


R News

The Newsletter of the R Project

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Editorial

by *Torsten Hothorn*

Welcome to the first issue of R News for 2007, which follows the release of R version 2.5.0. This major revision, in addition to many other features, brings better support of JAVA and Objective C to our desks. Moreover, there is a new recommended package, **codetools**, which includes functions that automagically check R code for possible problems.

Just before the release of R 2.5.0 the fifth developer conference on “Directions in Statistical Computing” was held in Auckland, NZ, the birthplace of R. Hadley Wickham reports on the highlights of this meeting. The R user community is not only active in conferences. Volume 7, like the preceding volumes of R News since 2001, wouldn’t be what it is without the outstanding support of our referees. The editorial board would like to say “Thank you!” to all who contributed criticism and encouragement during the last year—the complete list of referees in 2006 is given at the end of this issue.

The scientific part of Volume 7 starts with an article by Paul Murrell, our former editor-in-chief, on handling binary files with tools provided by the **hexView** package. Andrew Robinson teaches how R users can make use of standard Unix tools, for example `mail` for auto-generating large amounts of

email (not spam!). Many of us are regularly confronted with data lacking a unique definition of missing values—the **gdata** package can help in this situation, as Gregor Gorjanc explains.

Bettina Grün and Fritz Leisch give an introduction to the **flexmix** package for finite mixture modeling, analyzing a dataset on 21 different whiskey brands. The analysis of field agricultural experiments by means of additive main effect multiplicative interactions is discussed by Andrea Onofri and Egidio Ciricifolo. Tests and confidence intervals for ratios of means, such as ratios of regression coefficients, implemented in package **mratio** are described by Gemechis Dilba and colleagues. The **npmlreg** package for fitting random effect models is introduced by Jochen Einbeck and his co-workers. Mathieu Ribatet models peaks over a threshold by **POT**, and financial instruments like stocks or options are (back-)tested by Kyle Campbell and colleagues.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that the next “useR!” conference is taking place in Ames, Iowa, August 8–10. I hope to see you there!

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