

B-Stat News

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of the
Belgian Statistical Society
Belgische Vereniging voor Statistiek
Soci t  Belge de Statistique

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Editeur responsable/Verantwoordelijke uitgever :
Sophie Vanbelle, Service de Biostatistique, Universit  de Li ge
CHU Sart Tilman, 4000 Li ge

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Website of the Society

www.sbs-bvs.be

B-Stat News editor

Sophie Vanbelle : sophie.vanbelle@ulg.ac.be

Webmaster

Laurence Seidel : laurence.seidel@ulg.ac.be

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Editorial

Dear SBS-BVS members,

In the B-Stat News editorial of May 2008 I wrote that ‘helping young statisticians at the pre-doc and post-doc level to become high level professionals’ is a challenge for the BVS-SBS. I therefore invited young PhD holders in statistics to submit a one page summary of their thesis to B-Stat News. In the next two issues I have seen one (1) thesis summary (there were 7 in 2007) ... Of course for PhD students the real important players are the advisers, but still I believe that, once the PhD thesis is there, it would be nice that the BVS-SBS-members can learn about their achievement by reading an ‘informative and not too technical’ summary of the thesis in B-Stat News. I think we should try to organize this idea in an efficient way.

While thinking about this issue, I looked at the content of the B-Stat News issues from 2007-2009. Typical (recurrent) material includes list of members, minutes of the general assembly, information on statistical events and information on the annual meeting of BVS-SBS. Under the presidency of A. Albert, B-Stat News started to interview retired statisticians (May 2008: Herman Callaert en January 2009: Pierre Dagnelie). This is an interesting ‘light and easy to read’ add to the B-Stat News. Elaborating on this idea we should invent further ways to make the bulletin a discussion forum, so that – based on short contributions – we learn what other colleagues think about statistics, in which networks they are active, how they contribute to society, ...

Maybe B-Stat News can offer more to members by having other columns/sections in B-Stat News. What about a ‘young statisticians corner’, where starting PhD students tell, for example, why they find ‘stochastics’ a nice and attractive research domain?

What about a column on ‘statistics and society’? Let me give an example. A few days ago a positive advice is given (by the Flemish government) to create a Flemish Center for Supercomputing (VSC). At the official launch (23 March, 2009), Dr. Thomas Lippert, director of the Institute for Advanced Simulation (Jülich Supercomputer Centre), argued that progress in scientific understanding can be based on analytic arguments (say ‘proofs’) or experimental findings (think about experimental physics) and that, for a number of scientific disciplines, simulations (for which high performance computing provides appropriate support) are a – by now – accepted (somewhat virtual) way to replace classical experiments. It would

be nice to hear opinions about ‘progress in statistics using high performance computing’. The example is on the interaction between statistics and the scientific society (in this case informatics), but many more questions are there when talking about the interaction between statistics and society in the broad sense.

What about a section on ‘members in the picture’? It often happens that members become, for example, promoter or co-promoter of an important scientific network or they become holder of a scientific chair. Many universities will publish such achievements in their local magazine. It might be nice that a copy of such magazine contributions is also sent to the editors of B-Stat News, so that these scientific successes are shared with the broader statistical community in Belgium.

If you agree with (some of the) ideas mentioned above and you have good concrete suggestions, let us know. During the next few board meetings we will put these issues on the agenda and we hope to have some ideas for additional content of B-Stat News by the time of the next annual meeting... where we expect you as participant!

Paul Janssen
President of BVS-SBS

16TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Wépion-Namur, (15) 16-17 October 2008

Wépion Meeting was the 16th BSS Annual Meeting. It was a nice opportunity to meet for the Belgian Statistical Society. More than one hundred people, exactly 120, gathered in the Leonardo Hotel for two or three days.

The first day was dedicated to the Young Statisticians, with a tutorial about “Symbolic Data” by Prof. P. Brito from Portugal, a poster session with an exciting quizz, and a visit to the famous “Moutarderie Bister”. The atmosphere was cool and many young statisticians took the chance to discover new colleagues and discuss about research.

The two following days were more academic with presentations and plenary sessions (more than 40 talks). Biostatistic presentations were the more numerous, but there were many other themes such as methodology, classification, econometry, applied probability and so on.

Seven invited speakers presented their works on “Graph Mining” (P. Kuntz, Nantes), “Computer Experiments” (D. Steinberg, Tel Aviv), “Percolation” (F. den Hollander, Leiden), “Generalization of the law of iterated logarithm” (U. Einmahl, Brussel), “Bayesian methodology for clinical trials” (St. Laurent, Louvain-la-Neuve), “Adaptative local parametric estimation” (Vl. Spokoiny, Berlin) and “Genomes, microarrays and phylogenomics : new challenges for statisticians” (Ph. Baret, Louvain-la-Neuve).

Thanks to the scientific and local committees, this meeting was really a success. See you next time in CenterParcs De Vossemereen (Lommel, October 14-16, 2009), for the annual meeting organized by the KULeuven.

PARAMETER ESTIMATION FOR DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS

**Eindhoven, The Netherlands,
8-10 June 2009**

Systems of ordinary differential equations (ODEs) play an important role in modelling various phenomena that arise in fields as diverse as physics, biology, engineering, chemistry, meteorology, pharmacology and others. In many cases these systems are nonlinear, which means that in general no analytic solution exists and one has to rely on numerical solutions. Such systems usually depend on constants, or parameters in statistical terminology. For instance, in biomolecular applications these parameters describe interaction rates and initial concentrations of various molecules relevant to a given biomolecular process. In order to obtain a model useful in practice, it is critical to know these parameters. Since in most cases they are not known beforehand and cannot be measured directly in the lab, they have to be inferred based on measurements of various variables related to the process at hand. However, measurements in general are subject to some measurement error. It also might be the case that not all relevant variables are observed due to technical complications, high cost of experiments, and other reasons. Typically, problems are complicated further by the fact that the dimensions of both the ODE system as well as the parameter space are high, while data are relatively scarce. Hence estimation of parameters of ODE systems is a challenging problem that lies at an intersection of several theoretical and applied fields. The aim of the workshop is to provide a meeting place for researchers in the area, who will review different methods used to tackle the problem, assess the achieved progress, and identify future research directions.

Invited speakers

- Nicolas **Brunel**, L'université d'Évry, Évry
- Dave **Campbell**, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver
- Dave **Lunn**, Imperial College, London
- Kim **McAuley**, Queen's University, Kingston
- Eric **Mjolsness**, University of California, Irvine
- Jim **Ramsay**, McGill University, Montreal
- Eberhard **Voit**, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta
- Victor **Zavala**, Argonne National Laboratory, Argonne

Important dates

- **May 15**, 2009 deadline for abstract submission
- **May 29**, 2009, notification for acceptance

Registration

Please register by filling in the FORM. There is no closing date for registration, but the number of places is limited. There is no registration fee.

Practical information

The workshop location is EURANDOM, Den Dolech 2, 5612 AZ Eindhoven, Laplace Building, 1st floor, LG 1.105.

EURANDOM is located on the campus of Technische Universiteit Eindhoven in the Laplace building (marked with LG on the map). The building is at 15 minutes walking distance from the Eindhoven railway station (take the northern exit and walk in the north-eastern direction until you reach a crossing at Fellenoord. The campus is located on the other side of that street). For travel information to Eindhoven, please check www.eurandom.tue.nl/contact.htm

Contact

For more information please contact Mrs. Lucienne Coolen, the workshop officer of EURANDOM, at coolen@eurandom.tue.nl

Organisers

Chris Klaassen, Universiteit van Amsterdam and EURANDOM, c.a.j.klaassen@uva.nl

Shota Gugushvili, EURANDOM, gugushvili@eurandom.tue.nl

Bart Bakker, Philips Research, bart.bakker@philips.com

INTRODUCTORY COURSE ON THE OPTIMAL DESIGN OF EXPERIMENTS

**Antwerp, Belgium,
11-12 June 2009**

The target audience for the course is starting Ph.D. students and anyone else who would like a primer on optimal design. Prerequisites for the course are knowledge of basic statistics and regression analysis. Familiarity with classical design of experiments is not required. The course is not highly mathematical and therefore accessible to a broad audience.

The course will start with an intuitive introduction of the topic and gradually builds up to more complicated situations. Examples for the course will be taken from industry, marketing, chemistry, medicine,... to show the wide applicability of the optimal design techniques. The attention will not be restricted to optimal design for linear regression models, but Bayesian optimal design and minimax designs for nonlinear regression models will also be discussed. The strengths and weaknesses of optimal design will be illustrated, and some remedies to overcome some of the problems will be given.

The venue for the course is in the Antwerp city center. Registration for the course costs 150 euro for academics and 600 euro for others. This fee includes course material and lunches on June 11 and 12. Registrants can arrange cheap accommodation in nearby hotels. The Antwerp city center is easy to reach by train, and there is an hourly bus service from and to Brussels National Airport.

The course will take place in a computer class so that the participants can work on a few algorithms and examples themselves. Various softwares will be demonstrated as well.

For further information, please contact Peter Goos at peter.goos@ua.ac.be

WORKSHOP ON SURVEY SAMPLING IN HONOUR OF JEAN-CLAUDE DEVILLE

**Neuchatel, The Switzerland,
24-26 June 2009**

The themes of this conference are methods of sampling and estimation under finite populations. We take this opportunity to pay a tribute to Jean-Claude Deville for his major contributions to the field of survey methods. Jean-Claude has notably worked on calibration methods and generalized calibration; he has also proposed new sampling methods for both equal and unequal probabilities and balanced sampling, new methods for the treatment of non-response, for variance estimation and for resampling.

Jean-Claude Deville has consistently combined statistical innovation with a deep pragmatism, anticipating the implications of new statistical methods applied to the domain of survey methods. Most of his methods are currently used in several national bureaus of statistics and take a central part in their statistical methodology.

This conference is an occasion to unite both theoretical and practical aspects of research in survey methods that have been influenced by Jean-Claude. We hope that it will also provide an opportunity for the exchange and enrichment of new ideas

Invited speakers

Pascal **Ardilly**, Admistrateur de l'Insee
Jimmy **Armoogum**, Inrets
Yves **Berger**, University of Southampton
Philippe **Brion**, Insee
Nathalie **Caron**, Insee
Ray **Chambers**, University of Wollongong
Guillaume **Chauvet**, Insee
Jean Claude **Deville**, Ensai
Wayne **Fuller**, Iowa State University
Camelia **Goga**, Université de Bourgogne
Monique **Graf**, Ofs
David **Haziza**, Université de Montréal
Mike **Hidiroglou**, Statistique Canada

Beat **Hulliger**, Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz Hochschule für
Wirtschaft, Suisse
Pierre **Lavallée**, Statistique Canada
Risto **Lehtonen**, University of Helsinki
Gad **Nathan**, Université Hébraïque de Jerusalem
Jon **Rao**, Carleton University, Ottawa
Ruilin **Ren**, Macro International Inc., Washington
Carl-Erik **Särndal**, Université de Montréal
Oliver **Sautory**, Insee
Chris **Skinner**, University of Southampton
Mohamed **Tirari**, Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Analyse de
l'Information, Rennes
Yves **Tillé**, Université de Neuchâtel

More information

http://www2.unine.ch/colloque_deville/page24065_en.html

Organisation committee

Yves Tillé, professor
Soazig l'Helgouac'h, institut secretary
Alina Matei, scientific collaborator
Lionel Qualité, scientific collaborator

30TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR CLINICAL BIostatISTICS

**Prague, Czech Republic,
23-27 August 2009**

The International Society for Clinical Biostatistics (ISCB) was founded in 1978 to stimulate research into the principles and methodology used in the design and analysis of clinical research and to increase the relevance of statistical theory to the real world of clinical medicine. 30th annual conference of the Society to be held in Prague in 2009 will provide a scientific forum for international exchange of theory, methods and applications of biostatistics in medical research and practice among clinicians, statisticians and members of other disciplines, such as epidemiologists, clinical chemists and clinical pharmacologists, working or interested in the field of clinical biostatistics.

Invited speakers

Tony **Ades**, University of Bristol, UK
Marc **Buyse**, International Institute for Drug Development, Louvain-la-Neuve and University of Hasselt, Belgium
James **Carpenter**, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, UK
Victor **deGruttola**, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA
Daniel **Farewell**, Cardiff University, UK
Neil **Hawkins**, University of York & Oxford Outcomes Ltd, UK
Nicholas **Jewell**, UC Berkeley, CA, USA
Craig **Mallinckrodt**, Eli Lilly & Company, Indianapolis, Indiana, USA
Robert T **O'Neill**, Food and Drug Administration, VA, USA
Cécile **Proust-Lima**, University of Bordeaux, France
Frank **Rockhold**, Glaxo SmithKline, USA
Joachim **Rohmel**, Consultant, USA
Jane-Ling **Wang**, UC Davis, CA, USA
Alex **Welte** and Tom **McWalter**, University of the Witwatersrand

More information

<http://www.iscb2009.info/Text/home>

ESPACOMP AND ABC

Bangor, Wales, UK, 10-11 September 2009

The next European Symposium on PATient COMpliance and Persistence (ESPACOMP) will be held in Bangor, Wales, UK, on September 10, 2009.

On September 11, 2009, the EU-funded project entitled "Ascertaining Barriers for Compliance: policies for safe, effective and cost-effective use of medicines in Europe (ABC)" will coordinate a European consensus meeting on taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance.

Please book these dates in your diaries as these meetings constitute a major event in research on the clinical and economic consequences and origins of patient non-adherence to prescribed drug dosing regimens.

Preliminary program

September 10 Regulatory perspective on patient compliance

Health Economic considerations on patient compliance

National/International initiatives to improve compliance in ambulatory patients

Methodology & Practical applications

September 11 Consensus workshop on taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance

Important dates

We welcome contributions from anyone wishing to present their latest adherence-related work at ESPACOMP 2009. Abstract submission deadline is June 1st, 2009.

More information

As usual, the program and all the latest information on ESPACOMP 2009 can be found on our website www.ESPACOMP.eu, which will be updated continuously in the build-up to the meeting.

Organization committee

Dyfrig **Hughes**, local organizer of ESPACOMP 2009
Przemyslaw **Kardas**, ABC Project Scientific Manager

XIITH COURSE IN THE ECAS PROGRAMME

**Arild, Sweden,
21-25 September 2009**

Reliable measurement is essential in surveys. This course covers some important aspects of measurement: reducing measurement error through good design, both in traditional surveys and in web surveys, and analysing measurement error with latent class models and longitudinal models. The course will give you insight into both theoretical and practical issues. The target audience is primarily doctoral students, but the course will also be suitable for master students and people who work with surveys.

Program

The course will start at 10 am on Monday 21 September and end at 12 noon on Friday 25 September 2009.

The main speakers will give about eight 45 min lectures each. In addition there will be contributed sessions.

Invited speakers

- Paul **Biener**, RTI International, NC
- Mick **Couper**, University of Michigan
- Joop **Hox**, Utrecht University
- Edith **de Leeuw**, Utrecht University

Important dates

Application by end of April for an early bird fee. Payment by end of June.

More information

<http://www.statistics.su.se/ecas/index.shtml>

17TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BELGIAN STATISTICAL SOCIETY

Lommel, (14) 15-16 October 2009



The 2009 meeting of the Belgian Statistical Society (SBS-BVS), organised by the K.U.Leuven (Faculty of Business and Economics and Leuven Statistics Research Centre). The meeting will take place in Centerparcs De Vossemere in Lommel on October 15 and 16, 2009. Additionally, a special afternoon is organized on October 14, 2009 for the PhD students.

The meeting is organised in collaboration with the [Quetelet Society](#), the Biostatistical section of the BSS and the Interuniversity Attraction Pole on Statistical Analysis of Association and Dependence in Complex Data.

Invited speakers

- Anthony **Davison**, EPFL Lausanne ([personal website](#))
- Alois **Kneip**, University of Bonn ([personal website](#))
- Marc **Hallin**, ULB ([personal website](#))
- Marta **Fiocco**, Leiden University Medical Center ([personal website](#))
- Dimitris **Rizopoulos**, Erasmus University Rotterdam ([personal website](#))

Important dates

- **May 1st:** Start of reduced fee registration and abstract submission.
- **July 15th:** Deadline for abstract submissions
- **August 15:** Notification of accepted submissions
- **August 31:** Deadline for reduced fee registration (payment must be settled by this date)
- **September 30:** Deadline for registration (payment must be settled by this date)

More information

<http://www.econ.kuleuven.be/BSS2009/>

Scientific committee

Gerda Claeskens (chair) (KULeuven)
Christophe Croux (responsible for YSD) (KULeuven)
Irene Gijbels (KULeuven)
Catherine Legrand (UCL)
Davy Paindaveine (ULB)
Marcel Remon (FUNDP)
Martina Vandebroek (KULeuven)

Local organising committee

An Carbonez (KULeuven)
Gerda Claeskens (KULeuven)
Christophe Croux (KULeuven)
Gentiane Haesbroeck (ULG)
Marcel Remon (FUNDP)
Martina Vandebroek (chair) (KULeuven)
Lea Vermeire (KULeuven)

FORTHCOMING STATISTICAL EVENTS

May 19, 2009 – Liège (ULG), Belgium, *3rd Annual Doctoral Workshop of the Graduate School in Statistics and Actuarial Sciences*,

More information:

<http://www.statmath.ulg.ac.be/index.php?url=seminair/edtstat/congres.htm>

May 10-14, 2009 – Istanbul, Turkey, "*5th conference of the Eastern Mediterranean Region of the International Biometric Society (EMR-IBS)*",

More information: www.ibs-emr2009.com

May 14-15, 2009 – Louvain-la-Neuve (UCL), Belgium, "*Exploring research frontiers in contemporary statistics and econometrics*", conference is in honor of Leopold Simar,

More information: <http://www.stat.ucl.ac.be/EmeritatLS/>

May 25-29, 2009 – Bordeaux, France, "*41st annual conference of the French Statistical Society (SFdS)*"

More information: <http://www.sm.u-bordeaux2.fr/JDS2009/index.html>

May 29, 2009 – Leuven, (LStat, K.U.Leuven) "*Leuven Statistical Day 2009*". Theme: *Time Series and Panel Data Analysis: Theory and Applications*.

More information: <http://lstat.kuleuven.be/research/lsd/index.htm>.

June 8-10, 2009 – Eindhoven (EURANDOM), The Netherlands, "*Workshop on Parameter Estimation for Dynamical Systems*".

More information:

http://www.eurandom.tue.nl/workshops/2009/PEDS/PEDS_main.htm

June 11-12, 2009 – Antwerp (UA), Belgium, "*Introductory course on the Optimal Design of Experiments*",

More information: www.ua.ac.be/peter.goos

June 24-26, 2009 – Neuchâtel, The Switzerland, "*Workshop on survey sampling in honor of Jean-Claude Deville*"

More information:

http://www2.unine.ch/colloque_deville/page24065_en.html

August 23-27, 2009 – Prague (Czech Republic), "*30th annual conference of the International Society for Clinical Biostatistics*"

More information: <http://www.iscb2009.info/Text/home>

Septembre 10-11, 2009 –Bangor, Wales, UK, “*European Symposium on PAtient COMpliance and Persistence (ESPACOMP) and European consensus meeting on the taxonomy and terminology of patient compliance*”
More information: <http://www.bpc2009.org/>

Septembre 21-25, 2009 – Arild, Sweden, “*European Course in Advanced Statistics: Measurement Errors in Surveys*”
More information: <http://www.statistics.su.se/ecas/index.shtml>

June 6-9, 2010 –Slovenia, “*ISBIS 2010: International Symposium on Business and Industrial Statistics*”.
More information: <http://www.action-m.com/isbis2010/>

We would like to publish in this *Newsletter* any statistical matter such as :

- information about universities, institutes (1 to 3 pages);
- lists of recent publications and technical reports;
- abstracts of recent PhD theses;
- news of members;
- forthcoming statistical events and announcements;
- short papers about teaching methods in statistics, statistics in the industry, official statistics, etc.

Suggestions are welcome: please, contact us.

Suitable information for the next issue, prepared as **(LA)TEX or WORD FILES**, should reach the editors of the Newsletter **BEFORE August 31, 2009**, preferable by e-mail to:

sophie.vanbelle@ulg.ac.be

Any change of job, address, phone number, ... ?

Please notify the Secretary of the Society:

Gentiane Haesbroeck:
Université de Liège
Institut de mathématique
Sart Tilman B37
B-4000 Liège
g.haesbroeck@ulg.ac.be

