

Activity Report of the ERS-IASC 2018 – 2019

IASC EC meeting in Kuala Lumpur (August 2019)

ERS-IASC SPRING COURSES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- **2018 CRoNoS Spring Course on Multivariate Data Analysis and Software
3-5 April 2018 in Limassol, Cyprus**

The spring course on “Multivariate Data Analysis and Software” has been organized by Ana Colubi and Erricos Kontoghiorghes on behalf of the CRoNoS COST Action with support from the ERS-IASC (European Regional Section of International Association for Statistical Computing).

The program included the following presentations:

- Multivariate Outlier Detection with ICS (8 hours), Anne Ruiz-Gazen, Toulouse School of Economics, France.
- Parallelisation of R Models with h2o (7 hours), Simon Caton, National College of Ireland, Ireland.
- robts - an R-package for robust time series and changepoint analysis (2 hours), Roland Fried, TU Dortmund University, Germany.
- Computational strategies for regression model selection (2 hours), Cristian Gatu, Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania.

- **Summer School on “Clustering, Data Analysis and Visualization of Complex Data”
21-25 May 2018 in Catania, Italy**

The summer school “Clustering, Data Analysis and Visualization of Complex Data” has been organized by ERS-IASC (European Regional Section of International Association for Statistical Computing) ECAS (European Courses in Advanced Statistics) and CLADAG (Classification and Data Analysis Group of the Italian Statistical Society). The course has focused on classification and clustering methods, in conjunction with related visualization techniques, with particular emphasis on modern high-dimensional data sets (MHDS).

The school was held in Catania (Italy) from May the 21st to May the 25th 2018 and it gathered 33 participants from different countries: Austria, Estonia, France, Italy, Latvia, New Zealand, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom.

The lectures were held by leading international experts: Christophe Biernacki (Université Lille 1, France), Charles Bouveyron (Université Nice Côte D’Azur, France), Pietro Coretto (University Of Salerno, Italy), Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter (Vienna University of Economics And Business, Austria), Salvatore Ingrassia (University of Catania, Italy) Theoretical lessons were accompanied by interactive discussions and lab tutorials.

- **2018 CRoNoS Summer School on Functional Data Analysis**
31 August – 2 September 2018 in Iasi, Romania

This summer course was organized by Ana Colubi and Cristian Gatu on behalf of the CRoNoS COST Action and took place after the Compstat 2018 conference at the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Iasi, Romania. The program of this summer school supported by the ERS-IASC included presentations by Fang Yao, University of Toronto, Canada, Manuel Febrero, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, Manuel Escabias, University of Granada, Spain, and Frederic Ferraty, Toulouse Jean Jaures University, France. The topics covered were “Functional Data Analysis and related topics”, “Computational aspects on Functional Data Analysis”, and “An Online Application for Functional Data Analysis Based on R”. For more details see http://www.compstat2018.org/CRoNoS_SummerCourse.php.

- **2019 CRoNoS Spring Course on Computationally-Intensive Methods for the Robust Analysis of Non-standard Data, 14 – 16 April 2019 in Limassol, Cyprus**

This final spring course of the CRoNoS COST Action was supported by the ERS-IASC. The program included the following presentations:

- Stefan Van Aelst, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Tim Verdonck, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Karel Hron, Palacký University, Czech Republic
- Alastair Young, Imperial College, UK
- Peter Winker, University of Giessen, Germany
- Zlatko Drmac, University of Zagreb, Croatia
- Ivette Gomes, Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal
- Daniela Zaharie, West University of Timisoara, Romania

- **Summer School on “Text as Data in Economics”**
15-17 July 2019 in Mannheim, Germany

The course for PhD and advanced Master students introduces participants to economic literature in which text is used as data and provides information on methods and software for working with textual data. The course will be given by Leif Anders Thorsrud, a leading scientist in the field. The participants learn about how text can be, and has been, applied to answer economically relevant questions. They also do some analysis themselves and will be well equipped to take more detailed and advanced courses on the topic. A preliminary course to learning the basics of Python will be provided on 15 July in the afternoon. The summer school is organized in co-operation with ERS-IASC. For further details see:

https://www.zew.de/fileadmin/FTP/veranstaltungen/CallforParticipants_TextasData2019.pdf.

COMPSTAT 2018

- **Compstat 2018, 28- 31 August 2018**

The 23rd International Conference on Computational Statistics (COMPSTAT 2018) took place at Unirea Hotel in Iasi, Romania, from 28th to 31st of August 2018. It was complemented by the CRoNoS Summer Course and Satellite Workshop on Functional Data Analysis (CRoNoS FDA 2018), from 31st of August to 2nd of September 2018. The events were locally organized by members of the Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi assisted by renowned international researchers lead by the local organizer Cristian Gatu.

From more than 300 submissions received for COMPSTAT, 260 have been retained for presentation in the conference. The conference program had 22 contributed sessions, 10 invited sessions, 3 keynote talks, 28 organized sessions and 2 tutorials. There were approximately 300 participants. The CRoNoS Summer Course and Satellite Workshop had about 65 participants, 37 talks and 20 hours of lectures.

• ERS-IASC Young Researchers Award 2018 at Compstat 2018

In the closing session of Compstat 2018 one ERS-IASC Young Researcher Award was given to Carlos Trucios Maza, Escola de Economia de São Paulo da Fundação Getulio Vargas FGV EESP. His paper “Robust principal volatility components” was selected by a jury of 3 members:

Peter Winker, as incoming ERS-IASC chairman

Maria Brigida Ferraro, scientific secretary of ERS-IASC

Cristian Gatu, as COMPSTAT 2018 organizer and chairman of the SPC

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL SECTION OF IASC FOR 2018-2022

The European Regional Section (ERS) has elected a new Board of Directors for the period 2018-2022. Since the number of candidates for the Board of Directors and the post of Chairman-Elect was equal to the number of posts available, the candidates were declared elected without vote. The new elected members of the Board of Directors for the period 2018-2022 are:

- Chairman Elect: Cristian Gatu (Romania)
- Maria Brigida Ferraro (Italy)
- Anne Ruiz Gazen (France)
- Robert Jung (Germany)
- Stefan Sperlich (Switzerland)
- Nickolay Trendafilov (UK)

The new Board of Directors started its functions at the COMPSTAT 2018. There, also the Scientific Secretary was elected by the Board of Directors: Maria Brigida Ferraro (Italy)

The full list of members on the Board of Directors with terms is available at: <http://iasc-isi.org/ers-board-of-directors/>

Report on IASC-ARS activities since Dec 2017

1. The 2017 IASC-ARS Conference, 10-14 December 2017, Auckland, New Zealand

The 2017 IASC-ARS conference was successfully held at University of Auckland, New Zealand, on 10-14 December 2017. The conference was a joint meeting of the 10th Conference of the Asian Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing and the New Zealand Statistical Association. A satellite meeting organized by the Operations Research Society of New Zealand was also held at the same time and venue.

The conference marked the retirement of Ross Ihaka, one of the two co-founders of R. There were six plenary speakers: Jennifer Bryan, Ross Ihaka, Luke Tierney, and Simon Urbanek, a young statisticians networking event and 4 pre-conference R workshops. The conference was well attended by about 300 statisticians, operations researchers, analytics specialists and students from academia and industry with many parallel sessions and poster presentations.

In the IASC General Assembly, Yuichi Mori from Okayama University of Science, Japan, had been elected as the Chairperson-Elect of the IASC-ARS from 2017-2019. In the Closing Ceremony of the conference, Philip Leung-ho Yu from the University of Hong Kong, China, had taken up his duties as the Chairperson of the IASC-ARS from 2017-2019.

2. IASC-ARS 25th Anniversary Conference & CASC 2nd Annual Conference, 9-11 November 2018, Beijing, China

The IASC-ARS 25th Anniversary Conference was successfully held at the Beijing Conference Center, China, on 9-11 November 2018. The conference was a joint meeting of the 25th Anniversary Conference of the Asian Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing & the 2nd Annual Conference of the Chinese Association for Statistical Computing (CASC). The theme of the conference was "Statistical Computing: Challenges and Opportunities in Data Science". There were four keynote speakers: Donald B. Rubin, Jun Liu, Wing Kam Fung and Fang Yao. The conference was well attended by about 150 participants from many countries and regions with many parallel sessions and poster presentations.

3. IASC-ARS: Distinguished Service Awards

To celebrate the 25th Anniversary of IASC-ARS, we established the Distinguished Service Award in recognition and with sincere appreciation for the dedicated effort and outstanding service to the IASC-ARS. It was announced in the opening ceremony of the conference that the recipients of the first Distinguished Service Award are Professor Jae Chang Lee and Professor Yutaka Tanaka. The Distinguished Service Award Presentation Ceremony took place during the conference dinner of the joint meeting of the IASC-ARS 25th Anniversary Conference & CASC 2nd Annual Conference on November 10, 2018.

4. The 2019 IASC-ARS Conference, 2-5 December 2019, Hong Kong

The 11th IASC-ARS Conference (<https://saasweb.hku.hk/conference/iasc-ars2019/>) 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.

The conference will consist of keynote speeches, tutorials, invited talks, contributed talks and posters. There are three confirmed keynote speakers: Wolfgang Karl Hardle, Jun Liu, and Qiwei Yao, and two half-day tutorials (1: Statistical network data analysis; 2: Anomaly detection using unsupervised learning algorithms).

To encourage more young statisticians including postgraduate and senior undergraduate students to participate, in addition to two YSI-ISI invited sessions organized by Prof. Hank Wu, the following two more activities will be organized:

- Luncheon Forum “How to Build a Career in Big Data and Artificial Intelligence” to be held during the lunch time on Dec 4, 2019. There are two confirmed speakers from Microsoft (Hong Kong) and Facebook (Hong Kong).
- Student prizes for contributed talks and posters delivered by students.

We look forward to seeing you in Hong Kong to attend the IASC-ARS 2019 conference and to experience the fusion of Chinese and Western cultures and beauty of Hong Kong!

5. ARS Sessions for COMPSTAT2020, Bologna, Italy

Philip Yu will represent ARS to join the organizing committee as consultative member. IASC-ARS will organize two sessions “Advances in Computations for Categorical Data Analysis and Related Methods” (Yuichi Mori) and “Analysis of Ranking Data” (Philip Yu). Thomas W. Yee is planning to organize an YSG-IASC session as well.

6. Future IASC-ARS Conferences

11th IASC-ARS Conference	Dec 2019	Hong Kong, China (Philip Yu, University of Hong Kong)
12th IASC-ARS Conference	Feb 2022	Kyoto, Japan (Yuichi Mori, Okayama University of Science)
13th IASC-ARS Conference	2023	Sydney, Australia (Thomas Fung, Macquarie University)

Report of Activities 2016 – May 2019

Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing LARS-IASC

May - 2019

Summary

The Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing was established in the IASC General Assembly held in August 2016. The creation of the LARS-IASC constitutes a milestone in the development of statistical computing in Latin American countries. The mission of the LARS is “to promote Latin American co-operation in pursuing the aims of the IASC. In particular, the IASC-LARS will, in the Latin American context, aim to further the progress of the theory, methods and practice of statistical computing and to foster interest and knowledge in effective and efficient statistical computing through international contacts among statisticians, computing professionals, organizations, institutions, governments”.

The elections of the first Board of Directors began on December 1, 2016 and the votes were cast until December 14, 2016. The Board of Directors was officially constituted on January 12, 2017. The final version of the LARS Statutes was released in October 2016, and the LARS Strategic Plan in June 2017.

Since 2016, LARS-IASC has held 4 Latin American Conferences on Statistical Computing - LACSC (Gramado, Brazil 2016, Valparaíso, Chile 2017, San José, Costa Rica 2018, Guayaquil, Ecuador 2019), 2 LARS-IASC Schools on Computational Statistics and Data Science in Extreme Value Theory (Salvador, Brazil 2018) and Robust Statistics (Guayaquil, Ecuador 2019) and the LARS-IASC Invited Paper Session Recent Advances in Statistical Computing in COMPSTAT 2018 (Iasi, Romania 2018). Moreover, the LARS supported the creation of the Chilean Section for Statistical Computing of the Chilean Society of Statistics (October 7, 2017), published a special issue in the Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation (volume 88 issue 10 2018) with 9 papers presented at the 2nd LACSC 2017 and awarded a Best Poster at the 2nd LACSC 2017.

Currently, the LARS-IASC has 34 members: 2 from Argentina, 15 from Brazil, 2 from Chile, 2 from Colombia, 5 from Ecuador, 7 from Mexico and 1 from Peru. The Regional Section has held 2 Board of Directors Meetings, 2 General Assemblies (Valparaíso, Chile 2017, San José, Costa Rica 2018) and organized the elections of the Board of Directors 2019-2022.

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Activities 2019

1. 2nd LARS School on Computational Statistics and Data Science

The Second LARS School on Computational Statistics and Data Science will be held in Guayaquil, Ecuador, May 26-27, 2019. This is a satellite event of the 4th Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing, LACSC 2019. The school is organized by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing and the ESPOL Polytechnic University.

The main purpose of the school is to spread the knowledge base and advances in Statistical Computing in Latin American countries and to increase the quantity of researchers and data scientists in the field. The program is organized around three axes: knowledge base and advances, software and data science applications. It is oriented to postgraduate students, researchers and practitioners in statistics and data science.

- School theme: Robust Statistics
- Instructors:
 - Prof. Peter Rousseuw, KU Leuven, Belgium
 - Prof. Stefan Van Aelst, KU Leuven, Belgium
- The program includes an introduction to robust statistics, robust multivariate methods, robust regression, robust PCA, advanced topics and recent developments. The school will provide an official certificate of attendance to the participants.

There are 17 registered persons: 10 from Ecuador, 2 from México, 1 from Brazil, 1 from Chile, 1 from Ghana, 1 from Panama, and 1 from Venezuela.

Registration fees,

- Before April 17, 2019: US\$150
- After April 17, 2019: US\$200

Website: <https://icors-lacsc-2019.com/lars-iasc-school/>

2. 4th Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing

The 4th Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2018 will take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador, May 28-31, 2019. The conference is organized by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing and the ESPOL Polytechnic University. The meeting is jointly held with the International Conference on Robust Statistics ICORS 2019.

The main purposes of the conference are to promote statistical computing in Latin America, to bring together professors, researchers and practitioners to share knowledge and experiences in the field of statistical computing, and to be a high-quality reference in statistical computing in Latin America and the world.

The call of papers includes areas such as statistical computing, data analysis, multivariate statistics, data mining, modeling, applications, big data, optimization heuristics and other related topics.

The conference program includes two keynote speakers, professors Gareth James from University of Southern California, USA, and Dirk Eddelbuettel from University of Illinois, USA, and a number of Invited Paper Sessions, Contributed Talks and Posters.

There are 7 applicants to the Best Paper Award competition, and the winner will be announced in the LARS-IASC closing ceremony.

Website: <https://icors-lacsc-2019.com>

3. LARS-IASC BoD Meeting 2019

The LARS-IASC BoD Meeting will take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador, May 28th, 2019, during the 4th Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2019.

4. LARS-IASC General Assembly 2019

The LARS-IASC General Assembly will take place in Guayaquil, Ecuador, May 29th, 2019, during the 4th Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2019.

5. BoD Elections 2019

The elections of the Board of Directors 2019-2022 took place from September-2018 to January 2019. The Elections Committee consisted of 3 LARS officers: David Muñoz (Chair, México), Alba Martínez-Ruiz (Chile) and Paulo Canas Rodriguez (Brazil), and it was constituted on September 4, 2018. The committee's mission was to find suitable candidates for available positions on the LARS-IASC Board of Directors.

Voting took place from January 14-28, 2018. Verónica González-López (Brazil) was elected to serve as Chairperson-Elect of LARS-IASC from February-2019 to December-2020, and as Chairperson from January-2021 to December-2022.

The elected members to serve in the LARS-IASC Board of Directors 2019-2022 are Javier Trejos Zelaya (15 votes, Costa Rica), Martha Bohórquez Castañeda (11, Colombia), Manuel Mendoza Ramírez (11, México) y Rodrigo Salas (13, Chile).

Official results were communicated by the ISI Permanent Office on January 31, 2018.

Activities 2018

6. 1st LARS School on Computational Statistics and Data Science

The First LARS School on Computational Statistics and Data Science took place in Salvador, Brazil, November 15-17, 2018, right after the First Conference on Statistics and Data Science, November 12-14, 2018, organized by the Federal University of Bahia. The school was organized by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing.

The main purpose of the school is to spread the knowledge base and advances in Statistical Computing in Latin American countries and to increase the quantity of researchers and data scientists in the field. The program is organized around three axes: knowledge base and advances, software and data science applications. It is oriented to postgraduate students, researchers and practitioners in statistics and data science.

- School theme: Statistics of Extremes, Modeling, Inferences and Applications
- Instructors:
 - Miguel de Carvalho, University of Edinburgh, UK
 - Manuele Leonelli, Glasgow University, UK
 - Dani Gamerman, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- The program included an introduction to statistical methods for extreme values, univariate extremes, nonstationary extremes, statistical modeling of joint extremes, density ratio models for multivariate extremes, nonstationary multivariate extremes, and spatial extremes, R packages for extreme value theory.

The total number of participants (in at least one of the days) was about 15, with 9 presents in all days: 1 from Chile, 1 from Cape Verde (with grant), 5 from Colombia (one with grant), and 9 from Brazil (one with grant).

The 1st LARS-IASC School offered three full grants (travel + daily allowances + registration fees). The application was done directly to the ISI (World Bank fund). Moreover, the registration fee was waived to about 6-8 participants.

Registration fees,

- Participants from developing countries: US\$100
- Participants from developed countries: US\$250

Website: <http://www.csds.ime.ufba.br/LARS.html>

7. 3rd Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing

The 3rd Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2018 took place in San José, Costa Rica, February 27-March 2, 2018. The conference was organized by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association

for Statistical Computing and the Centro de Investigación en Matemática Pura y Aplicada (CIMPA) at the University of Costa Rica. The meeting was jointly held with the XXI Simposio Internacional de Métodos Matemáticos Aplicados a las Ciencias - XXI SIMMAC.

- The program included,
 - 3 keynote speakers: Brasil, Hong Kong, USA
 - 6 invited paper sessions
 - 5 contributed paper sessions
 - 1 session tutorial
 - 1 poster session (26 posters)
 - 46 participants from 17 countries
 - Details in appendix

Website: <http://www.cimpa.ucr.ac.cr/simmac/es/lacsc>

8. LARS-IASC BoD Meeting 2018

The LARS-IASC BoD Meeting took place in San José, Costa Rica, February 28, 2018. The meeting was presided over by Paulo Canas Rodrigues – Chairperson of the LARS-IASC. The meeting was developed according to the agenda. Participants,

- Wing Kam Fung (Hong Kong, IASC President)
- Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Brazil, Finland, LARS-IASC Chairperson)
- David Muñoz Negrón (México, LARS-IASC Chairperson-Elected)
- Javier Trejos (Costa Rica)
- Alba Martinez Ruiz (Chile)
- Francisco Louzada (Brazil)
- Holger Cevallos Valdiviezo (Ecuador)

Information, main discussions and agreements,

- ESPOL will confirm the feasibility of organizing the IV Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing (Guayaquil, Ecuador) before the end of April. The conference could be jointly organized by ESPOL – Escuela Superior Politécnica del Litoral and the Universidad Yachay Tech. The meeting could be jointly held with the International Conference on Robust Statistics, ICORS.
- The Board of Directors agreed to hold the LARS-IASC conference in late April or early May instead of the end of February.
- There are 26 members registered in the LARS-IASC. The same number of members as in 2017. To encourage the application to the IASC, it was agreed to set high conference/school registration fees for non IASC members.
- No poster was submitted to the Best Poster Award of the LACSC 2018. It is important to encourage students and young researchers to submit their works for the Best Poster/Paper Award. This is an opportunity to contribute to the training of young researchers.

- The LARS-IASC Chairperson informed that an application for funding was presented by the IASC to the World Bank for capacity building in statistics. Part of these funds would be directed to fund activities of the LARS-IASC.
- It is important the participation of LARS-IASC members as LASR-IASC members in Latin American Conferences/Schools. Three were mentioned: CLATSE (October 1-5, México), SINAPE (September 24-28, 2018, Brasil), LatinR 2018 (September 4-5, 2018, Argentina).
- The LARS-IASC Chairperson informed that elections of the Board of Directors 2019-2022 should be organized soon.

9. LARS-IASC General Assembly 2018

The LARS-IASC General Assembly took place in San José, Costa Rica, February 28, 2018. The meeting was presided over by Paulo Canas Rodrigues - Chairperson of the LARS-IASC. The assembly was developed according to the agenda.

Information, main discussions and agreements,

- Plans were announced for LARS-School 2018 and LACSC 2019.
- Professors at the Universidad Yachay Tech could collaborate in the organization of LACSC 2019.
- Agreements and BoD decisions were communicated to the participants of the General Assembly.

10. Creation of the Chilean Section for Statistical Computing

On October 17, 2017, the creation of the Chilean Section of Computational Statistics of the Chilean Statistical Society (SOCHE) was unanimously approved by the General Assembly of the SOCHE. The General Assembly was held in Valparaiso, Chile, during the Jornadas Nacionales de Estadística, October 16-18, 2017. The section coordinator will be Professor Luis Firinguetti Limone.

The Chilean Statistical Society promotes the study, progress and dissemination of statistics through four national sections: Biostatistics, Education in Statistics, Official Statistics and Computational Statistics. The creation of the Chilean Section of Computational Statistics was sponsored by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing, LARS-IASC, and the International Association for Statistical Computing, IASC.

11. About LARS School on Computational Statistics and Data Science

To increase the development of human capital in computational statistics and support its progress, the Latin American Regional Section of the International

Association for Statistical Computing (LARS-IASC) aims to implement a School on Computational Statistics and Data Science (LARS School). The main purpose of the LARS School is to spread the knowledge base and advances in Computational Statistics in the Latin American countries and to increase the number of researchers and data scientists in the field.

The main objectives of the LARS School are,

- To spread the base of knowledge in computational statistics to the Latin American scientific community.
- To provide an overview of the state-of-the-art of the ongoing research in computational statistics.
- To provide an overall perspective of the application of computational statistics in data science problems.
- To present applications where computational statistics have been crucial to solve problems in real-life applications.
- To increase the number of Latin American researchers and practitioners in computational statistics and data science.

The school is jointly organized by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing (LARS-IASC) and the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC).

Activities 2017

12. 2nd Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing

The 2nd Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2017 took place in Valparaiso, Chile, March 9-11, 2017. The conference was organized by the Latin American Regional Section of the International Association for Statistical Computing and the Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María.

- Conference theme: Statistical computing for data science.
- The program included,
 - 5 keynote speakers: Denmark, France, Norway, 2 from Chile
 - 8 invited paper sessions: Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Finland, México
 - 3 contributed paper sessions
 - A poster session (6 posters)
 - A Best Paper Award competition
 - More than 50 participants from 14 countries.
 - Details in appendix

- At the LACSC 2017 was announced the winner of the Best Poster Award competition.
 - Winner: Anderson Ara from Brazil.
 - Poster: A comparison of copula methods in Bayesian network classifiers.
 - Jury: Javier Trejos, Flavio Augusto Ziegelmanns, and Patrick Groenen,
- Nine papers presented at LACSC 2017 were published in the Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation, 88(10), 2018. See appendix for details.

Website: <http://www.lacsc.mat.utfsm.cl/>

13. LARS-IASC BoD Meeting 2017

The LARS-IASC BoD Meeting took place in Valparaiso, Chile, March 9, 2017. The meeting was presided over by Paulo Canas Rodriguez – Chairperson of the LARS-IASC. The meeting was developed according to the agenda. Participants,

- Patrick Groenen (The Netherlands, IASC President)
- Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Brazil, LARS-IASC Chairperson)
- David Muñoz (México, LARS-IASC Chairperson-Elected)
- Alba Martinez Ruiz (Chile)
- Ana Haedo (Argentina, via Skype)
- Emilio Porcu (Chile)
- Francisco de Carvalho (Brazil, via Skype)
- Francisco Louzada (Brazil)

Information, main discussions and agreements,

- The BoD agreed to elect Alba Martinez Ruiz as LARS-IASC Scientific Secretary 2017-2018.
- It was reported the number of members of the LARS-IASC (see LARS-IASC General Assembly).
- It was discussed some strategies for increasing LARS-IASC memberships,
 - To establish partnerships with associations and statistical societies
 - To organize or co-organize courses in Latin America together with local communities and make it a tradition
 - To organize courses in LARS-IASC conferences
 - To increase LARS-IASC presence in social networks such as facebook, linkedin and twitter
 - To have a dedicated page under the IASC website devoted to LARS-IASC, including news and activities
 - To organize Invited Paper Sessions in local and IASC sponsored conferences

14. LARS-IASC General Assembly 2017

The LARS-IASC General Assembly took place in Valparaiso, Chile, March 9, 2017. The meeting was presided over by Paulo Canas Rodrigues – Chairperson of the LARS-IASC. The assembly was developed according to the agenda.

- LARS-IASC membership.
- The Third Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2018 will be held on Costa Rica in February 2018; it will be organized by the University of Costa Rica.
- It was emphasized the importance of,
 - The collaboration with national statistical association
 - The involvement in national conferences in Latin America
 - The organization of LARS-IASC sessions in ARS-IASC and ERS-IASC
 - The organization of courses, workshops, summer schools or LARS school.

Activities 2016

15. BoD Elections 2016

The elections of the Board of Directors 2017-2020 took place from October-2016 to January 2017. The Elections Committee consisted of 3 IASC officers: Paula Brito (IASC Past-President), Patrick Groenen (IASC President), and Wing Kam Fung (IASC President-Elect). The committee's mission was to find suitable candidates for available positions on the LARS-IASC Board of Directors.

Voting took place from December 1-14, 2018. Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Brazil) was elected to serve as Chairperson of LARS-IASC from January 2017 to December 2018; David Muñoz (México) was elected to serve as Chairperson-Elect from January 2017 to December 2018, and as Chairperson from January 2019 to December 2020.

The elected members to serve in the LARS-IASC Board of Directors 2017-2020 are Alba Martínez Ruiz (9 votes, Chile), Ana Ahedo (8 votes, Argentina), Emilio Porcu (9 votes, Chile), Eufrásio de Andrade Lima Neto (9 votes, Brazil), Francisco de A. T. de Carvalho (8 votes, Brazil), and Francisco Louzada (9 votes, Brazil).

Official results were registered by the ISI Permanent Office on January 2, 2017. The Board of Directors was officially constituted on January 12, 2017.

16. 1st Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing

The 1st Latin American Conference on Statistical Computing LACSC 2016 took place in Gramado, Brazil, July 22-24, 2016. The conference was organized by the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC), the Brazilian Statistical Association (ABE) and the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

- Conference theme: Statistical Computing for Data Science
- The program included,
 - 2 keynote speakers: The Netherlands, Chile.
 - 7 invited paper sessions: México, Portugal, Chile, Brazil
 - 5 contributed paper sessions
 - A poster session (18 posters)
 - Details in appendix

Website: <http://www.redeabe.org.br/lacsc2016/>

Appendix

LARS-IASC School 2019

- Prof. Peter Rousseuw, KU Leuven, Belgium
- Prof. Stefan Van Aelst, KU Leuven, Belgium

LACSC 2018 IPS-CPS

Keynote speakers – LACSC 2018

- KS1. Wing Kam Fung, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. Efficient Monte Carlo evaluation of resampling-based hypothesis tests.
- KS2. Genoveva Allen, Rice University, USA. Inference, computation, and visualization for convex clustering and biclustering.

Invited Paper Sessions – LACSC 2018

- IPS1. New developments in genomic selection and prediction studies. Chair: Vanda Lourenço (Portugal).
- IPS2. Recent advances in statistical computing 1. Chair: Verónica González (Brazil)
- IPS3. Statistics and Applications. Chair: Francisco Louzada (Brazil)
- IPS4. Statistical computing for data science. Chair: Alba Martinez Ruiz (Chile)
- IPS5. Forecasting using simulation. Chair: David Muñoz (México)
- IPS6. Recent advances in classification and clustering, previously “application of classification techniques in the study of student’s success in propaedeutic college math courses”. Chair: Luis Firinguetti.

Contributed Paper Sessions – LACSC 2018

- CPS1. Statistical Computing 4: Optimization and estimation. Chair: Jesús García
- CPS2. Copulas. Chair: Nikolai Kolev (Brasil).
- CPS3. Statistical Computing 7: Applications in statistical computing. Chair: Wolf-Dieter Richter.
- CPS4. Recent advances in robust statistics and distribution theory. Chair: Agustín Mayo-Iscar (Spain).
- CPS5. Statistical computing 5. Chair: Holger Cevallos, Alexandra Posekany (Ecuador, Austria).

Session Tutorial

- Copula Functions. U. Cherubini, S. Mulinacci.

IPS COMPSTAT 2018

Recent Advances in Statistical Computing, Chair: Paulo Canas Rodrigues

- P. Canas Rodrigues. A robust approach to singular spectrum analysis
- F. Louzada. Efficient closed-form MAP estimators for some survival distributions
- M. Bohorquez, R. Giraldo, J. Mateu. Prediction and optimal sampling for spatial multivariate functional random fields

LARS-IASC School 2018

- Miguel de Carvalho, University of Edinburgh, UK
- Manuele Leonelli, Glasgow University, UK
- Dani Gamerman, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

LACSC 2017 IPS-CPS

Keynote speakers – LACSC 2017

- KS1. Harvard Rue, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway
- KS2. Rasmus Waagepetersen, Aalborg University, Denmark
- KS3. Xavier Emery, Universidad de Chile, Chile
- KS4. Fernando Quintana, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile
- KS5. Denis Allard, INRA, France
- KS6. Patrick Groenen, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Invited Paper Sessions – LACSC 2017

- IPS1. Simulation methods for special applications. Chair David Muñoz (México).
- IPS2. Statistical web-oriented systems. Chair Francisco Louzada (Brazil).
- IPS3. Statistical computing for data science. Chair Alba Martinez-Ruiz (Chile).
- IPS4. Modeling of complex data. Chair Danilo Marcondes (Brazil).
- IPS5. Stochastic models in financial data. Chair Danilo Marcondes and Flavio Augusto Ziegelmann (Brazil).
- IPS6. On some aspects of Bayesian modeling and computation. Chair Fernando Quintana (Chile).
- IPS7. Metaheuristic optimization in statistics. Chair Javier Trejos (Costa Rica).
- IPS8. Recent advances in statistical computing for data science. Chair Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Brazil, Finland).

Contributed Paper Sessions – LACSC 2017

- CPS1. Recent advances in robust methods. Chair Paulo Henrique Ferreira.
- CPS2. New challenges in statistical computing. Chair: Anderson Ara.
- CPS3. Applications in statistical computing. Chair: Luis Firinguetti.

LACSC 2016 IPS-CPS

Keynote speakers – LACSC 2016

- KS1. Patrick Groenen, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Majorization and minorization algorithms in statistics.
- KS2. Emilio Porcu, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María, Chile. Space-time covariance functions for planet earth.

Invited Paper Sessions – LACSC 2016

- IPS1. Computational methods in Bayesian statistics. Organizer: David Muñoz (México)
- IPS2. Symbolic data analysis. Organizer: Paula Brito (Portugal).
- IPS3. PLS methods and data science: Theory and computational applications. Organizer: Alba Martínez Ruiz (Chile).
- IPS4. Statistical challenge in big data. Organizer: Paulo Canas Rodrigues (Brazil).
- IPS5. Innovation and statistics in Brazil. Organizer: Francisco Louzada (Brazil).
- IPS6. Computational methods in survival analysis. Organizer: Vera Tomazella (Brazil).
- IPS7. Copula-based computational techniques. Organizer: Nikolai Kolev (Brazil).

Contributed Paper Sessions – LACSC 2016

- CPS1. Statistical computing in the society
- CPS2. Recent advances in distribution theory 1
- CPS3. New challenges in statistical computing
- CPS4. Recent advances in distribution theory 2
- CPS5. New challenges in linear models

Special Issue Journal of Statistical Computation and Simulation, 88(10), 2018 (LACSC2017)

- A1. Alegria A, Porcu E, Reinhard F. Asymmetric matrix-valued covariances for multivariate random fields on spheres.
- A2. Plaza F, Salas R, Yáñez E. Identifying ecosystem patterns from time series of anchovy (*Engraulis ringens*) and sardine (*Sardinops Sagax*) landings in northern Chile.
- A3. Cybis G, Valk M, Lopes S. Clustering and classification problems in genetics through U-statistics.
- A4. Ferreira G, Pia N, Porcu E. Estimation of slowly time-varying trend function in long memory regression models.
- A5. Rodrigues PC, Tuy P, Mahmoudvand R. Randomized singular spectrum analysis for long time series.
- A6. Fernandez R, Bayes C, Valdivieso L. A beta inflated mean regression model with mixed effects for fractional response variables.
- A7. Vallejos R, Acosta J, Griffith D. On the effective geographic sample size.
- A8. Maza T, Csar C, Hotta L, Ruiz E. Robust bootstrap densities for dynamic conditional correlations: implications for portfolio selection and value-at-risk.
- A9. Waagepetersen R, Jalilian A. Fast bandwidth selection for estimation of the pair correlation function.

Awards

- LACSC 2017, Best Poster Award, Anderson Ara (Brazil), “A comparison of copula methods in Bayesian network classifiers”; jury: Javier Trejos, Flavio Augusto Ziegelmanns, and Patrick Groenen,

Board of Directors

Executive Committee – years 2019-2020

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- Scientific Secretary: Alba Martínez Ruiz (Chile)

Report 2019 sent in May 14, 2019.

Alba Martínez-Ruiz, Scientific Secretary; David F. Muñoz, Chairperson.

Report 2018 sent in March 29, 2018.

Alba Martínez-Ruiz, Scientific Secretary; Paulo Canas Rodrigues, Chairperson.

Report 2017 sent in March 20, 2017.

Alba Martínez-Ruiz, Scientific Secretary; Paulo Canas Rodrigues, Chairperson.

Short Report for the Young Statisticians Group (YSG-IASC), by Thomas Yee, July 2019

1. Compstat 2020 Bologna.

An email was sent to the two chairpersons of the Compstat 2020 organizers (Profs Ferraro and Luati) to bear in mind the interests of the YSG-IASC as they organize the conference next year. They replied positively and asked me to organize a YSG session. I should hopefully know if I will attend around September/November, and if so, then will do my best to organize such a session.

2. IASC-ARS 2019 Hong Kong.

An email was sent to the chairperson (Prof Philip Yu) to consider further YSG activities such as a career development session. This appears to be scheduled in the programme (luncheon forum and student prizes).

3. Coming next month: a YSG-IASC session at the ISI WSC 2019 at Kuala Lumpur:

- IPS-134: "Early Career Advice for Statisticians in the Computational Sciences, who are Young and not so Young".

Han-Ming Wu (Hank) and I will speak, Peter Filzmoser and Junji Nakano are discussants, and Rob Hyndman is chairman; everybody has kindly agreed to participate.

4. Other YSG related activities: Hank has organized further activities for YS-ISI <http://www.ys-isi.org> including sessions in Kuala Lumpur and in Hong Kong.

5. Hank continues to do a very good job maintaining the above website.

Report on the World Statistics Congress Scientific Program Committee for 2019

It is the duty of the Scientific Program Committee (**SPC**) to develop the Invited Paper Sessions (**IPS**) and coordinate with the Local Program Committee (**LPC**) on the Special Topics Sessions (**STS**) and Contributed Paper/Poster Sessions (**CPS**) while The Local Organizing Committee (**LOC**) organizes and manages the entire conference including the website and submission system.

A total of 212 proposals for IPS were received on the online submission system. Of these proposals, 28 were directly or indirectly linked to IASC members or topics of interest to IASC members. The SPC evaluated the IPS proposals in the period from 01 April 2018 until 30 June 2018. Of the 28 proposals of concern to the IASC, 14 were accepted for IPS at the WSC in August 2019.

In addition, there will be two special sessions organised by the IASC:

- IASC president's lecture
Inference on the best selected subgroup
Xuming He
University of Michigan
- Journal of Data Science, Statistics, and Visualisation session
Multiview graph embedding as a generalization of canonical correlation analysis
Hidetoshi Shimodaira
Kyoto University
- Building plots to explore data: Beyond histograms, barcharts and scatterplots to high-dimensions and statistical inference
Di Cook
Monash University

Sugnet Lubbe
WSC2019 SPC member representing IASC
12 July 2019

Report DSSV

The third edition of the Data Science, Statistics, and Visualisation Conference (DSSV) will be held in Kyoto, Japan, from August 13-15, 2019. There are three keynote speakers (Richard J. Samworth, University of Cambridge, UK, Di Cook, Monash University, Australia, and Kwan-Liu Ma, University of California, USA), four invited talks, nine invited session with a total of 25 speakers, 18 contributed sessions with 82 speakers, and 24 posters from 17 countries. The local organising committee is chaired by Kohei Adachi. For more details, we refer to the website: dssv2019.iasc-isi.org.

DSSV-2020 will be held at Duke University, Durham North Carolina, USA, with local organiser David Banks. The conference will be held from Wednesday July 29 to Friday 31, 2020.

Report JDSSV

Several actions have been taken to start up the Journal of Data Science, Statistics, and Visualisation (JDSSV) by the editors (Stefan van Aelst and Patrick Groenen), the web editor (Alexandre Francisco), and the copy editor (Ann Maharaj). The journal management system has been set up. A template with submission guidelines has been made produced and made available through the website. An editorial board has been established with nine internal associate editors. Papers can be submitted as of July 15, 2019. A first call for papers has been produced in the form of a flyer. The journal can be reached at jdssv.org.