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The UCLA Electronic Textbook: Java versus CGI

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UCLA Statistics is preparing an electronic statistics textbook for use on the World Wide Web. The textbook consists of (hyper)text, glossaries, formula sections, calculators, case studies, and interactive demos. We discuss the various implementation problems, in particular for formulas, calculators, demos, and graphics. We compare

- The use of CGI scripts, written in one of the standard languages and running on the server
- The use of external helper applications, such as Lisp-Stat or S-plus, running on the client.
- The use of Java and Javascript (and plug-ins), built into the browser, and running on the client.

A library of Java tools and applets for statistics instruction and research is discussed.

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