

Preface: XI Brazilian Meeting on Bayesian Statistics

Julio Michael Stern, Marcelo De Souza Lauretto, Adriano Polpo, and Marcio Alves Diniz

Citation: AIP Conf. Proc. 1490, 1 (2012); doi: 10.1063/1.4759582

View online: http://dx.doi.org/10.1063/1.4759582

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PREFACE: XI Brazilian Meeting on Bayesian Statistics

This volume of the AIP Conference Proceedings contains selected articles from EBEB 2012 – XI Brazilian Meeting on Bayesian Statistics (XI Encontro Brasileiro de Estatística Bayesiana). The home page of the event is available at www.brastex.info/ebeb2012/.

Since 2002, the EBEB meetings have been organized by ISBrA, the Brazilian chapter of the International Society for Bayesian Analysis (ISBA). EBEB 2012 was held at the beautiful resort Hotel Canto da Floresta, in the city of Amparo, State of São Paulo, from March 18 to 22 of 2012. The main goals of EBEB 2012 were to:

- Strengthen the research on Bayesian methods, as well as to widen their application in the Brazilian scientific community.
- Provide an environment where Brazilian and international researchers could collaborate, present their most recent developments and discuss open problems.
- Give our graduate students a chance to make contacts with experienced researchers in order to discuss their current work, as well as to pursue future research topics and new opportunities, including their engagement on Ph.D. or pos-doc programs in Brazil or abroad.
- Strengthen our interaction with other scientific communities, concerning astronomy, biology, econometrics, engineering, jurimetrics, medicine, physics, etc. We highlight the most welcome participation and enthusiasm of ABJ Brazilian Jurimetrics Association (Associação Brasileira de Jurimetria).

The discussions at EBEB 2012 focused on recent developments in Bayesian statistics, ranging from the computational point of view to a methodological perspective, having however an emphasis on foundations of probability and statistics. The works presented at this meeting provided an ensemble of interesting applications, advanced computational techniques, new methodological developments and relevant discussions on the theoretical foundation of Bayesian statistics.

Our headquarters for organizing EBEB 2012 were located at IME-USP - Institute of Mathematics and Statistics of the University of Sao Paulo. The members of EBEB 2012 organizing committee were:

- Julio Michael Stern, from IME-USP,
- Carlos Alberto de Bragança Pereira, from IME-USP,

XI Brazilian Meeting on Bayesian Statistics
AIP Conf. Proc. 1490, 1-4 (2012); doi: 10.1063/1.4759582
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- Adriano Polpo, from the Federal University of São Carlos,
- Marcelo de Souza Lauretto, from EACH-USP, and
- Márcio Alves Diniz, from the Federal University of São Carlos.

At EBEB 2012 we were fortunate to have 13 excellent invited speakers, namely:

- André Rogatko, from the Samuel Oschin Comprehensive Cancer Institute;
- Alexandra Schmidt, from UFRJ Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro;
- Ariel Caticha, from SUNY State University of New York;
- Dalia Chakrabarty, from the University of Warwick;
- Debajyoti Sinha, from Florida State University;
- Frank Lad, from the University of Canterbury;
- Joseph Kadane, from Carnegie Mellon University;
- Luis Raul Pericchi Guerra, from the University of Puerto Rico;
- Marco Antonio Rosa Ferreira, from the University of Missouri;
- Marlos Viana, from the University of Illinois;
- Nestor Caticha, from IF-USP Instituto de Física da Universidade de São Paulo;
- Rosangela Loschi, from UFMG Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais; and
- Sonia Petrone, from Università Bocconi.

EBEB 2012 hosted a total of 70 presentations -28 oral and 42 posters. It was attended by 76 regular participants coming from the following institutions:

- ABJ Associação Brasileira de Jurimetria,
- BM&F-Bovespa,
- EACH-USP, ICMC-USP, IME-USP, INMETRO, PUC-RS, UFGD, UFMG, UFRJ, UFSCAR, UNB, UNESP, UNICAMP, UFRPE,
- Universidad de Antofagasta,
- Universidad de Concepción, and
- Universidad de Santiago de Chile.

We were very pleased with the participation of 33 Brazilian students, almost all of them presenting their works at the conference. We believe that this participation indicates the strength and potential for future expansion of the area of Bayesian Analysis in Brazil.

All regular participants that duly requested financial aid, have received some form of support to attend the conference. Through an aggressive discount policy in EBEB 2012 registration fees, ISBrA was able to induce a substantial increase of the number of Brazilian affiliates of ISBA.

This is the first proceedings volume published in the history of EBEB meetings. Each paper published in this volume has had the opportunity to benefit from the critique of two referees during EBEB 2012, in the form of anonymous reviews. This rapid review process allows the presentation of fresh ideas and works in progress, permitting an expedite paper selection and compilation of the proceedings. At the same time, this review process helps to enforce necessary standards of ethics and good quality in academic reporting. These characteristics make such proceedings a fast and reliable communication vehicle that is very distinct from, and hence does not directly compete with, traditional scientific journals, where final works undergo a far more detailed, thorough and slower editorial process.

Many choices concerning editorial processing and decision making for the EBEB 2012 proceedings were inspired by our pleasant and successful previous experiences as participants and organizers of MaxEnt 2008 - the 29th International Workshop on Bayesian Inference and Maximum Entropy Methods in Science and Engineering.

The organizers have also invited text books for the event's tutorials. In so doing we followed in the footsteps of ABE – Brazilian Statistical Association (Associação Brasileira de Estatística). These textbooks provide much needed didactic resources for Brazilian and other South-American students. They also give the authors a stepping-stone for preparing full-fledged books ready for the editorial market. Professor Ariel Caticha was kind enough to answer our request, writing the book *Entropic Inference and the Foundations of Physics*, that we were able to publish and distribute to all participants.

During the event, 60 participants signed a manifesto in solidarity to our Argentinian colleagues, that have been constantly harassed and coerced to produce biased inflation and other econometrical statistics. The articles *Don't lie to me, Argentina* and *The price of cooking the books* in *The Economist*, 25, 2012 (p. 18 and 47–48, respectively) explain this dramatic situation, and the anti-ethical practices of the Argentinean government used to manipulate official statistics.

In the business meeting at the end of EBEB 2012, ISBrA members elected a new presidency for the period 2012-2014, that shall organize our next meeting, EBEB-2014. Moreover, in the same business meeting, the editors of this volume accepted the responsibility of editing the next meeting's proceedings. This measure should help to ensure the stability and continuous improvement of the editorial process. It is our hope that the steady publication of high quality proceedings shall stimulate, over the following years, the spontaneous participation of more international researchers. According to the best guidelines for scientific development, we would like to change the basic character of EBEB, from a local meeting with the participation of a few invited guests from overseas, to a global meeting hosted by Brazil that facilitates the participation of many South American researchers.

The organizing committee is particularly grateful to our support team, Sylvia Regina A. Takahashi, Lourdes Vaz da Silva Netto and Danilo Leal Mesquita. They provided

the infrastructure of informatics, logistics, management and accounting that is necessary to organize such a large event. We are also grateful to Profs Márcia Branco and Rosângela Loschi for organizing a very nice dinner honoring Prof. Heleno Bolfarine. Some photos of this dinner are available at this volume back matter.

The activities of EBEB 2012 had the financial support and sponsorship of the following institutions: ABE, R\$ 2,000; ABJ, R\$ 4,500; CAPES, R\$ 35,000; CNPq, R\$ 20,000; FAPESP, R\$ 151,680; IME-USP, R\$ 4,000; and INCTMat, R\$ 9,000.

São Paulo, September 07, 2012, The Editors of EBEB 2012 Proceedings,

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