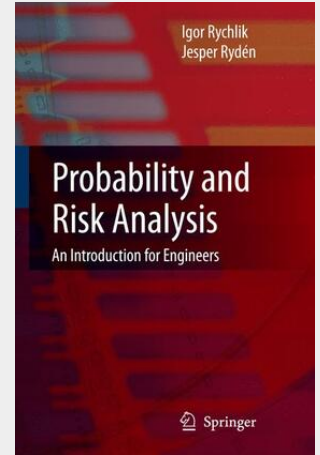


Probability and Risk Analysis

An Introduction for Engineers

The purpose of this book is to present concepts in a statistical treatment of risks. Such knowledge facilitates the understanding of the influence of random phenomena and gives a deeper knowledge of the possibilities offered by and algorithms found in certain software packages. Since Bayesian methods are frequently used in this field, a reasonable proportion of the presentation is devoted to such techniques. The text is written with student in mind – a student who has studied elementary undergraduate courses in engineering mathematics, may be including a minor course in statistics. Even though we use a style of presentation traditionally found in the math literature (including descriptions like definitions, examples, etc.), emphasis is put on the understanding of the theory and methods presented; hence reasoning of an informal character is frequent. With respect to the contents (and its presentation), the idea has not been to write another textbook on elementary probability and statistics — there are plenty of such books — but to focus on applications within the field of risk and safety analysis. Each chapter ends with a section on exercises; short solutions are given in appendix. Especially in the first chapters, some exercises merely check basic concepts introduced, with no clearly attached application indicated. However, among the collection of exercises as a whole, the ambition has been to present problems of an applied character and to a great extent real data sets have been used when constructing the problems.

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