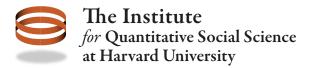
Introduction to R

Ista Zahn



Outline

- Workshop Materials and Introduction
- @ Graphical User Interfaces
- Oata and Functions
- 4 Help and package management
- Getting data into R
- 6 Data Manipulation
- Basic Statistics and Graphs
- Wrap-up
- Exercise solutions



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Materials and setup

Everyone should have R installed –if not:

- Open a web browser and go to http://cran.r-project.org and download and install it
- Also helpful to install RStudo (download from http://rstudio.com)

Materials for this workshop include slides, example data sets, and example code.

- Download materials from http:tutorials.iq.harvard.edu/R/Rintro.zip
- Extract the zip file containing the materials to your desktop

Workshop notes are available in .hmtl and .pdf format. Navigate to your desktop and open either Rintro.pdf or Rintro.html.

What is R?

R is a programming language designed for statistical computing. Notable characteristics include:

- Vast capabilities, wide range of statistical and graphical techniques
- Very popular in academia, growing popularity in business: http://r4stats.com/articles/popularity/
- Written primarily by statisticians
- FREE (no cost, open source)
- Excellent community support: mailing list, blogs, tutorials
- Easy to extend by writing new functions

Coming to R

Comming from...

```
Stata http://www.princeton.edu/~otorres/RStata.pdf
SAS/SPSS http://www.et.bs.ehu.es/~etptupaf/pub/R/RforSAS&SPSSusers.pdf
matlab http://www.math.umaine.edu/~hiebeler/comp/matlabR.pdf
Python http://mathesaurus.sourceforge.net/matlab-python-xref.pdf
```

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R GUI alternatives (no GUI)

The old-school way is to run R directly in a terminal

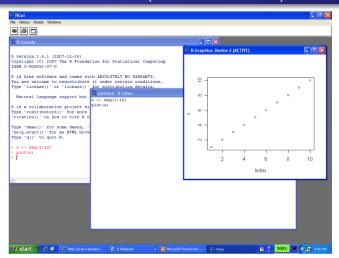
```
    AllFourStriped — izahn@Arch-Desktop:~ — R — 76×27

Mac-Administrators-Mac-Pro:/ izahn$ R
R version 2.15.1 (2012-06-22) -- "Roasted Marshmallows"
Copyright (C) 2012 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
ISBN 3-900051-07-0
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin9.8.0/x86_64 (64-bit)
R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.
  Natural language support but running in an English locale
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'a()' to quit R.
> HW <- function() {
 print("Hello Wold")
> HW()
[1] "Hello Wold"
```

But hardly anybody does it that way anymore!

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R GUI alternatives (Windows default)

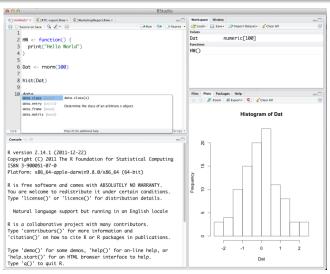


The default windows GUI is not very good

- No parentheses matching or syntax highlighting
- No work-space browser



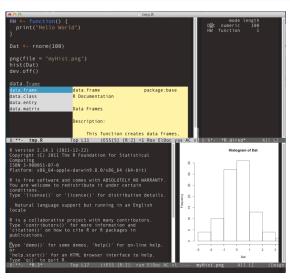
R GUI Alternatives (Rstudio on Mac)



Rstudio has many useful features, including parentheses matching and auto-completion

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R GUI Alternatives (Emacs with ESS)



Emacs + ESS is a very powerful combination, but can be difficult to set up

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Launch RStudio

- Open the RStudio program
- Open up today's R script
 - In RStudio, Go to File => Open Script
 - Locate and open the Rintro.R script in the Rintro folder on your desktop
- Go to Tools => Set working directory => To source file location (more on the working directory later)
- I encourage you to add your own notes to this file!

Things to keep in mind

- Case sensitive, like Stata (unlike SAS)
- Comments can be put almost anywhere, starting with a hash mark ('#');
 everything to the end of the line is a comment
- The command prompt ">" indicates that R is ready to receive commands
- If a command is not complete at the end of a line, R will give a different prompt, '+' by default
- Parentheses must always match (first thing to check if you get an error)
- R Does not care about spaces between commands or arguments
- Names should start with a letter and should not contain spaces
- Can use "." in object names (e.g., "my.data")
- Use forward slash ("/") instead of backslash in path names, even on Windows

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Ista Zahn Introduction to R

Exercise 0

- 1 Try to get R to add 2 plus 2.
- 2 Try to figure out how evaluate lines directly from your R script.
- R includes extensive documentation, including a file named "An introduction to R". Try to find this help file.
- Go to http://cran.r-project.org/web/views/ and skim the topic closest to your field/interests.

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Assignment

Values can be assigned names and used in subsequent operations

- The <- operator (less than followed by a dash) is used to save values
- The name on the left gets the value on the right.

```
> x <- 11 # Assign the value 10 to a variable named x
> x + 1 # Add 1 to x
[1] 12
> y <- x + 1 # Assign y the value x + 1
> y
[1] 12
```

Saved variables can be listed, overwritten and deleted

```
> ls() # List variables in workspace
[1] "x" "y"
> x # Print the value of x
[1] 11
> x <- 100 # Overwrite x. Note that no warning is given!
> x
[1] 100
> rm(x) # Delete x
> ls()
[1] "y"
```

Functions

Using R is mostly about applying functions to variables. Functions

- take variable(s) as input argument(s)
- perform operations
- return values which can be assigned
- optionally perform side-effects such as writing a file to disk or opening a graphics window

The general form for calling R functions is FunctionName(arg.1, arg.2, ... arg.n)

Arguments can be matched by position or name Examples:

```
> #?sqrt
> a <- sqrt(y) # Call the sqrt function with argument x=y
> round(a, digits = 2) # Call round() with arguments x=x and digits=2
[1] 3.46
> # Functions can be nested so an alternative is
> round(sqrt(y), digits = 5) # Take sqrt of a and round
[1] 3.4641
```

←□ → ←□ → ← □ → ← □ →

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Asking R for help

R has extensive built-in documentation that can be accessed through R commands or through the GUI.

- Start html help, search/browse using web browser
 - at the R console: help.start()
 - or use the help menu from you GUI
- Look up the documentation for a function help(plot)

?kmeans

- Look up documentation for a package help(package="stats")
- Search documentation from R (not always the best way... google often works better)

```
help.search("classification")
```

R packages and libraries

There are thousands of R packages that extend R's capabilities.

- To view available packages: library()
- To see what packages are loaded: search()
- To load a package: library("car")
- Install new package: install.packages("stringdist")

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The gss dataset

The next few examples use a subset of the General Social Survey data set. The variables in this subset include

The "working directory" and listing files

R knows the directory it was started in, and refers to this as the "working directory". Since our workshop examples are in the Rintro folder on the desktop, we should all take a moment to set that as our working directory: We can also set the working directory using paths relative to the current working directory:

```
> getwd() # get the current working directory
[1] "/home/izahn/Documents/Work/IQSS/Classes/IQSS_Stats_Workshops/R/Rintro"
> setwd("dataSets") # set wd to the dataSets folder
> getwd()
[1] "/home/izahn/Documents/Work/IQSS/Classes/IQSS_Stats_Workshops/R/Rintro/data
> setwd("..") # set wd to enclosing folder ("up")
>
```

It can be convenient to list files in a directory without leaving R

Importing data from files

In order to read data from a file, you have to know what kind of file it is. The table below lists the functions needed to import data from common file formats.

function	package
read.csv()	utils (default)
read.table()	utils (default)
read.dta()	foreign
read.spss()	foreign
read.sas7bdat()	sas7bdat
readWorksheetFromFile()	XLConnect
	read.table() read.dta() read.spss()

Examples:

```
> # read gss data from the gss.rds R file
> datGSS <- readRDS("dataSets/gss.rds")
> # read gss data from the gss.csv comma separated file
> gss.data <- read.csv("dataSets/gss.csv") # read gss data
> # read a Stata dataset from gss.dta
> library(foreign) # load foreign data functions
> datGSS <- read.dta(file="dataSets/gss.dta")
>
```

Checking imported data

Always a good idea to examine the imported data set—usually we want the results to be a data.frame

Saving and loading R workspaces

In addition to importing individual datasets, R can save and load entire workspaces

Save our entire workspace

• Load the "myWorkspace.RData" file and check that it is restored

When you close R you will be asked if you want to save your workspace – if you choose yes then your workspace will be restored next time you start R

4□ > 4□ > 4 = > 4 = > = 900

Exercise 1

- Load the foreign package if you haven't already done so
- 2 Look at the help page for the read.spss function
- Read the SPSS data set in dataSets/gss.sav and assign the result to an R data object named GSS.sav
- Make sure that the data loaded in step 2 is a data.frame (hint: check the arguments documented in the help page)
- Display the dimensions of the GSS.sav.
- BONUS: figure out how to read the Excel file "gss.xlsx" into R

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data.frame objects

- Usually data read into R will be stored as a data.frame
- A data.frame is a list of vectors of equal length
 - Each vector in the list forms a column
 - Each column can be a differnt type of vector
 - Often the columns are variables and the rows are observations
- A data frame has two dimensions corresponding the number of rows and the number of columns (in that order)

data.frame meta-data

A number of functions are available for inspecting data.frame objects:

```
> # row and column names
> head(names(datGSS)) # variable names in datGSS
[1] "age"     "educ"     "emailhrs" "hrs1"     "sex"     "usecomp"
> head(rownames(datGSS)) # first few rownames of datGSS
[1] "1" "2" "3" "4" "5" "6"
> # dimensions
> dim(datGSS)
[1] 1419     35
> # structure
> #str(datGSS) # get structure
>
```

Logical operators

It is often useful to select just those rows of your data where some condition holds—for example select only rows where sex is 1 (male). The following operators allow you to do this:

```
== equal to
!= not equal to
> greater than
< less than
>= greater than or equal to
<= less than or equal to
& and
| or</pre>
```

Note the double equals signs for testing equality. The following example show how to use some of these operators to extract and replace elements matching specific conditions.

Extracting subsets of data.frames

You can extract subsets of data.frames using the subset() function.

```
> # extracting subsets
> subset(datGSS,
       # rows 1 through 3
  subset = rownames(datGSS) %in% 1:3,
  # column 1 to 5
   select = 1:4)
 age educ emailhrs hrs1
1 69 12 -1 -1
2 27 10 -1 60
3 19 11 0 32
> subset(datGSS,
     # rows where age > 90
     subset = age > 90,
 ## sex and age columns
   select = c("sex", "age"))
     sex age
315 Female 99
665 Male 99
> ## the $ operator can be used to extract a single column
> str(datGSS$age)
```

Transforming data.frames

You can modify data.frames using the transform() function.

```
> # creating new variable mean centered age
> datGSS <- transform(datGSS,</pre>
                    ageC = age - mean(age))
  #education difference between wifes and husbands
> datGSS <- transform(datGSS,</pre>
                    educ.diff = wifeduc - husbeduc)
> ## ifelse() is also useful; note that the $ operator can
> ## also be used to create new variables.
> datGSS$young <- ifelse(datGSS$age < 30, "yes", "no")</pre>
>
> ## examine our newly created variables
> head(subset(datGSS,
             select = c("age", "ageC", "young", "wifeduc",
                       "husbeduc", "educ.diff")),
   n = 8)
 age ageC young wifeduc husbeduc educ.diff
1 69 22.363636 no
                         NΑ
                                  NΑ
                                         NΑ
2 27 -19.636364 yes 13 10
 19 -27.636364 yes NA NA NA
 21 -25.636364 yes
                         NA
                                  NA
                                          NA
```

Exporting Data

Now that we have made some changes to our GSS data set, we might want to save those changes to a file. Everything we have done so far has only modified the data in R; the files have remained unchanged.

```
> # write data to a .csv file
> write.csv(datGSS, file = "gss.csv")
> # write data to a Stata file
> write.dta(datGSS, file = "gss.dta")
> # write data to an R file
> saveRDS(datGSS, file = "gss.rds")
>
```

Exercise 2: Data manipulation

Use the gss.rds data set

- Generate the following variables:
 - "rich" equal to 0 if rincdol is less than 100000, and 1 otherwise
 - "sinc" equal to incomdol rincdol
- Create a subset of the data containing only rows where "usecomp" = "Yes"
- Examine the data.frame created in step 2, and answer the following questions:
 - How many rows does it have?
 - How many columns does it have?
 - What is the class of the "satjob" variable?
- BONUS (hard): Generate a variable named "dual.earn" equal to 1 if both wkftwife = 1 and wkfthusb = 1, and zero otherwise

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Basic statistics

Descriptive statistics of single variables are straightforward:

Some of these functions (e.g., summary) will also work with data.frames and other types of objects, others (such as sd) will not.

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Counts and proportions

Start by using the table() function to tabulate counts, then perform additional computations if needed

```
> sex.counts <- table(datGSS$sex) # tabulate sex categories
> sex.counts

Male Female
622 797
> prop.table(sex.counts) # convert to proportions

Male Female
0.4383369 0.5616631
```

Add variables for crosstabs

Statistics by classification factors

The by() function can be used to perform a calculation separately for each level of a classifying variable

```
> by(subset(datGSS, select = c("income", "educ")),
    INDICES=datGSS["sex"],
    FUN=summary)
sex: Male
           income educ
$40000 TO 49999: 59 Min. : 4.00
$50000 TO 59999: 56 1st Qu.:12.00
$60000 TO 74999: 49 Median :13.00
$35000 TO 39999: 48 Mean :13.68
REFUSED : 48 3rd Qu.:16.00
$110000 OR OVER: 43 Max. :99.00
(Other) :319
sex: Female
           income educ
REFUSED
        : 76 Min. : 0.00
$60000 TO 74999: 62 1st Qu.:12.00
$40000 TO 49999: 60 Median :12.00
$50000 TO 59999: 52 Mean :13.32
$30000 TO 34999: 49 3rd Qu.:15.00
$25000 TO 29999: 42
                    Max. :99.00
```

Correlations

Let's look at correlations among between age, income, and education

```
> cor(subset(datGSS, select = c("age", "incomdol", "educ")))
               age incomdol educ
age 1.00000000 -0.1186564 -0.07362454
incomdol -0.11865641 1.0000000 0.21013267
educ -0.07362454 0.2101327 1.00000000
```

For significance tests, use cor.test()

```
> with(datGSS.
      cor.test(age, educ))
Pearson's product-moment correlation
data: age and educ
t = -2.779, df = 1417, p-value = 0.005525
alternative hypothesis: true correlation is not equal to 0
95 percent confidence interval:
-0.12518333 -0.02166916
sample estimates:
        cor
-0.07362454
```

Multiple regression

Modeling functions generally use the *formula* interface whith DV on left followed by "~" followed by predictors—for details see help("formula")

• Predict the number of hours individuals spend on email (emailhrs)

```
> m1 <- lm(educ ~ sex + age, data = datGSS)</pre>
> summary(m1)
Call:
lm(formula = educ ~ sex + age, data = datGSS)
Residuals:
   Min 1Q Median 3Q
                                 Max
-13.434 -1.785 -0.688 1.955 86.049
Coefficients:
            Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 14.652702  0.425691  34.421  < 2e-16
sexFemale -0.275235 0.289290 -0.951 0.34156
age -0.021938 0.008238 -2.663 0.00783
Residual standard error: 5.377 on 1416 degrees of freedom
Multiple R-squared: 0.006056, Adjusted R-squared: 0.004652
```

Save R output to a file

Earlier we learned how to write a data set to a file. But what if we want to write something that isn't in a nice rectangular format, like the results of our regression model? For that we can use the sink() function:

```
> sink(file="output.txt", split=TRUE) # start logging
> print("This is the result from model 1\n")
[1] "This is the result from model 1\n"
> print(summary(m1))
Call:
lm(formula = educ ~ sex + age, data = datGSS)
Residuals:
   Min 10 Median 30 Max
-13.434 -1.785 -0.688 1.955 86.049
Coefficients:
           Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
(Intercept) 14.652702  0.425691  34.421  < 2e-16
sexFemale -0.275235 0.289290 -0.951 0.34156
age -0.021938 0.008238 -2.663 0.00783
```

Residual standard error: 5.377 on 1416 degrees of freedom

Basic graphics: Frequency bars

Thanks to classes and methods, you can plot() many kinds of objects:

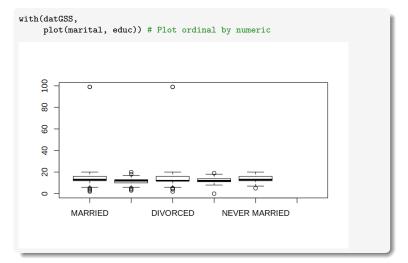


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Basic graphics: Boxplots by group

Thanks to classes and methods, you can plot() many kinds of objects:



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Basic graphics: Mosaic chart

Thanks to classes and methods, you can plot() many kinds of objects:



Exercise 3

Using the datGSS data.frame

- Cross-tabulate sex and emailhrs
- Calculate the mean and standard deviation of incomdol by sex
- 3 Save the results of the previous two calculations to a file
- Create a scatter plot with educ on the x-axis and incomdol on the y-axis

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Help us make this workshop better!

- Please take a moment to fill out a very short feedback form
- These workshops exist for you tell us what you need!
- http://tinyurl.com/R-intro-feedback



Additional resources

- IQSS workshops: http://projects.iq.harvard.edu/rtc/filter_by/workshops
- IQSS statistical consulting: http://rtc.iq.harvard.edu
- Software (all free!):
 - R and R package download: http://cran.r-project.org
 - Rstudio download: http://rstudio.org
 - ESS (emacs R package): http://ess.r-project.org/
- Online tutorials
 - http://www.codeschool.com/courses/try-r
 - http://www.datamind.org
- Getting help:
 - Documentation and tutorials:
 http://cran.r-project.org/other-docs.html
 - Recommended R packages by topic: http://cran.r-project.org/web/views/
 - Mailing list: https://stat.ethz.ch/mailman/listinfo/r-help
 - StackOverflow: http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/r

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Exercise 0 solution

1 Try to get R to add 2 plus 2.

2 + 2

Try to figure out how evaluate lines directly from your R script.

In Rstudo this is 'Control-Enter'; may be different in another GUI

R includes extensive documentation, including a file named "An introduction to R". Try to find this help file.

Go to the main help page by running 'help.start() or using the GUI menu, find and click on the link to "An Introduction to R".

• Go to http://cran.r-project.org/web/views/ and skim the topic closest to your field/interests.

I like the machine learning topic!



Exercise 1 solution

• Load the foreign package if you haven't already done so library(foreign)

2 Look at the help page for the read.spss function

help("read.spss")

Read the SPSS data set in dataSets/gss.sav and assign the result to an R data object named GSS.sav

```
gss.data <- read.spss("dataSets/gss.sav", to.data.frame=TRUE)
```

• Make sure that the data loaded in step 2 is a data.frame (hint: check the arguments documented in the help page)

class(gss.data)

Display the dimensions of the GSS.sav.

```
dim(gss.data)
nrow(gss.data)
ncol(gss.data)
```

BONUS: figure out how to read the Excel file "gss.xlsx" into R

```
library(XLConnect)
dat <- readWorksheetFromFile("dataSets/gss.xlsx", sheet = 1)
class(dat): dim(dat)</pre>
```

Exercise 2 solution

Use the gss.rds data set

```
gss <- readRDS("dataSets/gss.rds")</pre>
```

• Create a subset of the data containing only rows where "usecomp" = "Yes". How many computer users are there?

```
gss.usecomp <- subset(gss, usecomp == "Yes")
nrow(gss.usecomp)</pre>
```

- @ Generate the following variables:
 - "rich" equal to 0 if rincdol is less than 100000, and 1 otherwise
 - "sinc" equal to incomdol rincdol

• Generate a variable named "dual.earn" equal to 1 if both wkftwife = 1 and wkfthusb = 1, and zero otherwise. How many dual earners are there?

```
gss$dual.earn <- ifelse(gss$wkftwife == 1 & gss$wkfthusb == 1, 1, 0)
nrow(subset(gss, dual.earn == 1))
```

Exercise 3 solution

Using the datGSS data.frame

Cross-tabulate sex and emailhrs

```
with(datGSS, table(sex, emailhrs))
```

Calculate the mean and standard deviation of incomdol by sex

```
by(datGSS$incomdol, datGSS$sex, mean)
by(datGSS$incomdol, datGSS$sex, sd)
```

Oreate a scatter plot with educ on the x-axis and incomdol on the y-axis

```
plot(subset(datGSS, select = c("educ", "incomdol")))
```