HOMEWORK 1
STA 321, Basic Statistical Theory I
Spring Semester, 2014

Due: January 30th 2014   This week, the homework only consists of two problems that deal with basic terminology. The lecture notes might help in answering these questions.

1 Distinguish between *descriptive statistics* and *inferential statistics*. For each, provide an illustrative example from your field of research/interest.

2 Distinguish between *population* and *sample*, and between *parameter* and *statistic*.
   (a) How exactly are these four terms defined?
   (b) As an example consider the following Gallup Poll
www.gallup.com/poll/122234/Constituents-Divided-Highly-Partisan-Healthcare-Reform.aspx Here, adult Americans were asked whether they would advise their member of Congress to vote for or against a healthcare reform bill. Additionally, respondents were asked about their party affiliation. Referring to this Aug 6-9 poll, what are population, sample, parameter, and statistic?