

Minutes for the NPS Section meeting at JSM 2015, Seattle

1. Hans Muller (NPS section chair) gave introductory remarks.
 2. David Dunson (NPS section representative) presented the main issues discussed at the Council of Sections meeting. Here is a brief summary.
 - There was a proposal to add a new section of the ASA on “Lifetime Data Analysis”. The NPS section had some discussion about this before. It seems that those in attendance were not supportive of creating this new section. Instead, many thought that pretty much all of the modern survival analysis work is either semiparametric or nonparametric. Hence there was encouragement for the survival analysis group that wants to form a section to join the NPS section and play a more active role; we are happy to have a conversation about how to get them more engaged. There is otherwise concern about fragmenting of ASA into too many small bins.
 - Members are encouraged to check out and provide feedback on <http://www.stats.org/>, which is designed for the general public.
 3. Chunming Zhang (program chair) reviewed the NPS Section sponsored sessions at JSM 2015. The NPS section was the primary sponsor of total 25 sessions (4 invited, 6 topic contributed, 12 contributed and 3 poster session).
 4. Naisyin Wang (chair-elect) presented several issues:
 - (1) A nonparametric conference will be held on Oct 6-7, 2016 in Ann Arbor, MI with maximum 110 participants. The information will be sent out soon.
 - (2) She hopes to increase the revenue of the section, for example from some private fund.
 - (3) She talked about increasing the visibility of the section, e.g. by sponsoring short courses etc. She encouraged the section members to send their ideas and suggestions to her.
 5. Colin Wu (chair of the best student paper awards committee) discussed the best student paper awards of the ASA Nonparametric Statistics section at the JSM 2015. Among 24 submissions, seven finalists were selected. All submitted papers were blindly reviewed and rated by five committee members (Naomi Altman, Guang Cheng, Shujie Ma, Huixia Judy Wang, Colin Wu). Colin announced the finalists and the winners of the best student paper awards. The three winners are:
 - Naveen Naidu Narisetty, University of Michigan, “Extreme notion of depth for functional data”
 - Yakuan Chen, Columbia University, “Variable selection in functional-on-scalar regression”
 - Ashley Petersen, University of Washington, “Fused LASSO additive model”
- The other four finalists are:
- Gen Li, University of North Carolina, “Nonparametric Two-Way Hazards Model with Applications to Call Center Waiting Times”

- Junwei Lu, Princeton University, “Nonparametric Heterogeneous Inference for massive Data: A Splitotic Approach”
- Abhishek Chakraborty, Harvard University, “Efficient and Adaptive Linear Regression in Semi-Supervised Settings”
- Srijan Sengupta, University of Illinois, “A subsampled double bootstrap for massive data”

6. The Journal of Nonparametric Statistics (JNPS) best paper awards were presented. The awards committee consisted of Steve McEachern (chair), Fang Yao and Helen Zhao. The winners are as follows.

2014 JNPS Best Student Paper Award winner: Camila P.E. de Souza, supervised by Nancy E. Heckman, “Switching nonparametric regression models,” published in Volume 26, Issue 4, 2014.

2012 JNPS Best Paper Award: Weixin Yao, Bruce G. Lindsay and Runze Li, "Local modal regression," published in Volume 24, Issue 3, 2012.

2013 JNPS Best Paper Award: Sebastien Da Veiga and Fabrice Gamboa, “Efficient estimation of sensitivity indices,” published in Volume 25, Issue 3, 2013.

After these presentations, Hans adjourned the meeting.