Preface

This volume provides the latest advancements in statistical methods for multidimensional data analysis which can have a complex structure and collects a selection of revised papers presented at the first Joint Meeting of the Société Francophone de Classification and the Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society (SFC-CLADAG 2008) which was held in Caserta, June 11–13, 2008. Bernard Fichet and Domenico Piccolo co-chaired the Scientific Programme Committee and Rosanna Verde chaired the Local Organising Committee.

The meeting brought together a large number of scientists and experts, especially from Italy and francophone countries. It was a highly appreciated opportunity of discussion and mutual knowledge exchange about techniques and tools for analyzing, classifying and summarizing statistical information, as well as for discovering and characterizing trends, and for automatically bagging anomalies.

Special attention was paid to new methodological contributions from both the theoretical and the applicative point of views, in the fields of Clustering, Classification, Time Series Analysis, Multidimensional Data Analysis, Knowledge Discovery from Large Datasets, Spatial Statistics.

Upon conclusion of the joint meeting a cooperation agreement between the SFC and CLADAG was signed by Gilles Venturini, president of the SFC and Andrea Cerioli, president of CLADAG for a continuation of the scientific collaboration between the two groups around subjects related to the Classification and Multivariate Data Analysis.

The volume is structured in nine sections. The first contains the key note speakers papers, with eminent contributions in Classification and Data Analysis fields in plenary and semi-plenary sessions, by Edwin Diday, Carlo Lauro, Jacqueline Meulman, Paolo Giudici, André Hardy and Roberta Siciliano. The extended versions of some of their contributions were then written in collaboration with other colleagues.

Furthermore, the other 43 selected papers have been collected in 8 sections according to the following macro-topics:

- Classification and discrimination
- Data mining
- Robustness and classification
- Categorical data and latent class approach
- Latent Variables and related methods
• Symbolic, multi-valued and conceptual data analysis
• Spatial, temporal, streaming and functional data analysis
• Bio and health science

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