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Official Newsletter of the International Association for Mathematical Geosciences

Contents

President's Forum	
Letters to the Editor	3
Association Business	4
New IAMG Distinguished Lecturer for 2011	4
Member News	4
Red mud catastrophe in Hungary	5
Student Affairs	5
Conference Reports	5
IAMG 2010 Budapest Photo Album	6-7
Journal Contents.	8
Upcoming Meetings	10
Membership Application Form	11

Nominations requested for 2011 IAMG Awards !

The Association invites all members to submit nominations for

the Felix Chayes Prize and for

the Andrei Borisovich Vistelius Award

Deadline: January 31, 2011

For details about prerequisites for nominations please see the IAMG web site http://www.iamg.org/ and click on Awards

There is also a list of past recipients and their laudatios on the web site. Please have a look at it before sending your nominations!

- The (informal) documents which should accompany a proposal are:
 a short statement summarizing the relevant qualifications of the nominee
 - a curriculum vitae of the nominee

Nobody gets an award without a nomination, so please support your colleague when you believe he/she deserves an award by submitting a nomination. Nomations can be submitted by a single person or by a group of persons supporting the same nominee. The Laudatios written over the last few years and published in Mathematical Geosciences are a good source of inspiration on how to write a nomination. Nominations can be submitted via e-mail and sent to:

Jef Caers - Chairman, IAMG Awards Committee Stanford University Dept. of Energy Resources Engineering 367 Panama St. Stanford, CA 94305-2220 - USA E-mail: jcaers@stanford.edu

Nominations for other Awards may also be submitted at any time.

The IAMG meeting in Budapest attracted a select group of scientists. Of 124 registrants 114 attended the meeting on the modern campus of the Eötvös-Lóránd University on the bank of the Danube River to listen to four keynote lectures and some 90 talks (including eight by students) and view about 20 posters on display in the hall. Winner of the Student Best Presentation Award was Malte Knoche of the IAMG-Freiberg student chapter. The participants came from 30 countries, with Hungary, USA, China and Russia making up about 44% of the



total, and 38% from the rest Europe. The conference opened with the usual icebreaker on Sunday evening and culminated with an outing to one of the

famous puszta horse ranches for a show of riding performances, music, and a great dinner. You can see pictures of some of the people and events on pp. 6-7 of this issue.

At the Board meeting in Budapest several changes were discussed and voted on. Graeme Bonham-Carter was approved as new Chairman of the Publications Committee. He replaces Michael Ed. Hohn who has ably chaired this committee for 10 years. Graeme is of course no newcomer: he was Editor in Chief of Computers & Geosciences from 1996 to 2005 (as well as President 2000-2004). Thanks, Mike, for a job well done, and welcome Graeme! Vera in her President's Forum discusses some of the other Board decisions.

On the masthead (p.2) you will see a new address for the IAMG Office. The contract with the E&M office in Kingston, Ontario, has been cancelled and a new structure to handle membership and official business was put in place during the summer and fall of this year. The official address is Houston, Texas, where our Secretary General is located. However, most of the membership business (database, billing, membership dues, etc.) is handled in Freiberg, Germany, by Regina van den Boogaart through our new membership website (iamgmembers.org). This website is directly linked from the main IAMG website - just click on "Member Services" on the upper left, and you land on that website. The main page of interest is called "Community Services" where you can find the membership roster and various discussion forums. Since it is for members only, you will have to login with a user name and password. For those who want to register and become members there is a registration page that also lets people subscribe to journals or buy books and proceedings online. We thank Dan Tetzlaff and Regina for designing and creating this great new website.

Harald S. Poelchau

The mission of the IAMG is to promote, worldwide, the advancement of mathematics, statistics and informatics in the Geosciences

International Association for Mathematical Geosciences

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PRESIDENT'S FORUM

The worldwide financial crisis seems to remit and, up to now, IAMG has survived without damage. In that sense, 2010 has been a successful year for us. There is also good news concerning the internal life of our association. Following a serious discussion about the problems with our office in Kingston, and about the different alternatives we had to solve them, we have moved to a new office, located in Freiberg, Germany. The new office is a fully dedicated IAMG office, not shared with any other organization. This is the first time in IAMG's history that the Association has its own office. We have also a new

membership website. The forum of the web will be, hopefully, very useful for all of us. We count on your understanding and your help in getting the new office running, especially with respect to correcting the errors which might be in the database, concerning addresses, e-mails, and even membership. We also would appreciate it a lot if you could try the registration and payment through the web, use the forum, initiate discussions that might be of interest to all our members, and let us know any bug or any possible improvement you might detect. An improvement of our services will benefit us all!

In 2010, we had our annual meeting in Budapest, organised by János Geiger and his team. It was a really good and interesting meeting, and we could enjoy the contributions and discussions, as well as the wonderful city of Budapest and the horse riding show before an abundant dinner. As is tradition in our association, we had this year two awardees: Lawrence Drew, from the US Geological Survey, who was awarded the Krumbein Medal, and Ana Fernández Militino,

from the Universidad Pública de Navarra (Pamplona, Spain), who received the John Cedric Griffiths Teaching Award. Both gave interesting talks. Larry spoke about "The creation of a mathematical geologist", Ana about "Interfacing statistical teaching and geostatistics". The George Matheron Lecturer was Donald Allen Singer, from the US Geological Survey, who spoke about "Solving the wrong resource assessment and exploration problems precisely". This year's Distinguished Lecturer and Editor of Mathematical Geosciences, Roussos Dimitrakopoulos, from McGill University (Montreal, Canada) gave a talk about "High-order Geostatistics: Simulating complex, non-Gaussian geological and environmental phenomena", and Amilcar Soares, from the Instituto Superior Tecnico (Lisboa, Portugal), was presented as our next Distinguished Lecturer. You should use the chance to invite him to your university or lab!

You are reading the 2010 second issue of our Newsletter thanks to the excellent work of our newsletter editor, Harald Poelchau. It is an excellent piece of art! Our journals are doing very well, which is not a surprise given the personal dedication of the editors, Roussos Dimitrakopoulos for Mathematical Geosciences, Eric Grunsky for Computers & Geosciences, and Keith R. Long



Letters to the Editor

From the IAMG birth-place Prague

In 2011 the Jubilee Mining Pribram Symposium will be organized at Pribram (50th year), including the 11th international session of GEOETHICS. It might be interesting to organize at that occasion also the 20th session on Mathematical Geology. There is not at all any intention to concur with the general main stream of ideas as represented by the official IAMG annual conferences. Hannes Thiergartner has suggested for this possible Pribram meeting a small sub-section about the question "What is MATH GEOL, where it came and where it will go?". Here we could discuss the development up to now and try to forecast the next years. This could be interesting for us "old fellows" (e. g. all still active founding members of IAMG, past presidents etc.) and for leading younger colleagues in this field. It is a philosophic, science-historical and ethical circle.

It might be useful to take such a meeting – in case of a sufficient interest - under the umbrella of the IAMG, especially when such a section will be co-organized with one about geoethics (under the umbrella of the Association of Geoscientists for International Development - where I have the honour to serve as Vice-President for Europe and Head of the Working Group for Geoethics).

Another specific reason can be taken into consideration: I hope that the year 2018 will bring again the whole community of the IAMG to Prague to celebrate its Golden Anniversary in the IAMG birth-place. For strategic purposes some renewed liaison with the country could be useful as well and also some new local people may be attracted in advance to help in the future with the Jubilee conference.

At Pribram we continue in the tradition of relatively low budget meetings. The term of the Jubilee Symposium has been already given: October 10-14, 2011. Regularly issued GEOETHICS NEWS are accessible at http://tierra.rediris.es/Geoethics_Planetary_Protection/.

for Natural Resources Research. The Council has approved several resolutions. The last one was a one-time one-year free IAMG membership for first authors of papers in our journals, but there have been other issues going on. One aspect which we had no time to discuss during the council meeting was the proposal of setting up a Public Awareness Committee. Finally, the election of Faisal Shazad, from the Student Chapter in Freiberg, Germany, as Public Awareness Representative of IAMG was decided. You will soon find him in virtual networks, like Facebook and the like!



I am also very proud of announcing that the Council approved a new Honorary Member in the person of Walther Schwarzacher. Walther has dedicated all his life to the Geosciences, and especially to Mathematical Geosciences centered in Repetitions and Cycles in Stratigraphy. It is worthwhile to read his CV (p. 4), an excellent example of the evolution of a Mathematical Geologist, and a model to follow for new generations. I hope we meet him next year in Salzburg (Austria), his home country, where IAMG'2011 is being organised.

Student Chapters continue their activity; there are already nine, and the tenth application is under discussion! But we need the active participation of all our members to motivate them. You can find the different Student Chapters on our web, under "Student Affairs". Every chapter has a link to their own webpage. Have a look, and let us know your impression! It is very important, because our members have the right and the duty to check if the association is putting the money we have in the right place to fulfill our mission!

On October 20, 2010, I appointed the following commission to assist the Archivist in setting guidelines for the handling of printed and electronic material in the IAMG archive:

- Graeme Bonham-Carter (Chair)
- Dan Merriam
- Eusebi Jarauta-Bragulat
- Frits Agterberg (President's representative)

I hope to see soon their conclusions on what to do with the archive we have in Graeme's basement!

I would like to use this Forum to call for your participation in nominating candidates for our awards. In Salzburg we will award the Felix Chayes Prize and the Andrei Borisovitch Vistelius Award. Do you know a good candidate? Submit your nomination!

My best wishes to all of you for a pleasant and successful year 2011!

Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn

To summarize: In case of your interest to (re)visit in October 2011 Pribram (and Prague) for reminiscences and friendly discussions about history and achievements of mathematical earth sciences and perhaps also to learn something about new trends in geoethics be so kind to reply (especially prior to the end of this year) to my home address lidmila.nemcova@quick. cz with copies to the office of the Mining Pribram Symposium Secretary marcinikova@DIAMO.CZ; dolezalova@diamo.cz.

Vaclav Nemec IAMG founding member and "Eastern Treasurer" (1968-1980, 1984-1996)

What do IAMG members do that is relevant to IAMG's mission? Based on presentations at the IAMG's meeting in 2009 at Stanford, a significant proportion seem to be involved in geostatistical applications. What else are members involved in? It would be interesting to survey the categories of applications. Perhaps that has already be done, but I haven't heard of it. Anyway, past surveys would likely be out of date, given that mathematical applications in geology and related geosciences seem to be continually evolving, rising and falling in popularity. So here are my two-cents:

First, I'm presently not involved in anything that would seem directly relevant to IAMG's current mission, although I am working on my memoirs which, among other things, include a history of nearly four decades of mathematical applications at Stanford, from the early 1960s through the late 1990s. Early in this period, the applications were mostly analytical, including trend-surface analysis and factor analysis applied to stratigraphic issues. Later the applications focused on simulating sedimentary processes. During the past decade, however, other than working on the memoirs, I've mostly been involved in the oil and gas business, with virtually no focus on mathematical applications. Times change.

Association Business

Member News

Prof. Dr. Jan Harff has been honored with the Serge

Walther Schwarzacher - IAMG's Latest Honorary Member

Walther Schwarzacher is a charter member of IAMG, a Krumbein Medalist, and published a paper in the first issue of the Journal of Mathematical Geology. Although he did not attend the organizational meeting in Prague in 1968, he has been associated with the Association since the beginning serving on the Council in 1976-80.

> Walther was born in Austria in 1925, educated at the University of Innsbruck where he worked with Prof. Bruno Sander studying geology, geophysics, and mathematics. He obtained his PhD in 1949. This relationship led to his interest in carbonates and fabric and structure of sedimentary rocks. He had a postdoctoral scholarship for two years at Cambridge University in England in 1949-51 where he worked with Prof. Percival Allen. It was here that his interest in mathematics and statistics was piqued. He became

interested especially in the application of time-series analysis to rock sequences and geological events.

In 1951 he joined the faculty at Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland, where he taught sedimentology and stratigraphy. He retired in 1991 with emeritus status. During this time he published on repetitions and cycles in stratigraphy, quantitative stratigraphy, models for the study of stratigraphic correlation, use of Markov chains in the study of sedimentary cycles, and simulation of rock sequences. His books, Sedimentation Models and Quantitative Stratigraphy (1975) and Cyclostratigraphy and the Milankovitch Theory (1993), both published in Elsevier's 'Developments in Sedimentology' series have been well received. A brief summary of some of his work appeared in Earth-Science Reviews under the title of Repetitions and Cycles in Stratigraphy in 2000.

In 1967-68 he was a Visiting Research Scientist at the Kansas Geological Survey at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, a Visiting Research Professor

at the University of Indiana in Bloomington in the summer of 1970, and Visiting Professor of Geology at Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York in 1975. He has taught courses not only in the US but in Germany and his native Austria as well as many short courses in other countries. He is married to June and they have two boys Wally and Martin.

It is highly appropriate that the IAMG recognize this internationally recognized scientist with a Honorary Membership in the Association.

> Dan Merriam IAMG Historian

New IAMG Distinguished Lecturer for 2011

Dr. Amilcar Soares is a Professor at the Instituto Superior Técnico in Portugal and he is also head of the Centro de Modelização de Reservatórios Petrolíferos at IST. He

has been extremely active in promoting mathematical geology, worldwide, particularly geostatistics, since the geostatistics in environmental engineering with recent work on characterizing desertification and making considerable impact on applications to practical problems, not just in theoretical developments. Dr. Soares has also organized one of the Geostat Congresses and two of the geoENV conferences and has been an IAMG member for many years.

http://cmrp.ist.utl.pt/

More information can be found on the web pages of Centro de Modelização de Reservatórios Petrolíferos:

1980's, and he is one of the world leaders in applying

Anyone interested in hosting a DL visit at their institution, please contact the Chairman of the DL Committee, Sean McKenna, at: samcken@sandia.gov





von Bubnoff Medal by the DGG (Deutsche Geologische Gessellschaft). The photo shows Werner Stackebrandt of DGG on May 20, 2010 presenting Harff with the medal at the University in Greifswald. Harff is presently doing research on a scholarship at the University of Szczecin, Poland.

The GeoUnion Alfred-Wegener-Foundation has awarded the Karl-Heinrich-Heitfeld Prize (which includes a cash prize of 10,000 Euro) to Prof. Dr. Maria-Theresia Schafmeister. This award honors

her contributions to groundwater modeling and especially her promotion and support of young scientists who are interested in the application of mathematical and geostatistical methods to groundwater pollution and environmental risk assessment. Schafmeister is Professor for Applied Geology and Hydrogeology



at the Ernst-Moritz-Arndt University in Greifswald, Germany.

IAMG Member Sean McKenna led a joint team from Sandia National Laboratories and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that recently received an R&D 100 Award for the CANARY software. The R&D 100 Awards are given annually by R&D Magazine to recognize the "100 most technologically significant products introduced in the past year." CANARY is designed to connect to existing monitoring networks through an existing SCADA system to provide real-time identification of anomalous conditions from multivariate signals. It integrates a number of algorithms for timeseries forecasting, data fusion and multivariate pattern recognition to accurately detect anomalous conditions while reducing false positive results. The main application to date has been online analysis of water quality monitoring data to detect contamination events within water distribution networks. Additional information on CANARY including software downloads and documentation is available at:

<https://software.sandia.gov/trac/canary>https:// software.sandia.gov/trac/canary

Danie Krige was elected in October 2010 as a



member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in Washington, D.C. He is the first and only engineer to receive this especially high honour as a South African and a citizen of the African continent. He is a Foreign Associate of NAE in the Primary Section in Earth Resources Engineering.

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Red mud catastrophe in Hungary

On October 4, 2010 the dam of the No.10 red-mud reservoir of the Ajka alumina plant collapsed on its nothwestern corner. 600-700,000 m³ red-mud spilled out with waves of 1-2 meter height, killing 9 and injuring 122 people, flooding the village of Kolontár and part of the town of Devecser (Figure 1). Many houses were damaged or ruined. An area of about 40 km² was affected. The Torna and Marcal rivers were contaminated and all life extinguished in them. This is the biggest environmental catastrophe in the history of Hungary.



The aluminium industry is important in Hungary, because of large bauxite resources. The bauxite is processed to alumina in the alumina plant of Ajka, in western Hungary. The red mud is a waste of the Bayer-type alumina production. The red mud of the Ajka plant contains 40-45% Fe₂O₃, 10-15 % Al₂O₃, 10-15 % SiO₂, 4-5 % TiO₂ The iron content is in the form of hematite giving the mud its red colour. It contains caustic soda in varying amounts. The pH of the mud is generally 13, with a range of 11-14. I have to stress that the media news about the high radioactivity and high heavy-metal element content of the Ajka red mud are not true.

The Ajka alumina plant started its production in 1942. Its present capacity is 300,000 tons alumina/year. The plant has been privatized in 1997. From the beginning – 1942 – up to these days about 30 million m^3 of red mud was produced. Subsequently, ten reservoirs were constructed to the west of Ajka city on a flat surface. The walls of the reservoirs were strengthened by slag of a nearby power plant. The groundwater level is only 1 to 4 meters below the reservoirs, with a slow groundwater movement in westerly direction.

A high-level state commission is investigating the reasons of the catastrophe, but so far no statements have been published. My personal opinion is that walls of the No.10 reservoir were not strong enough. The particularly high amount of rain in the last months certainly contributed to the catastrophe. I am convinced that an up-to-date, careful risk analysis could have alerted the responsible officials about the existing and slowly growing danger. Thus the red-mud spill could have been avoided by adequate technical steps. I strongly believe in the growing importance of risk analysis all over the world and in the growing role of IAMG in these activites.

George Bárdossy

Student Affairs

Nancy Student Chapter

In October 2010 some of the board members have changed; our president is now **Florent Lallier** and our webmaster **Gautier Laurent**.

Newest IAMG Student Chapter in The Netherlands

A group of students at ITC (ISCI) of the University of Twente under the leadership of **Xiaogang Ma** has formed the latest IAMG affiliated Student Chapter.

Their new Website is http://sites.google.com/site/isciatitc/home

Conference Reports

On IAMG and AGU

In the past years, it has become a tradition that the IAMG organizes an exhibition booth at the annual Fall Meeting of the American Geophysical Union.

The AGU Fall meeting, while convened by the "American Geophysical Union", is long recognized as an international meeting (for instance, travel funds may be obtained from funding agencies of others countries, e.g., Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), as the meeting attracts a growing number of scientists (over 15,000 last year). Most people find one cannot afford to not go. The number of international participants (as opposed to US+Canada) is very large and keeps growing.

There is typically a fall meeting in San Francisco and a spring meeting in Baltimore. More scientists tend to go to the traditional fall meeting (although it is always very shortly before Christmas). More importantly, the fall meeting also has the disciplines that IAMG member's research is most closely related to, and that is closest to the IAMG mission and interests.

Since we (IAMG) are a small organization by number of members compared to the much larger AGU, I find it important that we are recognized by the AGU community, and the fall meeting is the best opportunity to accomplish that. Our best assets are our journals, whose impact is much larger than the comparatively small number of members and those running the journals may indicate. In a world where publications are important at every aspect, informing others about possibilities of publications is worth a lot. IAMG journals are particularly attractive since there are no page charges, and the journals are well-known, high-quality and quite fast at publication. Of course, the meeting provides opportunities to gain new members (who join directly at the meeting or take IAMG membership forms with them to join later). I view a presence at a meeting very valuable - it brings IAMG a lot of visibility, increases membership and contributions to our journals. As I write this note (which emerged from an email exchange with IAMG President Vera Pawlowsky-Glahn) I would like to invite all of you to engage in thinking about ways that IAMG and its members can increase our impact on the course of science.

The 2009 IAMG-AT-AGU booth was organized by myself and Helmut Mayer, with active assistance of student members Bruce Wallin and Ian Crocker. Bruce and Ian are Vice President and President of the IAMG Student Chapter at the University of Colorado Boulder. Over the years, I have been able to develop an excellent relationship with AGU exhibits, which gives IAMG a great spot in the exhibit hall while paying the much lower academic organization's booth fee. Several IAMG members helped the cause of IAMG by giving some of their meeting time as time in the booth --- all those are thanked. Please let me know by e-mail to Ute.Herzfeld@colorado.edu if you are interested in holding an informal get-together of IAMG members during one of the evenings of the upcoming meeting, and if you would be willing to spend an hour or two helping at the exhibit.

> Ute Herzfeld University of Colorado Boulder

Quantitative Image Analysis of Minerals & Rocks



in Budapest, taught by Patrick Launeau (extreme right in blue) and Eric Pirard (in orange-red)

We had in total 16 participants for this two days Short Course taught during the weekend 27-28 August 2010 in between the International Mineralogical Association Congress and the IAMG Conference.

Most represented countries were: Belgium, Finland, Germany, Spain, Switzerland, and Hungary.



17 Miles

Graeme Bonham-Carter & Qiuming Cheng Chairman Janos Geiger with Zolán Unger, Gabor Gaál

Matter



Ana Fernández Militina honored with the Griffiths Award



IAMG 2 14th Annual Conference for Mathe

Titt



29 August – 2 Septe









Gina Ross & Cathy Cheng

2010 Budapest e of the International Association ematical Geosciences



mber 2010, Budapest, Hungary



Larry Drew receives the Krumbein Medal



Board Meeting back row: E. Pirard, E. Grunsky, H. Poelchau, D. Tetzlaff, K. Long, R. Dimitrakopoulos, Q. Cheng front row: F. Agterberg, C. Thiart, M. Schafmeister, V. Pawlowsky-Glahn, G. Ross, G. Bonham-Carter

JOURNAL CONTENTS

Computers & Geosciences

Volume 36, Issue 6 (June 2010)

Photogrammetric mapping and measuring application using MATLAB — S. Madeira, J. Gonçalves, L. Bastos

Integrating river cross section measurements with digital terrain models for improved flow modelling applications — B. Schäppi, P. Perona, P. Schneider, P. Burlando

A method of DEM construction and related error analysis — Chuanfa Chen, Tianxiang Yue

Development of new R, C and SDR modules for the SATEEC GIS system — Youn Shik Park, Jonggun Kim, Nam Won Kim, Seong Joon Kim, Ji-Hong Jeon, Bernard A. Engel, Wonseok Jang, Kyoung Jae Lim

Simulation of river stage using artificial neural network and MIKE 11 hydrodynamic model — Rabindra K. Panda, Niranjan Pramanik, Biplab Bala

A comparison of Latin hypercube and grid ensemble designs for the multivariate emulation of an Earth system model — Nathan M. Urban, Thomas E. Fricker

GSIS: A 3D geological multi-body modeling system from netty cross-sections with topology — Jing Ming, Mao Pan, Honggang Qu, Zhihong Ge

A WebGIS system for relating genetic soil classification of China to soil taxonomy — Xuezheng Shi, Guoxiang Yang, Dongsheng Yu, Shengxiang Xu, Eric D. Warner, Gary W. Petersen, Weixia Sun, Yongcun Zhao, William E. Easterling, Hongjie Wang

Optimization of well placement geothermal reservoirs using artificial intelligence — Serhat Akın, Mustafa V. Kok, Irtek Uraz

MetaRep, an extended CMAS 3D program to visualize mafic (CMAS, ACF-S, ACF-N) and pelitic (AFM-K, AFM-S, AKF-S) projections — Lydéric France, Christian Nicollet

Numerical modelling of non-equilibrium graded sediment transport in a curved open channel — Minh Duc Bui, Peter Rutschmann

Application Article

Groundwater recharge study in arid region: An approach using GIS techniques and numerical modeling — Ismail Chenini, Abdallah Ben Mammou

C&G Volume 36, Issue 7 (July 2010)

Web service based hydrologic data distribution system — Rahul Kanwar, Ujjwal Narayan, Venkat Lakshmi

A Cellular Automata Breccia Simulator (CABS) and its application to rounding in hydrothermal breccias — M. Lalonde, G. Tremblay, M. Jébrak

An approach for heterogeneous and loosely coupled geospatial data distributed computing — Bin Chen, Fengru Huang, Yu Fang, Zhou Huang, Hui Lin

A FORTRAN program to implement the method of finite elements to compute regional and residual anomalies from gravity data — B.N.P. Agarwal, Shalivahan Srivastava

Fourier spectral analysis for unevenly spaced, average value, data — F. Alejandro Nava

Measuring positional error of circular curve features in Geographic information systems (GIS) — Xiaohua Tong, Wenzhong Shi

A global optimizing approach for waveform inversion of receiver functions — Zhiwei Li, Tianyao Hao, Yi Xu, Ya Xu, Steve Roecker

DSCOKRI: A library of computer programs for downscaling cokriging in support of remote sensing applications — Eulogio Pardo-Iguzquiza, Peter M. Atkinson, Mario Chica-Olmo Hexagonal CNN and its applications in sphalerite banding texture simulation — Deyi Xu, Qiuming Cheng, Zhijing Wang

Monte Carlo source detection of atmospheric emissions and error functions analysis — Guido Cervone, Pasquale Franzese

Array processing of teleseismic body waves with the USArray — Gary L. Pavlis, Frank L. Vernon

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Development of genetic algorithm-based optimization module in WHAT system for hydrograph analysis and model application — Kyoung Jae Lim, Youn Shik Park, Jonggun Kim, Yong-Chul Shin, Nam Won Kim, Seong Joon Kim, Ji-Hong Jeon, Bernard A. Engel

Algorithms for multi-parameter constrained compositing of borehole assay intervals from economic aspects — Xiaogang Ma, Emmanuel John M. Carranza, Freek D. van der Meer, Chonglong Wu, Xialin Zhang

A general parallelization strategy for random path based geostatistical simulation methods — Grégoire Mariethoz

Estimating rock mass properties using Monte Carlo simulation: Ankara andesites — Mehmet Sari, Celal Karpuz, Can Ayday

Application Articles

Watershed analysis with GIS: The watershed characterization and modeling system software application — Michael P. Strager, Jerald J. Fletcher, Jacquelyn M. Strager, Charles B. Yuill, Robert N. Eli, J. Todd Petty, Samuel J. Lamont

Proschema: A Matlab application for processing strong motion records and estimating earthquake engineering parameters — M. Segou, N. Voulgaris

Bidimensional empirical mode decomposition (BEMD) for extraction of gravity anomalies associated with gold mineralization in the Tongshi gold field, Western Shandong Uplifted Block, Eastern China — Jingning Huang, Binbin Zhao, Yongqing Chen, Pengda Zhao

C&G Volume 36, Issue 8

A multi-species reactive transport model to estimate biogeochemical rates based on single-well push pull test data — Mantha S. Phanikumar, Jennifer T. McGuire

An optimized solution of multi-criteria evaluation analysis of landslide susceptibility using fuzzy sets and Kalman filter — Pece V. Gorsevski, Piotr Jankowski

Geo-MHYDAS: A landscape discretization tool for distributed hydrological modeling of cultivated areas — P. Lagacherie, M. Rabotin, F. Colin, R. Moussa, M. Voltz

SURMODERR: A MATLAB toolbox for estimation of velocity uncertainties of a non-permanent GPS station — Giordano Teza, Arianna Pesci, Giuseppe Casula

Parallelization of sequential Gaussian, indicator and direct simulation algorithms — Ruben Nunes, José A. Almeida

Application Articles

Geometric analysis of superposed folds in the Kimbi area (Cameroon Pan-African fold belt) based on the Fold Profiler method — Ganno Sylvestre, Nzenti Jean Paul, Kankeu Boniface, Ngnotue Timoléon

Sharing geoscience algorithms in a Web serviceoriented environment (GRASS GIS example) — Xiaoyan Li, Liping Di, Weiguo Han, Peisheng Zhao, Upendra Dadi

Interactive visualization of marine pollution monitoring and forecasting data via a Web-based GIS — M. Kulawiak, A. Prospathopoulos, L. Perivoliotis, M. Luba, S. Kioroglou, A. Stepnowski

Interactive spatial analysis of lineaments — Thushan Chandrasiri Ekneligoda, Herbert Henkel Short Notes

OrificeMeter: An ActiveX component to determine fluid flow in a pipeline — Mahendra P. Verma

A mathematica code to produce phase maps from two element maps — Dominik C. Hezel

C&G Volume 36, Issue 9

A GIS-based neuro-fuzzy procedure for integrating knowledge and data in landslide susceptibility mapping — Mohammad H. Vahidnia, Ali A. Alesheikh, Abbas Alimohammadi, Farhad Hosseinali

A new method for matching objects in two different geospatial datasets based on the geographic context — Jung Ok Kim, Kiyun Yu, Joon Heo, Won Hee Lee

A simplex-based approach to implement dimension independent spatial analyses — Farid Karimipour, Mahmoud R. Delavar, Andrew U. Frank

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Application Articles

A new software for the measurement of magnetic moments using SQUID and spinner magnetometers -M. Wack

Inversion of self-potential of idealized bodies' anomalies using particle swarm optimization — Fernando A. Monteiro Santos

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CXTFIT/Excel-A modular adaptable code for parameter estimation, sensitivity analysis and uncertainty analysis for laboratory or field tracer experiments — Guoping Tang, Melanie A. Mayes, Jack C. Parker, Philip M. Jardine

C&G Volume 36, Issue 10

Steady-state saturated groundwater flow modeling with full tensor conductivities using finite differences — Liangping Li, Haiyan Zhou, J. Jaime Gómez-Hernández

Three-dimensional hydraulic conductivity upscaling in groundwater modeling — Haiyan Zhou, Liangping Li, J. Jaime Gómez-Hernández

Quantification of soil structure based on Minkowski functions — H.-J. Vogel, U. Weller, S. Schlüter

Segmentation of X-ray microtomography images of soil using gradient masks — Steffen Schlüter, Ulrich Weller, Hans-Jörg Vogel

Can heterogeneity of the near-wellbore rock cause extrema of the Darcian fluid inflow rate from the formation (the Polubarinova-Kochina problem revisited)? — Yurii Obnosov, Rouzalia Kasimova, Ali Al-Maktoumi, Anvar Kacimov

An R package for spatial coverage sampling and random sampling from compact geographical strata by k-means — D.J.J. Walvoort, D.J. Brus, J.J. de Gruijter

Visualization of gridded scalar data with uncertainty in geosciences — Björn Zehner, Norihiro Watanabe, Olaf Kolditz

Journal Contents continued from p.8

Leveraging the power of multi-core platforms for large-scale geospatial data processing: Exemplified by generating DEM from massive LiDAR point clouds — Xuefeng Guan, Huayi Wu

Improving the scalability of hyperspectral imaging applications on heterogeneous platforms using adaptive run-time data compression — Antonio Plaza, Javier Plaza, Abel Paz

Accelerating POCS interpolation of 3D irregular seismic data with Graphics Processing Units — Shu-Qin Wang, Xing Gao, Zhen-Xing Yao

Efficient numerical modeling of borehole heat exchangers — R. Al-Khoury, T. Kölbel, R. Schramedei

Statistical power of an information-based test and its application to wave height data — Ahmet Sezer, Senay Asma

Truncated Gaussian simulation of discrete-valued, ordinal coregionalized variables — Xavier Emery, Javier Cornejo

Influence of the temperature dependence of thermal parameters of heat conduction models on the reconstruction of thermal history of igneousintrusion-bearing basins — Dayong Wang, Xiancai Lu, Yongchen Song, Rong Shao, Tian Qi

Application Articles

Design and development of a Java-based graphical user interface to monitor/control a meteorological real-time forecasting system — Igor Gómez, María José Estrela

SoilEngineering: A Microsoft Excel® spreadsheet© program for geotechnical and geophysical analysis of soils — Ferhat Ozcep

Improving data management and dissemination in web based information systems by semantic enrichment of descriptive data aspects — Steffen Gebhardt, Thilo Wehrmann, Verena Klinger, Ingo Schettler, Juliane Huth, Claudia Künzer, Stefan Dech

Short Notes

An automated system for the statistical analysis of sediment texture and structure at the micro scale — Ted Lewis, Pierre Francus, Raymond S. Bradley, Kinuyo Kanamaru

Parallelizing a 3D finite difference MT inversion algorithm on a multicore PC using OpenMP — Virginie Maris, Philip E. Wannamaker

MathLTWA: Multiple lapse time window analysis using Wolfram Mathematica 7 — Edoardo Del Pezzo, Francesca Bianco

Natural Resources Research

Volume 19, Number 2 / June 2010

Validity of the Fossil Fuel Production Outlooks in the IPCC Emission Scenarios — Mikael Höök, Anders Sivertsson and Kjell Aleklett

An Ordered Weights of Evidence Model for Ordered Discrete Variables — Minfeng Deng

Radial Basis Function Network for Ore Grade Estimation — Biswajit Samanta

Application of Artificial Neural Network for Gold–Silver Deposits Potential Mapping: A Case Study of Korea — Hyun-Joo Oh and Saro Lee

On the Capability of Support Vector Machines to Classify Lithology from Well Logs — A. Al-Anazi and I. D. Gates

Mode-Converted (P-SV) Waves for Imaging Thin Intercalated Basaltic Layers and Their Possible Geologic Implications — D. K. Pandey, A. Pandey and S. Rajan

On the Impact of Permeability Heterogeneity on SAGD Steam Chamber Growth — Dharmeshkumar R. Gotawala and Ian D. Gates

NRR Volume 19, Number 3 / Sept. 2010

Multiple Point Metrics to Assess Categorical Variable Models — Jeff B. Boisvert, Michael J. Pyrcz and Clayton V. Deutsch

High Potential Regions for Enhanced Geothermal Systems in Canada — Jacek Majorowicz and Stephen E. Grasby

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Hubbert's Legacy: A Review of Curve-Fitting Methods to Estimate Ultimately Recoverable Resources — Steve Sorrell and Jamie Speirs

Modelling of Riparian-Imitated Constructed Wetland for Fish Habitat — Darrien Yau Seng Mah, Sai Hin Lai and Nor Azazi Zakaria

NRR Volume 19, Number 4 / Dec. 2010

A Methodology for the Assessment of Unconventional (Continuous) Resources with an Application to the Greater Natural Buttes Gas Field, Utah — Ricardo A. Olea, Troy A. Cook and James L. Coleman

Development of an Improved Methodology to Assess Potential Unconventional Gas Resources — Jesus Salazar, Duane A. McVay and W. John Lee

Binary Pattern Recognition in the Presence of Correlated Multiple Dependent Variables — Minfeng Deng

Groundwater Assessment at Manukan Island, Sabah: Multidisplinary Approaches — S. M. Praveena, C. Y. Lin, A. Z. Aris and M. H. Abdullah

The Geology and Petroleum Resources of Kansas: A Review From Alpha to Omega or From the Pleistocene to the Precambrian — Daniel F. Merriam

Mathematical Geosciences

Volume 42, Number 5 / July 2010

Special Issue on Computational Methods for the Earth, Energy and Environment - IAMG 2009 Editorial — Jef Caers

High-order Stochastic Simulation of Complex Spatially Distributed Natural Phenomena — Hussein Mustapha and Roussos Dimitrakopoulos

Stochastic Simulation of Patterns Using Distance-Based Pattern Modeling — Mehrdad Honarkhah and Jef Caers

Modelling Syntectonic Sedimentation: Combining a Discrete Element Model of Tectonic Deformation and a Process-based Sedimentary Model in 3D — A. Carmona, R. Clavera-Gispert, O. Gratacós and S. Hardy

Combining Areal and Point Data in Geostatistical Interpolation: Applications to Soil Science and Medical Geography — Pierre Goovaerts

Towards Stochastic Time-Varying Geological Modeling — Guillaume Caumon

Methods of Three-part Quantitative Assessments of Undiscovered Mineral Resources: Examples from Victoria, Australia — Vladimir Lisitsin

Aggregation Methodology for the Circum-Arctic Resource Appraisal — John H. Schuenemeyer and Donald L. Gautier

Association Announcement

Laudatio Guillaume Caumon, Vistelius Award 2009 — Jef Caers

Book Review

Donald A. Singer, W. David Menzie: Quantitative Mineral Resource Assessments, an Integrated Approach, Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN 978-0-19-539959-2, 219 pp., US\$ 74 — Frederik P. Agterberg

MG Volume 42, Number 6 / August 2010

Optimizing Subsurface Field Data Acquisition Using Information Theory — A. Abellan and B. Noetinger

Predicting Threshold Exceedance by Local Block Means in Soil Pollution Surveys — Christoph Hofer and Andreas Papritz

The Use of Geographically Weighted Regression for Spatial Prediction: An Evaluation of Models Using Simulated Data Sets — P. Harris, A. S. Fotheringham, R. Crespo and M. Charlton

Hunting for Geochemical Associations of Elements: Factor Analysis and Self-Organising Maps — Gorazd Zibret and Robert Sajn

Time-Series Reconstruction from Natural Archive Data with the Averaging Effect Taken into Account — Veerle Beelaerts, Fjo De Ridder, Nele Schmitz, Maite Bauwens and Rik Pintelon

Book Review

Carlo Gaetan and Xavier Guyon: Review of Spatial Statistics and Modeling (Translated by Kevin Bleakley), Springer, 2009 — Donald E. Myers

MG Volume 42, Number 7 / October 2010

Special Issue on Spherical Mathematics and Statistics

Editorial - Helmut Schaeben

Probabilistic Marcinkiewicz Zygmund Inequalities on the Rotation Group — Manuel Gräf and Dominik Schmid

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Fast Summation of Functions on the Rotation Group — Ralf Hielscher, Jürgen Prestin and Antje Vollrath

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Poloidal and Toroidal Field Modeling in Terms of Locally Supported Vector Wavelets — W. Freeden and C. Gerhards

Easy Path Wavelet Transform on Triangulations of the Sphere — Gerlind Plonka and Daniela Rosca

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MG Volume 42, Number 8 / November 2010

Fitting Data Under Omnidirectional Noise: A Probabilistic Method for Inferring Petrophysical and Hydrologic Relations — Michael Cardiff and Peter K. Kitanidis

ODSIM: An Object-Distance Simulation Method for Conditioning Complex Natural Structures — Vincent Henrion, Guillaume Caumon and Nicolas Cherpeau

Self-Similar and Self-Affine Properties of Two-Dimensional Fracture Patterns in Rocks — Alejandra Aguilar-Hernández and Guillermo Ramírez-Santiago

Inverse Problem and Solution of the Kolmogorov Model for Bed Thickness Distribution — Noritaka Endo

On the Existence of Mosaic and Indicator Random Fields with Spherical, Circular, and Triangular Variograms — Xavier Emery

Kriging Prediction Intervals Based on Semiparametric Bootstrap — Lina Schelin and Sara Sjöstedt-de Luna

Book Review

Geir Evensen: Data Assimilation — The Ensemble Kalman Filter, 2nd edn, Springer, Berlin, 2009. 307 pp., 130 Euros, hardcover, ISBN 978-3-642-03710-8 — Hans Wackernagel

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2009 Best Paper Award

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SIAM Conference on Mathematical & Computational Issues in the Geosciences (GS11), Long Beach, California, USA, **21-24 March 2011**. http://www.siam.org/meetings/gs11/

1st Conference on SPATIAL STATISTICS, Enschede, Netherlands, 23-25 March 2011. http://www.spatialstatisticsconference.com/

European Geosciences Union (EGU) General Assembly, Vienna, Austria, **3 - 8 April 2011**. http://meetings.copernicus.org/egu2011

AAPG, Annual Convention & Exhibition, Houston, USA, **10 - 13 April 2011**. http://www.aapg.org/houston2011/

GeoInformation for DISASTER MANAGEMENT. Talya Convention Center. Antalya, Turkey, **3 May - 8 May 2011**.ISPRS. http://www.gi4dm2011.org/

CoDaWork'11: International Workshop on COMPOSITIONAL DATA ANALYSIS. Sant Feliu de Guixols (Girona), Spain. **9-13 May 2011**. Website: http://congress.cimne.com/codawork11/frontal/default.asp. Contact: codawork@cimne.upc.edu

GEOINFORMATICS 2011 Xth International Conference "GeoInformatics: Theoretical and Applied Aspects" Kyiv, Ukraine, **10 - 13 May 2011**. http://www.eage.org/events/index.php?evp=4859&ActiveMenu=2

47th Forum on the Geology of INDUSTRIAL MINERALS. University of Illinois. Urbana-Champaign, USA, **15 May - 17 May 2011**. http://www.isgs.illinois.edu/sections/indust-min/im-home.shtml

73rd EAGE Conference & Exhibition incorporating SPE EUROPEC 2011, "Vienna 2011," Vienna, Austria, **23–26 May 2011**. Contact: eage@eage.org, http://www.eage.org/events/index.php?evp=3756&ActiveMenu=2

MODFLOW and More 2011: Integrated Hydrologic Modeling, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado, USA, **6 - 8 June 2011**. http://igwmc.mines.edu/conference/dates.html

9th International Conference on MILITARY GEOSCIENCES: Desert Warfare - Past Lessons and Modern Challenges, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, **20 - 24 June 2011**. http://www.dri.edu/icmg

2011 JOINT STATISTICAL MEETINGS, Miami Beach, Florida, USA,

30 July - 04 August 2011. ASA Meetings, Phone: (888) 231-3473, Fax: 703-684-8069, Email: meetings@amstat.org, http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2011/index.cfm



The North American Mathematical Sciences Institutes announce a special year of emphasis on the Mathematics of Planet Earth in 2013, interpreted as broadly as possible. Earth is a planet with dynamic processes in the mantle, oceans and atmosphere creating climate, causing natural disasters, and influencing fundamental aspects of life and lifesupporting systems. In addition to these natural processes, humans have developed systems of great

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IAMG 2011, Salzburg, Austria, 5 - 9 September 2011. http://iamg2011.at/

ModelCare 2011, The 8th International Conference on Calibration and Reliability in Groundwater Modelling. Organised by Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research. Leipzig, Germany, **19 - 22 September 2011**. Website: modelcare2011@fu-confirm.de

GSA Annual Meeting "Archean to Anthropogene - the past is the key to the future", Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, **9 - 12 October 2011**. http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/index.htm

The MINING PRIBRAM Symposium, Pribram, Czech Republic, **10 - 14 October 2011**. Joint meeting of the Working Group for Geoethics established by AGID. Contact: lidmila.nemcova@quick.cz, http://www.bgs.ac.uk/agid

11th International & 2nd North American Symposium on LANDSLIDES. Banff, Alberta, Canada, **2 Jun - 8 Jun 2012**. Association of Environmental & Engineering Geologists, Canadian Geotechnical Society. http://www.islnasl2012.ca/

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If you have any questions about the system of IAMG conferences or the preparation of the proposal, please do not hesitate to contact the Chair of the Meetings Committee at olea@usgs.gov

The deadline for submitting the proposals to the Meetings Committee is **February 15, 2011**.

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George Christakos
Integrative Problem-Solving in a Time of Decadence

This book presents a unique study of Integrative Problem-Solving (IPS) during the current phase of *Decadence* that characterizes every societal aspect (science, education, politics, economics, and culture). It is distinctive in that it integrates sophisticated mathematics and scientific method with philosophical thinking and sociological analysis.

IPS is based on a theory of Epibraimatics that fuses epistemic ideas and principles from brain sciences to develop action-based mathematics for the solution of real world problems under conditions of uncertainty and space-time dependency. To understand IPS concepts and methods, a scientist must be able to consider them from different perspectives (including neuropsychology, physical sciences, philosophy, stochastics, and mathematics), and to interpret and connect them to related concepts and methods. Only by interpolating between the full range of disciplines and the associated thinking styles can scientists arrive at a satisfactory account of problem-solving.

In higher education and research one witnesses what the book terms the "unholy alliance of financial corporatism and radical postmodernism" (undermining tradition, knowledge, language, and achievements of the past, promoting nihilism, and seeking to satisfy lower needs). The consideration of *Decadence* in the book is essential in the realistic study of environmental problems and their rigorous solution, because the broad context within which the problems emerge can affect their solution.

A set of conceptual postulates and the corresponding mathematical operators are introduced. The postulates have an evolutionary flavor, i.e., they evolve as new core knowledge and site-specific data become available. IPS should not only focus on how a solution works (operational component), but also on why the solution works (substantive component). Stochastic reasoning underlines the conceptual and methodological framework of IPS, and its formulation has a mathematical life of its own that accounts for the multidisciplinarity of *in situ* problems, the multisourced uncertainties characterizing their solution, and the different thinking modes of the people involved.

IPS must be able to distinguish between a scientifically rigorous problem-solution and a solution that has social impact. Problem-solvers should not be isolated within the strict boundaries of technical expertise but possess a wide educational background and constant awareness of the broad environment (social, political, economic, and cultural) within which they operate. In this way they can be more valuable to their scientific fields and more useful to the public, as well.

This book will appeal to readers in a wide variety of disciplines, including environmental science, health-related disciplines, mathematics, philosophy, psychology, and sociology.



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