

Top Statistics Journal Awards Best Article Prize

Taylor & Francis and the journal *Sequential Analysis* proudly announce the winners of the 2008 Abraham Wald Prize for the best article appearing in *Sequential Analysis* in 2007. Nitis Mukhopadhyay of the University of Connecticut and Shelley Zacks of Binghamton University were awarded the annual prize for their article entitled “Distributions of Sequential and Two-Stage Stopping Times for Fixed-Width Confidence Intervals in Bernoulli Trials: Application in Reliability.” The award was presented on August 5th, 2008, at the annual Joint Statistical Meeting in Denver, Colorado. The original article was published in Volume 26, Issue 4, pp. 425-441 of *Sequential Analysis* and can be viewed free online at <http://www.informaworld.com/10.1080/07474940701620907>.

“It is a pleasure to read this well written and thought provoking paper by two great researchers in statistics,” said Dr. Tumulesh Solanky, chair of the international committee that chose the winning paper. “The authors have derived the exact distributions of a sequential and a two-stage stopping variable to estimate the log-odds ratio in Bernoulli trials. In my opinion the paper will not only generate interest among the future researchers in the area and but it will as well lead the path for designing stopping variables with exact properties.”

Nitis Mukhopadhyay has authored numerous articles in areas such as multivariate sequential point estimation and is the current editor-in-chief of *Sequential Analysis*. Dr. Mukhopadhyay invests much of his time in organizing major conferences in the area of statistics as well as serving on national and international committees such as the American Statistical Association. He teaches mathematical statistics at the University of Connecticut.

Shelemyahu Zacks is best known for his invaluable research on change-point problems, Bayes sequential strategies, common mean problems, and reliability analysis. Dr. Zacks has written over 170 research publications and has received numerous awards including an honorary Ph.D. in 2005 from the University of Haifa. He currently holds the post of Professor and Director of the Center for Statistics, Quality Control, and Design at Binghamton University.

“Two outstanding scientists joined their forces again and proposed interesting new solutions to a classical Robbins-Siegmund problem of sequential confidence estimation of the log-odds ratio. Besides their modified two-stage scheme, they added exact expressions for the distribution, expected stopping time, and coverage probability to our knowledge of the problem,” said committee member Dr. Michael Baron. “This work clearly contributes to the global discussion of the extent the open-ended sequential procedures can improve multistage schemes.”

The field of sequential analysis was founded by **Abraham Wald** (1902-1950), a Hungarian-born mathematician who responded to the demand for more efficient methods of industrial quality control during World War II. Sequential analysis is a statistical technique in which the sample size is not fixed in advance. Instead, sampling is stopped as soon as significant results are observed. Unlike traditional statistical techniques, sequential analysis allows evaluation of data as it is collected, allowing researchers to draw conclusions at an earlier stage.

Sequential Analysis is an interdisciplinary refereed journal committed to contributing to theoretical and applied aspects of sequential methodologies in all areas of statistical science. Published papers highlight the development of new and important sequential approaches. Work in this area is used in fields as diverse as communication science, computer simulations, disease mapping, environmental sampling, genetics, networking, parallel processing, pest management, sonar detection, engineering, and medicine, among other areas. The journal encourages the publication of interdisciplinary articles that emphasize the methodology of practical value to applied researchers and statistical consultants.

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