

## Why use R?

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1. Free
2. Graphics
3. Programming
4. Reproducibility
5. IDE
6. Packages
7. Community

## Why use R?

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R is *free*

Free as in *free beer*:

- Public can obtain and run your code, with low barrier

Free as in *free speech*:

- You can combine R with other systems, as can commercial entities, without hitting licensing constraints
- You can inspect and modify the code if you want
- You know what you are getting

## Why use R?

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R has excellent graphics support

R's graphics are *publishable*:

- No need to use external specialist software to produce graphics and charts
- Data-focused grammar of graphics

## Why use R?

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R is a fully-fledged programming language

- Direct, powerful scripted programming
- Tasks beyond data, and interacting with external software, can all be achieved from R, in particular . . .
- The way R manages different namespaces and versions is intuitive, simple, and powerful

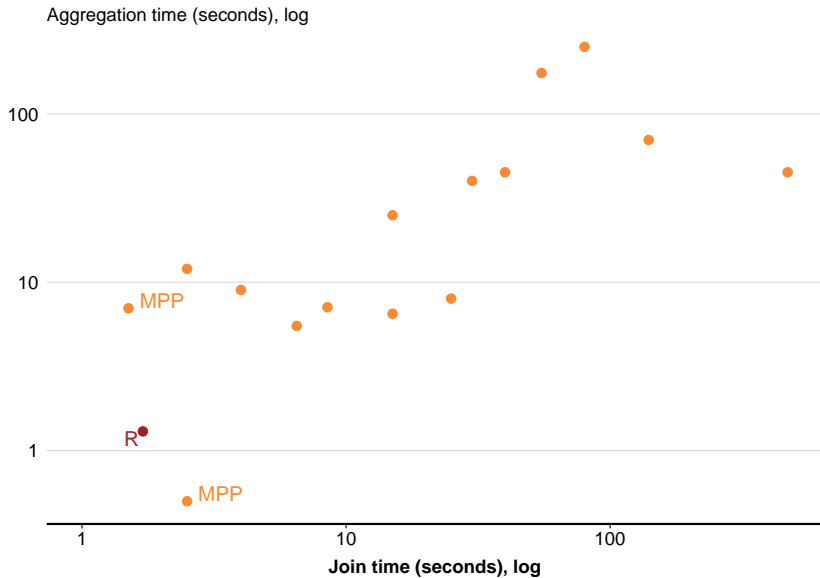
## Why use R?

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R is fast

## Why use R?

R is the fastest



## Why use R?

### R is the fastest

```
> system.time({fread("~/sandbox/dev-fread-vs-cran-fread/DT-n-8.csv")})
Read 100000000 rows x 6 columns from 4.955GB file in 00:03.511 wall clock time (can be slowed down by
any other open apps even if seemingly idle)
  user system elapsed
21.13   1.20   3.77
> |
```

## Why use R?

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R makes your work reproducible

Never underestimate your ability to make small errors!

Copying-and-pasting numbers and charts, version control very difficult to do manually.

R through `knitr` enables you to embed code, charts, and tables in your document.

Updates due to new data trivial. *Single-build documents.*



## Why use R?

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### IDE

RStudio, the IDE for R, is excellent.

## Why use R?

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An outstanding ecosystem of packages

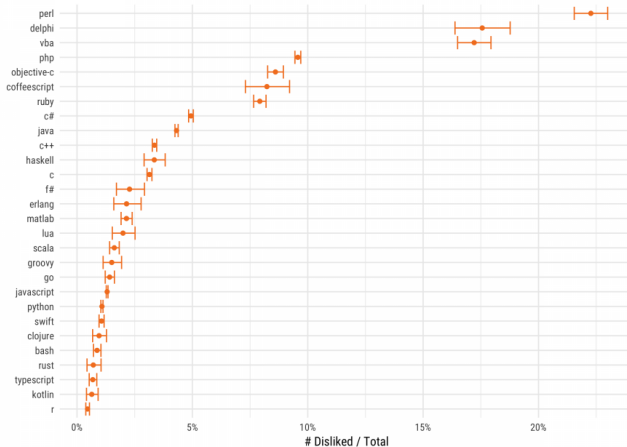
- Packages cover literally all statistical tools
- CRAN is both straightforward to contribute to, easy to access, and maintains a high standard throughout the R community

## Why use R?

### R is well-liked

#### How disliked is each programming language?

Based on "likes" and "dislikes" on Stack Overflow Developer Stories. Includes 95% credible intervals

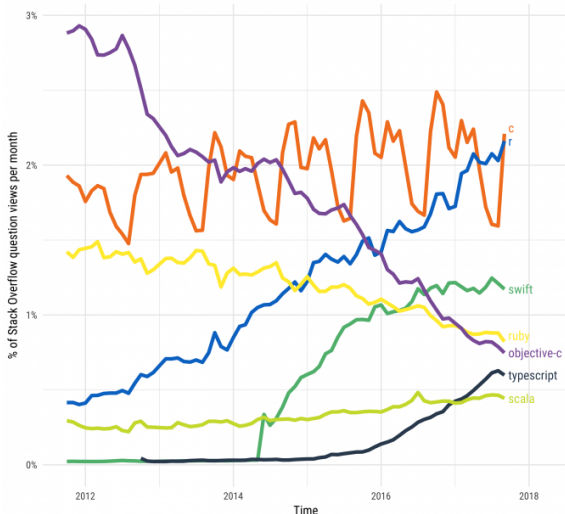


## Why use R?

### R is growing

#### Stack Overflow Traffic to Programming Languages

Based on visits to Stack Overflow questions from World Bank high-income countries.  
The more-visited languages of Python, JavaScript, Java, C#, and PHP were omitted.



## Why use R?

### Bizarrely good support



HughParsonage commented on Apr 11

Contributor



I was able to reproduce the issue on a different Windows machine running i7 4770K @3.40GHz. I got 1.4s vs 12.1s for the example in the `?fread`.



mattdowle referenced this issue in `fstpackage/fst` on Apr 15

**Benchmark question #50**

Open



mattdowle added a commit that referenced this issue on Apr 15



fread fix (attempt 1) for parallel slower on Windows, #2107.

✓ 173fea6



mattdowle commented on Apr 15

Contributor



Attempt 1 did not work. No need to test.



mattdowle added a commit that referenced this issue on Apr 15



fread fix (attempt 2) for parallel slower on Windows, #2107. Also TOD... [...](#)

✓ 6019cfb



mattdowle commented on Apr 15 • edited

Contributor



Ok attempt 2 worked. I borrowed a Windows 8.1 laptop and have confirmed.  
Please retest and confirm ok now. I see 97s down to 1.2s