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Purpose and Intended Audience of the Handbook

This handbook is meant to be an introduction to the |STAT programs. It is not written to teach students how to do data analysis, although it has been used as a supplementary text in courses. |STAT users should be familiar with using the hardware and utility programs (e.g., a text editor) on their systems.

Comparison With Other Packages

|STAT has advantages and disadvantages compared to other statistical packages. |STAT is not a comprehensive package because it was developed as needs arose. So there are deficits in many areas of analysis: no multivariate analysis other than regression, and only simple graphics. Independent of these limitations, the programs are not designed for use with large data sets or large values; the programs are usually adequate for data up to a few thousand points. Also, |STAT is unsupported, so if you have problems installing or using the programs, you may be on your own. Despite these limitations, |STAT provides you with most analyses reported in research. |STAT programs run on UNIX and MSDOS, operating systems popular in educational and research institutions, government, and industry. The liberal copyright of the programs allows free copies to be made for multiple machines provided the programs are not copied for material gain. |STAT programs integrate easily with other programs, and this makes it possible for new programs to be added later.

Distribution Conditions

CAREFULLY READ THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS. IF YOU DO NOT FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE, YOU SHOULD NOT USE |STAT.

|STAT IS PROVIDED "AS IS," WITHOUT ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY. THE USER ASSUMES ALL RISKS OF USING |STAT. THERE IS NO CLAIM OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. |STAT MAY NOT BE SUITED TO YOUR NEEDS. |STAT MAY NOT RUN ON YOUR PARTICULAR HARDWARE OR SOFTWARE CONFIGURATION. THE AVAILABILITY OF AND PROGRAMS IN |STAT MAY CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. NEITHER MANUFACTURER NOR DISTRIBUTOR BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY MISHAP OR ECONOMIC LOSS RESULTING THEREFROM OF THE USE OF |STAT EVEN IF THE PROGRAMS PROVE TO BE DEFECTIVE. |STAT IS NOT INTENDED FOR CONSUMER USE.

CASUAL USE BY USERS NOT TRAINED IN STATISTICS, OR BY USERS NOT SUPERVISED BY PERSONS TRAINED IN STATISTICS, MUST BE AVOIDED. USERS MUST BE TRAINED AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE TO LEARN TO USE THE PROGRAMS. DATA ANALYSIS PROGRAMS MAKE MANY ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT DATA, THESE ASSUMPTIONS AFFECT THE VALIDITY OF CONCLUSIONS MADE BASED ON THE PROGRAMS. REFERENCES TO SOME APPROPRIATE STATISTICAL SOURCES ARE MADE IN THE |STAT HANDBOOK AND IN THE MANUAL ENTRIES FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS. |STAT PROGRAMS HAVE NOT BEEN VALIDATED FOR LARGE DATASETS, HIGHLY VARIABLE DATA, NOR VERY LARGE NUMBERS.

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CHAPTER 0

Preface

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Distribution Conditions
References

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