
PREFACE

This volume constitutes the Proceedings of the International Symposium on Classical and Contagious Discrete Distributions held at McGill University, Montreal, Canada for a week starting August 15, 1963. During the past few years a vast amount of literature has appeared in this field. Lacking a unified point of view, its approach has been more or less scattered and problem-oriented. There was need for a conference that would review past and present work, open areas for future research, and bring to attention the necessary tools. It was desirable that such a conference represent a comprehensive cross-section of contemporary thinking on problems of discrete variables. The present Symposium was conceived and organized on this basis and its proceedings are here presented for wider scrutiny.

The activities of the Symposium started with an evening party given by the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of McGill University, Dr. R. E. Robertson and Mrs. Robertson, which set the cordial and friendly tone that prevailed throughout the Symposium. At the most welcome invitation of the French-speaking University of Montreal, one afternoon session was held on their campus. A Sunday picnic across the pre-cambrian Laurentian Mountains was a pleasing diversion at which the Canadian Operations Research Society treated the delegates to afternoon tea.

Most of the papers published in these proceedings were circulated to the participants two months before the meetings, as an aid to keeping the discussions meaningful and lively at the time of presentation. In consequence, some of the papers as they appear here were altered by their authors. Editorial work on the manuscripts has been limited to meeting the requirements of the printer. It is hoped that the book as a whole has a coherence transcending the individual papers of which it is composed, and will prove a useful reference book in statistics and probability. The bibliography of more than 1200 references on discrete distributions and related topics should be helpful to students and teachers alike.

Sufficient funds, satisfactory facilities and adequate personnel are indispensable in an enterprise such as this. The National Research Council of Canada awarded a grant through its Associate Committee on Pure and Applied Mathematics chaired by Professor R. L. Jeffery, to whom very sincere thanks are due. The Canadian Mathematical Congress sponsored the Symposium and granted additional financial support. It is indeed a pleasure to thank the Executive Council of the Congress and its Executive Director, Professor L. F. S. Ritcey, for their support. Through their good offices, Dean F. K. Hare and Dean S. B. Frost offered the hospitality of McGill University and a financial grant through the Committee on Research of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Their keen interest and friendly help are very much appreciated. The institutions, governments and national societies of several partici-
punts are also to be thanked for their support. It is hoped that these proceedings and the scientific developments they may stimulate will justify their confidence in the undertaking.

While responsibility for the Symposium is mine, I must record my grateful thanks to all the participants and visitors for their active and constructive cooperation. Particularly, I am indebted to Professors Jerzy Neyman, C. I. Bliss, S. K. Katti and Paul R. Rider for their valuable help and suggestions from time to time. Sincere thanks are also due to Dr. W. R. Blischke and Dr. E. L. Crow and to Professors A. C. Cohen, Jr., J. B. Douglas, John Gurland, J. O. Irwin, A. R. Kamat, Leo Katz, E. Lukaes, Elizabeth Scott, L. R. Shenton, D. A. Sprott and M. C. K. Tweedie for their encouragement and support. I am also grateful for assistance on local arrangements to my colleagues at McGill, including Professors G. Cavadias, E. Rosenthal and V. Seshadri, and to Sheela Beldikar, Susan Lazare, Florence Shanfield, Hilde Schroeder and J. K. Wani, and to my wife Lalita Patil.

Ten years ago I went from Poona to the Indian Statistical Institute in Calcutta, where Professor C. R. Rao with his characteristic insight and vision advised me to study discrete distributions. The idea appealed to me and I took up the task. It is a pleasure indeed to record my gratitude and appreciation to Professor Rao for his continued interest in this task, in the present Symposium, and in the publication of its proceedings.

The world-wide distribution of this volume outside India will be handled by the Pergamon Press. I should express here my sincere appreciation for the Pergamon Press for their keen interest in these proceedings.

Before I close, I should also refer my sincere thanks to the staff of the Statistical Publishing Society, Calcutta, the publishers of the proceedings and to the staff of the Eka Press where the proceedings were printed, for their kind assistance in the work of sub-editing, proof-reading and printing.

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