

Introduction to R

Introduction to R for Public Health Researchers

Welcome to class!

1. Introductions
2. Class overview
3. Getting R up and running

About Us

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About Us

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Introductions

What do you hope to get out of the class?

Why R?

Course Website

http://www.ajaffe.com/summerR_2016/

Materials will be uploaded the night before class

Learning Objectives

- Reading data into R
- Recoding and manipulating data
- Writing R functions and using add-on packages
- Making exploratory plots
- Understanding basic programming syntax
- Performing basic statistical tests

Course Format

- 3 modules per class session, each approximately 1 hour
 - “Interactive” Lecture with RStudio + slides
 - Lab/Practical experience

Grading

1. Attendance/Participation: 20%
2. Nightly Homework: 3 x 15%
3. Final “Project”: 35%

Grading

- **Homework 1:** Due Tuesday 6/14 by 5pm
- **Homework 2:** Due Thursday 6/15 by class
- **Homework 3:** Due Friday 6/16 by class
- **Project:** Due Friday 7/1 by 5pm

What is R?

- R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics
- R is the open source implementation of the S language, which was developed by Bell laboratories
- R is both open source and open development

(source: <http://www.r-project.org/>)

Why R?

- Powerful and flexible
- Free (open source)
- Extensive add-on software (packages)
- Designed for statistical computing
- High level language

Why not R?

- Fairly steep learning curve
 - “Programming” oriented
 - Minimal interface
- Little centralized support, relies on online community and package developers
- Annoying to update

- Slower, and more memory intensive, than the more traditional programming languages (C, Java, Perl, Python)

Installing R

Install the latest version from: <http://cran.r-project.org/>

R Studio

(Makes R easier)

- Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for R
 - Syntax highlighting, code completion, and smart indentation
 - Execute R code directly from the source editor
 - Easily manage multiple working directories using projects
 - Workspace browser and data viewer
 - Plot history, zooming, and flexible image and PDF export
 - Integrated R help and documentation
 - Searchable command history
- <http://www.rstudio.com/>

Working with R

- The R Console “interprets” whatever you type
 - Calculator
 - Creating variables
 - Applying functions
- “Analysis” Script + Interactive Exploration
 - Static copy of what you did (reproducibility)
 - Try things out interactively, then add to your script
- R revolves around functions
 - Commands that take input, performs computations, and returns results
 - Many come with R, but people write external functions you can download and use

Useful R Studio Shortcuts

- **Ctrl + Enter** (Cmd + Enter on OS X) in your script evaluates that line of code
 - It’s like copying and pasting the code into the console for it to run.
- **Ctrl+1** takes you to the script page
- **Ctrl+2** takes you to the console
- http://www.rstudio.com/ide/docs/using/keyboard_shortcuts

Useful (+Free) Resources

- Homework will involve working through: <http://tryr.codeschool.com/>
- DataCamp <http://www.datacamp.com>
- UCLA Institute for Digital Research and Education: <http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/>
- R reference card: <http://cran.r-project.org/doc/contrib/Short-refcard.pdf>
- Undergrad Guide to R: <https://sites.google.com/site/undergraduateguidetor/>
- Quick R: <http://statmethods.net/>