

Extending R (Chapman & Hall/CRC The R Series)

By John M. Chambers



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Up-to-Date Guidance from One of the Foremost Members of the R Core Team

Written by John M. Chambers, the leading developer of the original S software, **Extending R** covers key concepts and techniques in R to support analysis and research projects. It presents the core ideas of R, provides programming guidance for projects of all scales, and introduces new, valuable techniques that extend R.

The book first describes the fundamental characteristics and background of R, giving readers a foundation for the remainder of the text. It next discusses topics relevant to programming with R, including the apparatus that supports extensions. The book then extends R's data structures through object-oriented programming, which is the key technique for coping with complexity. The book also incorporates a new structure for interfaces applicable to a variety of languages.

A reflection of what R is today, this guide explains how to design and organize extensions to R by correctly using objects, functions, and interfaces. It enables current and future users to add their own contributions and packages to R.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Chambers, a consulting professor in the Department of Statistics at Stanford University, indicates that the purpose of this book is to encourage and help individuals develop extensions to the R software. Obviously, one must have experience using R and ideas for extensions that he or she would like to make, such as adding some functions or developing packages of different degrees of sophistication. The book contains three fundamental principles: every element that exists within R is an 'object,' all elements that happen within R are a 'function' call, and 'interfaces' to other software are part of R. These principles are then expanded in sections about ideas and history, aspects of programming in R, object-oriented programming, and interfaces from R to other software. As Chambers is the creator of the S software (the predecessor of R), any of his works are considered important and should be acquired by all statistical science libraries. This book will be a valuable guide for individuals who wish to develop their own extensions to R, whether at a modest or a more ambitious level.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-division undergraduates and above; faculty and professionals."

~R. Bharath, Northern Michigan University

"... Chambers provides valuable insight into some of the thinking that led to major contributions to R's development. For example, one section is divided thoughtfully into three themes, namely, programming in the small, in the medium, and in the large. Each theme is used to introduce and illustrate different aspects of the language, from the point of view of the kinds of activities that cluster within the themes, and here the book really shines. It is a pleasure to see how a crafter of tools thinks deeply about how the tool will be used."

~Andrew Robinson, University of Melbourne

"Doug Bates once said to me that 'There's no doubt about John Chambers. He can see much further than the rest of us.' This latest book is yet another illustration of that incisive observation. It is fundamentally a book about perspectives and strategies. It gives a deep insight into the R landscape, its background and structure, and shows how users can work with R when they need to extend its facilities."

~Biometrics, June 2017

About the Author

John M. Chambers is a consulting professor in the Department of Statistics at Stanford University. He previously worked at Bell Labs for 40 years, where he contributed to major research and management in statistical computing and related fields. He was the first statistician to be named a Bell Labs Fellow.

Chambers is best known for the creation and extension of the S software, the predecessor to today's very popular R. He has continued to contribute essential new directions to R. In 1999, he was honored with the ACM Software System Award, which noted that "S has forever altered the way people analyze, visualize, and manipulate data."

He is a board member of the R Foundation and the R Consortium; a fellow of the ASA, the IMS, and the AAAS; and an elected member of the ISI. He is the author or co-author of nine books, including the first comprehensive book on computational methods for statistics.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joanna Weekley:

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Betty Freeman:

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