

8 Concluding Remarks

The sections above have been intended to give an introduction to and a flavour of the more practical and intuitive methods which are used by practicing applied statisticians in their day-to-day work. Some of the techniques are used only at early or intermediate stages of the investigation into obtaining understanding and insight into the data, some are used to provide the end-points of the analysis and would be used in the final report. The account given above is inevitably selective and incomplete, many important areas have not been mentioned (e.g. time series analysis, spatial statistics, survival data, ...) nor have all the available techniques been covered within those areas that have been touched upon. In part this is because the account is based around the facilities offered in one particular computer package or language **R**. What should have become apparent is that this package itself contains a great deal of instructional material and example data sets that should encourage you to try out new and unfamiliar methods. Use the code given on worked examples in the help system, try modifying it and seeing what happens. Remember the maxim (Aristotle) that ‘for the things we have to know before we can do them, we learn by doing them’. This is a quotation given in the start of a book *Applied Stochastic Modelling* by Byron Morgan (2000), another good book to read.

NRJF

 n.fieller@shef.ac.uk

