**Synopsis**

If you're considering R for statistical computing and data visualization, this book provides a quick and practical guide to just about everything you can do with the open source R language and software environment. You'll learn how to write R functions and use R packages to help you prepare, visualize, and analyze data. Author Joseph Adler illustrates each process with a wealth of examples from medicine, business, and sports. Updated for R 2.14 and 2.15, this second edition includes new and expanded chapters on R performance, the ggplot2 data visualization package, and parallel R computing with Hadoop. Get started quickly with an R tutorial and hundreds of examples.

**Book Information**

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**Customer Reviews**
This book is the second that I purchased this past year to get up to speed on the R language and environment, along with "R in Action" and "R Graphics Cookbook" (see my reviews), but unlike these other two, I fully expected this book to serve as a reference rather than a tutorial, based on my experience with "UNIX in a Nutshell" many years ago. However, through my experience I was quickly made aware of the breadth of the R language, which includes over 2500 packages that have become available to the community, and I have instead typically used this book as a starting point for additional research on websites which cater to the R community, including CRAN ("Comprehensive R Archive Network"). Even given its near 700-page size, it is difficult for any book to cover R extensively, so I credit this book to continue to provide pointers in the right direction as I gain experience using the language. While "R in Action" in its introductory chapters gets one up and running with R more gracefully, chapter 1 ("Getting and Installing R") and chapter 2 ("The R User Interface") in this book also provide a glimpse into the many options available with regard to environments. The closest that one will get with a tutorial in this book is the 18-page chapter 3 ("A Short R Tutorial"), but this chapter should really only be considered a way to wet one’s appetite with regard to basic operations, functions, variables, data structures, objects and classes, models and formulas, and charts and graphics, as chapters 5 through 10 go over these topics more extensively.

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