



Vereniging voor Ordinaties en Classificatie

Nieuwsbrief no. 46
April 2011

Voorzitter: Jeroen Vermunt, Universiteit van Tilburg, Faculteit Sociale Wetenschappen, Departement Methoden en Technieken van Onderzoek, Postbus 90153, 5000 LE Tilburg (j.k.vermunt@uvt.nl)
Secretaris: Hugo Duivenvoorden, Erasmus Universiteit, Fac. Geneeskunde en Gezondheidswetenschappen, Postbus 1738, 3000 DR Rotterdam (h.duivenvoorden@erasmusmc.nl)
Penningmeester: Berrie Zielman, Algemene rekenkamer, Directie Beleid en Communicatie, Afd. Statistiek, Lange Voorhout 8, 2414 ED Den Haag (a.Zielman@rekenkamer.nl) Postbankrekening 161723 t.n.v. Vereniging voor Ordinaties en Classificatie, Louise Henriettestraat 163, 2595 TP Den Haag.
Redactie: Katrijn Van Deun, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Departement Psychologie, Tiensestraat 102, B-3000 Leuven, België (katrijn.vandeun@psy.kuleuven.be)
VOC-home page: <http://www.voc.ac>

Spring Meeting of the VOC

Robust Methods

May 13, 2011

University of Antwerp, City Campus
(R.225)

10.30	Registration and Coffee
10.45	Stefan Van Aelst: Concepts and methods in robust statistics
11.45	Andreas Alfons: Robust variable selection with application in the social sciences
12.30	Lunch
13.30	Marco Riani: The forward search: theory and data analysis
14.30	Wobbe Zijlstra: Robust Mokken scale analysis by means of the forward search algorithm
15.15	Tea + VOC annual member meeting
15.45	Jorn de Haan: Nonparametric transformations in the analysis of microarray data
16.30	Drinks

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Registration details for the Spring 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 Spring Meeting 2011' 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: May 10th.

From the President

At the moment that I am writing this “from the president” it is about 25 degrees Celsius outside. It is therefore not surprising that I am in the mood to announce the spring meeting. Katrijn Van Deun and Mark de Rooij have set up a meeting on an interesting topic at a very nice location. The topic is Robust Methods, which is relevant for all applied fields in which VOC members operate. There will be overview presentations on robust methods in general (Van Aelst) and a specific type of robust method that is getting rather popular (Riani), and presentations in which robust methods are used for specific applications (Alfons, Zijlstra, and de Haan).

The location of the meeting is the center of the city of Antwerp. Of course, after many meetings in the Netherlands, it was time to have a VOC meeting in Belgium. But Antwerp is not just a Belgian city, it is a great town to visit. My advice would be to stay a bit longer than just for the VOC meeting, at least for dinner on Friday evening, but even better would be to spend a full weekend in Antwerp.

There is also important news from the board. After many years of loyal service, Mark de Rooij and Hugo Duivenvoorden have decided not to extend their position in the board. Mark, who joined the board in 2002, has first been responsible for the newsletter and later on for the book reviews and has, moreover, organized many VOC meetings. Hugo has been our secretary since 2008, and decided to leave the board because he recently retired from his job at the Erasmus University. I would like to thank Mark and Hugo for all the work they have done for the VOC.

The fact that two persons will leave the board also means that there are vacancies. We are looking for candidates for the secretary position and for two “ordinary” board memberships. Ideally, we would have representatives from all substantive fields covered by the VOC in our board. Interested candidates should contact me before the spring meeting.

I hope to see many of you the 13th of May at our meeting in Antwerp!

Jeroen Vermunt

News from the IFCS

We would like to draw your attention to the extended deadline for abstract submission of the GfKI/DAGM/IFCS conference 2011 (Frankfurt a.M., 30 August - 2 September 2011). The deadline for abstract

submission is now 30 April 2011. Detailed information may be found on the conference website: <http://www.gfkl2011.de/>

Also the call for Applications for the Chikio Hayashi Awards has been extended to the 15th of May 2011. This award is provided by the IFCS to young researchers with a promising track record in classification, data analysis, or related areas, as a support of their professional career. At most five CHA awards of minimum \$1000 each will be given. Candidates shall present a paper at the IFCS conference and shall be under the age of 35 years at that time. More information and application forms can be found on <http://www.classification-society.org/ifcs/cha/>

Abstracts for the Spring Meeting

Stefan Van Aelst (Ghent University): Concepts and methods in robust statistics

We introduce the standard contamination model underlying most of the developments in robust statistics and discuss its properties and limitations. Standard measures of robustness are then introduced such as the influence function and the breakdown point. In this talk we focus on two key settings that form the basis of many statistical techniques, which are the linear regression and multivariate location and scatter models. We review some well-known classes of robust estimators such as M, S and MM-estimators and least trimmed residual distance estimators (LTS and MCD). For each of these classes we discuss their robustness properties as well as other important properties such as equivariance, consistency and efficiency. We then discuss outlier detection and robust inference methods. We illustrate these methods with applications in multivariate analysis, such as regression, principal components analysis, (multivariate) ANOVA, discriminant analysis and clustering.

Stefan Van Aelst is associate professor of mathematical Statistics at the Faculty of Sciences of Ghent University. He obtained a PhD degree in mathematics from the University of Antwerp (2000). His research interests are robust methods, inference and model selection. He has published in many statistical journals, including Journal of the American Statistical Association, Annals of Statistics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society B, and Statistical Science. Currently, he is associate editor of Computational Statistics and Data Analysis and Journal of Statistical Planning and Inference. Since 2011 he is Vice-President of the Belgian Statistical Society.

**Andreas Alfons (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven):
Robust variable selection with application in the social sciences**

Motivated by applications in the social sciences, a robust variable selection procedure has been developed. The procedure combines sequencing the most informative candidate predictors with a strategy to reduce the number of selected variables to a necessary minimum. The latter is crucial in the context of social sciences for better interpretability. In addition, strong dependencies among the regressor variables need to be eliminated such that the explanatory variables describe complementing effects. The fulfillment of these two requirements will therefore be called context-sensitivity and the resulting strategy for variable selection can be considered a tradeoff between quality of the model and interpretability. In practical applications, the proposed procedure led to highly interpretable models. Furthermore, the performance of the procedure is assessed by means of simulation. This simulation study verifies that primarily only variables with potentially new information are included in the resulting model.

Reference:

Alfons, A., Baaske, W.E., Filzmoser, P., Mader, W., & Wieser, R. (2011). Robust variable selection with application to quality of life research. *Statistical Methods & Applications*, 20(1), 65-82.

Andreas Alfons is a postdoctoral research fellow at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Faculty of Business and Economics. He received a Master's degree in Applied Mathematics and a PhD degree in Statistics from Vienna University of Technology (Austria), where he also held a research assistant position at the Department of Statistics and Probability Theory. His research interests include robust statistics, multivariate data analysis, and the development of statistical software.

Marco Riani (Parma University): The forward search: theory and data analysis

The Forward Search is a powerful general method, incorporating flexible data-driven trimming, for the detection of outliers and unsuspected structure in data and also for building robust models. Starting from small subsets of data, observations that are close to the fitted model are added to the observations used in parameter estimation. As this subset grows we monitor parameter estimates, test statistics and measures of fit such as residuals. This talk surveys theoretical and empirical development in the work on the Forward Search over the last decade and discusses similarities and differences with traditional robust estimators.

References:

- Atkinson, A.C., & Riani, M. (2000). *Robust diagnostic regression analysis*. Springer Verlag, New York.
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- Atkinson, A.C., Riani, M., & Cerioli, A. (2010). The forward search: Theory and data analysis (with discussion). *Journal of the Korean Statistical Society*, 39, 117-134.
- Riani, M., Atkinson, A.C., & Cerioli, A. (2009). Finding an unknown number of multivariate outliers. *Journal of The Royal Statistical Society, Series B (Statistical Methodology)*, 71, 447-466.

Marco Riani, after receiving his PhD in Statistics in 1995 from the University of Florence, joined the Faculty of Economics at Parma University as a postdoctoral fellow. In 1997 he won the prize for the best Italian PhD thesis in Statistics. He is currently Full Professor of Statistics in the University of Parma. He is author or co-author of more than 80 publications, 30 of which have appeared in international Journals of statistics and 2 books published by Springer Verlag New York. He is co-editor of a book published by Springer Verlag Berlin and guest editor of some special thematic issues of International Journals of Statistics. In 2009 he was the chairman of the scientific committee of the international conference in robust statistics (ICORS). He is currently involved in research projects in the area of robust statistics. At present he is the Italian coordinator of a joint project between Italy and Spain that involves the analysis of complex data using robust methods, and principal investigator of a project financed by the Italian Ministry of Education involving a network of local research units.

**Wobbe Zijlstra (Tilburg University & CoRPS):
Robust Mokken scale analysis by means of the forward search algorithm**

Exploratory Mokken scale analysis (MSA) is a popular method for identifying scales from larger sets of items. As with any statistical method, in MSA the presence of outliers in the data may result in biased results and wrong conclusions. The forward search algorithm is a robust diagnostic method for outlier detection, which we adapt here to identify outliers in MSA. This adaptation involves choices with respect to the algorithm's objective function, selection of items from samples without outliers, and scalability criteria to be used in the forward search algorithm. The application of the adapted forward search algorithm for MSA is demonstrated using real data. Recommendations are given for its use in practical scale analysis.

Reference:

- Zijlstra, W.P., van der Ark, L.A., & Sijtsma, K. (2011). Robust Mokken scale analysis by means of the forward

search algorithm for outlier detection. *Multivariate Behavioral Research*, 46, 58-89.

Wobbe Zijlstra studied Psychology at the University of Groningen (2004). He obtained his PhD at Tilburg University (2009) on the topic "outlier detection in questionnaire data for attribute measurement". Currently he is a lecturer at the Department of Methodology and Statistics at Tilburg University and he works as research consultant / methodologist at CoRPS (Center of Research on Psychology in Somatic Diseases) at Tilburg University. At CoRPS he helps medical psychology researchers with their research designs and statistical analyses (e.g., longitudinal data, missing data, power analysis, and sampling).

Jorn de Haan (Genetwister Technologies, Wageningen): Nonparametric transformations in the analysis of microarray data.

Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) can be used to separate the effects of different factors in a data set. Typical examples for gene expression or microarray data are the factors time and treatment. This separation can improve the interpretability of the results. However, the main effects and interactions, calculated in ANOVA, can be heavily influenced by outliers, large numbers of non-expressed genes with noise, and the heavy-tailedness of the distribution of expression values. Robust methods are less affected by these and will improve the analysis.

In this presentation I will show work done on several methods of transformation to perform robust nonparametric ANOVA. The methods are applied to a large multi-treatment time series dataset.

Jorn de Haan studied medical biology at the Vrije Universiteit (VU) Amsterdam. He obtained his PhD at the Radboud University Nijmegen in 2011 with the thesis "Improvements in the analysis of microarray data". In 2007 he started a postdoc position at TNO quality of life in Zeist while finishing his PhD. A large part of his work there, consisted of taking part in the Nutri Genomics Consortium (NGC). Relations between diet and health were investigated in the NGC with data rich techniques like microarrays, proteomics and metabolomics. In 2009, Jorn joined Genetwister Technologies in Wageningen. There he became research manager bioinformatics and biostatistics. At Genetwister Jorn is involved in the analysis of large microarray studies and Next Generation Sequencing data, to find answers to biological questions in a wide range of plant species. The interests of Jorn are in the scientific field where biology meets multivariate statistics, where new approaches are needed to get more knowledge from large datasets.

Publications

- Bloemberg, T. G., Gerretzen, J., Wouters, H. J. P., Gloerich, J., van Dael, M., Wessels, H. J. C. T., van den Heuvel, L. P., Eilers, P. H. C., Buydens, L. M. C., & Wehrens, R. (2010). Improved parametric time warping for proteomics. *Chemometrics and Intelligent Laboratory Systems*, *104* (1), 65-74.
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- De Boeck, P., Bakker, M., Zwitser, R., Nivard, M., Hofman, A., Tuerlinckx, F., & Partchev, I. (2011). The Estimation of item response models with the lmer function from the lme4 package in R. *Journal of Statistical Software*, *39*, 1-28.
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- Frederickx, S., Tuerlinckx, F., De Boeck, P., & Magis, D. (2010). RIM: A random item mixture model to detect Differential Item Functioning. *Journal of Educational Measurement*, *47*, 432-457. doi:10.1111/j.1745-3984.2010.00122.x
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- Mook-Kanamori, D. O., Steegers, E. A. P., Eilers, P. H., Raat, H., Hofman, A., & Jaddoe, V. W. V. (2010). Risk Factors and Outcomes Associated With First-Trimester Fetal Growth Restriction. *Obstetrical & Gynecological Survey*, *65*(6), 362-363.
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Verbeek, S, Eilers, P. H. C., Lawrence, K., Hennekam, R. C. M., & Versteegh, F. G. A. (2011). Growth charts for children with Ellis-van Creveld syndrome. *European Journal of Pediatrics*, *170* (2), 207-211.

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Wilderjans, T. F., Ceulemans, E., Van Mechelen, I., & van den Berg, R.A. (2011). Simultaneous analysis of coupled data matrices subject to different amounts of noise. *British Journal of Mathematical and Statistical Psychology*, *64*, 277-290. doi:10.1348/000711010X513263

Financiële overzicht over het jaar 2010

Ontvangsten		Uitgaven	
contributie	1080	kosten	
saldo dexia rekening	2687,86	betalingsverkeer	62,98
		Kvk	26,14
		hosting website voc	126,5
		update website	666,4
		Jubileum bijeenkomst	8272,05
		geschenken sprekers	90
		Geschenk bestuurslid	49,9
Totaal	3767,86	Totaal	9293,97

Balans

Debet		Credit	
Saldo ING Rekening	4965	Crediteuren	0
Saldo spaarrekening	2656	Eigen vermogen	7621
Dexia Rekening	0		
Totaal	7621	Totaal	7621

Toelichting bij de balans

- (1) 51 leden hebben in 2010 contributie betaald
- (2) Het eigen vermogen is licht gedaald in vergelijking met vorig jaar
- (4) De Dexia rekening is opgeheven en het saldo bijgeschreven op de ING rekening. Dit is gedaan omdat deze rekening in het euro tijdperk voor de leden geen lagere kosten voor de Vlaamse leden maar wel hogere kosten voor de vereniging met zich meebrengt. In het verleden konden de Vlaamse leden de contributie zonder kosten naar deze rekening overmaken. Voor het betalingsverkeer tussen Nederland en België worden op dit moment geen kosten in rekening gebracht.
- (4) Een overzicht van de ontwikkeling van het eigen vermogen
- 2010 € 7621
 - 2009 € 8189
 - 2008 € 6248
 - 2007 € 5914
 - 2006 € 6869
 - 2005 € 6057
 - 2004 € 5019
 - 2003 € 6795
 - 2002 € 6408
 - 2001 € 5898
 - 2000 € 5731
 - 1999 € 4871
 - 1998 € 5100

Jaarverslag over het jaar 2010

1. De VOC startte eind 2009 met 94 leden waarvan er 61 contributie betaalden. Voor 2010 hebben 55 leden contributie betaald.

2. Bestuur

Het bestuur van de VOC had in 2010 de volgende samenstelling:

Jeroen Vermunt	Voorzitter
Hugo Duivendoorn	Secretaris
Berrie Zielman	Penningmeester
Katrijn Van Deun	Redacteur Nieuwsbrief
Michel van der Velden	Webmaster
Mark de Rooij	Lid

Het bestuur vergaderde in 2010 twee maal, waarvan eenmaal telefonisch. De belangrijkste onderwerpen waren de Bijeenkomsten, en lopende zaken als de Nieuwsbrief en de website.

3. Activiteiten

In 2010 hadden we twee goed bezochte bijeenkomsten. De Voorjaarsbijeenkomst (28/5/10, Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam) had als thema 'Statistiek en Beleid'. De sprekers van die dag waren achtereenvolgens: Jelke Bethlehem ('About the quality of surveys'), Berrie Zielman ('Effectiveness of a policy measure for reducing violence in nightlife'), Jean Pierre Verhaeghe ('How to make educational practitioners understand the concept of "value added"'), Ruud Hoogendoorn, Jeroen van Oostrum ('Applying mathematical models to surgical patient planning'), en Elise Dusseldorp: ('Treatment Interaction Trees (TINT): A tool to identify disordinal treatment-subgroup interactions').

De Najaarsbijeenkomst (26/11/10, Universiteit Leiden) had als thema 'Data fusion'. De sprekers van die dag waren achtereenvolgens: Iven Van Mechelen ('A generic linked-mode decomposition model for data fusion'), Michel van de Velden ('Generalized canonical correlation analysis with missing values'), Peyman Zarrineh ('Module-based comparative gene expression analysis: evolutionary conserved coexpression in *Bacillus subtilis* and *Escherichia coli*'), Pascal Van Hattum ('The Proof of the Pudding is in the eating. Data Fusion: An Application in Marketing'), en Hans Kiesel: ('Uncertainty in data fusion').

4. Publiciteit

De Nieuwsbrief verscheen 2 maal. De Bijeenkomsten werden ook aangekondigd voor niet-leden, onder andere via de VVS-site en via mailing lists (IOPS, Stoch-Ned, Bio-MVA, bbclist).

Notulen ledenvergadering 28 mei 2010

Verslag: Berrie Zielman

1. Opening en ingekomen stukken

Mark de Rooij opent de vergadering. Er zijn geen ingekomen stukken. De voorzitter Ron Wehrens is afwezig i.v.m. zijn werk in Italië.

2. Notulen Ledenvergadering 17 april 2009

De notulen worden goedgekeurd.

3. Jaarverslag 2009 van de secretaris

Het verslag wordt aanvaard. Er is een lichte terugloop van het aantal leden.

4. Financieel verslag 2009

Het verslag van de penningmeester wordt aanvaard. Paul Eilers heeft de boeken gecontroleerd en concludeerde dat zij in orde zijn. De penningmeester wordt decharge verleend. De nieuwe kascommissie bestaat uit Edith Nijenhuis en Cees Elzinga.

5. Bestuursamenstelling

De voorzitter Ron Wehrens treedt af, van hem is al op de jubileum bijeenkomst afscheid genomen. De nieuwe voorzitter is Jeroen Vermunt; er zijn geen tegenkandidaten. Ook Eva Ceulemans treedt af, zij wordt opgevolgd door Katrijn Van Deun. Ook voor de functie van redacteur nieuwsbrief zijn er geen tegenkandidaten.

6. Wvttk, rondvraag

Casper Looman vraagt of er al plannen zijn voor het najaar. Die zijn er niet, als er ideeën zijn dan hoort het bestuur die graag.

7. Sluiting

Mark de Rooij sluit de vergadering.

Agenda voor de ledenvergadering van de VOC op 13 mei 2011

1. Opening
2. Notulen Ledenvergadering 28 mei 2010
Deze zijn elders in de Nieuwsbrief opgenomen.
3. Jaarverslag van de secretaris over 2010
Dit is elders in deze Nieuwsbrief opgenomen.
4. Financieel verslag
 - Jaarverslag van de penningmeester (zie deze Nieuwsbrief).
 - Verslag van de kascommissie (Edith Nijenhuis en Cees Elzinga).
 - Benoeming van de nieuwe kascommissie.

5. Bestuurssamenstelling
Het bestuur bestaat uit de volgende leden (achter de functie staat de resterende duur van hun termijn):

Jeroen Vermunt	Voorzitter(2)
Hugo Duivenvoorden	Secretaris (0)
Katrijn Van Deun	Redacteur Nieuwsbrief (2)
Mark de Rooij	Lid (0)
Michel van de Velden	Webredacteur (1)
Berrie Zielman	Penningmeester (1)

De termijnen van Hugo en Mark lopen af. Zij zullen het bestuur verlaten. Het bestuur is op zoek naar opvolgers en naar een extra gewoon bestuurslid. Kandidaten kunnen zich aanmelden bij de voorzitter voor de ledenvergadering. De leden mogen tijdens de vergadering zich hierover uitspreken.

6. Wvttk/Rondvraag
7. Sluiting

Personalia

On October 30 2010, the VOC lost a distinguished active member, Sijmen de Jong. He was a very influential chemometrician, who obtained a PhD in theoretical chemistry and worked at Unilever Research Vlaardingen. One of his most influential discoveries was that Partial Least Squares (PLS) optimized a covariance which led to the development of his SIMPLS algorithm.

There is a short video interview with Jan de Leeuw about his involvement with correspondence analysis on the youtube site of the Correspondence Analysis and Related Methods (CARME) network: www.youtube.com/CARMEnetwork. The interview was conducted at the occasion of the CARME 2011

conference that celebrated 50 years of correspondence analysis.

Meeting

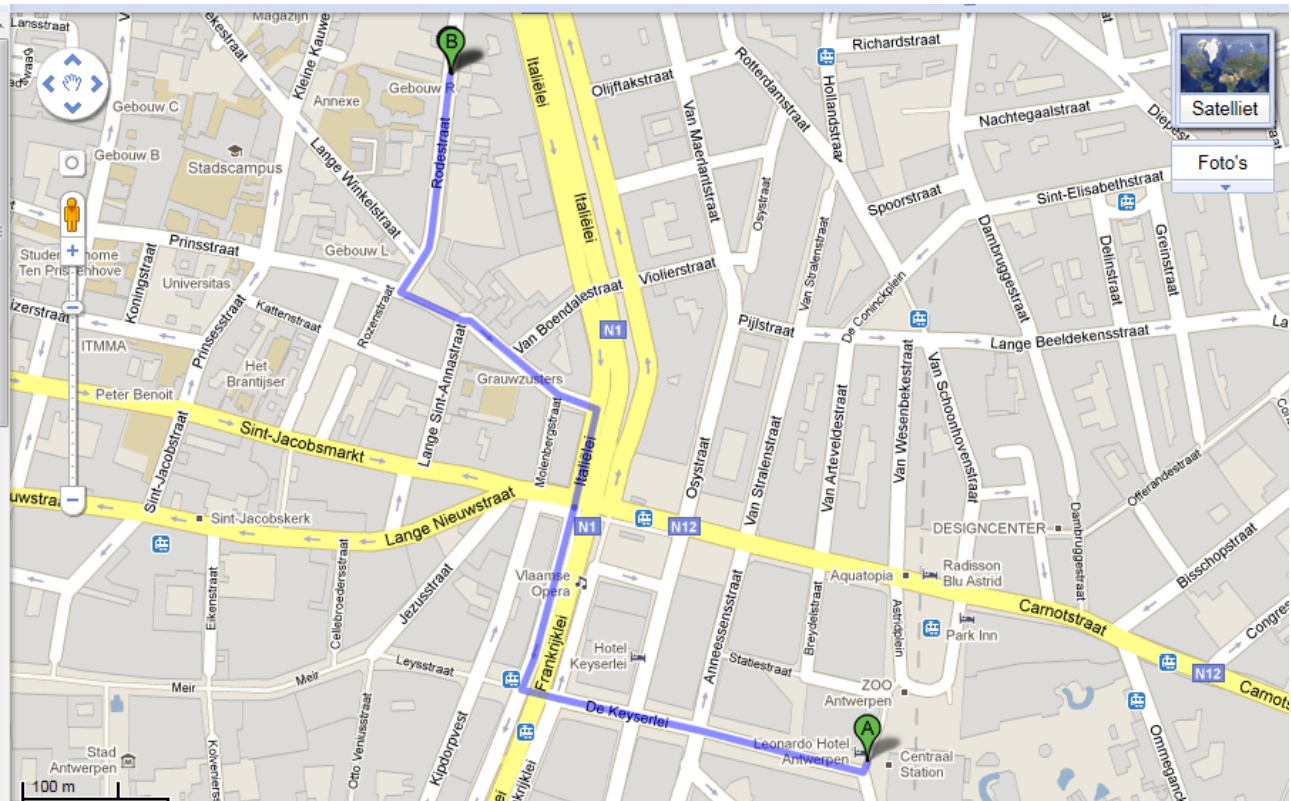
A four day course (*June 27-30*) on Multilevel Analysis of Longitudinal Data (MALD) will be organized in Maastricht University. The course will be in Dutch and targets PhD students and researchers involved in epidemiological, social, and behavioral research studies. For a fruitful participation in the course, participants should be familiar with linear regression analysis at an intermediate level. The fee for this course is 600euro for CaRe participants and 650euro for others. Teachers are Frans Tan and Miranda Winkelhuijzen (Maastricht University). Contact Ms. Marga Doyle (Marga.doyle@stat.unimaas.nl) for information and application.

The 5th International Chemometrics Research Meeting will take place in Nijmegen, from *25-29 September 2011*. The format of the conference will be such that lectures reflect the current state-of-the-art in chemometrics and will be a starting point for extended discussions and exchanges of views. For more information, see: www.icrm2011.org.

VOC-member Jörg Henseler (together with Christian Ringle and Marko Sarstedt) offers a comprehensive seminar on Partial Least Squares Path Modeling (PLS) using the SmartPLS software. It will take place on *9-12 November 2011* in Hamburg, Germany. VOC-members obtain a 10%-discount. For more information please consult <http://www.pls-school.com> or contact Jörg Henseler (joerg@henseler.com).

Route description

The Spring Meeting takes place at the University of Antwerp, City Campus, Building R (R225), Rodestraat 14, 2000 Antwerpen.



By Public transport

The City Campus, building R, is at a 15 minutes walk from the Central Station of Antwerp.

For more information, including train and bus schedules, see the website of the University of Antwerp, City Campus: <http://www.ua.ac.be/main.aspx?c=.ROUTEDESCRIPTION&n=78620>

Parking

Antwerp has a parking system which in real-time informs you about free parking spots in the 22 parkings of Antwerp and guides you towards them. To park in the neighbourhood of the City Campus, you follow the blue parking route 'Meir Universiteit'.