

PREAMBLE

The idea of organizing a conference on image analysis and spatial statistics was suggested by Ingram Olkin to Stuart Geman, who then asked me for help to make it happen.

The conference, one of the 1988 summer research conferences in the Mathematical Sciences held at Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine), was sponsored by the American Mathematical Society (AMS), the Institute of Mathematical Statistics (IMS), and the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM).

Vincent Mirelli facilitated the award of generous, supplemental funding by the Center for Night Vision and Electro-Optics, a unit within the Advanced Sensor Systems Branch of the Harry Diamond Laboratory, Department of the Army (Adelphi, Maryland).

My own involvement in this project has been made possible by those institutions that sponsored the conference directly, by the Office of Naval Research (Contract N00014-85-K-0422), and by The Boeing Company.

Carole Kohansky, Summer Research Conference Coordinator, really put the conference together. In addition, her cheerfulness and attention to detail allowed the proceedings to flow smoothly from first day to last, and all-in-all brought about the minor miracle of ensuring that what could have produced a major headache, instead turned out a very pleasant experience.

Frances Chen did all the \TeX ing with utmost competence, and was kind enough to teach me a good deal about technical typesetting in the process. Karin Czulik prepared the art work, and arranged it gracefully. Robert Serfling and José Gonzales proved meticulous, encouraging editor and publisher.

Besides at least one author of each paper in this volume, the following also made presentations during the conference: Robert Azencott, Julian Besag, Bernard Chalmond, Colin Goodall, Iain Johnstone, Jesper Möller, Pablo Salzberg, Allan Seheult, Paul Switzer, and Masahara Tanemura.

I believe Ron Pyke has been given less credit than he deserves for the much that he has done, at several levels, to draw the attention of statisticians, probabilists, and mathematicians, towards consequential themes within spatial statistics. It is only fair to acknowledge here his contribution to the contemporary preeminence of the field among our colleagues.

As the field has grown, and our comprehension of the attending technologies has deepened, I have seen, time and again, how accurately Ulf Grenander foresaw the promise of the directions that did yield the richest fruit. I should like to thank Stuart Geman for having given me the chance, several years ago, to meet Ulf himself.

I have learned from Julian Besag that spatial statistics is statistics first — that it must include an overriding concern with real data that are relevant to real problems.

Antônio Possolo, Editor
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