

PREFACE

Yuan-Shih Chow, Professor Emeritus of Statistics, Columbia University and Academician of Academia Sinica, Taiwan, celebrated his 80th birthday on September 1, 2004. In honor of this occasion and to pay tribute to his influential work in probability theory and mathematical statistics as well as his contributions to mathematics education and the development of statistical research and application in Taiwan and Mainland China, the International Conference on Random Walks, Sequential Analysis and Related Topics was held at Fudan University, Shanghai, China during July 18 and 19, 2004.

This volume includes papers presented at the Fudan conference and contributions from a number of authors who were not able to make the trip to Shanghai for the occasion. The 22 papers in the volume cover a wide range of topics which reflect the broad scope of areas where Professor Chow has made major contributions as well as recent advances in probability and statistics. The authors were invited to participate in this endeavor to honor Professor Chow because of their association with Professor Chow or because of their activities in the areas of research the conference focused on. In addition, the volume includes "A conversation with Yuan Shih Chow," originally published in the February, 2006 issue of *Statistical Science*, which contains some fascinating stories of Professor Chow's life experience as a student, teacher, scholar, colleague, friend, and intellectual in general. It is hoped that this volume will capture some of the spirit of the Shanghai conference, the important advances in random walk, sequential analysis and related topics, and the inspiration of Professor Chow.

The Editors would like to thank Professors Tze Leung Lai and Zukang Zheng who were instrumental in the organization of the conference and publication of this volume, members of the advisory and organizing committees of the conference, Chaohao Gu, Tze-Leung Lai, Jia-Ding Chen, Xi-Ru Chen, Chun-Tu Lin, Shaw-Hwa Lo, Henry Teicher, Jia-Gang Wang, Ching-Zong Wei, Rong Wu, Minggao Gu, Gordon Lan, Zhaohai Li, Kai F. Yu, Ming Zheng, Jinjin Hu, Jia Shen, Qinfeng Xu, and Xinshend Zhang,

and all the participants of the conference and contributors to the volume. The Editors would also like to thank about 20 people who served as anonymous referees. Finally, the Editors would like to thank Fudan University for providing financial support for the conference, and Fudan's staff who helped create a wonderful and pleasant atmosphere for the conference.

Agnes Chao Hsiung, Zhiliang Ying, and Cun-Hui Zhang
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