

Topics in Chemometrics TIC 2023 in Rostock, Germany

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The *Topics in Chemometrics* conference format grew out of an exclusive first international meeting on rotational ambiguity (FIMORA) organized by Robert Rajkó in Szeged, Hungary, in 2012¹. The follow-up meeting was organized by Marcel Maeder with the new name “Topics in Chemometrics” (TIC) and held in Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, in 2017². The 2019 TIC was planned for Zanzan, Iran, to be hosted by Hamid Abdollahi, but ultimately had to be physically held in Szeged, with local chairing by Robert Rajkó. The 2021 TIC had to be postponed until September 2023 due to the pandemic and was held in Rostock, Germany, in the historic main building of the University of Rostock in the city center, see Photo 1.

The TIC is a so-called Gordon-type conference with an emphasis on topic-oriented presentations and discussions. The conference committee is composed of leading scientists in their respective fields, who then invite other colleagues to present and discuss their research at the conference.

The nine conference sessions in Rostock were introduced by leading researchers, followed by presentations of variable length. There was always enough time for in-depth discussions on current developments and future challenges in chemometrics. By tradition, TIC should be free of charge - and we in Rostock were pleased to be able to offer a free program for TIC 2023, thanks to various local supporters.

The number of participants at TIC 2023 was around 30, with colleagues from 11 countries on five continents coming to Rostock at the Baltic Sea. The main topics of the 21 presentations were in the areas of

- ASCA / ANOVA,
- data preprocessing,
- hyperspectral imaging,
- MCR / SMCR methods,
- multivariate calibration,
- rotational ambiguity.

The 2023 TIC Prize was awarded to Anna de Juan (University of Barcelona, Spain) and Beata Walczak (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland) for their Comprehensive Cooperation in Chemometrics. The TIC prize alludes to a tick (check mark) and in 2023 had a special built-in degree of freedom of *rotational ambiguity*.

After a successful TIC 2023 in Rostock, the papers of this special issue of the Journal of Chemometrics give an insight into some of the conference topics. We are all looking forward to the TIC 2025, which will be organized by Ricard Boqué at the Universitat Rovira in Virgili, Spain.

¹A. De Juan et. al., *Report on a meeting on rotational ambiguity in soft-modelling analyses*, J. Chemom. **27**, 1-2 (2013)

²M. Maeder, *Topics in Chemometrics, TIC 2017 A personal report*, J. Chemom. 2018;32:e3025. <https://doi.org/10.1002/cem.3025>



Photo 1: TIC participants in front of the historic main building of the University of Rostock.