Statistical Modelling: An International Journal

Instructions for Authors

Aims of the journal

The primary aim of the journal is to publish original and high-quality articles that recognize statistical modelling as the general framework for the application of statistical ideas. Submissions must reflect important developments, extensions, and applications in statistical modelling. The journal also encourages submissions that describe scientifically interesting, complex or novel statistical modelling aspects from a wide diversity of disciplines, and submissions that embrace the diversity of applied statistical modelling.

An important objective and exciting feature of the journal is that the reader should be able to reproduce the results presented in published articles, apply the published techniques to their own problems, and even develop their own extensions of the methodology. To achieve this authors are strongly encouraged to make data and software available over the internet through a website linked to the journal: `http://www.statmod.org/smij/`. Authors are encouraged to make available supplemental material related to their published manuscript on this site as well.

The journal aims to be the major resource for statistical modelling, covering both methodology and practice. Its goal is to be multidisciplinary in nature, promoting the cross-fertilization of ideas between substantive research areas, as well as providing a common forum for the comparison, unification and nurturing of modelling issues across different subjects.

The journal has three main themes:

- **New Modelling Concepts and Approaches** for papers on new statistical modelling ideas. These papers will be based upon a problem of real substantive interest with appropriate data. Papers that merely propose and study the properties of new methodology based on a standard or well-known model are not appropriate for publication in the journal.

- **Practical Applications** for papers on interesting practical problems that are addressed using an existing or a novel adaptation of an existing modelling technique.

- **Tutorials & Reviews** with papers on recent and cutting edge topics in statistical modelling.

A Note on "Practical Application" Papers

Since "Practical Applications" manuscripts are less common in statistics journals than the other two types, it is worth being more specific concerning the types of manuscripts that fall into this category. Manuscripts should describe statistical analyses of a subject area, where the proposed analyses have rarely (if ever) been done in the application field. This is not, however, sufficient for acceptance for publication. Manuscripts should also provide a thorough literature review of how data of this type are currently handled in the literature of the application area, a review of any applications of modern statistical methodology applied to data of its type in the area, and justification as to why the work is important to the subject area, and provides gains beyond current methodology applied to the field. The methodology used should be modern and reasonably sophisticated (although not necessarily innovative) and should have few or no applications so far in the subject area literature.

The intention in publishing such manuscripts is to provide an opportunity for readers (including those from the application area) to see the potential to revolutionize data analysis in the field. It is also hoped that such publication would provide an outlet for statisticians who may get little recognition in the statistics field for excellent, non-routine, clever, state-of-the-art work in subject areas.

Authors who wish to submit a paper falling into the "Practical Applications" category are further requested to provide several suggestions for possible reviewers who are in the application area when submitting the manuscript.

Type of peer review system

Statistical Modelling operates a conventional single-blind reviewing policy in which the reviewers' and the Associate Editor's names are always concealed from the submitting author. All manuscripts are reviewed initially by the Editors. Only those papers that meet the editorial standards of the journal, and fit within the aims and scope of the journal, are sent for outside review by at least two referees.

Manuscripts

All material submitted for publication is assumed to be exclusively for *Statistical Modelling*, and not to be currently submitted for publication elsewhere. All authors must assign copyright to Sage (http://www.sagepub.com) upon acceptance (by completing the copyright assignment form).

All submissions must be made by one of the authors of the manuscript. No submissions will be accepted from agents of professional organizations or publishers.

Priority and time of publication are decided by the editors, who maintain the customary right to edit material accepted for publication if necessary.

Submission of manuscripts must be in electronic form only. Initial submission of the paper should be as a single, all-inclusive document in `PDF` format (that is, including all figures and tables embedded in the main text body). LaTeX with the `smj` class is the required package for document preparation; submissions using any other word processing or typesetting package, or not using the `smj` class, will **not** be accepted. The `smj` class file (`smj.cls`) and bibliography style file (`smj.bst`) together with a LaTeX template of the manuscript (`smj-template.tex`) and a bibTeX example file (`smj-template.bib`) is available for download from

http://www.statmod.org/smij/smj.zip

Using proper LaTeX commands (see preamble of `smj-template.tex`), authors are requested to include the following information on the title page of their manuscript:

- first names, surnames and (as appropriate) initials of the middle names of all authors;
- current affiliations of all authors;
- identification of the corresponding author (this is not necessarily the first author), his/her full postal address, e-mail address, phone and fax numbers (including the country code);
- title and a short title (to be used as a running header) of the paper;
- abstract;
- keywords.

All correspondence regarding the manuscript will be conducted with the indicated corresponding author, who also receives the proofs and offprints of the paper if it is accepted for publication.

An abstract of up to 200 words should be included together with 5 or 6 keywords in alphabetical order to describe the content of the paper. Authors should take great care in preparing the abstract and not simply lift it from the main text. The abstract should describe the background and contribution of the manuscript and give a clear verbal description of the results and examples, and avoid citations whenever possible.

Papers should not normally exceed about 35 pages of a format provided by the `smj` LaTeX class including all figures, tables and references. Authors should consider separating material for online supplemental presentation on the journal's web site, particularly if the paper is long.

Any acknowledgements should be included as an unnumbered section at the end of the text before the list of references.

Files under five megabytes can be sent by email to an editor as an attachment. Larger files can be submitted by placing them on an `FTP` or `HTTP` site and directing an editor to them.

Upon acceptance of the paper, authors should send the following files:

- one LaTeX file of the article (without figures);
- all figures in either (Encapculated) Postscript or `PDF` format;
- one `PDF` file of the full version of the paper;
- an `ASCII` file of any data used in the paper and any novel software routines (see below).

There is no fee for submission of a paper to the journal. There are no acceptance fees or page charges for papers that have been accepted for publication unless an Open Access option is chosen by authors.

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Authors interested in making their accepted article freely available online can use the *SAGE Choice* option. Details can be found at `http://www.sagepub.com/oa/choice.cp`. Authors who wish to pursue this option should advise one of the editors, as well as the journal editor at SAGE upon acceptance of the paper.

Style

General

Abbreviations should be spelled out when first used in the text. Full stops should be used in lower case abbreviations (e.g., i.e.) but not for capitals (SAS, ANOVA). Spelling is to follow the Oxford Dictionary.

Mathematical

All vectors and matrices should be shown in bold type ($\mathbf{x}$, $\boldsymbol{\Sigma}$).

Avoid confusion between ambiguous characters and take care to ensure that subscripts and superscripts are clear.

Numbers below 10 should be written out in the text unless used in conjunction with units (e.g. three apples, 4 kg).

Full points (not commas) should be used for decimals. For numbers less than one, a nought should be inserted before the decimal point. Use spaces (not commas) within numbers (e.g. 10 000, 0.125 275).

Only those displayed equations that are referred to at least once in the text and obtained by LaTeX environments like

```
\begin{equation}\end{equation}
```

should be numbered.

Headings and subheadings

Sectioning of the text should be achieved by the LaTeX commands `\section`, `\subsection`, `\subsubsection`. The section, subsection and subsubsection titles should be written in a sentence style:

1 First level heading

1.1 Second level heading

1.1.1 Third level heading

The use of more than three levels of heading should be avoided.

Tables and illustrations

These should have self-explanatory legends and captions. After acceptance of a manuscript, the authors will be required to submit (Encapsulated) Postscript or `PDF` versions of all figures.

Footnotes

Footnotes are strongly discouraged. Authors should make every effort to make such material part of the running text.

Data and software

It is expected that any data used will be made available upon acceptance of the manuscript, either as an included table for small datasets or as `ASCII` files for larger datasets. These data will be made available on a linked website upon publication of the paper. If there are confidentiality problems, authors should contact an Editor to work out a solution, which could be the inclusion of an example based on a similar (but artificially simulated) dataset.

Brief information on the software used for any analyses should be included in the paper. Any novel software used in the paper (language source code or macros/routines for standard packages) should also be made available, together with driver programs that allow the reader to reproduce the results given in the paper. For published papers this code will also be put on the linked website.

References

The Harvard style should be used for references, with citations in the text giving authors' names and dates of publication, using Kneib (2013) for a direct reference and (Kneib, 2013) for an indirect reference. "et al." should be used in citing references where there are more than two authors, so (Komárek and Lesaffre, 2006), but (Gómez et al., 2009) if there are three or more authors. The references are then listed in full at the end of the article in alphabetical order.

Journal article (one author):
Kneib, T. (2013). Beyond mean regression. *Statistical Modelling*, **13**, 275–303.

Journal article (two authors):
Komárek, A. and Lesaffre, E. (2006). Bayesian semi-parametric accelerated failure time model for paired doubly-interval-censored data. *Statistical Modelling*, **6**, 3–22.

Journal article (three or four authors):
Li, L., Simonoff, J. S., and Tsai, C.-L. (2007). Tobit model estimation and sliced inverse regression. *Statistical Modelling*, **7**, 107–123.

Gómez, G., Luz Calle, M., Oller, R., and Langohr, K. (2009). Tutorial on methods for interval-censored data and their implementation in R. *Statistical Modelling*, **9**, 259–297.

Journal article (more than four authors):
Waldmann, E., Kneib, T., Yue, Y. R., Lang, S., and Flexeder, C. (2013). Bayesian semiparametric additive quantile regression. *Statistical Modelling*, **13**, 223–252.

Journal titles should be stated in full. List surnames and initials of all authors.

Book:
Fahrmeir, L., Kneib, T., Lang, S. and Marx, B. (2013) *Regression: Models, Methods and Applications*. New York: Springer-Verlag.

Chapter in book:
Lesaffre, E., Komárek, A., and Jara A. (2009) The Bayesian approach. In Lesaffre, E., Feine, J., Leroux, B., and Declerck, D., eds. *Statistical and Methodological Aspects of Oral Health Research*, pages 315–338. John Wiley and Sons, Chichester.

Capabilities of the LaTeX `natbib` package can be used to include references in a proper way. The `natbib` package is automatically loaded with the `smj` class. It is also possible to use bibTeX to produce the list of references. When doing that do not include any `\bibliographystyle` command in your manuscript. A proper `smj` bibliography style is chosen automatically by the `smj` class.

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Final paper and complimentary copies of journal

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Other submissions should be sent to **either**

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