

Feedback for EPSRC Funding

Kody Law & Wei Yang (Statistics). Topics in Control
30 November 2011 - 2 December 2011, Mathematic Research Centre,
University of Warwick.

The workshop was very successful. 43 people registered to attend this workshop with 6 contribution posters. 18 invited speakers gave quite enlightening talks. There were always engaging conversations during the breaks and meals from the active participants and everyone was thankful for an enjoyable experience.

We gave presentation on our current research projects and discussed with the expertise in this area. The valuable comments have improved our results. Moreover, from the invited talks and discussion with participants, we have now a better understanding in the optimal control problem and also have developed new research proposals.

By organising this workshop, we have improved my communications skills, personal effectiveness and networking in my current role and established ourselves as independent researchers. Also, this workshop has promoted our collaborations with other researchers.

We learned a lot about Topics in Control from the talks at the workshop. These include such topics as data assimilation, mean-field games, Levy processes and fractional Brownian motion, stochastic maximum principle, and much more. Furthermore, we learned valuable lessons about workshop organization. One such lesson is to proceed in the order: funding, venue, speakers, etc. (we booked speakers before funding and then found the venue was an issue). Furthermore, we now know it is non-trivial to hold workshops within the Zeeman building during term. Also, we learned that one should account for the case of having too much food catered.

If we have another, we would like to give a longer notice to invited speakers such that we could have more key researchers to attend our workshop. We will also arrange the timing/venue first, and then the rest of the arrangements. Ideally, if it is at the University, we would prefer to hold it within the Maths department.

One obvious impact is that we made other international researchers aware of the excellent facilities here at the University. Vassili Kolokoltsov and Astrid Hilbert, for example, decided to apply to host a summer school here on related topics. Personally, I have been in touch with several of the speakers regarding topics discussed at the workshop, and some of these discussions may very well lead to research publications. Similar situations have transpired for Wei and other participants.