



# International Federation of Classification Societies Newsletter

**President:** Angela Montanari

Number 62

August, 2021

**Editor:** Katrijn Van Deun

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

Associação Portuguesa de Classificação e Análise de Dados, British Classification Society, Latin American Society of Classification and Data Analysis, The Classification Society, Classification and Multivariate Statistics Group of the Hungarian Statistical Association, GfKl Data Science Society, Greek Society of Data Analysis, Irish Pattern Recognition and Classification Society, Japanese Classification Society, Korean Classification Society, Moroccan Classification Society, Société Francophone de Classification, Multivariate Data Analysis Group of the South African Statistical Association, Multivariate Statistics and Classification Group of the Spanish Society of Statistics and Operations Research, 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 two journals: *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification* and the *Journal of Classification*.

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## Words from the IFCS President

I really hope this newsletter finds you well. The current limitations to our movements because of the pandemic have made meeting in person almost impossible, but IFCS member societies have continued organizing events, mostly online, thus witnessing how lively our society is. We are all looking forward to our IFCS 2022 conference in Porto and we will soon make a decision on whether to have the following conference in 2023 (thus returning to our ordinary conference scheduling) or in 2024.

In the meanwhile, I really hope to have the chance of meeting you all online on September 7<sup>th</sup> (see the dedicated session later in this newsletter). Professor Bradley Efron has been nominated by the award committee as the recipient of our Research Medal and has accepted to give a talk. It is a great honor for us and a great pleasure to have the possibility of listening to him. I am really grateful to our member societies and to the award committee for this fantastic opportunity and to professor Efron for accepting our invitation. I

**IFCS Homepage:** <http://www.ifcs.info>

would also like to thank Grazyna Trzpiot and Alessio Farcomeni who will also give a talk in our online event.

Angela Montanari  
IFCS President

### **News from the IFCS Secretary**

Since the last newsletter, the IFCS Executive Committee (EC) had three MS Teams meeting on February 16 2021, April 23 2021 and June 3 2021.

The main area of EC activities was the preparation for the virtual event, which will take place in September. The EC selected very interesting keynote-speakers and scheduled the times of the seminar so that as many researchers from our member societies in different time zones can participate in the event.

The other important issues discussed on EC meeting were:

- Simplification of the award medal submission form,
- Discussion about returning to a normal conference cycle after the 2021/22 Porto Conference,
- Discussion about no-harm-feelings agreement proposal with European Association for Data Science.

We are in the process of election for the following vacancies:

- Election of two new Additional Members of the Council replacing Iven van Mechelen and Friedrich Leisch,
- Election of a new Finance Committee member replacing Francois Bruckner,
- Election of a new Election Committee member replacing Tae Rim Lee.

Some of the election procedures have been delayed due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Please remember that the IFCS Directory available on our website needs to contain updated information on the Societies' Presidents, Treasurers, Council Representatives (names, email addresses and terms of office). Any change, including terms of office prolongation due to pandemic, should be emailed to the IFCS Secretary ([andrzej.dudek@ue.wroc.pl](mailto:andrzej.dudek@ue.wroc.pl)).

With all the best wishes,

Andrej Dudek  
IFCS Secretary

### **News from the IFCS Treasurer**

The IFCS is currently in good financial standing. To ensure we remain in such a healthy position, we remind member societies that the membership fees statements will be sent out soon for payment by the end of 2021.

Sugnet Lubbe  
IFCS Treasurer

### **News from the IFCS Publication Officer**

First of all, I would like to thank those that made an effort to contribute. Second, I am happy to see that the society adapted to the circumstances caused by the pandemic and organized an online event. I hope to see many of you virtually during this event but also live next summer in Porto at the occasion of IFCS 2022!

Katrijn Van Deun  
IFCS Publication Officer

### **IFCS Online Event on September 7, 2021**

The International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) organizes an online event on September 7th 2021, 5 p.m. (CET). During the event Bradley Efron will be awarded the IFCS 2021 Research Medal and will give the closing talk.

The event will include 3 plenary talks, followed by discussion:

- Grazyna Trzpiot (University of Economics in Katowice): Quantile regression in data classification
- Alessio Farcomeni (Università degli Studi di Roma - Tor Vergata): Robust adaptive estimation, cluster analysis, and outlier detection
- Bradley Efron (Stanford University): Resampling Methods for the Estimation of Prediction Error

Details and a registration link can be found at <https://events.unibo.it/ifcs2021-conference>.

## IFCS 2022: Second Announcement and Call for Papers

The 17th conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies will take place in Porto, Portugal, on 19-23 July 2022. IFCS 2022 is a joint organization of the Portuguese Association for Classification and Data Analysis (CLAD) and the Faculty of Economics of the University of Porto (FEP-UP). The conference will feature keynote speakers, invited and contributed sessions, and organized streams on specific topics. The participation of Charles Bouveyron, Dianne Cook and João Gama as keynote speakers is already confirmed. Preceding the conference itself, tutorials on up-to-date fields will be organized on July 19th. A pre-conference book of proceedings is planned to be published in the Springer Collection “Studies in Classification, Data Analysis, and Knowledge Organization” as an e-book. Special issues of *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification (ADAC)*, *Journal of Classification (JoC)*, and *EURO Journal on Computational Optimization (EJCO)* are confirmed, to be published post-conference. The Local Organizing Committee is working enthusiastically to make sure IFCS 2022 will be a successful conference and is looking forward to welcoming all of you in Porto. Do not forget to add IFCS 2022 to your agenda!

The deadlines for submission are as follows:

- Submission of full papers (invited and contributed papers): January 15th, 2022
- Submission of Single Abstracts: March 31st, 2022

To learn more about IFCS 2022:

<https://ifcs2022.fep.up.pt/>.

Contact: [ifcs2022@fep.up.pt](mailto:ifcs2022@fep.up.pt)

Paula Brito

### News from MDAG

#### Executive committee

Professor Niël le Roux served on the Multivariate Data Analysis Group executive committee (MDAG EC) since 2013 and completed his second term at the end of 2020. He played a valuable role in the founding of the special interest group. We thank him for his continued contributions to MDAG and we are grateful that he will remain an active member of MDAG.

MDAG welcomes Nicolene Cochran from the Agricultural Research Council in Pretoria on the executive committee. She was elected as an additional member on the committee for the 2020-2024 term at the annual meeting in December 2020.

#### Communication

The new email address for MDAG: [mdag@sastat.org](mailto:mdag@sastat.org)

#### Online workshop invitation

MDAG is organising an online workshop in conjunction with the South African Statistical Association (SASA) hybrid conference in Stellenbosch at the end of 2021. The workshop dates are still to be finalised, but it will take place on either 29 or 30 November 2021.

The format of the workshop will be a compendium of smaller lectures on a variety of topics of 90 minutes each. The intended audience is anyone with a keen interest in the application of multivariate data analysis. The talks will assume a solid basic knowledge of statistics, focussing on useful application, rather than getting bogged down in theory.

IFCS members who are interested to present a lecture during the online MDAG workshop, should please contact MDAG ([mdag@sastat.org](mailto:mdag@sastat.org)) for more information.

Johané Nienkemper-Swanepoel

### News from JCS

#### (I) New Executive Members of JCS

The following list includes the new staff of Japanese Classification Society. The tenure for these members is from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2023:

- President: Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University)
- Auditors: Tadashi Imaizumi (Tama University), Masahiro Mizuta (Hokkaido University)
- Executive Committee Members: Kohei Adachi (Osaka University), Fumio Ishioka (Okayama University), Tatsuo Otsu (National Center for University Entrance Examinations), Akinori Okada (Rikkyo University), Makiko Oda (National Defense Medical College), Yutaka Kano (Osaka University), Takafumi Kubota (Tama University), Koji Kurihara

(Okayama University), Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University), Mika Sato-Ilic (University of Tsukuba), Nobuo Shimizu (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics), Akinobu Takeuchi (Jissen Women's University), Makoto Tomita (Yokohama City University), Yuki Toyoda (Hosei University), Atsuhiko Nakayama (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Yasumasa Baba (The Institute of Statistical Mathematics), Atsuhiko Hayashi (Nagoya Institute of Technology), Fumi Hayashi (Toyo Eiwa University), Yoshiro Yamamoto (Tokai University), Satoru Yokoyama (Aoyama Gakuin University), Ryozo Yoshino (Doshisha University)

- Secretariat Members: Secretary: Makoto Tomita (Yokohama City University); General Affairs: Fumio Ishioka (Okayama University), Akinobu Takeuchi (Jissen Women's University), Yoshiro Yamamoto (Tokai University); Treasurer: Makiko Oda (National Defense Medical College), Hiroyasu Abe (Kyoto University); Public relations: Jun Tsuchida (Doshisha University)
- The other members are Takafumi Kubota (Tama University), Yuki Toyoda (Hosei University), Kuniyoshi Hayashi (St. Luke's International University), Mika Sato-Ilic (University of Tsukuba), Koji Kurihara (Okayama University), Fumitake Sakaori (Chuo University), Atsuhiko Nakayama (Tokyo Metropolitan University), Ryozo Yoshino (Doshisha University), Tatsuo Otsu (National Center for University Entrance Examinations), Hiroshi Yadohisa (Doshisha University).

## (II) Report of the Japanese Classification Society 2020 Symposium

The JCS 2020 Symposium was held both online and on-site at Matsue Terra in Matsue City, Shimane Prefecture, on Sunday, March 21, 2021. To prevent transmission of COVID-19, various infection control measures were implemented. The chairperson of the organizing committee was Makoto Tomita (Yokohama City University). The program of the meeting comprised 11 presentations in all. There are two contributed sessions and one student session. The speakers and the titles of their talks were as follows.

### STUDENT SESSION

- Canonical Correlation Analysis with

Wasserstein Distance, Hashiguchi, M.\*, Okabe, M. and Yadohisa, H. (\*Doshisha University)

- What are the Common Items on Bucket List? -Three Regions Comparative Study on Questions Focus on Food and Drinks-, Nakanishi, E.\*, Hayashi, K., Nakajima, H., Kamiya, K., Tagami, K., Suzuki, N., Motonari, T., Naito, A. and Morita, T. (\*St. Luke's International University, Graduate School of Public Health)
- Tensor Canonical Correlation Analysis for Labeled Data, Sakamoto, K.\*, Okabe, M. and Yadohisa, H. (\*Doshisha University)
- Analysis of Factors Affecting Time to First Infection of COVID-19 Using a Bimodal Mixture Regression Model, Takahashi, M.\*, Na, M. and Kurihara, K. (\*Okayama University)
- Robust Online Linear Discriminant Analysis, Kawarai, S.\*, Takasawa, I. and Yadohisa, H. (\*Doshisha University)

### SESSION I

- Identification of Biliary Atresia Using Convolutional Neural Networks, Hayashi, K.\*, Hoshino, R., Suzuki, K., Sakai, K. and Obatake, M. (\*St. Luke's International University).
- Classification of Pitchers' Called Strike Probabilities Using Pairs of Two-Dimensional Kernel Densities, Konda, K.\* and Yamamoto, Y. (\*Tokai University)
- Consideration on the Matrix Decomposability in Bayesian NMF, Abe, H.\* (\*Kyoto University)

### SESSION II

- Chronological Data Analysis of Earthquakes based on Entanglement Idea, Ishizuka, T.\* (\*Asia University)
- Concordance Rate of a Four-Quadrant Plot for Considering Variation within Individual, Hiraishi, M.\*, Tanioka, K., Shimokawa, T. (\*Wakayama Medical University Hospital)
- Detection of Space-time Clusters for COVID-19 by using Echelon Method, Takemura, Y.\*, Ishioka, F. and Kurihara, K. (\*Okayama University)

In the Symposium, the following students won Outstanding Student Presentation Award,

- Kenta Sakamoto (Doshisha University) and Soshi Kawarai (Doshisha University).

### **(III) Information of 40th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Classification Society**

The 40th Annual Meeting will be held both online and on-site on July 3rd, 2021 at St. Luke's International University. The chairperson of the organizing committee is Kuniyoshi Hayashi (St. Luke's International University). For additional information, please visit website at <http://bunrui.jp/taikai/> (in Japanese).

Kensuke Tanioka

## **News from The Classification Society**

### **(I) The 2021 Annual Meeting of The Classification Society**

The 50th annual meeting of The Classification Society was tentatively scheduled to be held at Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, from Thursday, June 17 to Saturday, June 20, 2021. However, due to on-going COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting has been postponed to Friday, November 5, 2021 through Sunday, November 7, 2021 at Bucknell University. The meeting is being organized by the president of The Classification Society, Dr. Abby Flynt. The scientific programming committee is comprised of Abby Flynt (chair), Brian Franczak, Meredith Wallace, and Tanzy Love. Confirmed invite speakers include:

- F. James Rohlf, Stony Brook University (Plenary)
- Samrachana Adhikari, New York University
- Lynn Lin, Penn State University
- David Banks, Duke University
- Teague Henry, UNC Chapel Hill
- Suzu Zhang, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Michael Gallagher, Baylor University

The abstract submission deadline for the 2021 Classification Society Annual Meeting is August 27, 2021. Please submit your abstract using the Abstract Submission portal shown on the 2021 meeting page (<https://www.theclassificationssociety.org/annual-meeting/2021/>). When submitting your abstract, please indicate whether you would like to be considered for a poster or oral presentation.

### **(II) The 2021 Distinguished Dissertation Award of The Classification Society**

The Classification Society would like to

congratulate the winner of the 2021 Distinguished Dissertation award, Dr. Michael Gallagher (now an Assistant Professor of Statistical Science at Baylor University). The title of Dr. Gallagher's thesis is "Analysis of Three-Way Data and Other Topics in Clustering and Classification".

The honourable mentions for the 2021 Distinguished Dissertation Award are Dr. Nicolas Jouvin (Institut Camille Jordan) for the thesis "High-dimensional data and graph clustering with discrete latent variable models" and Dr. Salvatore Daniele Tomarchio (University of Catania) for the thesis "Advances in finite mixture models: new methodologies and application".

### **(III) The 2022 Distinguished Dissertation Award of The Classification Society: Call for Nominations**

Each year, the Classification Society offers a Distinguished Dissertation Award for an outstanding PhD dissertation on the theme of clustering, classification, or related areas of data analysis, encompassing associated theory and/or applications. The Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award is supported by Springer.

### **The 2022 Classification Society Distinguished Dissertation Award**

The 2022 Award totals 500 USD in book vouchers from Springer and the winner will be invited to make a presentation in a special session at the 2022 Classification Society Annual Meeting. The Classification Society will cover travel expenses to the 2022 Annual Meeting of at most 1,000 USD for a North American-based Award winner or at most 1,500 USD for an Award winner based elsewhere.

Criteria for nomination for the Distinguished Dissertation Award include:

- the main topic of the dissertation is in classification, clustering or a closely related area;
- the dissertation contains innovative work in theory/methodology and/or or innovative or well developed application(s);
- the literature review is thorough.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for nomination, a Ph.D. dissertation must have been successfully completed—including successful defense—within the calendar year 2021. Nominations may be made by the dissertation author, supervisor, or related person, and must be sent by email. A nomination must

include contact information for the nominator and nominee (if different), a URL where an online copy of the dissertation can be accessed by the members of the Award Committee, and an electronic (e.g., scanned) cover letter, written and signed by the nominator, stating the date of final completion of the Ph.D. dissertation and outlining why the dissertation merits the award. The nominator must also arrange for two external referee reports to be sent directly to the chair of the Award committee. If possible, the referees should be arms-length from the dissertation author and their supervisor. Cover letters should include full bibliographic details for any published papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material that have arisen from the dissertation. For non-English language dissertations, nominators are requested to provide an extended abstract in English and, where relevant, to highlight any papers, proceedings, book chapters, or similar scholarly material associated with the dissertation that have been published in English.

#### **Nominations**

Nominations and external referee reports must be submitted to the chair of the Award Committee, Volodymyr Melnykov <vmelnykov 'at' cba dot ua dot edu>, on or before 11:59pm (EST) on February 1, 2022 (see <https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Dissertation-Award> for more information). Results will be announced approximately two months after this submission deadline. At this time, questions can be directed to the Secretary/Treasurer of the Classification Society (<https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Board>).

#### **(IV) New Website**

The Classification Society, in collaboration with weCreate, has been working on a new website. Stay tuned for an announcement about the live launch! Please see [www.theclassificationssociety.org](http://www.theclassificationssociety.org)

Brian Franczak

### **News from CLAD**

#### **The new Executive Committee of CLAD**

Resulting from the elections held in Porto on December 16th 2021, the composition of the new Executive Committee of the CLAD is the following: Paula Brito (President), Carlos Ferreira (Vice-President), Conceição Rocha (Treasurer), Pedro Campos, and Sónia Dias

#### **Fernando Nicolau Award**

In order to honor Prof. Fernando Nicolau, founding member and President of the Portuguese Association for Data Classification and Analysis (CLAD), the FERNANDO NICOLAU AWARD was established by the Executive Committee of CLAD and made public at the CLAD General Assembly on March 10th, 2021. The FERNANDO NICOLAU AWARD will be held every two years, and aims at disseminating and rewarding works in Data Science, Data Classification and Analysis published internationally by CLAD members.

#### **JOCLAD 2021**

The XXVIII Annual Meeting of CLAD (JOCLAD 2021) will be held from December 9th to 11th, 2021, at the Universidade da Beira Interior in Covilhã. Participants will include researchers, academics, students and users, working in Classification and Data Analysis and other Data Science related areas. JOCLAD 2021 scientific program includes plenary and thematic sessions, contributed papers and poster sessions. The participation of Luís Alexandre (University of Beira Interior, Portugal), Patrick Groenen (Erasmus University of Rotterdam), and Mohamed Nadif (University of Paris) are the keynote speakers. On December 9th, Mohamed Nadif will teach a short course on “Co-clustering”. Submission of Single Abstracts: September 15th, 2021.

Further information is available at <http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2021/>.

#### **CLAD sponsored courses**

Following the series of CLAD sponsored courses, last May 8th the short course “Time Series Analysis – Introduction and Applications using R” by Prof. Isabel Silva (University of Porto) was taught online. The next short online course, on “Introduction to Data and Information Visualisation”, by Prof. Beatriz Sousa Santos from University of Aveiro, will be held on October 9th.

José G. Dias

## Upcoming Conferences and Meetings

### September 2021

IFCS online event, September 7, 2021,  
<https://events.unibo.it/ifcs2021-conference>

Biannual meeting of The CLAssification and Data  
Analysis Group (CLADAG), Firenze, Italy,  
September 9-11,  
<https://datascience.unifi.it/cladag2021/>

### November 2021

Annual meeting of The Classification Society,  
Lewisburg, USA, November 5-7, 2021,  
<https://tcs.wildapricot.org/Meeting>.

### December 2021

Annual Meeting of CLAD, Covilhã, Portugal,  
December 9-11, 2021,  
<http://www.joclad.ipt.pt/joclad2021/>.

### July 2022

IFCS 2022, Porto, Portugal, July 19-23, 2022,  
<https://ifcs2022.fep.up.pt>.

### Looking Ahead to IFCS Newsletter Number 63

Contributions for the forthcoming issue of the  
IFCS newsletter should be sent to Katrijn Van  
Deun, IFCS Publication Officer, at  
[k.vandeun@uvt.nl](mailto:k.vandeun@uvt.nl).

Plain text or Word files are preferred. Thanks!

Katrijn Van Deun  
IFCS Publication Officer