Glossary

1. **Approximation**
An approximation is an <u>inexact</u> representation of something that is still close enough to be useful. Although approximation is most often applied to <u>numbers</u>, it is also frequently applied to such things as <u>mathematical functions</u>, <u>shapes</u>, and <u>physical laws</u>.

2. **Asymptote**
A line whose distance to a given curve tends to zero. An asymptote may or may not intersect its associated curve.

3. **Celestial Body**
Natural objects visible in the sky.

4. **Converge**
To approach a limit.

5. **Continuous Function**
A continuous function is a <u>function</u> for which, intuitively, small changes in the input result in small changes in the output.

6. **Cumulative Probability Distribution**
A function that shows the probability that the random variable will attain a value less than or equal to each value that the random variable can take on.

7. **Curve**
A line or outline that gradually deviates from being straight for some or all of its length.

8. **Expected Value**
In statistics, it is the sum or integral of all possible values of a random variable, or any given function of it, multiplied by the respective probabilities of the values of the variable.

9. **[Histogram](#)**
A diagram consisting of rectangles whose area is proportional to the frequency of a variable and whose width is equal to the class interval.

10. **Mean**
The average value of a set of numbers.

11. **Normal Distribution**
A theoretical frequency distribution for a set of variable data, usually represented by a bell-shaped curve symmetrical about the mean.

12. **Probability**
A number expressing the likelihood that a specific event will occur, expressed as the ratio of the number of actual occurrences to the number of possible occurrences.

13. **Prevalence**
The quality of prevailing generally.

14. **Random Variables**
    In statistics, it is a quantity that may take any of a range of values, either continuous or discrete, which cannot be predicted with certainty but only described probabilistically Abbreviation rv.

15. **Variance**
    The square of the standard deviation.