

← Thread



Thomas Lumley
@tslumley

...

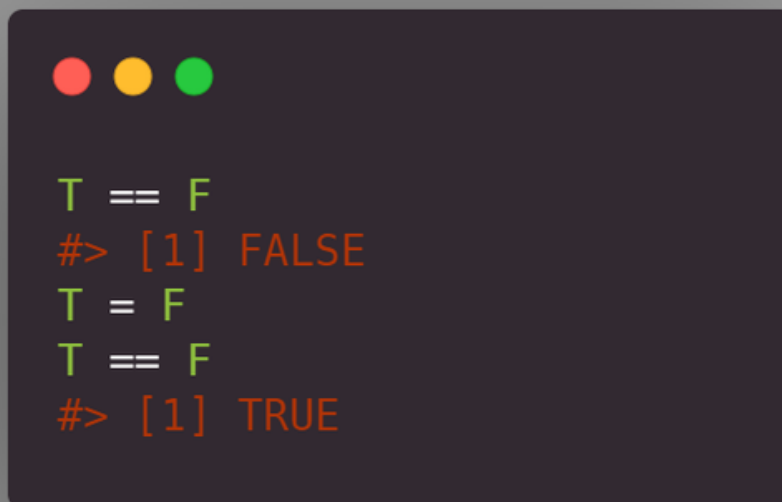
Where do people learn about F and T as (unreliable) abbreviations for FALSE and TRUE in R? Are there textbooks that use F and T?



#RStats Question A Day @data_question · Jul 5, 2020

If you are running low on surprises, welcome to R programming....

PS: turns out T and F are not reserved words and can be overwritten.
#rstats #datascience #programming



```
T == F
#> [1] FALSE
T = F
T == F
#> [1] TRUE
```

3:12 PM · Jul 5, 2020 · Twitter for Android

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Reply



Thomas Lumley @tslumley · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley

I learned them because they were the other way around in S3, but I'm old.



Followed by some Tweeters you follow



Norm Matloff @matloff · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley

I think a lot of R users, even those who've become very proficient in the language, would be surprised by this:

```
> sum <- mean  
> sum(1:3)  
[1] 2
```



Thomas Lumley @tslumley · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @matloff

I don't think it would occur to many people (especially the ones who would be surprised) to do this. But people do create variables called 'T', representing time or treatment or screening test result.



Show replies



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Norm Matloff @matloff · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley

I almost always use T and F in private. :-)) just did so a few minutes ago.



ag stats stan @SeedsAndBreeds · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley



Some of your mutual follows often like this Tweeter



Peter Dalgaard @pdalgd · Jul 5, 2020



Replying to @tslumley

Um, yes....



1



3



Thomas Lumley @tslumley · Jul 5, 2020

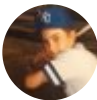


Replying to @pdalgd

<looks sternly over his glasses in the general direction of Denmark>



5



Nate Aff @nateaff · Jul 5, 2020



Replying to @tslumley

I tutored R for a while and got to see a sample of how students were introduced to R. I saw a lot of professors using base R style with poor coding habits, including use of T and F. Usually subject matter classes but sometimes in CS/machine learning courses as well.



1



6



Thomas Lumley @tslumley · Jul 5, 2020



Replying to @nateaff

That's probably it, yeah.



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Chris Chapman @cnchapman · Jul 5, 2020



Replying to @tslumley

Hmmm, now I have to go check a certain book about R for marketing. (And find a place to lay blame if needed!)

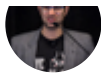


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... ..





Jared Lander

· Jul 9, 2020

Replying to @tslumley

I was taught them in school, so I put in my book the opposite, that they shouldn't be used.



2



Nicholas Potter @econpotter · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley

I first learned about it using an earlier version of data table where I would use `d[, c(<some cars>), with=FALSE]` to select columns.



You and this Tweeter share some mutual follows



Shannon Pileggi... @PipingHotData@fos... @PipingH... · Jul 9, 2020

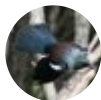
...

Replying to @tslumley

😬 Our professors' code that we never questioned!



1



David Hood 🌱 @Thoughtfulnz · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley

It is too long ago to remember where I first saw it, but I checked google books for "header=T" "data.frame" and for "stringsAsFactors = T" "data.frame" and there are some



3



David Winter @TheAtavism · Jul 6, 2020

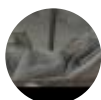
...

Replying to @tslumley

Inherited scripts and the source code of packages



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Dr Lucy Stewart @lcsnz · Jul 5, 2020

...

Replying to @tslumley

there may be - I am largely self-taught w/r/t R and I've never encountered this in free/online materials.



1



