

Preface

The papers contained in this volume stem from contributions firstly presented at the joint international meeting JCS-CLADAG held in Anacapri (Capri Island, Italy) on September 3–4, 2012, where the Japanese Classification Society and the Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society had a stimulating scientific discussion and exchange.

The conference focus was primarily on the Analysis and Modeling of Complex Data in Behavioral and Social Sciences, including theoretical developments, applications, and computational methods. The joint meeting aimed at enhancing the scientific cooperation between Italian and Japanese data analysts and at establishing new cooperation between members of the two societies.

The scientific program encompassed 93 presentations in 24 sessions, including keynote and specialized lectures as well as solicited and contributed session talks, where the contributions mainly from, but not limited to, the two societies established interesting exchanges and debates between Italian and Japanese data analysts. With over 130 attendees mainly from Italy and Japan, and also from other ten countries of the European Community and the USA and Australia, the conference represented a moment of discussion and exchange of knowledge.

After the conference, from the original presentations, a selection of 31 contributions has been chosen after a double peer-review.

The volume presents theoretical developments, applications, and computational methods for the analysis and modeling in behavioral and social sciences, where data are usually complex to explore and investigate. The challenging proposals provide a connection between statistical methodology and social and psychological domain with particular attention to computational issues in order to address effectively complex data analysis problems.

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We are grateful to the referees for their active, careful, and constructive work which certainly stimulated and improved the scientific content of the contributions.

Finally, a special thanks goes to the authors of the papers who are the real core of the volume for their direct contribution to new and interesting challenges.

Roma, Italy
Tokyo, Japan
Napoli, Italy
Dortmund, Germany
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Donatella Vicari
Akinori Okada
Giancarlo Ragozini
Claus Weihs

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Vicari, D.; Okada, A.; Ragozini, G.; Weihs, C. (Eds.)

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