4. Report on Recent Activities

Probability Towards 2000
October 2–6, 1995
Columbia University, New York, USA

The Symposium was jointly organized by the Centro Vito Volterra, University of Rome, Tor Vergata, and the Center for Applied Probability, Columbia University, with the assistance of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies in America at Columbia University. The Symposium brought together some 35 experts in diverse branches of probability from across the world to discuss developments in their area of specialization and their views on where the subject is heading. On the last day of the Symposium, a round-table discussion was held to consider areas of importance which warrant, and are likely to undergo, major development, or additional development in the not–too–distant future. The following topics, in no particular order of priority, were raised in this context:

large deviations, measure valued processes, stochastic networks, mathematical finance, applications of quantum probability, tomography, random matrices, stochastic partial differential equations, uses of probability in mathematics, coupling and decoupling, theory of rough signals, modelling noise, relations between probability and chaos, complexity theory, stochastic dynamical systems, genome sequencing applications, branching and random trees, random environment problems, stochastic numerics, quasi-random generators, self-similar processes, criticality phenomena, non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, intrinsic geometric structure of stochastic models, combinatorial probability, random fields, infinite particle systems.

Following on from the Symposium, a volume of perspectives is being prepared, also titled "Probability Towards 2000", with L. Accardi and C.C. Heyde as Editors. It is expected that this will be published before the end of 1996.

Chris C. Heyde
New York

VI CLAPEM
6th Latin–American Congress
of Probability and Mathematical Statistics
November 20–24, 1995
Valparaíso, Chile

The 160 participants of the Congress came from Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Chile, France, Italy, Mexico, Spain, United Kingdom, USA, Uruguay, and Venezuela.

This meeting is an official activity of the Bernoulli Society and this year it was held concurrently with the workshop New Directions in Stochastic Processes and with the Winter School in Probability and Statistics. Financial support for the meeting came from many sources: the National Science Foundation, CIENES, CONICYT, Fundación Andes, the Bernoulli Society, the British Council, the French Regional Cooperation, the International Mathematical Union, and several governmental institutions of participating countries.

The excellent scientific level of the meeting is clear from the list of invited speakers: L. Accardi, R. Bañuelos, M. J. Bayarri, J. Besag, G. Boente, H. Bolfarine, J. Breidt, K. Burdzy, P. Collet, D. Cook, C. Christiansen, A.P. Dawid, C. Dellacherie, R. Durrett, S. Fienberg, W. Fuller, A. Galves, A. Gelfand, E. George, L. Gorostiza, C. Heyde, R. Khasminskii, F. O'Reilly, L.Pericchi, P. Picco, P. Pollett, P. Protter, J. San Martín, A. Smith, M. Vares, R. Wolpert, and M. Wschebor. It is also reflected in the 99 contributed papers presented. Apart from the scientific aspects the meeting had a friendly atmosphere encouraging communication among the participants, both in the sessions and in the various social events.

During the opening ceremony homage was paid to Emilio Ellena, former professor at CIENES, in recognition for his important contribution to the training of statisticians in Latin America.

It is expected that the VI CLAPEM will have a significant impact on research and training in probability and mathematical statistics throughout Latin America, as well as on fostering scientific collaboration between researchers from this region with those in other important centers around the world.

Guido del Pino
Santiago

Spruce III
December 11–15, 1995
Mérida, Yucatan, Mexico

Spruce (Statistics for Public Resources, Utilities, and in Care of the Environment) is a very successful series of conferences. The theme of last year's Conference was Statistical Aspects of Pollution: Assessment and Control.

The Opening Lecture was given by P. Ross (Statistical issues in environmental monitoring and assessment of anthropogenic pollution) from EPA (Environmental Protection Agency, USA). The Closing Lecture was delivered by Vic Barnett (Statistical analysis of pollution problems) from Nottingham University. In addition there were 10 invited seminars and 84 contributed papers. The conference had participants from Argentina, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, USA, and Venezuela.

The Local Organizing Committee was chaired by Miguel Nakamura and Victor Pérez-Abreu from CIMAT, Guanajuato.

A Proceedings Volume of this Conference will be published (it will be number 3 in series) entitled: "Statistics for the Environment 3. Aspects of Pollution: Assessment and Control", edited by Vic Barnett and Feridun Turkman, to appear by Wiley.

Victor Pérez-Abreu
Mexico

Workshop on Stochastic and Statistical Methods in Hydrology
March 25–28, 1996
CIMAT, Guanajuato, Mexico

The purpose of this conference was to "brainstorm" on the role of stochastic methods in solving fundamental problems of surface water hydrology. There were eight general lectures on the three topics Networks and Landforms; Rainfall; Runoff and Floods, given by V. Gupta, I. Rodriguez-Iturbe, B. Trutman, E. Foufoula-Georgiou, D. Cox, V. Isham, E. Waymire and U. Lall. The program also included round–table discussions, general and specialised on research topics comprising the perspectives of hydrologists, physicists, probabilists, and statisticians regarding this special field of hydrology.

A book will be published to serve as a basic reference for new researchers interested in this broad theme and for succeeding workshops. Participants in the round–table discussions included F. Avila, M. Bladt, O. Barndorff-Nielsen, E. Cinlar, J. L. Jensen, M. Nakamura, S. Peckman, V. Pérez-Abreu, M. Sørensen, V. Sapozhnikov, B. Trejo and J. Van Horebeck. The workshop was supported by CIMAT.

A second workshop on the theme is planned for 1998, with an extended number of participants and including a pre-workshop training period.

Victor Pérez-Abreu
Mexico

Membership Statistics

The following membership statistics (as of December 31) was provided by Volker Mammitzsch, the Membership Secretary of the Bernoulli Society. We let the figures speak for themselves.

Year	New	Deceased	Resigned	Struck-off	Membership
1991	63	4	37	54	1489
1992	70	2	40	55	1462
1993	92	6	14	56	1478
1994	54	8	48	50	1426
1995	234	–	27	31	1602