



Vereniging voor Ordinaties en Classificatie

Nieuwsbrief no. 45
November 2010

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

Autumn Meeting of the VOC

Data Fusion

November 26, 2010

Leiden University, FSW, Pieter de la
Court Building (SB11)

10.00	Registration and Coffee
10.15	Iven Van Mechelen: A generic linked-mode decomposition model for data fusion
11.15	Michel van de Velden: Generalized canonical correlation analysis with missing values
12.00	Lunch
13.00	Peyman Zarrineh: Module-based comparative gene expression analysis: evolutionary conserved coexpression in <i>Bacillus subtilis</i> and <i>Escherichia coli</i>
13.45	Pascal Van Hattum:
14.30	Tea
15.00	Hans Kiesl: Uncertainty in data fusion
16.00	Drinks

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Registration details for the Autumn Meeting:

Those who would like to participate are welcome and are kindly requested to register by sending an e-mail to meeting@voc.ac with subject 'Registration Autumn Meeting 2010' and including name and affiliation in the body of the e-mail. Participation is free, lunch is available for 10 Euros and must be requested upon registration. Registration deadline: November 19th.

From the President

During the last VOC meeting, I was elected as your new president. Let me first introduce myself. I am Jeroen Vermunt, a professor of Methodology and Statistics at the Faculty of Social Sciences of Tilburg University. My research interests include categorical data methods, latent class and mixture models, and generalized latent variable modeling. I am very motivated to make a success of the period as your president. This means that I make sure that the board organizes interesting spring and autumn meetings, as well as that the VOC has an influential representative in the board of the International Federation of Classification Societies. I look very much forward to work with the other VOC board members.

Besides the president also the board member serving as the editor of the news bulletin was replaced. Our new editor is Katrijn van Deun from Leuven University. I am really happy to have her in the board. Her first job was to co-organize the upcoming autumn meeting, and she really did an excellent job.

From the fact that two new persons joined the board, it can be concluded that two other persons left the board. This is indeed the case. Ron Wehrens decided not to extend his position as chairman because of his relocation to Italy, where he is now working at the Fondazione Edmund Mach. Eva Ceulemans decided to pass on the editorship of the news letter to her colleague from Leuven. I would like to thank Ron and Eva for all the diligent work they have done for the VOC, and wish them all the best.

The upcoming autumn meeting will be held on November 26 at Leiden University, where Mark de Rooij will be your host. The responsables for the program are Katrijn van Deun, Michel van de Velden, and your president. The theme of the meeting is "Data Fusion", which in my opinion is a typical VOC topic. It is a problem relevant for statisticians associated with very diverse applied fields and it can therefore be approached in rather different ways. Moreover, it is a topic with strong ordination and classification components. The meeting starts with an introduction and overview of the field of data fusion by Iven van Mechelen. Then we get three applications using different types of technical solutions to the data fusion problem at hand. The last talk by Hans Kiesl will focus on possible pitfalls of the use of data fusion techniques.

I hope to see many of you at our upcoming meeting!

Jeroen Vermunt

News from the IFCS

The IFCS 2011 conference will take place from 30th August until 2nd September in Frankfurt together with the GfKI/DAGM meeting (The German Classification and Pattern Recognition Societies). More details on the local organization and the scientific program of the IFCS conference will follow soon.

There is another classification conference this summer at St. Andrews (10-17 July 2011) called the International Classification Conference (ICC). We would like to stress that this is not the IFCS 2011 conference.

Abstracts for the Autumn Meeting

Iven Van Mechelen (University of Leuven): A generic linked-mode decomposition model for data fusion

As a consequence of our information society, not only more and larger data sets become available, but also data sets that include multiple sorts of information regarding the same system. Such data sets can be denoted by the terms coupled, linked, or multiset data, and the associated data analysis can be denoted by the term data fusion. In this talk, I will first give a formal description of coupled data, which allows the data-analyst to typify the structure of a coupled data set at hand. Second, I will list two meta-questions and a series of complicating factors that may be useful to focus the initial content-driven research questions that go with coupled data, and to choose a suitable method of data fusion. Third, I will propose a generic framework for a family of decomposition-based models pertaining to an important subset of data fusion problems. I will conclude the talk with a long list of research challenges that go with the proposed generic modeling approach. Throughout the talk I will illustrate with examples from the domain of systems biology.

Reference:

Van Mechelen, I., & Smilde, A.K. (in press). A generic linked-mode decomposition model for data fusion. *Chemometrics and Intelligent Laboratory Systems*. doi:10.1016/j.chemolab.2010.04.012

Iven Van Mechelen is Professor of Quantitative Psychology at the University of Leuven. He received a Master of Mathematics degree from the University of Antwerp (1980) and a PhD degree in Psychology from the University of Leuven (1989). His research work includes the development and taxonomic organization of two-mode clustering methods, methods for multiway data, and custom-made data-analytic methods for a contextualized study of individual differences in personality, emotions, and affective dynamics. He has published in a broad range of journals, including Psychometrika, Journal of Classification, Computational Statistics and Data Analysis, Bioinformatics, and various

methodological and substantive psychological journals. He has been on the board of VOC from 1998 till 2004. At present he is President-Elect of the International Federation of Classification Societies (IFCS).

(see also

http://ppw.kuleuven.be/okp/people/Iven_Van_Mechelen/)

Michel van de Velden (Erasmus University Rotterdam): Generalized canonical correlation analysis with missing values

Generalized canonical correlation analysis is a versatile technique that allows the joint analysis of several sets of data matrices. The generalized canonical correlation analysis solution can be obtained through an eigenequation and distributional assumptions are not required. When dealing with multiple sets data, the situation frequently occurs that some values are missing. In this paper, two new methods for dealing with missing values in generalized canonical correlation analysis are introduced. The first approach, which does not require iterations, is a generalization of the Test Equating method available for principal component analysis. In the second approach, missing values are imputed in such a way that the generalized canonical correlation analysis objective function does not increase in subsequent steps. Convergence is achieved when the value of the objective function remains constant. By means of a simulation study, we assess the performance of the new methods. We compare the results with those of two available methods; the missing-data passive method, introduced in Gifi's homogeneity analysis framework, and the GENCOM algorithm developed by Green and Carroll. An application using world bank data is used to illustrate the proposed methods.

Michel van de Velden is assistant professor at the Econometric Institute of the Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research interests concern development and application of visualization methods for multivariate data. His academic work has been published in journals from several disciplines, such as mathematics, statistics, psychometrics, sensometrics and archaeology. Since 2005, Michel has been the treasurer for the International Association for Statistical Computing (IASC). He is also a board member for the Dutch/Flemish classification society (VOC) and the Economic section of the Netherlands society of statistics and operations research (VVS). More information about his past and current academic activities can be found on his [personal website](#).

Peyman Zarrineh (University of Leuven): Module-based comparative gene expression analysis: evolutionary conserved coexpression in *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli*

Increasingly large scale expression compendia for different species are becoming available. By exploiting the modularity of the coexpression network, these compendia can be used to identify biological processes for which the expression behavior is conserved over different species. However, comparing module networks across species is not trivial. The definition of a biologically meaningful module is not a fixed one and changing the distance threshold that defines the degree of coexpression give rise to different modules. As a result when comparing modules across species, many different partially overlapping conserved module pairs across species exist and deciding which pair is most relevant is hard.

Therefore we developed a method referred to as COMODO (COnserved MODules across Organisms) that uses an objective selection criterium to identify conserved expression modules between two species. The method uses as input microarray data and a gene homology map and provides as output pairs of conserved modules and searches for the pair of modules for which the number of sharing homologs is statistically most significant relative to the size of the linked modules. To demonstrate its principle, we applied COMODO to study coexpression conservation between the two well studied bacteria *Escherichia coli* K12 and *Bacillus subtilis*.

Peyman Zarrineh obtained his Bachelor and Master of Science in Computer Science and in Bioinformatics at Tehran University (Iran) and an additional master in bioinformatics from Chalmers university of technology. Currently he is a PhD student at the University of Leuven, Department of Electrical Engineering and Department of Microbial and Molecular Systems, where he prepares a PhD on developing coclustering methods for the comparison of coexpression behavior across species.

Pascal van Hattum (The SmartAgent Company and University of Utrecht): The Proof of the Pudding is in the eating. Data Fusion: An Application in Marketing

Data fusion, or combining multiple data sets in one data set, is not a new concept. However, due to the increasing desire of differentiated direct marketing strategies, it is getting more popular in marketing. This paper shows how marketing information can be fused to a company's customer database. Using real marketing applications, two traditional data fusion methods, that are, polytomous logistic regression and nearest neighbor algorithms, are compared with two model based clustering approaches.

Finally, the results are evaluated using internal and external criteria.

***Pascal van Hattum** studied Business Mathematics and Computer Science at the VU University Amsterdam (2001). In cooperation with The SmartAgent Company he worked part-time on his Ph.D project 'Market Segmentation Using Bayesian Model Based Clustering' at the Department Methodology and Statistics at the University of Utrecht (2009). Currently he is manager Data Intelligence at The SmartAgent Company and combines this function with further research at the Department of Methodology and Statistics at the University of Utrecht.*

Hans Kiesel (Regensburg University): Uncertainty in data fusion

Data fusion (also called statistical matching) tries to combine information from different data sets by matching on those variables that are common to both files. Algorithms like nearest neighbour or Mahalanobis distance matching are routinely applied, but it is well known that they implicitly assume conditional independence of those variables that have not been jointly observed (called specific variables). In this presentation, we discuss how to quantify the amount of uncertainty in the matching process by calculating bounds on the feasible correlations of the specific variables. Since data fusion might be viewed as a missing data problem, we propose a multiple imputation algorithm that creates different matched data sets with different feasible correlation matrices. Since several recent studies have used propensity score matching for combining different data sets, we will also discuss why propensity score matching is appropriate for the estimation of average treatment effects in the context of Rubin's causal model (where we have to deal with a different conditional independence assumption) but should not be applied in the data fusion setting.

***Hans Kiesel** is a professor of Statistics at Regensburg University of Applied Sciences, Germany. He received his PhD in 2002 (Bamberg University, Germany) with a thesis on measures of ordinal dispersion. He worked as a statistician and survey methodologist at the German Federal Statistical Office (Destatis) and at the German Institute for Employment Research (IAB). His primary research interests include sampling theory, missing data methods, variance estimation and statistical matching.*

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Book review

R through Excel. Richard M. Heiberger and Erich Neuwirth. Springer, ISBN 978-1-4419-0051-7

“Real men don’t eat quiche”. “Real programmers don’t use Pascal”. These slogans you can hear from people (well, men) that consider themselves the real heroes of their profession (or whatever). Sometimes you hear: “Real statisticians don’t use Excel”. Indeed it is popular to bash Microsoft’s most popular program after Word. You can also find papers warning us that the numerical precision of some statistical computations in Excel is only 10 digits, not 14, as in the better software.

Here is my coming out: I’ m not a real statistician, I love Excel. And I’m not alone: this book starts with a quote from Brian Ripley’s opening lecture at the 2002 Conference of the Royal Statistical Society: “Let’s not kid ourselves: The most widely used piece of software for statistics is Excel.”

In my field, medical statistics, especially modern genomics, Excel is almost the standard for delivering output from instruments. Many users do amazing things with it, which you can't do with "official" statistical software like SAS, SPSS or Stata. Also, groups around big shots in statistics, like Rob Tibshirani and Trevor Hastie, have designed and programmed fine extensions to Excel to make modern methods for high-volume data easily accessible to the end user.

On a smaller scale, I'm a big fan of the Solver in Excel. It is great for non-linear models, with or without constraints on the parameters. When consulting clients with enough experience in Excel, I set up the model for them. They can see where the data have to go and which cells and columns contain parameters, (sums of squares of) residuals and so on. They can easily adapt the spreadsheet to new or extended data. The alternative, using R, is far too complicated in many cases.

There is a way to combine the best of both worlds: connect Excel to R. Collect the data in the spreadsheet, send them to R and read back results or let R make the graphs (which look much better than those crappy Excel charts). This book is about the combination. The magic piece of software is statconnDCOM and it (and much more) can be freely downloaded (for non-commercial use) from <http://rcom.univie.ac.at>. It only works on Windows, and you have to have administrator rights for a proper installation. There also is a connector between Open Office and R, that will work on more platforms. StatconnDCOM is based on COM (common object model) for windows, so any software that can access ActiveX objects can talk to R. In the documentation you find examples for APL, Mathematica, Perl, Python and Visual Basic.

I love to play with, and sometimes use seriously, these technical tricks, so I was very pleased to get this book for reviewing it. Unfortunately, it is not technical at all. Instead it mainly consists of an extensive collection of descriptions of spreadsheets for common statistical procedures.

The examples are integrated with the impressive Rcommander package by John Fox, which makes R look more or less like SPSS. Even the menu of the package gets integrated into the toolbars of Excel. I must admit that I do not really see the point of this exercise. Some 250 pages describe a variety of elementary procedures (like t-test, ANOVA, single and multiple regression, chi-square test for a contingency table) based on Excel spreadsheets. Rcommander can do this and much more and at the same time it shows you the R code that it generates.

Excel allows you to add buttons and other controls. Also it offers good facilities for attractive formatting of tabular results, which might be useful when producing reports. But essentially there is no information in the book on how to organize such more advanced applications, even though the tools are available.

The book appears in the Use R! series, a collection of books on R and Bioconductor packages. It is a nice series, but rather overpriced. Also the books are printed on demand, with a glued back. This book is in full color, with a somewhat cheap laser printer look. The authors of the spreadsheets are too fond of (colored) boxes.

Parts of this book might be useful for educational purposes. It can also inspire more advanced "information dashboards" for specific applications.

Paul Eilers

Personalia

In August, **Cees Elzinga** became a Board Member of Sociological Methods & Research.

Meeting

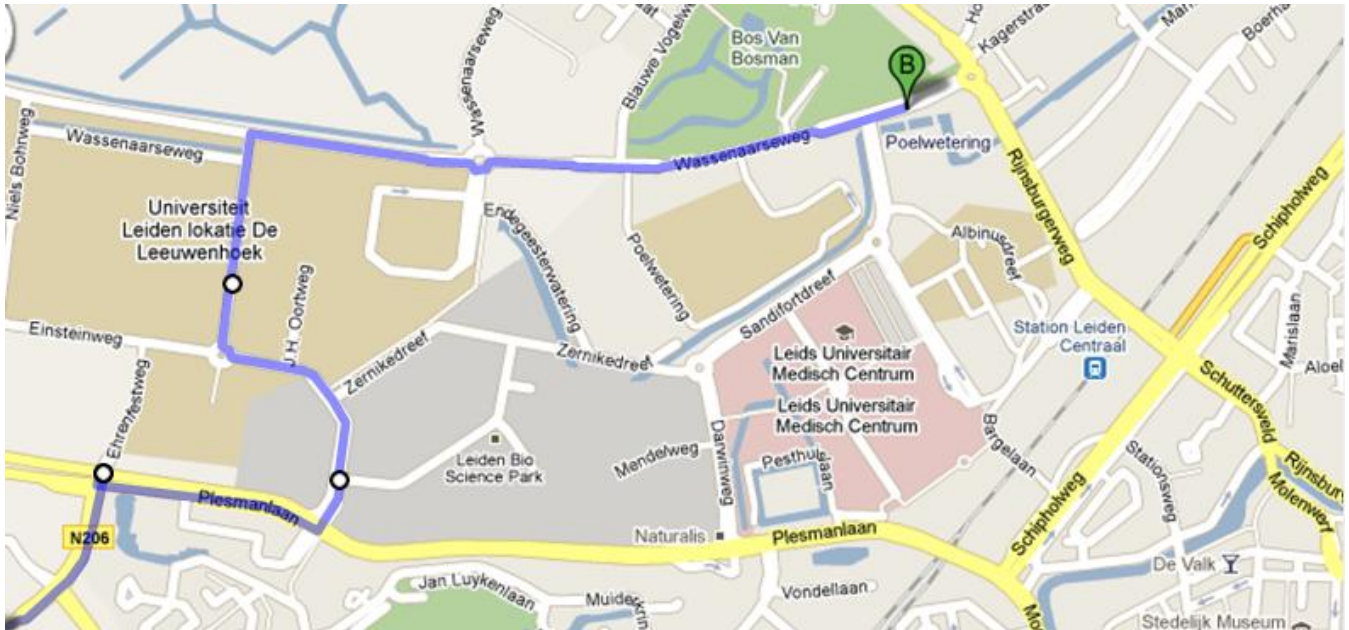
The European Research Consortium for Informatics and Mathematics (ERCIM) working group organizes its third International Conference on Computing & Statistics, London, UK, December 10-12; see <http://www.cfe-csda.org/ercim10/>

The 6th conference on Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods (CARME) takes place in Rennes, France, 8-11 February 2011. This conference celebrates 50 years of correspondence analysis (which originated in Rennes itself in 1961), 40 years of the biplot (Ruben Gabriel, *Biometrics*, 1971), 25 years of canonical correspondence analysis (ter Braak, *Ecology*, 1986), 20 years of CARME conferences (first one in Cologne, 1991) and -- with a statistical margin of error of 1 year -- 30 years of Gifi (Wiley, 1980). For more details of the program, invited speakers and R workshops, go to: www.econ.upf.edu/~michael/CARME2011_flyer.pdf

The International Workshop on Statistical Modelling (IWSM2011) will celebrate its 26th in València from 11-15th July 2011. Invited speakers include Jim Berger (Duke University, USA), David Firth (University of Warwick, UK), Guadalupe Gómez-Melis (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain), Peter Green (University of Bristol, UK), and Bent Jørgensen (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark). More information can be found at <http://www.iwsm2011.com/>

Route description

The Autumn Meeting takes place at the University of Leiden, Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Pieter de la Court Building (SB11), Wassenaarseweg 52, 2333 AK Leiden.



Route description to the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences by Car

Route from the A44:

Leave the A44 at exit 8 (exit: Leiden-Valkenburg-Katwijk-Noordwijk from the direction of The Hague, exit: Leiden-Utrecht from the direction of Amsterdam). Take the direction to Leiden centre/Naturalis via the Plesmanlaan.

Route from the A4:

Leave the A4 at exit 7 (Zoeterwoude dorp) en continue on the N206 towards Katwijk. At the large T-crossing with the Plesmanlaan take a right turn towards Leiden centre/Naturalis.

On the Plesmanlaan take the first left turn possible, you are now on the Einsteinweg. Continue this road and turn right at the roundabout, onto the Max Planckweg. Follow this road until the Wassenaarseweg, take a right turn. Drive up to the Pieter de la Court building of the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences (big square yellow building), close to Restaurant Blauwgrond and the roundabout.

Parking

The nearest parking area is at Wassenaarseweg 62. You will need to have a 'chipknip'.

Route description to the Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences by Public transport

The Pieter de la Court building is located at the back side of the central train station of Leiden. When you arrive by train take the back entrance/exit in the direction of the Leiden University Medical Centre (LUMC). In the distance you will already see the yellow Pieter de la Court building.