

First Announcement: Seventh International Verification Methods Workshop (7IVMW)

Theme: “Forecast verification methods across time and space scales”

The Seventh International Verification Methods Workshop (7IVMW) is being organized by the WMO Joint Working Group on Forecast Verification Research (JWGFVR) and will be held in Berlin from May 3-11, 2017. The goal of the workshop is to discuss and promote all aspects of verification methodology research and practice, as applied to weather forecasts and warnings, climate predictions, and their applications. Special sessions are planned on verification methods for sub-seasonal and longer range forecasts. Participants are welcome from operational, research and forecast user communities.

The workshop will be in two parts: a tutorial session from May 3 - 6 and a science conference from May 8 - 11. Registration for the science conference is separate from the tutorial registration; tutorial participants are encouraged to stay for the conference.

The tutorial will include lectures and hands-on laboratory sessions which will focus on both the data handling aspects and the interpretation of verification results. Topics will include basics of verification, verification of continuous variables, verification of categorical variables, probability and ensemble forecast verification, assessing confidence in verification results, spatial verification methods, and warning verification. Software packages that are most useful for verification will also be presented and some hands-on exercises will be included with the lectures. Participants will have the opportunity to bring their own datasets for analysis during the tutorial. No registration fee will be charged for the tutorial; limited financial assistance from WMO will be available to support travel for selected participants from developing countries.

The science conference will include keynote talks along with contributed presentations and posters. Abstracts are solicited on all aspects of verification methodology. Note that the focus of abstracts and presentations should be on the methodology rather than application of the methods to specific datasets. Subjects of interest include but are not limited to: verification of high impact weather and extremes, properties of verification methods, use of alternative observations, observation uncertainty, verification methods for data sparse areas (e.g. polar regions), user-oriented verification and estimation of forecast value, methods for verification of probability and ensemble forecasts, spatial verification methods, and verification approaches, software and measures used to evaluate operational predictions, including verification methods used to justify upgrades to operational models. In keeping with the main theme, papers focused on the adaptation of established methods to different space and time scales, for example subseasonal to seasonal and longer-term forecasts and projections, are particularly welcome.

The science conference will also feature the results of the “Forecast Verification Challenge” for development of a user-oriented verification method, including a keynote presentation by the winning entrant. By way of reminder, the deadline for entries is October 31, 2016. Further information on the verification challenge is available at:

<https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/arep/wwrp/new/FcstVerChallenge.html>

Further details on 7 IVMW will be forthcoming in the following weeks, via a website which is being developed. Applications to the tutorial and abstract submission will be via internet.