SESSIONS ON SOFTWARE FOR TEACHING STATS&CO.

Software to be reviewed:

— MacAnova, by Michael Greenacre
— StatGraphics, by Pedro Delicado
— Minitab, by Albert Satorra
— SPSS, by Alicia Coduras
— Lisp-Stat, by Frederic Udina
— STATA, by Angel Lopez
— Microsoft Excel, by ?????????
(other suggestions?)

In order to give some common structure to the software for teaching statistics sessions, I propose to follow losely the following guide.

Each presentation will last about 30 minutes. The software will be presented using some screen projecting device. Some discussion can follow.

It will be preferable to have a handout with brief answers to the questions outlined below.

Points of interest in the review:

1.– A brief introduction showing how to do, using XXX, the basic tecniques we teach to our students. This includes
  - ≍ Entering data from the keyboard.
  - ≍ Performing data description over it.
  - ≍ Showing data graphically.
  - ≍ Building some model like simple regression.
  - ≍ Reading data from an ascii file.
  - ≍ Some descriptive analysis on time series.
  - ≍ Writing results and log to a text file.

2.– Extensibility of the system: if the program can't do some kind of graph, some kind of computation or some kind of model, how to write some 'program' (macro or script) to do it?

3.– Availability of the software: do we have it? How much it costs? In what operating systems can it be run? It is posible for the students to have it at home? How much RAM and disk space it needs?

4.– What the program can be used for?. Initially we are interested in teaching three introductory courses: Anàlisi de dades, Probabilitat, Estadística. How can XXX cover these courses?. Can it be used for more advanced courses like Multivariate Analysis in the 'segon cicle'?

5.– When your students will go out to the real world, what the value of knowing XXX will be?

6.– Sell your proposal: What XXX can do that the other programs can't? What XXX do much better that the other proposals.

7.– Be honest: what is the weakest point of your proposal? What's the aspect you hate of XXX?

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