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The Fourth Edition has been carefully revised and updated to reflect current data.

Statistics Details

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Grace says

Any statistics book will teach you how to calculate means, standard deviations and covariances. But this book also teaches you the why behind the equations and when NOT to apply the equations. That is, it teaches you how to sniff out bad experimental design and data sets that do not fit the standard (or normal) distribution.

Margot says

This book is awesome! I read it in conjunction with a statistics course offered on edX, and it was so understandable and readable. I highly recommend it. Although I read the 1978 edition, the content was still relevant as long as I ignored the income levels, etc.

Keith says

I saw this on my brothers's old textbook shelf. I deal in statistics so I wanted to brush up using a basic text. I was very pleasantly surprised by the content of this book. It teaches statistics in a way different than the usual manner by using lots of examples, both real and hypothetical. The review questions are also case studies which makes the subject related.

Harinee says

This is the first academic book I could actually complete without the weight of exams, just purely out of interest. Really great introduction if you have sucked at Stats like me in college.

Anne says

15 Aug 2016 (Y1S1W2) - The book's Chapter 1

20 Aug 2016 (Y1S1W2) - The book's Chapter 2

12 Sep 2015 (Y1S1W6) - p148 to p152 (Ecological Correlation, Association is not Causation), p169 to p173 (Regression Fallacy)

Taka says

Good, but perhaps too simple? I can see why some people don't like this book, although it's one of the clearest mathematical textbook I have ever seen in my limited experience. Because it's too clear and easy to

understand, it may seem even trivial especially to those who like mathematics for its complexity and sophistication (whether real or not). It is a pretty well-known psychological phenomenon, however: you tend to perceive something to be of high quality if you have a harder time understanding it (one experiment I have in mind is how people's rating of restaurant food changed depending on how hard it was to read the menu). This might in part explain some people's raving reviews of abstruse modernist works of literature (like Joyce's *Ulysses* or Pynchon's *Rainbow's Gravity*, both of which I slugged through with guidebooks).

Anyway, though the exercises were a little too easy, this textbook is definitely a GREAT way to start studying statistics, as it requires only the knowledge of some high school algebra and explains everything so well that you really don't need to spend hours trying to decipher what's going on in a proof or an equation.

Will be reading Freedman's more advanced textbook, *Statistical Models* next, supplemented maybe with some standard college textbook on mathematical statistics, like Wasserman's *All of Statistics*.

Sunit Deshpande says

Good introductory book but without in depth mathematical explanation.

Alexander Yakushev says

I was drawn to this book by its promise of simple explanations and lack of complex mathematical formulas. Now, I think I should have gone for a little more math-heavy book, as this one is way too simplistic at times, and most of it will already be familiar to anyone who had a semi-decent Probability Theory class. There are a lot of examples and exercises (around 50% of the content) which make it more of a textbook rather than an introductory guide. And actually some colleges use it in the curriculum, the "school vibe" can be perceived. I think, "Statistics" deserves a solid 3.5, but having to choose discretely I rate it as 3. I think, there exists other material that's more engaging and challenging.

Bhashit Parikh says

A great introduction to the basics of statistics. The explanations are intuitive, easy to follow, and sort of fun. Lots of detailed examples, and lots of exercises. Various subtleties of statistical methods, and their pitfalls, are explained really well. I have been using this as a supplemental book while reading other books on statistics, to reinforce what I have learned, and to get a more firm grounding in the basics of statistics. Basically, I just go ahead and read a random chapter whenever I am feel like it. Freedman's style of writing is such that I can do that even when I am mentally tired. The book is so well written, you might sometimes forget that it's supposed to be a math book. The focus is on conceptual understanding.

Jamie says

If there is one mathematics book that everyone should read this is it. More once I've read more.

Steve says

During the fall of 1993, I was in my first semester of college. I took statistics and didn't like it at all. This was likely my own fault, as I was not a very serious student -- occasionally ditching class and frequently staying up much too late. During that fall semester in my statistics class, I wrote what seemed like a massive paper to an 18 year old, at 21 pages long (but it included data). Since I was 16, I had a job at Montgomery Ward at Randhurst shopping mall, where I sold shoes -- perhaps trying to fulfill my lifelong aspirations to be Al Bundy -- that job I kept until I was 21. For my paper, I kept record of customers at Montgomery Ward in the shoe department for an entire day and recorded the amount every single customer spent on items. I also had to record whether shoppers bought with cash or credit, and then conduct an independent samples t-test to compare whether there was a statistically significant difference in average amounts spent by the two types of customers. Sure enough, there was a difference, with credit card customers spending more on average than cash paying customers. While Pisani et al.'s text was useful enough to show me the equation to conduct that t-test, it wasn't a very helpful text. It didn't cover any computer use for statistics, and the problems seemed a bit contrived. However, looking at the text book today, it seems logical and the presentation is fine -- though not particularly wonderful or inspiring. This text is fairly standard in many mathematics and statistics departments. It's now in a new edition, and the main change in the new edition is its data. I might use it if I had to teach stats to a math department, but I'd certainly want to consider options.

Kamlesj says

good

Naveena Sunkara says

Recently finished this book in conjunction with an intro to statistics course. The book was easy to follow and could, at times, have a sense of humor. Though it did not delve into much theory it served the purpose of education beginners to the basics of statistics.

Reid says

If you want to learn the ins and outs of statistics, this is the book for you. One wonders *why* exactly you would have such a desire, but that might just be too much information! This book is extremely well-written, and is designed for those (people like me) who don't have much in the way of advanced mathematical skills. Though I read this for a course I had to take, I actually enjoyed taking on some of the abstruse concepts presented here. It certainly makes much more sense of some of what you read every day when it comes to statistical analysis.

sunnysideupgirl says

Best intro statistics book I've ever read. Crystal clear and entertaining.
