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Edited by
Roger Payne and Peter Green

With 118 Figures
and 61 Tables

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Prof. Roger Payne
Statistics Department
IACR-Rothamsted
Harpenden
Herts AL5 2JQ, United Kingdom

Prof. Peter Green
Department of Mathematics
University of Bristol
Bristol BS8 1TW, United Kingdom

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Preface

This Volume contains the Keynote, Invited and Full Contributed papers presented at COMPSTAT'98. A companion volume (Payne & Lane, 1998) contains papers describing the Short Communications and Posters. COMPSTAT is a one-week conference held every two years under the auspices of the International Association of Statistical Computing, a section of the International Statistical Institute.

COMPSTAT'98 is organised by IACR-Rothamsted, IACR-Long Ashton, the University of Bristol Department of Mathematics and the University of Bath Department of Mathematical Sciences. It is taking place from 24-28 August 1998 at University of Bristol. Previous COMPSTATs (from 1974-1996) were in Vienna, Berlin, Leiden, Edinburgh, Toulouse, Prague, Rome, Copenhagen, Dubrovnik, Neuchatel, Vienna and Barcelona. The conference is the main European forum for developments at the interface between statistics and computing. This was encapsulated as follows in the COMPSTAT'98 Call for Papers.

Statistical computing provides the link between statistical theory and applied statistics. The scientific programme of COMPSTAT ranges over all aspects of this link, from the development and implementation of new computer-based statistical methodology through to innovative applications and software evaluation. The programme should appeal to anyone working in statistics and using computers, whether in universities, industrial companies, research institutes or as software developers.

Selection of the Full Contributions from over 180 submitted abstracts presented a challenging but very interesting task for the Scientific Programme Committee (the SPC): Roger Payne (United Kingdom) Chair, Jaromír Antoch (Czech Republic), Gianfranco Galmacci (Italy), Peter Green (United Kingdom), Wolfgang Härdle (Germany), Peter van der Heijden (Netherlands), Albert Prat (Spain), Jean-Pierre Raoult (France), Mats Rudemo (Sweden).

The papers were all refereed by the SPC and their colleagues, with additional help from Antoine de Falguerolles who represented the European Regional Section of the IASC on the Committee. Other Consultative Members of the Committee were Andrew Westlake (ASC: United Kingdom), Chooichiro Asano (EARS IASC: Japan), Christian Guittet (EUROSTAT: Luxembourg), Malcolm Hudson (IASC: Australia) and Carey Priebe (INTERFACE: USA). We would like thank our colleagues on the SPC for all their help. The resulting Proceedings provide a broad overview of the currently active research areas in statistical computing.

We are also especially grateful to the other members of the Local Organising Committee: Peter Lane of IACR-Rothamsted; Gillian Arnold and Phil Brain of IACR-Long Ashton; Steve Brooks of University of Bristol; Andrew Wood with Merrilee Hurn initially, and then Stuart Barber, of University of Bath.

Roger Payne
Peter Green
April 1998

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Contents

Keynote Papers

Analysis of Clustered Multivariate Data from Developmental Toxicity Studies	3
<i>G. Molenberghs, H. Geys, L. Declerck, G. Claeskens & M. Aerts</i>	

Wavelets in Statistics: Some Recent Developments	15
<i>B.W. Silverman</i>	

Invited Papers

Mortality Pattern Prediction in Worker Cohorts	29
<i>K. Eben, J. Vondráček & K. Binks</i>	

Design Algorithms for Correlated Data	41
<i>J. Eccleston & B. Chan</i>	

(Co)Variance Structures for Linear Models in the Analysis of Plant Improvement Data	53
<i>A.R. Gilmour, B.R. Cullis, A.B. Frensham & R. Thompson</i>	

Optimal Scaling Methods for Graphical Display of Multivariate Data	65
<i>J.J. Meulman</i>	

Computer-Assisted Statistics Teaching in Network Environments	77
<i>M. Müller</i>	

Modelling Bacterial Genomes Using Hidden Markov Models	89
<i>F. Muri</i>	

MCMC Specifics for Latent Variable Models	101
<i>C.P. Robert</i>	

Exploratory Versus Decision Trees	113
<i>R. Siciliano</i>	

Exploring Time Series Using Semi- and Nonparametric Methods	125
<i>D. Tjøstheim</i>	

Time Series Forecasting by Principal Component Methods	137
<i>M.J. Valderrama, A.M. Aguilera & J.C. Ruiz-Molina</i>	

Contributed Papers

A Simulation Study of Indirect Prognostic Classification	149
<i>N.M. Adams, D.J. Hand & H.G. Li</i>	
Model Search: An Overview	155
<i>H.J. Adèr, D.J. Kuik & D. Edwards</i>	
Speeding up the Computation of the Least Quartile Difference Estimator .	161
<i>J. Agulló</i>	
Piece-wise Detection of Spinal Scoliosis	167
<i>A.J. Baczkowski & X. Feng</i>	
A Comparison of Recent EM Accelerators within Item Response Theory .	173
<i>F. Bartolucci, A. Forcina & E. Stanghellini</i>	
Gröbner Basis Methods in Polynomial Modelling	179
<i>R.A. Bates, B. Giglio, E. Riccomagno & H.P. Wynn</i>	
Analysis of High Dimensional Data from Intensive Care Medicine	185
<i>M. Bauer, U. Gather & M. Imhoff</i>	
Fitting Non-Gaussian Time Series Models	191
<i>M.A. Benjamin, R.A. Rigby & M.D. Stasinopoulos</i>	
Using Singular Value Decomposition in Non-Linear Regression	197
<i>P. Brain</i>	
A Modelling Approach for Bandwidth Selection in Kernel Density Estimation	203
<i>M.J. Brewer</i>	
A New Method for Cross-Classification Analysis of Contingency Data Tables	209
<i>S. Camiz & J-J. Denimal</i>	
Bayesian Analysis of Overdispersed Count Data with Application to Teletraffic Monitoring	215
<i>O. Cappé, R. Douc, E. Moulines & C. Robert</i>	
An Alternative Pruning Method Based on the Impurity-Complexity Measure	221
<i>C. Cappelli, F. Mola & R. Siciliano</i>	

Bayesian Inference for Mixture: The Label Switching Problem	227
<i>G. Celeux</i>	
Simulation of Multifractional Brownian Motion	233
<i>G. Chan & A.T.A. Wood</i>	
Simulating Categorical Data from Spatial Models	239
<i>T.F. Cox & M.A.A. Cox</i>	
Robust Factorization of a Data Matrix	245
<i>C. Croux & P. Filzmoser</i>	
Spatial Clustering Techniques: An Experimental Comparison	251
<i>M. Dang & G. Govaert</i>	
A Visual Environment for Designing Experiments	257
<i>P.L. Darius, W.J. Coucke & K.M. Portier</i>	
Essay of a Dynamic Regression by Principal Components Model for Correlated Time Series	263
<i>M.J. Del Moral & M.J. Valderrama</i>	
Traffic Models for Telecommunication	269
<i>D. Denteneer & V. Pronk</i>	
Construction of Non-Standard Row-Column Designs	275
<i>A.N. Donev</i>	
Computational Statistics for Pharmacokinetic Data Analysis	281
<i>L. Edler</i>	
Frailty Factors and Time-dependent Hazards in Modelling Ear Infections in Children Using BASSIST	287
<i>M. Eerola, H. Mannila & M. Salmenkivi</i>	
Algorithms for Robustified Error-in-Variables Problems	293
<i>H. Ekblom & O. Edlund</i>	
Idaresa - a Tool for Construction, Description and Use of Harmonised Datasets from National Surveys	299
<i>J. Fairgrieve & K. Brannen</i>	
LLAMA: an Object-Oriented System for Log Multiplicative Models	305
<i>D. Firth</i>	

Using Threshold Accepting to Improve the Computation of Censored Quantile Regression	311
<i>B. Fitzenberger & P. Winker</i>	
On the Convergence of Iterated Random Maps with Applications to the MCEM Algorithm	317
<i>G. Fort, E. Moulines & P. Soulier</i>	
Parameter Estimators for Gaussian Models with Censored Time Series and Spatio-Temporal Data	323
<i>C.A. Glasbey, I.M. Nevison & A.G.M. Hunter</i>	
Assessing the Multimodality of a Multivariate Distribution Using Nonparametric Techniques	329
<i>S. Hahn & P.J. Foster</i>	
Bayesian Signal Restoration and Model Determination for Ion Channels .	335
<i>M.E.A. Hodgson</i>	
ARGUS, Software Packages for Statistical Disclosure Control	341
<i>A. Hundepool & L. Willenborg</i>	
Building End-User Statistical Applications: An Example Using STABLE .	347
<i>Z. Karaman</i>	
On Multiple Window Local Polynomial Approximation with Varying Adaptive Bandwidths	353
<i>V. Katkovnik</i>	
Minimization of Computational Cost in Tree-Based Methods by a Proper Ordering of Splits	359
<i>J. Klaschka & F. Mola</i>	
Stable Multivariate Procedures - Strategies and Software Tools	365
<i>S. Kropf & J. L��uter</i>	
An Alternating Method to Optimally Transform Variables in Projection Pursuit Regression	371
<i>A. Laghi & L. Lizzani</i>	
Predicting from Unbalanced Linear or Generalized Linear Models	377
<i>P.W. Lane</i>	

MCMC Solution to Circle Fitting in Analysis of RICH Detector Data . . .	383
<i>A. Linka, G. Ososkov, J. Picek & P. Volf</i>	
A Visual Future for Statistical Computing	389
<i>G. Morgan & P. Craig</i>	
Development of Statistical Software SAMMIF for Sensitivity Analysis in Multivariate Methods	395
<i>Y. Mori, S. Watadani, T. Tarumi & Y. Tanaka</i>	
Data Imputation and Nowcasting in the Environmental Sciences Using Clustering and Connectionist Modelling	401
<i>F. Murtagh, G. Zheng, J. Campbell, A. Aussem, M. Ouberdous, E. Demirov, W. Eifler & M. Crépon</i>	
Graphical User Interface for Statistical Software Using Internet	407
<i>J. Nakano</i>	
A Wavelet Approach to Functional Principal Component Analysis	413
<i>F.A. Ocaña, O. Valenzuela & A.M. Aguilera</i>	
Quasi-Monte Carlo EM Algorithm for MLEs in Generalized Linear Mixed Models	419
<i>J-X. Pan & R. Thompson</i>	
Applications of Smoothed Monotone Regression Splines and Smoothed Bootstrapping in Survival Analysis	425
<i>D.E. Ramirez & P.W. Smith</i>	
Comparing the Fits of Non-Nested Non-Linear Models	431
<i>G.J.S. Ross</i>	
The Deepest Fit	437
<i>P.J. Rousseeuw & S. Van Aelst</i>	
Partially Linear Models: A New Algorithm and some Simulation Results .	443
<i>M.G. Schimek</i>	
Induction of Graphical Models from Incomplete Samples	449
<i>P. Sebastiani & M. Ramoni</i>	
Locally and Bayesian Optimal Designs for Binary Dose-Response Models with Various Link Functions	455
<i>D.M. Smith & M.S. Ridout</i>	

Statistics Training and the Internet	461
<i>M. Talbot</i>	
Jointly Modelling Longitudinal and Survival Data	467
<i>J.M.G. Taylor & Y. Wang</i>	
Representing Solar Active Regions with Triangulations	473
<i>M.J. Turmon & S. Mukhtar</i>	
A General Form for Specification of Correlated Error Models, with Allowance for Heterogeneity	479
<i>S.J. Welham, R. Thompson & A.R. Gilmour</i>	
Exploratory Data Analysis with Linked Dotplots and Histograms	485
<i>A.F.X. Wilhelm</i>	
An Object-Oriented Approach to Local Computation in Bayes Linear Belief Networks	491
<i>D.J. Wilkinson</i>	
Index of Authors	497
Index of Keywords	499