

Introduction to Probability with Mathematica, Second Edition (Textbooks in Mathematics)

By Kevin J. Hastings

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Updated to conform to *Mathematica*® 7.0, **Introduction to Probability with *Mathematica*®, Second Edition** continues to show students how to easily create simulations from templates and solve problems using *Mathematica*. It provides a real understanding of probabilistic modeling and the analysis of data and encourages the application of these ideas to practical problems. The accompanying CD-ROM offers instructors the option of creating class notes, demonstrations, and projects.

New to the Second Edition

- Expanded section on Markov chains that includes a study of absorbing chains
- New sections on order statistics, transformations of multivariate normal random variables, and Brownian motion
- More example data of the normal distribution
- More attention on conditional expectation, which has become significant in financial mathematics
- Additional problems from Actuarial Exam P
- New appendix that gives a basic introduction to *Mathematica*
- New examples, exercises, and data sets, particularly on the bivariate normal distribution
- New visualization and animation features from *Mathematica* 7.0
- Updated *Mathematica* notebooks on the CD-ROM (Go to Downloads/Updates tab for link to CD files.)

After covering topics in discrete probability, the text presents a fairly standard treatment of common discrete distributions. It then transitions to continuous probability and continuous distributions, including normal, bivariate normal, gamma, and chi-square distributions. The author goes on to examine the history of probability, the laws of large numbers, and the central limit theorem. The final chapter explores stochastic processes and applications, ideal for students in operations research and finance.

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Editorial Review

Review

If you own the first edition, you will be very pleased with the second edition. It is more complete, better organized, and even more well-presented. If you don’t own the first edition, and are looking for an effective tool for conveying probabilistic concepts, Hastings’ book should certainly be one you consider.
?Jane L. Harvill, *The American Statistician*, November 2011

Introduction to Probability with Mathematica adds computational exercises to the traditional undergraduate probability curriculum without cutting out theory. … a good textbook for a class with a strong emphasis on hands-on experience with probability. … One interesting feature of the book is that each set of exercises includes a few problems taken from actuarial exams. No doubt this will comfort students who are taking a probability course in hopes that it will prepare them for an actuarial exam. Another interesting feature is the discussion of the Central Limit Theorem. The book goes into an interesting discussion of the history of the theorem … .
?*MAA Reviews*, December 2009

About the Author

Kevin J. Hastings is a professor of mathematics at Knox College in Galesburg, Illinois.

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