



The New Zealand Statistical Association
nzsa.rsnz.org

Newsletter

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NZSA05, University of Otago, 4-6 July 2005

You are invited to the 2005 New Zealand Statistical Association Conference, to be held at the University of Otago, Dunedin, 4-6 July 2005.



Major Themes

Statistics at the Frontiers of Science, Bayesian Inference, Large Data Sets.

Invited Speakers

Emery Brown (Harvard Medical School), Satish Iyengar (Canterbury University), Mark Berman (CSIRO), Renate Meyer (Auckland University), Kerrie Mengersen (Queensland University of Technology), David Baird (AgResearch).

Call for papers

We invite abstracts for oral and poster presentations at NZSA05, especially those that relate to one of the Invited Themes. We particularly encourage contributions from young statisticians and from students. Abstract submission will be available through the website early in 2005.

Venue

All sessions will be held at Salmond Hall, University of Otago. This Hall will also be used to accommodate participants, and is ideally located, being close to campus, the Dunedin Botanic Gardens, shops, bars and restaurants. Motel accommodation is also available close to the Hall. The city centre is a 15-minute walk from the hall, along historic George Street. The bed-and-breakfast rate at Salmond will be \$43 per night, which includes rooms made up with fresh linen, towels and soap. A buffet-style dinner will also be available at \$22.50. There will be a conference dinner on the Tuesday night (5th July).

Web Page

<http://www.maths.otago.ac.nz/nzsa2005/home.php>

Contact

Irene Goodwin, Centre for Applications of Statistics and Mathematics, University of Otago (casm@maths.otago.ac.nz)

Registration

A registration form will soon be available for download via the conference web page. The registration fees (inclusive of GST) are as follows:

Before April 30 2005	
NZSA Members	NZ\$220
Non-Members	NZ\$270
Students	NZ\$110

After April 30 2005	
NZSA Members	NZ\$270
Non-Members	NZ\$320
Students	NZ\$135

Young Statisticians

The NZSA has some funds available to support students at New Zealand Universities travelling to the conference. The amount available depends on how many students apply and the distance each has to travel. Any student interested in travel support should contact Jennifer Brown (J.Brown@math.canterbury.ac.nz). First year membership of the NZSA is already free to students. Prizes for the best student presentations will be awarded by Hoare Research Software.

Satellite Workshop

A 3-day workshop on "Introduction to Hidden Markov Models and their Applications in New Zealand" will be held in Wanaka during the week preceding the conference (29 June to 1 July). This is the first event in an NZIMA Programme that will run workshops and seminars during the second half of 2005.

Workshop Web Page

<http://nzsa.rsnz.org/HMM1/index.htm>

Workshop Contact

Roger Littlejohn (roger.littlejohn@agresearch.co.nz)

Hidden Markov Models and Complex Systems

Under the auspices of an NZIMA Programme, a series of workshops and seminars will be conducted throughout New Zealand in the second half of 2005, bringing together statistical practitioners who use Hidden Markov Models and related methods to analyse data from a wide variety of applications. The aim of the Programme is to augment the research programmes of New Zealand scientists working with HMM methods.

David Vere-Jones (Emeritus Professor at Victoria University of Wellington and Director of Statistical Research Associates) is the Programme Director. The Programme will host invited speakers who have made substantial contributions to the theory and practice of HMM methods and will also provide funds for post-doctoral and post-graduate research.

Details are available from the Programme webpage <http://www.statsresearch.co.nz/hmm/index.html>. For further information contact David Vere-Jones (dvj@mcs.vuw.ac.nz).

“Introduction to Hidden Markov Models and their Applications in New Zealand” Workshop

The first workshop in this Programme will be held at the Lake Wanaka Centre, Wanaka, during the week preceding the NZSA conference (29 June to 1 July).



Its emphasis will be to establish a network of practitioners within New Zealand. It will include post-graduate level tutorials, an opportunity for all practitioners to describe their research, and some expert contribution.

Invited Speakers

Emery Brown (Harvard Medical School)
Mark Berman (CSIRO)
Rolf Turner (University of New Brunswick)

Call for papers

New Zealand scientists using or thinking of using HMM methods are invited to give presentations. These should include a description of the context and the problem the models may help to solve, and any ideas about models and procedures that have been developed.

Registration

The registration fee is \$200 - most of this will be covered by an NZIMA grant of \$150 for NZ residents. Other costs are a workshop dinner (\$50) and winery tour (\$10).

Logistics

Some accommodation close to the venue has been reserved through the workshop - see the workshop webpage for details. Participants can fly in through Queenstown or link up with someone who is driving through from a South Island location. We advise early planning.

Students

An NZIMA subsidy of \$400 (North Island) and \$250 (South Island) is available to help cover much of the transport and accommodation cost for students attending the workshop.

Workshop Web Page

<http://nzsa.rsnz.org/HMM1/index.htm>

Workshop Contact

Roger Littlejohn (roger.littlejohn@agresearch.co.nz)

NZSA Website updated

The NZSA website at <http://nzsa.rsnz.org/index.shtml> has been updated very recently in a new format. Please contact Roger Littlejohn with any changes.

Auckland Professors appointed

Congratulations to Chris Triggs (left) and Alan Lee (right) on their appointments as Professors in the Department of Statistics at the University of Auckland.

