

STATISTICS IN TRANSITION-new series, Summer 2012
Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 219—222

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue is composed of two unequal in size and different in character parts. The first part, and the main one, contains a selection of papers based on presentations at the Congress of Polish Statistics that was held - under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland, Mr Bronisław Komorowski - in April 18-20 2012, in the city of Poznań, one of the country's leading academic centers, to commemorate the one hundredth anniversary of founding of the Polish Statistical Society. The other part - which 'represents' a regular type of papers published in this journal - is composed of three articles, from China, India and Poland.

While providing an excellent opportunity to the international community of statisticians to meet and exchange ideas, assess achievements and discuss developments in practically all areas of statistics - as an academic discipline and as a field of institutional activity - the Congress gave also a chance to honour several distinguished scholars with the newly established Jerzy Sława-Neyman Medal by the Polish Statistical Society. The following eminent scientists were awarded: Sir Anthony Atkinson, Tadeusz Caliński, Malay Ghosh, Zdzisław Hellwig, Jana Jurečková, Wojciech Krzanowski, Kazimierz Zajac, Ryszard Zieliński. A short presentation of the laureates is given in first congress' paper.

The selected congress' papers come from different sessions and can be organized into two groups which, to some extent, remind the standard format of the journal's contents: 'sampling and estimation' and 'other articles' with prevalence of topics related to measurement and analysis.

The first group of articles - related to the sampling and estimation issues - is opened by **M. Ghosh's** paper *Finite Population Sampling: A Model-Design Synthesis* that is devoted to a general class of Bayes estimators for estimating the finite population mean which also achieve design consistency. In the next paper, *Application of Rotation Methods in Sample Surveys in Poland*, **J. Kordos** discusses designs of the surveys across time taking into account different objectives while focusing on partial rotation of sub-samples, and on problems of estimation and data quality in general, with special attention given to the recent research on rotation sampling in Polish literature.

J. Kubacki discusses the problem of *Estimation of Parameters for Small Areas Using Hierarchical Bayes Method in the Case of Known Model*

Hyperparameters which he confronts with subjective model parameters selection showing advantages of the former and illustrating it for estimation of average per capita income from Polish Household Budget Survey at the level of county (NUTS4/*powiat*), as well as demonstrating the efficiency of hierarchical Bayes estimation compared with other small area methods for HB and EBLUP technique. **J. Wywiał** discusses the problems of *Application of Order Statistics of Auxiliary Variable to Estimation of the Population Mean* in a finite population by means of sampling strategies, given that an auxiliary variable is highly correlated with a variable under study (observations of which are the values of the concomitant of the order statistic), and derives the expected value and the variance of the estimator, accuracy of which is assessed on the basis of simulation analysis. **G. Dehnel** presents the issue of *Estimation for short term statistics* with intention to exploit the possibility of using administrative registers for the purpose of short term business statistics and to use the opportunity being given by participation of Poland in the MEETS program to take steps towards reforming the country's business statistics.

Second group starts with **M. Krzyśko** and **Ł. Waszak's** paper *Methods of Representation for Kernel Canonical Correlation Analysis* focused on new way of finding linear combinations of the original variables having maximal correlation through representing the problem as the generalized eigenvalue and constructing nonlinear canonical correlation analysis in reproducing kernel Hilbert spaces; the results obtained by classical and kernel canonical correlation analysis are compared - in conclusion, Q-KCCA is being recommended as one of the best methods in nonlinear canonical correlation analysis. In paper devoted to *Independence Analysis of Nominal Data with the Use of Log Linear Models in R* by **J. Brzezińska** an idea of application of log-linear models to variables measured at the level below interval scale is discussed for the case of using **R** software with the `loglm` function in MASS library and `glm` function in Stats library, along with illustration of this usage for datasets in economic area. Another example of analysis of qualitative variables is presented by **H. Dudek** and **J. Landmesser's** paper *Income Satisfaction and Relative Deprivation* in which income situation of households in relative terms is analyzed for various socio-demographic groups of households using partially generalized ordered logit models, using data from Household Budget Survey 2009.

An idea of employing *Ensemble approach for clustering of interval-valued symbolic data* is discussed by **M. Pelka** for the case of cluster analysis of symbolic data using simulation techniques (based on artificial data sets with known cluster structure) to ensemble clustering based on co-occurrence matrix for

symbolic interval-valued data, compared with single clustering method (according to corrected Rand index). In paper *Taxonomic Analysis of The Polish Public Health in Comparison With Selected European Countries* by A. Wierzbicka, public health in Poland is being analyzed in relation to the selected European countries using taxonomic methods and identifying countries with the highest level of public health based on medical, economic and social indicators (from the EUROSTAT database). In the last paper of this group, entitled *Statistics and Sociology: The Mutually-Supportive Development from the Perspective of Interdisciplinary Social Research* by W. Okrasa, a methodological issue of the confluence of developments in these two disciplines, statistics and sociology, is discussed with a succinct overview of this interaction over time until the recent advances in counterfactual causal modeling that enhance methodology of social science research in general.

Each of the three papers that constitute a regular type of journal's articles concerns issue of different kinds. P. Gurgul and P. Zając in paper *Forecasting of Migration Matrices in Business Demography* demonstrate that the forecast of migration matrices can be conducted by means of updating procedures, well-known in the I-O theory. Using some of its popular version (RAS and some non-biproportional approaches) the authors calculate measures of the ex-post error of predictions. A ranking of forecasting methods of migration matrices (forecast horizon one) is established taking into account the measures of distance between two matrices and problems with some forecasting methods (with respect to one-step ex-post forecasts of migration matrices) are discussed.

D. K., Shangodoyin, J. F., Ojo, J. O., Olaomi, A. O. Adebile are presenting *Time series model for predicting the mean death rate of a disease* for either an emerging disease or re-emerging disease with a bilinear induced model. The estimated death rate converges rapidly to the true parameter value for a given mean death at time t . The derived model could be used in predicting the m -step future death rate value of a given disease. The new concept is illustrated with real life data.

Z. Xing and L. Chu refer results of *Research on Constructing Composite Index of Objective Well-Being From China Mainland* using the Quality of Life (QOL) index that was initiated in China during 1980s. The concept of QOL is defined in terms of the quality of people's life and is used to analyze both the people's living conditions and their subjective well-being. An analytical system of Chinese people's well-being covers economic well-being, health and basic survival well-being, social well-being, cultural well-being, political well-being

and environmental well-being. The composite indicator of objective well-being was employed to evaluate well-being of people in 30 Chinese provinces.

The final item of this issue is a conference report. The 30th Anniversary International Conference on *Multivariate Statistical Analysis* was held on November 7th-9th, 2011 in Łódź, Poland, being dedicated to Professor of mathematics Antoni Łomnicki, Professor of statistics and administrative law Józef Kleczyński, and Professor of mathematics and history of science, and a champion of science, Samuel Dickstein.

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Editor