

Greater Boston Chapter of the ACM: Serving Boston computer professionals for over 40 years.

R for Software Developers and Data Analysts



The seminar is getting close - [register now!](#)

Why R has a Steep Learning Curve

(Or, why you should attend this seminar!)

Robert Kabacoff notes:

*"I have been a hardcore SAS and SPSS programmer for more than 25 years, a Systat programmer for 15 years and a Stata programmer for 2 years. But when I started learning R recently, I found it frustratingly difficult. **Why?**"*

I think that there are two reasons why R can be challenging to learn quickly."

First, while there are many introductory tutorials (covering data types, basic commands, the interface), none alone are comprehensive. In part, this is because much of the advanced functionality of **R** comes from hundreds of user contributed packages. Hunting for what you want can be time consuming, and it can be hard to get a clear overview of what procedures are available.

The **second** reason is more ephemeral. As users of statistical packages, we tend to run one prescribed procedure for each type of analysis. Think of PROC GLM in SAS. We can carefully set up the run with all the parameters and options that we need. When we run the procedure, the resulting output may be a hundred pages long. We then sift through this output pulling out what we need and discarding the rest.

When: **Saturday, June 28, 2014**

Where: **Microsoft NERD, Cambridge, MA**

Time: **9:00am-5:00pm**

Cost: \$309 June 4 - June 24
\$339 after June 24

Details: <http://www.gbcaacm.org>



Dr. Robert Kabacoff, VP of Research for the Management Research Group, will lead this informative seminar on data analytics using the R system.

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

highly interactive. You run a command (say fit a model), take the results and process it through another command (say a set of diagnostic plots), take those results and process it through another command (say cross-validation), etc. The cycle may include transforming the data, and looping back through the whole process again. You stop when you feel that you have fully analyzed the data. It may sound trite, but this reminds me of the paradigm shift from top-down procedural programming to object oriented programming we saw a few years ago. It is not an easy mental shift for many of us to make.

In that in the end, however, I believe that you will feel much more intimately in touch with your data and in control of your work. And it's fun!

Join us for a full day Professional Development Seminar with **Dr. Robert Kabacoff**, as he provides a practical introduction to this comprehensive platform.

You will learn how to import data into R from a variety of sources; to clean, recode, and restructure data, and to apply R's many functions for summarizing, modeling and graphing data. Both basic and more advanced forms of data analysis and graphics presentation will be covered.

The seminar is getting close, so [register](#) now!

[More Details](#)

Please help support the chapter and spread the word by forwarding this invitation to your friends and colleagues!

[Follow us on Twitter](#) | [Send this email to a friend](#)

What you will learn at this seminar:

I. Introduction – An introduction to R: R syntax and data structures; working interactively and in batch; alternative IDEs and GUIs; adding functionality through packages; common

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)

II. Data Management – Importing, cleaning, and reformatting data: transforming and recoding variables; subsetting, merging, and aggregating data; control structures; user-written functions.

III. Graphics – Taking advantage of R's powerful graphics: creating basic and advanced graphs; customizing and combining graphs; innovative methods for visualizing complex data.

IV. Statistical Analysis and Data Mining – Using R for description, prediction, and classification: descriptive statistics and multi-way tables; ANOVA variants; regression (e.g., linear, logistic, poisson), classification trees, cluster analysis, and other multivariate methods; dealing effectively with missing data; going further.

[Follow us on Twitter](#) | [Send this email to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2014 Greater Boston Chapter of the ACM, All rights reserved.



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)