

Mentys™ vs. Statistical packages

Mentys differs from standard statistical packages mainly in that Mentys addresses specialized problems of data integrity and other knowledge-oriented (KO) applications. Through Mentys, these KO applications take advantage of statistical knowledge from data as well as prior knowledge from human judgment in the form of expert opinion, beliefs, common sense, etc. Thus, unlike statistical packages, Mentys is neither designed for nor capable of general purpose statistical and numerical analysis.

Furthermore, unlike most of the major statistical packages, Mentys is not generally intended as a tool for exploratory data research, although Mentys may be used directly supporting such work. Mentys is broadly designed to support robust decision-making, whether in research or production. For instance, using the lightweight C++/Java API, customers can embed Mentys in custom, main-line decision applications that use real-time, data-intensive processing.

As such, Mentys can run on a client's notebook, a data center server, or even, in principle, on hand-held devices and single-chip controllers.[†] This is possible because Mentys is built on an underlying API which is itself portable and compiles to native code linked either statically or dynamically with custom software.

As is the case in general, the more the user understands the complexities and nuances of the problem domain, the more effectively they will be able to target and use Mentys.

The table below provides a high-level, thematic comparison of Mentys and statistical packages.

	Mentys	Statistical packages
Goals	Diagnostic Implication + Classification	General Statistical + Numerical Analysis
Captures prior knowledge	YES.	No.
Embeddable	YES.	No.
Real-time processing	YES.	No.
Programming skills required	May use GUI or API.	Required to use effectively.

For additional comparisons, see the white papers “Mentys versus Data Cleansing” and “Mentys versus Data Mining” at www.informeta.net.

[†] Mentys for hand-held devices and single-chip controllers is available only as custom implementations.