

# 2022-02-04 Minutes

**Attendees:** Ashish, Stefano, Alberto, Francesca, Didier

## - Updates from members

Ashish: Work on astrobiostatistics (planetary protection: determining organisms harmful for spaceflight), and on ZTF (classifications of DataRelease scales).

Stefano: Italian recovery plan foresees funding for (astro)informatics, and will possibly be led by INFN and/or INAF and there is an astro-informatic-statistics work package. On a personal level, I bet a pausa on pandemia and scheduled courses in Geneva, Munich and Milan this end-spring early-summer.

Alberto: Continuous research formation of 4-5 new students per quarter in informatics / computer sciences / software engineering in information retrieval and signal processing methodologies applied to astronomical problems (mostly gravitational lensing and open stellar clusters, but also some work black hole imaging). All of them so far leave to industry, however this is slowly forming a network of computer-related professionals in California with interest in astronomical problems. UC Irvine is internally funding a study called Software Analysis for Hardware Acceleration with Reconfigurable Architectures to automatically flag parts of code that can be implemented in FPGAs, and the two use-cases considered during the test phase are dedicated to Astronomy and Astrophysics problems (Gyoto and GIZMO).

Didier: I am creating a Research Topic for the Astrostatistics section of Frontiers in Astronomy and Space Sciences about Deep Learning (basically the topic of IAU S368 in Busan 2022). On my personal side, we are pushing the unsupervised classification of galaxy spectra to higher redshift with the VIPERS data.

Francesca: I propose to circulate a Newsletter periodically including relevant issues (Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops) by email to the community (see Actions below).

## - Seminar series (Stefano)

Things are going well. The attendance is good (up to ~150). The recordings are useful. There are >500 registered people on the mailing list as of today.

## - Picture etc. details for the website

It should not be the first thing we request from the community. We can put a call in the newsletter. It is needed for involving the community and because the current one is not related to the groups aims.

## **- Preps for the GA**

There are still many uncertainties about the pandemic situation and on the number of attendees allowed in-person. But things are opening up.

## **- Action items from earlier meeting(s)**

- Webpage: the item “Resources” can still be completed.
- Webpage: a new image still needs to be finalised. Message to all B3 members?

## **- Other items from members**

The ISI (International Statistical Institute) is seeking invited paper proposals for the World Statistics Congress to be held in Ottawa, Canada from July 16 to July 20, 2023. Considering that the institute has a special interest group on astrostatistics, proposals from astrostatistics communities would be appreciated. The submission site will be open in March 2022.

<https://www.isi2023.org/invited-paper-session-proposals/>

Prepare a “state” paper as a group? List gaps? Niche areas?

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## **Action items**

- Contact members (through IAU secretariat) to write mini-reviews on astrostatistics/astroinformatics for a given topic (i.e. exoplanets). Do that every few months.
- Launch a newsletter in which (among others) we ask for a nice picture for the website (Francesca). Do not duplicate from other newsletters except for the most pertinent issues. Instead, provide direct links to them. Members provide Francesca with content, and send the document to the IAU secretariat for forwarding to the members.

Example of an INDEX::

- \* Announcements from the Commission
- \* AHEAD2020 Announcement of Opportunity Cycle 3
- \* Registration for XXXI IAU General Assembly Now Open
- \* Upcoming Conferences, Meetings, Workshops
- \* In memoriam