

FOREWORD

The present volume contains the proceedings of the VIII Semester of the Banach Centre, devoted to Mathematical Statistics. The main topics of the Semester (which, including the Conference at Wisła, lasted from September 15 to December 18, 1976), were (1) decision problems in stochastic processes (stopping rules, sequential procedures, inference, etc.); (2) multivariate statistics; (3) analytical methods in statistics; (4) time series (no papers on this subject were submitted to the volume), and (5) "case models" — which included, in effect, any topics of interest that could not be easily classified.

This volume contains three types of papers: (a) expository or review articles (which usually contain also original contributions of the authors), (b) papers presenting original results, not published elsewhere, and (c) summaries of results which appeared, or are about to appear, in other publications of the author in question.

We attempted to classify the papers submitted into the above five topics and/or into the above three types of contribution. However, as the borderlines between categories are somewhat fuzzy, unequivocal assignment was not always possible. After several unsuccessful attempts, as an alternative to randomization, we simply decided to arrange the papers alphabetically.

We should like at this place to offer the following apology and explanation to some of the authors. At the beginning we were not aware of the limitations placed by the publisher on the size of this volume. Consequently, the authors were not asked to limit the length of their papers. The necessity to impose such a limit appeared later. We have decided, however, to accept several longer papers submitted before the "ban on length".

Editorial Committee