

Preface

Mr. Andreas Willig handed out several assignments, usually every two weeks, during the summer term 2003. These papers made up for 60% of the final grade, an oral exam was responsible for the remaining 40%. Team-work was allowed, nevertheless, the maximum size of a team was restricted to just two (after some weeks, three were allowed, too).

These assignments gave interesting insights into the theoretical background of performance evaluation. Even though the mathematical basis was likely to drive me crazy (lots of weird statistics), 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 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 !

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.