

## Editorial

by *Torsten Hothorn*

Welcome to the October 2007 issue of R News, the second issue for this year! Last week, R 2.6.0 was released with many new useful features: `dev2bitmap` allows semi-transparent colours to be used, `plotmath` offers access to all characters in the Adobe Symbol encoding, and three higher-order functions `Reduce`, `Filter`, and `Map` are now available. In addition, the startup time has been substantially reduced when starting without the `methods` package. All the details about changes in R 2.6.0 are given on pages 54 ff.

The Comprehensive R Archive Network continues to reflect a very active R user and developer community. Since April, 187 new packages have been uploaded, ranging from `ADaCGH`, providing facilities to deal with array CGH data, to `yeast` for model selection and variance estimation in Gaussian independence models. Kurt Hornik presents this impressive list starting on page 61.

The first North American R user conference took place in Ames Iowa last August and many colleagues and friends from all over the world enjoyed a well-organized and interesting conference. Duncan Murdoch and Martin Maechler report on useR! 2007 on

page 74. As I'm writing this, Uwe Ligges and his team at Dortmund university are working hard to organize next year's useR! 2008; Uwe's invitation to Dortmund Germany appears on the last page of this issue.

Three of the nine papers contained in this issue were presented at useR! 2006 in Vienna: Peter Dalggaard reports on new functions for multivariate analysis, Heather Turner and David Firth describe their new package `gnm` for fitting generalized nonlinear models, and Olivia Lau and colleagues use ecological inference models to infer individual-level behavior from aggregate data.

Further topics are the analysis of functional magnetic resonance imaging and environmental data, matching for observational studies, and machine learning methods for survival analysis as well as for categorical and continuous data. In addition, an application to create web interfaces for R scripts is described, and Fritz Leisch completes this issue with a review of Michael J. Crawley's *The R Book*.

*Torsten Hothorn*

*Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany*

`Torsten.Hothorn@R-project.org`

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