

Preface

It is well-known that the foundation and development of the statistical theory came up with a search for interpretation of results of research experiments and, hence, decision making in biological, agricultural and medical fields. This endeavour gave birth to a new stream of mathematical sciences named as "Statistics". The statistical concepts are independent of various subject areas, since the procedures developed for agricultural or biological experiments are equally applicable in industrial, technical, psychological, medical, educational, social and commercial fields.

This led to recognition of need for formal courses on statistical methods in biological, medical and agricultural fields and they were started in UK and USA around the end of 19th and beginning of 20th century. In India, the foundation of development in agriculture, food and nutrition, population control and human health was laid soon after. The importance of biostatistics is now deeply felt all over India. A few decades ago this course was introduced in various life science, earth science, education and technology degree syllabi at Masters level also, in most of the Universities and Institutes. Some of these institutions are offering short term and degree courses in Biostatistics.

Explaining the simplest concepts of Statistics, which stands on the foundation of mathematics, to students belonging to non-mathematics fields, is an arduous task. The present book aims to provide basic knowledge and applications of Biostatistics to Masters level students pursuing courses in different disciplines and also to help young researchers in solving their problems. This book effectively summarizes the author's many years of teaching and research experience. While herself possessing a pure mathematics background, about three-fourth of the author's professional career has been devoted to teaching biostatistics to Masters level students of Zoology with non-mathematics background. The author has also drawn ideas from her interaction with researchers of a variety of disciplines such as education, social science, life sciences, agricultural sciences, medical sciences, earth sciences and engineering.

The book covers almost all parts of the recent UGC Model Syllabus in biological sciences relating to Quantitative Zoology. Each chapter contains relevant figures and numerical examples to help clarify the concepts. The book explains how to choose an appropriate statistical analysis for various biological experimental data. The computational steps and interpretation of the findings are also given in detail. Some of the statistical techniques, often used by researchers of all the life sciences disciplines as well as those belonging to social sciences, psychological sciences, earth sciences and education are also included, briefly, if not in detail.

This book may be used as a textbook by the undergraduate and postgraduate students of Biostatistics in biological, agricultural and health sciences. It will help the researchers in these and other aforesaid disciplines, after acquiring sound knowledge of basic concepts of statistical techniques, to choose advanced topics for a proper analysis of their research data and draw valid conclusions.

This book is divided into two parts: Part I on "Basic" consists of chapters 1 to 11 and Part II on "Advanced" consists of chapters 12 to 23. The book contains solved examples to illustrate the computational steps of various statistical procedures. Tables and Figures supplement the text for clear illustration of the theory behind the procedures and their applications.

The material in the book assumes the readers to have the knowledge of High School algebra and arithmetic in order to understand the logic behind the statistical procedures. Applications of these on experimental data require simple calculators for computations. However, if a researcher is handling huge project data, easy access to computer systems enables large or repeated computations. Therefore, two chapters (Chapters 11 and 23) are included, which provide a fundamental idea of computer systems, methods of using these for common simple problems and also give some idea of using statistical softwares.

Abbreviations used in the book are listed in the beginning. For performing various tests of significance and discussing some advanced topics, some Statistical and Mathematical Tables are required. These are covered under Appendix A. Many students and researchers of life sciences may be unfamiliar with various mathematical symbols and expressions, use of which could not be avoided in the book. Therefore, Appendix B is included to define and explain these. It becomes very easy to understand concepts of probability theory using Venn diagram and rules of Set Theory. Appendix C on Matrix Algebra contains the results (without proof) which enable the logic behind complex multivariate techniques and a description of these procedures in an easy and concisely presentable form. Appendix D provides meaning of the rules and principles of Set Theory used in the chapter on Probability.

Now a brief description of the various chapters is provided for the reader. Chapter 1 is introductory. It defines Statistics and Biostatistics, types of data that arise for analysis of experiments and a brief history of growth of statistical theory and practice in India and abroad. Chapter 2 gives the method of summarising and presenting data in tables and graphs. Chapter 3 defines and determines the descriptive statistics viz. measures of location, dispersion, skewness and kurtosis. Chapter 4 discusses the concepts of probability and Chapter 5 defines the random variables and associated functions giving their nature and characteristics. The concepts of probability distributions, expected values, raw and central moments of continuous and discrete random variables are also given in this chapter.

Chapter 6 discusses the distributions of various continuous and discrete random variables which are extensively used in data analysis in almost all the fields. Chapter 7 deals with the fundamental theory behind problems of estimation of parameters and testing of hypotheses. The criteria of good estimators, concepts of two types of error and choice of rejection region are also explained. Chapter 8 gives the one and two sample procedures of testing means and variances. Equality of more than two means and variances are also considered in this chapter.

Chapter 9 deals with measuring and testing relationships in bivariate and multivariate data in terms of correlation and regression. Chapter 10 deals with analysis of categorical data by establishing independence and measuring association in 2×2 and $r \times c$ contingency tables. Chapter 11 considers data handling electronically, indicating components and types of computers, machine and high level computer languages. Basic ideas of working on DOS, Windows, MS Office and computer network are also given. Chapter 12 illustrates the methods of planning medical and biological studies in lab and field, while Chapter 13 considers complete enumeration or census (of human and animal populations) and commonly used sampling methods in brief.

Chapter 14 gives methods of comparison of two means when the commonly assumed equality of two variances does not hold. Subsequently analysis of variance in various designs, such as randomized block, Latin square, nested design, BIBD, PBIBD and factorial experiments have been described. Lastly, multiple comparison methods, if hypothesis of equality of means is rejected, have been given.

Chapters 15, 16 and 17 consider one sample, two sample and k -sample non-parametric tests when the distribution, from which the samples have come, may not be known. Chapter 18 defines components of time series and provides procedure for analysis of these under conditions of being stationary or autocorrelated. Chapter 19 considers the problem and analysis of bioassays.

Chapters 20 and 21 deal with analysis of multivariate data. The Hotelling's T^2 , Mahalanobis D^2 , Discriminant Analysis, Principal Component Analysis and Cluster Analysis have been explained with examples of real data and use of statistical packages.

Chapter 22 deals with concepts of bioinformatics and some procedures of sequence and microarray data analysis. Chapter 23 on Computer Techniques gives some ideas of programming in FORTRAN, C and C++ for use of enthusiastic readers willing to develop their own program for simple but repeatedly required computations. For other problems a brief description of three standard statistical software packages (SPSS, BMDP and SAS) with illustration of their use is included.

In the course of preparation of the manuscript some of the standard books on Statistics and Biostatistics were found to be very helpful, especially the works by Steel and Torrie; Milton and Tsokos; Daniel; Zar; Sokal and Rohlf; Kramer; Finney; Mood and Graybill; Meyer; Yule and Kendall; Croxton, Cowden and Klein; Cochran and Cox; Anderson; Press; Dillon and Goldstein; Hohn; Sukhatme and Sukhatme; Goon, Gupta and Dasgupta; Gupta and Kapoor, to name a few.

The author gratefully acknowledges some of these authors and their publishers for granting permission to use the data and figures in their books for illustrating the application of statistical tools. The statistical and mathematical tables required for completing various statistical testing procedures have been included from some of the said books and from the Formula and Tables for Statistical Work by Rao, Mitra, Mathai and Ramamurthy.

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The author hopes that the good presentation of the book and its well-arranged contents will make for useful reading not only to researchers in biological sciences, but also to researchers in various other application areas like education, social sciences, life sciences, agricultural sciences, medical sciences, earth sciences and engineering etc.

The basic bio-statistical concepts in Part I, as well as the new and advanced topics contained in Part II of this book will remain useful for all times to come. It is, therefore, hoped that the book will prove useful as a textbook for Graduate and Postgraduate students as well as a reference book for researchers.

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