

News

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ProbaStat'94 — International Conference on Mathematical Statistics

Traditionally, after 3 years, a delegation of Prague's mathematical statisticians and probabilists took a part in the further of the series of ProbaStat conferences. The conference was organized in period May 30 to June 3, 1994, by the Institute of Measurement Science, the Mathematical Institute, both from the Slovak Academy of Sciences, by the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of the Comenius University, in cooperation with the Union of Slovak Mathematicians and Physicists. For the first time we went to Slovakia as to a foreign country, changing money and showing passports at the border. However, it was the only one and the last inconvenience we encountered during our visit.

The conference took place at the Smolenice Castle, the centre of the Slovak Academy, situated in the nice countryside of Small Carpathes, not too far from Bratislava. The topical area of the meeting was concentrated to 3–4 main themes. Namely, to nonlinear regression analysis, theory of optimal experimental design, statistics of random processes, with several contributions dealing also with robust statistics. This specification of themes had a plausible consequence that almost all contributions were heard with attention and followed by discussions. The high level of conference (and attention of auditory) was, without doubts, caused also by a representative choice of invited speakers. I won't give here a list of them, nevertheless, let me mention one of the best known personalities of the world of mathematical statistics, Professor C. R. Rao. He held the opening lecture "Recent contributions to statistical inference in censored regression models" dealing with modern methodology of estimation and testing and discussing the robust approaches to statistical inference from incomplete data. During the conference the representatives of the Slovak Academy of Sciences awarded Professor Rao by the title Doctor Honoris Causa. It was the second such a title awarded by the Slovak Academy (and the first one to a foreigner) in its 40 years history.

In addition to the invited talks, a number of contributed lectures was presented. Besides, the posters were exhibited in the round top room of castle's tower. The scientific programme was also followed by social events. An informal Welcome Party was organized, a conference dinner (with cymbal music) took place on Thursday evening. Wednesday afternoon was devoted to an excursion associated with a concert of chamber music. Summarized – the scientific programme was outstanding, the milieu of Smolenice was pleasant and inspiring. All this mainly resulted also from the care of the Local Organizing Committee, led by Dr. J. Volaufová, and of the Scientific Programme Committee, chaired by Prof. A. Pázman. A booklet of abstracts of the contributions is available, a volume of Proceedings will be published in the nearest future.

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