

Descriptive and Inferential Statistics Using R

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Foreword



“Statistics is the grammar of science.”

Karl Pearson (English Mathematician & Biostatistician,
1857-1936)

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I contribute the foreword to Preeti Dabas’s insightful and comprehensive book, *‘Descriptive and Inferential Statistics using R’*. In a world inundated with data, it is imperative that we possess a solid understanding of appropriate statistical tests to extract meaningful insights and answer crucial research questions.

The book serves as a valuable guide, taking readers on a journey of statistical thinking and analysis. It unfolds in four distinct parts, establishing a robust foundation for statistical analysis. Part 0 introduces essential concepts and RStudio functions, Part I covers univariate analysis, Part II explores bivariate analysis, and Part III delves into multivariate analysis. The author’s guidance equips readers to confidently navigate diverse research scenarios and draw meaningful conclusions, making this book an invaluable resource for both learners and practitioners seeking statistical proficiency. By integrating RStudio illustrations and interpretations, the author bridges the gap between theory and practice, empowering readers to apply statistical analyses with confidence.

This structured approach provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of Statistics from both descriptive and inferential perspectives and to perform the same in R. They will learn how to effectively represent data, explore its characteristics, and draw meaningful insights. Additionally, they will be equipped with the knowledge and techniques required to make informed decisions, test hypotheses, analyse relationships, and assess the magnitude of effects.

What sets this book apart is its emphasis on practical application and clarity of explanation. The author successfully strikes a balance between accessibility and depth, making it suitable for individuals at various stages of their academic or research journey. Whether pursuing higher studies, embarking on research endeavours, or seeking self-guided learning, readers will find this book to be a valuable companion.

Prof. S.P. Gupta

Management Consultant

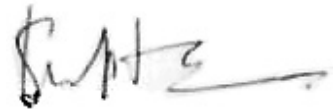
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I must emphasise that this book is not merely a compilation of statistical formulas or a technical manual for using R software. Instead, it is a holistic resource that instils statistical thinking and enables readers to apply appropriate tests, analyse data, and interpret results accurately. While the book primarily focuses on data analysis and hypothesis testing, it also provides supplementary resources, including R scripts, datasets, practice questions along with answers, and a glossary of key terms and R functions used in the book.

This book is a testament to the author's expertise and passion for Statistics. Through her clear explanations, illustrative examples, and meticulous guidance, she equips readers with the necessary skills to navigate the intricate world of statistical analysis. I have no doubt that this book will be a valuable asset for any individual seeking a comprehensive understanding of Descriptive and Inferential Statistics in research. I wholeheartedly endorse this work and congratulate the author on her remarkable achievement.

May Statistics guide your journey!

Best Regards.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.P. Gupta', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Prof. S,P. Gupta

Foreword



Dr. Neeraj Kaushik

Associate Professor

Head, Department of Business Administration
National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra

“Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested”.

Francis Bacon (English Philosopher,
1561-1626)

Why one more book on Statistics? Well, Statistics has become an integral part of our lives, influencing everything from the decisions we make to the policies we create. In today’s data-driven world, the ability to analyse and interpret data is a fundamental skill that empowers individuals and organisations alike. In this era of abundant data, understanding Statistics is not just a valuable asset; it is a necessity.

It is with great pleasure that I introduce you to ‘*Descriptive and Inferential Statistics using R*’, a comprehensive guide that equips readers with the necessary tools to navigate the realm of Statistics and harness the power of the statistical programming language, R. This book provides a practical and inclusive approach to mastering statistical analysis. From univariate to bivariate to multivariate analysis, the content delves into various statistical methods and their interpretation.

Each research problem is discussed in a methodical manner, starting with the essential components of descriptive statistics which include tabular representation, graphical representation, measures of central tendency, and measures of dispersion, bringing life to the raw data followed by inferential statistics covering hypothesis testing, regression analysis, post-hoc tests, and effect size. What sets this book apart is its practical approach, where the concepts are illustrated using R, ensuring a seamless integration of theory and application. The reader will not only learn how to interpret the output generated in R but also acquire the skills to effectively report and communicate your results.

With access to readymade sample R scripts and hypothetical datasets through GitHub, hands-on examples using R, and a detailed guide for interpreting and reporting results, this book equips readers with the skills necessary to effectively analyse and interpret data. The incorporation of practice questions that span across disciplines, with thorough answers, addressing anticipated queries, and a convenient summarised table of descriptive and inferential statistics further enhance the learning experience.

Whether you are a student, researcher, or professional, this book serves as an invaluable resource for honing statistical proficiency and leveraging the power of R for data analysis and decision-making.

The author's dedication to providing a clear and organised framework for learning Statistics is evident throughout the book. Readers can confidently navigate through each chapter, knowing that they are building a solid foundation and acquiring the skills necessary to tackle real-world data analysis challenges. I applaud the author for her foresight in recognising the importance of Statistics in multiple disciplines and for creating this invaluable resource.

'Descriptive and Inferential Statistics using R' is not just a book; it is a gateway to statistical literacy and analytical prowess, empowering readers to extract valuable insights from data and make informed decisions. As you delve into its pages, you will gain the skills and knowledge to navigate the intricacies of statistical analysis, empowering you to uncover meaningful insights and make informed decisions. Embrace the possibilities that lie ahead as you discover the beauty of Statistics and harness the potential of R.

Happy Learning!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Neeraj". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke underneath the name.

Dr. Neeraj Kaushik

Preface

“If you torture the data long enough, it will confess to anything.”

Ronald Coase (British Economist & Nobel Prize Winner, 1991)

Well said! Hence, the need for understanding appropriate statistical tests to answer the research questions. The beauty lies in the fact that only one particular test can be applied in a given scenario depending upon the number and type of variable(s) involved. This book is an attempt to help the readers to develop statistical thinking by explaining how to deal with a research problem in a detailed and comprehensive manner which includes understanding the variable type, choosing the appropriate descriptive and inferential statistics, performing the same in R, and finally interpreting and reporting the results. In this book, all the research scenarios are divided under three broad heads: one variable scenario, two variables scenario and more than two variables scenario.

Organisation of the book

The book is divided into four parts in order to present the contents in a systematic way.

Part **zero** serves as a foundation for building the base of key terminologies and concepts essential for conducting data analysis. It comprises three chapters, each aimed to familiarise readers with terminologies used frequently throughout the book and to foster a sense of ease for analysing and interpreting the data. Chapter **one** gives a brief introduction to Statistics at the outset. It then builds an understanding of different terms used while entering and analysing the data followed by four levels of measurement: nominal, ordinal, interval and ratio. It further delves into the terms used while interpreting the data followed by differentiating between absolute change, relative change, percentage change, percentage point and growth rate. Furthermore, it also gives the reader an insight of the term ‘significance’ which is heavily used while testing hypotheses. Chapter **two** deals with understanding the meaning and formulation of hypothesis testing and the related concepts: null and alternative hypotheses, one and two-tailed tests, errors associated with it, level of significance, confidence level, confidence interval, p -value, power of the test and test statistic in detail. It thoroughly discusses the key assumptions of statistical tests, with an emphasis on the assumption of normality. It also differentiates between statistical significance and practical significance along with elucidating the meaning of effect size. It furthermore discusses decision rules for rejecting or retaining the null hypothesis, leading to a conclusion about the population based on the sample. Chapter **three** takes you on the journey of navigating through RStudio. The main aim of this chapter is to assist readers in downloading and installing the software, and to get familiar with the software and perform key functions in RStudio which include: how to import data, how to code, how to install and load packages, how to apply mathematical and statistical operations, how to plot graphs, how to export the results and last but not the least how to cite the software in research work.

Part **I** deals with the univariate analysis, that is, analysis of research problems having only one variable (one dependent variable and no independent variable). Chapter **four** covers all such possible scenarios.

Part **II** deals with the bivariate analysis, that is, analysis of research problems having two variables (one dependent variable and one independent variable). It consists of **five** chapters. Chapters **five**, **six**, **seven** and **eight** cover the research problems having two variables when dependent variable is binary, nominal, ordinal and metric respectively. Chapter **nine** covers the research problems when the two variables are paired.

Part **III** deals with the multivariate analysis, that is, analysis of research problems having more than two variables (one dependent variable and more than one independent variable), which is often going to be the case in real-life scenarios. It consists of four chapters. Chapters **ten**, **eleven**, **twelve** and **thirteen** cover the research problems having more than two variables when dependent variable is binary, nominal, ordinal and metric respectively.

The sequence of discussion for a given research problem would be as follows:

Given a research problem, we will first identify the variable(s) and then get an impression of our sample and present the same in tabular form followed by its graphical representation. Then we will try to answer the research question by applying appropriate measures of central tendency and dispersion (if applicable) followed by statistical test to know what the sample tells about the population followed by the post-hoc analysis in case our independent variable has more than two categories and then we shall compute the effect size. In addition, we will also regress dependent variable on independent variable(s) to see the magnitude of the impact. We will then learn to perform the same in RStudio followed by the key interpretations. Lastly, we shall conclude each scenario by learning how to report the results in research work.

For whom this book is?

This book caters to individuals seeking a comprehensive and lucid understanding of the appropriate application of descriptive and inferential statistics in various research problems. It is particularly useful for those pursuing higher studies, budding researchers, and self-learners across diverse disciplines. This book is good to go for those who fear or always wanted to skip the formulae but have an inquisitive mind and are curious to get an answer to their research questions.

What is included and what is not?

Please bear in mind that this book is neither a book on Statistics nor on Research Methodology nor on R software. Rather, it focuses on applications of Statistics in research using R software. The primary objective of this book is to provide readers with a seamless and user-friendly approach to navigating through various statistical tests.

The scope of this book is limited to data analysis only and does not include text analysis. Furthermore, it covers analysis on cross-sectional data and excludes that on time-series data. It includes preliminary concepts related to hypothesis testing in detail followed by all possible tests but derivation of formulae is not touched upon. Research problems having more than one dependent variable are not discussed. Topics related to research methods like sampling design, sampling techniques and determination of sample size are out of scope of this book.

This book also devotes a chapter exclusively for R software so as to make the reader familiar and comfortable with its interface. Having said that, it is expected from the reader to explore more about R through its tutorial since this book stresses more on choosing the appropriate statistical test and

analysing and interpreting data. An illustration for every research problem is given separately where the analysis is done using R software.

Pre-requisites for this book

It is assumed by the author that the reader is familiar with the elementary concepts of Statistics. The reader should have R software, which is a freeware downloaded and installed in the system.¹

How to go for this book?

If anyone is starting the research journey from the scratch (given that the reader has basic knowledge of Statistics), then one should follow the same sequence as the book follows. However, if one already has or after having the background knowledge of the preliminary concepts and getting familiar with the software, can jump to any of the required chapter(s) of interest.

What you will get for your money?

- Hands-on experience with R which is a freeware
- R Scripts for the research scenarios discussed in this book (on GitHub)
- Sample Hypothetical datasets used in this book (on GitHub)
- A guide to interpreting and reporting the results
- Practice questions at the end of each chapter along with their answers and explanations (wherever required)
- The book by default answers some of the questions that will eventually come in mind of an inquisitive reader
- A summarised table of all the descriptive and inferential statistics applied in different research scenarios
- Glossary of key terms
- Glossary of R functions and packages used in the book.

It is hoped that the content of the book will be beneficial and fruitful to the readers.

For any critical comments or feedback, you are welcome to reach out to the author at preetidabas871@gmail.com.

Hope you are as excited to go ahead with this book as I am.

Best Wishes!

Preeti Dabas

Disclaimer: The datasets used in this book are purely hypothetical in nature. Hence, the results obtained or conclusions drawn based on them should not be taken literally.

¹ Chapter-3 helps to download and install the same.

Acknowledgement

Writing this book has been a transformative journey, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed to its completion. Their unwavering support and encouragement have been instrumental in shaping this work.

First and foremost, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to *Dr. Neeraj Kaushik*, Associate Professor at NIT Kurukshetra, for sharing his profound knowledge through workshops and insightful discussions on the Google group. His teachings have had a significant influence on my understanding, and I am indebted to him.

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I am also blessed to have had the support of my teachers, who played a crucial role in my academic development and offered their guidance throughout my educational journey. I would like to give a special mention to *Dr. Anita Dagar*, whose dedication and expertise laid the foundation for my understanding of this subject.

My heartfelt appreciation goes to my late grandparents for their blessings, guiding me on this path. I am profoundly grateful to my parents and parents-in-law for providing me with the precious gift of time and their unwavering support. Their understanding and encouragement made this endeavor possible, and I am forever thankful for their love and blessings. Special thanks to my husband, *Siddharth*, whose patient listening and understanding made the journey smoother, and my daughter, *Vrinda*, who brought an abundance of luck and has illuminated my life with boundless joy. I extend my sincere gratitude to my brother-cum-mentor, *Nirmal*, and my bhabhi, *Dipti*, for their constant love and support. This book is a testament to their unconditional love and encouragement.

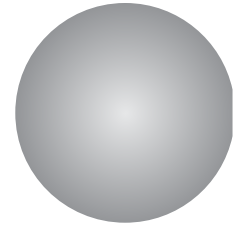
I extend my special thanks to my colleagues-cum-friends, *Dr. Minesh* and *Aashish*, for offering thoughtful suggestions to improve its quality. I would like to express my gratitude to my friends *Sakshi* and *Riya* for spending quality time and taking regular updates on the progress of work, and *Kajal* for always being there to help whenever required. I am deeply thankful for their presence in my life. My sincere thanks also goes to the creators and designers of the freeware R, which played a significant role in the development of this book.

Last but not least, I express my heartfelt gratitude to *Sultan Chand & Sons Publishers* for believing in my work and agreeing to publish it.

Finally, I extend my thanks to all those I encountered during this journey, each of whom contributed in their unique way to support me and help me bring this book to fruition. To all these wonderful individuals, I am deeply grateful, and I will always cherish the invaluable support they have provided me. This book would not have been possible without them.

Preeti Dabas

Snapshot of the Book



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Abbreviations

- χ^2 : Chi-Square
- % : Percentage
- AIC : Akaike Information Criterion
- ANCOVA : Analysis of Covariance
- ANOVA : Analysis of Variance
- CF : Cumulative Frequency
- CI : Confidence Interval
- CRAN : Comprehensive R Archive Network
- CV : Coefficient of Variation
- DoF : Degree(s) of Freedom
- DV : Dependent Variable
- GLM : Generalised Linear Model
- H_0 : Null Hypothesis
- H_1 : Alternative Hypothesis
- IDE : Integrated Development Environment
- IDV : Independent Variable
- IQR : Inter-Quartile Range
- KS : Kolmogorov-Smirnov
- LL : Lower Limit
- LoS : Level of Significance
- p -Value : Probability Value
- PP : Percent-Percent
- QQ : Quantile-Quantile
- R^2 : R -Squared
- SD : Standard Deviation
- UL:Upper Limit

Note to Readers

The book follows the following conventions throughout:

- R would mean RStudio.
- Bold letters are defined in Glossary appended at the end of the book.
- # indicates the author is addressing the reader while explaining R syntax. These comments are bits of text not executed by the software. For example:
this is a comment
- > represents R syntax in illustrations.
- As you explore R syntax, be aware that R is space insensitive, that is, R does not differentiate between spaces and may interpret “Variable = value” and “Variable = value” interchangeably.
- Extra spaces from the software results have been removed throughout.
- The titles of tables and graphs in the “Reporting the Results” sections are kept according to the given scenarios. However, in real research result reporting, the headings should be in terms of the variables. For example
“Figure : Graphical Representation for Metric = f (Metric)” should be written as “Figure : Scatterplot of Relationship between Profits and Advertisement Spendings”.
- Additionally, in the graphical representation under “Reporting the Results”, the data is presented using more than one graph. However, present the data using only one of them in real research result reporting. This will ensure clarity and avoid redundancy in the presentation of results.

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