

# R for Starters

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A continuing booklet developed for an introduction  
to statistics and to the R statistical environment.

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## Preface

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The purpose of this booklet is to give my students some support when dealing with a new statistical environment like R. R looks old and unreliable. In fact, it looks as though it runs in DOS. However, what it lacks in aesthetics, it more than makes up for in power. The only programs that rival R in terms of power and flexibility are STATA, SAS, and S+. All three of these programs suffer from one weakness: they cost a lot of money. Currently, you can purchase a license to STATA v11 for \$895; SAS v9.2 for \$8100; and S+ for \$79 per month.<sup>1</sup>

By the end of this booklet, the reader will have a strong, basic understanding of how to do several things in the R statistical environment.

At least, that is the plan.

As the semester progresses, I will add more and more to the text to help you. Feel free to send feedback about the book—especially what is unclear—and I shall incorporate it (eventually).

Enjoy!

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<sup>1</sup>All costs are for an individual license and do not include sales tax. As a student, you may be able to get these packages for less money, but once you stop being a student, you will have to actually buy a license at the above rates if you wish to continue using the software and receiving updates.