

translateR – A cloud based translator for SPSS and SAS Code

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One of the major hurdles for companies and research institutions that are already using statistical software and are willing to move to R is the migration of the existing scripts. In many cases, these scripts contain thousands and thousands lines of code and have grown dynamical over years and decades. Given this, it is time consuming and expensive to prove that R is capable to solve the specific analytic processes with a similar outcome.

translateR is an approach to ease the migration of code and scripts to R. It consists of a cloud based translation engine and an R-package. The translation engine takes an SPSS or SAS script and returns a script that does the same in R. The translation is not “literally”, but in functions that are provided by the translateR R-package. These functions resemble their SPSS/SAS counterparts in naming and input parameters. Additionally, the package provides a dataframe-like class which can keep attributes like user defined missing values or value labels with negative or non-consecutive values.

translateR can be used for migration and proof-of-concepts projects, as a starting point to learn R or as a convenience layer. In addition, its data-class can be used standalone by R users who want to benefit from enhanced data attributes.