MINITAB® GUIDE FOR USE WITH

APPLIED STATISTICS FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS



ALLEN WEBSTER

prepared by Kilman Shin

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Minitab Guide

Dedicated to the People who have developed the Minitab System

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Preface

This Minitab Guide explains the beginning steps to run Minitab software on personal computers (DOS version). This Guide may be useful to students who are taking statistics, business forecasting, econometrics, marketing research, economics, finance, and computer courses, and to any person who is doing statistical research.

This Guide consists of three parts:

In Part I (Chapters 1 - 8), the methods of typing the data and command files, and the operational steps are explained to run Minitab.

In Part II (Chapters 9 - 23), sample application files are shown using the data from Applied Statistics for Business and Economics, by Allen Webster, 1992 (Richard D. Irwin, Inc.). Statistical concepts, theory, formulas, interpretations of the data, calculation methods, and solutions are discussed in detail in the above textbook which also contains most statistical tables.

In Part III (Chapter 24), some selected Minitab sample files are arranged in the alphabetical order.

Irwin's James Minatel, Development Editor, provided advise and most useful suggestions in developing the Guide. Irwin's Richard Hersher and Brian Murray made arrangements for the Guide. Allen Webster, author of the excellent applied statistics text, let me use all his textbook materials.

Bokman Shin and his family offered me seaside summer housing and various assistance while I was writing this Guide during the summer of 1991. Young Sook Chung provided very useful comments on many chapters.

This Guide is based on the copyrighted publications and software by Minitab Inc., which provided various assistance and cooperation. This book is dedicated to the people who have developed the Minitab system and those who work for the Minitab Corporation. I would like to acknowledge Thomas and Barbara Ryan, Brian Joiner, Beth Solt and Cathy Akritas of Minitab Corporation.

For more advanced applications, theories, methodology, various options, and sample input files, sample outputs, mathematical formulas, references, and interpretations, users are encouraged to read Minitab publications listed at the end of this Guide.

Kilman Shin October 15, 1991

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Part I. Operational Steps

Chapter 1. What Does Minitab Do?

Minitab Programs

The Minitab system is one of the most popular statistical packages, and widely used by students of introductory statistics. The advantage of Minitab software is the ease of interactive processing.

Minitab performs the following: histograms, stem-and-leaf charts, Box plots, descriptive statistics, probability density functions, correlation, multiple regression, stepwise regression, t-test, analysis of variance, principal component analysis, discriminant analysis, nonparametric statistics; time series analysis including ACF, PACF, CCF, and ARIMA models; matrix operation, and statistical process control (quality control) charts.

Minitab runs both in the interactive mode and in the batch mode. Minitab uses about 200 commands to do the above programs. The Minitab system accepts ASCII files as well as Minitab system files.

Differences between Mainframe Minitab and PC Minitab

This Guide starts with explanations on the operational steps of running Minitab on the PC-MS DOS personal computers. However, there is no difference between the mainframe Minitab and the PC Minitab as far as the file format is concerned. The major functional difference between the two versions is in the worksheet size. The mainframe Minitab can handle up to 1,000 columns (variables), but the PC version is limited to 100 columns and 100 constants.

A pull-down menu system is introduced in the PC Release 8.0 which comes in two versions, Minitab and Minitab Accelerated. The new release requires 1 MB of RAM, and DOS version 3.0 or later, and an AT computer with Intel 80286 or higher. A math coprocessor is not required but recommended. A mouse can be used.

Three Operational Steps of Minitab

There are three simple operational steps to run Minitab:

- 1. Type data and command files.
- 2. Submit to Minitab for Execution.
- 3. Get the output.

In step 3, if you get error messages, you would go back to step 1.

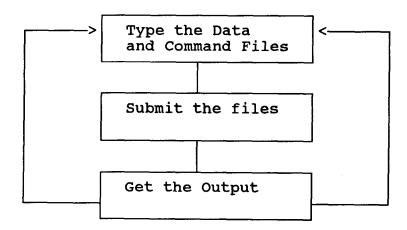


Figure 1-1. Three Operational Steps

Minitab Screen Structure

The above three operational steps are carried out using the following screens of Minitab software.

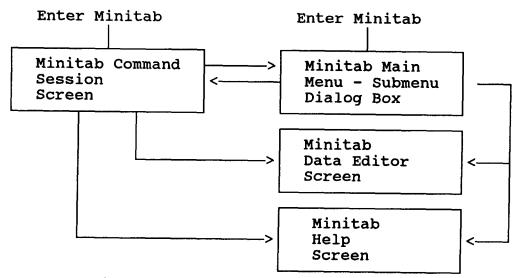


Figure 1-2. Minitab Window Structure

The above chart shows that you can enter Minitab either through the menu system or through the Command screen (session window). Minitab consists of 4 windows:

- (1) The first is the Minitab Command screen (session window) where you can type the data and commands, and get the output. It is the headquarters of the Minitab software system.
- (2) The second is the Minitab menu system. You have two options in running Minitab. You can type commands and the data in the Command Screen, and run Minitab. Or you can use the menu system in selecting the commands.
- (3) The third is the Data Editor Screen where you can type only the data files. That is, you can type the data either in the Minitab Command screen or in the Data Editor screen.
- (4) The third is the Minitab help screen (help window). At the command prompt, type Help followed by the concept you want to know, and you will get the explanations.

Minitab Command Screen (Session Window)

You can type the data and command files in the Command Screen, and can submit to Minitab for execution. Or, you can use an external text editor or word processor to type the commands and the data, and retrieve the files in Minitab and execute them in the Command Screen.

Thus, you can run Minitab without Menu, Data Editor, and Help windows using only the Command screen. Thus, the command screen is the most important screen in Minitab.

Minitab Data Screen (Data Editor Window)

Type a data file and save it. You can retrieve it into the Command screen and execute it. This screen is very similar to Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheet program.

You can switch back and forth between the Minitab Command screen and the Data Editor screen.

Minitab Help Screen (Help Window)

At the Minitab command prompt, you can type Help followed the command name for which you need the help. If you want to know about regression analysis, ANOVA,

Set, and Read commands, for instance, type

MTB > Help regression

MTB > Help anova

MTB > Help read

MTB > Help set

The Help text will be displayed in the command screen instead of the Help window. For Minitab PC Version 8.0, Press F1 or Alt/H for Help, and you will get the Help window. Another new feature is: At the Minitab directory, type

C:\MINITAB>Minitab: -?

... will print a Help message to the screen without running Minitab.

Minitab Menu System

The Minitab menu system is introduced in Version 8.0. When you log on Minitab, you will see a bar menu on the top of the screen. Also, Minitab version 8.0 accepts the Mouse system.

To Log on Minitab and to Exit

If Minitab is installed in drive C, at the Minitab directory, type

C:\MINITAB>Minitab

You will get the Minitab Logo, and a few seconds later, you will get the following Minitab Command (session window) screen with the Main Menus on the top of the screen:

Command Screen (Session Window) with the Main Menu

File Edit Calc Stat Graph
Worksheet size: 16174 cells
MTB >