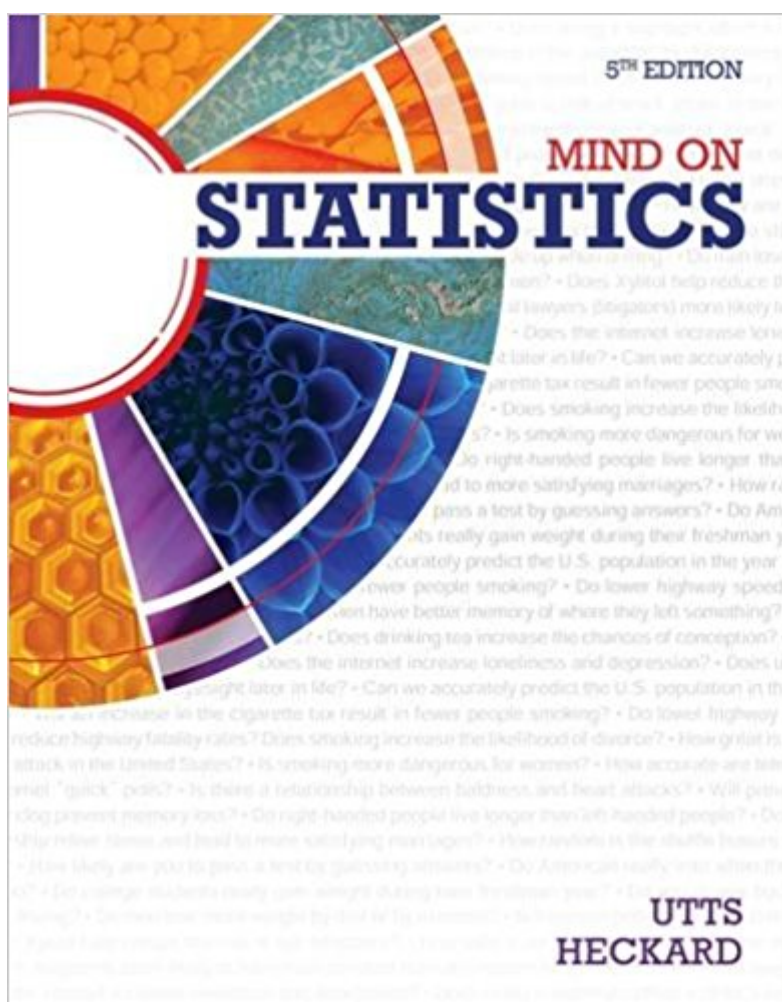


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Mind On Statistics



Synopsis

MIND ON STATISTICS, Fifth Edition, helps you develop a conceptual understanding of statistical ideas and shows you how to find meaning in data. The authors—who are committed to changing any preconception you may have about statistics being boring—engage your curiosity with intriguing questions, and explain statistical topics in the context of interesting, useful examples and case studies. You'll develop your statistical intuition by focusing on analyzing data and interpreting results, rather than on mathematical formulation. As a result, you'll build both your statistical literacy and your understanding of statistical methodology.

Book Information

Hardcover: 768 pages

Publisher: Cengage Learning; 5 edition (January 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1285463188

ISBN-13: 978-1285463186

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 8.8 x 1.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I used this book for a college-level introductory statistics course. In general, it's just an average textbook. The first half or so of the text is a mishmash of research technique/methodology and introductions to statistical inference, closing out with an introduction to probability. Then the second half of the book takes all of those statistical inference topics and devotes a chapter (or more) to each one. Though this breadth-first, depth-second approach might sound good in theory, the end result is that a whole lot of material is repeated two or three times, with the earlier iterations being completely useless compared to the later treatments. I suspect that the textbook is laid out this way to accommodate a lighter, perhaps high-school level, Statistics course in addition to serving as a college text, but it suffers for it. The book feels poorly organized, and information on a topic is often spread out over several chapters when it should all be in one place. That brings me to my second

complaint, which is bloat. On many occasions, similar ideas that only differ in the details are completely re-explained, over and over, for each individual occasion. Again, this might sound like a thorough way to treat the material, but I would have much preferred a short explanation of how the procedures are similar and then a highlighting of the differences. Two topics in particular (confidence intervals and hypothesis tests) are given a total of four chapters when they could have easily been covered in half the space. In general, the book could be much more concise without losing any clarity. In fact, I feel brevity might actually make some of the topics easier to understand, as the endless repetitions and re-explanations can lead to confusion. But, it's not all bad.

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