

ROBUST 2018 (Rybník)

20th Event of International Statistical Conference

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The 20th event of the well-established biennial statistical conference *ROBUST 2018* took place in the *Rybník* Resort in the *Český Les* (Czech Republic) during 21–26 January 2018. It was organized by joint effort of the Expert Group of Computational Statistics of the Czech Mathematical Society (Section of the Union of Czech Mathematicians and Physicists), Department of Probability and Mathematical Statistics of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague and the Czech Statistical Society. In total, 86 participants from 5 countries presented and discussed contributions covering a broad spectrum ranging from theoretical statistics, probability and stochastic analysis, official statistics, and computer science to applied statistics in several fields, including insurance mathematics, medicine, sports, metrology, geology, and criminology. Foreign participants came from Slovakia (12), Germany (1), Switzerland (1), and Belgium (1). The idea behind the *ROBUST* conferences has always been to bring together statisticians of all generations and all fields from different Czech and Slovak institutions, Czech and Slovak experts living abroad to enable the exchange of ideas and to provide them with interdisciplinary insight into the research in statistics.

Six invited lectures were delivered. The leading expert in discrete mathematics and interval computation, Doc. Milan Hladík (Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague) delivered a two-hour opening lecture on interval robustness in linear programming. The interval-data approach is a statistical tool for dealing with, for example, rounded data. Doc. Ján Mačutek (Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Komenský University, Bratislava) presented an application of cluster analysis to the New Year and Christmas speeches of Czechoslovak and Czech Presidents. The classification of the speeches to the three clusters – the first Presidents (T. G. Masaryk, E. Beneš, E. Hácha), the Presidents of the communist regime, and the President of the democratic regime impressed the participants.

Dr. Miroslav Singer (ex-governor of the Czech National Bank, now in the Generali CEE Holding) delivered a lecture on practical experience in decision under uncertainty. It was focused on two topics – the monetary interventions of the Czech crown and the effects of relative exchange rates on the purchasing power of the Czechs. These issues were lively discussed by the audience. The lecture was supplemented by a short presentation delivered by Doc. Jaroslav Sixta (Director of the Macroeconomic Statistics Section of the Czech Statistical Office; Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Economics, Prague) on estimates of quarterly GDP and assessment of prediction by macroeconomic analysis.

Prof. Jan Hanousek (CERGE-EI, Charles University, Prague) delivered a presentation on endogeneity of variables in corporate finance application. These techniques enable to assess impacts of subsidies and government policies. He also moderated a one-hour discussion on assessment of scientific publications.

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Doc. Eva Fišerová (Faculty of Sciences, Palacký University, Olomouc) provided an interesting presentation on estimation of quadrics and its precision. Besides metrology, the topic is also vital in archaeology to estimate the size of burial chambers in excavations. Doc. Zbyněk Pawlas (Department of Probability and Mathematical Statistics, Faculty of Mathematics and Physics, Charles University, Prague) provided an overview of stochastic mosaics including applications in materials science.

This Conference was focused, as usually, on participation of doctoral and master degree students, who presented 25 posters. Prizes were awarded in two categories: Master and First-Year Doctoral Students and Advanced Doctoral Students. The prizes were sponsored as usually by RSJ Securities, a.s., and RSJ Foundation. The honourable mentions – monographs and textbooks of the Matfyzpress publishing house were provided by anonymous sponsors. Conference fees for many participants (mostly master and first-year doctoral students) were covered as in the past conferences by RSJ and the Czech Statistical Society. The editor-in-chief of the *Statistika: Statistics and Economy Journal* kindly invited participants to submit relevant papers to the Journal.