STAT 100   Notes   Jan 12, 2010

Welcome to Week 2 of the course.

Reminder: Assignment 1 due today by 4 pm.

Schedule for this week:

1. To Catch a Thief – pp 293-306 – detection of cell phone fraud
2. Monitoring Gasoline Use – causation in an observational study
3. Assuring Product Reliability – pp 339-358 – cost of warranties
4. Advertising as an Engineering Science – pp 373-389 – email experiment
5. Zipfs Law – some surprising social conformity

Assignment #2 Due Tuesday, January 19, 4 pm

Q1. Cobb & Gelbach article: a) Why did the small p-value associated with the large number of deaths in Gilbert's shifts suggest her guilt? b) Why did this same small p-value not prove her guilt beyond a reasonable doubt?

Q2.   For each of the three new articles scheduled for this week (1,3,4 above), identify one probability distribution relevant to the discussion in the article. Hint: A probability distribution is usually not observed – a data distribution is observed, and the data is generated by the unseen probability distribution.

Note: Are you receiving the class-wide emails? I occasionally send out clarifications by email to my email list for this class.

KLW 2010/01/11