

CHAPTER 1

Overview

A. OBJECTIVE

STATsimple was developed as an alternative to expensive and often difficult-to-use statistical software.

Commercial statistical software publishers often strive to provide as many of the known statistical routines in one package and, as a result, the price of the software is lofty and the simplicity of the software's interface is compromised. Then, in an attempt to neutralise the complexity of the software, bulky documentation is supplied to provide instruction on the use of the many routines available. Curiously, my own observations suggest that those most likely to use statistical software are those least likely to have time to read a 500-page manual. Moreover, the vast majority of users are likely to be interested in only a few of the many available routines. Why should you pay for development and documentation of routines that you are unlikely to use?

I believe that statistical software should provide a more focused set of routines aimed at a particular group of users and take advantage of that simplicity to present a clean and intuitive user-interface.

B. STATISTICAL ROUTINES

This version of STATsimple implements only the most commonly used statistical routines:

- i) Descriptive Statistics,
- ii) Histogram Plot,
- iii) Student's t-Test (unpaired, two-tailed), and
- iv) Linear Regression.

However, the programming structure of STATsimple is such that current features can be easily modified and additional routines added to future versions, so be sure to communicate your comments, critiques and requests to me.

C. SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS

The following are the minimum requirements needed to run STATsimple:

Computer: Apple Macintosh Plus
Processor: 68000
System: 6.0.2
RAM: 500K available (i.e, not including system RAM requirements)
Storage: 800K floppy (Double Density)

D. USING STATSIMPLE

This manual covers the use of STATsimple from many perspectives:

- Chapter 2:** **Tutorial** is a brief tutorial on the use of all of STATsimple's statistical routines.
- Chapter 3:** **Menus** explains the purpose of each menu-item.
- Chapter 4:** **Computational Routines** provides detailed descriptions of the calculations used in STATsimple's statistical routines.