

Using R via PHP: R-php

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R-php is a project developed inside the Department of Statistical and Mathematical Sciences “Silvio Vianelli” of the University of Palermo (Italy); this project has as goal the realization of a web-oriented statistical software, i.e. a software that the final user reaches through Internet and that requires for its running only the installation of a browser, that is a program for the hypertext visualization. R-php is an open-source project with the code released by the authors with a General Public License (GPL) and can be freely installed.

A main feature of R-php is that all the statistical analyses exploit as “engine” R. Then, R-php is classifiable among the web projects dedicated to R. Beyond this project, there are others such as: R-web, R_PHP_ONLINE, and so on (see the web page <http://franklin.ingen.bcm.tmc.edu/R.web.servers>). Shortly, the main difference between R-php and the previously cited projects consists in the presence of a developed interactive module (R-php point-and-click) inside R-php, that allows to make some of the main statistical analyses without the user has to know the R statistical environment.

The R-php installation on a server is possible on numerous popular server platforms, such as Linux, Solaris, AIX or MacOS X and for its correct running is requested the installation of some additional software; the client side use is cross/platform and the only requirement is a browser supporting forms and the Javascript language.

The potential users of R-php are several: let’s think about, for example, students, either inside didactic facilities, such as computer laboratories, or at home by means of a simple Internet connection, or a possible user that does not know and does not want to learn a programming environment as R, but wants to make some simple statistical analyses without buying the license of an expansive commercial statistical software with a developed graphical user interface.

In this talk, we describe the general design of R-php.