[PDF] A Gentle Introduction To Stata, Fifth Edition

Alan C. Acock - pdf download free book

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Description:

Alan C. Acock's **A Gentle Introduction to Stata, Fifth Edition**,
is aimed at new Stata users who want to become proficient in Stata.
After reading this introductory text, new users will be able not only
to use Stata well but also to learn new aspects of Stata.

Acock assumes that the user is not familiar with any statistical software. This assumption of a blank slate is central to the structure and contents of the book. Acock starts with the basics; for example, the portion of the book that deals with data management begins with a careful and detailed example of turning survey data on paper into a Stata-ready dataset on the computer. When explaining how to go about basic exploratory statistical procedures, Acock includes notes that will help the reader develop good work habits. This mixture of explaining good Stata habits and good statistical habits continues throughout the book.

Acock is quite careful to teach the reader all aspects of using Stata. He covers data management, good work habits (including the use of basic do-files), basic exploratory statistics (including graphical displays), and analyses using the standard array of basic statistical tools (correlation, linear and logistic regression, and parametric and nonparametric tests of location and dispersion). He also successfully introduces some more advanced topics such as multiple imputation and structural equation modeling in a very approachable manner. Acock teaches Stata commands by using the menus and dialog boxes while still stressing the value of do-files. In this way, he ensures that all types of users can build good work habits. Each chapter has exercises that the motivated reader can use to reinforce the material.

The tone of the book is friendly and conversational without ever being glib or condescending. Important asides and notes about terminology are set off in boxes, which makes the text easy to read without any convoluted twists or forward-referencing. Rather than splitting topics by their Stata implementation, Acock arranges the topics as they would appear in a basic statistics textbook; graphics and postestimation are woven into the material in a natural fashion. Real datasets, such as the *General Social Surveys* from 2002 and 2006, are used throughout the book.

The focus of the book is especially helpful for those in the behavioral and social sciences because the presentation of basic statistical modeling is supplemented with discussions of effect sizes and standardized coefficients. Various selection criteria, such as semipartial correlations, are discussed for model selection. Acock also covers a variety of commands available for evaluating reliability and validity of measurements.

The fifth edition of the book includes two new chapters that cover multilevel modeling and item response theory (IRT) models. The multilevel modeling chapter demonstrates how to fit linear multilevel models using the **mixed** command. Acock discusses models with both random intercepts and random coefficients, and he provides a variety of examples that apply these models to longitudinal data. The IRT chapter introduces the use of IRT models for evaluating a set of items designed to measure a specific trait such as an attitude, value, or a belief. Acock shows how to use the **irt** suite of commands,

which are new in Stata 14, to fit IRT models and to graph the results. In addition, he presents a measure of reliability that can be computed when using IRT.

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