

Preface

The purpose of this volume is to provide an overview of Terry Speed's contributions to statistics and beyond. Each of the fifteen chapters concerns a particular area of research and consists of a commentary by a subject-matter expert and selection of representative papers. Note that, due to space constraints, not all articles discussed in the commentaries are reprinted in this volume. The reader is referred to the book website for access to these papers (<http://www.stat.berkeley.edu/~sandrine/Pubs/SelectedWorksTerrySpeed/>). The chapters, organized more or less chronologically in terms of Terry's career, encompass a wide variety of mathematical and statistical domains, along with their application to biology and medicine. Accordingly, earlier chapters tend to be more theoretical, covering some algebra and probability theory, while later chapters concern more recent work in genetics and genomics. The chapters also span continents and generations, as they present research done over four decades, while crisscrossing the globe.

The commentaries provide insight into Terry's contributions to a particular area of research, by summarizing his work and describing its historical and scientific context, motivation, and impact. I've enjoyed reading the personal anecdotes, which remind us that one cannot always dissociate the scholar from the person and show how relationships beginning as professional collaborations can turn into long-lasting friendships. In addition to shedding light on Terry's scientific achievements, the commentaries reveal endearing aspects of his personality, such as his intellectual curiosity, energy, humor, and generosity. The title of Bin Yu's piece, "the $n \rightarrow \infty$ dimensions of Terry", says it all and captures Terry as an avid and tireless scholar and explorer.

Due to space constraints, this volume is only the tip of the iceberg, as it is clearly impossible to give a complete account of Terry's work. And it is certain that additional significant contributions are forthcoming — Terry's thirst for knowledge has not abated, and neither has his dynamic pace. For "coming attractions", one will have to wait for another such volume ...

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