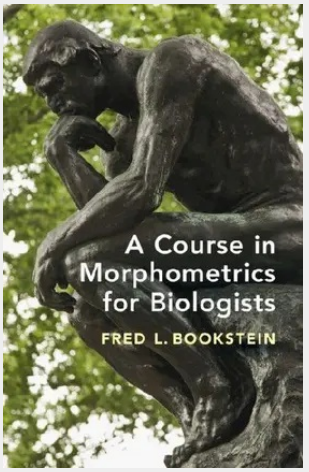
Bookstein

A Course in Morphometrics for Biologists



This book builds a much-needed bridge between biostatistics and organismal biology by linking the arithmetic of statistical studies of organismal form to the biological inferences that may follow from it. It incorporates a cascade of new explanations of regression, correlation, covariance analysis, and principal components analysis, before applying these techniques to an increasingly common data resource: the description of organismal forms by sets of landmark point configurations. For each data set, multiple analyses are interpreted and compared for insight into the relation between the arithmetic of the measurements and the rhetoric of the subsequent biological explanations. The text includes examples that range broadly over growth, evolution, and disease. For graduate students and researchers alike, this book offers a unique consideration of the scientific context surrounding the analysis of form in today's biosciences.

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110,40 €
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Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9781107190948
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-1-107-19094-8
Verlag: Cambridge University Press
Erscheinungstermin: 22.03.2019
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Erscheinungsjahr 2019
Produktform: Gebunden
Gewicht: 932 g
Seiten: 556
Format (B x H): 157 x 235 mm

Kundenservice Verlag Dr. Otto Schmidt KG
Neumannstraße 10, 40235 Düsseldorf | kundenservice@otto-schmidt.de | 0221-93738-997 (Inland)