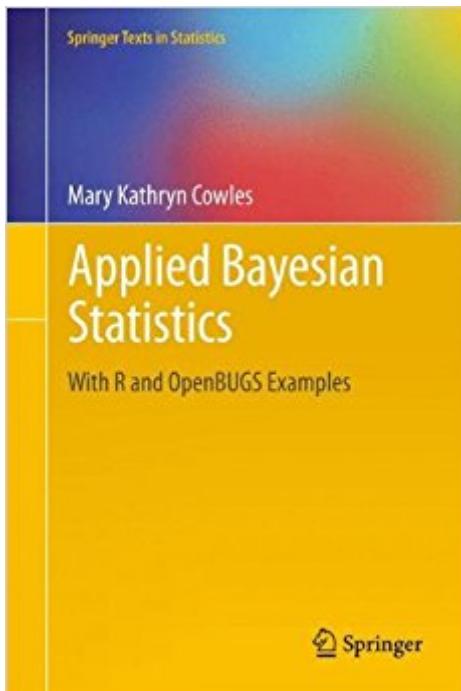


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Applied Bayesian Statistics: With R And OpenBUGS Examples (Springer Texts In Statistics)



Synopsis

This book is based on over a dozen years teaching a Bayesian Statistics course. The material presented here has been used by students of different levels and disciplines, including advanced undergraduates studying Mathematics and Statistics and students in graduate programs in Statistics, Biostatistics, Engineering, Economics, Marketing, Pharmacy, and Psychology. The goal of the book is to impart the basics of designing and carrying out Bayesian analyses, and interpreting and communicating the results. In addition, readers will learn to use the predominant software for Bayesian model-fitting, R and OpenBUGS. The practical approach this book takes will help students of all levels to build understanding of the concepts and procedures required to answer real questions by performing Bayesian analysis of real data. Topics covered include comparing and contrasting Bayesian and classical methods, specifying hierarchical models, and assessing Markov chain Monte Carlo output. Kate Cowles taught Suzuki piano for many years before going to graduate school in Biostatistics. Her research areas are Bayesian and computational statistics, with application to environmental science. She is on the faculty of Statistics at The University of Iowa.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a theory book, it is superficial and doesn't go into much depth but still requires a calculus base. I wasn't really interested in a heavy theory book, so that was fine. The explanations are not the best,

but not awful. As an applied book, it does give many examples, but the examples are light up till about chapter 8 (out of 11). Chapter 9 starts to get into hierarchical bayesian modeling, but it isn't very well explained. The example the author uses is a softball example and in table 1, the data is presented incorrectly. She labels the binary 1,0 as at bats, and then n as hits. How do you get 5 hits at 1 at bat? Later in the chapter, it is flipped back to 1 being there was a hit out of 5 attempts. That makes more sense. Little errors like that make it difficult for a novice like me to follow the model, notations, and what is trying to be estimated. As a software manual, it is poorly written. R is barely talked about in chapters 1 through 7, and she uses the LearnBayes package from another book. That made me wonder why I'm using this book and not the other one. Openbugs isn't introduced till chapter 8 (out of 11), and it is a very cursory look. I gave up after the middle of chapter 9, because it wasn't giving me what I wanted. I'm not sure what that is exactly, just not a good fit for me. I did not purchase this book, but got it from the library to look it over before deciding. This isn't a horrible book, just not very clear what it is suppose to be.

"Applied Bayesian statistics" is a decent, if unremarkable, introduction to Bayesian statistics - but it is just not competitive with "Doing Bayesian data analysis" by John Kruschke, which actually costs less if you get a used copy. UPD. Second edition of "Doing Bayesian data analysis" is now out, widening the lead. "Bayesian statistics for the social sciences" by Kaplan is another better-than-this option.

Terse. Incomplete. Author is completely unresponsive to any requests for information.

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