Title: Statistics Topics; Salil Mehta; 2014; CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; 160 pp; Paperback £4.50, Kindle £0.77; ISBN-10: 1499273533, ISBN-13: 978-1499273533 The author of the independently published "Statistical Topics" has set themselves a worthy but hard task in producing a book to cater for many audiences, especially those in developing countries. With this goal in mind the eBook has a minimal price, and half the profits are stated to go to charity.

The book is written from the perspective of an American author with experience of financial risk modelling, which informs the book's choice of some examples – others are topical like the Malaysian aircraft search from May'14. The language is grounded in American concepts (e.g. an "Arnold Palmer" is a cocktail!), and illustrated with pseudo real-world examples (e.g. the classic Monty Hall door problem). However the book does assume a certain level of understanding, as many terms are not explained, or are referred to but are not explained till much later in the text.

Whilst the tone of the book is conversational & approachable in style, the structure of the book is left wanting, for example all formulae in the text are displaced to the appendix (Kindle also has problems displaying equations). There are systematic spelling & grammatical errors, typos, & errors in examples (e.g. coin flip outcomes) which unfortunately distract from the content and might well derail students from working through the material and prevent them fully comprehending the concepts. Examples of structural issues are referring to confidence intervals but only explaining them 27 pages later, or introducing multiple logistic regression before simple regression. The addition of a glossary would also have greatly helped.

While the book has a worthy aim, if it were to have an editorial process the next edition of the book would hopefully be more readable and have more to recommend it over existing texts (e.g. the free online "Statistics at Square One").

Mark Pilling

Manchester