

Using R for teaching statistics to nonmajors:
Comparing experiences of two different
approaches.

Thomas Baier, Richard Heiberger,
Erich Neuwirth, Wilfried Grossmann

Temple University currently teaches an introductory statistics course based on RCommander and RExcel, and the University of Vienna teaches a course strongly based on a web site using Rpad with interactive examples. The Vienna students additionally use plain R and RExcel in the course labs.

We will show typical examples from the course and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of both approaches. We will also discuss the technical and administrative infrastructure required to teach courses following these two different models.