

Preface

This volume celebrates the tenth edition of the Brazilian School of Probability (EBP), held at IMPA, Rio de Janeiro, from July 30 to August 4, 2006, jointly with the 69th Annual Meeting of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics. It was indeed an exceptional occasion for the local community working in this field. The EBP, first envisioned and organized in 1997, has since developed into an annual meeting with two or three advanced mini-courses and a high level conference.

This volume grew up from invited or contributed articles by researchers that during the last ten years have been participating in the Brazilian School of Probability. As a consequence, its content partially reflects the topics that have predominated in the activities during the various editions of the School, with a strong appeal that comes from statistical mechanics and areas of concentration that include interacting particle systems, percolation, random media and disordered systems. All articles of this volume were peer-refereed.

The scientific committee of the 10th EBP comprised D. Brillinger, C. Newman, Y. Peres, C.-E. Pfister, I.M. Skovgaard and V. Yohai. The organizing committee consisted of F. Cribari, C.C. Dorea, L.R. Fontes, M. Fragoso, A.C. Frery, S.R. Lopes, and ourselves. We are indebted to all of them, for their help in shaping and organizing the school. We are also grateful to the colleagues responsible for the IMS meeting. Having such a large meeting jointly with the school required a significant effort and patience for structuring a reasonable schedule. We acknowledge the support constantly given by IMPA and also by “Instituto do Milenio” (IM-AGIMB) to the school, and the financial support given by the sponsors: Capes, CNPq, Faperj, Fapesp, Finep, ICTP, NSF, Prosul and RDSES. We are also grateful to the staff of IMPA, for their constant help before and during the joint event.

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