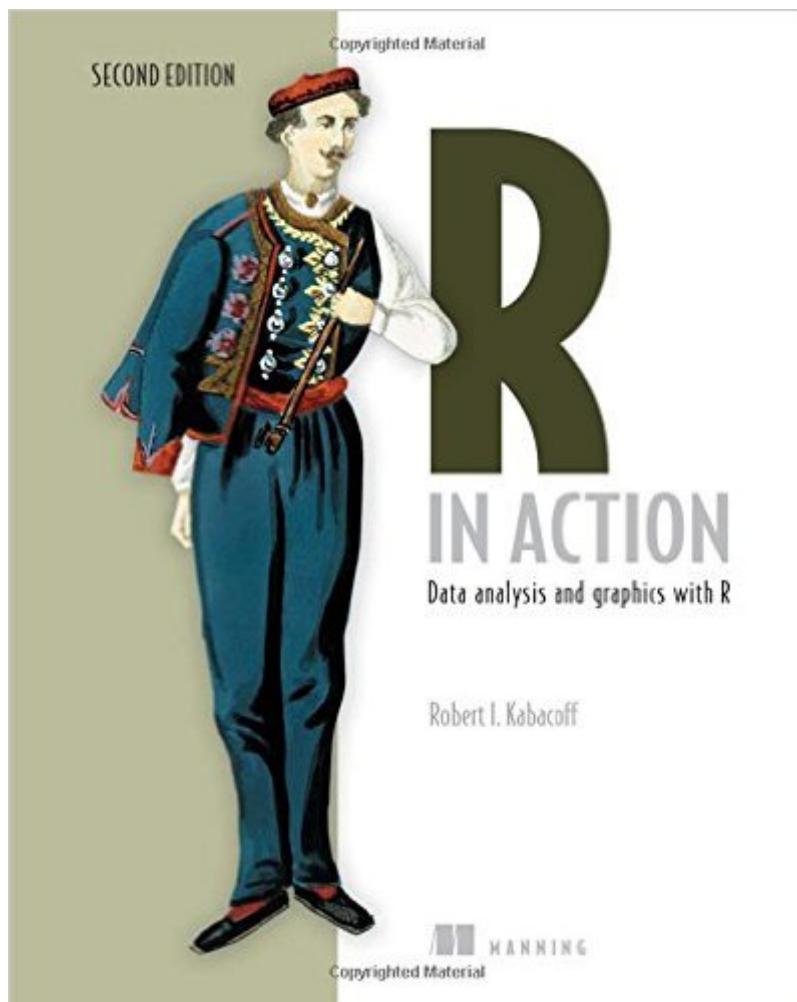


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R In Action: Data Analysis And Graphics With R



Synopsis

Summary R in Action, Second Edition presents both the R language and the examples that make it so useful for business developers. Focusing on practical solutions, the book offers a crash course in statistics and covers elegant methods for dealing with messy and incomplete data that are difficult to analyze using traditional methods. You'll also master R's extensive graphical capabilities for exploring and presenting data visually. And this expanded second edition includes new chapters on time series analysis, cluster analysis, and classification methodologies, including decision trees, random forests, and support vector machines. Purchase of the print book includes a free eBook in PDF, Kindle, and ePub formats from Manning Publications. About the TechnologyBusiness pros and researchers thrive on data, and R speaks the language of data analysis. R is a powerful programming language for statistical computing. Unlike general-purpose tools, R provides thousands of modules for solving just about any data-crunching or presentation challenge you're likely to face. R runs on all important platforms and is used by thousands of major corporations and institutions worldwide. About the Book R in Action, Second Edition teaches you how to use the R language by presenting examples relevant to scientific, technical, and business developers. Focusing on practical solutions, the book offers a crash course in statistics, including elegant methods for dealing with messy and incomplete data. You'll also master R's extensive graphical capabilities for exploring and presenting data visually. And this expanded second edition includes new chapters on forecasting, data mining, and dynamic report writing. What's Inside Complete R language tutorial Using R to manage, analyze, and visualize data Techniques for debugging programs and creating packages OOP in R Over 160 graphs About the Author Dr. Rob Kabacoff is a seasoned researcher and teacher who specializes in data analysis. He also maintains the popular Quick-R website at statmethods.net. Table of Contents PART 1 GETTING STARTED Introduction to R Creating a dataset Getting started with graphs Basic data management Advanced data management PART 2 BASIC METHODS Basic graphs Basic statistics PART 3 INTERMEDIATE METHODS Regression Analysis of variance Power analysis Intermediate graphs Resampling statistics and bootstrapping PART 4 ADVANCED METHODS Generalized linear models Principal components and factor analysis Time series Cluster analysis Classification Advanced methods for missing data PART 5 EXPANDING YOUR SKILLS Advanced graphics with ggplot2 Advanced programming Creating a package Creating dynamic reports Advanced graphics with the lattice package available online only from manning.com/kabacoff2

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Customer Reviews

Back in 2011, I was an early enthusiast of "R in Action"'s first edition, praising the book as the only high-quality product in a growing field of R introductions rushing to market. (In the parallel universe of statistics-with-R books, "The R Book" by Crowley - now also in its second edition - reigned). In 2014, I revised my review, and reiterated my endorsement, but noted "R for Everyone" by Jared Lander as an appealing, "fresh" upstart rival. At that time, second edition of "R in Action" was already listed on as available for pre-order, but the release date kept being postponed. Having pre-ordered "R in Action" 2.0 in May 2014, I only got it in June 2015. The changes from the first edition are helpfully summarized on page xxvii, but I will distinguish five strands. First, there is a nod to the computer-science (vs. "proper" statistics) sensibility, via addition of a chapter on clustering and another chapter on classification, discussing CART and SVM methods. Second, two new chapters deal with R as a programming language, with one chapter dedicated to package-building. Third, there is a new chapter on producing reports, focusing on, but not limited to, the capability of "rmarkdown" R package. Fourth, second edition boosts coverage of "ggplot2" package. Finally, statistics repertoire is expanded with a short chapter on (very basic) time-series analysis, relying on "forecast" R package. I may have wished for a few different choices. The package-building chapter could have been dropped, and more space given to either statistics (one could say more about regression - maybe taking a page from "Modern Regression Techniques Using R" by Wright and London) or machine learning.

Whether data analysis is your field, your current major or your next career-change ambition, you likely need this book. Free and open source R is one of the world's most popular languages for data analysis and visualization. And Robert I. Kabacoff's updated new edition is, in my opinion, one of the top books out there for getting a handle on R. (I have used and previously reviewed several R how-to books.) R is relatively easy to install on Windows, Mac OS X and Linux machines. But it is generally considered difficult to learn. Much of that is because of its rich abundance of features and packages, as well as its ability to create many types of graphs. "The base installation," Kabacoff writes, "provides hundreds of data-management, statistical, and graphical functions out of the box. But some of its most powerful features come from the thousands of extensions (packages) provided by contributing authors." Kabacoff concedes: "It can be hard for new users to get a handle on what R is and what it can do." And: "Even the most experienced R user is surprised to learn about features they were unaware of." R in Action, Second Edition, contains more than 200 pages of new material. And it is nicely structured to meet the needs of R beginners, as well as those of us who have some experience and want to gain more. The book (579 pages in print format) is divided into five major parts. The first part, "Getting Started," takes the beginner from an installing and trying R to creating data sets, working with graphs, and managing data. Part 2, "Basic Methods," focuses on graphical and statistical techniques for obtaining basic information about data.

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