

R: a free software platform for statistical computing and myriads of other stuff

Jérôme Sueur ¹ & Stéphane Dray ²

¹Jérôme Sueur

Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle

UMR CNRS 7205 Origine Structure et Evolution de la Biodiversité

45 rue Buffon - 75005 Paris

sueur@mnhn.fr

²Stéphane Dray

Laboratoire Biométrie et Biologie Evolutive

Université Claude Bernard Lyon I

43, Bd du 11 Novembre 1918, 69622 Villeurbanne Cedex

stephane.dray@univ-lyon1.fr

R is a free software that can be used for almost all scientific applications, from pure math to financial forecasts. R was born in New-Zealand 20 years ago and has been used exponentially all around the world reaching nowadays around 2 millions of users. The success of R is probably due to the following main factors: (1) R is free and multiplatform, (2) R programming language is quite easy to learn and can call or interface foreign languages (C, C++, Fortran, Java), (3) R is maintained by a small core team but is developed by an important number of active users that have submitted so far close to 5000 satellite packages each dedicated to a specific topic, and (4) R is open to any scientific disciplines. In this talk, we will briefly show and demo how R works and introduce French R user groups.

R website: <http://www.r-project.org/>