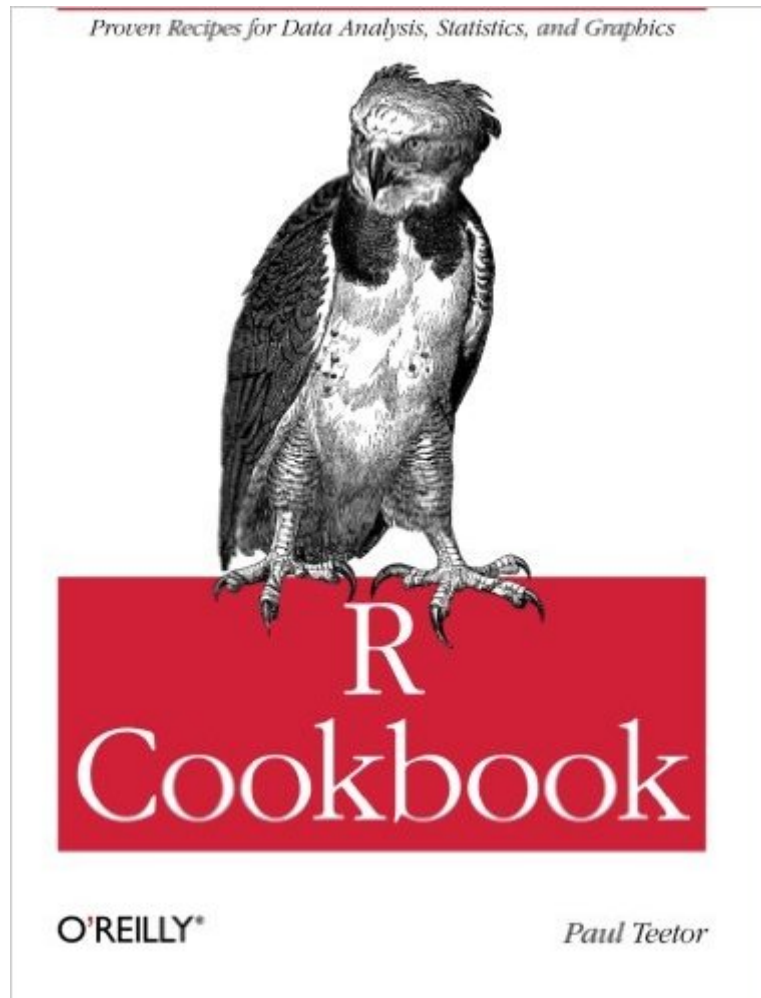


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# R Cookbook (O'Reilly Cookbooks)



## Synopsis

With more than 200 practical recipes, this book helps you perform data analysis with R quickly and efficiently. The R language provides everything you need to do statistical work, but its structure can be difficult to master. This collection of concise, task-oriented recipes makes you productive with R immediately, with solutions ranging from basic tasks to input and output, general statistics, graphics, and linear regression. Each recipe addresses a specific problem, with a discussion that explains the solution and offers insight into how it works. If you're a beginner, R Cookbook will help get you started. If you're an experienced data programmer, it will jog your memory and expand your horizons. You'll get the job done faster and learn more about R in the process.

Create vectors, handle variables, and perform other basic functions  
Input and output data  
Tackle data structures such as matrices, lists, factors, and data frames  
Work with probability, probability distributions, and random variables  
Calculate statistics and confidence intervals, and perform statistical tests  
Create a variety of graphic displays  
Build statistical models with linear regressions and analysis of variance (ANOVA)  
Explore advanced statistical techniques, such as finding clusters in your data

"Wonderfully readable, R Cookbook serves not only as a solutions manual of sorts, but as a truly enjoyable way to explore the R language—one practical example at a time."—Jeffrey Ryan, software consultant and R package author

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I'd give this book ten stars if I could. I bought one copy for the office and one for my house. This guy has the ability to write simply and with the mind set of people who are busy and want to get results right away. Of course we'd all love to be leisurely scholars and plow through theory and practice but most of us just need to get things done. A good example is the way he treats ARIMA. He warns you about using `auto.arima` but does not hide it from you because it is "dangerous." The book is full of tips, well organized and is oriented towards beginners, though it gets into depth. So many of the R books I've read absolutely pound you with up front details, some of which relate to obscure concerns, rather than starting with a task. For example, on page 199 he writes "Problem -- you want to count the relative frequency of certain observations in your sample" Next is "Solution" -- and he explains just the minimum needed to do that job. Some of the tips are just simple time savers, such as the function `head(dataframe)` to show a few of the dataframe rows at the start and `tail(dataframe)` to show a few at the end. Finally .... I don't know this writer personally, but I hope he keeps on writing because it is a craft he has thoroughly absorbed somewhere along the line. Bill Yarberry, Houston, TX

The R Cookbook should be on your bookshelf if you work with R. The book is as self-described, a collection of tasks and how to accomplish those tasks in R (recipes). This is not a tutorial on the language, but is definitely recommended for novices. One of the most frustrating aspects of R for the beginner is to know what manipulations you require for a dataset, but to be clueless as to how to perform those steps in R; this book can help close that gap. For intermediate users, it can serve as a reference. I'll often use this to jog my memory as to how a particular technique is applied, e.g., run a function on each row of a dataframe. Since the book has been available on the O'Reilly Safari system for several months, it's become one of my most-used options for R info. Technically the book appears to be accurate, with the recipes I've used functioning well. Caveat, I have not tested any of the higher-end statistical recipes, as they aren't required in my work. In summary, this should be one of the first books purchased when building an R library. Disclaimer, I received access from O'Reilly Publishing to an electronic copy of this book for purposes of review.

R Cookbook is a good book to have. It covers the bases well, and is organized in a logical method. The "Cookbook" formula works, for the most part. But if I lost it, would I purchase another copy? Probably not. Here's why:- Outside of base R (and some MASS), you're pretty much out of luck. Some other libraries are covered, but not extensively.- R help is very good. "[function]" or "[topic]" get the job done 90% as well as this book, and much faster. (In fairness, this book is written in plain

English, which can't always be said for R help)- There's a ridiculous cornucopia of cookbook-esque material on the web, notably Stack Overflow.- There's very little in the way of scripting, which is the bread and butter of R. My only strong advice would be that this is a supplement, and not a standalone learning method. But if you have another book on R and the price tag doesn't bother you, you could certainly do much worse.

You will be disappointed if you are a competent R programmer looking for "hacks". Note that the only negative review so far mentions its author's four-year experience with R. Mine is much shorter, yet I too find the book too "junior" for my needs. (With "R in Nutshell" and Google at my disposal, I can send "R Cookbook" back after making several notes to record what I learnt from it. There are several nuggets that you will not find in "R in Nutshell", or will not think to google). However, the book is not advertised as an "R in Depth", so no complaints. "R Cookbook" is a friendly and highly informative introduction to "general-purpose" R (one half of the book) and doing basic statistics with R (the other half). A chapter on time series, with a look at "zoo" package, is a bonus; a somewhat light (but does-the-job) take on R graphics may be viewed as a downside, but I see the benefit of getting the basics right, and letting the reader explore other resources - I would recommend "R Graphs Cookbook" and Quick-R Web site - when he/she is ready. Yes, there are free R tutorials out on the Web - but given that this one is widely praised and inexpensive (even if you are never going to resell it - and at some point you probably should, and move to "R in Nutshell" - \$25 is not too much. How much saved time is worth \$25 for you?), why not take a look? PS. "R in Action" by Robert Kabacoff is another option, and one that I actually like better. PPS. The second edition of Michael Crawley's "R Book" is a large improvement over the first, and is a stronger competitor to both "R Cookbook" and "R in Action".

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