



Contents

List of Boxes and Figures	ix
Preface	xi
A Quick Reference Guide to R Companion Functions	xv
Introduction: Getting Acquainted with R	1
About R	2
Installing R	2
A Quick Tour of the R Environment	4
Objects	5
Functions	6
Getting Help	8
Exercises	10
Chapter 1: The R Companion Package	13
Running Scripts	17
Ten Tips for Writing Good R Scripts	19
Managing R Output: Graphics and Text	20
Additional Software for Working with R	22
Debugging R Code	24
Exercises	25
Chapter 2: Descriptive Statistics	27
Interpreting Measures of Central Tendency and Variation	28
Describing Nominal Variables	29
Describing Ordinal Variables	31
Describing the Central Tendency of Interval Variables	34
Describing the Dispersion of Interval Variables	36
Obtaining Case-Level Information	39
Exercises	40

Chapter 3: Transforming Variables	45
Applying Mathematical and Logical Operators to Variables	46
Creating Indicator Variables	48
Changing Variable Classes	49
Adding or Modifying Variable Labels	50
Collapsing Variables into Simplified Categories	51
Centering or Standardizing a Numeric Variable	53
Creating an Additive Index	54
Exercises	57
Chapter 4: Making Comparisons	61
Cross-Tabulations and Mosaic Plots	62
Line Charts	65
Mean Comparison Analysis	66
Box Plots	67
Strip Charts	69
Exercises	70
Chapter 5: Making Controlled Comparisons	75
Cross-Tabulation Analysis with a Control Variable	76
Multiple Line Charts	80
The legend Function	81
Mean Comparison Analysis with a Control Variable	82
<i>Example of an Interaction Relationship</i>	82
<i>Example of an Additive Relationship</i>	84
Exercises	86
Chapter 6: Making Inferences about Sample Means	91
Finding the 95 Percent Confidence Interval of the Population Mean	92
Testing Hypothetical Claims about the Population Mean	93
<i>Caveat</i>	94
<i>Interpreting P-Values</i>	94
Making Inferences about Two Sample Means	95
Making Inferences about Two Sample Proportions	97
Exercises	98
Chapter 7: Chi-Square and Measures of Association	103
Analyzing an Ordinal-Level Relationship	104
<i>Summary</i>	107
Analyzing an Ordinal-Level Relationship with a Control Variable	108
Analyzing a Nominal-Level Relationship with a Control Variable	110
Exercises	112
Chapter 8: Correlation and Linear Regression	117
Correlation Analysis	118
Bivariate Regression with a Dummy Variable	119
Bivariate Regression with an Interval-Level Independent Variable	120
Multiple Regression Analysis	122
Multiple Regression with Ordinal or Categorical Variables	123
Weighted Regression with a Dummy Variable	126

Multiple Regression Analysis with Weighted Data	128
Weighted Regression with Ordinal or Categorical Independent Variables	129
Creating Tables of Regression Results	132
Exercises	133
Chapter 9: Visualizing Correlation and Regression Analysis	139
Visualizing Correlation	140
General Comments about Visualizing Regression Results	142
Plotting Multiple Regression Results	145
Interaction Effects in Multiple Regression	151
Visualizing Regression Results with Weighted Data	154
Special Issues When Plotting Observations with Limited Unique Values	156
Exercises	158
Chapter 10: Logistic Regression	163
Thinking about Odds, Logged Odds, and Probabilities	164
Estimating Logistic Regression Models	165
Interpreting Logistic Regression Results with Odds Ratios	168
Visualizing Results with Predicted Probabilities Curves	169
Probability Profiles for Discrete Cases	172
Model Fit Statistics for Logistic Regressions	175
An Additional Example of Multivariable Logistic Regression	177
Exercises	180
Chapter 11: Doing Your Own Political Analysis	185
Seven Doable Ideas	185
<i>Political Knowledge and Interest</i>	186
<i>Self-Interest and Policy Preferences</i>	186
<i>Economic Performance and Election Outcomes</i>	187
<i>Electoral Turnout in Comparative Perspective</i>	187
<i>Interviewer Effects on Public Opinion Surveys</i>	187
<i>Religion and Politics</i>	188
<i>Race and Politics</i>	188
Importing Data	189
<i>SPSS and Stata Formatted Datasets</i>	189
<i>Microsoft Excel Datasets</i>	190
<i>HTML Datasets</i>	195
<i>PDF Format or Hand-Coded Data</i>	196
Writing It Up	198
<i>The Research Question</i>	199
<i>Previous Research</i>	199
<i>Data, Hypotheses, and Analysis</i>	199
<i>Conclusions and Implications</i>	200
Appendix	201
Table A.1 Alphabetical List of Variables in the GSS Dataset	201
Table A.2 Alphabetical List of Variables in the NES Dataset	208
Table A.3 Alphabetical List of Variables in the States Dataset	220
Table A.4 Alphabetical List of Variables in the World Dataset	224
About the Authors	229