

Preface

This volume provides the latest advancements in statistical methods for multidimensional data analysis which can have a complex structure and collects a selection of revised papers presented at the first Joint Meeting of the Société Francophone de Classification and the Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society (SFC-CLADAG 2008) which was held in Caserta, June 11–13, 2008. Bernard Fichet and Domenico Piccolo co-chaired the Scientific Programme Committee and Rosanna Verde chaired the Local Organising Committee.

The meeting brought together a large number of scientists and experts, especially from Italy and francophone countries. It was a highly appreciated opportunity of discussion and mutual knowledge exchange about *techniques and tools for analyzing, classifying and summarizing statistical information, as well as for discovering and characterizing trends, and for automatically bagging anomalies.*

Special attention was paid to new methodological contributions from both the theoretical and the applicative point of views, in the fields of Clustering, Classification, Time Series Analysis, Multidimensional Data Analysis, Knowledge Discovery from Large Datasets, Spatial Statistics.

Upon conclusion of the joint meeting a cooperation agreement between the SFC and CLADAG was signed by Gilles Venturini, president of the SFC and Andrea Cerioli, president of CLADAG for a continuation of the scientific collaboration between the two groups around subjects related to the Classification and Multivariate Data Analysis.

The volume is structured in nine sections. The first contains the key note speakers papers, with eminent contributions in Classification and Data Analysis fields in plenary and semi-plenary sessions, by Edwin Diday, Carlo Lauro, Jacqueline Meulman, Paolo Giudici, André Hardy and Roberta Siciliano. The extended versions of some of their contributions were then written in collaboration with other colleagues.

Furthermore, the other 43 selected papers have been collected in 8 sections according to the following macro-topics:

- Classification and discrimination
- Data mining
- Robustness and classification
- Categorical data and latent class approach
- Latent Variables and related methods

- Symbolic, multi-valued and conceptual data analysis
- Spatial, temporal, streaming and functional data analysis
- Bio and health science

We wish to thank the authors for their contributions and the referees who carefully reviewed the papers: S. Balbi (Università di Napoli Federico II), F. Bartolucci (Università di Urbino “Carlo Bo”), Ch. Biernacki (Université LILLE I), M. Bini (Università di Firenze), H.-H. Bock (RWTH Aachen), A. Cerioli (Università di Parma), M. Chiodi (Università di Palermo), A. Chouakria-Douzal (Université Joseph Fourier Grenoble), M. Civardi (Università di Milano Bicocca), M. Corduas (Università di Napoli Federico II), F.T.A. De Carvalho (UFPE Brazil), M.R. D’Esposito (Università di Salerno), F. Domenach (University of Nicosia), V. Esposito Vinzi (ESSEC Paris), L. Fabbri (Università di Padova), L. Ferré (Université Toulouse Le Mirail), J. Gama (University of Porto), P. Giudici (Università di Pavia), A. Giusti (Università di Firenze), R. Gras (Université de Nantes), A. Guénoche (IML Marseille), G. Hébrail (ENST Paris), S. Ingrassia (Università di Catania), F.-X. Jollois (Université Paris Descartes) P. Kuntz (LINA, Université Nantes), M. La Rocca (Università di Salerno), Y. Lechevallier (INRIA Rocquencourt), V. Makarenkov (Université de Montréal), S. Mignani (Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna), A. Mineo (Università di Palermo), M. Noirhomme (Université de Namur), F. Palumbo (Università di Napoli Federico II), C. Rampichini (Università degli Studi di Firenze), M. Rémon (Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix, Namur), M. Riani (Università di Parma), R. Rocci (Università di Roma Tor Vergata), F. Rossi (ENST Paris), G. Scepi (Università di Napoli Federico II), R. Siciliano (Università di Napoli Federico II), N. Torelli (Università di Trieste), Claus Weihs (Universität Dortmund), S. Zani (Università di Parma), D. Zighed (Université de Lyon).

We gratefully acknowledge the *Facoltà di Studi Politici e per l’Alta Formazione Europea e Mediterranea “Jean Monnet”* and the *Dipartimento di Studi Europei e Mediterranei* of the *Seconda Università di Napoli* for financial and organisation support and *EPT, Scuola Superiore della Pubblica Amministrazione, Sovrintendenza ai Beni Culturali* for the authorization for the use of the rooms and the theatre of the Royal Palace of Caserta for the conference sessions.

Special thanks are due to the members of the local Organising Committee for their work and especially to Antonio Irpinio and Antonio Balzanella for their efficient assistance in managing the web review process.

We are grateful to Hans-Hermann Bock for his help and fruitful support during the reviewing process and to have facilitated our contact with Springer-Verlag

Finally we would like to thank Dr. M. Bihn and her colleagues from Springer-Verlag, Heidelberg, for the excellent cooperation in publishing this volume.

Marseille, France
Napoli, Italy
Caserta, Italy
Roma, Italy
Maggio 2010

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Classification and Multivariate Analysis for Complex
Data Structures

Fichet, B.; Piccolo, D.; Verde, R.; Vichi, M. (Eds.)

2011, XIX, 473 p. 110 illus., 34 illus. in color., Softcover

ISBN: 978-3-642-13311-4