

## Data, Variation, Uncertainty, and Probability Distributions

By David LeBlond May 30, 2013 2:06 pm EDT



Data should not be considered exact values, but thought of as estimates randomly drawn from a population because on repeated measurement, they exhibit different values. Underlying parameters are known only with uncertainty and should be considered random variables. All repeat data and underlying parameters can be thought of as coming from probability distributions. In choosing a probability distribution, we must understand whether the data are inherently discrete (take on only specific values) or continuous (take on infinitely many possible values within some defined range). Discrete data should...

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