

## INTRODUCTION

The Israel Conference was the sixth in a series of conferences sponsored by the Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes, which now functions as a committee of the newly established Bernoulli Society. Previous conferences were held in Rochester (1971), Louvain (1972), Sheffield (1973), York (1974) and Maryland (1975).

This year's conference was organized by the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology and by ORSIS—The Operations Research Society of Israel, and cosponsored by The Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, The Bernoulli Society for Mathematical Statistics and Probability, The Israel Mathematical Union, The European Research Office and Yad Avi Hayishuv Foundation. Organizers were B. Epstein and M. Rubinovitch and the local committee consisted of B. Avi Itzak, I. Meilijson, D. Mejzler and M. Yadin. Institutional participants were Israel Electric Corporation Ltd. and TAHAL—Water Planning for Israel Ltd.

About 140 probabilists from all over the world attended the Conference. Nineteen invited research or survey papers and 46 contributed papers were presented. The opening lecture was given by Professor A. Dvoretzky, President of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities. A wide range of topics was covered from the purely mathematical to applications of probability and stochastic processes in such areas as engineering, medicine, and management.

During the conference there was a meeting of the Committee for Conferences on Stochastic Processes. Among the topics discussed were: working rules of the committee, future conferences, and elections. Members of the committee (prior to the Israel Conference): N. U. Prabhu (chairman), K. B. Athreya, J. A. Bather, C. C. Heyde, D. L. Iglehart, J. Keiding, J. Keilson, K. Krickeberg, E. Parzen, Yu. A. Rozanov, M. Rubinovitch, R. Schaufele, R. Syski and S. Watanabe.

The entertainment program included a welcoming cocktail party, a reception at the Tel Aviv City Hall, a guided tour of Tel Aviv–Jaffa by night and a trip to Meggido followed by a visit to Haifa and a dinner reception given by the President of the Technion. After the conference participants departed for optional guided tours to Massada, the Dead Sea, Jerusalem and Galilee.

The abstracts which follow are subdivided under two main headings: I—Invited research and review papers and II—Contributed papers. Within each category the abstracts are grouped under topic sessions. In the case of a joint paper, the name of the author who read the paper is starred.