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*Statistical estimation, asymptotic theory*, by I. A. Ibragimov and R. Z. Has'minskii, Applications of Mathematics, vol. 16, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1981, vii + 403 pp., \$42.00. ISBN 0-3879-0523-5

*Contributions to a general asymptotic statistical theory*, by J. Pfanzagl (with the assistance of W. Wefelmeyer), Lecture Notes in Statistics, vol. 13, Springer-Verlag, New York, 1982, vii + 315 pp., \$16.80. ISBN 0-3879-0776-9

Asymptotic statistical theory is a body of limit or, better yet, approximation theorems used by statisticians to elude the intractability of all but the very simplest practical statistical problems and to obtain usable results. As such it is not a subject with a well-defined scope or natural boundaries. An early