PREFACE

This volume contains 6 invited papers and 11 papers contributed by the participants of the XXVIIIth *International Seminar on Stability Problems for Stochastic Models*, which was organized in Zakopane, Poland, from May 31 to June 5, 2009.

The chief organizers of the conference were: Stefan Banach International Mathematical Center, Warsaw; Faculty of Mathematics, Informatics and Econometry, University of Zielona Góra; and Department of Mathematics and Information Science, Warsaw University of Technology. Its co-organizers included: Steklov Mathematical Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow; Moscow State University; and Institute of Informatics Problems of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The Seminars on Stability Problems for Stochastic Models have a long tradition. They were started by Prof. V. M. Zolotarev in the 1970's. The topics of the first seminars were closely related to the interests of their founder and included: limit theorems, probabilistic metrics, stability problems, characterization of probability models and stable distributions.

The themes evolved with time and the meetings gathered wider and wider international spectrum of researchers. In this century the Seminars were held in Hungary, Bulgaria, Spain, Latvia, Italy, Romania and Israel.

The Seminar which took place in Zakopane was devoted to the following areas:

- Limit theorems and stability
- Asymptotic for stochastic processes
- Stable distributions and processes
- Topics in mathematical statistics
- Queuing theory and modeling communication systems
- Discrete probabilistic models
- Characterization of probability distributions
- Insurance and financial mathematics
- Generalized stability and generalized convolution

The last theme is new for this seminar series. It is designed to attract mathematicians working on geometric and analytical aspects of probability measures including all sorts of generalizations of stable distributions. The scientific program of the conference consisted of 8 invited lectures connected with *generalized stability and generalized convolution* and 73 talks. The main lectures were given by Zbigniew Jurek, Tomasz Kozubowski, Andrzej Łuczak, John Nolan, Edward Omey, Jan Rosiński, Shigeo Takenaka and Vladimir Volkovich.

I wish to thank warmly all the institutions and persons active in organizing the conference. Special thanks are due to Jacek Bojarski, Marta Borowiecka-Olszewska, Barbara Jasiulis (secretary of the conference), Grażyna Mazurkiewicz, Irina Shevtsova (general secretary of Seminars) and Alina Szelecka for their immense help before and during the conference.

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