R is a software environment for data analysis and graphics that provides an implementation of the S language of John Chambers. It is free software, and in recent years has grown enormously in popularity all over the data analysis world, and even wider. The original system was written by two New Zealand statisticians, Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman, who happened also to be interested in software engineering. In the early 90's the only platform they had on which to teach statistics was Apple Macintosh, which at the time had almost no suitable statistical software available. Their solution was to implement a version of the S language using a Scheme interpreter they had written essentially as a programming exercise. And R was born. Since its public release in 1993 it has benefited enormously from the programming contributions of developers and users all over the world, who in turn have benefited enormously from R.

Although R can be used directly at the command line, to use it effectively does ultimately require some form of script editor with a connection to the R system. In fact the more supports the editor can give you, the easier using R becomes. Features like colour highlighting of syntax, clear demarcation of comments and easy facilities for indenting code to reveal the underlying structure, although irrelevant to R itself, are of immense benefit to the user. On Windows simple editors such as Notepad, or even the inbuilt script editor that now comes as part of R itself, while adequate for very simple tasks, become increasingly inadequate for R projects of any real size or complexity. The birth of Tinn-R has some curious parallels with the birth of R itself. José Cláudio Faria wrote the original version, based on the existing Tinn editor, for his own personal use. Colleagues and students soon became aware of the initiative and began not only using it, but in some cases contributing to its development. With a generosity now typical of most people in the R community, José Cláudio released the system under the GPL2 (or later) public license for all to enjoy. They system now has a wide following all around the world in the Windows R community.

Tinn-R provides not only an R-aware editor and submission process to the system, but a comprehensive project management system as well, including editing facilities for many types of file other than R scripts. Although most users would begin using it as a script editor for R alone, as they become familiar with the system, again somewhat like R itself, there always seems to be some further useful feature waiting to be discovered. The present e-book will hopefully expedite this discovery phase, but essentially users do need to use the system as they uncover its scope, as well as prompt the process by reading about it.

I warmly congratulate José Cláudio and his team on a very polished and highly useful contribution and sincerely thank them for their generosity in releasing it. I am very sure the whole R community heartily agrees.

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