Introduction

The Conference on Modern Methods in Insurance Pricing and Industrial Statistics (MIPIS 2017) was held at the Bu-Ali Sina University in Hamedan, Iran, from September 3rd to September 5th, 2017.

This conference has been jointly organized by a team from Bu Ali Sina University, by Kristina Lurz, the former chair of y-BIS, the society of Young Business and Industrial Statisticians under ISBIS, and Professor Søren Asmussen from Aarhus University in Denmark.

Submission process

We received 128 submissions in total. After reviewing them, 117 papers were accepted which were organized in three parallel sessions with 84 talks and 33 poster presentations. Details on the geographical distribution of submissions as well as the statistics on the authors of the accepted submissions can be taken from the graphics below.

Figure 1. Geographical distribution of authors in the world
Figure 2. Geographical distribution of authors in Iran

Submission to MIPIS 2017

Number of Submissions

Date
Table 1. Number of Co-Author per submission

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-Author</th>
<th>0</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Frequency</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

P(X=x) = \begin{cases} \frac{114}{117} \left( \frac{2}{x} \right)^x, & x = 0, 1, 2 \\ \frac{3}{117}, & x = 4. \end{cases}

Opening ceremony

The program was started by reading the Quran and broadcasting the National Anthem of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Sunday morning, September 3rd. Then, it was followed by a movie about Bu-Ali Sina University. We had three welcome speeches by Prof. Mansour Gholami, chancellor of the Bu-Ali Sina University; Dr. Ebrahim Nasiroleslami, General chair of the conference, and Dr. Rahim Mahmoudvand, scientific chair of the conference. We also performed
two short memorial events in memory of late Prof. Naserreza Arghami (passed away at the age of 68 on 26th July 2017) and late Prof. Ali Amidi (passed away at the age of 84 on 23rd Aug 2017) who both were distinguished Iranian statisticians.
Plenary talks

We had eight plenary talks in total. Each conference day was opened by two or three of them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hansjörg Albrecher, University of Lausanne, Switzerland</th>
<th>Alireza Edalati, Actuary at VHV Insurance AG, Germany</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title: On the Optimality of Reinsurance Forms</td>
<td>Title: The German Insurance Industry – Review and Perspectives</td>
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</table>
Søren Asmussen, Aarhus University, Denmark

Title: Bayesian Ideas for Premium Strategies

Amin Hassanzadeh, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran

Title: Modeling Joint Lifetimes of Couples by Using Bivariate Phase-type Distribution

Jens Perch Nielsen, CASS Business School, United Kingdom

Title: Improved customer in on-line customer communication and its statistical implications

Gholamreza Nakhaeizadeh, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

Title: From Statistics to Machine Learning and Big Data Mining Application Cases from Automotive Industry

Ali Shojaie, University of Washington, USA

Title: Inference in High Dimensions with the LASSO

Amir Safari, Insurance Research Center, Iran

Title: Cat Risks and Insurance in Iran
Contributed talks and posters

After the plenary talks in the morning, parallel sessions took place, of which some of the talks were in English and some in Farsi.

Topics such as life insurance, non-life insurance, pension systems as well as the industrial applications of statistics and big data tools were covered by the talks. Poster presentations were displayed in the reception room of the conference venue for the duration of the main conference event. Specific sessions were allocated for poster presentations each day at coffee breaks in which the poster presenters took up the opportunity to present their work to the audience.
Workshops

On Saturday, one day before the official start of the conference, two short courses were held: The one on “Machine Learning with Industrial Applications” was given by Dr. Ali Shojaie and another one on “Insurance Ratemarking with GLM using SAS” was given by Alireza Edalati. On Monday, Dr. David Rios Insua gave a short course on “Risk Management with Big Data and Applications in Industry”. The workshops were a great success with more than 70 participants.
Social programs

But not only could we enjoy an exciting scientific programme, we also had an enjoyable time in Hamedan, which is a marvellous city with a long and proud history. The local organizing committee organized an excursion in and around Hamedan on Monday afternoon. During the excursion, we visited the Water Cave, the longest water cave in the world. All the participants enjoyed the excursion a lot!
Networking

The conference also helped to support collaboration within and between insurance companies as well as encourage multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral linkages. This was achieved not only through conference proceedings, but also through good attendance at social events including a Welcome Reception, Cultural Activity and the excursion. During the conference, we interviewed eight participants for this purpose. You can see these movies and some other videos during the conference by clicking on the following link:

http://www.aparat.com/amaresh96

(L-R): Interviewer, Prof. Nakhaeizadeh

(L-R): Interviewer, Prof. Assa
**Special publications**


The submission deadlines for both special issues is October, 15th, 2017. All papers will be fully-refereed and the journals’ high standards will be strictly enforced. We would like to invite all of you to submit your interesting high quality papers. You can find instructions on how to submit your paper on the website of this conference.

**Appreciation and gratitude**

We would like to express our deep gratitude for those who contributed to this conference: our plenary speakers and workshop leaders, the programme committee as well as all the local organizers. We are also grateful to all our sponsors. Last but not least, thank you all the paper and poster presenters and everybody who participated in the conference!

All in all, the conference went very smoothly and we have received several encouragements to organize a similar conference in the future.