4 Mathematical Statistics,   Spring 1997

structor; Andrew J. Sommese

extbook; R. Larsen and M. Marx, {\em Introduction to
thematical Statistics and Its Applications},
d edition, Prentice Hall, 1986.

mments on suitability of textbook: It is fine

mments about the course pre- or corequisites. Are the students
dequately prepared for this class?

ually they are (following Math 323). This year they were not:

-didn't cover many of the basic distributions (e.g., geometric etc)
-didn't touch the central limit theorem
-didn't do joint continuous distributions (which is incredible)
-didn't touch moment generating functions, changes of densities
  under changes of variables etc.

is meant I had to do a lot of catchup work and met the class one
tra hour (Tuesday at 7PM) most weeks for review, help etc. I did
nage to cover the full syllabus for the actuary test, but cut some
rners on the circle of ideas (actually somewhat dated---the textbooks
e a biot behind the times) on consistancy and sufficiency of estimators.
was unable to cover analysis of variance (anova), design of experiments
.g., block designs), and all but the easiest nonparametric estimators.
did cover all (and maybe a little more) of the material that is
vered on an average year).

mments about the course content. It is very nice. I strongly recommend
e same person teach 323 and 324 (as will happen next year), or that
e two people coordinate carefully. I would like to see 323-324
panded to a 3 semester sequence where 323 went further and did the
sic stochatic processes like Brownian motion. This would allow
th 324 to cover some relevant topics that need the stochatic processes.
Undergraduate engineering course often cover this material without proofs,
d it would be a service to our students to introduce them to this
terial).

mments about current or potential use of computers in this course.
ch of the homework requires maple and/or a spreadsheet. I regularly
nce every other week at worst give a demo in class, e.g., yesterday
did an animation of the bivariate normal distribution as the correlation
anged from -1 to 1.)