36-401 Announcements for Week 3
REVISED SEPT 11, 2001

- **Reading.** This week we are discussing Chapter 2 of RWG (Regression with Graphics), on bivariate regression. You should already have read Ch 1, on exploring single variable distribution.

- **Class Participation Assignment.** Read the following for discussion *TUESDAY SEPT 18*.

  - From Strunk and White, read the section "Elementary Principles of Composition".
  - Read the handout "Writing technical reports and papers", by Ehrenberg.
  - Read the handout "The science of scientific writing", by Gopen and Swan.

  Be prepared to discuss similarities and differences between these various pieces of advice, including:

  1. Aspects of *design*, that is, how the document as a whole is organized.
  2. Aspects of *style*, that is what words are chosen, and how sentences and paragraphs are put together.
  3. Underlying *goals*, i.e. what good does each article hope to achieve if you follow its advice?

- **Short writing assignment.** Due *THURSDAY SEPT 20*. Please read and think about pp. 17–23 and pp. 53–58 in RWG. Then write a short (no more than two paragraphs) explanation of transformations of data, for a scientifically–literate reader. You should assume that your reader is **not** a statistician or mathematician; avoiding technical jargon is therefore important. Cover what *you* consider to be the important points, while conveying enough information to the reader that she can gain an understanding of data transforming and its usefulness in data analysis. Think about the advice of Strunk and White and others on writing as you are writing.

  PLEASE HAND THIS IN SEPARATELY FROM HW 2 ON THURSDAY SEPT 20

- **New Splus function.** There was a request in class for a quantile-normal plot that provides a 95% confidence envelope around the straight line that perfectly normal data would follow. I have place the function "qqenv.q" in the Splus section of the 401 webpages. After saving qqenv.q to your local directory using Netscape, start Splus and say `source("qqenv.q")` to create the function, and then use `qqenv()` to create quantile-normal plots. The arguments to qqenv can be the same as to qqnorm.