

Assignment #3 contains many problems, most of which are quite straightforward. The problems test your ability to do basic calculations and make simple graphs rather than your ability for higher-level thinking. This is atypical of what you can expect for assignments this semester. Certainly expect future exam questions on these topics to require more higher-level thinking.

It is possible to do almost all of the assigned problems without the use of R. If you are new to the topic of one of these problems, there is a genuine benefit to doing the problem with paper and pencil rather than teaching yourself to use R to do the calculations. If you do not feel challenged by a problem, I encourage you to learn to do it with R. To be clear — **it is your choice whether or not you use R to complete this assignment, and your score will not depend on this choice.**

If you use R to do a problem, it is not necessary to include the R code you used to solve it with your solution. If you use R to create a graph, it is possible to save the graph and insert it into a Word document. While you are expected to word process your assignments, it is acceptable (without penalty) to hand write in graphs, mathematical notation, and small corrections or additions.

The largest hurdle in using R actually is to install it on your computer. There are explicit instructions on how to do this on the course homepage. Follow the link to “R Help” and then find the PDF file titled “Installation”. I do have a limited number of CDs with R that you can use to install R on your computer instead of downloading it from the Web. Please see me if you wish to check out a CD.

I will be adding to the R Help documentation to include instructions on how to use R to solve problems similar to those assigned for homework. There is a PDF document on using R from last year’s course web page that may also be useful to you. (I’m rewriting this and breaking it into smaller pieces for this semester as well as adding to it extensively.) You can also expect some help with R in discussion section.

For additional R help, you also may wish to check out R help pages for course Statistics 571, a graduate course that covers many of the same topics as Statistics 371. The web address for these notes is <http://www.stat.wisc.edu/~st571-1/R/append.html> .

Here are the assigned problems:

From chapter 2, problems 2.9, 2.12, 2.23, 2.28, 2.33, 2.50, 2.79.

From chapter 3, problems 3.1, 3.3, 3.9, 3.21, and 3.22.

There are 12 problems, so this assignment is worth 60 HW points. If you feel challenged by these problems, I encourage you to do additional problems on your own. I suggest choosing extra problems with answers in the back of the textbook.