

1.	Record Nr.	UNIORUON00059420
	Autore	DINAKARA, Ramadhari Simha
	Titolo	Humkara / Rama Dhari Simha Dinakara
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Patana, : Udayachala, s. d
	Descrizione fisica	87 p. ; 18 cm
	Classificazione	SI VI CC
	Soggetti	LETTERATURA HINDI - POESIA E TEATRO
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Hindi
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia
2.	Record Nr.	UNIORUON00119830
	Autore	NADVI 'Abdu'l Qayyum
	Titolo	Ba kamal musulman 'avrten / 'Abdu'l-Qayyum Nadvi
	Pubbl/distr/stampa	Lahawr, : Em Sana'ul-la Xan, s. d
	Descrizione fisica	232 p. ; 17 cm
	Classificazione	SI XIII
	Lingua di pubblicazione	Urdu
	Formato	Materiale a stampa
	Livello bibliografico	Monografia

3. Record Nr.	UNINA9910805583103321
Autore	Knafl George J.
Titolo	Modeling Correlated Outcomes Using Extensions of Generalized Estimating Equations and Linear Mixed Modeling // by George J. Knafl
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Cham : , : Springer International Publishing : , : Imprint : Springer, , 2023
ISBN	9783031419881 303141988X
Edizione	[1st ed. 2023.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (525 pages)
Disciplina	780
Soggetti	Statistics Biometry Statistical Theory and Methods Biostatistics Anàlisi de regressió Llibres electrònics
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
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Sommario/riassunto

This book formulates methods for modeling continuous and categorical correlated outcomes that extend the commonly used methods: generalized estimating equations (GEE) and linear mixed modeling. Partially modified GEE adds estimating equations for variance/dispersion parameters to the standard GEE estimating equations for the mean parameters. Fully modified GEE provides alternate estimating equations for mean parameters as well as estimating equations for variance/dispersion parameters. The new estimating equations in these two cases are generated by maximizing a "likelihood" function related to the multivariate normal density function. Partially modified GEE and fully modified GEE use the standard GEE approach to estimate correlation parameters based on the residuals. Extended linear mixed modeling (ELMM) uses the likelihood function to estimate not only mean and variance/dispersion parameters, but also correlation parameters. Formulations are provided for gradient vectors and Hessian matrices, for a multi-step algorithm for solving estimating equations, and model-based and robust empirical tests for assessing theory-based models. Standard GEE, partially modified GEE, fully modified GEE, and ELMM are demonstrated and compared using a variety of regression analyses of different types of correlated outcomes. Example analyses of correlated outcomes include linear regression for continuous outcomes, Poisson regression for count/rate outcomes, logistic regression for dichotomous outcomes, exponential regression for positive-valued continuous outcome, multinomial regression for general polytomous outcomes, ordinal regression for ordinal polytomous outcomes, and discrete regression for discrete numeric outcomes. These analyses also address nonlinearity in predictors based on adaptive search through alternative fractional polynomial models controlled by likelihood cross-validation (LCV) scores. Larger LCV scores indicate better models but not necessarily distinctly better models. LCV ratio tests are used to identify distinctly better models. A SAS macro has been developed for analyzing correlated outcomes using standard GEE, partially modified GEE, fully modified GEE, and ELMM within alternative regression contexts. This macro and code for conducting the analyses addressed in the book are available online via the book's Springer website. Detailed descriptions of how to use this macro and interpret its output are provided in the book.