

Welcome to Stat 579

Heike Hofmann

Before we get started ...

- course has two sections
 - B (Tuesday, graduate students from outside)
 - A (Thursday, Statistics graduate students)
- time: 12:10 - 2:00
- Intros

About me ...

Professor of Statistics

my research area is
exploratory data analysis
and statistical computing



I have been teaching Stat 579 and other courses in
statistical computing since 2006

... what about you?

https://stat579-at-
isu.github.io/
hofmann@iastate.edu

Outline

- Introduction
- Objectives, software, modules
- Assessment/Grades
- What do you already know?
- What are you interested in?
- Getting started

“Tall-order” Objective

- become computationally proficient to do statistical data analysis

Objectives

- Learn how to deal with complex, messy, real data
- Use graphics to explore and understand data
- Gain familiarity with basic data collection, storage and manipulation
- Fluently reshape data into the most convenient form for analysis or reporting
- Automate cleaning and analysis

Textbook

- “Data Technologies” by Paul Murrell, available as pdf under Creative Commons License at <http://www.stat.auckland.ac.nz/~paul/ItDT/>
- Recommended: “ggplot2” by Hadley Wickham (email me for the pdf or use Springer link for use R! series)

Setup of Class

Learn about **Concepts** of Statistical Computing
Practice **Skills**

about 2:1 split of class time in teaching:practice

Software: R

Assessment

- One homework assignment every week
- One midterm exam
- final (team) project & presentation
- 35% homework, 35% midterm, 30% final project

Homework

- One every week
- 2-3 hours
- Revise what we covered, plus synthesize some new information
- I will publish the best answers on the class website anonymously, if that's not ok,

Midterm

- During class time
- Open note, open book, open internet ... but no collaboration with anybody
- tentatively scheduled for Oct 30/Nov 1

Final Project

- A bigger project (multiple due dates)
- Will be open ended, and will involve a substantial write up (10+ pages)
- Work in a team (3-4 members)
- Talk to each other! Find a group!

Disability and sickness

- Make sure to let me know (in advance)
- Keep on top of the weekly homework or you will get swamped!

Lectures

- Electronic copy of the slides will be available on the website
- But you'll need to take your own notes!
 - If you really want complete notes, organize a roster with others in the class
- Don't goof off on the computers!
- If you're bored, complain!

What do you know already?

- Excel? JMP?
- A programming language? CS course?
- R? SAS?
- Database theory? Do you know what third normal form is?
- apply?
- Have you used a text editor?

What is this class about?

- Very Data Centric
- I want to know about topics you're interested in
- Go to Wufoo Site to let me know your favorites and make suggestions:
<http://heike.wufoo.com/forms/topics-of-interest/>

- Sports
 - e.g. Baseball salaries and performance
- Crime data (incl. type, time, place, demographics etc.)
- Health
 - e.g. fitness statistics, or disease rates, or health care
- Movies
 - e.g. ratings/box office revenues from IMDB
- Climate/Weather Data
- Travel data, e.g. US flights
- National or Global Issues (world poverty, carbon footprint, ...)
- Anything else you can think of?