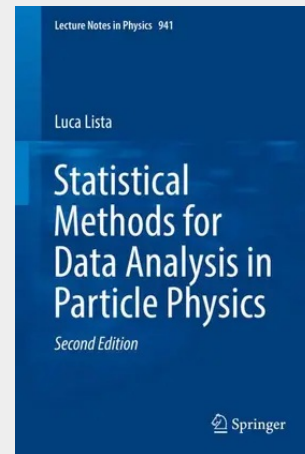


Statistical Methods for Data Analysis in Particle Physics

This concise set of course-based notes provides the reader with the main concepts and tools needed to perform statistical analyses of experimental data, in particular in the field of high-energy physics (HEP). First, the book provides an introduction to probability theory and basic statistics, mainly intended as a refresher from readers' advanced undergraduate studies, but also to help them clearly distinguish between the Frequentist and Bayesian approaches and interpretations in subsequent applications. More advanced concepts and applications are gradually introduced, culminating in the chapter on both discoveries and upper limits, as many applications in HEP concern hypothesis testing, where the main goal is often to provide better and better limits so as to eventually be able to distinguish between competing hypotheses, or to rule out some of them altogether. Many worked-out examples will help newcomers to the field and graduate students alike understand the pitfalls involved in applying theoretical concepts to actual data. This new second edition significantly expands on the original material, with more background content (e.g. the Markov Chain Monte Carlo method, best linear unbiased estimator), applications (unfolding and regularization procedures, control regions and simultaneous fits, machine learning concepts) and examples (e.g. look-elsewhere effect calculation).

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85,59 €

79,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Nicht mehr lieferbar

Artikelnummer: 9783319628394

Medium: Buch

ISBN: 978-3-319-62839-4

Verlag: Springer

Erscheinungstermin: 15.10.2017

Sprache(n): Englisch

Auflage: 2. Auflage 2017

Serie: Lecture Notes in Physics

Produktform: Kartoniert

Gewicht: 4219 g

Seiten: 257

Format (B x H): 155 x 235 mm

