

Contents

Preface	to	the	Second	Edition	n :	×
Preface	to	the	First Ed	lition	ΧV	

	Part I
Chapter I. P	reliminary Description of Error Analysis 3
1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5	Errors as Uncertainties 3 Inevitability of Uncertainty 3 Importance of Knowing the Uncertainties 5 More Examples 6 Estimating Uncertainties When Reading Scales 8 Estimating Uncertainties in Repeatable Measurements
Chapter 2. F	low to Report and Use Uncertainties 13
2.2 2.3 2.4 2.5 2.6 2.7 2.8	Best Estimate ± Uncertainty 13 Significant Figures 14 Discrepancy 16 Comparison of Measured and Accepted Values 18 Comparison of Two Measured Numbers 20 Checking Relationships with a Graph 24 Fractional Uncertainties 28 Significant Figures and Fractional Uncertainties 30 Multiplying Two Measured Numbers 31 Problems for Chapter 2 35
Chapter 3. P	ropagation of Uncertainties 45
3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 3.9 3.10 3.11	Uncertainties in Direct Measurements 46 The Square-Root Rule for a Counting Experiment 48 Sums and Differences; Products and Quotients 49 Two Important Special Cases 54 Independent Uncertainties in a Sum 57 More About Independent Uncertainties 60 Arbitrary Functions of One Variable 63 Propagation Step by Step 66 Examples 68 A More Complicated Example 71 General Formula for Error Propagation 73 Problems for Chapter 3 79
Chapter 4. S	tatistical Analysis of Random Uncertainties 93

4.1 Random and Systematic Errors 94

i oddetion to i	arior 7 tridiyoro
4. 4. 4.	The Mean and Standard Deviation 97 The Standard Deviation as the Uncertainty in a Single Measurement 101 The Standard Deviation of the Mean 102 Examples 104 Systematic Errors 106 Problems for Chapter 4 110
Chapter 5.	The Normal Distribution 2
5. 5. 5. 5. 5.	Histograms and Distributions 126 Limiting Distributions 126 The Normal Distribution 129 The Standard Deviation as 68% Confidence Limit 135 Justification of the Mean as Best Estimate 137 Justification of Addition in Quadrature 141 Standard Deviation of the Mean 147 Acceptability of a Measured Answer 149 Problems for Chapter 5 154
	Part II
Chapter 6.	Rejection of Data 165
6.	The Problem of Rejecting Data 165 Chauvenet's Criterion 166 Discussion 169 Problems for Chapter 6 170
Chapter 7.	Weighted Averages 173
7.	The Problem of Combining Separate Measurements 173 The Weighted Average 174 An Example 176 Problems for Chapter 7 178
Chapter 8.	Least-Squares Fitting 8
8. 8. 8.	Data That Should Fit a Straight Line 181 Calculation of the Constants A and B 182 Uncertainty in the Measurements of y 186 Uncertainty in the Constants A and B 188 An Example 190 Least-Squares Fits to Other Curves 193 Problems for Chapter 8 199
Chapter 9.	Covariance and Correlation 209
9.	Review of Error Propagation 209 Covariance in Error Propagation 211 Coefficient of Linear Correlation 215

9.4 Quantitative Significance of r 218

Problems for Chapter 9 222

9.5 Examples 220

Chapter 10. The Binomial Distribution 2	Chapter	10.	The	Binomial	Distribution	227
---	---------	-----	-----	-----------------	--------------	-----

- 10.1 Distributions 227
- 10.2 Probabilities in Dice Throwing 228
- 10.3 Definition of the Binomial Distribution 228
- 10.4 Properties of the Binomial Distribution 231
- 10.5 The Gauss Distribution for Random Errors 235
- 10.6 Applications; Testing of Hypotheses 236Problems for Chapter 10 241

Chapter 11. The Poisson Distribution 245

- 11.1 Definition of the Poisson Distribution 245
- 11.2 Properties of the Poisson Distribution 249
- 11.3 Applications 252
- II.4 Subtracting a Background 254Problems for Chapter II 256

Chapter 12. The Chi-Squared Test for a Distribution 261

- 12.1 Introduction to Chi Squared 261
- 12.2 General Definition of Chi Squared 265
- 12.3 Degrees of Freedom and Reduced Chi Squared 268
- 12.4 Probabilities for Chi Squared 271
- 12.5 Examples 274
 Problems for Chapter 12 278

Appendixes 285

Appendix A. Normal Error Integral, I 286

Appendix B. Normal Error Integral, II 288

Appendix C. Probabilities for Correlation Coefficients 290

Appendix D. Probabilities for Chi Squared 292

Appendix E. Two Proofs Concerning Sample Standard Deviations 294

Bibliography 299

Answers to Quick Checks and Odd-Numbered Problems 301

Index 323