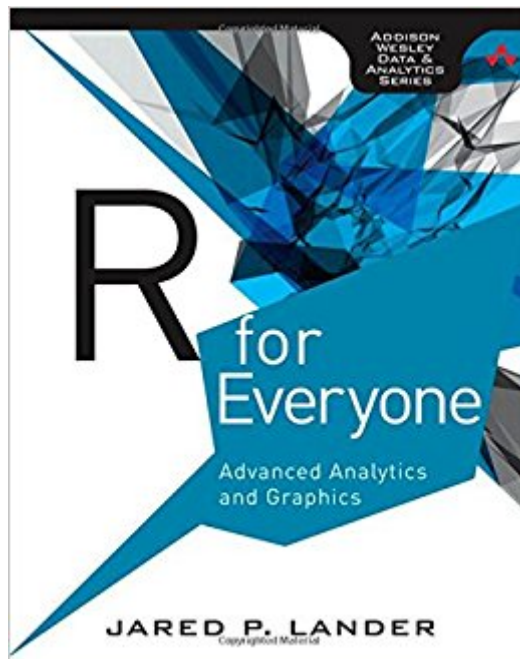




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R For Everyone: Advanced Analytics And Graphics (Addison-Wesley Data And Analytics)



Synopsis

Statistical Computation for Programmers, Scientists, Quants, Excel Users, and Other Professionals

Using the open source R language, you can build powerful statistical models to answer many of your most challenging questions. R has traditionally been difficult for non-statisticians to learn, and most R books assume far too much knowledge to be of help. R for Everyone is the solution.

Drawing on his unsurpassed experience teaching new users, professional data scientist Jared P. Lander has written the perfect tutorial for anyone new to statistical programming and modeling.

Organized to make learning easy and intuitive, this guide focuses on the 20 percent of R functionality you'll need to accomplish 80 percent of modern data tasks. Lander's self-contained chapters start with the absolute basics, offering extensive hands-on practice and sample code. You'll download and install R; navigate and use the R environment; master basic program control, data import, and manipulation; and walk through several essential tests.

Then, building on this foundation, you'll construct several complete models, both linear and nonlinear, and use some data mining techniques. By the time you're done, you

won't just know how to write R programs, you'll be ready to tackle the statistical problems you care about most.

COVERAGE INCLUDES

- Exploring R, RStudio, and R packages
- Using R for math: variable types, vectors, calling functions, and more
- Exploiting data structures, including data.frames, matrices, and lists
- Creating attractive, intuitive statistical graphics
- Writing user-defined functions
- Controlling program flow with if, ifelse, and complex checks
- Improving program efficiency with group manipulations
- Combining and reshaping multiple datasets
- Manipulating strings using R's facilities and regular expressions
- Creating normal, binomial, and Poisson probability distributions
- Programming basic statistics: mean, standard deviation, and t-tests
- Building linear, generalized linear, and nonlinear models
- Assessing the quality of models and variable selection
- Preventing overfitting, using the Elastic Net and Bayesian methods
- Analyzing univariate and multivariate time series data
- Grouping data via K-means and hierarchical clustering
- Preparing reports, slideshows, and web pages with knitr
- Building reusable R packages with devtools and Rcpp
- Getting involved with the R global community

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jared P. Lander is the owner of Lander Analytics, a statistical consulting firm based in New York City, the organizer of the New York Open Statistical Programming Meetup and an adjunct professor of statistics at Columbia University. He is also a tour guide for Scott's Pizza Tours and an advisor to Brewla Bars, a gourmet ice pop startup. With an M.A. from Columbia University in statistics, and a B.A. from Muhlenberg College in mathematics, he has experience in both academic research and industry. His work for both large and small organizations spans politics, tech startups, fund raising, music, finance, healthcare and humanitarian relief efforts. He specializes in data management, multilevel models, machine learning, generalized linear models, visualization, data management and statistical computing

To get the negatives out of the way: it's unfortunate that, having invested in appealing graphic design - the book looks just so much nicer than the spartan O'Reilly titles - Addison Wesley have not provided the author with similarly solid editorial support, resulting in a book that definitely feels rushed. There are typos, cosmetic blemishes (one regular annoyance is a table that's too wide for a page - one could fit it using a smaller font, but instead the table ends up split across twice as many rows), a couple of statistical blunders (on pp. 172 and 263), things that could have been left out, things that should have been included (oddly, the chapter on joins never mentions outer joins, and, in fact, does not explain what a join is) - and, finally, time and again, things that should have been explained better. I do not feel that "R for Everyone" is the best available introduction to R, and continue to endorse Robert Kabacoff's high-quality "R in Action" in that capacity. Where "R for

Everyone" differs from "R in Action" - and, coming to the positives, where it wins out - is in intermediate-R territory. One important example is coverage of "ggplot2". Whereas "R in Action" discusses the "old school" R graphics, "R for Everyone" goes with "ggplot2", becoming the second popular book (after Winston Chang's "R Graphics Cookbook") to discuss the package - and although its explanation of "ggplot2" syntax is sketchy, the samples found throughout the book do build into a useful "ggplot2" gallery that actually brought me over the fence. "plyr" package, an important data-manipulation aid, is another example, and another "R in Action" no-show. So is "data.table". So is "knitr", used to produce reports. So is "rccp", used to interface R and C++. So is R package-building. (You will notice that the topics become more advanced. These are introductions rather than substantial explorations, but awareness is a valuable thing). In the book's second half, when discussion moves from R to statistics-with-R, the author continues to manage to find original material; statistical explanations may be brief - this is not a textbook - but examples, and pointers to useful R utilities, are much appreciated. I own just one R book - literally, "The R Book", by Crawley - but "R for Everyone" will be joining it; this has got to be a compliment. Kudos to Jared Lander for writing an original, substantial, useful book. UPD. It's June 2015, and second edition of Robert Kabacoff's "R in Action" is finally out - but the changes are incremental, and my endorsement of "R for Everyone" stands.

This was probably the hardest book to rate of any I have rated on .For what it's worth, I am an R user and I like to pick up books on R to see how other people do things. The fact that I was exposed to packages I have never used was a plus and definitely make the book worthwhile. This book is basically 2-distinct books: The first 13-chapters are the basics of R. They are quite good and if you are new to R you will find them extremely useful. Virtually all the remainder of the book is using R for various statistical techniques. This is where I had my problem. If you get this book with the assumption that you will learn statistics at the same time, then you will be disappointed. The problem is that while the book does tell you HOW to do the test, that's about it. There isn't much in terms of explaining what it is you did or how to interpret the results. I suppose if you look at it as a book to show you how to use the various R commands to run a t-test or an ANOVA, then that's OK, but I don't see value if you do something, get a value and not understand what it's for. But, if you are already statistically savvy, then this might not be an issue. One thing I did not like though is the use of ggplot. Now, I fully appreciate that ggplot will in fact generate far better graphics than the core plot routines in R. No question. But, ggplot in itself is a book, and in many cases, I just cut-and-pasted the code into R to see what happens. There wasn't really a whole bunch of

explanations as to why you were doing what you were doing. Given that this is more an intro book (given the initial chapters of R that gives me this impression), I would have considered using the core plot routines instead. More work and less attractive I know, but if your audience are people who are new to R, then why not stay with the core routines?

Jared does a GREAT job of laying out a foundation for learning to program in R. His commentary is clearly articulated and the code samples are VERY useful for someone that is digging into the system. He hosts sample data that can be extracted for practice and maintains an Errata page. The functionality of the ggplot2 graphics package provides a lot of options and allows the construction of a layered request that makes for easy changes to graphics. What surprised me the most about the author happened when I emailed him a question. At the time, I was not successful when attempting to process a Join that he covers on p144 of the book. (Turns out that I needed to make a specific adjustment to my system.) Within hours of my email, I received an actionable response (the fix) that included additional recommendations. I have since had the pleasure of several additional and insightful exchanges. When I started in SAS (quite a while ago) I often turned to "The Little SAS Book" for ideas. It looks like Jared Lander and his book "R for Everyone" may be my ticket to progressing in R. This is a definite recommend!

I'm only through eleven chapters, and my reaction is mixed. I expected wonderful things because of the terrific reviews I'd read. The first nine chapters were easy to read and went quickly. But the book changed dramatically in chapters 10 and 11. Suddenly, they're using functions in examples without describing what the functions do and without listing all of the parameters of the functions and without explaining why we get the results we get instead of, in one case, the results I expected.

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