

# A History of S and R

(with some questions for the future)

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Just thirty years ago, a group of statistics researchers at Bell Telephone Laboratories (as it was then) met to plan a software system suited to their own needs. The descendants of that system (in particular the open-source R software) are now the dominant software for implementing and communicating new statistical methods. This talk reviews some of the main events that got us from there to here. We will see some important continuities, as well as equally important coincidences and unintended consequences.

We will also consider where "the peaceful collision of statistics and computing" (John Tukey) might want to go from here, and what innovations may be needed to get there?