IASC News January 2019

Final CRoNoS Spring Course

The final CRoNoS Spring Course will take place at the Poseidonia Beach Hotel, Limassol, Cyprus, 14-16 April 2019. The aim of this training course is to put together several tutorials on topics related to robust statistics, computational statistics and the treatment of non-standard data. The course is sponsored by COST and IASC-ERS. Eligible PhD students and Early Career Investigators can apply for grants. More details can be found here.

Fourth Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing (LACSC)

Call for Papers

The 4th Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing (LACSC 2018) will be held in **Guayaquil, Ecuador, from May 28-31, 2019**. This international conference, will be held together with the International Conference on Robust Statistics (ICORS), which is the most important event robust statistics. Its aim is to gather researchers interested in statistical computing in Latin America and from other parts of the world, and is the official conference of the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing (LARS-IASC). More details about the 4rd LACSC can be found in our website.

The Scientific Program Committee of the 4th LACSC is now soliciting suggestions for **Invited Paper Sessions** (IPS, 90 minutes with three speakers) to be considered as part of the scientific program of the conference. Please submit formal proposals **before March 8, 2019** to Paulo Canas Rodrigues (paulocanas@gmail.com), including title, brief description of the topic, and a list of speakers and discussant who have agreed to be part of the session, and their abstracts.

Young researchers (up to 5 years after their last academic degree) attending the 4th LACSC will have the possibility to compete for the "**Best LACSC 2018 Paper Award**".

Abstracts for **contributed talks** and **contributed posters** can be submitted online **until March 8, 2017**.

As a satellite event of the **4th LACSC, the 2nd LARS-IASC School on Computational Statistics and Data Science**, under the topic "Robust Statistics", which will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from May 26-27, 2019. More information can be found here.

The Conference of Data Science, Statistics & Visualisation (DSSV 2019)

DATA SCIENCE, STATISTICS & VISUALISATION

The conference of Data Science, Statistics & Visualisation (DSSV 2019) will take place on August 13-15, 2019 in Kyoto, Japan. This conference is a satellite meeting of the 62nd ISI World Statistics Congress. The venue of DSSV 2019 is the Imadegawa Campus of Doshisha University. The details can be found at the web-site http://iasc-isi.org/dssv2019/. At this site, registration and abstract submission will be received since Feb. 5, 2019, with the deadline of abstract submission May 7, 2019. Further, at the site, rooms in the hotels convenient for the venue can be reserved, soon later.

Venue

Imperial Palace

This meeting shall create a forum to discuss recent progress and emerging ideas in these different disciplines. The conference welcomes contributions to practical aspects of data science, statistics and visualisation, and presentations can cover topics such as machine learning, verbalization of data, big data infrastructures and analytics, advanced computing, and other important themes.

Di Cook, Kwan-Liu Ma, and Richard Samworth present keynote talks. Genevera Allen, Yongdai Kim, Hidetoshi Shimodaira, and Carson Sievert give invited talks. Those talks ensure a high-quality scientific program. The committee also is considering invitation of other speakers. In addition, the invited sessions from the International Society for Business and Industrial Statistics (ISBIS), the Bernoulli Society, and others will contribute to an exciting program.

Dinn

Kinkakuji Temple

The venue, neighboring Kyoto Imperial Palace, can be reached within 10 minutes via a subway from the Kyoto central station. The welcome reception and conference dinner with traditional Japanese style will be thrown at the areas close to the downtown, which can be reached easily from the venue within about twenty minutes via some transports. Since 794 to 1868, the successive emperors lived in Kyoto, and there are 17 world

heritages (including Kinkakuji temple presented left), each of which can be reached by a half-day travel at most from the venue.

The IASC-ARS 2019 Conference

Call for Invited Session Proposals for the 2019 IASC-ARS Conference – 2-5 December 2019, Hong Kong

The 11th IASC-ARS Conference will be held at the University of Hong Kong, China, on 2-5 December 2019. The theme of the conference is "Statistical Computing for AI and Big Data". The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for the discussion and exchange of ideas, new concepts and recent methods in statistics. Philip Leung-ho Yu from the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong will be the General Chair of the conference.

The Local Organizing Committee of the IASC-ARS 2019 invites submissions of Invited Session Proposals. An invited session proposal includes a session title, general description of the session, list of speakers, and tentative talk titles. Submissions may be made by email to iasc-ars2019@hku.hk. The submission deadline is **28 February 2019**. The organizers will be notified of the review committee's decision by 31 March 2019. Click here for the poster of **Call for Invited Session Proposals** for the details.

Keynote Speakers: Wolfgang Karl Härdle, Jun Liu, and Qiwei Yao

Local organizer: Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Hong Kong

We look forward to see you in Hong Kong!

Cluster Benchmarking Challenge Call

Neutral Benchmarking Studies of Clustering

The Cluster Benchmarking Task Force of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) is calling for neutral benchmarking studies in cluster analysis. This call is part of a challenge connected with the 2019 IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, Greece, August 26-29.

To achieve a cumulative building of knowledge on clustering and classification, careful attention to benchmarking (performance comparison of methods) is very important. New methods of data pre-processing, new data-analytic techniques, and new methods of output post-processing, should be extensively and carefully compared with existing alternatives, and existing methods should be part of neutral comparison studies.

Benchmarking studies can frequently been found in supervised learning, but are less common in unsupervised learning.

The Task Force has written a white paper (preprint) that addresses the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of benchmarking in cluster analysis, and some practicalities for performing sound benchmarking studies. The Task Force is now calling for individuals to contribute neutral benchmarking studies on cluster analysis as part of a challenge.

Rules for submission:

- Contributions for the challenge must be e-mailed to Iven.VanMechelen@kuleuven.be.
- A contribution should comprise a report on a benchmarking study in the context of cluster analysis. This report should have a length of between 5 and 15 pages, including text, tables, figures and references; other materials can be submitted as separate files.
- The benchmarking study may compare methods of data pre-processing, clustering (potentially but not necessarily including the estimation of cluster parameters such as the number of clusters), and/or output post-processing, and may use empirical or simulated data.
- Contributors should have a neutral point of view with respect to the methods studied in the contribution. This means that they should not be an author or co-author of one or more of the studied method(s). It is also expected that the contributors do not have a personal interest to promote any of the involved methods in particular.
- The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2019, 12:00 pm CET.

Competition guidelines:

- Contributions to the challenge will be evaluated by the IFCS Task Force on Benchmarking.
- Major evaluation criteria will be:
    - the technical correctness and clarity of the report,
    - that the study shows a critical reflection on principles on which a sound benchmarking study should be based (which may be either in line or at odds with the principles outlined in the white paper contributed by the Task Force),
    - a detailed specification of the choices made in the benchmarking study at issue along with a justification of these based on the principles referred to above.
- Up to 8 contributions will be selected for a short presentation during one or two invited sessions at the 2019 IFCS conference in Thessaloniki, Greece (such a presentation will not conflict with giving another presentation at that con¬ference). The authors of the selected contributions will be notified no later than April 25, 2019. Authors of selected contributions who cannot attend the conference will be invited to prepare a few slides on their contribution.
- During the closing session of the IFCS conference one or two of the selected contributions will be proclaimed winners of the challenge. The winners will receive a CRC/Chapman and Hall book voucher.
- Contact for questions: Iven.VanMechelen@kuleuven.be.

All researchers interested in clustering and classification are most welcome to participate in this challenge!

Task force members: Anne-Laure Boulesteix, Rainer Dangl, Nema Dean, Isabelle Guyon, Christian Hennig, Friedrich Leisch, Douglas Steinley, Iven Van Mechelen, and Matthijs Warrens.