



Biometrics by the Blowholes
IBS-AR conference
December 4-8, 2011
Kiama NSW
Australia

Satellite workshops (All rates are in Australian dollars)

Note: all telephone numbers are shown with the area code in parentheses (02) and the local 8-digit number. To call from overseas, see the general information link on the conference sidebar.

Two workshops have been organized pre-conference in Sydney and Wollongong respectively. Earlybird fees apply until Friday October 14, 2011 for both the conference and workshops. After that the fee reverts to the full fee. Late registrations close on Friday November 11, 2011.

Workshop 2 (Pre-conference)

[UPDATED Nov 6, 2011- PLEASE NOTE VENUE at University of Wollongong]

Title: A modern application of linear mixed models with case studies.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2011 (9:00am-5:00pm)

Place: Building 67, Room 203, University of Wollongong

Registration desk from 8:15am

See the Appendix (in this document) for a map of the McKinnon Building (67) and the University map (Entry near telephone on map)

<http://www.uow.edu.au/content/groups/public/@web/@unia/documents/doc/uow029186.pdf>

Presenter: Professor Brian Cullis (University of Wollongong and CSIRO)

Co-presenters: Dr David Butler (Queensland Department of Department of Employment, Economic Development and Innovation) and Dr Julian Taylor (University of Adelaide)

Transport: Own transport. We may transport delegates after the workshop 5.30pm to Kiama (Sebel Harbourside Hotel) for those staying in Kiama. We will contact all registrants after November 11, 2011 regarding transportation.

Maximum number of participants: 30 (Thirty)

Fees:	Earlybird	Full
IBS Member	☐ \$275	☐ \$325
Non-Member	☐ \$325	☐ \$375

Overview

Linear mixed effects models provide a rich and flexible tool for the analysis of many data-sets commonly arising in the agricultural, biological, medical and environmental sciences. Typical applications include the analysis of balanced and unbalanced longitudinal data, repeated measures, balanced and unbalanced designed experiments, multi-environment trials, multi-centre trials, multivariate datasets and regular or irregular spatial data.

Consistent with the themes of this conference we will present the analysis of three examples taken from plant genetics (2) and environmental applications. The analysis will be undertaken within the R platform of the ASReml software (known as ASReml-R) and will showcase new theoretical approaches as well as new features of the software which allow novel and complex modelling of the variance structure of composite terms in the linear mixed model. Equivalent scripts will be available for the standalone version of ASReml.

The workshop will commence with a basic presentation of the linear mixed model within the ASReml family. In particular, our focus will be on the development of a general syntax for specification of extended variance models for single and composite terms in the random component of the linear mixed model. Following this we will then present a detailed description of each of the motivating data-sets, and the aim(s) of the analyses.

- i. The first example will consider the analysis of partial composited data sets with applications to field trials and spatial environmental data-sets. The approach is presented in A.B. Smith *et al.* (2011). We will also illustrate the use of the R package OD (Optimal Design) for the design of partially composited field trials and multi-phase designs.
- ii. The second example will illustrate advanced QTL mapping approaches using the WGAIM package (<http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/wgaim/index.html>). This package uses sophisticated mixed modelling approaches for detecting QTLs. It is novel in the sense that it uses a whole genome interval mapping approach embedded within the linear mixed model, hence allowing for simultaneous modelling of non-genetic and polygenic variation in a one-stage analysis. It is also easily extended to handle multivariate and multi-environment data sets.
- iii. Thirdly, we will also consider the implementation of so-called fixed rank kriging (Cressie and Johannesson, JRRS(B) 2008) in ASReml-R. The ideas will be illustrated using a precision agriculture data set.

Additional theory relevant for the analysis of each example will also be presented as required. Each analysis will be undertaken using live demonstrations of the software but we will also offer the opportunity for hands-on analysis.

Format: A mixture of lecture-style presentations blended with hands-on tutorial sessions. Each tutorial session will be supervised by the presenters. This will allow participants to become familiar with the ASReml-R syntax, as well as the underlying theory.

References:

- ASReml-R user guide
- www.mmontap.org
- A.B. Smith, R. Thompson, D.G. Butler, and B.R. Cullis (2011) *The analysis of variety trials using mixtures of composite and individual plot samples*. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series C, 60:437–455.
- Cressie, N. and Johannesson, G. (2008). Fixed rank kriging for large spatial datasets. Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B, 70, 209-226.

Pre-requisites for workshop: This is a practical workshop and you are allowed to bring your own laptop. We suggest that people share for optimal benefit of the course (2 to a laptop) and also to minimise the number of power cords floating around the room.

You should download and install the following software before the course. Some assistance will be provided at the course should you encounter problems with installation.

- R Statistical System (latest available from <http://www.r-project.org>)
- ASReml-R and ASReml standalone available from <http://www.vsnr.co.uk> (temporary licenses will be provided)
- RStudio (available from <http://www.Rstudio.org>)

Course notes

Course notes will be provided, formatted for convenient additional annotation through the workshop sessions.

Last updated November 18, 2011. MF&BC-DB-JT&MD

Appendix 1: McKinnon Building 67

