

# Statistical cartoons

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The advent of interactive controls in R has allowed researchers to construct very convenient mechanisms to explore data and models but has also allowed lecturers to produce animated graphics to explain ideas. This talk focusses on the latter activity and aims to draw associations with both meanings of the word ‘cartoon’. From one perspective these are sketches of the real thing which aid experimentation and understanding while, from another, animated drawings have the potential to raise a smile in the classroom. Both of these are helpful.

In between the command line interface of R and the gui interfaces such as R Commander (Fox, 2005), panel controls offer a very useful mode of control in both classroom and laboratory settings. This talk aims to illustrate and discuss ‘cartoons’ of this type, using a variety of illustrations from the context of teaching and learning at elementary, advanced and practical levels. The illustrations have been built using the rpanel package which was designed to provide a quick and easy means of building control panels. The basic design of the package, which is based on the rGtk (Dalgaard, 2001) extensive set of gui tools, will also be outlined.