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Næste nummer af "MEDDELELSER" udkommer 1. april 2006.

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Den 24. marts kl. 12.00.

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MEDDELELSER

Dansk Selskab for Teoretisk Statistik

Seminar i Anvendt Statistik

Mandag den 20. marts 2006, kl. 15.15

Øster Farimagsgade 5, opgang B, stuen

Jørgen Hilden

Biostatistisk Afdeling, Københavns Universitet

The clinical value of diagnostic tests
A well-explored but underdeveloped continent.

Another title might be: The diagnostic test and some neglected aspects of its statistical evaluation. Many people have explored a region close to their own base in clinical biochemistry, radiology, etc., while others have entered from the statistical side, or tried to draw a map as seen from vantage point of clinimetrics or medical decision science ("rationel klinik"). Each party sees the jungle of difficulties ahead and rarely catches a glimpse of the help that may be coming from the other side or the bewilderment that exists there.

A logical, quantitative framework for diagnostics is much harder to construct than for therapeutic trials. Trials concern what happens observably when this or that is done. Diagnostic data impact on the diagnostician's mind, hopefully reducing his uncertainty; only indirectly do they produce an observable outcome, and outcome comparisons can only be trusted if clinicians react optimally to diagnostic data. Trials concern 1st order quantities (mean effects); diagnostic evaluation concerns 2nd order ones (variance or uncertainty reduction). Trials collect responses; diagnostic research charts wiggles on multivariate distributions. Characteristically, it took 10 years for the Cochrane Collaboration to decide to embark on diagnostic test evaluations. Similarly, the standards for presentation of therapeutic trials (the CONSORT statement) preceded that for diagnostic studies (the STARD statement) by a decade.

Læs det fulde abstract indeni Bladet.

31. årgang nr. 2 Marts 2006

Selskabets bestyrelse:

Formand: Per Bruun Brockhoff IMM, DTU Building 321, room 032 Richard Petersens Plads, 2800 Lyngby	Tlf: 4525 3365 Fax: 4588 2673 e-mail: pbb@imm.dtu.dk fmd@dsts.dk
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Selskabets www-adresse: Http://www.dsts.dk

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Webmaster: web, webmaster, www
Meddelelser: medd, meddelelser, newsl, newsletter
Bestyrelsen: best, bestyr, bestyrelse, board

VIGTIGT! Send ikke materiale til redaktionen til Lundbeck!

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Biostatistisk Afdeling
Københavns Universitet

20. februar 2006

SEMINAR I ANVENDT STATISTIK

Seminarene afholdes kl. 15.15 på det gamle Kommunehospital, Øster Farimagsgade 5, opgang B, stuen. Der serveres te i Biostatistisk Afdelings bibliotek (opgang B, 2. sal) en halv time før.

Mandag d. 20. marts 2006, lokale 5.0.22

The clinical value of diagnostic tests - A well-explored but underdeveloped continent

Jørgen Hilden
Biostatistisk Afdeling, Københavns Universitet

Another title might be: The diagnostic test and some neglected aspects of its statistical evaluation. Many people have explored a region close to their own base in clinical biochemistry, radiology, etc., while others have entered from the statistical side, or tried to draw a map as seen from vantage point of clinimetrics or medical decision science ("rationel klinik"). Each party sees the jungle of difficulties ahead and rarely catches a glimpse of the help that may be coming from the other side or the bewilderment that exists there.

A logical, quantitative framework for diagnostics is much harder to construct than for therapeutic trials. Trials concern what happens observably when this or that is done. Diagnostic data impact on the diagnostician's mind, hopefully reducing his uncertainty; only indirectly do they produce an observable outcome, and outcome comparisons can only be trusted if clinicians react optimally to diagnostic data. Trials concern 1st order quantities (mean effects); diagnostic evaluation concerns 2nd order ones (variance or uncertainty reduction). Trials collect responses; diagnostic research charts wiggles on multivariate distributions. Characteristically, it took 10 years for the Cochrane Collaboration to decide to embark on diagnostic test evaluations. Similarly, the standards for presentation of therapeutic trials (the CONSORT statement) preceded that for diagnostic studies (the STARD statement) by a decade.

Trials have another edge. In the 1970s, when medical decision theory established itself, few first-rate statisticians took notice. The biostatistical world was occupied with other topics, notably Cox's innovative survival philosophy. The resulting preoccupation with prognosis, soon to be exploited in trial follow-up, led to a situation, if I read the barometer correctly, where sophisticated models became available for describing courses of disease conditionally on diagnostic data, whereas these themselves remained just 'a vector of covariates X.' Later other topics came to the fore, such as mixed models, again better suited for response description than for charting wiggles.

To make matters worse, a schism exists in the field of diagnostic test evaluation. Two schools or paradigms live their own lives as neighbours who hardly talk to each other: the ROCographists and the VOIographists, as I have named them after their favourite tools, the ROC graph and Value-Of-Information analysis.

In my talk I shall give example of the difficulties that serious models of diagnostic activities have to face, and of the misuse of popular statistics.

Per Kragh Andersen

Biostatistisk Afdeling
Københavns Universitet

16. februar 2006

SEMINAR I ANVENDT STATISTIK

Seminaret afholdes kl. 15.15 på det gamle Kommunehospital, Øster Farimagsgade 5, opgang B, stuen. Der serveres te i Biostatistisk Afdelings bibliotek (opgang B, 2. sal) en halv time før.

Mandag d. 3. april 2006. lokale 5.0.22

Direct and Indirect Effects with Graphical Models

Vanessa Didelez
Department of Statistical Science, University College London

The notions of direct and indirect effects are often used informally to describe phenomena where mediating variables play an important role. Examples can be found in many disciplines: sociology (e.g. indirect effect of gender on employment mediated by education), biometry (e.g. direct and indirect effects of vaccinations), ecology (direct and indirect effects of tourism on wildlife), public health (direct and indirect effects of cost-sharing in the use of preventive services), also the well known placebo effect can be regarded as an indirect effect of treatment on outcome.

In order to get a more formal grasp of direct/indirect effects, I will introduce some basic concepts of causal reasoning, including counterfactuals, Pearl's "do"-operator and (causal) graphical models. The formal definitions of direct/indirect effects as they have been given by Pearl (2001) and Robins (2003) and their collaborators will be reviewed and discussed.

As direct/indirect effects in classical statistics are mainly known in connection with linear structural equations and path analysis, where typically no interactions are assumed, particular attention will be paid to parametric model assumptions that allow interpreting individual parameters as direct/effect.

Finally, the identifiability of the direct/indirect effect will be addressed. By this I mean the possibility to estimate these effects consistently from observational data. Graphical models can help to make explicit the prior knowledge, and then to characterise a sufficient set of "confounders" that, if observed, will allow the identification of these direct/indirect causal effects.

Per Kragh Andersen

Kursus i Bayesian Data Analysis

Forskerskolen i Biostatistik og forskerskolen i Folkesundhedsvidenskab afholder et kursus i

Bayesian Data Analysis
mandag d. 29. maj - fredag d. 2. juni 2006
Kommunehospitalet, København (CSS)

Kurset har været annonceret i efteråret 2005, men har måttet udskydes p.g.a. force majeure.

Undervisningen forestås af senior lecurer Lyle Gurrin, School of Public Health, University of Melbourne, Australien. Lyle Gurrin forestår et lignende kursus som indgår i undervisningsprogrammet i Biostatistics Collaboration of Australia, se `http://www.bca.edu.au/`.

Kurset henvender sig til statistikere og kandidater i folkesundhedsvidenskab som ønsker en praktisk indføring i data-analyse baseret på Bayesiansk statistik. Der vil både være en teoretisk indføring i centrale begreber i Bayesiansk statistik, samt computer-øvelser hvor data analyseres og fortolkes. Programmerne R og WinBUGS vil blive anvendt.

Da det er et forskerskole-kursus, er det gratis for PhD-studerende i Biostatistik og Folkesundhedsvidenskab fra Danmark samt fra det medicinske fakultet i Lund, øvrige deltagere skal betale 5200 DKK.

Nærmere oplysninger om kurset, tilmelding mm. findes på kursets hjemmeside:

`www.biostat.ku.dk/~bxc/Bayes05`

PhD and Post Doc Course on Inference and Simulation for Spatial Point Processes, June 10, 2006

Scope of course

At the 21st Nordic Conference on Mathematical Statistics, June 11 - 15, 2006, there will be a special invited talk on *"Modern spatial point process modelling and inference"* by Professor Jesper Møller and Associate Professor Rasmus Waagepetersen, see http://www.dsts.dk/nordstat2006. Prior to the conference the speakers will give a one day PhD and post doc course on *"Inference and simulation for spatial point processes"*, with a view to biological applications. The course will be a mixture of short lectures, exercises and computer demos. It takes place on June 10, 2006, at the Department of Mathematical Sciences, Aalborg University, Denmark.

Topics

- History and examples of applications
- Moment formulas (Slivnyak-Mecke, Campbell, Georgii-Nguyen-Zessin)
- Densities and conditional intensities for spatial point processes
- Poisson process
- Gibbs and Markov point processes
- Cox and cluster point processes
- Residuals
- Summary statistics
- Estimating equations and pseudo likelihood
- Maximum likelihood estimation
- Bayesian inference
- Markov chain Monte Carlo

Schedule, Saturday, June 10

10.00 - 17.00	Detailed course programme: to be announced
17.00 - 18.30	Refreshments
18.30 - 19.00	Bus to city center
19.00 - 23.00	Dinner at a restaurant in Aalborg
23.00 - 23.30	Bus to Rebild (for participants of the 21st Nordic Conference on Mathematical Statistics)

About the lecturers

Jesper Møller and Rasmus P. Waagepetersen have collaborated for many years on central problems in spatial and computational statistics, where they have a particular interest in theoretical advances in simulation-based inference for spatial point processes and their applications. Their recent monograph is entitled "Statistical inference and simulation for spatial point processes" (Chapman & Hall/CRC). Current research interests of Jesper Møller also includes stochastic geometry and Markov chain Monte Carlo methods, particularly perfect simulation, while Rasmus P. Waagepetersen also is interested in generalized linear mixed models and models for variance heterogeneity in quantitative genetics.


Jesper Møller


Rasmus P. Waagepetersen

Registration

Go to http://www.dsts.dk/nordstat2006/registration.html to register for the course. The course fee, including refreshments, meals and transportation, is 600 DKK. Go to http://www.dsts.dk/nordstat2006 to register for the course. The course fee, including refreshments, meals and transportation, is 600 DKK.

Sixth Annual Meeting on Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS-6)

Location: Wroclaw, Poland

Date: 18-20 September, 2006

Website: www.enbis.org

Contact: jdemast@science.uva.nl (Jeroen de Mast)

After a sequence of successful meetings ENBIS's annual conferences have established themselves as an appreciated tradition. The conference aims to bring together statistical practitioners, academical statisticians, consultants, Six Sigma black belts, and other professionals who are Involved in business and industrial statistics. The conference offers opportunities to delegates to meet each other, to share ideas, best practices and scientific advances, and to be inspired by keynote speakers and workshops.

Highlights

- Keynote addresses by dr. Roger Hoerl and professor Age Smilde.
- Presentation of the Box Award to dr. Gerry Hahn, who will deliver the Box Lecture.
- Awards for Young Statistician and Best Manager.
- Workshops on diverse topics, given by experts, and offered at no or a modest fee.

Wroclaw is a beautifully restored city with an interesting history. See www.wroclaw.pl/ms/english

Biostatistician – International Clinical Research

We are looking for a statistician/biostatistician for a position in the Biostatistics Department. The department contributes to the entire drug development process from discovery to market across the range of therapeutic areas within psychiatry and neurology. The current staff includes 15 biostatisticians, 5 statistical programmers, 1 technical assistant and 1 secretary. We offer a challenging job with broad career opportunities in a dynamic and open working atmosphere.

Your job
Part of your responsibility will be to provide statistical input for designing and planning of clinical studies and to participate in statistical analysis and interpretation of clinical studies in all phases of development. You participate in preparing publications, which involves exploratory statistical analyses of a diverse range of clinical study data and, where appropriate, research in new statistical methodologies. Other challenges involve providing statistical input for Clinical Development Plans, statistical modelling and mathematical simulation based on non-clinical and clinical study data for optimising early drug development and introducing new study designs. You work in close collaboration with clinical researchers and other specialists, exerting your expertise in statistical methodology and keeping abreast of current practices of pharmaceutical R&D.

Your qualifications
Our preferred candidate

- holds an MSc or PhD degree in Statistics or Mathematical Sciences
- has programming experience and familiarity with statistical software
- has a strong interest in applying statistical methods to biological problems; work experience from the pharmaceutical industry or consulting experience from an industrial or academic setting is highly desirable
- is fluent in oral and written English
- is goal-oriented, systematic, and flexible, work well under pressure, and possesses the ability to listen and be proactive
- is a team player and able to interact smoothly with colleagues and collaborators from different functional areas and/or companies
- has a good sense of humour.

Further information
Please contact Ingrid Sofie Harbo, Head of Department, by phone: +45 3643 2004 or Anna Karina Trap Huusom, Head of Section, by phone: +45 3643 2303. However, you are also welcome to visit www.lundbeck.com.

Your application
We prefer to receive your application electronically on jobs@lundbeck.com (written in Danish or in English). You are, however, also welcome to send it to HR Denmark, H. Lundbeck A/S, Ottiliavej 9, DK-2500 Valby, Copenhagen. Please mark your application "Statistician/318". Applications must be received no later than 6 March 2006. **Please state in your application where you have seen this advertisement.**

Bioinformatics Research Center
University of Aarhus

SEMINARS - SPRING 2006

Seminars are held on Wednesdays 14:15 – 15:00 at BiRC, Colloqvium 02, 2nd floor; unless otherwise stated. BiRC is situated in Hoegh-Guldbergs Gade 10 • Building 1090, the red brick building near the Steno Museum.

Abstracts will be available at http://www.birc.au.dk/Activities/BiRCSeminar

Programme:

22 February
OLE NØRREGAARD JENSEN
Faculty of Science and Engineering • University of Southern Denmark
Interpreting the protein language by proteomics: From individual proteins to signaling networks

22 March
ANDERS BØRGLUM
Institute of Human Genetics • University of Aarhus
Mapping disease genes

26 April
ULF LAGERCRANTZ
Evolutionary Biology Centre • Uppsala University
Gene expression variation in natural populations of Arabidopsis

17 May
YVES VAN DE PEER
Department of Plant Systems Biology • Ghent University
Title to be announced

DSBS kursus i Clinical Trial Simulation

DSBS har været så heldige, at kunne lokke Ulrika Simonsson fra University of Uppsala (Sverige) til Danmark for at dette kursus også kan blive holdt i Danmark. Det har tidligere været holdt i Sverige.

Clinical Trial Simulation – se beskrivelsen nedenfor.

Kurset vil finde sted: **27- 28 marts 2006**

I Mødelokalerne – Hotel Marina A/S, Vedbæk Strandvej 391, 2950 Vedbæk (se www.choicehotels.dk/)

Pris: 4.000,- for medlemmer
Det dækker undervisning, materialer, forplejning om dagen, uden overnatning

Pris: 5.000,- for ikke-medlemmer

Deltagerbegrænsning: 25

Tilmelding til: Judith L. Jacobsen (e-mail: jlj@statcon.dk, tlf: 40 68 28 08)

Tilmeldingsfrist: 10 marts 2006

Faktura vil blive tilsendt efter tilmelding, ligesom man også vil modtage en bekræftelse og nærmere information.

Med venlige hilsner,
DSBS-bestyrelse

Clinical Trial Simulation

27 – 28 Marts 2006

Presenters: Ulrika Simonsson and Judith L. Jacobsen

Ulrika Simonsson, PhD. is Associate Professor at Div of Pharmacokinetics and Drug Therapy, Dept of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Uppsala University, Sweden. Judith L. Jacobsen, PhD. is a senior statistical consultant at Statcon ApS.

In the whitepaper "Innovation or Stagnation: Crisis on the Critical Path to New Medical Products" FDA have presented their concern, that *"Despite broad progress in the scientific and technical areas of the drug development process, the development of novel candidate molecular entities into safe and effective new drugs remains a laborious, inefficient, time-consuming and expensive process that has not changed appreciably in decades. To the extent that systemic inadequacies in the drug development process result in excessive risks, costs, and prolongation of safety and efficacy evaluation, society as a whole is adversely affected."* To improve that situation, *"Model-based Drug Development"* is suggested.
Model-based drug development uses drug and disease models to aggregate and integrate knowledge, over time, for the drug effect(s), disease progression, dose response, relevant covariates and efficacy/safety/toxicity. This model-based approach becomes the basis of clinical trial simulation and leads to improved decision-making in clinical drug development. Clinical trial simulation (CTS), utilizes the computer to simulate virtual patients in the clinical research context, has been applied to better understand possible trial outcomes to optimize clinical study design and clinical planning. This course presents a general framework for Clinical trial Simulation, concerning the planning, conduct and reporting of simulated trials. The course will cover topics like how modeling and simulation can contribute to drug development, simulation in Drug development, good practice and regulatory viewpoints, simulation strategies, planning a CTS project, interpretation of simulation results, different software used in CTS and practical hands-on exercises.

In addition to lectures, there will be discussions based on examples of simulated trials.

During the last session of the course, there will be an opportunity for participants to share their experiences of planning and conducting Clinical trial Simulation and discuss issues that have arisen. Also the issue of the interdisciplinary collaborations needed, when conducting a simulated trial will be discussed with the participants.

Program

- The modeling and simulation (M&S) process (Incl. The role of the pharmacometrician)
- PKPD modeling and simulation in the different development Phases
- Planning a Clinical Trial Simulation (CTS) project, Design issues and Analysis Plan
- Model development and discussion of different types of models (Nonlinear mixed effects, standard two stage modeling, empirical and mechanistic models).
- Building and validating a simulation model
- Interpretation of simulation results
- Different software (including Splus scripting)
- Regulatory perspectives of CTS
- Simulation in Drug development – good practice
- Example and exercises

The Swedish Association of Medical Statistics (FMS) and the Danish Society for Biopharmaceutical Statistics (DSBS):

Statistical Issues in Drug Development
2nd joint workshop
26 April 2006, 9:00 – 17:00

Venue: Hotel Hilton at Copenhagen Airport

Price: DKK 600 / 750 SEK

Key note speaker:
Longitudinal analysis and missing values, Professor Peter Diggle, Lancaster University

Contributed Papers **(as accepted by 20 February)**

- Risk Factors in chronic kidney disease, Bellocco et al, Karolinska Institutet
- Multiplicity Issues, Strodl Andersen, Alk Abelló
- Dealing with censored data in linear and non-linear models, Rønn and Clausen, Novo Nordisk
- Statistical validation of scales for measuring health related quality of life, Andersen, Rootzén, Lophaven, Tech. University of Denmark and Coloplast
- Estimating vaccine efficacy from small outbreaks, Britton, Stockholm University
- Optimal designs which are efficient for lack of fit tests, Miller, AstraZeneca

Conference language: English

Registration for Danish participants:
Please send mail to kjol@rix.dk, 61 61 80 11, indicating the workshop, your name(s), affiliation and contact details. Subsequently, you will receive invoice, confirmation and possibly additional information.

Programme committee:
Marianne Mæhle-Schmidt (marianne.maehle-schmidt@statisticon.se)
Klaus Juel Olsen (kjol@rix.dk)

Kalender 2006

(arrangementer annonceret i MEDDELELSER)

Dato	M nr.	Emnet
20/3	2/06	Seminar: Biostatistisk Afd.: Jørgen Hilden, "The clinical value of diagnostic tests - A well-explored but underdeveloped continent".
22/3	2/06	BiRC seminar: Anders Børglum, Institute of Human Genetics, University of Aarhus, "Mapping disease genes".
28-29/3	1/06	Course: Clinical Trial Simulation, Vedbæk, Danmark.
3/4	2/06	Seminar: Biostatistisk Afd.: Vanessa Didelez, Dept. of Statistical Science, University College London: " Direct and Indirect Effects with Graphical Models"
26/4	2/06	Statistical Issues in Drug Development, 2nd joint workshop.
29/5 - 2/6	2/06	Kursus: Bayesian Data Analysis. Kommunehospitalet, København (CSS)
10/6	2/06	PhD and Post Doc course on Inference and Simulation for Spatial Point Proceses. Dept. Of Mathematical Sciences, Aalborg University, Denmark.
11-15/6	1/06	Nordstat 2006 conference: Rebild, Danmark.
18-20/9	2/06	Sixth Annual Meeting on Business and Industrial Statistics (ENBIS-6), Wroclaw, Poland.

For kurser og seminarer, i Lund, se: http://www.maths.lth.se/matstat/seminar/
BiRC seminars, se: http://www.birc.au.dk/Aktivities/BiRCSeminar

Deadlines i år 2006

Frist for indlevering af bidrag:	MDR udkommer
24. marts	1. april
21. april	1. maj

NYT om Navne

Thomas Hansen er pr. 1. januar 2006 blevet ansat i Biostatistisk Afdeling, H. Lundbeck A/S. Thomas Hansen kommer fra Statens Institut for Folkesundhed.

HUSK
Adresse ændringer skal IKKE længeres meddeles via medlinfo pr. E-mail. Man går nu selv ind under http://www.dsts.dk/da/ eller http://www.dsts.dk/en/