



## ———— MVSTAT-L Mailing List ————

### **A Discussion Forum For Educators of Multivariate Statistics**

MVSTAT-L is designed to be a forum for ideas, suggestions and questions among educators from all disciplines interested in teaching multivariate statistics. Multivariate statistical analyses have become a required quantitative analytical tool in almost every academic discipline, resulting in a wide range of specific techniques, analytical approaches and educational materials being developed across these disciplines. MVSTAT-L hopefully is one means of bridging these differences to develop a "common ground" among educators. Those experienced in teaching multivariate statistics now have a forum for sharing their experience, while at the same time being exposed to the fresh ideas and new topics being raised by those entering this area.

### **Joining and Participating in MVSTAT-L**

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## Policies and Procedures

MVSTAT-L is a moderated mailing list, meaning that the list administrator "screens" each message before it is distributed to all of the members. The list administrator's role is only to prevent inappropriate messages (e.g., spamming attempts) from reaching the list members/subscribers. The list administrator will not edit in any way the submitted messages and will not attempt to influence the discussion, except in instances of extreme flaming where a "truce" would benefit all members/subscribers.

MVSTAT-L is served by LSU and is subject to their Acceptable Use Policies.

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## Where to Send Messages versus Administrative Requests

Using MVSTAT-L is as easy as sending and reading e-mail, but it does require that you remember to separate your **messages** to the mailing list from the **requests** to the list administrator.

**Messages** are e-mails that are distributed to all members/subscribers of MVSTAT-L. The messages are just like a regular e-mail, and you are strongly encouraged to always provide a descriptive title. Almost anything sent to the MVSTAT-L address will be automatically distributed to all members/subscribers -- so *"think before your send."* Be especially careful when writing a private reply to a message from MVSTAT-L, because you may find that your mail program has automatically inserted the MVSTAT-L address as the "To" address. All messages intended to be sent to the MVSTAT-L members/subscribers are sent to the following address:

[MVSTAT-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:MVSTAT-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU)

**Requests** are used to join MVSTAT-L, stop your subscription or change subscription features (such as how you receive messages, temporarily stopping mail while on vacation, etc.). It is important to remember that anytime you want to make a request, you send it to the list administrator at the address below. All requests are sent in the body of the e-mail message and the subject field can even be left blank. But if you send your request to the

address above by mistake, the list thinks it is a message instead. Everyone in **MVSTAT-L** will see it and it will not be automatically processed (or possibly not even processed at all if the administrator does not read that particular message). Therefore, be sure to send all **requests** to the following address:

[LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU)

The current list administrator is Dr. William C. Black ([wblack@lsu.edu](mailto:wblack@lsu.edu)), professor of marketing at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. MVSTAT-L is hosted by the Computing Services Group at LSU.

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## Joining or Leaving MVSTAT-L

Before you can receive any messages from MVSTAT-L, you must become a member/subscriber by sending a request to the list administrator. As described above, the message must be sent to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU). In the body of the message, only put the following line of text:

```
SUBSCRIBE MVSTAT-L first-name last-name
```

You will receive a confirmation notice of your subscription as well as a short description of the relevant commands that can be used in requests. Be sure to keep this notice, as it also documents how to remove your name from MVSTAT-L once you choose to no longer receive messages.

To remove your name from MVSTAT-L, send your request to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU), with the following command as the only line of text:

```
SIGNOFF MVSTAT-L
```

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## **Sending a Message**

Sending a message to MVSTAT-L will result in it being distributed to all of the members/subscribers. To submit a message, just fill in the text like you would any e-mail, putting a descriptive subject header and mail the message to:

[MVSTAT-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:MVSTAT-L@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU)

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## **Netiquette (adapted from the LISTSERV documentation)**

Over time, the Internet has evolved various sets of rules that attempt to govern conduct. To avoid taking up a great deal of space arguing the merits of differing systems of Netiquette, the following general pointers that should be accepted by most users are offered.

### **Recognize and Accept Cultural and Linguistic Differences**

The Internet is international, and while English is generally accepted as the common language of the network, list owners and list subscribers cannot afford to take the position that everyone on the Internet understands English well. In a medium that is invariably connected to language, special understanding is required to deal with questions or statements from people for whom English is not the primary tongue. Often today (at least in the US) a person's first sustained interaction with others on an international basis is via the Internet. It is imperative that this interaction be on the highest level of cordiality and respect from the outset in order for all concerned to benefit.

Additionally, care should be taken when using local idiom and slang. A common word or phrase used by Americans in everyday speech, for instance, might be taken as profanity or insult by those in other English-speaking countries, and may not be understood at all by non-native speakers of English. When a list has a high international readership, it is

probably best to avoid non-standard English so as to provide the clearest and least-objectionable exchange of ideas.

### **Private Mail Should Dictate Private Responses**

If someone on a mailing list has sent a private message to you (i.e., not to the list at large) and you have lost that person's address but want to respond, do not post private mail to the list. The REVIEW command will give you a copy of the list membership that you can search for the person's address. If this approach does not work, contact the local postmaster or the list owner for help.

### **Flaming is (Usually) Inappropriate**

Flames (insults) belong in private mail, if they belong in mail at all. Discussions will often result in disagreements. Rebuttals to another person's opinions or beliefs should always be made in a rational, logical and mature manner, whether they are made publicly or privately. What is a flame can range from the obvious (ranting and raving, abusive comments, etc.) to the not-so-obvious (comments about how many "newbies" seem to be on the list these days, "RTFM!" exhortations, etc.).

### **Foul Language**

Subscribers should refrain from abusive or derogatory language that might be considered questionable by even the most liberal and open-minded of users. If you wouldn't say it in front of your mother, don't say it in electronic mail.

### **Unsolicited Advertising and Chain Letters**

Most of these are contrary to appropriate use policies governing the use of the poster's Internet access provider. Not only that, they are annoying and (in the case of chain letters) often illegal.

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## Managing Your Options for Receiving Messages

You can SET any of several optional features to customize the way you receive messages from the list. All of these features are set by sending a request (to [LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU](mailto:LISTSERV@LISTSERV.LSU.EDU)) in the form:

```
SET MVSTAT-L option
```

**Digest Mode:** by default, MVSTAT-L members/ receive all of their messages in one daily digest. If you would prefer to receive them one at a time, as they are submitted, set the NODIGEST option as follows:

```
SET MVSTAT-L NODIG
```

(To reverse this, send: SET MVSTAT-L NODIG)

**Suspending Mail:** If you will not be able to check your mail for an extended period of time and wish to suspend receipt of MVSTAT-L, it is not necessary to SIGNOFF. Instead, you may suspend the mail by the following request:

```
SET MVSTAT-L NOMail
```

When you are ready to resume receipt of MVSTAT-L messages, send the following command:

```
SET MVSTAT-L MAIL
```

**Concealment:** Using the command REVIEW will provide any member/subscriber a complete list of all members. If you wish to hide yourself from REVIEW, then issue the following command:

```
SET MVSTAT-L CONCEAL
```

**Acknowledgment:** By default, MVSTAT-L is set to not acknowledge the messages sent to it, and subscribers do not receive copies of their own messages (except if DIGEST is selected). This may leave subscribers wondering whether their messages have "gotten through." To get

acknowledgment of your messages, send the command:

```
SET MVSTAT-L ACK
```

(To reverse this, send: SET MVSTAT-L NOACK)

To receive copies of your own messages if you are not receiving a digest format, send the command:

```
SET MVSTAT-L REP
```

(To reverse this, send: SET MVSTAT-L NOREP)

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## More Information about MVSTAT-L Requests

More information about the LISTSERV software is available on request by the command:

```
INFO REFCARD
```

The information will be sent by return e-mail.

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Drop us an [e-mail](#) if you have a comment, suggestion or online resource you would like to share?

**Multivariate Data Analysis 6/E**  
**Hair, Black, Babin, Anderson and Tatham**  
[www.mvstats.com](http://www.mvstats.com)