A working group at AIM workshop (van den Driessche, Loewy, Kirkland, Kim, McDonald)

International Conference on Matrices and Statistics
in Memory of Professor Sujit Kumar Mitra

Report by Simo Puntanen

Professor Sujit Kumar Mitra passed away at his home in New Delhi on 18 March 2004. An International Conference on Matrices and Statistics in his memory was held in Hyderabad, India, 6-7 January 2007. The conference was organised by the Statistical Quality Control and Operations Research Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Hyderabad. The Organizing Committee chaired by S.K. Pal (Director, ISI, Calcutta) included R.B. Bapat (ISI, Delhi), P. Bhimasankaram (ISI, Hyderabad), Dibyen Majumdar (University of Illinois at Chicago), Thomas Mathew (University of Maryland Baltimore County), A.L.N. Murthy (ISI, Hyderabad), G.S.R. Murthy (ISI, Hyderabad) and G. Murali Rao (ISI, Hyderabad). The conference was supported by the Department of Science & Technology of Government of India, and the conference venue was the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, India.

The conference was inaugurated by B.L.S. Prakasa Rao (University of Hyderabad), and the keynote address was given by J.K. Ghosh (Purdue University). There were 15 participants at the conference: Ravindra B. Bapat (ISI, New Delhi), P. Bhimasankaram (ISI, Hyderabad), Jayanta Kumar Ghosh (Purdue University, USA), K. Krishnamoorthy (University of Louisiana at Lafayette, USA), Dibyen Majumdar (University of Illinois at Chicago, USA), Saroj Malik (Hindu College, Delhi), Thomas Mathew (University of Maryland Baltimore County), A.R. Meenakshi (Annamalai University), Simo Puntanen (University of Tampere, Finland), B.L.S. Prakasa Rao (University of Hyderbad), P.S.S.N.V.P. Rao (ISI, Kolkata), S.B. Rao (ISI, Kolkata), Debasis Sengupta (ISI, Kolkata), Kirti R. Shah (University of Waterloo, Canada), Bikas Kumar Sinha (ISI, Kolkata).
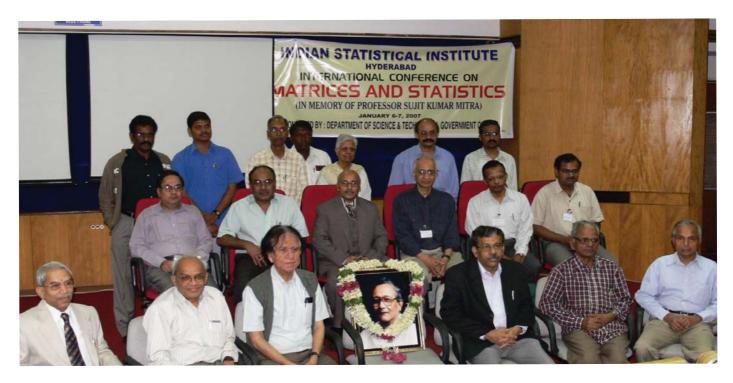
Sujit Kumar Mitra was born on 23 January 1932 in Kolkata, India. He earned his B.Sc. degree in Statistics from Presidency College, Calcutta, in 1949, and his M.Sc. degree in Statistics, from Calcutta University, in 1951. He spent two years in the Department of Statistics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, completing his Ph.D. thesis, "Contributions to the statistical analysis of categorical data" under the guidance of Samarendra Nath Roy, in 1956.

Dr. Mitra joined the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Calcutta, soon after finishing his Masters degree in Calcutta University and was with ISI, Calcutta, till 1971, except for the periods when he was a Ph.D. student at the University of North Carolina and when he spent a short time as a Statistician with Tea Board. He was a Professor of Statistics at ISI, New Delhi, 1974-1991, and Distinguished Scientist there, 1991-1992. He retired in 1992 and continued as Professor Emeritus. Professor Mitra held several visiting professorships in the United States and Japan.

Professor Mitra's main interests were statistical methodology, multivariate analysis, design of experiments, sample surveys and matrix algebra, particularly the theory of generalized inverses of matrices. His classic book with C. Radhakrishna Rao, *Generalized Inverse of Matrices and Its Applications* (Wiley, 1971), has been used with enthusiasm by mathematicians and statisticians all over the world. Very appropriately, Sujit Kumar Mitra was called a "Master of the Row Space and the

Column Space" by Bapat and Hartwig [Linear Algebra and its Applications (1994), vol. 211, pp. 5-14]. Professor Mitra published about 100 research papers and several books; of the papers, 17 appeared in Linear Algebra and its Applications.

Professor Mitra is survived by his wife, Sheila, whom he married in 1958, three daughters, Utsa, Ipshita and Anindita, and a son, Kaustav, and their families.

Participants in S.K. Mitra Conference

Second International Workshop on Matrix Analysis and Applications Nova Southeastern University Fort Lauderdale, FL Dec. 15-17, 2006

by Fuzhen Zhang

The Workshop opened with a warm welcome by Dr. Don Rosenblum, Dean of the Farquhar College of Arts and Sciences, followed by the ILAS invited talk given by Richard Brualdi. Fifty five people from more than ten countries attended. Thirty talks and one poster were presented.

In addition to the talks, the participants had a pleasant tour of the Everglades Holiday Park by airboat, to see Florida alligators, exotic birds and fish. An enjoyable dinner after the excursion highlighted the Workshop with fine wine, beer, food, and good conversation.

The Organizing Committee was Zhong-Zhi Bai, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China; Chi-Kwong Li, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA; Bryan Shader, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY; Hugo Woerdeman, Drexel University, Philadelphia, PA; Fuzhen Zhang (Chair), Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL; and Qingling Zhang, Northeastern University, Shenyang, China.

The conference was supported by Nova Southeastern University and the International Linear Algebra Society (ILAS). A special issue, Matrix Analysis and Applications, of the International Journal of Information & Systems Sciences will be devoted to the meeting. Editors for the issue include: Dennis Bernstein (Guest editor, University of Michigan-Ann Harbor), Hugo J. Woerdeman (Guest editor), Fuzhen Zhang, and Qingling Zhang.