Tricks and Traps for Young Players

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This presentation will illustrate for new users to *R* some of its very useful features that are frequently overlooked, and some frequently misunderstood features. Emphasis will be on achieving results efficiently, so there may be some value for (moderately) seasoned users as well as beginners. Many of the features discussed will be illustrated by following the development of an actual simulation project.

Issues to be discussed include:

- Vectorisation

    - user-defined functions (using `curve`, `optimise`)

    - pseudo vectorisation

    - multi-dimensional vectorisation

- `sort`, `order` and `rank`

- When to use Fortran

- Local versions of standard functions

- Using a matrix to index an array

- Resolution of pdf graphs

- `get`

- `file.choose`

Note: This paper was presented at UseR'08 in Dortmund. It seemed to be very popular, so I feel it is worth presenting the same material again.