

1994 PARZEN PRIZE FOR STATISTICAL INNOVATION

to be awarded by
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
to
GRACE WAHBA

April 29, 1994, 10:00am, Room 301 Rudder



Statistical Models, Reproducing Kernels, Machine Learning, Multivariate Function Estimation, Cross Validation, and all that...

In this talk we expound the idea that reproducing kernels and cross validation play unique roles in multivariate function estimation given noisy data. Examples are models for the prediction of progression of diabetic retinopathy given several risk factors, and models used to combine observations and forecast to provide initial conditions for the updating of a numerical weather forecast.

APRIL 29, 1994 Room 301, Rudder

10:00 a.m. Refreshments

10:20 a.m. Parzen Prize Presentation

10:30 a.m. Lecture by Grace Wahba

The 1994 Parzen Prize for Statistical Innovation was awarded to Grace Wahba by the Emanuel and Carol Parzen Fund Committee, consisting of Texas A&M Statistics faculty members [H.J. Newton](#), [J. Matis](#), [R. Eubank](#), David Brillinger (University of California, Berkeley), and Marvin Zelen (Harvard University).

GRACE WAHBA

Grace Wahba is Bascom Professor of Statistics at the University of Wisconsin, where she has been a faculty member since 1967 after receiving her Ph.D. from Stanford in 1966. Her outstanding research has been

recognized by invitations to lecture at many universities and national meetings of scientific societies. She is a Fellow of the International Statistical Institute, Institute of Mathematical Statistics, American Statistical Association, American Meteorological Society, and American Association for the Advancement of Science. She has an international reputation as an innovator in research on the theory and applications of "Spline Models for Observational Data". Her research is applicable, influential, and seminal to statistical function estimation, approximation theory, and meteorological research. She has guided outstanding Ph.D. students. Professor Wahba has the honor of presenting the prestigious Neyman Lecture at the Third World Congress of the Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability in June 1994.

EMANUEL AND CAROL PARZEN

Emanuel Parzen, Distinguished Professor of Statistics at Texas A&M, was born in New York City on April 21, 1929, and educated at Harvard (B.A. 1949) and University of California Berkeley (Ph.D. 1953). He has served as a Statistics faculty member at Columbia (1953-56), Stanford (1956-70), SUNY Buffalo (1970-1978), Texas A&M (1978-), and a visiting faculty at Imperial College London, M.I.T., IBM, Harvard, and The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences. Contributions in education and service by Professor Parzen include classic textbooks "Modern Probability Theory and its Applications" (1960) and "Stochastic Processes" (1962) and current research on a "Correlation Unification of Statistical Methods". Research by Professor Parzen covers diverse fields: I. probability limit theorems; II. time series analysis, III. statistical data analysis, modeling, and function estimation, IV. multidisciplinary research, V. statistical education.

Carol Parzen is an Aggie (M.S. 1981) and has had diverse careers in the community; since 1988 she has been Assistant Director of the CBA Fellows Program in the College of Business Administration/Graduate School of Business. Emanuel and Carol Parzen married in 1959 and have two children: Sara Schandelson (a librarian, resident of Israel, and mother of twins) and Michael Parzen (Assistant Professor of Statistics, Graduate School of Business, University of Chicago).

EMANUEL AND CAROL PARZEN FUND PRIZE FOR STATISTICAL INNOVATION

The Emanuel and Carol Parzen Fund has been established in honor of the 65th birthday on April 21, 1994, of Emanuel Parzen, and in honor of the Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University to recognize the national and international visibility and reputation for excellence that it has achieved.

The Parzen Fund Prize for Statistical Innovation is to be awarded (in April of every other year, starting in 1994) to statisticians in North American universities who have made outstanding and influential contributions to the development of applicable and innovative statistical methods. It is being established because we believe that the problem of scarcity of awards and prizes for statisticians is best addressed by creating more prizes. The Parzen Fund Prize for Statistical Innovation will provide the winner: (1) a visit to Texas A&M University to formally receive the Prize and to give a lecture of broad interest, (2) prize money of \$1,000, and (3) a plaque.

The Department of Statistics at Texas A&M University would like to express its appreciation to those who by their gifts support the Emanuel and Carol Parzen Fund at the Texas A&M Development Foundation.