

# Course Specifications

Valid in the academic year 2024-2025

# Statistical Inference (C002678)

Course size	(nominal values; actual values i	may depend on programme)			
Credits 6.0	Study time 165 h	Study time 165 h			
Course offerings and	teaching methods in academic yea	r 2024-2025			
A (semester 2)	English	Gent	seminar		
			peer teaching		
			lecture		
Lecturers in academi	c year 2024-2025				
Dukes, Oliver		WE02	lecturer-in-	lecturer-in-charge	
De Keersmaeke	r, Frederik	WE02	2 co-lecturer		
Offered in the following programmes in 2024-2025			crdts	offering	
Master of Science in Teaching in Science and Technology(main subject Mathematics)			) 6	А	
Master of Science in Mathematics			6	А	
Exchange Programme in Mathematics (master's level)			6	А	

# Teaching languages

English

# Keywords

Estimation theory, hypothesis tests

## Position of the course

The students learn the important concepts and methods in estimation theory and acquire a theoretical foundation in statistics. This training enables the students to get a good insight in each of the statistical methods used in the different domains and application fields of statistics. Students learn to develop inference methods to solve specific statistic problems using this general theory.

#### Contents

 Properties of estimators: bias, variance, mean squared error, asymptotic bias, consistency

• Maximum Likelihood Estimators, Score vectors, Fisher information, the Cramer-Rao inequality

• Large sample inference: convergence in distribution and probability, the Weak Law of Large Numbers,

• the Central Limit Theorem, Consistency of estimators, Slutsky's Lemma and the Delta Method

- Fundamentals of confidence intervals and hypothesis testing
- Likelihood-based hypothesis testing: the Wald, Score and Likelihood ratio tests
- Bayesian methods: Bayesian versus frequentist statistics, Bayes' Rule, prior and posterior, Bayesian
- estimation and credible intervals, conjugate priors
- *M*-estimators: unbiased estimating equation, sandwich estimator of the variance
- Inference under the bootstrap
- Advanced topics in inference: super-efficiency, decision theory, nonparametric estimation, model-based and design-based inference.

#### Initial competences

Having successfully followed the courses 'Statistics I', 'Statistics II' and 'Statistics III' or having acquired the intended competences in another way.

#### **Final competences**

- 1 Have knowledge of the basics of statistical inference theory.
- 2 Apply in a specific context the most important estimation methods and inference techniques of statistics.
- 3 Derive the relevant properties of estimators and test procedures.
- 4 Judge the applicability and limitations of statistical methods.
- 5 Use methods to solve practical statistical problems.
- 6 Correctly interpret the properties of the methods in the specific context of the application.

#### Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is determined after successful competences assessment

#### Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

#### **Teaching methods**

Seminar, Lecture, Peer teaching

#### Study material

#### Type: Handbook

Name: Foundations of Agnostic Statistics (1st Edition), Cambridge. Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty Optional: yes Language : English Author : Aronow, P. M., Miller B. T. ISBN: 978-1-10717-891-5 Number of Pages : 298 Alternative : NA Oldest Usable Edition : 1st edition Online Available : Yes Available in the Library : Yes Available through Student Association : No Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : occasionally Additional information: Can be freely downloaded from https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/foundations-ofagnosticstatistics/684756357E7E9B3DFF0A8157FB2DCECA#:":text=This%20book%20develops%20the%20fundamentals,be%20

#### Type: Slides

Name: Statistical Inference Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty Optional: no Language : English

# References

Aronow, P. M., Miller B. T. (2019). Foundations of Agnostic Statistics (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), Cambridge. Boos, D. and Stefanski, L. (2013) Essential Statistical Inference. Springer New York. Casella G. en Berger, R.L. (2002). Statistical Inference, Duxbury Press. Wasserman, L. (2004). All of Statistics (1<sup>st</sup> Edition), Springer.

#### Course content-related study coaching

Interactive support via Ufora (e-mail) and personally after electronic appointment.

#### Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment

#### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

#### Written assessment

#### Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Oral assessment

# Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is not possible

# Calculation of the examination mark

Periodical evaluation (75%) + non-periodical evaluation (25%).