

24th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics Haikou, Hainan, China, May 25–28, 2015

Report by Jeffrey J. Hunter

The 24th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS-2015) was held at Hainan Normal University, in Haikou, Hainan, China, 25–28 May, 2015. This Workshop was sponsored by Hainan Normal University, endorsed by the International Linear Algebra Society with an ILAS Lecturer and supported by SAS Institute, Inc. with a SAS Lecturer.

The International Organising Committee (IOC) was chaired by Jeffrey J. Hunter (New Zealand), and included Simo Puntanen (Finland) as Vice-chair, George P.H. Styan (Canada) as Honorary Chair, S. Ejaz Ahmed (Canada), Augustyn Markiewicz (Poland), Dietrich von Rosen (Sweden), Julia Volaufova (USA) and Hans Joachim Werner (Germany). The IOC was augmented by Chuanzhong Chen (China), Kai Tai Fang (China), Shuangzhe Liu (Australia), Jianxin Pan (United Kingdom), Tsung-I Lin (Taiwan), Kimmo Vehkalahti (Finland), and Yonghui Liu (China), to form the Scientific Program Committee. The Local Organising Committee was chaired by Chuanzhong Chen and assisted by Li Wang as Secretary.



Participants of the 24th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics: Haikou, Hainan, China, 25–28 May 2015

The invited plenary speakers were:

- Ravindra B. Bapat (Indian Statistical Institute, New Delhi, India), “Moore-Penrose inverse of a Euclidean distance matrix”;
- Mu-Fa Chen (Beijing Normal U, China), “Unified speed estimation of various stabilities”;
- Zhi Geng (Peking U, China), “Causal effects and causal networks”;
- Chris Gotwalt, SAS Lecturer (SAS Institute Inc., Cary, NC, USA), “Firth estimation in the mixed model: a new derivation of REML and improved estimates and inferences using logistic models with random effects”;
- Karl Gustafson, ILAS Lecturer (U of Colorado, Boulder, CO, USA), “Antieigenvalue analysis, new applications: Continuum Mechanics, Economics, Number Theory”;
- Lynn Roy LaMotte (Louisiana State U, New Orleans, LA, USA), “Multivariate inverse prediction with mixed models”;
- Peter Šemrl (U of Ljubljana, Slovenia), “Adjacency and coherency preservers”;
- Yoshio Takane (U of Victoria, BC, Canada), “Professor Haruo Yanai and multivariate analysis”.

The Workshop Program contained two special Invited Sessions, one, organized by Jianxin Pan, Honoring Kai Tai Fang’s 75th Birthday, and one, organized by Julia Volaufova, Honoring Simo Puntanen’s 70th Birthday. In addition, in a departure from previous workshops, eleven minisymposia were organised:

- MS1. Model Selection and Post Estimation, Organizer: S. Ejaz Ahmed;
- MS2. Statistical Simulation, Organizer: Kai-Tai Fang;
- MS3. Magic Matrices, Organizers: Kai-Tai Fang & George P. H. Styan;

- MS4. Matrices in Applied Probability, Organizer: Jeffrey J. Hunter;
 MS5. Statistical Modeling and Computation, Organizer: Tsung-I Lin;
 MS6. Matrices with Economic and Financial Applications, Organizer: Shuangzhe Liu;
 MS7. Design and Analysis of Experiments, Organizer: Augustyn Markiewicz;
 MS8. Linear and Mixed Models, Organizers: Simo Puntanen & Julia Volaufova;
 MS9. Matrices Useful for Modelling Multi-level Models, Organizer: Dietrich von Rosen;
 MS10. Teaching Matrices within Statistics, Organizer: Kimmo Vehkalahti;
 MS11. G-Inverses, Linear Models and Multivariate Analysis, Organizer: Hans Joachim Werner.

The plenary sessions, minisymposia and special sessions involved 76 invited speakers. As well there were five contributory paper sessions involving 24 speakers. The total number of registrants was 133 from 21 countries, making this one of the larger IWMS meetings held, exceeded only by the 2010 Workshop in Shanghai, China.

In addition to the Book of Abstracts, a Souvenir Booklet was published with the financial assistance of Professor Kai Tai Fang and technical assistance from Associate Professor Yong-Dao Zhou. This contained a history of IWMS, articles on Professor Kai Tai Fang and Simo Puntanen, and twenty-four papers that were presented at the Workshop, and was made available to all the participants at the time of registration. The Abstracts and the Souvenir Booklet are available on the website <http://iwms2015.csp.escience.cn/>.

In addition, the journal *Special Matrices* is publishing a topical issue on the Proceedings of the 24th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics, with guest editors Jeffrey J. Hunter, Simo Puntanen and Dietrich Von Rosen (see <http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/spma>).

The Workshop opened with a formal opening ceremony followed by a photo session. The banquet was held on the opening evening. At the end of the workshop the hosts arranged an excursion to Sanya.

The 25th International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics (IWMS-2016) will be held in Funchal, Madeira, 6–9 June 2016 (see <http://www.iwms.ipt.pt>). The Scientific Program Committee is chaired by Simo Puntanen with George P. H. Styan (Honorary Chair of IWMS, Canada) and Julia Volaufova (Vice-Chair, United States of America). The Organizing Committee is chaired by Francisco Carvalho (Portugal).

2015 Shanghai International Workshop on Matrix Inequalities and Matrix Equations Shanghai, China, June 28–30, 2015

Report by Chi-Kwong Li



Participants of the 2015 Shanghai International Workshop on Matrix Inequalities and Matrix Equations