

ICASMDS-2018 - CONFERENCE REPORT

The Department of Statistics, University of Madras organized an International Conference on *Advances in Statistical Methods and Data Science* (ICASMDS -2018) during December 20-22, 2018. The organizers would like to record their sincere thanks to the International Statistical Institute (ISI) and International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS) for extending support for conducting the workshop and conference.

A one day pre-conference workshop on “*Applied Time Series Analysis using R*” was also organized in the department on December 20, 2018. The workshop introduced time series models using R from a practical perspective. This workshop was conducted for the benefit post graduate students and research scholars and young faculty members in Statistics who are working in the area of time series or with an interest in the above topic. More than 90 participants applied for the workshop, but only 50 participants were selected due to space constraints. We invited two resource persons namely **Dr. Nalini Ravishanker**, Professor and Undergraduate Program Director in the Department of Statistics at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and **Dr. Balaji Raman** who is the Chief Statistician at Cogitaas, AVA, Mumbai, for conducting the workshop. The workshop covered:

- Processing and visualizing time series of various types.
- Summarizing time series using time-domain and frequency domain functions.
- Modeling and forecasting time series using several methods including time series regression, smoothing.
- Autoregressive moving average (ARMA) models with/without exogenous predictors, vector autoregressions.
- Neural networks.
- Outliers and missing data.

Participants had hands-on training. The workshop was interactive in nature and benefitted the participants for pursuing the interest in the domain of time series. Participants who attended the workshop were given certificates of participation. They stayed back for the conference held on December, 21-22 and benefitted from the galaxy of plenary and invited talks by distinguished scholars.

The international conference was formally inaugurated on December 21, 2018 at 9.00 am by Prof. R. Srinivasan, Registrar of our University and Prof. J. Ranganathan, Emeritus Professor of Statistics, presided over the function. Eight internationally eminent speakers accepted our invitation and delivered

lectures in the fields of Statistical Methods and Data Science. Also, thirteen eminent professors of statistics from various Universities within India participated and delivered the lectures.

Besides the invited talks, we received 82 abstracts of which 60 were shortlisted for presentation in contributed sessions. The conference was held over two days with eight invited sessions and four contributed sessions. The overall participation per day was around 175-200 members. Our Honorable, Vice-Chancellor was present in the evening to celebrate the 85th birthday of Prof. J. Ranganathan and honored him. Prof. Ranganathan was a contemporary and associate of eminent statisticians like Prof. C. R. Rao, Prof. S. R. S. Varadhan, Prof. J. Sethuraman, and Prof. Krishniah.

The conference was partially funded by agencies like CSIR-HRDG and DST-PURSE besides the nominal registration fee collected from the participants. The organisers are extremely happy that the conference was a great success with the active participation of several statisticians and the active support of the authorities of the University of Madras.