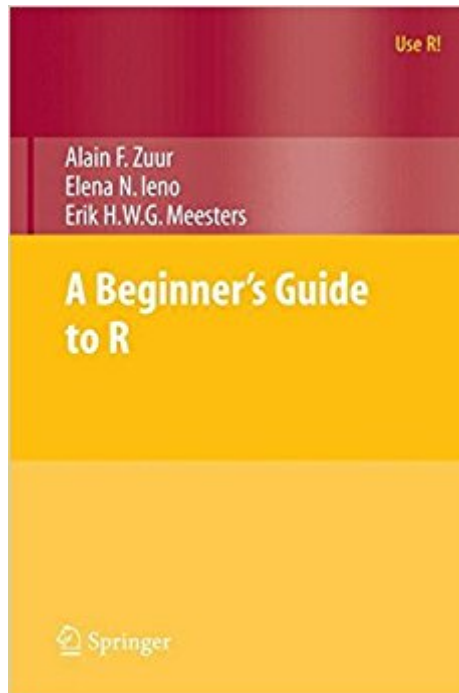


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# A Beginner's Guide To R (Use R!)



## Synopsis

Based on their extensive experience with teaching R and statistics to applied scientists, the authors provide a beginner's guide to R. To avoid the difficulty of teaching R and statistics at the same time, statistical methods are kept to a minimum. The text covers how to download and install R, import and manage data, elementary plotting, an introduction to functions, advanced plotting, and common beginner mistakes. This book contains everything you need to know to get started with R.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the reviews: "A Beginner's Guide to R is just what its title implies, a quick-start guide for the newest R users. A unique feature of this welcome addition to Springer's Use R! series is that it is devoted solely to getting the user up and running on R. Unlike other texts geared towards R beginners, this text does not make the mistake of trying to simultaneously teach statistics. There are straightforward homework exercises provided throughout, and the data sets can be downloaded from the authors' website. A Beginner's Guide to R is an essential resource for the R novice, whether an undergraduate learning statistics for the first time or a seasoned statistician biting the bullet and making the switch to R." (The R Journal Vol. 2/1, June 2010) "Most suitable for an advanced beginner or a user who needs an introduction to a wide variety of graphical methods. Overall, the book does most things quite well. It shows the beginner how to install R, how to load data into R, how to perform some subsetting operations including the

sorting of data and most of all how to plot data using a variety of methods. Throughout, all methods and code are well illustrated and can be easily replicated by anyone using the book. I learned quite a number of things about R that I did not previously know. Consequently, I would recommend the book not only for the students who need to learn R, but for professionals who need to enhance their basic working knowledge of R." (Math Geosci 2010, 42: 133-137) "The book has many admirable features. It introduces key commands in easy stages. Each chapter has a number of illustrative examples, lucidly explained, and ends with a review of what has been covered. Chapters also contain exercises at the end that reinforce the examples provided. A useful work for self-study or for an introductory course, allowing readers to apply their knowledge of the language to begin learning how to use R for statistical analysis or other purposes. Summing Up: Highly recommended. All levels of readership." (R. Bharath, Choice, Vol. 47 (11), July, 2010) "This book explains how to create datasets, variables, functions and plots using R. It is not a simple book though. It is somewhat dense and covers each topic thoroughly. It is best to follow every example. I found this book to be well written for its intended audience and purpose. I had no difficulty reading it or following the examples. This approach will give you a good foundation for using R in your own work and advancing to other books about specific analyses and procedures." (Mark Bailey, Technometrics, Vol. 53 (1), February, 2011) "This book has a very clear objective. It is a popular book about the R statistical software. The book is true to its goal of being a text for the absolute beginner with easy to follow explanations, examples to program, and exercises to build skill. The reader who takes advantages of the available data files and R text editors will find this to be a very instructive book. It will definitely increase your desire to learn and use R in the future." (Brandon Alleman, The American Statistician, May, 2011)

Based on their extensive experience with teaching R and statistics to applied scientists, the authors provide a beginner's guide to R. To avoid the difficulty of teaching R and statistics at the same time, statistical methods are kept to a minimum. The text covers how to download and install R, import and manage data, elementary plotting, an introduction to functions, advanced plotting, and common beginner mistakes. This book contains everything you need to know to get started with R. "Its biggest advantage is that it aims only to teach R...It organizes R commands very efficiently, with much teaching guidance included. I would describe this book as being handy--it's the kind of book that you want to keep in your jacket pocket or backpack all the time, ready for use, like a Swiss Army knife." (Loveday Conquest, University of Washington) "Whilst several books focus on learning statistics in R..., the authors of this book fill a gap in the market by focusing on learning R whilst

almost completely avoiding any statistical jargon...The fact that the authors have very extensive experience of teaching R to absolute beginners shines throughout." (Mark Mainwaring, Lancaster University) "Exactly what is needed...This is great, nice work. I love the ecological/biological examples; they will be an enormous help." (Andrew J. Tyne, University of Nebraska-Lincoln) Alain F. Zuur is senior statistician and director of Highland Statistics Ltd., a statistical consultancy company based in the UK. He has taught statistics to more than 5000 ecologists. He is honorary research fellow in the School of Biological Sciences, Oceanlab, at the University of Aberdeen, UK. Elena N. Ieno is senior marine biologist and co-director at Highland Statistics Ltd. She has been involved in guiding PhD students on the design and analysis of ecological data. She is honorary research fellow in the School of Biological Sciences, Oceanlab, at the University of Aberdeen, UK. Erik H.W.G. Meesters is a researcher at the Dutch Institute for Marine Resources and Ecosystem Studies (IMARES). He specializes in coral reef ecology and applied statistics and conducts research on North Sea benthos and seal ecology.

I was never able to open this book in my kindle for the PC. It showed up but trying to open it failed every time. The error message said to delete it from my device and re-download. I tried that like 10 times and it always just failed to open and told me to repeat what I had already done over and over again. The kindle support was completely worthless. Can't even return it for a refund like I could a normal order. Guess I will stick to hardback and paperback editions after blowing \$40 on this worthless digital book.

This is a perfect beginner's guide. There are many other introductory R texts on the market. This one, by far, is the most relatable. The author has clearly taken great efforts in developing a guide for true beginners--rather than assuming one knows programming languages (e.g., Python). The textbook is also accompanied by downloadable data files, whereby you may practice the concepts introduced in this book. I rated this book as 5 stars, because the competition was greatly lacking. Notwithstanding, this book has some room for improvement, however. First, the examples provided in the textbook do not have an answer key. If there was an online answer key, I could not find it. How are readers to know they have reached the correct solution without an answer key? In my opinion, this was a major oversight. Second, I wished the book was a bit longer. I felt like the key concepts were explained very well. However, I wish the text had lengthier examples or even a full project to complete. This would have helped bring the core topics into alignment for me. Overall, the book is relatively inexpensive for a well-written, "ground floor" introduction to R.

I've been wanting to learn R for a while now, but teaching and meetings have gotten in the way. I've been using this book for about a month and spend an hour per day. I do the exercises and also type in all of the R code in the book to see what works (though you can download the code from the book's website). I have found the book very straightforward. Certainly R takes some getting used to and ultimately I'll be using it for statistical applications, but, as noted by the authors, this book is written to introduce the reader to R, not to statistics with R. The explanations for what you are doing (and why) are very clear. The authors have experience teaching a well-constructed workshop for learning R, and it shows in the flow of the book. The text is clearly written and the steps are easy to follow. Learning builds from chapter to chapter. I would suggest, however, that though the authors indicate you can skip chapter 4 on simple functions with the first read, enough of what comes later hints at chapter 4 that I found it made more sense to go back and read chapter 4 rather than wonder what was going on. I have not found the same need to read Chapter 6 on the first pass, though I expect it will help in later understanding how to run statistical tests with R. I am an ecologist, and the authors use strictly ecological examples, which also makes the book very accessible. I've also been working on a data set of my own and it is VERY satisfying to take what I've learned in this book and apply it directly to my own data. At my university, we have limited access to major stats packages (Minitab - yes, Systat - no) and the draw to R, a free and very adaptable system, is strong. Aside from R, another aspect of this book that I really like is that the authors use lots of instances of practical "exploratory data analysis" such as examination of data for outliers. These are steps that are easy to forget about and I like the fresh reminder. I'm also intrigued by the authors' hints at what they like and don't like about particular approaches that I've purchased their related book, *Analyzing Ecological Data* (hasn't arrived yet). In sum - this is a great book for teaching yourself the basics of R.

If you want to start (from scratch) to learn to use R for data manipulation and graphics get this book. The authors say, in the forward, that it was designed to support a 3 day (8 hour per day) introduction to the R language without teaching statistics and it does a fabulous job. It covers R data types and data manipulation nearly as well as my favorite book on the topic - *Data Manipulation with R* (Use R) - but it also does a good job covering basic plots (all the typical one or two variable plots) out to intermediate graphics (making a lattice with lots of pictures) (a good next step for graphics is *Data Analysis and Graphics Using R: An Example-based Approach* (Cambridge Series in Statistical and Probabilistic Mathematics)) and also gives a very accessible introduction to applying functions to

sets of variables and the R version of looping. The organization and flow are excellent. Each chapter has many exercises and as you read there are pointers saying to go try the corresponding problems. There is no answer key for the problems but they are so closely tied to the material that should not be a major issue. The index is okay but not good because there are functions used in the body of the book that are not indexed and it is missing an overall summary index/table that covers all the functions. If the publisher will clean up the indexing, so that it is easier to return and find the information in the book, it is a solid 5 star product. Another possible complaint is that it is very expensive for a 200 page paperback but the quality of the writing offsets for the bloated price.

This is required for our class and it really is one of those helpful R books in the market. I love the web help that comes with it. I am a total newbie but I was grateful to have this book that I can use as a skill for differential expression analysis of genes. I am hoping though for more information on new R programs that I can use for my dissertation.

I have absolutely no background in programming, so this has made the prospect of using R for my research daunting, to say the least. This book does a great job of breaking the language down, and giving you useful functions to use in a logical sequence. I HIGHLY recommend it to any R beginners.

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