



Written Exams, Online Tests, and Live Quizzes with R

Achim Zeileis





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```
Solution

Using the product rule for f(x) = g(x) \cdot h(x), where g(x) := x^{3} and h(x) := e^{2.7x}, we obtain

f'(x) = \{g(x) \cdot h(x)\} = g'(x) \cdot h(x) + g(x) \cdot h'(x)
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= g(x) \cdot h(x) + g(x) \cdot h(x) + g(x) \cdot h'(x) + g(x) \cdot h'
```

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Motivation:

- Many of us teach large lecture courses, also as support for other fields.
- For example, statistics, probability, or mathematics in curricula such as business and economics, social sciences, psychology, etc.
- At WU Wien and Universität Innsbruck: Some courses are attended by more than 1,000 students per semester.
- Several lecturers teach lectures and tutorials in parallel.

Strategy:

- Individualized organization of learning, feedback, and assessment.
- The same pool of exercises at the core of all parts of the course.

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Learning	Feedback	Assessment
Lecture	Live quiz	Written exam
Live stream	(+ Tutorial)	
Textbook	Self test	Online test
Screencast	(+ Forum)	
	Lecture Live stream Textbook	Lecture Live quiz Live stream (+ Tutorial) Textbook Self test

Learning	Feedback	Assessment
Lecture	Live quiz	Written exam
Live stream	(+ Tutorial)	
Textbook	Self test	Online test
Screencast	(+ Forum)	
	Lecture Live stream Textbook	Lecture Live quiz Live stream (+ Tutorial) Textbook Self test

Learning:

- Standard: Textbook along with presentation slides.
- Streaming: Videos streamed simultaneously or (pre-)recorded.

	Learning	Feedback	Assessment
Synchronous	Lecture	Live quiz	Written exam
	Live stream	(+ Tutorial)	
Asynchronous	Textbook	Self test	Online test
	Screencast	(+ Forum)	

Feedback & assessment:

- Scalability: Randomized dynamic exercises required.
- Feedback: Support for complete correct solutions.
- Flexibility: Automatic rendering into different assessment formats.

R package exams

Exercises:

- Each exercise is a single file (either .Rmd or .Rnw).
- Contains question and (optionally) the corresponding solution.
- Dynamic templates if R code is used for randomization.

Answer types:

- Single choice and multiple choice.
- Numeric values.
- Text strings (typically short).
- Combinations of the above (cloze).

R package exams

Output:

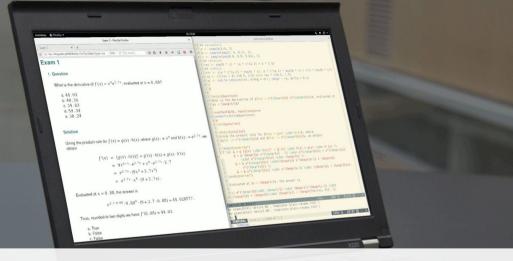
- PDF fully customizable vs. standardized with automatic scanning/evaluation.
- HTML fully customizable vs. embedded into exchange formats below.
- Moodle XML.
- QTI XML standard (version 1.2 or 2.1), e.g., for OLAT/OpenOLAT.
- ARSnova, TCExam, LOPS, ...

Infrastructure: Standing on the shoulders of lots of open-source software...

R package exams

Туре	Software	Purpose
Statistical computing	R	Random data generation, computations
Writing/reporting	₽T _E X, Markdown	Text formatting, mathematical notation
Reproducible research	knitr, rmarkdown, Sweave	Dynamically tie everything together
Document conversion	TtH/TtM, pandoc	Conversion to HTML and beyond
Image manipulation	ImageMagick, magick, png	Embedding graphics
Web technologies	base64enc, RCurl,	Embedding supplementary files
Learning management	Moodle, OpenOLAT, ARSnova,	E-learning infrastructure

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Dynamic Exercises

Dynamic exercises

Text file:

- Random data generation (optional).
- Question.
- 3 Solution (optional).
- 4 Metainformation.

Examples:



Multiple-choice knowledge quiz with shuffled answer alternatives.

Which of these institutions already hosted a useR! or eRum conference?



Dynamic numeric arithmetic exercise.

Example: Which of these institutions already hosted a useR! or eRum conference?

8

Example: Which of these institutions already hosted a useR! or eRum conference?

Question

======

Which of these institutions already hosted a useR! or eRum conference?

Answerlist

- * Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Poznaniu
- * Agrocampus Ouest
- * Technische Universität Dortmund
- * Universität Wien
- * ETH Zürich
- * Københavns Universitet

Example: Which of these institutions already hosted a useR! or eRum conference?

Solution

The list of useR!/DSC and eRum hosts can be found at https://www.R-project.org/conferences.html and https://erum.io/, respectively.

Answerlist

- * True. eRum 2016 was hosted in Poznan.
- * True. useR! 2009 was hosted at Agrocampus Ouest, Rennes.
- * True. useR! 2008 was hosted at TU Dortmund.
- * False. Universität Wien did not host an R conference yet (only TU Wien and WU Wien).
- * False. ETH Zürich did not host an R conference yet.
- * False. Københavns Universitet hosted DSC but not useR! or eRum.

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- * False. Københavns Universitet hosted DSC but not useR! or eRum.

Meta-information

exname: R conferences

extype: mchoice
exsolution: 111000

exshuffle: 5

```
<<echo=FALSE, results=hide>>=
## parameters
a <- sample(2:9, 1)
b <- sample(seq(2, 4, 0.1), 1)
c <- sample(seq(0.5, 0.8, 0.01), 1)
## solution
res <- exp(b * c) * (a * c^(a-1) + b * c^a)
@</pre>
```

```
<<echo=FALSE, results=hide>>=
## parameters
a <- sample(2:9, 1)
b <- sample(seq(2, 4, 0.1), 1)
c <- sample(seq(0.5, 0.8, 0.01), 1)
## solution
res <- exp(b * c) * (a * c^(a-1) + b * c^a)
@

\begin{question}
What is the derivative of $f(x) = x^{\Sexpr{a}} e^{\Sexpr{b}x}$,
evaluated at $x = \Sexpr{c}$?
\end{question}</pre>
```

```
\begin{solution}
Using the product rule for \( \frac{f}(x) = g(x) \cdot h(x) \frac{s}, \) where
\( \frac{g}(x) := x^{\sexpr{a}} \frac{s} \) and \( \frac{h}(x) := e^{\sexpr{b}x} \frac{s}, \) we obtain
\( \begin{eqnarray*} \)
\( f'(x) & = & [g(x) \cdot h(x)]' = g'(x) \cdot h(x) + g(x) \cdot h'(x) \\
\( & = & \sexpr{a} \) x^{\sexpr{a} - 1} \cdot e^{\sexpr{b}x} +
\)
\( \cdot \left( \frac{e}{\sexpr{b}x} \reft) \)
\( \cdot \left( \frac{e}{\sexpr{b}} \reft) \)
\( \cdot \left( \sexpr{c} \reft) \reft\ \reft( \sexpr{a-1} \cdot \)
\( \left( \sexpr{a} \reft) + \sexpr{b} \cdot \sexpr{c} \reft) = \sexpr{fmt(res, 6)}. \)
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```

```
\begin{solution}
Using the product rule for f(x) = g(x) \cdot h(x), where
g(x) := x^{\left( \sum_{a}\right)}  and h(x) := e^{\left( \sum_{a}\right)}, we obtain
\begin{eqnarray*}
f'(x) & = & [g(x) \cdot h(x)]' = g'(x) \cdot h(x) + g(x) \cdot cdot \cdot h'(x) 
                         & = & \ensuremath{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\mathscrip{\m
 \end{eqnarrav*}
Evaluated at x = \operatorname{Sexpr}\{c\}, the answer is
\[ e^{\Sexpr{b}\cdot \Sexpr{c}^\Sexpr{a-1} \cdot
             (\Sexpr{a} + \Sexpr{b}\cdot \Sexpr{c}) = \Sexpr{fmt(res, 6)}. \]
Thus, rounded to two digits we have $f'(\Sexpr{c}) = \Sexpr{fmt(res)}$.
 \end{solution}
\extvpe{num}
 \exsolution{\Sexpr{fmt(res)}}
 \exname{derivative exp}
 \extol{0.01}
```

Dynamic exercises: Single choice



extype: schoice
exsolution: 010

Dynamic exercises: Single choice



extype: schoice exsolution: 010

Question

What is the seat of the federal authorities in Switzerland (i.e., the de facto capital)?

- (a) Bern
- (b) Lausanne
- (c) Zurich
- (d) St. Gallen
- (e) Basel

Knowledge quiz: Shuffled distractors.

Dynamic exercises: Single choice



extype: schoice exsolution: 010

Question

What is the derivative of $f(x) = x^3 e^{3.3x}$, evaluated at x = 0.85?

- (a) 45.97
- (b) 35.82
- (c) 56.45
- (d) 69.32
- (e) 39.31

Numeric exercises: Distractors are random numbers and/or typical arithmetic mistakes.

Dynamic exercises: Multiple choice



extype: mchoice
exsolution: 011

Dynamic exercises: Multiple choice



extype: mchoice exsolution: 011

Question

Which of these institutions already hosted a useR! or eRum conference?

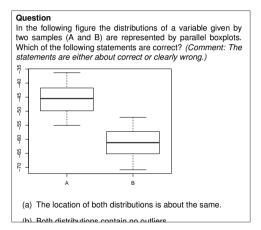
- (a) Agrocampus Ouest
- (b) Universität Wien
- (c) ETH Zürich
- (d) Technische Universität Dortmund
- (e) Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Poznaniu

Knowledge quiz: Shuffled true/false statements.

Dynamic exercises: Multiple choice



extype: mchoice exsolution: 011



Interpretations: Statements that are approximately correct or clearly wrong.

Dynamic exercises: Numeric



extype: num

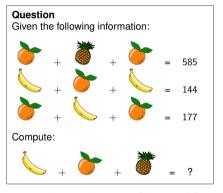
exsolution: 123.45

Dynamic exercises: Numeric



extype: num

exsolution: 123.45



Numeric exercises: Solving arithmetic problems.

Dynamic exercises: String



extype: string

exsolution: ANSWER

Dynamic exercises: String



Question

What is the name of the R function for Poisson regression?

Knowledge quiz: Sample a word/phrase from a given vocabulary or list of question/answer pairs.

extype: string

exsolution: ANSWER

Dynamic exercises: Cloze



extype: cloze

exclozetype: mchoice|num exsolution: 10|123.45

Dynamic exercises: Cloze



extype: cloze

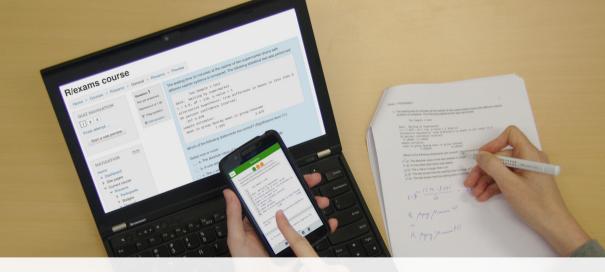
exclozetype: mchoice|num exsolution: 10|123.45

Question

Using the data provided in regression.csv estimate a linear regression of y on x and answer the following questions.

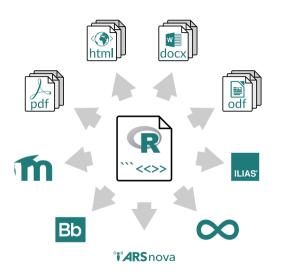
- (a) x and y are not significantly correlated / y increases significantly with x / y decreases significantly with x
- (b) Estimated slope with respect to x:

Exercises with sub-tasks: Several questions based on same problem setting.



One-for-All

One-for-all



- The same exercise can be exported into different formats.
- Multiple standalone documents vs. combined exercise pool.
- Multiple-choice and single-choice supported in all output formats.

One-for-All

Idea: An exam is simply a list of exercise templates.

```
R> myexam <- list(
+    "deriv2.Rnw",
+    "fruit2.Rnw",
+    c("ttest.Rnw", "boxplots.Rnw")
+ )</pre>
```

Draw random exams:

- First randomly select one exercise from each list element.
- Generate random numbers/input for each selected exercise.
- Combine all exercises in output file(s) (PDF, HTML, ...).

One-for-All

Written exam:

```
R> exams2nops(myexam, n = 3, dir = odir,
+ language = "hu", institution = "eRum 2018")

Online test:
R> exams2moodle(myexam, n = 10, dir = odir)

Live quiz:
R> exams2arsnova(myexam, n = 1, dir = odir)
```

Other: exams2pdf(), exams2html(), exams2qti12(), exams2qti21(), ...

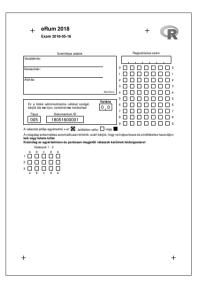


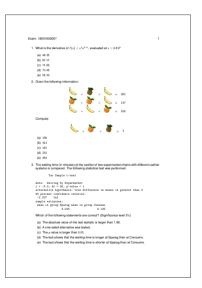
Flexible: Roll your own.

- Combination with user-specified template in exams2pdf() and exams2pandoc().
- Customizable but typically has to be evaluated "by hand".

Standardized: "NOPS" format.

- exams2nops() intended for single- and multiple-choice questions.
- Can be scanned and evaluated automatically within R.
- Limited support for open-ended questions that have to be marked by a person.



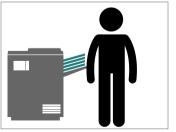




1. Create

- As illustrated above.
- Using exams2nops(), create (individual)
 PDF files for each examinee.



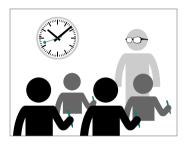


1. Create

- As illustrated above.
- Using exams2nops(), create (individual)
 PDF files for each examinee.

2. Print

- Print the PDF exams, e.g., on a standard printer.
- ... or for large exams at a print shop.



3. Exam

- Conduct the exam as usual.
- Collect the completed exams sheets.



4. Scan

- Scan exam sheets, e.g., on a photocopier.
- Using nops_scan(), process the scanned exam sheets to machine-readable content.





4. Scan

- Scan exam sheets, e.g., on a photocopier.
- Using nops_scan(), process the scanned exam sheets to machine-readable content.

5. Evaluate

- Using nops_eval(), evaluate the exam to obtain marks, points, etc. and individual HTML reports for each examinee.
- Required files: Correct answers (1.), scans
 (4.), and a participant list in CSV format.

A vizsga eredménye

Név: Jane Doe Regisztrációs szám: 1501090

Érdemjegy: 5 Pontok: 3.1666666666667

Értékelés

Kérdés	Pontok	Adott válasz	Helyes válasz
1	1.0000000	c_	c_
2	0.5000000	abc_e	abc
3	0.0000000		ab_d_
4	1.0000000	c_	_bc
5	0.6666667	d_	ab_d_
6	0.0000000	_bc_e	a_c

Vizsgalap

_ R University

Exam 2015-07-29

A vizsga eredménye

Név: Ambi Dexter Regisztrációs szám: 9901071 Érdemiegy: 5

1.5

Pontok: Értékelés

Kérdés	Pontok	Adott válasz	Helyes válasz
1	0.0	a_c_	d_
2	0.0	a_cde	ab_d_
3	0.0	_b	е
4	0.0		a_cd_
5	0.0		_bc
6	1.5	abc	a

Vizsgalap

+ Universität Innsbruck

Persönliche Daten

Klausur 2015-07-29

Jachname: Dexter	9,9,1
orname: Ambi	0
Interschrift: / / T	2 🗌 🗎 🖺

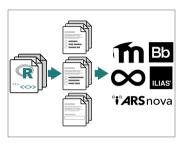
Matril





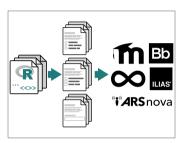
1. Goal

- Online tests with flexible exercise types.
- Possibly: Dynamic supplements and/or complete correct solution.
- Random variations of similar exercises to reduce the risk of cheating.
- Use university's learning management system, e.g., Moodle, ...



2. Create

- Draw random replications from exercise templates, e.g., via exams2moodle(),...
- Automatically embed these into exchange file format (typically via HTML/XML).





2. Create

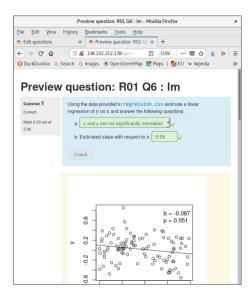
- Draw random replications from exercise templates, e.g., via exams2moodle(),...
- Automatically embed these into exchange file format (typically via HTML/XML).

3. Import

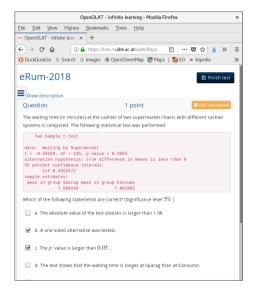
- Import in learning management system.
- From there handling "as usual" in the system.

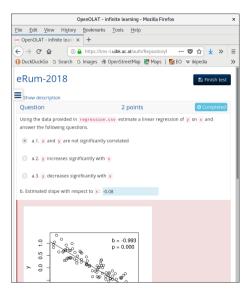
E-Learning: Online test



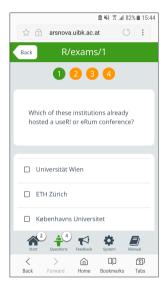


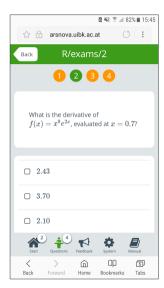
E-Learning: Online test





E-Learning: Live quiz









What else?

Under development:

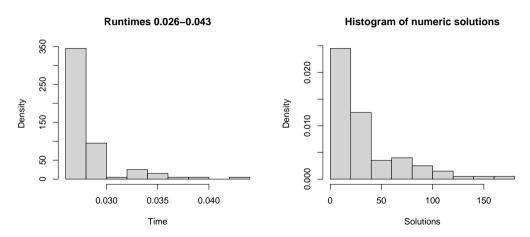
- Many volunteers: Internationalization for "NOPS" exams.
- Nikolaus Umlauf: Exercise "stress tester".
- Stefan Coors, Nikolaus Umlauf: Graphical exams manager based on shiny that can be used on a local machine or on a server.
- Achim Zeileis: Reports for lecturers based on IRT models.
- Niels Smits: Better management of exercise categories.
- Mirko Birbaumer, Andreas Melillo, Achim Zeileis: Ilias interface based on QTI 1.2.

NOPS internationalization

	Please mark the boxes carefully: Not marked: or	da	Jensen, Messner	More contributions
This document is scanned automatically. Please keep clean and d please use a blue or black pen . Only clearly marked and positionally accurate crosses will be		de	Zeileis	welcome
		en	Zeileis	
	Answers 1 - 15 Answers 16 - 21	es	Kogelnik	
		fi	Nordhausen	
		fr	Allignol	
	Merci de cocher soigneusement: X Non coché: u ou	gsw	Stauffer	
Cet examen sera corrigé par un système automatisé. Ne pas pliet bille bleu ou noir. Seul les marques lisibles et bien positionées seront evaluées		hr	Juraić	
		hu	Daróczi, Tóth	
	Réponses 1 - 15 Réponses 16 - 21 a b c d e a b c d	it	Zambella	
		nl	Smits	
1		pt	Calvão, Dellinger,	
A válaszát jelölje egyértelmű x-el: X Jelöletlen cella: Vagy			Petutschnig (pt-PT/pt-BR)	
A vizsgalap szkennelése automatikusan történik, ezért kérjük, hog kék vagy fekete tollat.		ro	Gatu	
Kizárólag az egyértelműen és pontosan megjelölt válaszok ke				
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	abcde abcd 1 DDDD 16DDD1	sr	Kecojevic	
		tr	Er	

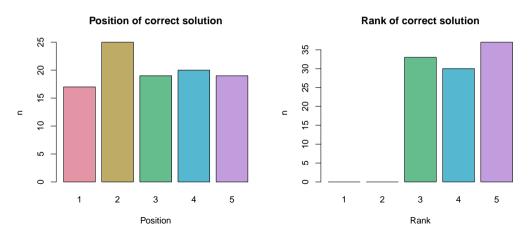
Stress tester

R> s <- stresstest_exercise("deriv2.Rnw")
R> plot(s)

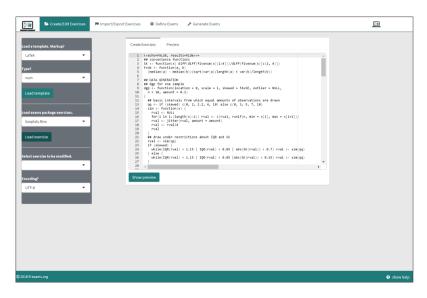


Stress tester

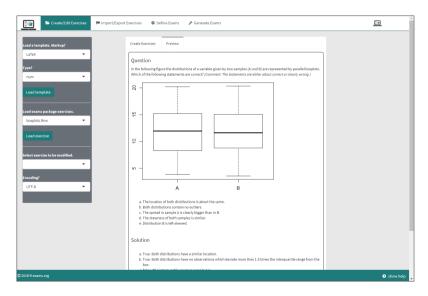
R> s <- stresstest_exercise("deriv2.Rnw")
R> plot(s)



Graphical exams manager



Graphical exams manager



Report: Exercise difficulty, student performance, unidimensionality, fairness.

Methods: Psychometrics, especially item response theory.

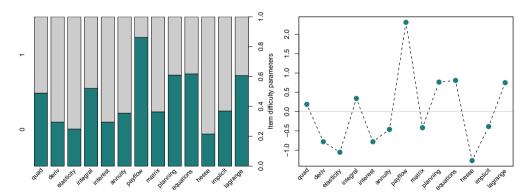
Example: End-term exam from first-year mathematics course for business and economics students at Universität Innsbruck.

- 729 students (out of 941 registered).
- 13 single-choice exercises on the basics of analysis, linear algebra, financial mathematics.
- Two groups with partially different pools of exercise templates.

```
R> library("psychotools")
R> data("MathExam14W", package = "psychotools")
R> mex <- subset(MathExam14W, nsolved > 0 & nsolved < 13)</pre>
```

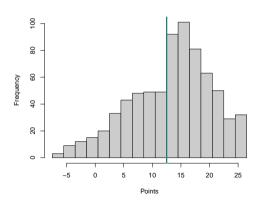
Item difficulty: Raw proportions vs. Rasch model.

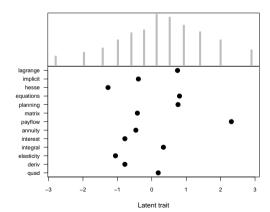
```
R> plot(mex$solved, ...)
R> mr <- raschmodel(mex$solved)
R> plot(mr, ...)
```



Student performance: Points and person-item map.

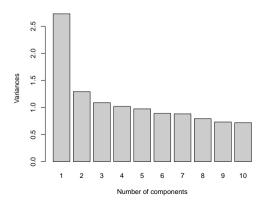
```
R> hist(MathExam14W$points, ...)
R> piplot(mr)
```

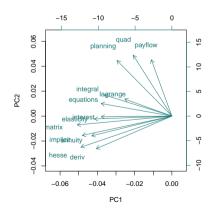




Unidimensionality: Principal component analysis.

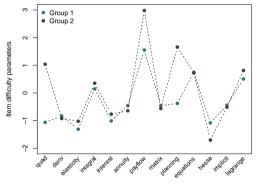
```
R> pr <- prcomp(mex$solved, scale = TRUE)
R> plot(pr, ...)
R> biplot(pr, ...)
```

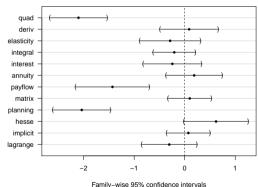




Fairness: Differential item functioning.

```
R> ma <- anchortest(solved ~ group, data = mex, adjust = "single-step")
R> plot(ma$final_tests, ...)
```





Recommendations

If you want to try R/exams:

- Start with simple exercises before moving to more complex tasks.
- Focus on content of exercises.
- Don't worry about layout/formatting too much.
- Try to build a team (with lecturers, assistants, etc.).
- Use exercise types creatively.
- Don't be afraid to try stuff, especially in formative assessments.
- Thorough quality control for dynamic exercises before summative assessments.

Resources

Contributors: Zeileis, Grün, Leisch, Umlauf, Smits, Birbaumer, Ernst, Keller, Krimm, Stauffer.

Links:

Web http://www.R-exams.org/

CRAN https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=exams

Forum http://R-Forge.R-project.org/forum/?group_id=1337

 ${\tt StackOverflow} \quad {\tt https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/exams}$

Twitter @AchimZeileis

References:

- Zeileis A, Umlauf N, Leisch F (2014). "Flexible Generation of E-Learning Exams in R: Moodle Quizzes, OLAT Assessments, and Beyond." *Journal of Statistical Software*, 58(1), 1–36. doi:10.18637/jss.v058.i01
- Grün B, Zeileis A (2009). "Automatic Generation of Exams in R." *Journal of Statistical Software*, **29**(10), 1–14. doi:10.18637/jss.v029.i10