Prefazione dell'autore

I am delighted that professors Giuseppe Espa, Rocco Micciolo, Diego Giulani and Maria Michela Dickson have accomplished this extraordinary work of translating Statistics: *The Art and Science of Learning from Data* from English into Italian. Chris Franklin and I are proud of this book, and we are excited to know that it will be available now in Italy, in this fine translation.

This translated version makes some excellent additions to the basic text, to build on its tradition of having students learn by applets and simulation rather than mathematical theory. In particular, it relies on **R** software, which is becoming increasingly popular. In North America, **R** has mainly been used for advanced courses for statisticians. But this is changing, as faculty are taking advantage of the increasing familiarity of students with all sorts of computing tools to use it even in elementary courses for which this book is designed. The translators are experts in using and teaching **R** and writing about it, and they have prepared a dedicated **R** package for this book. The laboratories they have developed supplement and extend the applets mentioned in the text. They also show how to use **R** to perform basic statistical analyses, and some of the laboratories show important related material that the text did not have room to cover.

I highly encourage teachers of courses using this book to take advantage of the extra resources that Espa, Micciolo, Giulani and Dickson, have developed for the Italian edition. These resources will make it much easier for students to understand basic concepts such as sampling distributions and errors in statistical inference. In addition, teachers may wish to utilize the website www.artofstat.com, which is being developed by Professor Bernhard Klingenberg of Williams College in the U.S. for the next (4th) edition of the book, in which he will join Agresti and Franklin as a co-author. This site has an impressive variety of applets that can be used to complement the tools provided by Espa, Micciolo, Giulani and Dickson.

This Italian translation is especially meaningful for me, because I myself have roots in Italy, from two generations ago (Mio nonno è nato a Fondi, nel Lazio, e mia nonna è nata a Ferrazzano, vicino a Campobasso). I visit Italy every year, and I have many dear friends around the country, including statisticians I have gotten to know over the years. And now I am lucky also to have as colleagues in writing and pedagogy the "fantastic four" from Trento – Giuseppe, Rocco, Diego and Maria Michela.

Grazie mille!!

Alan Agresti
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