

International Astrostatistics Association

IAA Newsletter – June 2014

IAU Symposium 306 ***Statistical Challenges in 21st Century Cosmology*** ***25-29 May, 2014; Lisbon, Portugal***

A fantastic success! The conference was the first ever IAU Symposium in Astrostatistics. **Alan Heavens** and **Jean-Luc Starck** were co-organizers of the event, and are already planning for an IAA Conference or Symposium for Athens in 2016. I must also thank **Alberto Krone-Martins** who chaired the LOC, and of course everyone who put on such a successful conference. The website, which has the abstracts and details of the Symposium, is <http://sccc21.sim.ul.pt/>. The presentations themselves are also due to be posted online.

Announcing

2014 AstroData Hack Week Sept 15-19 at the University of Washington

Sponsored by the **UW eScience Institute**, with funding from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation.

AstroData Hack Week is a week-long summer school / hack week / unconference focused on astrostatistics and data-intensive astronomy, taking place at the University of Washington

The mornings will be a typical summer school format, with lectures and exercises covering essential skills for working effectively with large astronomical datasets. The afternoons will be entirely unstructured, and offer opportunities for collaborative research, breakout sessions on special topics, and application of the concepts covered during the morning sessions.

The vision is to provide a space to encourage learning, research, collaboration, and sharing of expertise, for the benefit of both young and experienced astronomical researchers alike.

We have space for around 40 attendees, and registration will be open soon! For more information, please see <http://uwescience.github.io/AstroData/>

The Heilbronn Institute is advertising a fellowship (postdoc) in computational statistics and statistical learning. Both UK and US citizens may be suitable.

The link is:

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/jobs/find/details.html?nPostingID=1722&nPostingTargetID=5833>

American Statistical Association Interest Group in Astrostatistics Initial Meeting

A meeting of the recently approved ASA astrostatistics interest group will be held at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) of the American Statistical Association (ASA), Boston, MA, 3-7 August, 2014. Jessie Cisewski, an astronomy professor at Carnegie Mellon University, is heading the Interest Group. If you are planning to be at JSM and wish to participate in the Interest Group, contact her at: cisewski@stat.cmu.edu. I have not found out the actual date or place of the meeting, but I should have it available in the July Newsletter. I will also be posted on our ASAIP website under the division for “ASA Astrostatistics Interest Group”

For those of you who are not familiar with the ASA or JSM, the ASA has over 20,000 members, and JSM is very well attended. For information about attending JSM, see the following URL: <http://www.amstat.org/meetings/jsm/2014/index.cfm>

IAA Working Group in Cosmostatistics Project Groups Forming

Led by **Rafael de Souza** <rafael.2706@gmail.com> of the Korea Astronomy & Space Science Institute, the **Working Group in Cosmostatistics** is sponsoring various Project Groups, which are formed for the purpose of engaging in the development of software appropriate for cosmological analysis, as well as other more specific research tasks. We currently have 40 members in 5 project groups. Project management is being hosted by the **Astronomer's Workbench** <<http://awob.mpg.de>>, a function of the Max Planck Institutes in Germany. We welcome proposals for additional Project Groups, each of which will result in published results. The aim is to actually do serious research utilizing the resources of both astronomers and statisticians. I also welcome proposals for additional Working Groups.

ASAIP – PORTAL

Be sure to check out the portal if you have not accessed it for awhile. We have been trying to continually update it, and provide new features. You may find something that will be of interest to your research. <https://asaip.psu.edu>

An Astronomical Novel

For those of you who are not aware, **Chris Impey**, an IAA member, former Vice President of the AAS, University Distinguished Professor of Astronomy and Deputy Chair of the Department at the University of Arizona, and author of a number of popular books in astronomy and astrobiology, has authored his first novel. It's titled, ***Shadow World***, and is published by Dark Skies Press in Tuscon, Arizona. *Amazon* sells it as well, and has a nice description of the book on its web site.

http://www.amazon.com/s/ref=nb_sb_noss_1?url=search-alias%3Dstripbooks&field-keywords=chris+impey&rh=n%3A283155%2Ck%3Achris+impey

I had not read a novel of any sort since college – some 50 years ago. But I ended up reading this book. I very much liked it. It's actually set as seven different but inter-related stories, each following the adventures of a thoughtful Scottish traveler as he copes with the events he encounters in the Arizona desert, in New York, China, South America, Ireland, California, and finally in Sweden. It sells through Amazon in paperback for US\$13.46, or in ebook format for US\$2.99. I will be writing a review of it for Amazon in the near future.

ISI World Statistics Congress

Rio de Janerio, Brazil

Jul 27-31 July, 2015

We have made two Special Topic Session in Astrostatistics proposals for the 2015 World Statistics Congress. I should know the results of the proposals for the July Newsletter, and will provide more details at that time.

IAU General Assembly

Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

3-14 August, 2015

For IAU members – don't forget.

Please send me announcement information for inclusion in future Newsletters.

International Astrostatistics Association

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