

This file consists of the Preface for **MacAnova User's Guide** by Gary W. Oehlert and Christopher Bingham, issued as Technical Report Number 617, School of Statistics, University of Minnesota, revised August 1998, describing Version 4.07 of MacAnova

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Preface

This edition of the MacAnova 4.07 User's Guide is an update of the Version 4.06 Users' Guide, which replaced an incomplete preliminary edition for Version 4.04 made available in March 1997.

This manual is available in Portable Document Format (PDF) on the World Wide Web. The URL for the MacAnova home page is

<http://www.stat.umn.edu/~gary/macanova/macanova.home.html>

Click on *Documentation* to get to links leading you to the User's Guide and other sources of information.

Previous editions of the User's Guide included a reference chapter with summaries of virtually every command, adapted from the material provided by the `help()` command. In the March 1993 edition for Version 3.11, this required 50 pages and would be much larger for Version 4.07. It has been partially replaced by a new Chapter 11 which includes much briefer information on each command similar to that provided by `usage()` and a separate *MacAnova Reference Manual* that has been prepared as University of Minnesota School of Statistics Technical Report 618.

Like almost all user manuals that make some pretense at providing a comprehensive description of a complex program, this one can be heavy going for users with no previous MacAnova experience. For such people, as well as those who have not used MacAnova for a while, there is a less complete but more accessible document, *An Introduction to MacAnova*, Technical Report 600 (revised Sept. 1995) from the School of Statistics, University of Minnesota. It is a brief introduction (about 50 pages) with many examples. It gives the basics and gets you up and running, but leaves out many of the details and advanced features. It is available in Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) as well as PostScript.

An Introduction to MacAnova was prepared for version 3.35, and is thus somewhat out of date. However, almost everything in it is still correct. You may give the MacAnova command `help(updates)` for a listing of features introduced since version 3.35. We hope to bring this Introduction to the level of Version 4.07 soon.

The *Reference Manual* is also available on line in PDF format. It is the definitive reference for individual MacAnova commands and is essentially a reformatting of the three help files that are distributed with MacAnova. It is not suitable for learning MacAnova.

As MacAnova evolves, the online documentation will be updated.

Here are URLs for directly accessing the *Reference Manual* and the two formats for *An Introduction to MacAnova*

<ftp://ftp.stat.umn.edu/pub/macanova/docs/referenc.pdf> [PDF format]

<ftp://ftp.stat.umn.edu/pub/macanova/docs/Intro.pdf> [PDF format]

<ftp://ftp.stat.umn.edu/pub/macanova/docs/Intro.ps> [PostScript]

MacAnova Version 4.07

The online version of this User's Guide is split into many files which may be found in the following directory:

`ftp://ftp.stat.umn.edu/pub/macanova/docs/manual/`

To read the PDF documents you will need Acrobat reader, available as freeware from Adobe (URL <http://www.adobe.com>) for many types of computers. The PostScript version of *An Introduction to MacAnova* is most useful for use with a printer, such as most Apple LaserWriters, that supports PostScript. It also can be viewed using the widely available program `ghostview`.