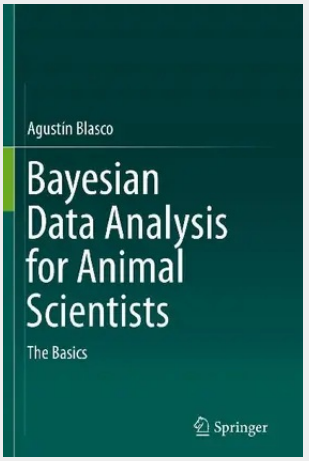
Blasco

Bayesian Data Analysis for Animal Scientists

The Basics



In this book, we provide an easy introduction to Bayesian inference using MCMC techniques, making most topics intuitively reasonable and deriving to appendixes the more complicated matters. The biologist or the agricultural researcher does not normally have a background in Bayesian statistics, having difficulties in following the technical books introducing Bayesian techniques. The difficulties arise from the way of making inferences, which is completely different in the Bayesian school, and from the difficulties in understanding complicated matters such as the MCMC numerical methods. We compare both schools, classic and Bayesian, underlying the advantages of Bayesian solutions, and proposing inferences based in relevant differences, guaranteed values, probabilities of similitude or the use of ratios. We also give a scope of complex problems that can be solved using Bayesian statistics, and we end the book explaining the difficulties associated to model choice and the use of small samples. The book has a practical orientation and uses simple models to introduce the reader in this increasingly popular school of inference.

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90,94 €
84,99 € (zzgl. MwSt.)

Lieferfrist: bis zu 10 Tage

Artikelnummer: 9783319853598
Medium: Buch
ISBN: 978-3-319-85359-8
Verlag: Springer
Erscheinungstermin: 10.08.2018
Sprache(n): Englisch
Auflage: Softcover Nachdruck of the original 1. Auflage 2017
Produktform: Kartoniert
Gewicht: 506 g
Seiten: 275
Format (B x H): 155 x 235 mm

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