Installing R on your computer is simple if you have clear directions you can find that tell you exactly what to do in a way that is easy to understand. Directions exist at the R website (`http://cran.r-project.org/`) for installing R, but many students may have difficulty determining which files they need to download and then how to install them. Here are more explicit instructions that tell you what to do.

Obtaining the software

There are two options for installing the software: downloading it from the Web or installing from a prepared CD. I recommend that you download the software. If this fails, you may borrow a CD from me. In either case, there is only one file that you need to obtain (different depending on the operating system). Running this file begins the installation process which is straight-forward.

Downloading R from the Web

Go the R homepage at `http://cran.us.r-project.org/`.

Windows (95 or later)   Click on the link `Windows (95 and later)`, then click on the link `base/`, and finally click on `rw1071.exe` (or the most recent version which could have a larger number). This begins the download of a file whose size is about 20MB. After the download is complete, double click on the downloaded file and follow the on screen installation instructions.

Macintosh (OS X)   Click on the link `MacOS (System 8.6 to 9.1 and MacOS X)`, then click on `rm171.sit` (or the most recent version which could have a larger number) which begins the download. When given a choice to unstuff or save, choose save and save it on your desktop. Double click on the downloaded file. You Mac will unstuff the downloaded file and create an R folder. Inside this folder, there are many files including one with the R logo. I dragged a copy of this to my panel and then dragged the whole R folder to my Applications folder (located on the hard drive). After completing this, you can drag the original downloaded file to your trash bin.

Loading R from a CD onto a PC

Insert the CD into the drive, open the CD (from My Computer using the Windows operating system) and double click on the `rw1071.exe` icon to begin installation. Follow the on screen installation instructions.