

Preface xi
Acknowledgments xx
Index of Applications xxii

1 Performing Operations and Evaluating Expressions 1

- 1.1 Variables, Constants, Plotting Points, and Inequalities 1
- 1.2 Expressions 17
- 1.3 Operations with Fractions and Proportions; Converting Units 25
- 1.4 Absolute Value and Adding Real Numbers 42
- 1.5 Change in a Quantity and Subtracting Real Numbers 49
- 1.6 Ratios, Percents, and Multiplying and Dividing Real Numbers 57
- 1.7 Exponents, Square Roots, Order of Operations, and Scientific Notation 71
 - Hands-On Projects: Stocks Project 87
 - Key Points of Chapter 1 88
 - Chapter 1 Review Exercises 91
 - Chapter 1 Test 93

2 Designing Observational Studies and Experiments 95

- 2.1 Simple Random Sampling 95
- 2.2 Systematic, Stratified, and Cluster Sampling 112
- 2.3 Observational Studies and Experiments 122
 - Hands-On Projects: Survey about Proportions Project • Online Report Project 136
 - Key Points of Chapter 2 138
 - Chapter 2 Review Exercises 141
 - Chapter 2 Test 143

3 Constructing Graphical and Tabular Displays of Data 145

- 3.1 Frequency Tables, Relative Frequency Tables, and Bar Graphs 145
- 3.2 Pie Charts and Two-Way Tables 162
- 3.3 Dotplots, Stemplots, and Time-Series Plots 175
- 3.4 Histograms 193
- 3.5 Misleading Graphical Displays of Data 218
 - Hands-On Projects: Critical Thinking Project 231
 - Key Points of Chapter 3 232
 - Chapter 3 Review Exercises 235
 - Chapter 3 Test 239

Sample preface

4 Summarizing Data Numerically 241

- 4.1 Measures of Center 241
- 4.2 Measures of Spread 269
- 4.3 Boxplots 294
 - Hands-On Projects: Comparison Shopping of Cars Project 311
 - Key Points of Chapter 4 311
 - Chapter 4 Review Exercises 313
 - Chapter 4 Test 316

5 Computing Probabilities 318

- 5.1 Meaning of Probability 318
- 5.2 Complement and Addition Rules 337
- 5.3 Conditional Probability and the Multiplication Rule for Independent Events 350
- 5.4 Discrete Random Variables 364
- 5.5 Finding Probabilities for a Normal Distribution 383
- 5.6 Finding Values of Variables for Normal Distributions 408
 - Hands-On Projects: Heights of Adults Project 421
 - Key Points of Chapter 5 421
 - Chapter 5 Review Exercises 424
 - Chapter 5 Test 426

6 Constructing Scatterplots and Drawing Linear Models 428

- 6.1 Scatterplots 428
- 6.2 Determining the Four Characteristics of an Association 447
- 6.3 Modeling Linear Associations 469
 - Hands-On Projects: Climate Change Project • Linear Sketch Project: Topic of Your Choice 488
 - Key Points of Chapter 6 490
 - Chapter 6 Review Exercises 492
 - Chapter 6 Test 495

7 Graphing Equations of Lines and Linear Models; Rate of Change 497

- 7.1 Graphing Equations of Lines and Linear Models 497
- 7.2 Rate of Change and Slope of a Line 511
- 7.3 Using Slope to Graph Equations of Lines and Linear Models 529
- 7.4 Functions 545
 - Hands-On Projects: Climate Change Project • Workout Project 566
 - Key Points of Chapter 7 568
 - Chapter 7 Review Exercises 570
 - Chapter 7 Test 573

8 Solving Linear Equations and Inequalities to Make Predictions 576

- 8.1 Simplifying Expressions 576
- 8.2 Solving Linear Equations in One Variable 588
- 8.3 Solving Linear Equations to Make Predictions 600
- 8.4 Solving Formulas and Evaluating Summation Notation 616
- 8.5 Solving Linear Inequalities to Make Predictions 631
- Key Points of Chapter 8 645
- Chapter 8 Review Exercises 647
- Chapter 8 Test 649

9 Finding Equations of Linear Models 651

- 9.1 Using Two Points to Find an Equation of a Line 651
- 9.2 Using Two Points to Find an Equation of a Linear Model 659
- 9.3 Linear Regression Model 672
- Hands-On Projects: Climate Change Project • Golf Ball Project • Linear Project: Topic of Your Choice 697
- Key Points of Chapter 9 700
- Chapter 9 Review Exercises 702
- Chapter 9 Test 704

10 Using Exponential Models to Make Predictions 706

- 10.1 Integer Exponents 706
- 10.2 Rational Exponents 720
- 10.3 Graphing Exponential Models 726
- 10.4 Using Two Points to Find an Equation of an Exponential Model 741
- 10.5 Exponential Regression Model 750
- Hands-On Projects: Cooling Water Project • Exponential Project: Topic of Your Choice 775
- Key Points of Chapter 10 777
- Chapter 10 Review Exercises 779
- Chapter 10 Test 782

11 Logarithmic Functions (Online Only)

- 11.1 Composite Functions
- 11.2 Inverse Functions
- 11.3 Logarithmic Functions
- 11.4 Properties of Logarithms
- 11.5 Using the Power Property with Exponential Models to Make Predictions
- 11.6 More Properties of Logarithms
- 11.7 Natural Logarithms
- Hands-On Projects: China and India Populations Project • Folding Paper Project • Exponential/Logarithmic Project: Topic of Your Choice

Sample preface

Key Points of Chapter 11
 Chapter 11 Review Exercises
 Chapter 11 Test

12 Systems of Linear Equations and Systems of Linear Inequalities (Online Only)

- 12.1** Using Graphs and Tables to Solve Systems
 - 12.2** Using Substitution to Solve Systems
 - 12.3** Using Elimination to Solve Systems
 - 12.4** Using Systems to Model Data
 - 12.5** Perimeter, Value, Interest, and Mixture Problems
 - 12.6** Linear Inequalities in Two Variables; Systems of Linear Inequalities in Two Variables
 - Hands-On Projects: Climate Change Project (continued from Chapter 9) • Sports Project • Truck Project
- Key Points of Chapter 12
 Chapter 12 Review Exercises
 Chapter 12 Test

A Using a TI-84 Graphing Calculator A-1

- A.1** Turning a Graphing Calculator On or Off A-1
- A.2** Making the Screen Lighter or Darker A-1
- A.3** Selecting Numbers Randomly A-1
- A.4** Entering Data for a Single Variable A-3
- A.5** Constructing a Frequency Histogram A-3
- A.6** Computing Mean, Standard Deviation, Median, and Other Measures A-4
- A.7** Constructing a Boxplot A-5
- A.8** Computing the Mean and the Standard Deviation of a Discrete Random Variable A-6
- A.9** Computing Probabilities for a Normal Distribution A-7
- A.10** Finding a Value of a Variable for a Normal Distribution A-8
- A.11** Constructing a Time-Series Plot or Scatterplot A-8
- A.12** Constructing Two Scatterplots That Share the Same Axes A-9
- A.13** Computing Correlation Coefficients and Coefficients of Determination A-11
- A.14** Turning a Plotter On or Off A-11
- A.15** Entering an Equation A-12
- A.16** Graphing an Equation A-12
- A.17** Tracing a Curve without a Scatterplot A-12
- A.18** Zooming A-13
- A.19** Setting the Window Format A-14
- A.20** Graphing Equations with a Scatterplot A-14
- A.21** Tracing a Curve with a Scatterplot A-14
- A.22** Constructing a Table A-15
- A.23** Constructing a Table for Two Equations A-15
- A.24** Using “Ask” in a Table A-15

- A.25** Finding the Intersection Point(s) of Two Curves A-16
- A.26** Turning an Equation On or Off A-16
- A.27** Evaluating Summation Notation A-17
- A.28** Finding a Regression Equation A-17
- A.29** Constructing a Residual Plot A-18
- A.30** Responding to Error Messages A-19
- A.31** Selecting “MATHPRINT” or “CLASSIC” Mode A-21

B

Using StatCrunch B-1

- B.1** Selecting Numbers Randomly B-1
- B.2** Entering Data B-1
- B.3** Constructing Frequency and Relative Frequency Tables B-2
- B.4** Constructing Bar Graphs and Multiple Bar Graphs B-2
- B.5** Constructing Pie Charts B-3
- B.6** Constructing Two-Way Tables B-4
- B.7** Constructing Dotplots B-4
- B.8** Constructing Stemplots and Split Stems B-5
- B.9** Constructing Time-Series Plots B-5
- B.10** Constructing Histograms B-6
- B.11** Computing Medians, Means, Standard Deviations, and Other Measures B-7
- B.12** Constructing Boxplots B-7
- B.13** Graphing the Probability Distribution of a Discrete Random Variable B-8
- B.14** Finding the Probability of an Outcome of a Discrete Random Variable B-8
- B.15** Computing the Mean and the Standard Deviation of a Discrete Random Variable B-9
- B.16** Computing Probabilities for a Normal Distribution B-9
- B.17** Finding Values of a Variable for a Normal Distribution B-9
- B.18** Constructing Scatterplots B-10
- B.19** Computing Linear Correlation Coefficients, Coefficients of Determination, and Sum of Squared Residuals B-10
- B.20** Finding Linear Regression Equations B-11
- B.21** Constructing Residual Plots for Linear Regression Models B-11
- B.22** Graphing Equations on a Scatterplot B-11

C

Standard Normal Distribution Table C-1

- Glossary G-1
- Answers to Odd-Numbered Exercises ANS-1
- Index I-1

Sample preface

For a very long time, algebra has been viewed as an essential ingredient in a person's education. And for certain community college students, such as STEM majors, this is definitely true. But recently, some instructors have begun to question whether the traditional algebra sequence best serves all students. Is it the ideal preparation for a career in political science? How about psychology? Social science? Probably not.

In addition to evaluating the long-range benefits of algebra, we should also assess the short-range ones. For some non-STEM majors, the only transferable math course they need to take is statistics. But is the traditional algebra sequence the best preparation for statistics? Without question, statistics students need to have a solid understanding of certain algebra concepts. But one would be hard-pressed to argue that factoring polynomials, completing the square, and solving complicated rational equations are the most important concepts to learn before embarking on a statistics course sequence.

It is not only the *content* of the traditional algebra sequence that is misaligned with statistics. It is also the *nature* of the activities. In algebra, much attention is devoted to manipulating symbols. Statistics focuses on analyzing situations, comparing measurements, and interpreting the meaning of concepts and results. Because the nature of the activities is so different, it is not surprising that many students enter introductory statistics unprepared.

A Pathway to Introductory Statistics is meant to serve non-STEM community college students better than a traditional algebra sequence. In particular, its main goals are to

- Enhance students' ability to think statistically: analyze, compare, and interpret.
- Address descriptive statistics, including the normal distribution and regression.
- Empower students to discern good and bad practices of statistics.
- Equip students with the algebra essential for success in introductory statistics.
- Inspire students with exciting situations that are relevant to their careers.
- Foster the use of technology to enhance, rather than replace, critical thinking.
- Provide collaborative explorations in which students experience the joy of discovery.

NEW TO THE SECOND EDITION

Students will benefit from the following changes to the second edition of *A Pathway to Introductory Statistics*:

- **MyLab Math Exercises:** The number of exercises in MyLab Math has been increased. This was the number one request made by reviewers.
- **Logarithms and Systems of Linear Equations:** To support departments that want to prepare students for liberal arts mathematics courses, as well as statistics, chapters (11 and 12) on logarithms and systems of linear equations are now available online in MyLab Math or at pearsonhighered.com/mathstatsresources.
- **Workbook:** The author has written a new workbook that contains hundreds of affective domain and prestatistics activities. The workbook provides great support for collaborative learning, which research has shown is vital to students' conceptual and problem-solving development. It will be especially helpful for teaching corequisite courses.
- **Group Explorations:** Some explorations have been revised so that they are more open-ended, allowing for greater productive struggle and creative problem solving. Central themes such as center and variation now have greater emphasis.
- **Non-Time-Series Data Sets:** There is tension between providing time-series data and non-time-series data for regression. Time-series data tend to be more lively and easier to input into technology because they often consist of fewer values.

Sample preface

Non-time-series data sets tend to challenge students more (in a good way), provide greater complexity due to possibly having multiple data pairs sharing the same value of the explanatory variable, and better prepare students for statistics because statistics courses tend to include more non-time-series data. The percentage of non-time-series data has been increased for these latter reasons. The author has performed quite a bit of research to find interesting non-time-series data.

- **Data Sets with Multiple Columns:** To better approximate realistic data sets, the percentage of data sets with multiple columns has been increased in Chapters 6–10. This also challenges students to determine which columns they should work with.
- **Augmented Data Sets:** To make the data sets as current and relevant as possible, hundreds of data sets in examples and exercises have been augmented to include observations for recent years.
- **New Data Sets:** Hundreds of data sets in examples and exercises have been replaced with more compelling and contemporary topics such as immigration, trust in the mass media, and health care plans that cover transgender-related services.
- **Statistics versus Parameters:** Statistics students struggle to keep straight symbols and concepts for statistics and parameters. As each measure is introduced, the symbols and concepts for it are compared with previously addressed measures.
- **Statistical Emphasis:** In Chapters 1, 7, and 8, arithmetic and algebra concepts are introduced and developed with a greater statistical emphasis.
- **Complex Fractions:** Many statistics formulas involve complex fractions, so the skills of simplifying complex fractions and evaluating expressions with complex fractions have been added to Sections 1.3 and 1.7, respectively.
- **Percent Change:** Statistics requires facility in comparing values. One of those skills involves computing percent change, which has been added to Section 1.6.
- **Two Samples:** Exercises that involve two samples (or populations) have been added to Chapter 4 so that students can have more practice comparing a measure for two groups of data.
- **Empirical Rule:** To better prepare students for computing normal-curve probabilities in Section 5.5, exercises that require more intricate use of the Empirical Rule have been added to Section 5.1.
- **Discrete Random Variables:** To better prepare students for the concept binomial distribution in a statistics course, a section (5.4) on discrete random variables, including the compelling and fun concept of expected value, has been added. Of all possible concepts that could have been added, this was the top request by reviewers.
- **Residuals:** In Chapter 6 of the first edition, error was defined to be the predicted value minus the observed value, but in Chapter 9, residual was defined to be the observed value minus the predicted value. To provide consistency, error calculations have been replaced with residual calculations in Chapters 6–8. This also allows students to acclimate to residuals for several chapters before having to grapple with computing and interpreting sums of squared residuals in Chapters 9 and 10.
- **$y = a + bx$ Form:** In Chapters 7–10, the form $y = mx + b$ has been replaced with the form $y = a + bx$, which is the form typically used in statistics courses.
- **Summation Notation:** More varied forms of summation notation have been added to Section 8.4.

CONTINUED FROM THE FIRST EDITION

A Meaningful, Alternative Path This text contains the key concepts of descriptive statistics: experimental design, statistical diagrams, measures of center and spread, probability, the normal distribution, and regression. Teaching these topics along with the necessary algebra would certainly prepare students for an introductory statistics course better than the traditional algebra sequence. But to present the statistics concepts twice in the same manner—first in a *Pathway* course and again in an introductory statistics course—falls

short of the sequence's highest potential. Teaching a concept from two perspectives rather than one provides students with a richer and broader learning experience.

But how can statistics be presented in a meaningful way that is different from its presentation in traditional statistics courses? There are actually many paths, but to discover the trailheads we must determine the foundational concepts with which statistics students struggle. Certainly one such concept is the normal curve, which lays the foundation for inferential statistics. How many introductory statistics students understand why the area of a region under the normal curve is equal to a probability? How many introductory statistics students understand how probability rules connect with finding such an area? And how many of them see that proportions, percentiles, and probabilities are closely related and understand why? Most instructors would agree, far too few.

What is compelling is that all three of these issues can be wonderfully addressed with one topic that is given short shrift in most, if not all, traditional statistics courses: density histograms. Because a normal curve can be viewed as a model that approximates a density histogram, students who have a firm grasp of density histograms can also gain a solid understanding of the three issues.

Many instructors' first reaction to this path is that density histograms are too difficult for students to comprehend. Actually, because density histograms are composed of rectangles, it is quite easy for students to compute areas and relate them to proportions, percentiles, and probabilities. *Pathway* takes full advantage of this by having students problem solve with rectangles in Chapter 1, construct and interpret density histograms in Chapter 3, reflect on how measures of center and spread are connected to density histograms in Chapter 4, and apply probability rules when working with density histograms in Chapter 5. After completing Chapters 1–5, the great majority of students will not only have a strong footing with the three issues mentioned earlier but also with related concepts such as probability and measures of center and spread.

Two Approaches: Acceleration versus Replacing Intermediate Algebra In terms of sequencing courses, departments will use this text in one of two ways.

Some departments plan to accelerate their non-STEM students through their math programs by replacing elementary and intermediate algebra with *Pathway*. Some of these faculty feel that the traditional algebra sequence is an unnecessary obstacle for students whose careers will not depend on a significant portion of the sequence. Others feel that presenting algebra from a statistical perspective will engage students at a higher level and be more relevant to their careers.

And then some departments plan to use *Pathway* as an alternative to intermediate algebra. This means that their non-STEM students will first take elementary algebra and then enhance their knowledge of algebra by experiencing it from a statistical perspective. This will not only broaden students' understanding of algebra but may allow some departments to put greater emphasis on statistics because their students will have seen the necessary algebra once before.

The Big Picture When the big picture is presented, students will have a map that tells them where the course's path is headed and how concepts connect. Once students have revisited many arithmetic concepts and a few simple algebra concepts in Chapter 1, they are ready for an overview of statistics in Chapter 2, which explores both good and bad experimental design. Unlike many statistics textbooks that then drop this crucial topic in subsequent chapters on descriptive statistics, *Pathway* encourages students to reflect on issues such as sampling error and sampling bias throughout the rest of the course.

At first glance, some reviewers wonder why the content of Chapter 6 was placed before the content of Chapters 7 and 8. After a closer look, they realize that Chapter 6's development of the four characteristics of an association (shape, strength, direction, and outliers) provides the big picture for the rest of this book. In fact, the four characteristics are further developed in a myriad of ways in subsequent chapters. A significant additional benefit to this organization is that Chapter 6 does not involve algebra. So, departments who want to heavily emphasize statistics can address all of Chapters 2–6 and, time permitting, pick and choose algebra topics from Chapters 7–12.

Sample preface

Compelling Modeling Reviewers have praised the modeling in this text because the data sets are current, authentic, and compelling. And although a homework section's modeling exercises emphasize the concepts addressed in the section, investigations prompted by the “story” of an authentic situation are also embraced. It is in part due to these excursions “off the path” that make the modeling exercises come alive.

Judiciously Selected Algebra Topics Some reviewers feel that this book contains too much algebra. Others think that the amount of algebra is just right. What is interesting is that almost all reviewers believe that for the most part, the only algebra that should be included are the concepts needed in an introductory statistics course. This suggests that instructors teach introductory statistics in different ways. For example, some instructors solve inequalities to derive confidence intervals. Others provide a more intuitive explanation. Some instructors solve equations to derive error formulas. Again, others get the idea across intuitively. And some do both.

With one possible exception, every algebra topic included in this text will be of service to *some* instructors who teach introductory statistics.

The one possible exception is the inclusion of functions. Although functions operate behind the scenes of introductory statistics courses, most textbooks do not make much, if any, use of function notation, language, and concepts. Nonetheless, keeping in mind that some departments will allow students to take *Pathway* instead of the traditional algebra sequence, functions have been included in this book in the hopes that any student who graduates from a community college will have an understanding and appreciation of a concept that is key for so much of mathematics.

Although exponential functions are definitely not included in most introductory statistics courses, they are arguably the second most important type of function (next to linear), and students can gain a significantly better understanding of linear modeling by comparing and contrasting the process with exponential modeling.

Arithmetic and Algebra Seen through a Statistics Lens To better prepare students for Chapters 2–12, some of the arithmetic and simple algebra concepts in Chapter 1 are presented with statistics in mind. For example, Section 1.3 uses fractions as a springboard for proportions and the complement rule. In Section 1.7, students will evaluate statistics expressions and work with areas of rectangles that resemble density histograms.

Likewise, algebra concepts addressed in Chapters 7–12 have been developed from a statistics perspective. For example, rate of change is investigated in Section 7.2 before slope of a line is introduced. Evaluating linear functions in Section 7.4 is parlayed into using linear models to make predictions. And rather than have students work with geometry and science formulas, Section 8.4 requires students to solve probability and statistics formulas for a variable.

Group Explorations Every section of *Pathway* contains at least one exploration that supports student investigation of a concept. Instructors can use explorations as **collaborative activities** during class time or as part of homework assignments. Section Opener Explorations are directed-discovery activities that are meant to be used at the start of class. Near the end of class, teams of students can work on additional explorations meant to deepen their understanding of key concepts. Both types of explorations empower students to become active explorers of mathematics and can open the door to the wonder and beauty of the subject.

Balanced Raw Data and Visual Approach Most statistics textbooks devote an entire chapter to constructing statistical diagrams but then make little use of such diagrams in homework exercises of subsequent chapters. This is unfortunate because students learn best when new concepts are integrated with previously learned ones. For example, to gain a solid understanding of the measures of center and spread, students should analyze some exercises that supply raw data and others that supply statistical diagrams. Throughout this book, homework sections contain a good balance of both types of exercises.


Technology Back in the '80s, statistics students were expected to construct large numbers of statistical diagrams by hand and perform copious calculations with their calculators. Currently, most statistics instructors believe students should perform a limited number of such activities to get the idea and from then on use technology. The freed-up class time is devoted to enhancing students' ability to analyze authentic situations, compare measures of center and spread, and interpret concepts and results.

Pathway assumes students have access to technology. With so many packages to choose from, this text's technological support would be spread thin if it attempted to address all of them. This book focuses on the TI-84 graphing calculator and StatCrunch because the vast majority of community college instructors use one of these two technologies in their introductory statistics courses.

However, in the homework sections, the word *technology* is used rather than specifying the TI-84 or StatCrunch to accommodate classes using other technologies, unless an algebraic command specific to the TI-84 (such as *intersect*) is required.

Appendices A and B: TI-84 and StatCrunch Instructions Appendices A and B contain instructions on how to use a TI-84 and StatCrunch, respectively. A subset of either appendix can serve as a tutorial early in the course. In addition, each time this text introduces a command from either technology, students are referred to a section of the appropriate appendix.



"Data" Icon To support the appropriate use of technology, data sets in exercises and explorations that involve approximately 12 or more data values are available to download at MyLab Math and at the Pearson Downloadable Student Resources for Math and Statistics website: <http://www.pearsonhighered.com/mathstatsresources>. Such exercises are flagged in the text by the icon .

Big Data It can make a significant, positive impression on students the first time they use technology to construct a histogram of about 100 observations when up to that point they have constructed histograms of only about 20 observations by hand. They are understandably struck by the ease, speed, and accuracy of using technology. But students can gain an even higher level of appreciation by using technology to describe a data set that consists of entries in thousands of rows and multiple columns.

Such an activity is especially relevant in today's age of big data. Although most *Pathway* students will not perform statistics in their careers, some *will* work with big data. And as part of their general education, all students should have some sense of what statisticians do.

To meet this end, exercises that involve large data sets are sprinkled throughout this text. Identified by the heading "Big Data," they are positioned at the end of homework sections. Some of these data sets contain thousands of rows and tens of columns.

Hands-On Research Even though every authentic data set in this book provides a source, some students still think that the data is fabricated. Having students find data sets themselves drives home the point that the concepts they are learning can truly be applied to real-life situations. Students begin to see that statistics can be used not only to inform but also to persuade.

To guide students in this process, this text contains exercises that direct students to analyze data found by online searches of blogs, newspapers, magazines, and scientific journals. These exercises are at the end of select homework sections, directly following the heading, "Hands-On Research."

Hands-On Projects Compelling project assignments are positioned near the end of most chapters. Some of the assignments are similar to the Hands-On Research exercises, but they are more extensive and challenging. These projects reinforce the idea that statistics is a powerful tool that can be used to analyze authentic situations. They are also an excellent opportunity for more in-depth writing assignments.

Sample preface

Some of the projects are about climate change and have been written at a higher reading level than the rest of this text to give students a sense of what it is like to perform research. Students will find that by carefully reading (and possibly rereading) the background information, they can comprehend the information and apply concepts they have learned in the course to make meaningful estimates about this compelling, current, and authentic situation.

Level of Difficulty As was discussed earlier, some departments plan on using *Pathway* to accelerate non-STEM students through their math program. This is a worthy goal, provided it is done well. But some instructors have collapsed the notion of acceleration with making the course easier. The line of reasoning is that if certain students would not succeed in a traditional algebra course, then those students would not succeed in an alternative course that is just as challenging. This logic does not hold up because the nature of the two courses can differ greatly. We should not rob students of the knowledge and self-esteem that result from diligent study.

Furthermore, employers in search of college graduates certainly want a college degree to mean that students have succeeded at courses that are just as demanding as those in the past.

It is for these reasons that this text has been written to challenge students as much as they are challenged in traditional algebra courses. This is primarily achieved in two ways. First, exercises and projects require the interpretation of concepts and results, which causes significant growing pains in most students. Second, many exercises contain at least one part (often out of five parts) that challenges students to apply concepts in new ways.

Warnings Throughout this text, the word **WARNING** in the margins flags paragraphs that describe common student misconceptions and the correct meanings or applications of concepts.

Tips for Success Many sections close with practical study tips to help students succeed in the course. A complete list of these tips is included in the Index.

GETTING IN TOUCH

I would love to hear from you and would greatly appreciate receiving your comments regarding *Pathway*. If you have any questions, please ask them, and I will respond.

Jay Lehmann
MathNerdJay@aol.com

Sample preface

Get the *Most Out of* MyLab Math



MyLab Math for A PATHWAY TO INTRODUCTORY STATISTICS, 2ND EDITION, by JAY LEHMANN

(access code required)

Jay Lehmann's *A Pathway to Introductory Statistics* offers market-leading content written by an author-educator, tightly integrated with the #1 choice in digital learning - MyLab Math. MyLab Math courses can be tailored to the needs of instructors and students, while weaving the author's voice and unique approach into all elements of the course.

Take advantage of the following resources to get the most out of your MyLab Math course.

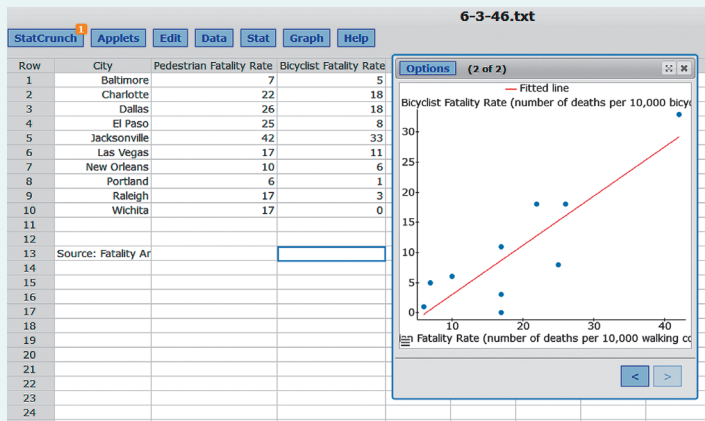
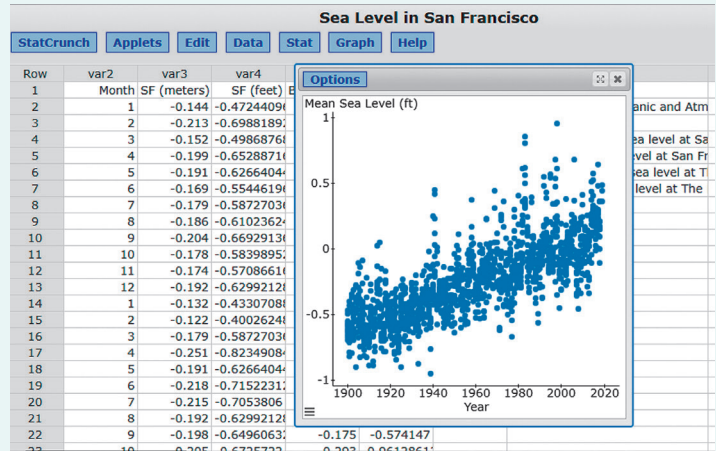
Elevation (in thousands of meters)	Boiling Point (°F)
0	212
1	204
2	201
5	184
10	153
15	125

Updated! MyLab Math coverage of **exercises from the text** has been expanded in this revision, offering instructors more options when creating assignments. Many of the exercises entail data which has been augmented or updated to be as current as possible. New! Select exercises now retain their authentic data sets, even when regenerating algorithmically, so that students don't sacrifice working with real data when doing homework exercises with different values.

Data sets in exercises and explorations that involve approximately 12 or more data values are available to download in MyLab Math to support the appropriate use of technology. These exercises are ideal for using technology, like StatCrunch or Microsoft Excel, to analyze the data and synthesize concepts.

Sample preface

Big data sets, sprinkled throughout the text and noted with “Big Data,” contain hundreds of rows of data to give students a hands-on opportunity to work with large, realistic data. In today’s age of “Big Data,” it can be compelling for students to see how technology can efficiently and accurately help when working with large data sets.



StatCrunch is a powerful web-based statistical software that allows users to collect, crunch, and communicate with data. Integrated into this MyLab course, StatCrunch can be used to analyze data, understand statistical concepts, and get students comfortable with statistical software early.

Instructional videos provide students with extra help for objectives from the textbook. Students can get support on topics and examples anytime, anywhere. Able to be played on any device, all videos are closed captioned.

Find the standard deviation for the data.

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n} = \frac{30 + 20 + 41 + 21}{4}$$

$$= \frac{112}{4}$$

$$= 28$$

02:58 / 05:52

Sample preface

Resources for **Success**



Instructor Resources

The following instructor resources are available to download from the Instructor Resource Center at www.pearson.com, or in your MyLab Math course.

Instructor's Resource Manual

This manual, written by the author, contains suggestions for pacing the course and creating homework assignments. It discusses how to incorporate technology and how to structure project assignments. The manual also contains section-by-section suggestions for presenting lectures and for undertaking the explorations in the text.

PowerPoints

These fully editable lecture slides include definitions, key concepts, and examples for use in a lecture setting. Accessible versions of these PowerPoints are also available.

Instructor's Solutions Manual

This manual includes complete solutions to the even-numbered exercises in the homework sections of the text.

TestGen

TestGen enables instructors to build, edit, print, and administer tests by using a computerized bank of questions developed to cover all the objectives of the text. TestGen is algorithmically based, allowing instructors to create multiple, but equivalent, versions of the same question or test with the click of a button. Instructors can also modify test-bank questions or add new questions. Tests can be printed or administered online. Download the software and this title's test bank from pearson.com.

Student Resources

Video Series

The video program provides students with extra help for objectives of the text. Videos highlight key examples and exercises from the text to facilitate student understanding.

NEW! Workbook

The author has written a new workbook that contains hundreds of affective domain and prestatistics activities. The workbook provides great support for collaborative learning, which research has shown is vital to students' conceptual and problem-solving development. It will be especially helpful for teaching corequisite courses.

Student's Solutions Manual

This manual contains the complete solutions to the odd-numbered exercises in the Homework sections of the text. The Student Solutions Manual (ISBN 9780136553984) is available electronically in MyLab Math.

Acknowledgments

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