The Art of R Programming: A Tour of Statistical Software Design
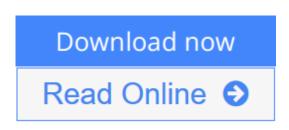
By Norman Matloff

The Art of R Programming: A Tour of Statistical Software Design By Norman Matloff

R is the world's most popular language for developing statistical software: Archaeologists use it to track the spread of ancient civilizations, drug companies use it to discover which medications are safe and effective, and actuaries use it to assess financial risks and keep economies running smoothly.

The Art of R Programming takes you on a guided tour of software development with R, from basic types and data structures to advanced topics like closures, recursion, and anonymous functions. No statistical knowledge is required, and your programming skills can range from hobbyist to pro.

Along the way, you'll learn about functional and object-oriented programming, running mathematical simulations, and rearranging complex data into simpler, more useful formats. You'll also learn to:

• Create artful graphs to visualize complex data sets and functions
• Write more efficient code using parallel R and vectorization
• Interface R with C/C++ and Python for increased speed or functionality
• Find new packages for text analysis, image manipulation, and thousands more
• Squash annoying bugs with advanced debugging techniques

Whether you're designing aircraft, forecasting the weather, or you just need to tame your data, *The Art of R Programming* is your guide to harnessing the power of statistical computing.

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review
From the Author: Why Use R for Your Statistical Work?

As the Cantonese say, *yauh peng, yauh leng*, which means "both inexpensive and beautiful." Why use anything else?
R has a number of virtues:

- It is a public-domain implementation of the widely regarded S statistical language, and the R/S platform is a de facto standard among professional statisticians.
- It is comparable, and often superior, in power to commercial products in most of the significant senses -- variety of operations available, programmability, graphics, and so on.
- It is available for the Windows, Mac, and Linux operating systems.
- In addition to providing statistical operations, R is a general-purpose programming language, so you can use it to automate analyses and create new functions that extend the existing language features.
- R includes a library of several thousand user-contributed packages.
- It incorporates features found in object-oriented and functional programming languages.
- R is capable of producing beautiful graphics for your presentations, reports or articles.

About the Author

Norman Matloff, Ph.D., is a Professor of Computer Science at the University of California, Davis. He is the creator of several popular software packages, as well as a number of widely-used Web tutorials on computer topics. He has written articles for the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Forbes Magazine*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and the *Los Angeles Times*, among others, and is also the author, with Peter Jay Salzman, of *The Art of Debugging* (No Starch Press).

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Fabian Luton:

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