### YasiR: Yet another short introduction to R

Bernd Weiss
bernd.weiss@uni-koeln.de
Research Institute for Sociology
University of Cologne
Germany

April 16, 2012

### Outline

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics LATEXin 5 minutes



### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics ATEXin 5 minutes

### Subsection overview

# Introduction Preamble

Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow

## Acknowledgment, license and downloads

- ▶ My presentation was created using Emacs' org-mode and Babel: active code in Org-mode. Babel is developed and maintained by Eric Schulte and Dan Davison who were extremely helpful in answering my questions or fixing bugs.
- Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 Germany license.
- ➤ Slides, dataset and R code can be downloaded from my github page:

  https://github.com/berndweiss/ps2012-intro\_R (see
  "Downloads" button on the right-hand side).

## Objectives

- ▶ Introduce *some* basic concepts of R
- ► Show some common steps in data preparation and data analysis (esp. meta-analysis)
- ▶ Introduce my (R) data analysis workflow philosophy
- Present some showcases which cover advanced usage of R

### What is R?

"R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. [...] Many users think of R as a statistics system. We prefer to think of it of an environment within which statistical techniques are implemented. R can be extended (easily) via packages. There are about eight packages supplied with the R distribution and many more are available through the CRAN family of Internet sites covering a very wide range of modern statistics" (http://www.r-project.org/about.html).

## Why use R?

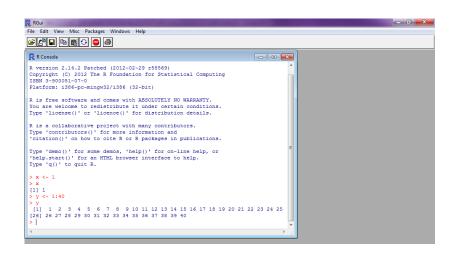
- ▶ It is free (GNU General Public Licence).
- Can be used on many platforms (MS Windows, Linux, Mac OS etc.).
- Includes cutting-edge statistical technologies and state-of-the-art graphics capabilities.
- ► Since R is a fully developed programming language, it is very (extremely) flexible.
- **.** . . .



## Why not use R?

- Steep learning curve.
- R is a programming language.
- Sometimes R lacks consistency (packages).

#### R under MS Windows



### Subsection overview

#### Introduction

Preamble

Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with F

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow

## Five basic R concepts you need to know

- 1. Objects
- 2. Packages
- 3. Grammar (Syntax) of R functions
- 4. Important data types/data structures
- 5. Missing values

## It's all about objects

- ► (Nearly) Everything in R is an object (some similarities to Stata's container concept)
- ▶ What are objects? "The entities that R creates and manipulates are known as objects" (AltR: 5), e.g.:
  - Data sets
  - Variables
  - Results of any statistical calculation
  - **.** . . .
- ▶ It is possible to access/manipulate pieces of more complex objects (e.g. datasets or regression results)

## A first example of an R object

- "<-" means "assign"</p>
- ▶ If you type in the object's name, R prints out its value¹
- "[...]" denotes R output (here, 1, only one element is shown)
- "#" is used for comments

<sup>1</sup>Works in most but not all cases.

[1] 100



## A second example of an R object

We also can create vectors  $(1 \times 4)$  or matrices  $(2 \times 3)$ :

```
1 x.vector <- c(1,2,3,4) ## c() means "concatenate"</pre>
2 x.vector
[1] 1 2 3 4
x.matrix <- matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6), ncol = 3)
2 x.matrix
     [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 1 3 5
[2,] 2 4 6
```

## A third example of an R object

Conduct a t-test and save results in object oTtest.

[1] 0.826267

```
oTtest <- t.test(rnorm(100) ~ sample(0:1, 100, replace = TRUE))
oTtest
        Welch Two Sample t-test
data: rnorm(100) by sample(0:1, 100, replace = TRUE)
t = -0.2202, df = 81.968, p-value = 0.8263
alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
-0.4541498 0.3636313
sample estimates:
mean in group 0 mean in group 1
    -0.1465792 -0.1013200
Get the test statistic...
· oTtest$statistic
 -0.2201947
... or the p-value.
oTtest$p.value
```

4日 → 4周 → 4 重 → 4 重 → 9 9 (\*)

## Packages

- Most R functions are stored in packages.
- When you download R, it only comes with a very limited set of functions (e.g., it knows nothing about SPSS data files or meta-analysis).
- To load a particular package, use a command like library(meta).
- However, before you can load a package, you have to install (download) it (only once). This can be done via install.packages("meta").
- ▶ Whenever a new R session is started, the packages have to be loaded via library(...).
- AltR on packages
  Quick-R on packages
  UCLA's ATS on How can I manage R packages?

## The basic syntax of an R function

- ► The general syntax is: functionname(arglist)
- arglist: A comma separated list of arguments which can be represented by symbol = expression
- ▶ Often, a symbol called x is used; x represents an R object
- Some simple examples:
  - Average of an object a (a vector): mean(x = a)
  - Standard deviation of a: sd(x = a)
  - Correlation between two vectors a and b: cor(x = a, y = b)
- ► Type ?functionname and see "Usage" and "Arguments" for more information.

## Important data types/data structures

- ► When you are used to SPSS or Stata, you never (rarely) had to deal with data types or structures.
- ► The next few slides introduce some important data types or data structures. For R novices in the social sciences, the most important data structure you encounter is called "data frame". A data frame can be used to store a typical rectangular social sciences data set with varying data modes (numeric, character)
- ► Typically, a data set is provided as text, csv, SPSS, Stata, SAS etc. file. When this file is loaded into R, (in most cases) it is available as data frame.

## Important data types/data structures (cont'd)

Scalar

```
x scalar <- 1
2 x.scalar
[1] 1
 Vector
x.vector < -c(1,2,3)
2 x.vector
[1] 1 2 3
 ► Factor (nominal scale; sth like mean(x.factor) does not work!)
x.factor <- factor(c(1,2,3), labels = c("low", "middle", "high"))</pre>
2 x.factor
[1] low middle high
Levels: low middle high
```

## Important data types/data structures (cont'd)

▶ Data frame (each column can have a different data type)

```
1 \times df \leftarrow data.frame(ID = c(1,2,3), sex = factor(c("f", "f", "m")),
                      age = c(22, 45, 12))
3 x.df
    ID sex age
      f 22
 2 2 f 45
 3 3 m 12

    List (most complex data structure)

 x.list <- list(a = c(1,2,3), b = x.df)
2 x.list
$a
[1] 1 2 3
$b
  ID sex age
1 1
     f 22
2 2 f 45
   3
       m 12
```

## Missing data

- ► The symbol NA (Not Available) represents missing values.
- ▶ Unlike SPSS, most R functions do not use a listwise deletion strategy, e.g.:

```
x.na <- c(1,2,3, NA, 5)
mean(x.na)
```

However, if you specify na.rm = TRUE then mean() will calculate the mean:

```
mean(x.na, na.rm = TRUE)
```

[1] 2.75

[1] NA

### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

#### Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics ATEXin 5 minutes

#### Download and installation

- ▶ R can be downloaded from the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN). The process is as follows:
  - 1. Go to <a href="http://www.r-project.org/">http://www.r-project.org/</a>, click on the link "CRAN", can be found in the left navigation bar
  - 2. Choose a CRAN mirror (e.g., Wirtschaftsuniversitaet Wien: http://cran.at.r-project.org/).
  - 3. Choose a precompiled binary distribution ("Download and Install R") (e.g., Windows).
  - Choose binaries for base distribution and then "Download R 2.15.0 for Windows". (I mostly choose the "patched" version, see "Other builds")
- ► After downloading R-2.15.0-win.exe, execute the file and enjoy!

## Getting help

- help(functionname) (or ?functionname) opens the help pages (in rare cases you have to use quotation marks, e.g. help("[")).
- help.search("keyword") searches all installed packages for "keyword" (e.g., help.search("meta-analysis")).
- The package sos offers the function findFn() which is much more flexible than help.search(), (e.g., findFn("meta-analysis")).
- CRAN Task Views give an overview with respect to a certain topic (e.g.,

"CRAN Task View: Statistics for the Social Sciences" or "CRAN Task View: Psychometric Models and Methods").



## Keeping R up-to-date

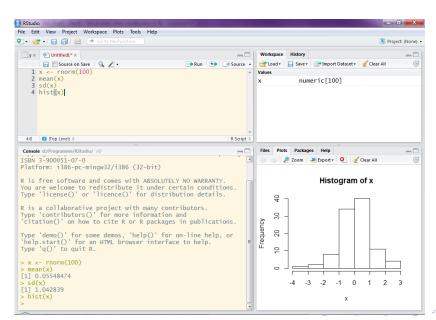
- ▶ Use the latest R version (updated twice a year).
- ▶ Updating packages is easy via update.packages().

#### How to interact with R

(some statements refer to MS Windows only)

- ▶ Use the R console to type in R commands (REPL = read-eval-print loop).
- ▶ Use the built-in R script editor (see File New script) to enter a (longer) sequence of R commands. Mark the lines which you want to run and press CTRL + r (STRG + r). This R script can be saved on you computer.
- ► An R script can also be "sourced", i.e. you can run the command source("myRscript.R") (in Stata: use myStataFile.do).
- Use a text editor which (at least) offers syntax highlighting.
  - A recommended solution is RStudio (see next slide; can be downloaded from http://rstudio.org/)
  - My preferred solution is Emacs + ESS.
  - ► See also The R GUI Projects website.

### **RStudio**



### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

#### Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics ATEXin 5 minutes

### Overview

- ► R can handle many different data formats, e.g. SPSS, Stata, SAS, all sorts of text formats or DBMS.
- ► However, many data formats require you to load a certain package which then provides a function to load the data.
- ► Whenever you load a specific dataset, you need to assign it to an object via <-.
- ► The functions fix() and edit() open a MS-Excel-like datasheet (under MS-Windows).

### Loading a dataset

- setwd(): set working directory
- ▶ library(foreign): Enables R to load SPSS datasets
- read.spss(): Read SPSS dataset
- names(): show column ("variable") names of data object
- For a description see next slide

## The teacher-expectancy data set

XXX

## Inspect your data I

head(dTeachExp) # prints first 6 cases

		ID	T	V weeks	weekcat
1	1	0.03	0.015625	2	2
2	2	0.12	0.021609	21	3
3	3	-0.14	0.027889	19	3
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0
5	5	0.26	0.136161	0	0
6	6	-0.06	0.010609	3	3

Another way to inspect your data is edit() or fix() (be careful not to modify your data unintentionally).

## Inspect your data II

Here is a list of useful R functions to learn more about your data (object):

- names(): show column ("variable") names of data object
- dim(): Retrieve (or set) the dimension of an R object, i.e. for an object of type data.frame it returns the number of rows and columns.
- head(n)=: show first n cases

## Accessing elements of a data frame

- Since R can handle many data objects, you first have to refer to a particular data object. Second, specify which element(s) you are interested in.
- There is a more general and a more specific method of accessing elements of a data frame: the [- and the \$-operator.

4 1.18

```
dTeachExp[,"T"] # access variable T
        [1] 0.03 0.12 -0.14 1.18 0.26 -0.06 -0.02 -0.32 0.27 0.80 0.54 0.18
    [13] -0.02 0.23 -0.18 -0.06 0.30 0.07 -0.07
dTeachExp$T # access variable T, shortcut for dTeachExp[,"T"]
        [1] 0.03 0.12 -0.14 1.18 0.26 -0.06 -0.02 -0.32 0.27 0.80 0.54 0.18
    [13] -0.02 0.23 -0.18 -0.06 0.30 0.07 -0.07
 dTeachExp[1:4,c("T", "weeks")] # access first 4 obs of T and weeks
             T weeks
    1 0.03
    2 0.12
           21
    3 -0.14 19
```

## Saving a dataset

- save(object, file = "filename") saves a particular
  data (or a list of objects) object to the specified file.
- save.image(file = "filename") saves the current
  workspace (i.e., all objects shown by ls() or
  objects()).
- dump() or write.table() saves data objects in plain text files.
- ► The foreign package has functions to save data objects as SPSS, Stata, SAS files.

### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

#### Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics ATEXin 5 minutes

Useful hooks and websites

#### Overview

- Generate new variables
- Select cases (subsetting/indexing) and variables
- Missing values

## Creating new variables

```
dTeachExp$SE <- sqrt(dTeachExp$V)
head(round(dTeachExp, digits = 2))</pre>
```

	ID	T	V	weeks	weekcat	SE
1	1	0.03	0.02	2	2	0.12
2	2	0.12	0.02	21	3	0.15
3	3	-0.14	0.03	19	3	0.17
4	4	1.18	0.14	0	0	0.37
5	5	0.26	0.14	0	0	0.37
6	6	-0.06	0.01	3	3	0.10

# Removing cases I (subsetting/indexing)

Relational (<, >, <=, >=, ==, !=) and logical operators (&, |, !) can be used to remove certain cases.

```
subset(dTeachExp, weekcat == 0)
```

	ID	T	V	weeks	weekcat	SE
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373
5	5	0.26	0.136161	0	0	0.369
9	9	0.27	0.026896	0	0	0.164
11	11	0.54	0.091204	0	0	0.302
12	12	0.18	0.049729	0	0	0.223

subset(dTeachExp, weekcat == 0 & T > 1)

	ID	T	V	weeks	weekcat	SE
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373



### Removing cases II

subset() is one way to create subsets. Another possibility is using the [-operator.

dTeachExp[dTeachExp\$weekcat == 0, ]

	ID	T	V	weeks	${\tt weekcat}$	SE
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373
5	5	0.26	0.136161	0	0	0.369
9	9	0.27	0.026896	0	0	0.164
11	11	0.54	0.091204	0	0	0.302
12	12	0.18	0.049729	0	0	0.223

dTeachExp[dTeachExp\$weekcat == 0 & dTeachExp\$T > 1,

	ID	T	V	weeks	${\tt weekcat}$	SE
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373



# Removing (or keeping) cases III

Say, you want to remove cases based on a list of person IDs. In that case, you can use the %in% function.

```
keep.ids <- c(1, 4, 6, 8)
dTeachExp.new <- dTeachExp[dTeachExp$ID %in% keep.id</pre>
```

3 dTeachExp.new

	ID	T	V	weeks	${\tt weekcat}$	SE
1	1	0.03	0.015625	2	2	0.125
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373
6	6	-0.06	0.010609	3	3	0.103
8	8	-0.32	0.048400	24	3	0.220



## Removing missing values

```
dTeachExp.missing <- dTeachExp
dTeachExp.missing$T[c(1, 3, 6)] <- NA
dTeachExp.missing$weekcat[c(2, 3)] <- NA
head(dTeachExp.missing)</pre>
```

	ID	T	Λ	weeks	weekcat	SE
1	1	NA	0.015625	2	2	0.125
2	2	0.12	0.021609	21	NA	0.147
3	3	NA	0.027889	19	NA	0.167
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373
5	5	0.26	0.136161	0	0	0.369
6	6	NA	0.010609	3	3	0.103

## Removing missing values (cont'd)

dTeachExp.missing[!is.na(dTeachExp.missing\$T), ][1:6,]

```
ID
              V weeks weekcat
                              SE
2 2 0.12 0.021609
                   21
                         NA 0.147
4 4 1.18 0.139129 0
                         0 0.373
5 5 0.26 0.136161 0 0 0.369
7 7 -0.02 0.010609 17 3 0.103
                      3 0.220
8 8 -0.32 0.048400
                   24
9 9 0.27 0.026896
                 0
                        0.0.164
```

na.omit(dTeachExp.missing)[1:6,]

	ID	T	V	weeks	${\tt weekcat}$	SE
4	4	1.18	0.139129	0	0	0.373
5	5	0.26	0.136161	0	0	0.369
7	7	-0.02	0.010609	17	3	0.103
8	8	-0.32	0.048400	24	3	0.220
9	9	0.27	0.026896	0	0	0.164
10	10	0.80	0.063001	1	1	0.251

### Removing variables

```
d (dTeachExp.names <- names(dTeachExp))</pre>
 [1] "TD"
             "T"
                      пVп
                                 "weeks" "weekcat" "SE"
Remove the 1 and 3 variable
dTeachExp[1:2, c(dTeachExp.names)[-c(1,3)]]
     T weeks weekcat. SE
 1 0.03 2
                   2 0.125
 2 0.12 21 3 0.147
Remove weeks and weekcat.
! (dTeachExp.names %in% c("weeks", "weekcat"))
 [1]
     TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE
dTeachExp[1:2,!(dTeachExp.names %in% c("weeks", "weekcat"))]
   TD
                   SF.
 1 1 0.03 0.015625 0.125
 2 2 0.12 0.021609 0.147
```

### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics LATEXin 5 minutes

Useful hooks and websites

### Make up some data

The next few slides will rely on some fake data.

```
x y sex

1 0.4193362 12.518774 f

2 -0.6164952 9.229247 m

3 0.4345107 7.928392 f

4 0.9799077 11.600855 m
```

### Subsection overview

Introduction

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow

Useful books and websites

# The summary() function

summary(df.fake)

```
x y sex
Min. :-1.33138 Min. : 7.928 f:5
1st Qu.:-0.56148 1st Qu.: 9.749 m:5
Median :-0.09711 Median :10.785
Mean :-0.14979 Mean :12.131
3rd Qu.: 0.43072 3rd Qu.:13.229
Max. : 0.97991 Max. :18.844
```

summary(df.fake\$x)

```
Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu.
-1.33100 -0.56150 -0.09711 -0.14980 0.43070 0.9799
```

# The mean() and median() functions

```
[1] -0.1497879
[1] 12.13077
```

mean(df.fake\$x)

### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics ATFXin 5 minutes

Useful hooks and websites

### Subsection overview

Introduction

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with F

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics

LATEXin 5 minutes

Useful books and websites



## What is reproducible research?

"By reproducible research, we mean research papers with accompanying software tools that allow the reader to directly reproduce the results and employ the methods that are presented in the research paper" (Gentleman/Lang 2004: 1).

### Requirements for the workflow: TREMMP

- ► Transparency (e.g., by using dynamic documents, "The source code is real")
- Reproducibility (e.g., by using dynamic documents, "The source code is real")
- Efficiency (a good workflow saves you time, by automating as much of the process as possible)
- Maintainability (standardized script names, good commenting practices, README files)
- Modularity (discrete tasks into separate components (e.g. scripts))
- Portability (e.g., by using relative (not absolute) pathnames)

(Source: David Smith on "A workflow for R": http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2010/10/a-workflow-for-r.html)



#### The source code is real

"The source code is real. The objects are realizations of the source code. Source for EVERY user modified object is placed in a particular directory or directories, for later editing and retrieval" (Rossini et al. 2011:ESS - Emacs Speaks Statistics - Manual)

### Use source() to read R code from a file

The R console can be used for short and temporary tests. In order to establish a TREMMP workflow, however, it is required to write R programs and to source them. So, use source(file = "myfile.R") to run an external R program. In SPSS, you would create an .sps-file, in Stata a .do-file.

## More on reproducible research

- ► Kieran Healy: "Choosing Your Workow Applications" http://www.kieranhealy.org/files/misc/workflow-apps.pdf
- ▶ ... to be continued ...

### Subsection overview

Introduction

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with F

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow

Some basics

LATEXin 5 minutes

Useful books and websites

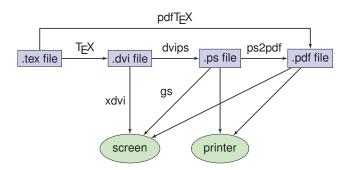


# What is LATEX

- ▶ LATEX is a markup language. Another markup language you might know is HTML.
- ► LATEX provides high-quality typesetting features.
- ► The typical workflow is as follows:
  - 1. Create LATEX source code file (.tex)
  - 2. Compile it via LATEX or pdfLATEX
  - 3. Use a viewer (PDF, DVI or via dvips PS) to view the compiled file
- ► In order to run LATEX on your computer, you will need to install a

  NATEX distribution (a.g., MikTeX for MS Windows)
  - LATEX-distribution (e.g., MikTEX for MS-Windows).

#### The TEX work flow



40 ) (0 ) (2 ) (2 ) (3 ) (0 )

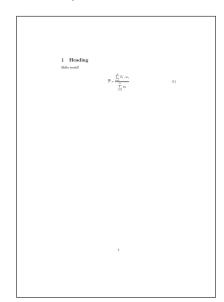
Source: http://media.texample.net/tikz/examples/PDF/texworkflow.pdf

# What a LATEX file looks like

```
%% Part 1: Preamble
  \documentclass{article}
  \usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
  \usepackage[T1]{fontenc}
  \usepackage[english]{babel}
6
  %% Part 2: Body
  \begin{document}
9
  \section{Heading}
  Hello world!
14
  \begin{equation}
15
  \operatorname{T} = \frac{\sum_{k}^{k}_{i = 1} %}
16
    T_{i}\cdot dot w_{i}}{\sum_{i=1}^{k}_{i}}
  \end{equation}
18
19
  \end{document}
20
```

4□ > 4同 > 4 = > 4 = > ■ 900

# The compiled 'Hello world'-example



### Section overview

Introduction
Preamble
Five basic R concepts

Installation, help, maintenance and interacting with R

Loading a (SPSS) dataset

Data cleaning and data preparation

Descriptive statistics

Mean, median & Co

Reproducible research (RR) and workflow Some basics ATEXin 5 minutes

Useful books and websites



#### Useful books or websites

#### Websites

- ► The R Manuals (esp. An Introduction to R)
- Quick-R
- Using R for psychological research: A simple guide to an elegant package
- R for SAS and SPSS users (see "Free Version")
- ► See also the R Wiki
- **•** . . .

#### Books

- R for SAS and SPSS users by RA Muenchen
- ▶ Introductory Statistics with R by P Dalgaard
- ► See also Books related to R