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Discovering Statistics Using IBM SPSS Statistics, 4th Edition



Synopsis

Unrivaled in the way it makes the teaching of statistics compelling and accessible to even the most anxious of students, the only statistics textbook you and your students will ever need just got better! Andy Field's comprehensive and bestselling *Discovering Statistics Using SPSS 4th Edition* takes students from introductory statistical concepts through very advanced concepts, incorporating SPSS throughout. The Fourth Edition focuses on providing essential content updates, better accessibility to key features, more instructor resources, and more content specific to select disciplines. It also incorporates powerful new digital developments on the textbook's companion website. [^]

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Customer Reviews

With considerable pain, I give Andy Field's marvelous, somewhat spectacular book, a 4 star rating. I bought it in Kindle, then in paper. Kindle absolutely lacks the technology to offer the book. I would rate the overall Kindle experience for this book around 2 stars. I will explain in a bit. On the other hand, for content, style, and all that makes for a great book, the paper version has it all hands down. I am a Ph.D. and an author. Never have I seen such an intelligent, witty book on statistics or for that matter on any technical subject. Field has helped me to understand statistics and their use in research in a way I never thought was possible. The paper version is 5+ stars. But books are more than just words in print. They are also a format in and of themselves, which brings me back to Kindle. I have around 200 purchases on Kindle, this is my first technical one. It is not possible to expand the graphs and charts, which are essentially unreadable (nearly microscopic) on the Kindle

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This is the first book review I have ever given, largely because I don't usually have the time to write a thoughtful review that I think would benefit readers. This book, however, warranted taking the time to try. I practice applied statistics and teach introductory and advanced statistics classes at a university, and I can say hands down this is the best text I have ever used for introductory to intermediate topics. It is the book I would have loved to write if I were smarter and wanted no life for several years -- I thank Andy Field for doing that for us instead. This single work could replace a dozen other quality statistics books I have because of its comprehensiveness. It is almost an anthology of statistics, but you should not let the size of the book scare you off; it is easy to read and even enjoyable. Examples have been carefully compiled and will certainly keep your interest. Even students who say they have found some examples to be a bit crass have also remarked that they don't forget the examples because they are certainly novel. I have to strongly disagree with the few reviews stating the book is a how-to for SPSS. This is absolutely not a point and click guide. I am a firm believer that students need to know the fundamental mathematics behind statistical tests, or serious mistakes will occur, including violations of assumptions and use of the wrong tests entirely. I have seen it as a journal reviewer, and as an instructor. Field covers basic to advanced analyses with great foundational detail, but he does it in a way that does not leave readers feeling overwhelmed by the math (though it is all there). He occasionally leaves the complicated math to his additional web material, but you will find 99% of what you and/or your students need to know in the text. Even though I have been in the field for many years, I keep his book on my desk to double check procedures. I firmly believe that students and/or faculty could use this book as their single reference to walk them through their own dissertation and peer-reviewed journal quality research on almost all of the topics covered. The only statistic where that is not true in my opinion is the chapter on multilevel models. However, as people in the field know, that topic is incredibly complicated and esoteric. You will not be an expert in multilevel models from that chapter, but you will have an

excellent foundation for understanding them, and even the best complete texts on the topic do not do as good of a job as this book at introducing the concepts. Whether you're scared of statistics or use them nearly every day, get this book. It is a remarkable resource!

I previously had access to the older version of this book through the lab that I worked at, and finally decided to buy my own copy. I kind of wish that I had bought the older version - that one seemed to be much more concise in that it provided exactly the necessary information while remaining grounded in interesting dialog. This newer version has substantially increased the amount of dialog and 'entertainment' to the point where it now seems to be too much (although I should point out that I don't actually have that older version to compare against the newer one - so my memory could be wrong). It makes it difficult to actually weed out the important information from all of this background. The older version was great - go buy that one instead if you can find it!

A very nice textbook I think, which clarified some concepts for me that I previously did not realize I misunderstood. I have the third edition, however, and some of the in-text references have not been updated so that, for example, you might be referred to a text box in a different chapter that turns out to be about something else entirely. Don't low if this is corrected in the fourth edition. Also, if you find examples of research that relate to "off color" topics such as digital rectal massage or using coca-cola as a spermicide offensive, you won't like this. Otherwise it's amusing.

I purchased the hard copy for graduate statistics courses a few years ago. While writing the dissertation the digital copy has provided an ability to quickly access key information while writing components of the chapters, a great plus. The hard copy is wonderful and includes the SPSS CD. Increased efficiency during the writing process is the benefit of investment in the digital copy, in my humble opinion.

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