the above conference website.

**Social program:** An attractive social program related to the Ruhr area is planned: Guided tours through the "German Occupational Safety and Health Exhibition (DASA)", the "German Mining Museum (DBM)" in the near by city of Bochum (incl. a visit of an original subterranean mine), and the "Steel Cooking Plant Hansa", a former industrial complex, as well as a guided trip through Dortmund, a visit to a brewery, and an archaeological walk.

For more information see

<http://www.gfkl.de/gfkl2004/>

Online registration is recommended.

## Claus Weihs

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

jajuga@manager.ae.wroc.pl

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

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