

Book review

“Gauss’ Bell Rings Forever!”

Author: VIOREL GH. VODA, UNIVERSITARA Publishing House, 260 pages, price: approximately € 8 with content and abstract in English.

This book represents an unconventional (mini) monograph of the normal model known as “Gauss’ Bell” by the most of non-statisticians. As the academician Marius IOSIFESCU states in the presentation of this book, the author, using his literary skills, succeeded to produce a very pleasant reading about a quite an abstract concept – that of a statistical model. Historical notes (from Galilei to Laplace) describe the genesis of this model emphasizing the role of this distribution as an error model (chapter I).

Chapter II is devoted to a brief description of statistical properties of Gauss-Laplace distribution and presents some case studies from petroleum chemistry and mechanical industry.

Chapter III discusses the problem of statistical performance of a technological process (capability indices, the evaluation of the defective fraction, SIX SIGMA approach, Taguchi’s societal loss – philosophy). Metrological applications and Wald’s sequential methodology are subject matters of the last chapter (IV).

The text is also “spiced” with various comments of the author regarding the research activity in quality science, memories from his own research activity etc.

A so called “back word” (which is an “invention” of this author) concludes this book in order to balance the “loneliness” of the “Foreword”.

Some articles written earlier by the author and his co-workers - which in the author’s opinion may help the interested reader to go deeply into the above problems - are included in the Appendix.

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