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Editorial: In honor of Laurens de Haan

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In parallel with the development of the central limit theorem, extreme value theory has been studied in the theories of both probability and statistics. Extreme value analysis has been strongly developed theoretically, but additionally it has been applied, and continues to be applied, to various fields, such as environmental sciences, computer science, economics, finance, actuarial science, risk management, and so on.

As one of the leading statisticians in extremes, Laurens de Haan has been well known since his Ph.D. thesis in 1970, in which beautiful conditions such as the Π-variation were invented for a distribution to be in the domain of attraction of an extreme value distribution. Since then de Haan has written more than 100 research papers in prestigious probability and statistics journals, and his scientific contributions have been emphasized in several monographs on extremes. In over 100 publications, he has not only proved many beautiful theorems, but he has also developed many novel statistical methodologies for applying extreme value theory to real life situations. He is not only a serious scientist with a beautiful mind, but also a sincere, friendly, helpful colleague as well as mentor.

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In honor of his 70th birthday, we organized a special session at the Fifth International Conference on Extreme Value Analysis in Bern, July 23–27, 2007, where several researchers presented survey articles in various areas of statistics concerning extremes to honor de Haan's scientific work: e.g., extremes for independent data, dependent extremes, multivariate extremes, resampling techniques in extremes, and testing issues in extremes. All these subfields involve de Haan's important research. Without doubt, Laurens de Haan's contribution goes far beyond these surveys, as he continues to develop novel statistical methodologies in extremes.

The invited survey articles are now combined for this issue of *Extremes* in Laurens de Haan's honor. A very detailed and friendly tribute to him is given at the end of the contribution by Ivette Gomes, Luisa Canto e Castro, Isabel Fraga Alves, and Dinis Pestana.

Finally, we would like to mention that the editorial board has decided that in the future the best paper in *Extremes*, to have been published between the international Extreme Value Analysis conferences will be honored by the Extreme Value Analysis prize. A suitable sponsor of the prize will be announced. Since the international Extreme Value Analysis conferences will be organized presumably every two years, the prize will be awarded every second year.