Programming with R for Reproducible Research

Martin Mächler, Seminar für Statistik, ETH Zurich

First version: Feb. 2014; update: Feb. 23, 2016

1 Course Programming with R for Reproducible Research

- 1. Prerequisites:
 - Both parts of "Using R for Data Analysis"
 - Laptop with R ($\geq 3.2.1$) and RStudio / StatET / ESS, or similar "R IDE" installed
 - One semester of statistics
- 2. Duration: 2 hours \times 7 weeks (= $\frac{1}{2}$ semester), corresponds to "1 G" of a full semester
- 3. Credits: 1 ECTS
- 4. Exam: "Written", respectively at computer, at the end of the teaching block, April 19??
- 5. Lecture Notes: Written in "Reproducible Research" (Sweave) Style;
- 6. Textbook: Used very loosely: The Art of R Programming by Norman Matloff
 - (a) Polybuchhandlung, CHF 45.-
- 7. Many online resources.
 - (a) A very sophisticated (and hence not 100% correct) one: Advanced R by Hadley Wickham

2 Outline - Topics

- 1. Programming with Rd
 - (a) R Data Types, notably list()s, lapply, etc
 - quick review (of prerequisites)
 - Slides from "Using R part 2"
 - (b) John Chambers: To understand computations in R, note that
 - Everything that exists is an object.
 - Everything that happens is a function call.
 - (c) 10.0 times 0.1 is hardly ever 1.0 ("The elements of Programming Style", Kernighan and Plauger, 1974): computer numerics and R FAQ 7.31
 - (d) First steps with parallel execution: package parallel, even on your notebook
 - (e) Object Orientation in R: S3, S4, Reference classes
 - (f) Better understanding of packages and their namespaces (see below)
 - (g) R Functions as "Closures": Example splinefun

- (h) Environments
- (i) Expressions (substitute(), quote(), eval()_ etc)
- 2. Reproducible Research and Data Analysis
 - (a) This document is written in Emacs "Org Mode"
 - show source, options
 - one can do R and C and more with "Org Babel", but that is Emacs only.
 - We will use and learn a bit: Sweave and knitr.
 - (b) Why reproducibility is very important
 - CRAN task view "Reproducible reasearch"
 - (c) Reproducible Data Analysis: R code and Report
 - (d) Reproducible Research: Theory, Illustrations, Simulation
 - (e) Sweave and knitr implementation and examples
- 3. Towards Writing your own R Package
 - (a) Understanding Namespaces
 - (b) Design, Testing, Documentation