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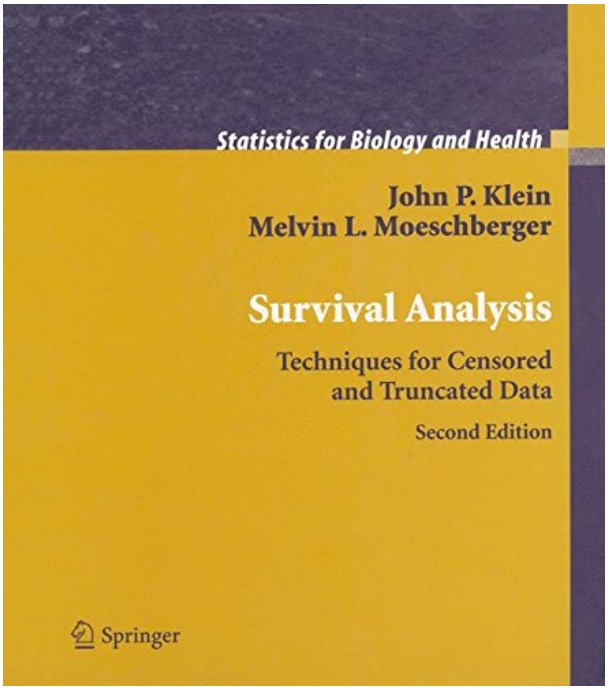

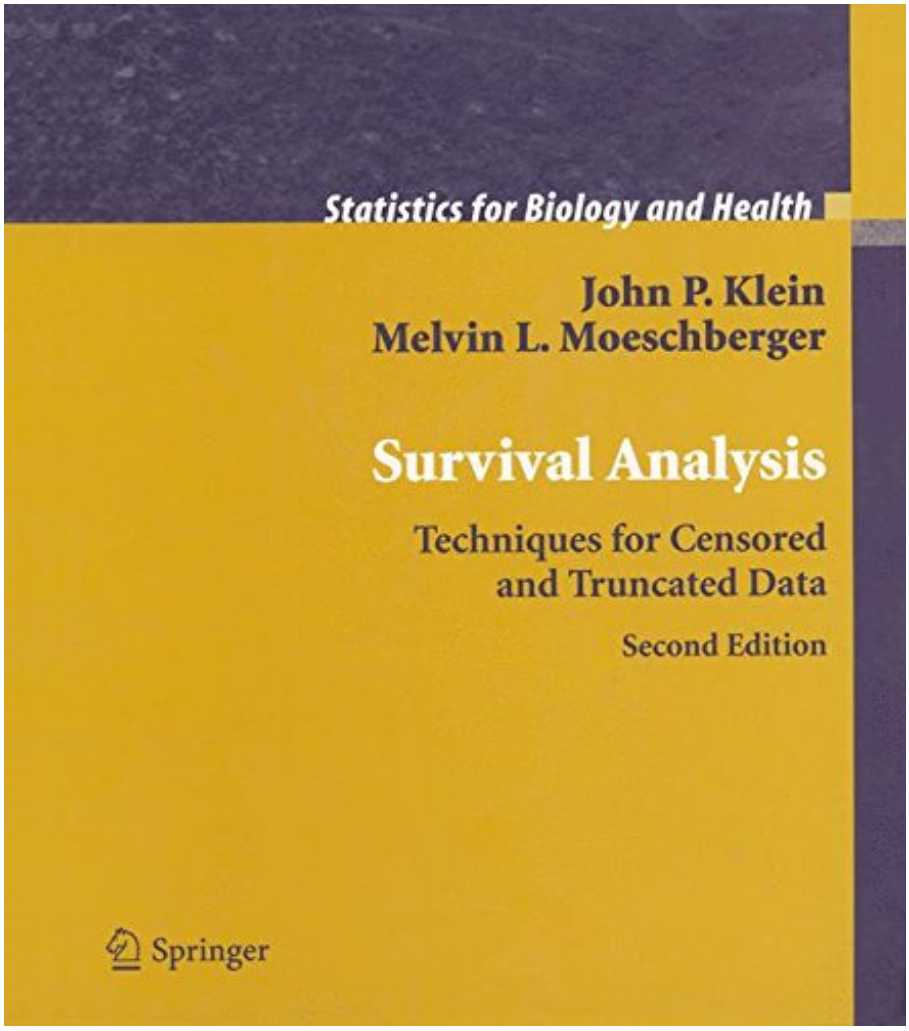

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Applied statisticians in many fields must frequently analyze time to event data. While the statistical tools presented in this book are applicable to data from medicine, biology, public health, epidemiology, engineering, economics, and demography, the focus here is on applications of the techniques to biology and medicine. The analysis of survival experiments is complicated by issues of censoring, where an individual's life length is known to occur only in a certain period of time, and by truncation, where individuals enter the study only if they survive a sufficient length of time or individuals are included in the study only if the event has occurred by a given date. The use of counting process methodology has allowed for substantial advances in the statistical theory to account for censoring and truncation in survival experiments. This book makes these complex methods more accessible to applied researchers without an advanced mathematical background. The authors present the essence of these techniques, as well as classical techniques not based on counting processes, and apply them to data. Practical suggestions for implementing the various methods are set off in a series of Practical Notes at the end of each section. Technical details of the derivation of the techniques are sketched in a series of Technical Notes. This book will be useful for investigators who need to analyze censored or truncated life time data, and as a textbook for a graduate course in survival analysis. The prerequisite is a standard course in statistical methodology.

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Features

- Springer

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Most helpful customer reviews

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful.
pretty good text but the examples/problems go downhill near the end
By David
I used this book for a class in survival analysis (a graduate level biostats course) and I found it very useful. Much of the first several chapters are fairly quick relative to many graduate statistics texts and focuses on application with less emphasis on theory. Overall, I have no major qualms with the book. The author goes on a bit longer than necessary but I'd rather end up skimming text than be stuck deciphering terse material. This extra explanation also opens the book up to a wider audience.

A solid understanding of basic statistics is necessary to get started in this book. To get more, 4+ semester-long statistics courses, at least one based in regression, would be ideal. A basic knowledge in mathematical analysis as it pertains to statistics (mainly dealing with convergence in law) will be beneficial to understanding some of the intricacies of the topics and answer many of the 'whys'.

In conjunction with the course and the book, I worked problems in R with the 'survival' package, which I found very useful. (R is a free statistical program. A basic understanding of R would be necessary before trying to use the survival package -- I would recommend Dalgaard's book for an intro to R if this is of interest.) I have a good understanding of R and found the survival package documentation supplemented by rseek . org searches (when I got stuck) sufficient to figure out how to implement the survival functions in R.

On the example setup and problems...
at the end of each chapter, this book is a bit hit-or-miss. Some problems are good. Many are not. There is a lot of confusion created by some of the problems, which leads into the part of the book I take the most issue with. The authors refer to scattered examples in problems (take for example, referring to example 8.3 in problem 9.5). The thing is, Example 8.3 starts on page 251 and then it continues randomly throughout the remainder of the chapter until page 274 (I had to page through the chapter to find those page numbers). The examples in mid-to-late chapters can be very scatter-brained and some of the problems start to become this way as well. The authors seem to forget that keeping track of the 15-20 studies they use in this text is no small task and that they've spent a lot more time looking at them than others. Self-contained examples where I don't need to flip back to chapter 1 or some other example to read about the study would be really nice. The examples and problems could have been much more user-friendly to accelerate the learning process.

2 of 3 people found the following review helpful.
Good Book
By Waseem

I am a computer scientist and using this book for my research to address a problem. This book is well written but of course target audience are people with solid background in probability theory and parameteric estimation (pattern recognition). Therefore please do not expect that author will teach you basic probability theory. Contents are more applied in nature therefore natural audience are staticians and researchers.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
Awesome book!
By Danielle
Very helpful and easy to read. Highly recommended.

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