

Arizona State University

From the Selected Works of Joseph M Hilbe

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International Astrostatistics Association

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International Astrostatistics Association

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2 September, 2012

The *International Astrostatistics Association* (IAA) is a newly created professional association for astronomers, physicists, statisticians, computer-information scientists, and others who are interested in the statistical analysis of astronomical data. Membership is without cost and is open to seasoned researchers, PostDocs, and students having an interest in astrostatistics and astroinformatics.

The IAA is derived from the *ISI Astrostatistics Committee and Network*, which had a membership of astronomers and statisticians from 27 nations, representing all continents except Antarctica. The ISI is the *International Statistical Institute* (founded 1885), the world association of statisticians, with headquarters in The Hague, The Netherlands.

A timeline of the formation and approval by the appropriate governing body for each of the above astrostatistical organizations is given as:

07/2008	ISI Astrostatistics Interest Group
12/2009	ISI Astrostatistics Committee
01/2010	ISI International Astrostatistics Network
08/2012	International Astrostatistics Association (Network reorganization, 30-08-2012)

The IAA is associated with the ISI through the ISI Astrostatistics Committee, and will be associated with the *International Astronomical Union* (IAU, founded 1919), the world governing body for astronomy/astrophysics, through the newly authorized IAU Astrostatistics Working Group.

The IAA provides detailed information to members on publications related to astrostatistics, forthcoming conventions and conferences, workshops, and educational opportunities. A foremost goal of the IAA is to foster collaboration between astronomers, physicists, statisticians, and computer-information scientists in order to achieve better research results as well as more meaningful interpretations of results, especially in light of the mass of data that is and will be generated by the new technologies. We will also seek to provide members with the same benefits given to members of similar professional associations.

Also of interest to the IAA is the development of astrostatistical working groups and committees within major international and national associations, as well as the development of interdisciplinary astrostatistics degree programs at major universities throughout the world.

In early 2012 an *Astrostatistics and AstroInformatics Portal* (<https://asaip.psu.edu>) was developed through the Penn State University Center for Astrostatistics under the direction of Eric Feigelson, a professor of astronomy at Penn State and Associate Director of the Center. He serves as overall editor of the Portal, with myself (Arizona State/JPL) as co-editor of the IAA/astrostatistics component. The second component is for national entities, such as the Working Group in Astroinformatics and Astrostatistics of the American Astronomical Society (AAS), who may use this portion of the ASAIP Web site. The third component of the Portal is for the Information and Statistical Sciences Consortium of the planned Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST/ISSC). Subscription to the Portal is open without cost to any researcher with an interest in astrostatistics and astroinformatics. Portal and IAA membership gives automatic access to the Portal, but a login username and password is still required, and is sent upon request.

In late 2011 the very well regarded scientific/academic publisher Springer agreed to publish a new "Springer Series in Astrostatistics", which is now to be co-sponsored by IAA. The editorial board of the Series are all IAA members. The first book in the Series is due to be published in late September 2012, with a second book the following month. Several more books are scheduled for future publication. We believe that this is an excellent resource for researchers interested in the statistical analysis of

astronomical data. The Series is the first series of books specifically devoted to astrostatistics published by a major publishing company.

The IAA will also sponsor awards for excellence in astrostatistical research, astrostatistical education, and other contributions to the area. a committee will be established for the purpose of defining awards and later accepting nominations. Corporate or outside funding will sought for sponsorship of awards.

The IAA officially meets in conjunction with the ISI World Statistics Congress every odd year. The next Congress is in Hong Kong, 24-31 August, 2013. The next Congress is scheduled in August 2015 in Rio de Janerio, Brazil. The IAA will be seeking to be elected as an ISI Association at the Rio de Janerio Congress. Elections results for the Council and officers are announced at each Congress, taking effect the next January 1st.

IAA STRUCTURE AND OFFICERS

The IAA is managed by the Council, with the IAA executive committee making decisions of a more immediate nature. Council terms are for two years and are renewable. The executive committee of the Council are the association officers, and are for a period of two years. Due to the fact that we are beginning with less than a year to the next ISI World Statistics Congress, this first term will last to the 2015 Rio de Janerio Congress.

IAA COUNCIL (to be amended)

Stephano Andreon	Astronomical Observ of Brera	ITALY
Jogesh Babu	Pennsylvania State Univ	USA
Bruce Bassett	Univ of Cape Town	S AFRICA
Kirk Borne	George Mason Univ	USA
Asis Chattopadhyay	Calcutta Univ	INDIA
Eric Feigelson	Pennsylvania State Univ	USA
David Hand	Imperial College, London	UK
Joseph Hilbe	Arizona State Univ/JPL	USA
Martin Kunz	Univ of Geneva	SWITZ
Tom Lored	Cornell Univ	USA
Oleg Malkov	Moscow State Univ	RUSSIA
Vicent Martinez	Univ of Valencia	SPAIN
Gary Miner	Data Dining Consultant	USA
Jean-luc Starck	CEA/Saclay	FRANCE
Roberto Trotta	Imperial college, London	UK
David van Dyk	Imperial College, London	USA/UK
Ben Wandelt	Univ of Pierre & Marie Curie	FRANCE

OFFICERS/Executive Committee

President	-	Joseph Hilbe	hilbe@asu.edu
Vice-President	- Statistical sciences	Jogesh Babu	babu@stat.psu.edu
Vice-President	- Astronomy/Astrophysics	Jean-luc Starck	jstarck@cea.fr
Vice-President	- AstroInformatics	Kirk Borne	kborne@gmu.edu
Vice-President	- At-large	Bruce Bassett	bruce.a.bassett@gmail.com
Treasurer, General Secretary, Past-President		<to be filled 2nd term>	

COMMITTEES (more to be added by Council as appropriate)

nomination membership awards publication

APPLICATION FOR IAA MEMBERSHIP

Until notified differently, requests for membership in the IAA is through an email request to myself at hilbe@asu.edu or jhilbe@aol.com OR through a request for membership in the Portal and IAA to Eric Feigelson (edf@astro.psu.edu) or myself. Please advise if you wish subscription to the Portal but not the IAA. No membership fees are required in either case. Send your:

name : affiliation and position : email address and URL (if available) : Research Interests

Joseph M Hilbe, IAA