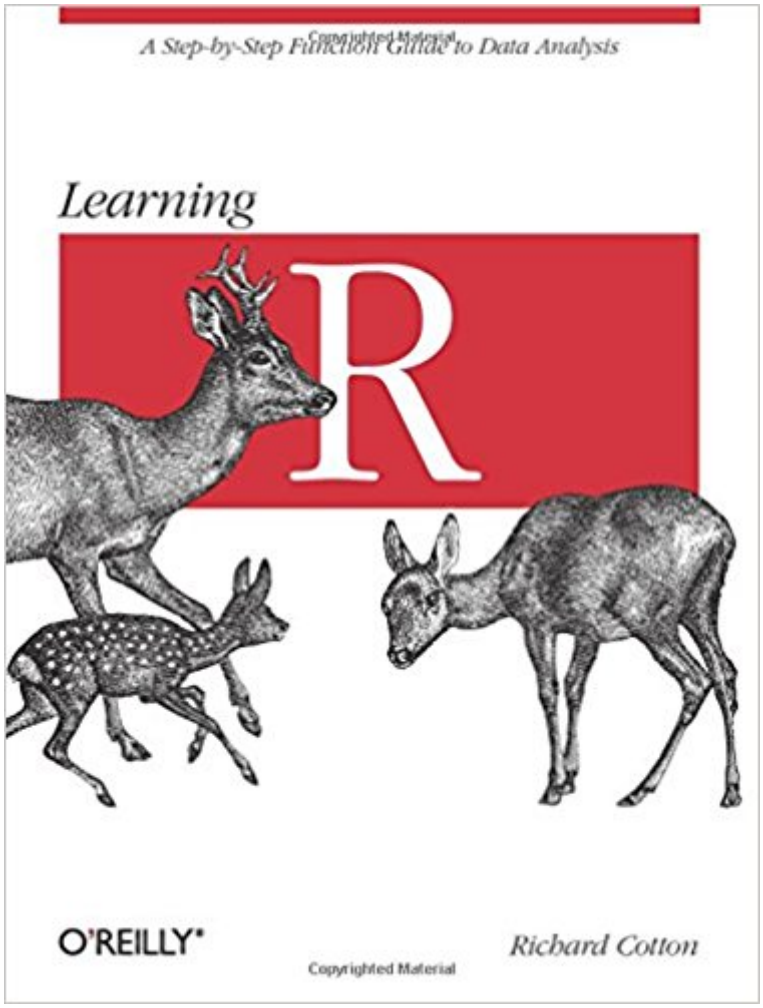
Learning R: A Step-by-Step Function Guide To Data Analysis



Synopsis

Learn how to perform data analysis with the R language and software environment, even if you have little or no programming experience. With the tutorials in this hands-on guide, youâ ™ll learn how to use the essential R tools you need to know to analyze data, including data types and programming concepts.The second half of Learning R shows you real data analysis in action by covering everything from importing data to publishing your results. Each chapter in the book includes a quiz on what youâ ™ve learned, and concludes with exercises, most of which involve writing R code.Write a simple R program, and discover what the language can doUse data types such as vectors, arrays, lists, data frames, and stringsExecute code conditionally or repeatedly with branches and loopsApply R add-on packages, and package your own work for othersLearn how to clean data you import from a variety of sourcesUnderstand data through visualization and summary statisticsUse statistical models to pass quantitative judgments about data and make predictionsLearn what to do when things go wrong while writing data analysis code

Book Information

Paperback: 400 pages

Publisher: O'Reilly Media; 1 edition (September 26, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1449357105

ISBN-13: 978-1449357108

Product Dimensions: 7 x 0.8 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 16 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #23,888 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #5 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Computer Science > Bioinformatics #19 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data > Data Mining #21 inÂ Books > Computers & Technology > Databases & Big Data > Data Modeling & Design

Customer Reviews

Richie is a data scientist with a background in chemical health and safety, and has worked extensively on tools to give non-technical users access to statistical models. He is the author of the R packages "assertive" for checking the state of your variables and "sig" to make sure your functions have a sensible API. He runs The Damned Liars statistics consultancy.

Great intro to R

Great book. Well written. Easy to understand.

Very good book.. easy to read and follow.. well worth the price if you'd like to work with R, and I have a few R books already. I really like how he gives his opinion and takes a stand on whether to use some functions over others.. i only wish he didn't spend time talking about the worse way to do it... just give me the best.. which he eventually does.

A great walk-through of R. Helpful and readable for people who know a bit of programming, and probably for those who don't.

The book was in excellent condition...thank you!

I was going to give a four-star rating on this book, but seeing all these one and two stars made me give five instead. As someone starting out with R, you shouldn't expect book like this to read like a bible. Learning R is what it is -- a concise and easy tutorial for a beginning R student, and this is exactly what this book delivers. I see that some reviewers suggested R in Action or R for Everyone, and don't get me wrong those are excellent textbooks. The problem with those books is that they contain no exercises, and that could spell a major trouble for undisciplined learners like myself. Learning R, on the other hand, may not be the most comprehensive tome on the subject of R, but it does accomplish what it set out to do --- get started with R and move on to advanced R/data analysis topics -- by breaking down the contents into small chapters and providing review questions and exercises at the end of each chapter.

If you want to start learning R, there several things you may want to consider. There are two kind of skills you want to cultivate: programming skills and actual data analysis ones. In principle, you can learn techniques alone, but then your creativity as a data analyst will be limited and probably you will end up writing poor code. Alternatively focusing only on coding may make you a good programmer, but it will be hard to get started on putting your skill into practice. Any book should strike a tradeoff in where to stand between training you in these two topics. Cotton's book try its best in this and does a pretty good job. The first part of the book, covering the intricacies of the language is the one I found most useful. I has all sort of good advise and explanations on the data structures

and functions you can use. It is appropriately applied - not just about computation and programming, but actually links how they are applied in the actual data analysis. In this sense, this was the most original and interesting part of the book. The second part of the book, covering data analysis techniques was more conventional but still good. As such, there are perhaps better books if you are interested on any of the two sides ("machine learning for hackers" is very good to learn how to apply the techniques and seeing them in action; "Introduction to statistical learning" is a bit more theoretical; Advanced R or The Art of R Computing are unbeatable about teaching the language, although a bit dray).The approach of Cotton is really instructive. He is friendly, he write well in a easygoing fashion and the book is full of useful tips that helped me to understand how the language merge with the technique.The book is not encyclopedic, it does not cover every single topic (there are better books for that, Matloff and Wickhams books are better). Instead, it does a really good job as a tutorial that walks you through many topics that are somehow not covered in many other books -the chapter that covers factors and dates is perhaps not something you will deal with everyday, but very useful if you have to.Overall, I think the book teaches you really well how to play with the R language.A very final remark. I've seen other comments that suggest this is an introductory book. The book hardly takes things from scratch. If you have never written a line of code, you are likely to find it, particularly the first part, pretty dry. It is more an intermediate text, otherwise you will find yourself wondering why you need to know all these pages about data structures if you just want to learn to load a csv file and run a regression.

This book is tremendous. It takes the reader through R without getting bogged down in an explanation of statistics and data modeling. It even includes chapters at the end on writing your own packages.

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