

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR STATISTICAL EDUCATION

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
FIRST SCIENTIFIC MEETING

Edited by

Lina Brunelli and Giuseppe Cicchitelli

University of Perugia, 23-24 August 1993

II

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PREFACE

This volume contains all the invited and contributed papers presented at the first scientific meeting of the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE), held in Perugia in August 23 and 24, 1993. The papers have been collected together under appropriate topic headings, regardless of the order in which they appeared in the scientific programme.

A report about a session devoted to Italian school teachers on "updating teaching methods", and the abstracts of the papers presented at the poster session are also included.

The scientific programme of the meeting was arranged by the IASE interim executive headed by Professor David Vere-Jones with the cooperation of the local organising committee headed by Professor Giuseppe Cicchitelli. The full membership of the two committees was:

IASE interim executive: D. Vere-Jones (Chairman), D. Berze, K. Bryson, Y. Escoufier, A. Hawkins, M.J. Laurent-Duhamel, J. Ntozi, L. Pereira-Mendoza, M. Regier, R. Scheaffer, K. Vännman.

Local organising committee: G. Cicchitelli (Chairman), L. Brunelli, G. Galmacci, R. Giaimo, M. G. Ottaviani, M. A. Pannone, S. Rigatti Luchini.

We are indebted to Professor Vere-Jones, not only for his authoritative contribution to the arrangement of the programme, but also for his many kind suggestions in relation to the organisational aspects.

We are grateful to UNESCO, to the National Council for Research, to the University of Perugia and to other local Institutions for their financial support.

We express our gratitude to Kenneth Bryson, Anne Hawkins, David Moore, Brian Phillips, Mary Regier, Richard Scheaffer and David Vere-Jones for their invaluable help in editing the volume.

Perugia, May 1994

*Lina Brunelli
Giuseppe Cicchitelli*

INTRODUCTION

At its 48th session in Cairo in 1991, the International Statistical Institute approved the creation of a new section, or affiliated society, the International Association for Statistical Education (IASE). The new society held its first scientific meeting in Perugia, Italy, on August 23 and 24, 1993. More than 150 persons from 36 countries participated in the Perugia meeting.

The papers in this volume suggest the variety and importance of the issues facing statistical education as the IASE begins its existence. What is the place of technology in teaching? Readers will find here papers not only on computing and video, but on the rapidly growing area of electronic communication among teachers and between teachers and students. Data analysis is now an important strand in school curricula in many nations. A number of authors discuss statistics in the schools from various perspectives. Note in particular Peter Holmes's comparison of practices within the EEC, which is particularly appropriate for IASE, because it moves beyond the experiences of a single national system.

University education is not neglected, nor is the issue of training government statistical staff.

The IASE, like the ISI itself, is acutely aware of the special problems facing statistical education in developing countries and in the transition countries of eastern Europe. I am pleased that invited speakers from Slovenia, Uganda, and Zimbabwe were at Perugia, and I hope that readers will carefully ponder David Vere-Jones's eloquent essay on "The IASE and Problems of Statistical Education in Developing Countries". David Vere-Jones was the interim president of IASE while the society was in its formative stages. We owe him and the other members of the interim executive committee our gratitude for launching IASE. We are also indebted to Giuseppe Cicchitelli and the other members of the Perugia organizing committee for arranging and hosting so excellent a meeting, and for attracting financial support for the meeting at a time when IASE had few resources of its own.

The open forum on future directions for IASE that concluded the meeting allowed participants to suggest priorities for the new society. Among many ideas, I noted a repeated emphasis on finding

ways to allow people concerned with statistical education to more easily locate and communicate with each other. Membership in IASE is of course a way of announcing a commitment to statistics education; we hope to offer members innovative ways to reach each other electronically and otherwise.

The IASE aims to be an effective international voice for strengthening statistical education at every level. It is, I believe, the first society having this as its primary purpose. The Perugia meeting and the papers appearing in this volume are a step in that direction.

David S. Moore
President, IASE

Contents

III Preface

XI Introduction

STATISTICAL EDUCATION AT SCHOOL LEVEL

- 3 Teaching statistics at school level in some European countries
P. Holmes
- 13 The teaching of probability and statistics in schools: issues for interdisciplinary reflection
E. Lombardo, C. Rossi and A. Zuliani
- 27 The classic definition of probability and fractions: difficulties and possibilities at the primary school level
C. Caredda and M. R. Puxeddu
- 37 Teach-Stat: a professional development program for elementary teachers (grades k-6) in North Carolina, USA
D. Frierson, S. Friel, S. Berenson, G. Bright and C. Tremblay
- 47 On the psychopedagogical aspects of teaching statistics at the primary school
M. P. Perelli D'Argenzio
- 53 Stat-Maps
M. Perry
- 63 Statistics: a motivator for secondary school mathematics
R. L. Schaeffer

TEACHING PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS AT UNIVERSITY LEVEL

- 73 What engineers need to learn about statistics
G. Box
- 89 Simulation and the student engineer
L. Råde

VI

- 97 Off-campus statistical experiences for undergraduates
C. J. Blumberg
- 105 The effect of context on the teaching of statistics at first year university level
M. Clark
- 115 The educational tracks of "the making statistics more effective in schools of business" conferences
J. D. McKenzie, Jr.
- 123 Statistical education in developing countries: the problem of 'marketing' university graduates
H. Nikolov, E. Keogh and K. Stielau
- 133 University level statistical education in Hungary
J. Reiczigel
- 141 An investigation into the performance of first year students in mathematics and statistics at a South African university
K. Stielau
- 149 Teaching biostatistics to medical students
R. van Strik
- 155 Education in statistics at the Higher Institute of Chemical Technology - Sofia
K. Veleu, I. Vuchkov and H. Iontchev

COMPUTERS, VIDEO AND OTHER TOOLS IN THE TEACHING OF PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

- 161 The role of electronic communication in statistics education
T. Arnold
- 173 Cognitive technologies for statistics education: relating the perspective of tools for learning and of tools for doing statistics
R. Biehler
- 191 Using computers in teaching statistics - Is it worthwhile?
A. Blejec
- 199 Understanding probability and statistical inference through resampling
C. Konold
- 213 The uses of video in teaching statistics
D. S. Moore

221. Educational hypertext in the teaching of statistics: a possible use for an instruction module for the analysis of the relations between two variables
F. Camillo and M. Pedroni
229. Statree: an expert system for choosing suitable statistical data processing techniques
C. Capiluppi and L. Fabbris
237. Designing curricular software for conceptualizing statistics
S. Cohen, G. Smith, R. Chechile and R. Cook
247. The use of a computer based advisory system as a teaching aid in statistics
J. Griffin and M. Rouncefield
253. A computer aided software for teaching statistics
M. Janvier, G. Saporta and E. Verdoire
255. A role for computer intensive methods in introducing statistical inference
P. Jones, K. Lipson and B. Phillips
265. Chemometrical package for PC
J. Militky, M. Meloun and K. Kupka
273. A computer project for teaching statistics to technicians and factory workers
A. M. Morin
277. Teaching data analysis with the help of Survo
J. Puranen

EDUCATION PROGRAMMES AND TRAINING IN STATISTICS

285. The role of consultancy in university education and professional training in statistics
V. Barnett
299. Three decades of training government statistical staff in developing countries: the African experience
J. P. M. Ntozi and G. W. Kibirige
303. The Eurostat project "Training of European Statisticians" (TES): experience of the first three years and some reflections on the future
R. Teekens

VIII

- 315 Teaching biostatistical concepts and methodology to medical professionals: various alternatives
S. I. Bangdiwala
- 321 Teaching statistics to production personnel
A. C. Garcia
- 327 ISEC, Calcutta: The pioneer centre for statistical training of government sponsored statisticians from developing countries of the third world, mainly from Asia and the Far East
A. B. Raha
- 333 Problems of statistical education in Croatia
A. Rozga
- 337 Statistical education programme in Pakistan
S. A. Starkings

ISSUES IN THE TEACHING OF PROBABILITY AND STATISTICS

- 345 Student views on effective and ineffective learning in graduate level applied statistics courses
G. M. Belli
- 355 Intuitive strategies for teaching statistics
M. G. Borovcnik
- 367 Secret codes in statistical education
E. Çakiroğlu and T. Nemetz
- 377 Proportions, probability and other matters
F. Jolliffe
- 385 Teaching the essentials of elementary probability theory or how not to calculate the mean of the negative hypergeometric distribution
P. Nüesch
- 395 Statistical simulations
M. Rouncefield
- 401 Teaching statistics: making it memorable
E. R. Sowe
- 409 What is the main goal of statistical education?
V. V. Shyrkov
- 417 Learning methods involving communication by students
J. Taffe