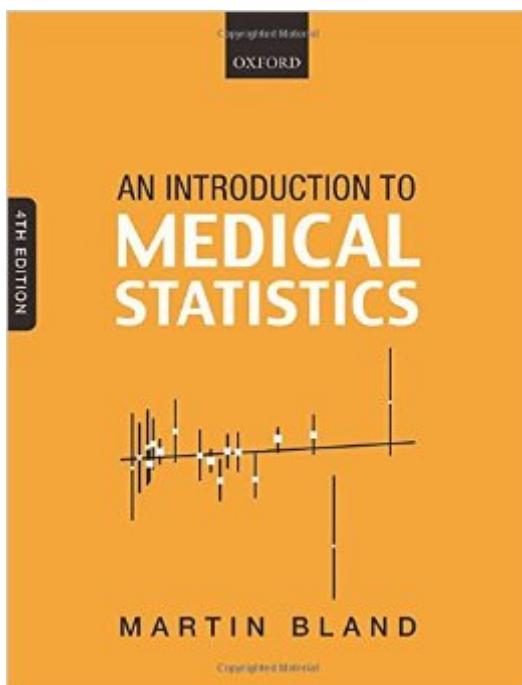


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An Introduction To Medical Statistics



Synopsis

Now in its Third Edition, *An Introduction to Medical Statistics* continues to be an invaluable textbook for medical students, doctors, medical researchers, nurses, members of professions allied to medicine as well as those concerned with medical data. The material covered includes all the statistical work that would be required for a course in medicine and for the examinations of most of the Royal Colleges. It includes the design of clinical trials and epidemiological studies, data collection, summarizing and presenting data, probability, standard error, confidence intervals and significance tests, techniques of data analysis including multifactorial methods and the choice of statistical method, problems of medical measurement and diagnosis, vital statistics, and calculation of sample size.

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Customer Reviews

Till date I have not found a single best book for applications of statistics and probability to healthcare, but this book is probably the closest. A majority of books on "biostatistics" shy away from mathematics and will focus only on preliminary concepts. Also, I have noticed that many of them have gaps in the presented information and do not build up the subject in a logical order. Prof. Martin Bland is a recognized authority in the field. He has explained the concepts extremely clearly using real world examples. This book does a very good job at covering nearly the entire spectrum of statistical method used in medical research with emphasis particularly on core things. In the appendices that follow (for example: in the chapter on regression) he has also discussed the

mathematical basis for the presented material in a little bit more detail for the interested reader (continuing the same example: the least squares technique). I guess there is no universal optimal point for conceptual detail vs. mathematical rigor, and I would have personally liked to see more details about different distributions, their CDFs, moment functions, and so on. I believe that the book should assume at least high school level in mathematics i.e. logarithms, calculus, differential equations in one variable, and elementary real analysis. However, this remains a lacuna of the book, in my personal opinion which will not be shared by others. Secondly, in the chapters on Bayesian methods and sample size, again I have felt that the author was torn between the need for comprehensive coverage vs. detail. Though I would have voted for a little bit more detail, I can't argue with issues of having a reasonable size and target audience of the book. Overall, perhaps one of the best books in the field, thought I could have done with some more mathematical rigor.

I really enjoyed this book. Bland shed light on many issues for me, including non-parametric statistics and number needed to treat - there's more going on there mathematically than meets the eye.

Excelent text by a great statistician!

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