

Elementary Statistics: A Problem Solving Approach



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著者:

出版者:

出版时间:

装帧:

isbn:9780697078377

~ eaching elementary statistics is particularly challenging because the stu-
dents are heterogenous in aptitude, preparation and motivation. At one ex-
treme are the students with little or no background in mathematics who are
taking statistics only because it is a required course and who have no postgraduate
education plans or no desire to take other statistics courses. At the other extreme
are the students who are well prepared in mathematics who recognize the need
for statistics and who plan to enter a career where statistics are used every
day. The challenge then is to provide a meaningful learning experience
in the same classroom for such a diverse collection of students. The major
objective of Elementary Statistics: A Problem-Solving Approach is to provide a
connected, orderly presentation of statistics so that all students par-

ticularly those who have little mathematical background and are afraid of statistics or who are convinced that they cannot do them will be successful. Each of the 54 Problems in the text represents a major concept or commonly used statistical procedure. Students with little mathematical background can easily follow them in a step-by-step fashion. Students can concentrate on learning how to do one problem at a time achieving success through the attainment of intermediate goals instead of having to confront a monolithic and seemingly insuperable obstacle. For those students with greater motivation and superior preparation supplementary problems and mathematical proofs are provided to enrich their learning experiences and to present them with challenges commensurate with their capacities. Although the emphasis in this text is on the application of statistical techniques in the social and behavioral sciences it is important to note that the same statistical problems occur in engineering business biology and many other disciplines. The basic concepts of statistics and inferential methods apply in all fields.

TRUCTOR The Problem-Solving Approach The material in this book has been organized around 54 specific problems in statistics--statistical procedures that are commonly encountered in practice. These 54 problems have been broken down into 50 "number series" problems and 4 "letter series" problems. The 50 number series problems are to be regarded as the primary most essential problems to be covered. The 4 letter series problems are supplementary problems that are less essential either because

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