COMENTARIOS BIBLIOGRAFICOS

The fascination of statistics, edited by Richard J. Brooks, Gregory Arnold, Thomas H. Hassard and Robert M. Pringle, Marcel Dekker, Inc., New York and Basel, 1986.

This book is specially designed for students of statistics and practitioners in statistics. Researchers in applied sciences will find some of the most common techniques in statistics clearly exhibited with applications in different fields of science. These examples are also useful for teachers in statistics, they will find a range of examples on which to draw.

The contributors to this book are not all statisticians but they clearly deal with statistics in their professional activities. Each of them write on an aspect of statistics in a readable fashion which allows nonexperts to understand the aim of the technique described.

The volume is divided in seven sections. Each section has an overall introduction and presents some papers on the subject presented.

The first one deals with the notion of probability and conditional probabilities introducing descriptive statistical methods to estimate a probability, as the histogram and the normal approximation.

The second one treats the problem of condensing and recovering the information given by the data, specially in high dimensions, by techniques like classification, pattern recognition, cluster analysis, multidimensional scaling and factor analysis.

The third one concerns testing hypothesis and treats the problem of sequencial analysis.

Section 4 studies the estimation problem and presents the models assumed in each example.

In section 5 the problem of experimental design is discussed.

In section 6, statistical methods are applied to different situations in order to predict some future events.

The last group of chapters concerns the theme of statistical modelling which completes section 6 in the sense that once a model has been chosen and tested, it can be used for predicting.

The papers of this volume survey various aspects of statistics in a well presented fashion and with interesting applications in different fields ot science.

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