



Using Multivariate Statistics

Barbara G. Tabachnick, Linda S. Fidell

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"A Practical Approach to using Multivariate Analyses" "Using Multivariate Statistics," 6th edition provides advanced undergraduate as well as graduate students with a timely and comprehensive introduction to today's most commonly encountered statistical and multivariate techniques, while assuming only a limited knowledge of higher-level mathematics. This text's practical approach focuses on the benefits and limitations of applications of a technique to a data set -- when, why, and how to do it. Learning GoalsUpon completing this book, readers should be able to:

Learn to conduct numerous types of multivariate statistical analyses

Find the best technique to use

Understand Limitations to applications

Learn how to use SPSS and SAS syntax and output

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Steve says

I sat in the Chinese restaurant next to the Eagle super market in Normal, Illinois, during the spring semester of 1999 while I was completing a master's degree in clinical psychology. I was talking to Charu Thakral about how I wanted to take more statistics classes, especially multivariate statistics, but could not do so because I had not taken the Experimental Design class yet (which was an entire class basically devoted to the Analysis of Variance). Just then, Matthew Hesson-McInnis, the head of the quantitative psychology program at Illinois State came in with Glenn Reeder, a social psychologist also on the faculty. As Charu knew Matthew and Glenn, she said hello and introduced me to Matthew, somewhat embarrassingly. She told him I was interested in taking his multivariate class, but that I hadn't taken Experimental Design yet. He said that they were changing pre-requisites, and that Experimental Design would no longer be a prerequisite for Multivariate Analysis.

I read the third edition of this book when Matthew was my teacher. Matthew had a Ph.D. in quantitative psychology from the University of Illinois, and knew more about statistics than most people I've met, even today. Unfortunately, he wasn't particularly disciplined, and would often get off topic. Still, with Tabachnick and Fidell's text, one gets a good, readable introduction to the various statistical techniques. They even try to be humorous, using numerous examples of belly dancers and the like. I wanted to look up simple effect and found "Simple Minded," to which they said "See Statistics." When I looked up "Statistics," it said "Pages 1 - 860." As Tabachnick and Fidell are themselves psychologists, they do a good job at illustrating how psychologists would use multivariate statistics.

Unfortunately, the book is very light when it comes to the mathematics underlying the analyses. In fact, the only book that is significantly lighter is Meyers, Gamst, and Guarino's "Applied Multivariate Research: Design and Interpretation." That book is truly bad, with so little rigor and without the nice write ups of results or examples in numerous statistics packages that Tabachnick and Fidell present. If one wanted to get the mathematical rigor of the techniques without the examples of how to write up results for a psychological journal, I'd suggest Johnson and Wichern's "Applied Multivariate Statistical Analysis." If one wants a level even more rigorous, including formal proofs but almost complete lack of application, I'd recommend T. W. Anderson's "An Introduction to Multivariate Statistical Techniques." There are certainly other multivariate texts that come to mind (i.e., Stevens or Lattin, Carroll, and Green), but none of them so clearly fill niches as 1) Tabachnick and Fidell, 2) Johnson and Wichern, and 3) T. W. Anderson.

On one of my papers for Matthew's class, he suggested I consider graduate school in quantitative psychology. I didn't really understand what that was, and having wanted to be a clinical psychologist since I had my sometimes suicidal, sometimes hallucinating ex-girlfriend from high school, I couldn't conceive of being anything other than a clinical psychologist. I wish I had listened to Matthew, as I couldn't really consider wanting to be a clinical psychologist now. Currently, I feel like I have a good, working knowledge of statistics and quantitative methods, but I feel like I'm always teaching myself along the way, hopefully filling the lacunae in my knowledge but doubting whether I've done so successfully. In fact, a few years later, Matthew gave me his phone number and I called him to talk about leaving my Ph.D. program in clinical psychology to pursue a quant Ph.D. Unfortunately, I wasn't accepted to the few programs to which I applied; therefore, I completed a second master's degree in statistics and then transferred to the social psychology program at Loyola.

Interestingly enough, in the year 2009, Matthew's major professor at U of I received an outstanding lifetime

contribution award to the field from the American Psychological Association. When I interviewed for my assistant professor job at Cal State, Fullerton, where I later would work for two years, my interviewer, a social psychologist who faked knowing statistics asked me about my statistics training and I told him I took multivariate statistics with one of Larry Hubert's students. That individual didn't know who Larry Hubert was, despite the fact that Larry Hubert edited *Psychometrika* just a few years earlier, the premiere quantitative psychology journal. I bring this all up because I'm bitter for my experiences with this individual and with living in California in general. I should have taken this as a sign of things to come, but was a bit blinded about going out to CA in the first place.

Lisa says

This is the best stats reference ever--both comprehensive and accessible. I've read various chapters of this book at different times, as needed. When I was navigating my dissertation without any help, as a stats-phobe, this book was my savior. It's because of this book that I am confident enough to coach/tutor other students as they navigate their own dissertations. And I refer to this book all the time in that context. So in the end, this text has made me back far more than the hundred bucks I spent on it. In fact, I've destroyed the pathetic not-designed-to-last textbook binding and I need to get it rebound before I lose an important section or something.

Edward Moran says

This book has too much about the SPSS software if you're just looking for a book on Multivariate Statistics.

Darin says

This book is written for students in the social sciences. The authors provide many insightful details that go beyond the theory.

Beth says

This book gives a great overview of the different multivariate analyses that are available. The book goes very in-depth with matrices and equations, yet doesn't lose the reader, even when they are not mathematically gifted.

Siobhan says

A very useful reference point.

There is so much to be found within these pages. Whatever it is you are searching for within the book comes with very useful information, giving clear explanations before going into more depth to develop your

understanding. Whether you wish to read from cover to cover, or simply use as a reference for once or two things, this book will help.

Leanna Aker says

This is not a starters' book in stats. You need some grounding in methodology, or with simpler books, first. My stats professor refers to this as "the bible," and I see why, but this book is not for the faint of heart. I appreciate it most for the succinct examples of write-ups for each type of analysis. I have referred to those time and time again in my doctoral program.

Ahmed says

This used to be one of the best references in the field. However, it is somehow outdated now. A well-updated edition is definitely needed..

Nikos Bar says

Almost everything you wanna know about linear analysis modelling in our days.

Chris says

Very readable for a math book. I'm liberal arts student and this has been a breath of fresh air compared to most math/stat books I've been assigned in the past.

Lauren Adams says

i thought this was useful

Carmen Casanova says

helping me throughout the years..!! :)
