

New Executive Editor, 1992–1994, Robert E. Kass

The editorial cycle for *Statistical Science* is three years. The Institute for Mathematical Statistics has chosen Robert E. Kass of Carnegie Mellon University to assume the Executive Editorship of this journal beginning next year. I am sure that Rob will retain the best of *Statistical Science* while introducing further measures to keep it as one of the most enjoyable statistical publications.

Beginning after January 1st, authors submitting

new manuscripts should mail them to Rob at Carnegie Mellon University. I will continue to handle some of the continuing articles. In any event, authors should know that manuscripts received at either address will be forwarded properly. Please send new contributions for future issues, because you will find that reviews of your research area will give it impetus and wider recognition.

In This Issue

Some of the best known figures in statistics, economics, mathematics and related areas participated in the 1942–1943 statistics seminars at MIT. The names are Arnold, Bowker, Feller, Freeman, Haavelmo, Hotelling, Klein, Samuelson, Struik, Ullman, von Mises, Wald, Wiener and Wilson, all widely known now. Lawrence Klein and Joseph Ullman pulled together the abstracts of these talks, being published here. I am especially grateful to Lawrence Klein and to Paul Samuelson, both Nobel laureates in economics, who provided their accompanying reminiscences of those fertile and youthful times for the contributors, and for statistics itself.

1990 saw the publication of a new statistics package described in the book, *LISP-STAT: an Object-Oriented Environment for Statistical Computing and Dynamics* (Wiley Interscience), by Luke Tierney, University of Minnesota. Lisp-Stat is based on the Lisp language, which supports much of artificial intelligence development, and is motivated by the popular “S” system for statistical work. Lisp-Stat is oriented especially toward facilitating graphics work. It supports well the developments of hand-tailored models, including Bayesian calculations. Readers will be delighted to know that, at present, the Lisp-Stat source code, which runs on UNIX workstations, and also source code versions for Macintosh and Amiga computers are available from the University of Minnesota without charge.

We present here four reviews of the book and of the related software by discussants from three continents, each of whom has substantial experience in the use and development of statistical software. One discussant, Claus Weihs, with Heinz Schmidli, wrote for us earlier: “OMEGA: Online Multivariate Exploratory Graphical Analysis” (*Statistical Science*, May 1990, pages 175–226, with discussion). It is clear from these discussants that Lisp-Stat is seen as an extremely important development for statistics that promises to facilitate the work and creativity of experienced statisticians and those with less training, alike. The discussions will help you to determine the computational advantages of Lisp-Stat for you.

Jessica Utts provides us with her perspectives on statistical methods and approaches used to study parapsychology phenomena. These include the important topics of meta-analysis, process-oriented research and the concepts of randomization and replication, and so they help to clarify issues encountered by all statisticians. The seven discussions have a variety of perspectives on the validity of parapsychology. The data sets on the Ganzfeld series, background for Utts’s report, are listed with Dawson’s comments.

Chu and Marron review the current state of the art for choosing between two kernel estimation methods for nonparametric regression, the purpose being to help users choose the better one. Several examples are provided to illustrate the methods, for one predictor and one predictand, but most of the discussion centers on technical issues and conceptual understanding. The multiple regression case goes untreated here, limiting the practical use of the methods. The five comments provide further perspectives concerning the operating characteristics of the methods, the choice of band-widths and computational efficiency. Some introduce other possible estimators and discuss other models.

Finally, this issue features an interview with Leopold Schmetterer, who has contributed so much to the development of mathematics, probability and statistics in Austria and Germany since World War II. His 1979 book (in German and later translated into English) “Introduction to Mathematical Statistics,” was very influential in Europe. He was one of the leaders in the first Pannonian Symposium held in Austria in 1979. This symposium was designed to increase scientific cooperation in the Pannonian area of Austria, Czechoslovakia, and parts of Poland, Yugoslavia and Romania. He is best known internationally for his editorship of the *Zeitschrift für Wahrscheinlichkeitstheorie und verwandte Gebiete*. The interview is conducted by Professor Hermann Witting, of the University of Freiburg, Germany, where this interview took place.

C. N. Morris