

2015 IFCS Conference

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From 6th to 8th July 2015, a conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies, see (IFCS), took place in Bologna. This assembly of statisticians focusing on data analysis methods for classification, including cluster analysis, was organized on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the IFCS foundation, see (Bock).

The IFCS conferences are usually held once in every two to three years. Although activities of the IFCS were not significant in recent years, the 2015 IFCS conference proved that classification is an important topic bringing together significant statistical personalities from around the world.

The programme included invited lectures, special sessions, sessions of oral contributions of other participants, and a poster session. Five parallel sessions were held. The conference was launched at the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the University of Bologna, and then the Department of Statistical Sciences was the venue.

Part of the introductory session was devoted to the 30th anniversary of the IFCS. At the opening, among others, Professor Maurizio Vichi, a president of the IFCS, spoke. By the means of a videoconference, Professor A. Gordon, who was a president of the IFCS in 1994 and 1995, also participated.

Participants heard many interesting contributions, abstracts of which have been published, see (IFCS 2015). Interest in the lectures and contributions was considerable, lecture halls were crowded. Participants could spend their free time between blocks of lectures in arcades of the ancient university town, where they met rejoicing university graduates. A pleasant atmosphere helped overcome very high temperatures during the conference in this part of Italy.

Great attendance at the conference of older and younger statisticians, especially when there is a large amount of conferences, indicates that the existence of the IFCS and its activities are important elements in the scientific community. The next IFCS conference will be held in Tokyo in 2017.

References

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