

Preface

This book grew out of a desire on the part of both authors to formally record in one volume some of their research on ranking methods. My own interest was sparked by a problem emanating from the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa. It was desired to test if patients who were mobile differed from those who were not with respect to how they ranked certain sets of situations. The early research dealing with the one sample problem was conducted at the Technion where I spent a sabbatical and worked together with my friends and colleagues Paul Cabilio and Paul Feigin. It subsequently led to a series of papers written principally with Paul Cabilio which formed the basis of inference for ranking data. Other contributions were made by graduate students and various collaborators. It is our pleasure to thank Xin Gao from York University who generously permitted us to include the work on interaction and who shared his/her computer packages.

I am grateful to my teachers who have inspired me during both my undergraduate and graduate studies. Specifically I would like to thank Miklos Csorgo and Michael Stevens who taught me probability and statistics at McGill University and who instilled in me an interest to pursue the subjects. Herbert Robbins at Columbia University and Michael Woodroffe at the University of Michigan served as wonderful role models throughout my doctoral studies. They demonstrated convincingly that it is possible to combine depth of meaning and elegance in statistics.

It is a pleasure to thank my wife Helen and my family for their continued support and understanding during the preparation of this book. To my parents who have inspired me to pursue an academic career I owe a great deal.

Ottawa, ON, Canada

Mayer Alvo

I am particularly grateful to Kin Lam and Richard Cowan for their teaching and guidance in my graduate years at The University of Hong Kong. Without their encouragement and support in analyzing contract bridge tournament data, my works on modeling ranking data and this book would not have gotten started. I would

like to thank all my former graduate students in ranking data research, in particular Dorcas Lo, Wai-ming Wan, and Paul Lee. The second part of this book is based on our joint work on modeling of ranking data. A special thank you to Qinglong Li, Yuming Zhang, and Yiming Li for their outstanding assistance in writing R programs.

I thank God almighty for his/her support in all my endeavors; I especially owe thanks to my family, especially my wife Bonnie and our two lovely sons, for their continued support and understanding throughout the work. Sincere gratefulness goes to my beloved parents.

Hong Kong, China

Philip L.H. Yu

Both authors are grateful to the publishers/ journals for allowing us to quote freely from our published papers. We are very happy to thank the staff at Springer for their patience and professionalism throughout the preparation of this book. In particular many thanks to Donna Chernyk for guiding us so well along the way

Statistical Methods for Ranking Data

Alvo, M.; Yu, P.L.H.

2014, XI, 273 p. 22 illus., 4 illus. in color., Hardcover

ISBN: 978-1-4939-1470-8