Maximum Entropy and Bayesian Methods in Applied Statistics
Maximum Entropy and Bayesian Methods in Applied Statistics

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Edited by

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## CONTENTS

Preface vii  
Donors ix  
Bayesian Methods: General Background 1  
E. T. Jaynes  
Monkeys, Kangaroos, and N 26  
E. T. Jaynes  
The Theory and Practice of the Maximum Entropy Formalism 59  
R. D. Levine  
Bayesian Non-Parametric Statistics 85  
Stephen F. Gull & John Fielden  
Generalized Entropies and the Maximum Entropy Principle 95  
J. Aczel & B. Forte  
The Probability of a Probability 101  
John F. Cyranski  
Prior Probabilities Revisited 117  
N. C. Dalkey  
Band Extensions, Maximum Entropy and the Permanence Principle 131  
Robert L. Ellis, Israel Gohberg & David Lay  
Theory of Maximum Entropy Image Reconstruction 156  
John Skilling  
The Cambridge Maximum Entropy Algorithm 179  
John Skilling  
Maximum Entropy and the Moments Problem: Spectroscopic Applications 194  
C. G. Gray  
Maximum-Entropy Spectrum from a Non-Extendable Autocorrelation Function 207  
Paul F. Fougere  
Multichannel Maximum Entropy Spectral Analysis Using Least Squares Modelling 212  
P. A. Tyraskis  
Multichannel Relative-Entropy Spectrum Analysis 235  
Bruce R. Musculus & Rodney W. Johnson  
Maximum Entropy and the Earth’s Density 254  
E. Rietzch
## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Entropy and Some Inverse Problems in Exploration Seismology</td>
<td>269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>James H. Justice</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Principle of Maximum Entropy and Inverse Scattering Problems</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Ramarao Inguva &amp; James Baker-Jarvis</em></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Index</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PREFACE

The Fourth Workshop on Maximum Entropy and Bayesian Methods in Applied Statistics was held in Calgary, Alberta, at the University of Calgary, August 5-8, 1984. The workshop continued a three-year tradition of workshops begun at the University of Wyoming, in Laramie, attended by a small number of researchers who welcomed the opportunity to meet and to exchange ideas and opinions on these topics. From small beginnings, the workshop has continued to grow in spite of any real official organization or basis for funding and there always seems to be great interest in "doing it again next year."

This volume represents the proceedings of the fourth workshop and includes one additional invited paper which was not presented at the workshop but which we are pleased to include in this volume (Ellis, Gohberg, Lay). The fourth workshop also made a point of scheduling several exceptional tutorial lectures by some of our noted colleagues, Ed Jaynes, John Burg, John Shore, and John Skilling. These tutorial lectures were not all written up for publication and we especially regret that the outstanding lectures by John Burg and John Shore must go unrecorded.

The depth and scope of the papers included in this volume attest, I believe, to the growing awareness of the importance of maximum entropy and Bayesian methods in the pure and applied sciences and perhaps serve to indicate that much remains to be done and many avenues are yet to be explored. At the same time, it should be clear that significant inroads are being made and the results give credence to both the importance and the practicality of these methods.

In organizing this volume, I have tried to place papers of a general or tutorial nature first, followed by papers related to theoretical considerations, and finally papers dealing with applications in the applied sciences, more or less grouped by application, and a reasonable order for logical development of content.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to a number of people whose devotion and efforts made the workshop a success and the preparation of this volume possible. First among these was surely Mrs. Esther Cockburn.
Preface

who handled all arrangements, mailing, and organization for the
conference, and much of the work related to the preparation of this
volume. Her efforts assured our success. Pat Foster handled all of our
accounting and insured our solvency. Special thanks are also due to
Bonnie Sloan who expertly handled all of the typing for this volume and
who met all deadlines with work of the highest quality.

Finally, but certainly not least, go our deepest expressions of
gratitude to those donors in Calgary and Ottawa who answered our call in
a time of need to generously provide all the funding required to insure
the success of our efforts. The following section is set aside to call
attention to these organizations and to express our thanks to them.
It is my hope that this volume will be of use not only to researchers in
many scientific disciplines but also to those whose aspirations are to
join their ranks and to carry on this tradition.

James H. Justice
Calgary, Alberta
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