

The impact of the new Astrostatistics on the Development and Future of Statistics

Joseph M Hilbe

Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ hilbe@asu.edu

Astrostatistics has undergone a revolution in the last five years. From a few conferences sponsored by a handful of universities and collaborations, and no working groups or committees sponsored by an astronomical or statistical organization, the members of the discipline can now join the International Astrostatistics Association (IAA), a professional association of astrostatisticians originating from the ISI astrostatistics committee and Network, or the Astrostatistics working group of either the American Astronomical Society (AAS) or International Astronomical Union (IAU). Members of the astrostatistical community may belong to the Astrostatistics and Astroinformatics Portal (ASAIP), sponsored by Pennsylvania State University. With nearly 400 members, the ASAIP and IAA are composed of members of the statistics, astrophysics, and computational science communities, all working together to develop better analytic tools and functions to understand the Universe. This paper describes the genesis of the new discipline of astrostatistics, and its future impact on the astronomical sciences.

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