

Selected Linear Algebra Events Attended

The Eighth ILAS Conference Barcelona, Spain: July 19–22, 1999

Report by Richard A. BRUALDI

The Eighth Conference of the International Linear Algebra Society (ILAS) was held at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya in Barcelona, Spain, July 19–22, 1999. All of the scientific sessions were held in the building of the Departament de Matemàtica Aplicada I. The number of (registered) conference participants was 197 representing thirty different countries. Many thanks to Manuel Martín (Fotografo, Barcelona) for the photo on pp. 14–15.

There were fourteen invited speakers each of whom gave a very stimulating and well-organized lecture. Among these invited talks were the Olga Taussky–John Todd Lecture on *Recent Studies on the Numerical Range* by Chi-Kwong Li (College of William & Mary), and the Hans Schneider Prize Lecture on *The Power Method in Max Algebra* given by Ludwig Elsner (Universität Bielefeld). There were five minisymposia on (1) *Total Positivity*, (2) *Parametrization Problems in Linear Algebra and Systems Theory*, (3) *Parallel Asynchronous Methods*, (4) *Combinatorial Matrix Theory* (In honor of Richard A. Brualdi's 60th birthday), and (5) *Minisymposium in Memory of Robert C. Thompson*. There were a total of 39 presentations in the minisymposia, and over 100 contributed talks.

A conference tour showed participants the sights of Barcelona; included was a reception at City Hall where they were treated to a very enjoyable welcome by a (mathematically informed) minister from the Mayor's office, and glasses of cava. A banquet was held at the Hotel Hilton Barcelona on July 21. At the banquet, Hans Schneider presented the 1999 Linear Algebra Prize to Ludwig Elsner, and John Todd gave a rousing speech. The conference concluded with thanks to all of those who made the conference such a wonderful success, especially Ferran Puerta, and with more cava.

A special issue of *Linear Algebra and its Applications* (LAA), edited by Nick Higham, Roger Horn, Tom Laffey and Ferran Puerta, containing papers from the conference is being assembled. The deadline for submission of papers to one of the special editors is November 30, 1999.

The Eighth International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics Tampere, Finland: August 6–7, 1999

Report by Simo PUNTANEN

The Eighth International Workshop on Matrices and Statistics was held at the University of Tampere on Friday, August 6, and

Saturday, August 7, 1999. This Workshop was a Satellite Conference of the 52nd Session of the International Statistical Institute being held in Helsinki August 10–18, 1999.

The International Organizing Committee comprised R. William Farebrother, Simo Puntanen (chair), George P. H. Styan (vice-chair) & Hans Joachim Werner. The Local Organizing Committee at the University of Tampere comprised Riitta Järvinen, Erkki Liski, Jyrki Ollikainen, Tapio Nummi, and Simo Puntanen (chair), with the assistance of Poika Isokoski, Petri Latva-Rasku, Riina Metsänoja, and Anne Puustelli. The photo on page 12 was taken by Erkki Karen.

The Workshop, getting together 95 participants from 22 countries, included sessions of invited and contributed talks and talks by students, as well as a poster session. All Workshop abstracts appear on the Workshop Web site:

<http://www.uta.fi/laitokset/mattiet/workshop99/index.html>

Selected refereed papers from this Workshop will be published in a Special Issue on Linear Algebra and Statistics of *Linear Algebra and its Applications*.

In the opening session, a silent moment was held for Bernhard Flury (1951–1999), who was killed in July 1999 in a mountain-climbing accident near Trento, Italy.

The Keynote Speaker was T. W. Anderson, with the title "Canonical analysis and reduced rank regression in autoregressive models". The ILAS Lecturer was Gene H. Golub, who spoke on "Reconstruction of a polygon from its moments". The invited Speakers were T. Ando, Ronald Christensen, Seppo Mustonen, Friedrich Pukelsheim, Alastair J. Scott, Shayle R. Searle, Bimal K. Sinha, and George P. H. Styan. Eleven talks were presented in two plenary Graduate Student sessions.

An informal reception was held on Thursday evening, August 5. The reception speech "Why do statisticians kiss my toes, or how close can a statistician get to a Nobel Prize?" was given by Dr. Martin Rasmussen¹ of the Tampere City Health Care and Social Welfare Office. We hope that this excellent talk will soon be published.

A Sauna Party in Finnish style (Finns continue to take partying very seriously) was held on the Friday evening on Viikinsaari Island. The long-awaited soccer game Finland vs Dream Team International was held in the Viikinsaari Olympic Stadium. The highlights of the event were Dorothy Anderson (scored beautifully 3 penalty kicks), Shayle Searle (extremely clever use of stick), and George Styan (excellent utilization of the opportunity). The result of the match is immaterial (but let it be mentioned that it was 6 to 7 or 7 to 6). Dr. Tarmo Pukkila, Ex-Rector of the University of Tampere, gave an After-Sauna Speech entitled: "Is there life outside the universities?"

¹Dr. Rasmussen is a grandson of Harald Cramér (1893–1985).