

Preface

Excel 2010 for Biological and Life Sciences Statistics: A Guide to Solving Practical Problems is intended for anyone looking to learn the basics of applying Excel's powerful statistical tools to their science courses or work activities. If understanding statistics is not your strongest suit, you are not especially mathematically-inclined, or if you are wary of computers, then this is the right book for you.

Here you will learn how to use key statistical tests using Excel without being overpowered by the underlying statistical theory. This book clearly and methodically shows and explains how to create and use these statistical tests to solve practical problems in the biological and life sciences.

Excel is an easily available computer program for students, instructors, and managers. It is also an effective teaching and learning tool for quantitative analyses in science courses. The powerful numerical computational ability and the graphical functions available in Excel make learning statistics much easier than in past years. However, this is the first book to show Excel's capabilities to teach more effectively science statistics; it also focuses exclusively on this topic in an effort to render the subject matter not only applicable and practical, but also easy to comprehend and apply.

Unique features of this book:

- This book is appropriate for use in any course in Biological or Life Sciences Statistics (at both undergraduate and graduate levels) as well as for managers who want to improve the usefulness of their Excel skills.
- Includes 162 color screen shots so that you can be sure you are performing the Excel steps correctly.
- You will be told each step of the way, not only *how* to use Excel, but also *why* you are doing each step so that you can understand what you are doing, and not merely learn how to use statistical tests by rote.
- Includes specific objectives embedded in the text for each concept, so you can know the purpose of the Excel steps.
- This book is a tool that can be used either by itself or along with *any* good statistics book.

- Statistical theory and formulas are explained in clear language without bogging you down in mathematical fine points.
- You will learn both how to write statistical formulas using Excel and how to use Excel's drop-down menus that will create the formulas for you.
- This book does not come with a CD of Excel files which you can upload to your computer. Instead, you will be shown how to create each Excel file yourself. In a work situation, your colleagues will not give you an Excel file; you will be expected to create your own. This book will give you ample practice in developing this important skill.
- Each chapter presents the steps needed to solve a practical science problem using Excel. In addition, there are three practice problems at the end of each chapter so you can test your new knowledge of statistics. The answers to these problems appear in Appendix A.
- A "Practice Test" is given in Appendix B to test your knowledge at the end of the book. The answers to these practical science problems appear in Appendix C.

Thomas Quirk, a current Professor of Marketing at the George Herbert Walker School of Business & Technology at Webster University in St. Louis, Missouri (USA), teaches Marketing Statistics, Marketing Research, and Pricing Strategies. He has published articles in *The Journal of Educational Psychology*, *Journal of Educational Research*, *Review of Educational Research*, *Journal of Educational Measurement*, *Educational Technology*, *The Elementary School Journal*, *Journal of Secondary Education*, *Educational Horizons*, and *Phi Delta Kappan*. In addition, Professor Quirk has written more than 60 textbook supplements in Management and Marketing, published more than 20 articles in professional journals, and presented more than 20 papers at professional meetings. He holds a BS in Mathematics from John Carroll University, both a MA in Education and a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from Stanford University, and an MBA from the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Meghan Quirk holds both a Ph.D. in Biological Education and an MA in Biological Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC), and a BA in Biology and Religion at Principia College in Elsah, Illinois. She has done research on foodweb dynamics at Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota and research in agroecology in Southern Belize. She has co-authored an article on shortgrass steppe ecosystems in *Photochemistry & Photobiology* and has presented papers at the Shortgrass Steppe Symposium in Fort Collins, Colorado, the Long-term Ecological Research All Scientists Meeting in Estes Park, Colorado, and participated in the NSF Site Review of the Shortgrass Steppe Long-term Ecological Research in Nunn, Colorado. She was a National Science Foundation Fellow GK-12, and currently teaches in Bailey, Colorado.

Howard Horton holds an MS in Biological Sciences from the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) and a BS in Biological Sciences from Mesa State College. He has worked on research projects in Pawnee National Grasslands, Rocky Mountain National Park, Long-term Ecological Research at Toolik Lake, Alaska, and Wind Cave, South Dakota. He has co-authored articles in

The International Journal of Speleology and *The Journal of Cave and Karst Studies*. He was a National Science Foundation Fellow GK-12, and is currently a District Wildlife Manager with the Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife.

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Quirk, Th.J.; Quirk, M.H.; Horton, H.F.

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