

Preface

This festschrift celebrates the sixty-fifth birthday of Howell Tong. It is a tribute of our admiration to Howell's path-breaking and tireless contributions to nonlinear time series analysis. As one of Howell's students, I have been benefiting from his teaching, friendship and generosity of ideas. In particular, I learn from Howell the significance of nonlinearity and dynamics in statistics and science, the intertwining themes being the linchpin of much of Howell's works.

This volume reprints ten selected papers by Howell and his collaborators. We are grateful to nineteen colleagues for contributing seventeen reviews of Howell's works. Their reviews shed light on Howell's contributions and modern, related developments in statistics and science. We are indebted to Professor Peter Whittle, FRS, for writing the Foreword with an illuminating overview of this festschrift.

Many of us admire Howell's mastery of the English language. In fact, he is also well versed in classic Chinese. The Tang-style Chinese poem (calligraphy by Mr. Yee-Kwong Kwan) at the end of the book is written by Howell. We are thankful to Mr. Kwan for the beautiful calligraphy and his elegant English translation of Howell's poem.

We thank Howell for providing many valuable photographs which enliven this volume, and provide a glimpse of the friendship and joy in the community of scholars. We are thankful to Carol Chan, whose creative editorial design of the photographs enhances the presentation of these memorable images. We thank Anna Tong for her artistic book design, a design that was inspired by Howell's poem. We are grateful to Nils Chr. Stenseth for the lynx photo as the back-cover of the book.

Kung-Sik Chan

Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science

University of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa 52242

U.S.A.

E-mail kung-sik-chan@uiowa.edu

March 1, 2009