Writing R Packages

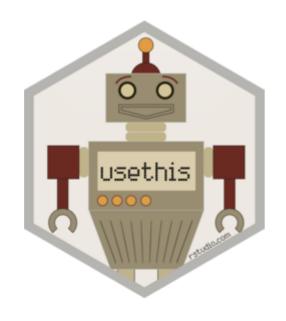
with Rstudio, {usethis}, and {roxygen2}

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- R Package Structure
- Getting Started
- Adding Functions
- Build your Package
- Unit Tests
- Advanced Setup

- Advanced Documentation
- Include Datasets
- Other Tips
- Non-Standard Evaluation
- Collaborate with GitHub
- Create Package Website

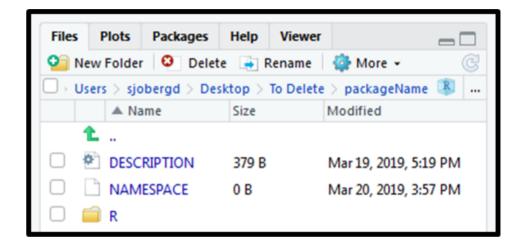
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An R package needs 3 components

1. DESCRIPTION file

2. NAMESPACE file



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1. DESCRIPTION file

2. NAMESPACE file

```
Package: mypackage
Title: What The Package Does (one line)
Version: 0.1
Authors@R: person(
   "First", "Last",
   email = "first.last@example.com",
   role = c("aut", "cre"))
Description: What the package does
   (one paragraph)
Depends: R (>= 3.5)
Imports: dplyr
License: What license is it under?
LazyData: true
```

- store metadata about the package
- list dependencies
- specify version number of package

An R package needs 3 components

1. DESCRIPTION file

2. NAMESPACE file

```
# Generated by roxygen2: do not edit by hand
export(tbl_regression)
export(tbl_summary)
export(tbl_uvregression)
importFrom(glue,glue)
importFrom(knitr,knit_print)
importFrom(magrittr,"%>%")
```

- {roxygen2} will take care of this for you!
- lists functions that will be exported by your package
- lists functions imported from other packages

An R package needs 3 components

1. DESCRIPTION file

2. NAMESPACE file

- R folder contains R code for each function in your package
 - typically, one code file for each exported function (although not required)
 - e.g. myfirstfunction.R
- also contains code for helper or utility functions
 - these functions are not exported, that is, not available to users of the package
 - utility function files begin with utilsprefix
 - e.g. utils-myfirstfunction.R

An R package needs 3 components

1. DESCRIPTION file

2. NAMESPACE file

3. R code folder

The {usethis} package has functions that create the package structure for you

After any function in {usethis} is run, it prints additional information into the console. READ AND FOLLOW THE DIRECTIONS!

- lists files created
- lists files modified
- lists user instructions

{usethis} makes package development a breeze

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```
• usethis::create_package()
```

- usethis::use_package_doc()
- usethis::use_git()
- usethis::use_github()

- usethis::create_package()
- usethis::use_package_doc()
- usethis::use_git()
- usethis::use_github()

```
> usethis::create_package("~/myPackage")
```

- ✓ Setting active project to '~/myPackage'
- ✓ Creating 'R/'
- ✓ Creating 'man/'
- √ Writing 'DESCRIPTION'
- √ Writing 'NAMESPACE'
- ✓ Writing 'myPackage.Rproj'
- ✓ Adding '.Rproj.user' to '.gitignore'
- ✓ Adding '^myPackage\\.Rproj\$', '^\\.Rproj\\.user\$' to '.Rbuildignore'
- ✓ Opening new project 'myPackage' in RStudio
 - Create package folder and a skeleton of the folder structure

- usethis::create_package()
- usethis::use_package_doc()
- usethis::use_git()
- usethis::use_github()

```
> usethis::use_package_doc()

    Writing 'R/myPackage-package.R'

'R/myPackage-package.R' contents

#' @keywords internal
"_PACKAGE"
```

- writes a basic documentation file for you package
- we will add more to this later

```
• usethis::create_package()
```

- usethis::use_package_doc()
- usethis::use_git()
- usethis::use_github()

```
> usethis::use_git()

✓ Initialising Git repo

✓ Adding '.Rhistory', '.RData' to '.gitignore'
OK to make an initial commit of 6 files?
1: Negative
2: Not now
3: Yeah
Selection: 3

✓ Adding files and committing
```

- create a git repository
- commit existing files to the repo

A few functions to get you started with a new package

- usethis::create_package()
- usethis::use_package_doc()
- usethis::use_git()
- usethis::use_github()

```
> usethis::use_github()
• Check title and description
  Name:
               myPackage
  Description: What the Package Does (One Line)
Are title and description ok?
1: No
2: Nope
3: Yeah
Selection: 3
✓ Creating GitHub repository
✓ Adding GitHub remote

√ Adding GitHub links to DESCRIPTION

✓ Setting URL field in DESCRIPTION to
  'https://github.com/ddsjoberg/myPackage'
✓ Setting BugReports field in DESCRIPTION to
  'https://github.com/ddsjoberg/myPackage/issues'

✓ Pushing to GitHub and setting
```

remote tracking branch

- usethis::create_package()
- usethis::use_package_doc()
- usethis::use_git()
- usethis::use_github()

- THIS ONLY WORKS IF YOU'VE PREVIOUSLY CONFIGURED THE use_github() FUNCTION
- recommend you setup Rstudio to play nicely with GitHub. Read Happy Git and GitHub for the useR for details (https://happygitwithr.com/)
- you can create your GitHub repo manually and add the package contents if you haven't yet configured RStudio and GitHub
 - remember to update the url and bug reports url in the DESCRIPTION file to match the GitHub repo location

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Adding Functions

```
usethis::use_r()
```

- creates a new code file for you write your function
- places file correctly in the R folder
- the new file is entirely blank

```
> usethis::use_r("my_mean")
```

• Modify 'R/my_mean.R'

Adding Functions

Let's write our first function

```
my_mean <- function(x) {
  mean(na.omit(x))
}</pre>
```

For EVERY non-base R function you need to either *import* the function, or use :: to reference the function

```
my_mean <- function(x) {
  mean(stats::na.omit(x))
}</pre>
```

We will now use {roxygen2} comments in our code to document our new function (aka write the help file)!

- R function help files (*.Rd) are saved in the *man* folder
- the man folder already exists courtesy of usethis::create_package()
- R processes the *.Rd files to create plain text, PDF, and HTML versions of the help files
- the code in *.Rd files looks somewhat like LaTeX: it's verbose and cumbersome to write
- we will automate the creation of these files with {roxygen2} comments
- by automating, we link the function code to the documentation
- this helps keep the documentation up to date

```
> usethis::use_roxygen_md()

✓ Setting Roxygen field in DESCRIPTION to 'list(markdown = TRUE)'

✓ Setting RoxygenNote field in DESCRIPTION to '6.1.1'

• Run `devtools::document()`
```

- roxygen comments appear above a function
- roxygen comment lines always begins with # '
- two common roxygen tags
 - @param used to document a function argument
 - @export tells roxygen to export the function when the package is built

```
#' The first line is the title
#'

#' The second section is a longer description of the function.
#' This can go on for multiple lines.
#'

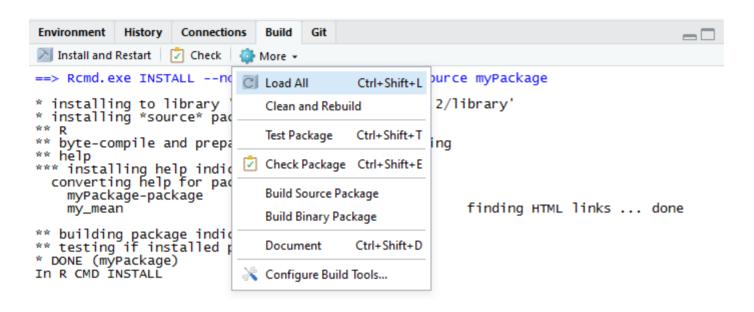
#' @param x numeric vector
#' @export
my_mean <- function(x) {
    mean(stats::na.omit(x))
}</pre>
```

- other notable roxygen tags
 - @seealso list related references (typically used to reference related functions)
 - o @family similar to @seealso, but creates a list of "see also" functions that belong to the same family
 - @examples add examples to function help file
 - @author list author(s) of the function
 - @return specify the returned object
- link to other functions in help file
 - o function in the same package \code{\link{my_mean}}
 - o function in another package \code{\link[base]{mean}}
- Blog post with more details
 - http://kbroman.org/pkg_primer/pages/docs.html

```
#' The first line is the title
#' The second section is a longer
#' description of the function.
#' This can go on for multiple lines.
  @param x numeric vector
#' @export
#' @seealso \code{\link[base]{mean}}
#' @author Daniel D. Sjoberg
#' @examples
#' my mean(1:5)
my_mean <- function(x) {</pre>
 mean(stats::na.omit(x))
```

my mean {myPackage} R Documentation The first line is the title Description The second section is a longer description of the function. This can go on for multiple lines. Usage my mean(x) **Arguments** numeric vector Author(s) Daniel D. Sjoberg See Also mean Examples my mean(1:5)

Adding Functions: Rstudio Build Tab



Document each time you update roxygen comments

Adding Functions

- new function calculates mean of every column in a data frame
- use the map() function in the {purrr} package
- use:: to refer to the function: purrr::map()
- document that our package now depends on {purrr}
- usethis::use_package("purrr")

```
> usethis::use_package("purrr")

✓ Setting active project to '~/myPackage'

✓ Adding 'purrr' to Imports field
in DESCRIPTION
```

• Refer to functions with `purrr::fun()`

DESCRIPTION (truncated)

```
Imports:
    purrr
```

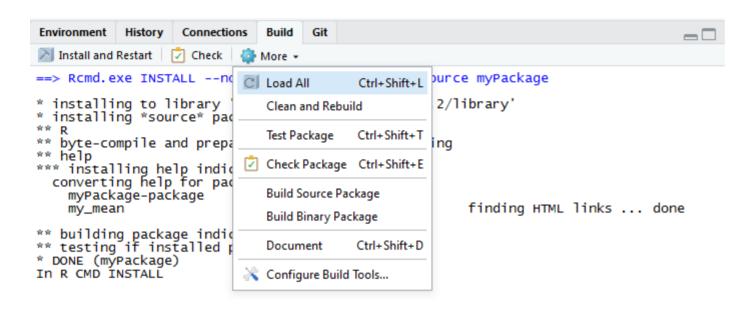
```
df_mean <- function(data) {
  purrr::map(data, my_mean)
}</pre>
```

```
> df_mean(mtcars)
$mpg
[1] 20.09062
$cyl
[1] 6.1875
$disp
[1] 230.7219
```

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Build your Package: Rstudio Build Tab



- **Document** each time you update roxygen comments
- Install and Restart each time you update R code
- Check

Build your Package

What is checked? So much! Here's a very abbreviated list

- package structure
 - hidden files/folders
 - portable file names
 - executable files
 - package subdirectories
 - left-over files
- DESCRIPTION/NAMESPACE file
 - package dependencies
 - files exist
 - NAMESPACE parses properly

R code

- non-ASCII characters
- syntax errors
- dependencies in R code
- S3 generic/method consistency
- documentation
 - Rd/help files
 - Rd file metadata
 - examples
 - undocumented function arguments

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Unit Tests

- vital part of package development
- helps ensure future updates don't break functioning code
- easily implemented with the {testthat} package
- all unit tests are run each time the package is checked

```
> usethis::use_testthat()

✓ Setting active project to '~/myPackage'

✓ Adding 'testthat' to
   Suggests field in DESCRIPTION

✓ Creating 'tests/testthat/'

✓ Writing 'tests/testthat.R'

> usethis::use_test("df_mean")

✓ Writing 'tests/testthat/test-df_mean.R'

• Modify 'tests/testthat/test-df_mean.R'
```

tests/testthat/test-df_mean.R

```
context("test-df_mean")

test_that("multiplication works", {
  expect_equal(2 * 2, 4)
})
```

Unit Tests

There are many types of checks that can be included

- expect_lte()
- expect_gte()
- expect_equal()
- expect_setequal()
- expect_equivalent()
- expect_identical()
- Each test should
- 1. have an informative name
- 2. cover a single unit of functionality

The idea is that when a test fails, you'll know what's wrong and where in your code to look for the problem.

Hadley Wickham's book on writing R packages provides a thorough review on writing unit tests.

http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/tests.html

- expect_length()
- expect_null()
- expect_error()
- expect_warning()
- expect_true()

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- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()

Specify the license you want associated with your package.

```
usethis::use_mit_license()
usethis::use_gpl3_license()
usethis::use_lgpl_license()
usethis::use_apl2_license()
usethis::use_cc0_license()

> usethis::use_mit_license("Daniel D. Sjoberg")

✓ Setting License field in DESCRIPTION
to 'MIT + file LICENSE'

✓ Writing 'LICENSE.md'

✓ Adding '^LICENSE\\.md$' to '.Rbuildignore'

✓ Writing 'LICENSE'
```

- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()

- creates a basic NEWS.md in the root directory
- keep track of updates and versions
- communicate changes to API to users (also future you)
- > usethis::use_news_md()
- √ Writing 'NEWS.md'
- Modify 'NEWS.md'

- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()

- adds a unit test to automatically run a spell check on documentation and vignettes
- adds a WORDLIST file to the package, which is a dictionary of white-listed words
- runs when the package checks are run
- suggest including error = TRUE option so spelling errors fail package checks

```
> usethis::use_spell_check(error = TRUE)
Updated ~/myPackage/tests/spelling.R
• Run `devtools::check()` to trigger spell check
```

- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()

build passing build passing

- get cool badges
- others more confident in your package
- usethis::use_travis() tests build on Linux: http://travis-ci.org
- usethis::use_appveyor() tests build on Windows: https://www.appveyor.com/
- tests are triggered each time package is pushed to GitHub
- blog post about using CI https://juliasilge.com/blog/beginners-guide-totravis/
- requires public GitHub repo

Advanced Setup

- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()

Be sure to follow all directions!

```
> usethis::use travis()
✓ Writing '.travis.vml'
✓ Adding '^\\.travis\\.yml$' to '.Rbuildignore'
• Turn on travis for your repo at
    https://travis-ci.org/profile/ddsjoberg
• Add a Travis build status badge by adding
    the following line to your README:
Copying code to clipboard:
  [![Travis build status](https://travis-ci.org/ddsjo
> usethis::use_appveyor()
✓ Writing 'appveyor.yml'
✓ Adding '^appveyor\\.yml$' to '.Rbuildignore'
• Turn on AppVeyor for this repo at
    https://ci.appveyor.com/projects/new

    Add a AppVeyor build status badge by adding

    the following line to your README:
Copying code to clipboard:
  [![AppVeyor build status](https://ci.appveyor.com/a
```

Advanced Setup

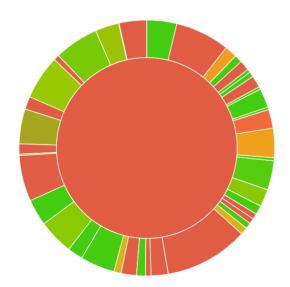
- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()

- more cool badges
- adds test coverage reports to a package that is already using Travis CI
- reports the proportion of code covered by unit tests
- provides reports of coverage of every file, line-by-line
- https://codecov.io/



Advanced Setup

- software license
- usethis::use_news_md()
- usethis::use_spell_check()
- continuous integration
- usethis::use_coverage()



{usethis} prints directions into the console...be sure to follow them!

```
> usethis::use_coverage()

✓ Adding 'covr' to Suggests field in DESCRIPTION

✓ Writing 'codecov.yml'

✓ Adding '^codecov\.yml$' to '.Rbuildignore'

• Add a Coverage status badge by adding the following line to your README:

Copying code to clipboard:
  [![Coverage status](https://codecov.io/gh/ddsjoberg)

• Add to '.travis.yml':

Copying code to clipboard:
  after_success:
  - Rscript -e 'covr::codecov()'
```

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Advanced Documentation: README

- GitHub renders the README file and is often the first thing users will see about your package
- rather than use a basic README.md, use an R markdown README.rmd
- usethis::use_readme_rmd()

```
> usethis::use_readme_rmd()

✓ Writing 'README.Rmd'

✓ Adding '^README\\.Rmd$' to '.Rbuildignore'

• Modify 'README.Rmd'

✓ Writing '.git/hooks/pre-commit'
```

- update and knit README.rmd, and it'll create README.md
 - README.md now has this header:
 <!-- README.md is generated from
 README.Rmd. Please edit that file
 -->
- be sure to knit README.rmd after you modify the file OR update functions highlighted in the README file

Advanced Documentation: Vignettes

- a vignette is a long-form guide to your package
- describes the problem your package is designed to solve, then shows the reader how to solve it

```
> usethis::use_vignette("my first vignette")
#> ✓ Adding 'knitr' to Suggests field in DESCRIPTION
#> ✓ Setting VignetteBuilder field in
#> DESCRIPTION to 'knitr'
#> ✓ Adding 'rmarkdown' to Suggests field
#> in DESCRIPTION
#> ✓ Creating 'vignettes/'
#> ✓ Adding '*.html', '*.R' to 'vignettes/.gitignore'
#> ✓ Adding 'inst/doc' to '.gitignore'
#> ✓ Creating 'vignettes/my-first-vignette.Rmd'
#> Modify 'vignettes/my-first-vignette.Rmd'
```

- a vignette is an R markdown document with HTML output
- be sure to change the title in BOTH title: and VignetteIndexEntry{} in the vignette yaml

```
title: "Vignette Title"
author: "Vignette Author"
date: "2019-04-01"
output: rmarkdown::html_vignette
vignette: >
%\VignetteIndexEntry{Vignette Title}
%\VignetteEngine{knitr::rmarkdown}
\usepackage[utf8]{inputenc}
```

 R packages, Vignettes Chapter: http://rpkgs.had.co.nz/vignettes.html

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Include Datasets

- including datasets in an R package is easy with use_data_raw() and use_data()
- we'll go over an example where we simulate a dataset and save it in the package

```
> usethis::use_data_raw()
#> ✓ Creating 'data-raw/'
#> ✓ Adding '^data-raw$' to '.Rbuildignore'
#> Next:
#> ● Add data creation scripts
#> in 'data-raw/'
#> ● Use `usethis::use_data()` to
#> add data to package
```

- simulate dataset, and use_data() will save it with the package
- save this script is the data-raw/ folder

```
set.seed(8976) # remeber to set your seed!
my_data <-
   tibble::tibble(
    x = runif(100),
    y = runif(100)
)

usethis::use_data(my_data, overwrite = TRUE)
#> \( \subseteq Creating 'data/' \)
#> \( \subseteq Saving 'my_data' to 'data/my_data.rda' \)
```

Include Datasets

- document the dataset
- use {roxygen2} comments for documentation
- add a file to the R folder to begin documenting
- I call mine data.R

```
> usethis::use_r("data")
```

• Modify 'R/data.R'

```
#/ My simulated data
#'
#' A simulated dataset that I am saving in my package
#'
#' @format A data frame with 100 rows
#' \describe{
#' \item{x}{Random Uniform Variable}
```

 after you write the {roxygen2} comments, document the package

#' }

"my_data"

 the help file will be accessible with ?my_data after the package has been loaded

\item{y}{Random Uniform Variable}

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Other Tips

- {roxygen2} tags @import and @importFrom
- use_pipe() to import and export {magrittr} pipe operator
- helper functions for tidy development

Other Tips: Import

- there are a few functions from the tidyverse we use frequently
- referring to them with :: quickly becomes cumbersome
- we can import functions and even entire packages to avoid the :: notation
- {roxygen2} tags @import and @importFrom

Other Tips: Import

 remember that boring package-level documentation file we made with use_package_doc()? let's use this file to import commonly used functions

- when adding entire package imports, be sure to run the package checks. you may experience warnings from conflicting function names
 - this is common with tidyverse packages as many of them contain the same functions
- @import and @importFrom can be placed in any R code file
 - can import same function in multiple files. {roxygen2} will sort out duplicates when the package is documented
- use the package-level documentation file for imports that apply to all functions in your package

Other Tips: the pipe

• the {magrittr} pipe operator is so useful, you may want to both import and export it to make it available to users of your package

```
> usethis::use_pipe()

✓ Adding 'magrittr' to Imports
    field in DESCRIPTION

✓ Writing 'R/utils-pipe.R'

• Run `devtools::document()`
```

```
R/utils-pipe.R

#' Pipe operator

#'

#' See \code{magrittr::\link[magrittr]{\%>\%}}

#' for details.

#'

#' @name %>%

#' @rdname pipe

#' @keywords internal

#' @export

#' @importFrom magrittr %>%

#' @usage lhs \%>\% rhs
NULL
```

Other Tips: tidy helpers

the {usethis} package contains helper functions to develop tidy packages these are my favorites

- use_tidy_description()
 - puts fields in standard order and alphabetizes dependencies in DESCRIPTION file
- use_tidy_versions(overwrite = FALSE)
 - pins all dependencies to require at least the currently installed version
 - helps ensure your package will work on all systems
- use_tidy_style(strict = TRUE)
 - uses the {styler} package to style all code according to the tidyverse style guide
 - keeps your code easy to read, looking good, and collaborative

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- tidyverse code is quick to write, but as a result it is ambiguous
 - these equivalent mutate statements return different results
 - the code in your package must be precise

```
y = 10
tibble(
    x = 1:4
) %>%
    mutate(
        xy = x + y
    )
```

```
tibble(
  y = 4:1,
  x = 1:4
) %>%
  mutate(
     xy = x + y
)
```

- how to make the code precise?
 - import the .data function from {rlang}
 - use .data\$<varname> EVERY time you reference a column within a mutate statement
 - o if you don't use .data, the package check will return a warning

```
y = 10
tibble(
    x = 1:4
) %>%
    mutate(
        xy = .data$x + y
)
```

```
tibble(
    y = 4:1,
    x = 1:4
) %>%
    mutate(
        xy = .data$x + .data$y
)
```

```
## # A tibble: 4 x 3
## y x xy
## < <int> <int> <int> <int>
## 1 4 1 5
## 2 3 2 5
## 3 2 3 5
## 4 1 4 5
```

- other tidyverse functions take bare column names as inputs
 - o e.g. mtcars %>% select(mpg, hp)
 - the reference to the mpg and hp columns is not standard, and the package check will return warnings if this code is found
- many tidyverse functions will allow you to simply replace the bare references with quoted strings

```
mtcars %>% select(mpg, hp)
mtcars %>% pull(mpg)
mtcars %>% group_by(cyl) %>%
  nest(mpg, hp)
```

```
mtcars %>% select(c("mpg", "hp"))
mtcars %>% pull("mpg")
mtcars %>% group_by(cyl) %>%
  nest(c("mpg", "hp"))
```

- for functions that do not allow you to simply add a string, use !! and rlang::sym()
- when you have multiple variables, use !!! and rlang::syms() instead of !! and rlang::sym()

```
mtcars %>% group_by(cyl)
mtcars %>% group_by(cyl, am)
```

```
mtcars %>% group_by(!!sym("cyl"))
mtcars %>% group_by(.data$cyl)

by_vars <- c("cyl", "am")
mtcars %>% group_by(!!!syms(by_vars))
mtcars %>% group_by(.data$cyl, .data$am)
```

- entire expressions can be stored as string and evaluated
- this is particularly powerful when combined with the {glue} package

```
mtcars %>% filter(cyl == 4)
mtcars %>% filter(!!parse_expr("cyl == 4"))
mtcars %>% filter(.data$cyl == 4)
```

- can also create functions with NSE inputs
- briefly, you replace sym() with enquo(), more on that in the additional reading
- additional resources
 - Programming with dplyr
 https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/dplyr/vignettes/programming.html
 - Tidy evaluation, most common actions https://edwinth.github.io/blog/dplyr-recipes/
 - this resource is excellent!

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- Advanced Documentation
- Include Datasets
- Other Tips
- Non-Standard Evaluation
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- Create Package Website

Collaborate with GitHub

- create a development branch (e.g. *dev*) and do 100% of your initial package building directly on this branch
- once package is standing on its own legs (not necessarily done), make all updates via forks or feature branches
- protect your *master* and *dev* branches
 - from the GitHub repo, select *Settings*, select *Branches*, and add rules for each branch
 - for the *dev* and *master* branches, I recommend
 - "Require pull request reviews before merging"
 - "Require status checks to pass before merging"
 - "Include administrators"

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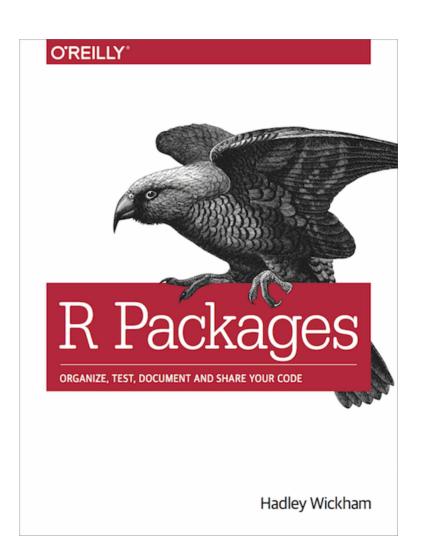
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Create Package Website

- lastly, it's easy to create a website for your package
- easier for a user to navigate, find functions, and
- from the GitHub repo, select *Settings*, scroll down to *GitHub Pages*, from the *Source* menu select master branch/docs folder
- the location of the published site is listed under *GitHub Pages*
- run pkgdown::build_site()
- done! can take a few minutes to be available online
- more details at https://pkgdown.r-lib.org/

Resources

- {roxygen2}
 - http://kbroman.org/pkg_primer/pages/docs.html
 - https://blog.rstudio.com/2017/02/01/roxygen2-6-0-0/
- continuous integration
 - https://juliasilge.com/blog/beginners-guideto-travis/
- R Packages, by Hadley Wickham
 - touches on most of the topics covered here (package structures, unit tests, documentation)
 - does not include {usethis} setup
 - http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/
- Git and GitHub
 - https://happygitwithr.com/



Thank you

slides at danieldsjoberg.com/writing-R-packages
source code and sample package code at github.com/ddsjoberg/writing-R-packages