New Journal: Annals of Applied Statistics

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The Annals of Applied Statistics, newest journal from the Institute of Mathematical Statistics, began accepting papers on November 1, 2006. Computational statistics is an area of particular interest. Please visit the journal website at `http://www.imstat.org/aoas` for further information.

Forthcoming Events: useR! 2007

by Dianne Cook

The first North American useR! will be held at Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa, August 8–10, 2007, which will be a week after JSM'07.

This follows successful meetings in Vienna, Austria, in 2006 and 2004, and also Directions in Statistical Computing (DSC) meetings in Auckland, NZ (Feb 2007), Seattle (2005), and Vienna (1999, 2001, 2003). Information about the meeting can be found at `http://www.useR2007.org/` or by emailing `useR2007@iastate.edu`.

The important dates to remember are:

- April 23, 2007: Deadline for paper submission, with referees comments returned by April 30.

- May 1, 2007: Early registration ends

- June 30: Poster abstract submission ends

- August 8, 2007: useR! 2007 begins!

We look forward to meet you in Ames!

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Changes in R 2.5.0

by the R Core Team

User-visible changes

- `apropos(x)` and `find(x)` now both only work for character `x`, and hence drop all non-standard evaluation behaviour.

- Data frames can have 'automatic' row names which are not converted to dimnames by `as.matrix()`. (Consequently, e.g., `t()` for such data frames has `NULL` column names.) This change leads to memory reductions in several places, but can break code which assumes character dimnames for data frames derived from matrices.

  No existing R object is regarded as having 'automatic' row names, and it may be beneficial to recreate such objects via `read.table()` or `data.frame()`.

- Using `$` on an atomic vector now raises a warning, as does use on an S4 class for which a method has not been defined.

- The Unix-alike readline terminal interface now does command-completion for R objects, incorporating the functionality formerly in package **rcompletion** by Deepayan Sarkar. This can be disabled by setting the environment variable `R_COMPLETION` to `FALSE` when starting R (e.g., in '~/.Renviron').

New features

- `abbreviate()` no longer has an 8191 byte limit on the size of strings it can handle.

- `abs(x)` now returns integer for integer or logical arguments.

- `apropos()` has a new argument `ignore.case` which defaults to `TRUE`, potentially matching more than previously, thanks to a suggestion by Seth Falcon.

- `args()`, `str()` and `print()` now give the argument lists of primitive functions.

- `as.matrix()` gains the `...` argument that several packages have assumed it always had (and S-PLUS has).

- Manipulation of integers as roman numerals via `as.roman()` in package **utils**.