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Teaching Social Statistics Courses with R and the R Commander

In statistics courses for social-science students – and in other application-area disciplines that use statistical methods – teaching statistical computing isn't an end in itself. Statistical software should support the fundamental goals of the course, which differ by the level of the course. Use of statistical software should therefore differ as well. I focus on two typical courses: an introductory statistics course, and a second course that emphasises applied regression analysis. Both courses use R software, the first via the R Commander graphical user interface and the second via the RStudio interactive programming environment. I discuss how these software choices support course goals, and demonstrate the use of the R Commander for a typical homework exercise from the first course.