

Probability and Statistics

— in Honor of Pao-Lu Hsu's 100th Birthday

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Professor Pao-Lu Hsu (1910–1970) was the pioneer and founding father of Probability and Statistics in China. His research work ranged from limit theory, statistical inference, multivariate analysis, to random matrices and other related topics, and were well recognized by his peers. He was the first Chinese probabilist/statistician with the world fame, though many of his papers were written in Chinese and were published in Chinese journals. He was the first teacher to offer a course in probability and statistics in China. His earlier students included Kai Lai Chung, Shengming Leng, Shouren Wang of the Southwestern United University, Isadore Blumen, Albert Bowker, Erich Lehmann and Ingram Olkin in the USA. In 1956, probability and statistics was enlisted as a key subject to be developed with priority in China. Professor Hsu was appointed as the founding director of the Division of Probability and Statistics established within the Department of Mathematics and Mechanics at Peking University. The division was the very first of the kind in China and served as the seed for a nationwide development subsequently. In particular, he was the mastermind of the intensive training program held at Peking University in 1950s. Many qualified trainees were dispatched to universities all over the country and the curriculum and lecture notes were replicated. For his achievements and contributions, Professor Hsu was elected as a member of the Chinese Academy in 1948 and in 1955. His collected papers were published in Chinese by the Science Press and in English by Springer-Verlag.

It was Professor Hsu's strong wish to promote probability and statistics in China with his best endeavor. He even wanted to subsidize a professional journal with his own money in order to publish papers by young Chinese researchers. Due to many unfortunate reasons, Professor Hsu did not see his plan executed before his untimely death in 1970. Nowadays, probability and statistics has developed very well in China. Almost all probabilists and

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statisticians in China are either Hsu's students or students of his students. The Chinese Society of Probability and Statistics was established in 1981, and the *Chinese Journal of Applied Probability and Statistics* was launched in 1985, fulfilling a long-time wish of Professor Hsu. Several probabilists were invited to take the floor in the International Congresses of Mathematicians. Chinese statisticians are getting extremely active in the USA and in the world.

To commemorate Professor Pao-Lu Hsu on the occasion of his 100th birthday, the International Conference on Probability and Statistics was held at Peking University in July 2010. 168 probabilists and statisticians from all over the world participated in the conference and 78 distinguished researchers were invited to present their work. Detailed information on the workshop, including the invited speakers, the organizing committee and the conference program, can be found in

<http://www.math.pku.edu.cn/misc/probstat/hsu100.htm>

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Dedicated to the memory of late Professor Pao-Lu Hsu, this issue collects some papers on which the presentations were based. All papers in this special issue were refereed. On behalf of the organizing committee, we would like to thank all the participants, speakers, authors, and especially all the referees for their contributions for the success of the conference and publication of this issue.

Probability and Statistics— an International Conference in Honor of Pao-Lu Hsu's 100th Birthday

Program Committee

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