

## PREFACE

Mrs. Hannelore Liero handed out several voluntary assignments, usually in a weekly rhythm, during the winter term 2003/2004. These papers did not influence the final mark in any way but Mrs. Liero gave valuable hints on the correctness and style.

These assignments provided interesting insights into the theoretical background of statistical data analysis. Even though the mathematical basis was not easy to grasp and constantly reminded me of the Performance Evaluation Techniques lecture, I finally found my way through these mysteries. After all, their application on real-world systems definitely clarified my view and now I seem to have a thorough understanding of them.

My solutions are available online as PDF files which can be read by using the free Adobe Acrobat Reader. Nowadays, this tool is found on most systems – both main platforms Windows and Linux. If do not have the Acrobat Reader installed on your computer then you can either download it from [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) or just buy a good computer magazine – most of them come with a CD that contains it. Unfortunately, I cannot afford an expensive tool to generate these PDFs and have to use the free Ghostscript suite. The only drawback is the missing ability to embed hyperlinks: even though they are blue and underlined there is no possibility to actually click them, they are passive.

I am quite happy to receive any annotations, corrections and hints: feel free to write your comments to [mail@stephan-brumme.com](mailto:mail@stephan-brumme.com) !

*To make it finally clear: I do not take on any responsibility concerning the correctness of my solutions. They may contain errors, wrong assumptions or buggy code.*

Sincerely yours,  
Stephan Brumme

*The trick is to keep breathing.*