



Preface and Acknowledgements

of CMA4CH 2006 Meeting

Dear colleagues and friends welcome to the first Mediterranean Meeting completely devoted to this old but, up to now, not enough widely applied research field.

The world is multivariate! In order to be significant, data coming from diagnostic on Environment as well as on Cultural Heritage must be multivariate.

A cultural find born in the environment as raw material, the last is subjected to degradation, deriving from the unavoidable interaction with the environment, handling by man to transfer a message and again alteration that, even if changes its initial face, at the same time tells its history and all those related to its contact with the environment and mankind; more, the analysis of the alteration products can guide to a correct Conservation procedure. Really, while all or some marks left by the past, depending on the mind line, could be maintained, new marks have to be avoided so, the present and future environmental conditions in which the artifact will be exposed must be carefully evaluated and eventually changed. Unfortunately the "Homo Sapiens" activity, directly by vandalic actions and indirectly through the environment pollution, negatively affects the conservation of Cultural Heritage artifacts.

Multivariate analysis and chemometry are integrated approaches necessary to the knowledge of the cultural item history, its constructive techniques, degradation, dating and origin (integrated approach to the knowledge).

Really this is the zero number of our/your biannual Meeting dedicated to theorists, researchers, professors, experts, technicians, which use multivariate techniques in order to improve the knowledge of the environment and of the cultural artifacts. Every analytical technique/method is welcome if it is used in multivariate way in order to improve the knowledge of the cultural entity and of the living environment.

Principal Components 1 of the conference is to favour the meeting of researchers, experts, connoisseurs and competents on chemometry applied to Environment (environmetrics) and Cultural Heritage (CMA4CH) so I suggest all the participants to read careful presentation looking for cooperation in international projects.

Some researchers when I was doing publicity at the CMA4CH 2006 Meeting replied: "very interesting but chemometry is not a topic research of mine!". But chemometry is today "under" any standard research, calibration, regression and data analysis, so, they can put some questions to themselves.

What is chemometrics? Am I doing multivariate analysis? Am I using chemometry without knowing that I am using it? The index of the last book (Handbook of Chemometrics and Qualimetrics, Vol1 and Vol2) of the lamented Prof. D.L. Massart is often used as list, neither exhaustive, of what today the researchers intends for chemometrics.

If you will find replies to your queries or the Meeting contacts will bring you some idea for new researches, we hope you will tell us them in the next edition on July 2008 (see at the end).

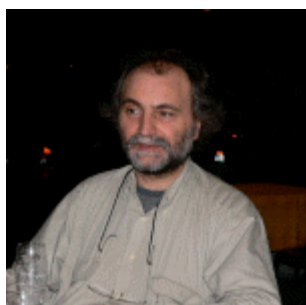
Acknowledgements

First of all I want thank all the authors for their great patient in follow the Meeting's Abstract Form as well as for the prompt replies to the Referee's questions.

This allows us to obtain a very homogeneous "Abstract Book" and, we hope, of high scientific content. The abstract size was chosen in order to have an enough extensive description of the research, useful for present and future readers.

A special tank have to be done to the Organizing Committee, mainly young researchers, for their contribute aiming a successful result of the present Conference.

Last, but not for importance, I warmly thank the Scientific Committee's members that spent some of their time, stealing it from the didactic and research activities, in the refereeing and selection of the presented contributions as well as for the engagement aiming to attain a full success of the Conference.



I will wait for all of you and lot of your friends and colleagues in the next Meeting that will be held in the beautiful Ventotene island, located in the centre of Italy, "Cuore del Mediterraneo" in the period 1 - 4 di June 2008.

The coordinator
Dr. Giovanni Visco