

**COMPUTING CRITICAL TEST STATISTIC VALUES USING TABLES!
TABLES?!... WHAT TABLES?! USE YOUR TI-83/84**

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Essentially every introductory statistics textbook determines the critical test statistic values, such as z , t , X^2 , and F , by referring to lengthy, yet often inadequate tables which show up as appendix.

In the past every published trigonometry textbook contained some tables listing the function values of sine and cosine functions for various increments of the argument. With the wide spread usage of scientific calculators, however, these tables gradually have disappeared from the trigonometry textbooks. If one does not see trigonometry textbooks published with the function value tables anymore, why should one still see introductory statistics textbooks with various critical value distribution tables, such as z , t , X^2 , and F ?

Today, there is a wide spread usage of the TI-83/83Plus or TI-84 graphing calculators in teaching introductory statistics courses. There are some features and/or capabilities of the TI-83/83Plus and TI-84 graphing calculators which allows one to calculate all the necessary critical test statistic values without having to resort to tables.

A detailed demonstration of different methods for computing these critical values on a TI-83/83Plus graphing calculator will be presented. The audience will be introduced to some of the basic features and capabilities of the TI-83/83Plus and TI-84 graphing calculators and will be provided with some TI-83/83Plus and TI-84 programs.