



**Second (new style) VOC Conference
May 31th 2013
EcoHuis in Antwerp**

Call for Papers

Scope

The Dutch/Flemish Classification Society, VOC, aims at communicating scientific principles, methods, and applications of ordination and classification. The VOC is a member of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS).

The VOC would like to invite you to attend its second (new style) conference. Contributed papers can be submitted on topics such as classification, clustering, scaling, data analysis, machine learning, pattern recognition, statistical modeling, and applications of classification and data analysis.

Fee

To encourage PhD students to participate, the conference fee is kept very low.

Keynote

To be announced later

Important Dates / Deadlines

April 15: deadline for abstract submission.
April 29: notification of acceptance of presentation.
May 13: deadline for inscription of non-presenters.

For more information, visit the conference website:

<https://ppw.kuleuven.be/english/mesrg/voc-conference-2013/registration-form-for-the-second-voc-conference>

On behalf of the organizers:
Ralph Rippe, Katrijn Van Deun, Jeroen Vermunt, Tom Wilderjans, Berrie Zielman



Vereniging voor Ordinatie en Classificatie / Dutch-Flemish Classification Society

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VOC-home page: <http://www.voc.ac>

SECOND (NEW STYLE) VOC CONFERENCE

MAY 31th ANTWERP

with a keynote speaker and contributed papers by
VOC members (closing off with a reception)

<https://ppw.kuleuven.be/english/mesrg/voc-conference-2013/registration-form-for-the-second-voc-conference>

From the President

We are approaching 2013, a year with two exciting VOC events.

Before discussing the upcoming events, I would like to thank Michel van de Velden for his service for the VOC. He has been a board member since 2006, and was responsible for the maintenance of our website. In addition, Michel organized several VOC meetings and provided excellent suggestions for meetings organized by others. We will miss his very valuable input during our board meetings.

Last year the VOC board decided to modify both the formatting and the scheduling of our meetings in order to make them more attractive for our members, but also for non-members. The first new style conference was held in May 2012 at Tilburg University. It turned out to be a big success. We had 15 very interesting contributed papers from a broad range of application areas, as well as an excellent keynote address by Emmanuel Lesaffre. In total, about 50 people attended, among which various non-members. The meeting was not only successful from an academic perspective, but also its social aspect was very much appreciated by the participants. Old friends were able to meet and many new VOC members got fully integrated in our club.

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Because of the success of the new style VOC meeting, the board decided to continue with this format. The next meeting, which will be organized by Katrijn van Deun and Tom Wilderjans, will be held on Friday May 31st in Antwerp. The environmental friendly location is “het EcoHuis”, which is nearby the central railway station. I invite you all to submit your recent work for presentation at our 2013 VOC conference, and to stimulate your PhD students to do the same. More details can be found in the call for papers appearing in this newsletter. I would like to use the opportunity to stress that Antwerp is a great place to spend a full weekend, among others, with a visit to the “Vogeltjesmarkt” on Sunday morning.

An even bigger event that will be organized by the VOC in collaboration with the Department of Methodology and Statistics at Tilburg University is the 2013 meeting of the IFCS, which will be held July 14-17. The organization of the conference is going very smoothly. As can be seen from the information available at the conference website www.ifcs2013.org, many important things are already arranged, such as workshops, invited speakers, social events, etc.

I would like to ask the VOC members to submit proposals for invited sessions (see also the second call for papers which appears in this newsletter). Of course, you are also very much welcome with a contributed paper, or even without a paper presentation. As you will, the conference is very attractive for master and PhD students, for whom we have kept the fees as low as possible.

The VOC board would like to see many of you at the 2013 VOC conference in Antwerp and the IFCS-2013 meeting in Tilburg, either to present your own work or to inform yourself about the work of your VOC and ICFS colleagues.

Jeroen Vermunt

News from IFCS

Second call for papers for IFCS2013 conference (Tilburg)

The IFCS-2013 conference will be held in Tilburg, The Netherlands, from July 14 to July 17. We are working hard on the organization of the conference, more and more details have been handled, and the website (www.ifcs2013.org) contains a tentative skeleton program schedule, information on the invited speakers, the preconference workshops, the current invited thematic sessions, the social events, lodging, important dates, Chikio Hayashi awards, and fees. Information on the conference dinner will be added soon. Within a few weeks abstracts can be uploaded via the website.

In this second call for papers, we would like you to consider organizing a thematic symposium. A symposium consists of four presentations by different presenters on the same topic (or three papers and a discussant). The advantage of a symposium is a homogeneous session on a certain theme, which will put the topic in the spotlights. There are no financial benefits for symposiums. Proposals for symposiums can be sent to info@ifcs2013.org (till December 31).

If you have any questions or comments, please, do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to seeing you in Tilburg in July 2013.

Jeroen Vermunt, Chair Scientific Program Committee
Andries van der Ark, Chair Local Organizing Committee
Iven Van Mechelen, President IFCS

The flyer for IFCS 2013 (which is also attached to this newsletter) can be downloaded from http://www.uoguelph.ca/~pmcnicho/IFCS2013_tilburg.pdf

VOC as guest IFCS-member society for IFCS2013

As the guest IFCS-member society for the IFCS2013 conference, the VOC would like to call its members to actively take part in the IFCS2013 conference by organizing a thematic symposium and/or presenting a contributed paper. Especially, the organization of an invited session by VOC members (not all presenters of the session have to be VOC members) is warmly recommended. To organize a thematic symposium, one needs to send a proposal for a symposium to info@ifcs2013.org. The VOC board hopes to meet many of the VOC members at the IFCS2013 conference in Tilburg.

Chikio Hayashi Award

The International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) provides awards to single persons in the framework of its Chikio Hayashi Awards Program. The awards are scientific prizes for young researchers with a promising track record in classification, data analysis, or related areas, as a support of their professional career. Candidates shall present a paper at the IFCS conference and shall be under the age of 35 years at that time. Applications should be submitted before April 30th 2013 to ccron@rhsmith.umd.edu. More information can be found at the IFCS2013-conference website (www.ifcs2013.org).

Publications

Anacleto, O., Queen, C., & Albers, C. (in press). Forecasting multivariate road traffic flows using Bayesian dynamic graphical models, splines and other traffic variables. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Statistics*.

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Hurtado, P. X., Schnabel, S. K., Zaban, A., Veteläinen, M., Virtanen, E., Eilers, P. H. C., van Eeuwijk, F. A., Visser, R. G. F., & Maliepaard, C. (2012). Dynamics of senescence-related QTLs in potato. *Euphytica, 183*(3), 289-302.

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Book review

Programming Graphical User Interfaces in R, Michael Lawrence and John Verzani. Chapman & Hall/CRC Press (the R series), Boca Raton, FL, 2012. ISBN 978-1-4398-5682-6.

The book aims at statistical researchers and teachers at different levels, intending to work with Graphical User Interfaces (GUIs). It opens with a few simple examples, and a short description of how to accomplish these examples by using four different toolkits, although other effective toolkits do exist. The book describes one high-

level toolkit (gWidgets) and three low-level kits (RGtk2, qtbase and tcltk), each in a separate part. From the first example, it is immediately clear that the authors aim at GUI designers that are proficient in both the R language and the principles of algorithm design. For example, S4 classes are introduced along with function modularity in only a few sentences. Readers that lack at least one of these will probably soon feel discouraged to continue reading.

The first part of the book provides a general introduction to GUIs, their components and their design. After the reader gets a basic idea of an interface, he or she also gets a very extensive description of GUI elements: layout containers, information and control elements. A description of how to design a GUI almost completely lacks. This is rather surprising, because its design determines its success, and furthermore, there is an abundance of literature and knowledge from e.g. cognitive ergonomics and requirements engineering.

As goals for creating GUIs it provides one main argument: it simplifies teaching and communication of results. This feels rather limited: it is not hard to imagine that for highly complex models with many internal dependencies it can be very hard for a user to decide on e.g. parameter values. Here, GUIs can provide a major aid. Furthermore, they provide options for live interactions and enable interactive fine-tuning of models, results and graphs. Finally, with the ever increasing number and complexity of models, GUIs slowly become an essential marketing tool for new ideas. Given the scope of the book, these applications could have been exploited more.

User and file-interaction dialogs can be discussed in a more generic manner. All toolkit chapters require a fairly linear approach; working out a more advanced interface requires blocks of code from previous sections.

gWidgets (75 pages)

This high-level toolkit is provided as a cross platform interface for the low-level kits mentioned below, as well as for Java. It allows for a fast and an easy construction of small to medium-sized interfaces. As the authors state, its main goal is probably in prototyping, after which one could (or should?) switch to a more powerful low-level toolkit.

The chapter starts with a set of predefined containers to lay out the widgets. Next, it discusses all means of controlling interactions in terms of button (with icons), multiline text input, and other standard controls. Additionally, it provides a way to display data, as well as a built-in help browser and even a command line 'live-input' widget.

RGtk2 (120 pages)

This toolkit binds R to the Gimp toolkit (GTK+) version 2.0, but also inherits largely from GTK+ 1.2, ensuring long-term compatibility. Here too the chapter discusses layout sets and containers for individuals controls, and then discusses the latter in much detail. The main difference is that this chapter mostly shows applications in which the widgets from the previous chapter are broken down into low-level constructors and calling structure for them. It concludes with a very useful section on managing complex interface designs.

A big plus is that GTK+ is compiled from C code, which also holds for R, thereby enabling efficient implementations.

Qtbase (115 pages)

This chapter follows the same routine as its two predecessors, but has more focus on the (OpenGL) drawing options and the webkit for embedded html5-connections (as used e.g. in Chrome), for use inside and outside web locations.

tcltk (100 pages)

This toolkit is one of the oldest ones in the current ballpark. Still, it is widely used and very powerful. It was first included in R from version 1.1 and it is still included. The main downside is that GUIs are graphically less sophisticated than those described above, even though a recent extension was to create windows, canvasses and control(widget)s using theme properties as set by the operating system.

In general, the book has surprisingly few illustrations (a grand total of 87 in 463 pages), especially since its main topic is interface design. Although the amount of information and level of detail is extremely dense, the lack of 'visual orientation' compared to the number of code chunks (sometimes 5 or more per page) makes it very hard to get a feeling on the results of what you are reading through.

What starts to annoy after about 30 pages is that the page margins do not match the current binding method: text at the inner margins is sometimes hard to read because it is so close to the cut off.

There is also a CRAN package that accompanies the book: ProgGUIinR, which enables the user browsing through different widgets and examples for different toolkits. It serves well as a starting point for your own design.

To conclude, the book suffers from a slight lack of a targeted audience: it doubts between beginner designers and experienced R users. Apart from the first chapter, it

sometimes feels like a bundle of 4 linear GUI programming manuals, rather than dealing with general GUI design issues, limitations and efficiency issues in R specifically. However, the book provides a very thorough guidance in building a GUI with different building blocks, read-and-execute style, which is very useful for users of any practical level.

Ralph Rippe
LUMC, Clinical Epidemiology Unit
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News from the book review editor

In the next VOC newsletter, a review will be published on Applied Categorical and Count Data Analysis, Wan Tang, Hua He, & Xin Tu, ISBN 9781439806241.

We are looking for a reviewer for the book "Generalized Linear Models and Extensions" by James W. Hardin and Joseph M. Hilbe (ISBN 9781597181051).

Ideas for other books to review, along with a suggestion for a reviewer, are always welcome and may be submitted to the book review editor (Ralph Rippe; R.C.A.Rippe@lumc.nl).

Meetings

Starting in January 2013, EpidM will organize International Winter Courses in Epidemiology in Amsterdam. During 2 weeks different courses can be followed. All information concerning the different courses, can be found on the following website: www.epidm.nl/wintercourses.

Jörg Henseler offers an introductory course "PLS Path Modeling with SmartPLS: Introduction & Applications" on 12/13 April 2013 (Friday-Saturday) in Hamburg, Germany. For further information and registration, visit <http://www.pls-school.com>.

Jörg Henseler, Christian Ringle, and Marko Sarstedt will provide a course on "Latent Variables and Structural Equation Modeling" at the University of Cologne, Germany, from 26 to 28 February 2013. For more information and registration, see <http://www.amiando.com/CGS-SEM.html>.

Call for Papers

Conference of the International Federation
of Classification Societies
IFCS-2013



July 14-17, 2013
Tilburg, the Netherlands



Understanding Society



Conference setup

The 2013 conference of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS) will be held at Tilburg University, The Netherlands from July 14 to July 17, 2013. The conference theme will be 'United through Ordination and Classification'.

On July 14, preconference workshops will be held. The conference itself will start on July 15 in the morning, and will close on July 17 with a full day conference program and a conference dinner. The conference will include a president's invited session and a presidential address, key note presentations, invited presentations, invited and contributed symposia, and oral and poster presentations.

The opening session will further feature the presentation of the Chikio Hayashi Awards, which are scientific prizes for young researchers with promising track records in the areas of classification and data analysis, as a support of their professional career; for 2013 the members of the Awards Committee are: Michel Wedel (chair), Edwin Diday, Sylvia Frühwirth-Schnatter and James Ramsay.

Tilburg

Tilburg is a lively student city - with 200,000 inhabitants of which 30,000 are students! When you have finished your studies for the day, a short trip to the city centre takes you to theatres, cinemas, museums, restaurants, pubs, nightclubs and a concert hall – with enough variety for every taste. Or if you want to go further, other cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris and Cologne are within easy reach of Tilburg. Festivals are organized throughout the year in and around Tilburg and the University. Tilburg is also host to the largest funfair in the Benelux.

Tilburg has good train connections to two major airports, Schiphol (Amsterdam) and Brussels, as well as to the smaller "budget flights" airport of Eindhoven. Tilburg University has its own train station and within town there is a good public (bus) transportation system.

Conference topics

Contributed papers from scholars and practitioners are invited on any of the topics below as well as on related issues:

Applications in Natural Sciences, Engineering, Medicine and Biology • Banking and Finance • Bioinformatics and Biostatistics • Biomedical Data Analysis and Imaging • Business and Industry • Classification, Discriminant Analysis, and Supervised Learning • Clustering and Unsupervised Learning • Complex Event Processing • Data Analysis in Archaeology • Databionics • Exploratory Data Mining • Formal Concept Analysis • Geospatial Planning • Graphics and Vision • Image Analysis and Computer Vision • Information Retrieval and Library Science • Knowledge Discovery • Linguistics and Musicology • Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition • Marketing and

Management • Medical and Health Sciences • Psychology and Educational Sciences
 • Social Network Analysis • Statistical Data Analysis and Models • Swarm Systems
 • Symbolic Data Analysis • Text Mining, Web Mining, and Ontology Learning • Visualization

Scientific program committee

Jeroen Vermunt <i>Chair, Tilburg University, NL</i>	Geoff McLachlan <i>University of Queensland, Brisbane, AU</i>
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Anuška Ferligoj <i>University of Ljubljana, SI</i>	Mohamed Nadif <i>René Descartes University, FR</i>
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Local organizers

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Submission of abstracts

Titles and abstracts should be submitted and uploaded via the conference website www.ifcs2013.org **before March 1, 2013**. All abstracts will be subject to a peer review process. Notifications of acceptance will be sent on April 15, 2013.

Important dates

June 1, 2012:	First call for papers
March 1, 2013:	Deadline abstract submission
April 15, 2013:	Notification of acceptance
May 15, 2013:	Deadline standard registration
June 15, 2013:	Deadline late registration
July 14, 2013:	Preconference workshops
July 15-17, 2013:	IFCS-2013 conference

Publications related to the conference

Special issues linked with the conference are planned in journals such as the *Journal of Classification*, *Advances in Data Analysis and Classification*, and *Computational Statistics and Data Analysis*.

Fees (which include conference materials, an extended reception, coffee breaks, and three lunches)

	Standard	Registration Late	Pre-conference Workshop
Member of IFCS member society	€250	€300	€50
Non-member	€350	€420	€50
Student	€125	€150	€25

Further information

Further information will be posted on the conference website www.ifcs2013.org

Please, note that IFCS-2013 is scheduled just after the Meeting of the German Classification Society, held in nearby Luxemburg (www.gfkl.org), and just before the International Meeting of the Psychometric Society held in nearby Arnhem, The Netherlands (www.psychometricsociety.org).

We look forward to seeing you in Tilburg in July 2013.

Jeroen Vermunt, *Chair Scientific Program Committee*
Andries van der Ark, *Chair Local Organizing Committee*
Iven Van Mechelen, *President IFCS*