

Stat 10, Section 2A
Thursday, Sept 24th, 2009

David Diez

1 General section info

- TA: David Diez
- Email: david@stat.ucla.edu
- Office hours: Thursday 3-4p & by appointment.
- Section specific information will be posted to

<http://www.statgrad.com/teac/stat10f09.php>

- Familiarize yourself with the Moodle course site and check it every day.

<http://moodle.stat.ucla.edu/>

Moodle is regularly updated for labs, quizzes, handouts, etc.

- Take the survey posted on the Moodle website.
- You are responsible for checking your email each day.

There are two quizzes per week on Moodle. Your weekly quiz grade is the top score each week, and your worst week will be dropped. **Quizzes cannot be made up.** Your dropped score serves as a way for you to not lose out if your computer fails during a quiz or you have an emergency where you cannot take a quiz. Also, don't get worried if you do poorly on one or two quizzes. Quizzes "do not hurt you if you do badly once or twice, although if you continue to do badly it will affect" your grade (source: course syllabus).

2 Review of three case studies

Our aim here is to examine two articles. Case study (1) is *Cell phone-cancer link found by Tel Aviv University scientist*, and case study (2) is *Brain function gets a boost from walking* (there are actually two case studies in the second article). The relevant articles can be found on the Moodle website. When reading these articles, think about the following questions.

- What is the purpose of these studies?

- Who or what did the researchers observe to collect their data?
- What are the explanatory and response variables? (See your book for definition and explanation of explanatory/response if you are unclear of the meanings.)
- How was the data collected? Was it an experiment or an observational study?
- In the second article, there were actually two studies. Does it appear that their results pointed in the same direction? Why or why not?
- If we were running this study, how might we organize the collected data? Here we cover data matrices, which are discussed in Section 1.2 of the Open Intro book. (See openintro.org for a free download of Chapter 1. Other chapters will soon follow.)

3 Additional discussion, time permitting

We discuss the following questions, examples, and topics:

- Can we draw any causal conclusions from the studies above? How are causal conclusions influenced by the study type (observational vs. experimental)?
- Sunscreen and cancer example from Section 1.5.3 of the Open Intro book.
- Lurking variables (e.g. sun exposure).