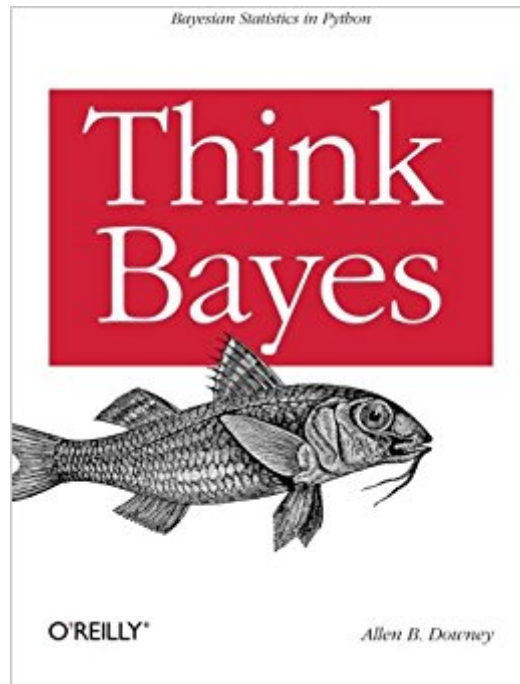




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Think Bayes: Bayesian Statistics In Python



Synopsis

If you know how to program with Python and also know a little about probability, you're ready to tackle Bayesian statistics. With this book, you'll learn how to solve statistical problems with Python code instead of mathematical notation, and use discrete probability distributions instead of continuous mathematics. Once you get the math out of the way, the Bayesian fundamentals will become clearer, and you'll begin to apply these techniques to real-world problems. Bayesian statistical methods are becoming more common and more important, but not many resources are available to help beginners. Based on undergraduate classes taught by author Allen Downey, this book's computational approach helps you get a solid start. Use your existing programming skills to learn and understand Bayesian statistics. Work with problems involving estimation, prediction, decision analysis, evidence, and hypothesis testing. Get started with simple examples, using coins, M&Ms, Dungeons & Dragons dice, paintball, and hockey. Learn computational methods for solving real-world problems, such as interpreting SAT scores, simulating kidney tumors, and modeling the human microbiome.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Allen Downey is a Professor of Computer Science at the Olin College of Engineering. He has taught computer science at Wellesley College, Colby College and U.C. Berkeley. He has a Ph.D. in Computer Science from U.C. Berkeley and Master's and Bachelor's degrees from MIT.

Should you buy this book given that the only other review as of this time is a negative review (based on the lack of a table of contents)? Hmm, that is exactly the sort of decision analysis that is covered by this book. Should you wait for the next train or catch a taxi instead? Or what about the classic Monty Hall problem where there is a car hidden behind one of three doors in a TV game show? The contestant picks a door, but prior to opening it, the host opens another door which does not contain the car and then offers the contestant the opportunity to 'stick' to his current selection or 'switch' to the other door. Should the contestant 'stick' or 'switch'? Bayes's Theorem provides a rationale for making this decision and this book covers all of this and more. This is a great book and a good introduction to the application of Bayes's Theorem in a number of scenarios. The theoretical aspects are well accessible and the Python code is sufficiently clear. This is not an introduction to Python and readers should be relatively familiar with Python or other high level languages to make the most out of this book. The PDF for the book is freely available from Green Tea Press. If you are concerned about the lack of a table of contents in the mobi version, get the paper copy until this is resolved... I would highly recommend it.

This is one of several introductory level books written by Dr. Downey recently. All of them are excellent. In this book, he gives a clear introduction to Bayesian analysis using well thought out examples and Python code. There is a small amount of math. He makes very effective use of probability density functions, cumulative distribution functions, and simulations. He provides multiple examples of model development, including design, testing, and analysis. The book is appropriate and effective for self study. Highly recommended.

Great book to simplify the Bayes process. It goes into basic detail as a real how-to. This is not an academic text but a book to teach how to use Bayes for everyday problems.

No problems

The book is pretty good in explaining the basic idea behind Bayesian approach. You must know some probability theory to understand it. However, with more complicated examples, the author suggests his Python code instead of explanation, and asks us not to worry, because the code (which we can download if we want) is working.

Great book, the sample code is easy to use. Only complaint is that the code is python 2.7 compliant

and not 3.x

It isn't a deep treatment of the subject but it gives working examples to help with basic ideas. Not a production ready line of code for serious work but useful.

Very good book. I wished I had a better understanding of python. If that were the case I would have probably given this book a 5 star rating. Aside from that, I liked the way the author presented the material. It was practical and easy to understand.

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