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 **Elementary statistics.**Author(s) : [HOEL, P. G.](#)

Author Affiliation : Univ. California, Los Angeles.

Book : [Elementary statistics](#) 1960 pp.vii + 261 pp.

Abstract : This book explains the basic ideas of statistical analysis. It is primarily for readers with no prior knowledge of statistics and little skill in mathematics; also will gain much in understanding from reading it. Its well and clearly written explanations are given with a minimum of mathematical notation. The meaning of mathematical symbolism is always fully explained and no steps of algebra are left to the reader's intuition. The laying of the foundations occupies the first six chapters ("The foundations of statistical methods", "The description of sample data", "Probability", "Theoretical frequency distributions", "Sampling", "Estimation"). These deal primarily with

description of numerical data and the estimation of the mean and standard deviation. It is not until nearly half way through the book that significance tests are introduced in Chapter 7 ("Testing hypotheses"). The next three chapters deal with correlation, regression and the chi-square distribution. Chapter 11 describes some non-parametric tests of general utility, and Chapter 12 explains the analysis of variance. In the latter part of the book, often pages it is clearly impossible to do more than sketch the outline of the subject. The analysis of variance, and biological workers, in particular, will soon encounter data in forms which they have not learned to deal with. The ideas underlying the analysis of variance are very clearly explained, and the pursuit of the subject in more advanced texts should present little difficulty. The final chapter, "Time series and index numbers", deals with topics less relevant to biological research, but contains illuminating discussions of trends, cyclical fluctuations and the use of moving averages. Each chapter is followed by a generous set of well devised and interesting exercises, and answers to alternative exercises are provided at the back. All the required tables are included in the book. A particularly helpful feature of the tables of distributions is a graphical representation of what is tabulated. This shows at a glance the logical nature of the test for which the table is used and makes it clear whether it is a one-tailed or two-tailed test. D.S. F.

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