CONFERENCE REPORTS

14th Western Canada Linear Algebra Meeting (WCLAM)
Washington State University, Pullman, WA, USA, May 26–27, 2018

Report by Michael Tsatsomeros

The 14th Western Canada Linear Algebra Meeting (WCLAM) took place on the Washington State University (WSU) Pullman campus, May 26–27, 2018. WCLAM is a biennial meeting that has been been held at various sites throughout Western Canada, beginning with an inaugural meeting at the University of Regina in 1993. This was the first time WCLAM was held in the US, recognizing the strong participation and contribution to linear algebra by mathematicians in the Pacific Northwest.

Participants of the 2018 WCLAM

The meeting provided an opportunity for researchers to present accounts of their recent efforts, and to hold informal discussions. Graduate students and early career faculty were featured prominently. There were 38 participants, two invited speakers, and 16 additional presentations in linear algebra and related fields. The meeting was generously supported by the Pacific Institute for the Mathematical Sciences, the International Linear Algebra Society, the College of Arts and Sciences at WSU, as well as the WSU Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

26th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS-2018)
Dawson College, Montréal, Canada, June 5–7, 2018

Report by Ka Lok Chu, Simo Puntanen & George P. H. Styan

The 26th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS-2018) was held at Dawson College, Montréal, Canada, June 5–7, 2018.

The purpose of this workshop was to bring together researchers sharing an interest in a variety of aspects of statistics and its applications, as well as matrix analysis and its applications to statistics, and to offer them an opportunity to discuss current developments in these subjects. The workshop helped bridge the gap among statisticians, computer scientists and mathematicians in understanding each other's tools.

The International Organizing Committee (IOC) was chaired by Ka Lok Chu (Montréal, Canada), with help from Simo Puntanen (Tampere, Finland) and George P. H. Styan (Montréal, Canada). The International Scientific Committee comprised S. Ejaz Ahmed (Co-chair; St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada), Hans Joachim Werner (Co-chair; Bonn, Germany), and George P. H. Styan (Honorary Chair) with help from Francisco Carvalho (Tomar, Portugal), Katarzyna Filipiak (Poznań, Poland), Jeffrey J. Hunter (Auckland, New Zealand), Daniel Klein (Košice, Slovakia), Augustyn Markiewicz (Poznań, Poland), Simo Puntanen, Júlia Volaufová (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA), and Dietrich von Rosen (Uppsala, Sweden).

The IOC of IWMS-2018 is most grateful to Karina D'Elmo and Myriam Dimanche for their help with local arrangements at Dawson College.

The invited speakers were:

- Oskar Maria Baksalary (Poznań, Poland): "Representations of the Moore–Penrose inverses of matrices"
- Adi Ben-Israel (Piscataway, NJ, USA): "Matrix volume and its applications"
- Dennis S. Bernstein (Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA): "Input estimation for linear discrete-time dynamical systems"
- S. W. Drury (Montréal, Canada): "Some old conjectures of Bapat and Sunder"
- Yonghui Liu (Shanghai, China): "Estimation and influence diagnostics for an autoregressive model under skew-normal distributions"
- Mika Mattila (Tampere, Finland): "The arithmetic Jacobian matrix and determinant"
- Christopher C. Paige (Montréal, Canada): "The effects of loss of orthogonality on large sparse matrix computations"
- Yongge Tian (Beijing, China): "Multilevel statistical models, least-squares estimators, and reverse-order laws for generalized inverses"

Contributed speakers:

- Jorge Delgado Gracia & Juan Manuel Pẽna (Zarazoga, Spain): "Schoenmakers–Coffey matrices"
- Simo Puntanen: "Linear prediction sufficiency in the misspecified linear model"

On Tuesday, June 5th, we held a *Mini-symposium celebrating the 100th birth anniversary of Theodore Wilbur Anderson, Jr.*, who was born on June 5th, 1918, and passed away on September 17th, 2016; the speakers were Simo Puntanen and George P. H. Styan. Related links:

- `http://www.sis.uta.fi/tilasto/iwms/PunSty-Tomar-handout-13july08T.pdf` (Bibliography for TWA, 2008)
- `http://www.sis.uta.fi/tilasto/iwms/TWA-NYT-10oct16.jpg` (*New York Times* Obituary, 10 Oct 2016)

On Wednesday, June 6th, several talks by invited speakers were presented, as well as some contributed talks. On Thursday, June 7th, the *Third mini-symposium on magic squares, prime numbers and postage stamps* was held, including speakers Ka Lok Chu and George P. H. Styan, and a poster by Richard William Farebrother (Manchester, UK). The first two of these mini-symposia were held at IWMS-2016 (`http://www.iwms.ipt.pt/?page=home`) in Madeira, Portugal and at Dawson College, Montréal (2017), celebrating George P. H. Styan's 80th birthday; see the program of G80 at `https://people.uta.fi/~simo.puntanen/M2-G80-7sep17-red.pdf`.

Participants of IWMS-2018

For more about the IWMS-2018 Workshop, see the web site (`https://profchu.wixsite.com/mysite`) and the final program (`http://www.sis.uta.fi/tilasto/iwms/program-IWMS-2018-Montreal.pdf`).

For previous IWMS-workshops, see the IWMS-website, where, for example, "A short history of the International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics" can be downloaded (`http://www.sis.uta.fi/tilasto/iwms/IWMS-history.pdf`). The 27th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics will be held in Shanghai, Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, June 6–9, 2019; see `http://www.suibe.edu.cn/txxy/iwms2019`.