

# R bootcamp - August 2015: Syllabus/schedule

August 5, 2016

Unless otherwise noted, modules are about 75 minutes long: 45 minutes for presentation, 20 minutes for breakout and 10 minutes for discussion of solutions.

- Day 1 morning (8:30-12:15) (learning R)
  - Module 0: Introduction, what is R, starting R, why R? why not R? (Chris P.) (15 minutes)
  - Module 1: Basics of R, with Rstudio (Chris P.)
    - \* R as a calculator
    - \* helpful shortcuts: tab-complete, up arrow, Ctrl-`{ up arrow }`
    - \* vectors and indexing and subset assignment
    - \* some basic functions; `help()`
    - \* vectorized calculations, comparisons
    - \* basic R objects: vectors, matrices, dataframes, lists
    - \* basic graphics
    - \* breakout problems
  - Break (15 minutes)
  - Module 2: Managing R and your analyses (Chris P.) (45 minutes)
    - \* managing R objects, the R workspace
    - \* using packages (installing, loading, namespaces)
    - \* the working directory and basic file reading/writing
    - \* Git, Github and version control
    - \* getting R help online

- \* breakout problems
- Module 3: Working with data (Chris P.) (45 minutes)
  - \* dataframes/matrices
  - \* attributes, missing values and factors
  - \* subsetting
  - \* strings
- Lunch (on your own) (12:00-1:30)
- Day 1 afternoon (1:30-5:00) (data processing and real-world work)
  - Module 3: Working with data, continued (Chris P.) (40 minutes)
    - \* more on reading data
    - \* breakout problems
  - Module 4: Calculations (Chris P.)
    - \* vectorized calculations and efficiency
    - \* apply, lapply
    - \* tabulation, stratified analyses, aggregation, merging data
    - \* breakout problems
  - Break (15 minutes)
  - Module 5: Doing useful stuff (Rochelle)
    - \* stratified analyses: groupwise operations (see dplyr: subset, mutate, summarise, arrange); split-apply-combine
    - \* reshaping and tidying data
    - \* regression, GLMs
    - \* breakout problems/homework
- Day 2 morning (9-12:30) (programming and more real-world work)
  - Module 6: Programming in R (Chris P.)
    - \* loops, if-else
    - \* writing your own functions, function arguments, functions as objects
    - \* basic scoping and environments

- \* breakout problems
- Module 7: Some core tools (Chris P.) (45 minutes)
  - \* smoothing
  - \* optimization
  - \* simulation, sample()
  - \* dates and times
  - \* breakout problems
- Break (15 minutes)
- Module 8: Graphics (Kellie)
  - \* exporting graphics (vector/raster formats)
  - \* lattice graphics
  - \* ggplot2
  - \* breakout problems
- Lunch (on your own) (12:30-2:00)
- Day 2 afternoon (2:00-4:30) (more advanced topics)
  - Module 9: Workflows, coding practices, and project management (Chris P.) (60 minutes)
    - \* debugging, timing, memory use
    - \* scripting, source(), batch jobs
    - \* good coding practices
    - \* reproducible research
  - Break (fill out feedback forms) (20 minutes)
  - Module 10: Advanced topics morsels (Chris P.) (60 minutes)
    - \* OOP (S3, S4, ReferenceClasses)
    - \* computing on the language (using R to write and evaluate R code)
    - \* errors and try-catch
    - \* encodings
    - \* working with databases
    - \* parallel processing: foreach, parApply, RNG issues

- Module 11: Wrapping up (Chris P.) (15 minutes)
  - \* R inconsistencies and different ways to do things
  - \* Where to learn more (campus and non-campus resources)