

Joint Statistical meeting 2007, Salt Lake, Utah:

Below are the notes gathered during Biostatisticians meeting discussion on Thursday August 16 on statistical courses taken and overall conference feedbacks for your future reference.

Cathy Jenkins

Course: Graphics of Large Datasets (A course at the JSM 2007)

Heike Hofman (Iowa University)

Antony Unwin (Augsburg University).

Tutorial in Mondrian are free to download at <http://rosuda.org/Mondrian/>

The actual software can also be downloaded at the website and not just tutorials.

Missing values plots can be of interest. Like the idea of using Mondrian to minimize amount of time in programming for quick look. Course has some advantages. It is neat for quick graphics; however, the graphs are not reproducible and it does not generate codes.

R- Iplots provide similar interactive plots. Would recommend the plots for quick graphics of large datasets.

William Wu

Attended 3 short courses.

A course in Multiple Comparisons and Multiple tests. By Peter H. Westfall, Ph.D.

The course includes concepts in application and programming. William chose the course because he sees this kind of questions in daily practice. He asked about multiple comparisons before and the input that he got was that if the overall P value was significant, you do not have to adjust for multiple comparisons. He has interest in multiple comparisons. Demonstrations were in SAS. Theoretical parts were tough to follow; instructors gave some examples. For multiple comparisons, William would recommend it since it is an issue we see during our practice.

Meta-Analysis Concept and Applications.

Michael Borenstein & Hannah Rothstein.

William has project on association of risk factor and outcome and was interested on taking on a side project to get a summary of previous published papers. I am not recommending it unless you have the need and motivation in the project you are working on. William has purchased and will be using it.

Terri, There are other options- in R (free) and STATA & RevMan.

Axiang Jiang

Attended 2 short courses (2 hours/course): CART and MARS

No handout. Instructor just talked about the software. It was a computer technology course.

Wavelet (one day class): Expected more on theoretical aspects and mathematics on how to do transformations. She would recommend the course, at least to get ideas especially if you work in this area. She liked the class. They talked about the areas that wavelets were applied, engineering, other examples include application to find which part of chromosome changed in CGH data and SNP data. Wavelets are important in pre-processing data to identify patterns.

Angel An, Shirley Liu & Jennifer Thompson

Applied Longitudinal Analysis. Garrett Fitzmaurice.
Highly recommended course! No prior knowledge required. Not need to purchase book before hand.
Course website: <http://www.Biostat.harvard.edu/~fizmaur/ala/>

Angel An has nice handout if you would like to take a look.
Shirley Liu has the textbook for this course if you want to take a look.

****This class has been getting consistently great reviews from attendees.

Yanna Song

Practical Bayesian Clinical Trials Design. Peter F. Thall, PhD.
She would recommend the course for a good beginning on Bayesian design for clinical trials. For further expertise and knowledge, need to spend extra time on reading different paper and books. The instructor recommended the software developed at MD Anderson but he did not demonstrate it.

Dan Byrne

2 short courses:

Statistical Genetics Short Course.

Eric Sobel did a brilliant job in explaining genetics in plain English. Dan comment was that it was the clearest explanation of the foundation of genetics that he ever had.

Classification Regression Tree. New Software: Guide. It uses more of the regression for the split.

Dan recommends both courses and proposes to invite Eric Sobel for a seminar.

Jennifer Thompson

Analysis of Clinical Trials. Chuang-Stein, Dmitrienko & Molenberghs.

She would recommend the course. The notes were clear and the reviews concepts helpful.

Terri Scott

Use R Conference 2007, Iowa city, Iowa.

Terri taught an R short course. Very busy conference!

Conference had very interesting seminars that range from biostatistics to physics and engineering. Interesting discussions, ex: static (code-based reproducible) vs. point quick Iplot graphs. Check the website for next conference before thinking of registering. Note that it will take place in Germany 2008!

Yuwei Zhu via email:

Here are the courses I took, (1) Bootstrap methods and permutation tests, William also took it, it is a very good half day course, info could be downloaded at www.insightful.com/hesterberg; (2) Design and analysis of crossover experiments, you may get some info about different crossover designs (3) SUDAAN computer technology workshop, it introduced the new version updates, if you are a SUDAAN user, it is helpful and feel free to copy my handout.