

SAMPLING THEORY FOR FOREST INVENTORY A TEACH-YOURSELF COURSE

by Pieter G. de Vries

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"Sampling Theory for Forest Inventory" by Pieter de Vries is subtitled A Teach-Yourself Course. However, to use the book as a teach-yourself aid the prospective student would need a sound grounding in statistical theory and forest inventory. This is not a book for the casual forestry graduate who wishes to learn the statistical detail of forest inventory; rather this is a text for graduate students, perhaps more suited for Ph.D. students.

The text would be a welcome addition to the library of any specialist in forest inventory who graduated some years back, as each inventory topic is covered in excruciating detail. The derivation of each formula is clearly laid out, and each proof has detailed steps supplied. The statistical notation seems slightly different from that used in North America, which may reflect the text's Dutch origin – or may reflect my 8 years' absence from graduate school. Some symbols are used which I am unfamiliar with, and I could not discover their meaning. A glossary of statistical notation would have helped.

Reading the text from cover to cover, or working through all the examples from start to finish, would require considerable dedication and purpose. The high mathematical content of the text requires that the book be read in small doses.

"Sampling Theory for Forest Inventory" is a text for a small group of readers, but those readers will be pleased to have it. I suspect its main use will be as a reference text, where a formula can be checked for the suitability of its application by inspection of the proof, or a calculation can be checked against an example. Software developers will find half their work has been done for them, and will welcome the explicit detail as an aid to program development.

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