

Introduction to S programming: a teaching experience and a manual

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The goal of this presentation is two fold: share my experience in teaching S programming and present my manual "Introduction to S programming".

Teaching a programming language is no easy task, especially to large groups and with limited access to computer labs. In this presentation, I will share my experience in teaching R as a second programming language to first year undergraduate students. My approach is based on a compromise between time spent in class and time spent in a lab.

This approach is reflected in my document "Introduction to S programming", which started as class notes and later evolved into a rather complete introductory manual on S programming. There are already many documents and textbooks on S-Plus and/or R. However, most present the software within the framework of specific statistical applications. The forthcoming translation of my French document already available on CRAN rather focuses on learning the S programming language. Being published under the GNU Free Documentation License, anyone is free to reuse the manual, in whole or in part.