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Washington Statistical Society

CHAPTER • AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION



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NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 1977

February 7 - Nonparametric Statistical Data Science
February 9 - Use of Data For Regional And State Planning
February 16 - Multi-tailed Testing
February 18 - Controlled Trials of Hypoglycemic Agents
February 24 - Respondent Incentives And Survey Response Rates
March 2 - USDA Food Consumption Survey

PHYSICAL SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Topic: Nonparametric Statistical Data Science: A Unified Approach Based on Density Estimation and Testing for "White Noise"

Speaker: Emanuel Parzen, Statistical Science Division, State University of New York at Buffalo, Amherst, New York

Chairman: Ismail N. Shimi, Air Force Office of Scientific Research

The aim of this talk is to propose a comprehensive new approach, a nonparametric statistical continuous data science which seems to be consistent with conventional nonparametric inference but provides universally applicable procedures which are asymptotically efficient. This talk will outline the following ideas:

1. How the basic general applied problem of statistical inference can be formulated as problems of estimation of distribution functions on the unit interval or unit hypercube.
2. How such problems are more fruitfully treated as density estimation problems.
3. How to solve density estimation problems by using a suitable information theoretical distance between densities, find the "smooth" density which is closest to a "raw" estimator of a density.

When and Where: Monday, February 7, 1977, 11:30 - 1:00 p.m.,
Martin Luther King Library, 9th and G Sts., N.W.,
Room A-5 (Auditorium)

SOCIAL AND DEMOGRAPHIC STATISTICS

Topic: Use of Data for Regional and State Planning

Panel: Edith Grotberg, Office of Child Development, HEW
Hal Wallach, Census Use Studies, Bureau of the Census
Kurt Snapper, Herner Publishing Company

Through its program of Federal and State cooperation in research, the Office of Child Development has initiated several experiments in the use of demographic and normative data for Federal and State decision making. The discussion will explore the effectiveness of a new training and utilization model.

When and Where: Wednesday, February 9, 1977, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,
Room S-5215(ABC) New Department of Labor Building,
200 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIOSTATISTICS--METHODOLOGY SECTION

Topic: How Should One Make 2-tail Tests, as for 2x2 Contingency Tables, and Other Aspects of Multi-tailed Testing

Chairman: Dr. John J. Bartko, Division of Biometry and Epidemiology,
National Institute of Mental Health

Speaker: Professor Nathan Mantel, Biostatistics Center, George Washington University, 7979 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, Maryland, 20014

Discussant: Professor Samuel Greenhouse, Department of Statistics,
George Washington University

The determination of 2-tail significance levels, as for 2x2 contingency tables, is by no means straightforward, even if one uses the Fisher Exact test in that situation. Alternative ways of conducting 2-tail tests will be reviewed, but some issues must remain unresolved. Problems of 2-tail testing and even of multi-tail testing in more complex situations will also be discussed.

The selection of Professor Mantel's topic was made by the chairman and others. However, Professor Mantel will make available preprints of a forth-coming publication on procedures for setting limits on the common odds ratio of several 2x2 contingency tables, in which methods in analogy with the Mantel-Haenszel procedure are employed. In that preprint allusion is made to the problem of 2-tail testing.

When and Where: Wednesday, February 16, 1977, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,
Boutwell Auditorium, 7th Floor, IRS Building.
(Please use entrance at 1111 Constitution Avenue and bring a copy of this newsletter to show the building guard).

PUBLIC HEALTH AND BIOSTATISTICS

Topic: The Assessment of Biometric Aspects of Controlled Trials of Hypoglycemic Agents

Speaker: Dr. Colin White, Professor of Biometry, Yale University

Chairman: Fred Ederer, National Eye Institute, NIH

The finding in 1970 by the University Group Diabetes Program (UGDP), the largest controlled clinical trial of oral hypoglycemic agents to date, that tolbutamide and diet may be less effective than diet alone in prolonging the life of patients with adult onset diabetes was followed by a Food and Drug Administration recommendation to curtail the use of tolbutamide. The UGDP finding and the FDA action had a dramatic impact on the more than 1.5 million users of oral hypoglycemic agents and on the medical-scientific community. A storm of controversy ensued and led to the appointment by the President of the Biometric Society, at the invitation of the National Institutes of Health, of a committee to consider the biometric aspects of controlled trials of hypoglycemic agents. Professor White, who served as Chairman, will discuss the committee's work, which was completed in 1975.

When and Where: Friday, February 18, 1977, 11:00 - 12:30 p.m.,
Wilson Hall, 3rd Floor, Bldg. 1, National Institutes
of Health, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Maryland

METHODOLOGY SECTION

Topic: The Effect of Respondent Incentives on Survey Response Rates

Speakers: Thomas C. Walsh, U.S. Bureau of the Census
Cynthia Forbes, Westat, Inc.
Richard L. Valliant, Westat, Inc.

Discussant: Robert B. Pearl

Chairperson: Evelyn R. Kay, NCES

Two studies investigating the impact of financial incentives on survey responses will be discussed. Mr. Walsh will describe a study that was carried out for the diary part of the Consumer Expenditure Survey. Ms. Forbes and Mr. Valliant will discuss the impact of a financial incentive included in a pretest survey carried out for NCES of the characteristics of students in noncollegiate post-secondary schools.

When and Where: Thursday, February 24, 1977, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,
Martin Luther King Library, 9th and G Sts., N.W.
Room A-5 (Auditorium)

AGRICULTURE

Topic: USDA Food Consumption Survey

Speaker: Robert L. Rizek, Chairman, Consumer and Food Economics
Institute, Agricultural Research Service, USDA

Chairman: Peggy Weidenhamer, Statistical Reporting Service, USDA

The ARS has recently signed a contract for the next food consumption survey. Dr. Rizek will describe the survey as well as the methodological study that determined the procedures that were adopted for this survey.

When and Where: Wednesday, March 2, 1977, 12:30 - 2:00 p.m.,
Martin Luther King Library, 9th and G Sts, N.W.,
Room A-5 (Auditorium)

E M P L O Y M E N T C O L U M N

Notes to job applicants and to employers with job openings:

1. Deadline for inserting notices is the 12th of the month preceding the publication month
2. Reruns of notices may be made on a space-available basis.

J O B A P P L I C A N T S

Listed below is a brief description of the qualifications of an individual seeking employment. Employers interested in interviewing this applicant should notify Evelyn R. Kay of their interest by CODE NUMBER. The request should be by mail and should include the employer's name, organization, and telephone number. The applicant will be notified of the employer's interest and initiation of any further contact will be left to the applicant. All contacts will be confidential. Mrs. Kay's address is:

National Center for Education Statistics
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202 202/245-8340

CODE NUMBER: 2-2-77

Education: BS (Math., Stat., & Eco), MS and PhD (Statistics)

Fields of Competence: Statistical surveys and statistical analysis

Experience: 8 years in industry, teaching, and government.
Designing and managing nationwide surveys; application of regression, nonparametric, modeling, simulation, reliability, design of experiments, multivariate analysis and quality-control techniques; computer programming.

Salary level: GS-13

Type of employment: Government in Washington metropolitan area.

J O B O P E N I N G S

<p>Survey Statistician GS 5 & 9 National Center for Education Statistics, DHEW</p>
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These two positions involve working on a large-scale survey program in postsecondary education. Activities include questionnaire development, data collection, editing and analysis, and preparation of reports for publication.

Applicants for these positions should send a resume to Dr. Marjorie O. Chandler, National Center for Education Statistics, Room 3073, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202.