International Astrostatistics Association

IAA Newsletter – May 2014

IAA WORKING GROUPS IN COSMOSTATISTICS

The IAA-Working Group of Cosmostatistics (WGC) inaugurated on April 2014 currently consisting of 26 members from 11 countries has already started 4 independent projects.

The project management is being hosted by the *Astronomer's Workbench* http://awob.mpg.de developed by the Max Planck Institutes, which consist of a collaborative platform to allow scientific project groups to share data, results, texts and further project relevant resources throughout the whole scientific lifecycle.

The currently approved WGC study projects are:

1: Supervised learning with multiple survey information for supernova classification (lead by Émille Ishida),

2: Exploration of highly-dimensional datasets (lead by Rafael S. de Souza),

3: Logistic regression (lead by Ewan Cameron), and

4: Development of astronomical oriented R packages (lead by Rafael S. de Souza).

Furthermore members of the WGC will have an official administrative planning meeting supported by the IAU Symposium 306: Statistical Challenges in 21st Cosmology, to be held in Lisbon, Portugal, 25-30 May, where current and new projects will be discussed.

The projects are still in their early stages of discussion, but each will result in published software or research results. We welcome new members, and new proposed projects, and invite you to join. If you are interested in participating, send an email to Rafael de Souza at rafael.2706@gmail.com with copy to Joseph Hilbe j.m.hilbe@gmail.com or hilbe@asu.edu

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FINAL CALL
INVITED & SPECIAL TOPIC SESSION PARTICIPANTS,
2015 ISI WORLD STATISTICS CONGRESS

I already have several papers for an invited paper session and special topics session in astrostatistics for presentation at the 2015 ISI World Statistics Congress in Rio de Janerio. I need to make my final submission no later than Wednesday 14 May, but would prefer to send in the proposal by Monday the 12th. The dates of the Congress are 26-31 July, 2015, a week prior to the IAU Assembly in Honolulu.

Please contact me this weekend regarding your interest in participating. A brief abstract will help, which I'll submit as part of the proposal. We have not been rejected in the past. You may amend your abstract later if you desire. Email me at hilbe@asu.edu or j.m.hilbe@gmail.com

IAU SYMPOSIUM 306:
STATISTICAL CHALLENGES IN 21ST CENTURY COSMOLOGY

The first ever IAU sponsored Symposium on Astrostatistics is being held 25-29 May, 2014, in just a couple of weeks. There are 11 keynote speakers, 8 invited speakers, 44 contrubuted papers, a public lecture, and three tutorial sessions. The tutorial sessions are being held on the 25th of May with the main symposium session from the 26-29th.

The web page for the symposium is http://sccc21.sim.ul.pt/index.html. More information about attending can be obtained at: sccc21@sim.ul.pt. Alan Heavens and and Jean-Luc Starck are co-chairs of the Scientific Organizing Committee, and Alberto Krone-Martins and Andre' Moitinho are co-chairs of the Local Organizing Committee.

This is a milestone event in the history of the discipline of astrostatistics. A report of the Symposium will be given in the June Newsletter.

AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION:
ASTROSTATISTICS INTEREST GROUP

A newly approved astrostatistics interest group has formed under the auspices of the American Statistical Association. A meeting of the interest group will be held at the Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM) of the American Statistical Association, which is being held in Boston, MA,   3-7 August, 2014. Jessie Cisewski, who is an astronomy professor at Cargenie Mellon University, is heading the Interest Group. If you are interested in participating in the Interest Group, please contact her at: cisewski@stat.cmu.edu

REMINDER: ASAIP HAS MORE FEATURES

The Portal is continuing to be enhanced with new capabilities and added information. If you have not visited it for a bit, I encourage you to do so. https://asaip.psu.edu
The Portal now has in excess of 700 members!

NEW ASTROSTATISTICS BOOK

Statistics, Data Mining, and Machine Learning in Astronomy, by Željko Ivezić, Andrew Connolly, Jacob VanderPlas, and Alexander Gray has recently been published by Princeton University Press. Python is used throughout for examples. I highly recommend it, particularly if you wish to employ Python for analyzing astronomical data.

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