

mODa Charter

Preamble

mODa is a series of workshops focused on non-standard design of experiments and related analysis of data. The acronym stands for *Model-Oriented Data Analysis and Optimum Design*. The last update of the charter was made by the mODa board at the workshop in Hamminkeln-Dingden and per email afterwards. The charter reflects the present consensus about the mODa style and spirit.

mODa's Purposes

- To promote advanced new research areas and collaboration between academia and industry.
- Whenever possible to provide financial support for research in the area of experimental design and related topics.
- To give junior researchers the opportunity of establishing personal contacts and working together with leading researchers.
- To bring together scientists from different statistical schools - particular emphasis is given to the inclusion of scientists from Central and Eastern Europe.

The Basic Structure

The meetings are strictly of workshop character:

- The number of participants is intended to be around 70, so that everyone gets to know everyone else and to encourage direct personal and scientific contacts.
- The meeting lasts for one week.
- The board defines a number of key themes in advance and suggests inviting participants accordingly.
- Participation is by invitation of the board:
 - Always includes all honorary lifetime invitees (see list below).
 - Preferred invitation of participants in one of the two preceding workshops to ensure continuity.
 - Invitees may suggest collaborators or students in the event that they themselves are unable to attend.
 - The local organisers are encouraged to nominate a few (not more than 10) participants from their geographic area.
 - Special emphasis should be given to having around 20% of new participants.
 - To assure innovation and rejuvenation, at least 20 participants should be junior scientists.
- There are no parallel sessions.
- All presentations are the same length (app. 20-30 min.).
- Poster sessions are encouraged and every participant has the right to present a poster (no reviewing).
- Long breaks for discussion are included.
- Meetings should take place every third year, to ensure that material of high quality is available to be presented.

Publications

The proceedings are to be online before the date of the meeting, to allow detailed and intelligent discussion.

- The main editor is the local organiser of the meeting. It is desirable that one editor be a fluent English speaker.
- All submissions are peer reviewed by at least two referees including at least one board member. The editors have the final decision about the acceptance of papers
- The organising committee has the final decision about the presentation of the paper as a lecture at the workshop. It should ensure that authors of accepted papers present related work there orally or as a poster.

The Board

is in charge of scientific matters, and decides the location, organiser and the major topics of the next but one workshop in a full meeting at the present workshop. Its members are also responsible for refereeing the submitted papers. The mODa board is formed by:

- Board members who were present at at least one of the two last workshops,
- the organiser of the next but one workshop,
- additional persons nominated by the board, who are present at the current workshop.

Currently these are:

- B. Bogacka, Queen Mary, University of London
- V.V. Fedorov, ICONplc, Philadelphia
- A. Giovagnoli, University of Bologna
- R. Harman, Comenius University Bratislava
- J. Kunert, TU Dortmund, University
- J. López-Fidalgo, University of Castilla-La Mancha
- Ch. Müller, TU Dortmund, University
- W.G. Müller, Johannes Kepler University Linz
- L. Pronzato, Université Côte d'Azur, CNRS
- D. Ucinski, University of Zielona Gora
- D. Woods, University of Southampton
- H.P. Wynn, London School of Economics
- A.A. Zhigljavsky, University of Cardiff

The board may also nominate a list of lifetime invitees to honour their achievements for the mODa idea. This list currently includes:

- A.C. Atkinson, London School of Economics
- A. Pázman, Comenius University Bratislava
- Ben Torsney, University of Glasgow

The Organising Committee

is in charge of organisational matters, and decides the programme of the workshop. Its special duty is to ensure continuing support by the funding bodies. The mODa organising committee is formed by:

- the local organisers of the last, upcoming and next but one meeting,
- two further board members elected by the board,

and headed by the local organiser. Currently its members are:

- R. Harman, Comenius University Bratislava
- V. Wítkovský, Slovak Academy of Sciences
- J. Kunert, TU Dortmund, University
- Ch. Müller, TU Dortmund, University
- D. Woods, University of Southampton

History

This series of meetings was started at Eisenach, former GDR, in 1987, in a mediaeval castle with links to Luther and Wagner. There was a good mix of junior and senior scientists and of participants from Western and Eastern European countries. All meetings have been held in relatively isolated locations: St. Kyrik (Bulgaria), Peterhof (Russia), Spetses (Greece), Luminy (France), Puchberg/Schneeberg (Austria), Heeze (The Netherlands), Almagro (Spain), Bertinoro (Italy), Lagow-Lubuski (Poland) and, most recently, Hamminkeln-Dingden (Germany). mODa has now come of age and the board hopes that traditions of collaboration and friendship going back for more than twenty years can be passed onto new generations of statisticians and act as a springboard for future joint research activities.