



Online Tests, Live Quizzes, and Written Exams with R

Achim Zeileis





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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.

Additionally: In spring 2020.

- Conversion to distance learning.
- Leveraging available e-learning tools and learning management systems.

Strategy:

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

#### Additionally: In spring 2020.

- Exploit flexibility of the implemented strategy.
- Replace in-class materials by e-learning materials based on the same pool of exercises.

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

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Asynchronous	Textbook	Self test	Online test
	Screencast	(+ Forum)	

#### Learning:

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

	Learning	Feedback	Assessment
Synchronous	Lecture	Online test	Online 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:

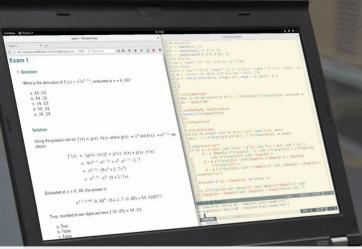
- PDF fully customizable vs. standardized with automatic scanning/evaluation.
- HTML fully customizable vs. embedded into exchange formats below.
- Moodle XML.
- QTI XML standard (version 1.2 or 2.1), e.g., for Canvas or OpenOLAT.
- Blackboard (partially based on QTI 1.2)
- ARSnova, TCExam, LOPS, ...

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 <sub>E</sub> 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, Canvas, ARSnova,	E-learning infrastructure

# **Dynamic Exercises**



#### Dynamic exercises

#### Text file:

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

#### **Examples:**



Multiple-choice knowledge quiz with shuffled answer alternatives. Which of the following cities are the capital of the corresponding country?



Dynamic numeric arithmetic exercise.

**Example:** Which of the following cities are the capital of the corresponding country?

#### Dynamic exercises: . Rmd

# **Example:** Which of the following cities are the capital of the corresponding country?

Question \_\_\_\_\_ Which of the following cities are the capital of the corresponding country? Answerlist \* Lagos (Nigeria) \* São Paulo (Brazil) \* Toronto (Canada) \* Auckland (New Zealand) \* Istanbul (Turkey) \* Zürich (Switzerland) \* Tokyo (Japan) \* New Delhi (India) \* Astana (Kazakhstan) \* Warsaw (Poland) \* Rivadh (Saudi Arabia)

#### Dynamic exercises: . Rmd

**Example:** Which of the following cities are the capital of the corresponding country?

	olution
Ar	nswerlist
* * * * * * * *	False. The capital of Nigeria is Abuja. False. The capital of Brazil is Brasilia. False. The capital of Canada is Ottawa. False. The capital of New Zealand is Wellington. False. The capital of Turkey is Ankara. False. The de facto capital of Switzerland is Bern. True. Tokyo is the capital of Japan. True. New Delhi is the capital of India. True. Astana is the capital of Kazakhstan. True. Warsaw is the capital of Poland.
*	True. Riyadh is the capital of Saudi Arabia.

#### Dynamic exercises: . Rmd

**Example:** Which of the following cities are the capital of the corresponding country?

```
<<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 f(x) = g(x) \setminus dot h(x), where
 g(x) := x^{\sqrt{b}x}, we obtain
 \begin{eqnarray*}
f'(x) \& = \& [g(x) \setminus cdot h(x)]' = g'(x) \setminus cdot h(x) + g(x) \setminus cdot h'(x) \setminus (x) = \& [g(x) \setminus cdot h'(x)]' = g'(x) \setminus cdot h'(x) + g(x) + g(x) \setminus cdot h'(x) + g(x) + g(x)
                                                     \& = \& \ x^{\frac{b}{x}} + \frac{b}{x} + \frac{
 \end{eqnarray*}
 Evaluated at x = \sum_{c}, the answer is
 \[ e^{\Sexpr{b}\cdot \Sexpr{c}} \cdot \Sexpr{a-1} \cdot
                           (\Sexpr{a} + \Sexpr{b}\cdot \Sexpr{c}) = \Sexpr{fmt(res, 6)}. \]
 Thus, rounded to two digits we have f'(\sum exp{f}) = \sum f(n).
   \end{solution}
   \extvpe{num}
   \exsolution{\Sexpr{fmt(res)}}
   \exname{derivative exp}
   \left( \frac{1}{0.01} \right)
```

#### 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., he de facto capital)?	
(a) Vaduz	
(b) Bern	
(c) St. Gallen	
(d) Basel	
(e) Zurich	

Knowledge quiz: Shuffled distractors.

#### Dynamic exercises: Single choice



extype: schoice exsolution: 010

<b>Question</b> What is the derivative of $f(x) = x^7 e^{3.2x}$ , evaluated at $x = 0.85$ ?
(a) 40.08
(b) 55.65
(c) 44.94
(d) 45.32
(e) 31.56

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

#### Dynamic exercises: Multiple choice

X	==

extype: mchoice
exsolution: 011

# Dynamic exercises: Multiple choice



extype: mchoice
exsolution: 011

stion the following cities are the capital of the corresponding
try?
Riyadh (Saudi Arabia)
Astana (Kazakhstan)
Warsaw (Poland)
Lagos (Nigeria)
Istanbul (Turkey)

Knowledge quiz: Shuffled true/false statements.

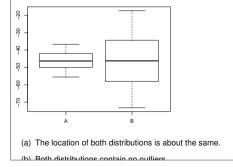
# Dynamic exercises: Multiple choice



extype: mchoice exsolution: 011

#### Question

In the following figure the distributions of a variable given by two samples (A and B) are represented by parallel boxplots. Which of the following statements are correct? (Comment: The statements are either about correct or clearly wrong.)



*Interpretations:* Statements that are approximately correct or clearly wrong.

#### Dynamic exercises: Numeric

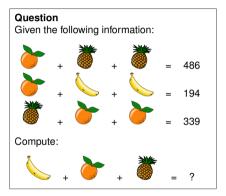


extype: num exsolution: 123.45

#### 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 extracting the estimated coefficients from a fitted (generalized) linear model object?

*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



#### 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.

extype: cloze
exclozetype: mchoice|num
exsolution: 10|123.45

# **One-for-All**



For the standard data data was a set of the standard data was been as the standard data was been as the standard data was been as a standard

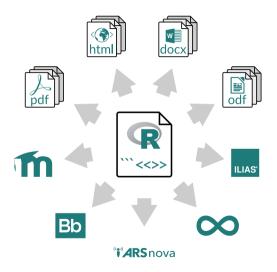
Million management

Teo Sample Litest

 The earliest time (in minutes) at the cashier of two supermethal chains with other systems is compared. The following statistical text was performed.

Examp 17091900001

### 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(
+ "capitals.Rmd",
+ "deriv2.Rmd",
+ 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

#### Online test:

```
R> exams2moodle(myexam, n = 10, dir = odir)
```

#### Live quiz:

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

#### Written exam:

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

**Other:** exams2pdf(), exams2html(), exams2canvas(), exams2openolat(), ...



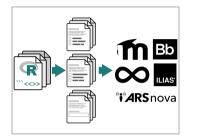


#### 1. Goal

- 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, ...

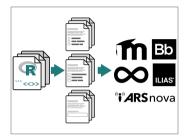
#### Scenarios:

- Short quizzes conducted in-class.
- Online tests conducted over several days.
- E-exams conducted in-class or remotely.



#### 2. Create

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



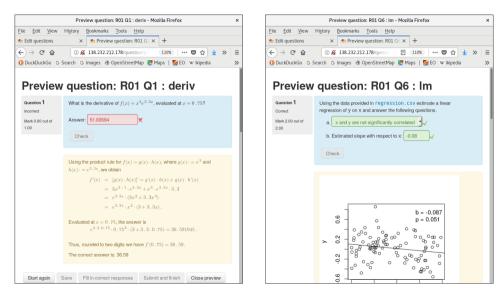
# TARSnova Min Control of the second se

#### 2. Create

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

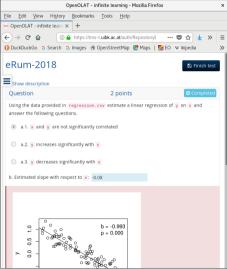
- 3. Import
  - Import in learning management system.
  - From there handling "as usual" in the system.

### E-Learning: Online test

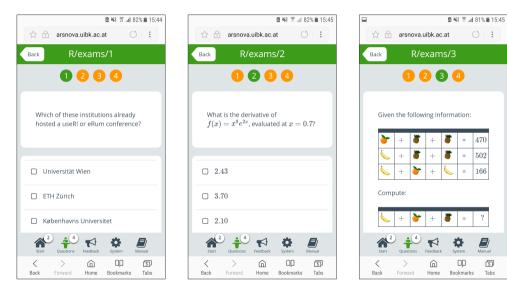


### E-Learning: Online test

	OpenOLAT - infinite learning - Mozilla Firefox	×	
le <u>E</u> dit <u>V</u> iew Hi <u>s</u> to	ry <u>B</u> ookmarks <u>T</u> ools <u>H</u> elp		<u>F</u> ile
OpenOLAT - infinite lear	* +		∞ (
-)→ ଫ 🏠 🚺	🛈 🔒 https://lms-t.uibk.ac.at/auth/Repo 🛛 🗉 🚥 🖾 👱	» ≡	€
DuckDuckGo G Search	i 💪 Images 🛞 OpenStreetMap 👷 Maps   隨 EO 🛛 Wikipedia	»	0
eRum-2018	🖺 Finish	test	e
Show description			=
Question	1 point O Not answe	ered	¢
	utes) at the cashier of two supermarket chains with different cashie ne following statistical test was performed:	r	U a
Two Sample t-tes	it		
alternative hypothes 95 percent confidence -Inf 0.5862572 sample estimates:	35, p-value = 0.3084 sis: true difference in means is less than 0 :e interval:		
7.60824			b
Which of the following s	tatements are correct? (Significance level $5\%$ )		
<ul> <li>a. The absolute val</li> </ul>	ue of the test statistic is larger than 1.96.		
☑ b. A one-sided alter	rnative was tested.	1	
	arger than 0.05		
C. The $p$ value is la	Ber than oros i		



## E-Learning: Live quiz





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.

<text><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><text><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item><list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></text></list-item></list-item></list-item></list-item></text>



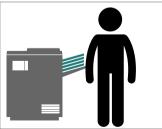
#### 1. Create

- 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.

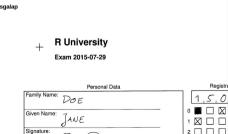
#### A vizsga eredménye

Név: Jane Doe Regisztrációs szám: 1501090 Érdemiegy: 5 Pontok: 3.16666666666667

#### 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



#### A vizsga eredménye

Név:	Ambi Dexter
Regisztrációs szám:	9901071
Érdemjegy:	5
Pontok:	1.5

#### Értékelés

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

Vizsgalap

#### Universität Innsbruck +

Klausur 2015-07-29





#### 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.

#### Installation:

- R (including Rtools on Windows and OS X). RStudio recommended for beginners.
- R package exams (including dependencies). install.packages("exams", dependencies = TRUE)
- Pandoc (e.g., provided along with RStudio).

More details: http://www.R-exams.org/tutorials/installation/

First steps: Create exams skeleton.

- demo-\*.R scripts.
- exercises/ folder with all .Rmd/.Rnw exercises.
- templates/ folder with various customizable templates.
- nops/ folder (empty) for exams2nops() output.

```
R> exams_skeleton()
```

More details: http://www.R-exams.org/tutorials/first\_steps/

First steps: Compile built-in exercises to both HTML and PDF.

Single-choice question: Knowledge quiz about the Swiss capital
(http://www.R-exams.org/templates/swisscapital/).

```
R> exams2html("swisscapital.Rmd")
```

```
R> exams2pdf("swisscapital.Rmd")
```

Numeric question with mathematical notation: Product rule for derivatives (http://www.R-exams.org/templates/deriv/).

```
R> exams2html("deriv.Rmd")
```

```
R> exams2html("deriv.Rmd", converter = "pandoc-mathjax")
```

```
R> exams2pdf("deriv.Rmd")
```

First steps: Extract the meta-information to check whether it is processed correctly.

```
R> exm <- exams2html(c("swisscapital.Rmd", "tstat.Rmd"))
R> exams_metainfo(exm)
```

exam1

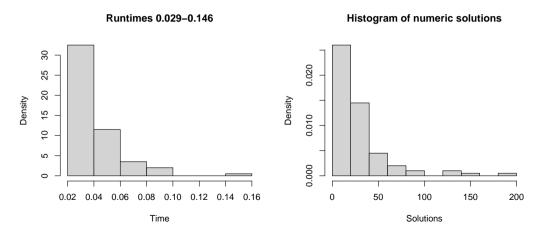
- 1. Swiss Capital: 2
- 2. t statistic: 27.783 (27.773--27.793)

Quality control: Stress testing.

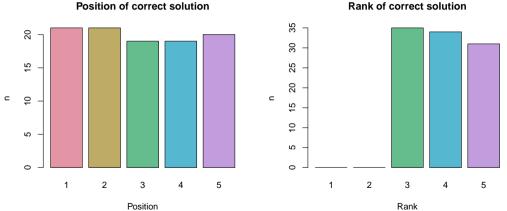
- Generate a large number of random versions of an exercise.
- Check for errors, warnings, long computation times, ...
- Especially for numeric exercises: Check solution distribution, outliers, dependency on randomized parameters.
- Especially for multiple-choice exercises: Check shuffling of correct answers.

More details: http://www.R-exams.org/tutorials/stresstest/

R> s <- stresstest\_exercise("deriv2.Rnw")
R> plot(s)



R> s <- stresstest\_exercise("deriv2.Rnw")</pre> R> plot(s)



Rank of correct solution

#### Resources

#### **Contributors:**

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

#### 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
StackOverflow	https://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/r-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