

Foreword

The present volume contains the proceedings of the X Symposium on Probability and Stochastic Processes and the First Joint Meeting France-Mexico of Probability, which was held at the Centro de Investigación en Matemáticas, Guanajuato, Mexico, November 3rd to 7th, 2008.

The symposium has now a long history, it has been held for over 22 years in various academic institutions in Mexico and its main goal is to gather national and international researchers as well as graduate students in this area and its applications, in order to exchange ideas and discuss the current developments in the field.

French and Mexican researchers have been working together for several years in order to foster the study of probability, stochastic processes and their applications in Mexico. Nowadays, their efforts have led to many researches in collaboration and to the realization of several thematic schools. Each time, the courses have been given by internationally acknowledged french and mexican professors, with the purpose of providing with a large panorama of the latest developments in probability theory to advanced students and colleagues. With the aim of continuing these activities and reinforce the links between both scientific communities, on this occasion a group of probabilists of both countries decided that the X Symposium on Probability and Stochastic Processes could also be the occasion to initiate joint meetings in this area.

Also, this time the symposium was part of the celebration of the XX Anniversary of the Probability and Statistics Master Program at CIMAT.

The program of this symposium was composed of two courses: Monique Jeanblanc (Université d'Évry, France) *Credit risk* and Zhan Shi (Laboratoire de Probabilités de Paris, France) *Random Walks and Trees*; 20 talks and a poster session. We are particularly grateful to Monique Jean-Blanc and Zhan Shi for their wonderful lectures. We are equally grateful to the authors whose original work is published here as well as to all the speakers and poster presenters in the Symposium for their stimulating contributions.

All papers, including the invited short course, have been peer refereed with the highest international standards. We are very grateful to the referees, whom are leading experts in their fields, for their careful and useful reports. Their comments were implemented by the authors allowing to improve the material here presented.

Special thanks go to the symposium venue CIMAT and its staff for its great hospitality and for providing excellent conference facilities.

The success of the Symposium was only possible thanks to the participants. Their enthusiasm made of this conference a place for a fruitful exchange of ideas.

We cordially thank Eric Cancès, Pierre Del Moral and Jean Frédéric Gerbeau Editors-in-Chief of ESAIM Proceedings and the publisher house EDP Sciences for making possible the publication of this volume.

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