Teaching Statistics to Psychology Students using Reproducible Computing package RC and supporting Peer Review Framework

> Ian Holliday (Aston University, UK) Patrick Wessa (K.U. Leuven, Belgium)



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- Many student's still struggle with stats: final year dissertations reveal many students have a poor grasp of basic stats concepts
- Up to 11% of published psychology research articles contain 1 or more statistical errors.



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 - Foster active learning in the classroom
 - Use technology for developing conceptual understanding and analyzing data
 - Use assessments to improve and evaluate student learning

Garfield et al. (2002) "First Courses in Statistical Science: The Status of Educational Reform Efforts"

 "It is one thing to state that statistical thinking and reasoning should be the focus of a course, or should be the desired course outcomes. It is another matter entirely to achieve this..." Garfield et al. (2002) "First Courses in Statistical Science: The Status of Educational Reform Efforts"

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- "We believe that appropriate content, a focus on data analysis and real problems, and careful use of high quality technological tools will help students better achieve the suggested course goals and outcomes."

Enhancing Stats Education with New Technology '80s Style

The Classroom Calculator

Finally, a front-of-the-room calculator that lets students observe both the keystroke sequence and displayed answer.



The Classroom Calculator puts an end to dull blackboard listings and allows students to see the logic of each step in a calculation.

> Size: 46' 2" × 23" × 3" Weight: Approximately 6 lbs. Power: 110 Volt AC Mounting strip included.

PureTech Inc. 1700 Duncan Avenue Technology Park Hubbeli, MI 49934 (906) 487-2494

Complete documentation included with each unit.

• Goals:

 Higher-order thinking, problem solving, flexible skills applicable to unfamiliar settings.



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What helps learning:

 Group work in and out of class; explaining and communicating; frequent rapid feedback; work on problem formulation and openended problems.

Moore 1997

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 - Emphasise statistical and conceptual thinking
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 - emphasise graphical concepts and automate calculation
 - foster active learning
 - because "the most effective learning takes place when content (what we want students to learn), pedagogy (what we do to help them learn), and technology reinforce each other in a balanced manner." (Moore, 1997).

Moore 1997

A new approach to statistics Education

- Within the pedagogical paradigm of (social) constructivism permitting:
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 - Experimentation.

Wessa 2009

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Wessa 2009

Constructivism

Social

Tool Mediation				
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Constructivism

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 - New compendiums can be created to communicate new findings.

'Classical' vs. RC Compendium

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 - Typically a zip file with
 - data files
 - R scripts
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 - Typically a zip file with
 - data files
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- RC compendium
 - Simple document form (ODF, PDF, .doc..)
 - Containing links to remotely stored computations.
 - Accessed via any browser

Learning System or Educational Laboratory?



vvessa 2005

Features of the Compendium Platform

- Any computation that is created within the R Framework can be easily archived in the repository
 - there is no need for students to keep track of the data, the model parameters, or the underlying statistical software code;


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Wessa 2008

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 - only an internet browser (and an active connection) is required to use the repository;
- Educators and researchers are able to retrieve data for research purposes.

Wessa 2008











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Care School Year 7 Descriptives

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CARE School Year 10 Descriptives

In the compendium this week, there are boxplots of the data variables for the Woodcock-Johnson Age Standard Scores (School Year 7) for Maths, Reading, Written Language etc, and the tables of descriptives are also included. Produced in a normal word processor (here I've made a PDF).

The second figure here is a modern visualization aid called a matrix scatter plot. It simply shows each variable plotted against each other variable in the dataset. Here I've included 5 variables in the dataset and you can see their names in the plot. If you crossreference two names in the plot, the square they intersect in is the scatterplot of those two variables. There's something a bit sneaky about this arrangement - can you work out what it is? http://www.freestatistics.org/blog/index.ph p?v=date/2009/Oct/26/t1256547982lxacof

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Student compendium

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"The deadline for the review about the last workshop was set for 2009-12-22 (my mistake). However, the sy in red but I made sure that this has no impact on the review statistics/reporting whatsoever."

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- Students upload to external review site
- We (attempt to!) collect student survey data.
- Provide
 feedback
 guidance and
 support
 messages



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Exam Results and Feedback Effort



Patrick Wessa - http://www.wessa.net/download/icvl2008.pdf

Experiment on VLE Design



Figure 4. System Design — Year 0

Traditional VLE

Experiment on VLE Design



Figure 4. System Design — Year 0



Figure 5. System Design — Year 1

Traditional VLE

Statistical LE

Effect of VLE DEsign

Feedback messages rate is dominant variable: threshold for pass is 118 in year 1 vs. 57 in year 2 -> large increase in efficiency



Effect of VLE DEsign

Feedback messages rate is dominant variable: threshold for pass is 118 in year 1 vs. 57 in year 2 -> large increase in efficiency



A gender bias in year 1 is eliminated in the new design


Course development takes a lot of effort
 But a core of material is now available

Issues

- Course development takes a lot of effort
 But a core of material is now available
- Assessment takes a lot of effort
 - But on-going feedback important feature

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- Course development takes a lot of effort
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- Student resistance to workload

- Actually well-matched to course requirement.

Issues

- Course development takes a lot of effort
 But a core of material is now available
- Assessment takes a lot of effort

 But on-going feedback important feature
- Student resistance to workload
 - Actually well-matched to course requirement.
- Perceived professional status of SPSS vs. R
 Point is to learn statistics; open source tools

End of Presentation