David J. Hand

STATISTICS
A Very Short Introduction

OXFORD

Statistics: A Very Short Introduction

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Statistics: A Very Short Introduction David J. Hand
Statistical ideas and methods underlie just about every aspect of modern life. From randomized clinical trials in medical research, to statistical models of risk in banking and hedge fund industries, to the statistical tools used to probe vast astronomical databases, the field of statistics has become centrally important to how we understand our world. But the discipline underlying all these is not the dull statistics of the popular imagination. Long gone are the days of manual arithmetic manipulation. Nowadays statistics is a dynamic discipline, revolutionized by the computer, which uses advanced software tools to probe numerical data, seeking structures, patterns, and relationships. This Very Short Introduction sets the study of statistics in context, describing its history and giving examples of its impact, summarizes methods of gathering and evaluating data, and explains the role played by the science of chance, of probability, in statistical methods. The book also explores deep philosophical issues of induction--how we use statistics to discern the true nature of reality from the limited observations we necessarily must make.
About the Series: Combining authority with wit, accessibility, and style, Very Short Introductions offer an introduction to some of life's most interesting topics. Written by experts for the newcomer, they demonstrate the finest contemporary thinking about the central problems and issues in hundreds of key topics, from philosophy to Freud, quantum theory to Islam.

Statistics: A Very Short Introduction Details

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Ahmad Sharabiani says

?Statistics : a very short introduction (Very Short Introductions #196), David J. Hand
Modern statistics is very different from the dry and dusty discipline of the popular imagination. In its place is an exciting subject which uses deep theory and powerful software tools to shed light and enable understanding. And it sheds this light on all aspects of our lives, enabling astronomers to explore the origins of the universe, archaeologists to investigate ancient civilisations, governments to understand how to benefit and improve society, and businesses to learn how best to provide goods and services. Aimed at readers with no prior mathematical knowledge, this Very Short Introduction explores and explains how statistics work, and how we can decipher them.
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Karolina says

A nice little book for those who have already done a basic statistics course, but would like to review or systematise the concepts behind the mathematical tools. I doubt that it can be of much use for those who have never learned any statistics, even though it seems to be aimed at readers unfamiliar with the topic.

Ugh says

This is not a practical book, but rather a short description of statistics, from its worth to its methods. And I struggle to conceive of how it could have been better written. OK, the penultimate chapter is essentially just a slightly staccato series of mini-introductions to various aspects of stats too involved to cover in greater detail, but up to that point the book is engaging, concise, and witty - a real breath of fresh air.

I may not know much more about stats now than I did when I started reading (speaking purely personally, not for every potential reader), but I do know one thing: David J Hand can write a book.

Author25 says

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Mykyta Kuzmenko says

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Nick Sonneveld says

Good high level intro of statistical discipline in general

Lenka says

hypothesis testing / significance testing
null hypothesis / alternative hypothesis
likelihood principle / repeated sampling principle / sufficiency principle
mechanistic model / empirical model
exploration / confirmation
description / prediction

Wirut Praphaiyasathok says

"??? (??????????????????????????)"
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Michael Bee says

Good quick overview to launch into deeper waters

Being a statistician means never to have to say you are certain

The real magic comes from our statistical anslysis teqm

Teo 2050 says

[Preface
List of illustrations

John Jr. says

Very short indeed, at 114 pages of text. Develops some important concepts, such as variance, standard deviation, regression, Bayes's theorem, and sampling, and gives a brief discussion of probability. Also touches on many ways in which statistics can go wrong if misapplied, misunderstood, or based on faulty data. Left me wanting more, which isn't a bad thing.

Marta Fajlhauer says

I generally like the series as in a very thin book contains a massive amount of knowledge and examples.

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Bojan Tunguz says

Statistical analysis underlies much of the modern scientific research. In fact, it is not too much of a stretch to say that many scientific fields have come of age and many other fields have become "scientific" thanks to the extensive use of statistics that they employ. The turning point seems to have been the advent of modern computer. For the first time in history the raw computational power has not been an issue any more, and the only limits on the quality of research became the amount of data that can be collected and the understanding of statistical methods that need to be employed for analysis.

This very short introduction deals with statistics as a method for analyzing empirical data. As such, it does not present statistics as a dry and self-contained mathematical subject. All the statistical methods are introduced in conjunction with particular practical problems that those methods are developed to address. The author, David Hand, is trying to convey the message that statistics is as much of an art as it is a rigorous mathematical method. No two research projects are the same, so no simple statistical procedure could be used to describe them all. A careful analysis of the problem at hand and a judicial choice of statistical methods are the most likely to yield the most useful information.

The book is divided in seven chapters and each one deals with a particular statistical concept or a particular way in which the statistics is used. The chapters are short but informative, and the whole book makes for one smooth read. It will not overburden you with mathematical detail, and it can be used as a springboard for further reading into the field of statistics.

Matt says

A really nice intro to the world of statistics and statistical analysis. I highly recommend this book for anyone new to stats as it's a great quick reference guide. Another solid entry from Oxford's Very Short Introduction series.