

BIOSTATISTICS 667

Guidelines

Guidelines for Homeworks and Exams

Never submit computer code or computer output with homeworks or exams. There is a penalty if you do. The only exception is when the problem explicitly asks you to do so.

When reporting data analysis results include units (feet, inches, pounds, etc.). e.g. Write: The estimated average weight gain is “3.2 pounds per month”, not “3.2 weight units per time unit”, not “3.2 pounds”, not “3.2 per month”, and certainly not “3.2”.

Graphs and tables must be well-labelled and easy to read. A graph label appears below the graph. A table label appears above the table. Vertical lines are not allowed in tables. Do not use a table to present just one or two numbers.

Do not present tables as produced by SAS or other software. Pick only what is relevant to the problem. Do not present 16 significant digits (as is often produced by software) when statistical variation is of the magnitude of the 2nd or 3rd digit. It is rare that you ever need to present more than 4 significant digits.

If all the numbers in a table have many zeros after the decimal point, multiply by an appropriate power of 10. e.g. If all the numbers look like “0.000abc” then multiply by 10^6 and present them as “abc”. The aim is to remove clutter and make it easier for the reader to see trends and patterns.