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Mathematics : Applications of Mathematics

Kiefer, Jack C., Lorden, Gary (Ed.)

Introduction to Statistical Inference

This book is based upon lecture notes developed by Jack Kiefer for a course in statistical inference he taught at Cornell University. The notes were distributed to the class in lieu of a textbook, and the problems were used for homework assignments. Relying only on modest prerequisites of probability theory and calculus, Kiefer's approach to a first course in statistics is to present the central ideas of the modern mathematical theory with a minimum of fuss and formality. He is able to do this by using a rich mixture of examples, pictures, and mathematical derivations to complement a clear and logical discussion of the important ideas in plain English. The straightforwardness of Kiefer's presentation is remarkable in view of the sophistication and depth of his examination of the major theme: How should an intelligent person formulate a statistical problem and choose a statistical procedure to apply to it? Kiefer's view, in the same spirit as Neyman and Wald, is that one should try to assess the consequences of a statistical choice in some quantitative (frequentist) formulation and ought to choose a course of action that is verifiably optimal (or nearly so) without regard to the perceived "attractiveness" of certain dogmas and methods.

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