



University
of Exeter

Introduction to Business Analytics BEM2031

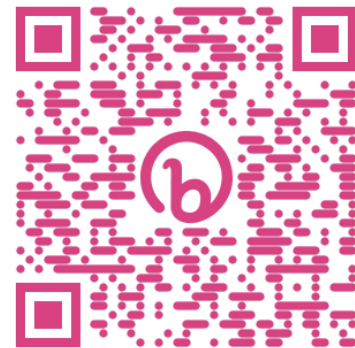
Term2: 2023/24

Dr Alison Harper

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Office hours: Tuesdays 3-5pm
Building: One, 2nd Floor, CSAM

https://bit.ly/Book_Alison_Harper
[Home BEM2031 Teams](#)



Teaching team:

Dr Alison Harper

a.l.harper@exeter.ac.uk

Dr Han Lin

H.Lin2@exeter.ac.uk



There will be
no workshops
on
Monday,
22 January

Module Overview

Peer-reviewed homework due:
16 February (formative)

Week 01 - Data Analytic Thinking



Week 03 - Data Visualization



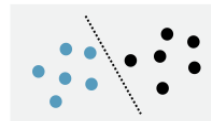
Week 05 - Predictive Modeling



Week 02 - Managing and Cleaning Data



Week 04 - Clusters and Similarity



Week 06 - Reading Week

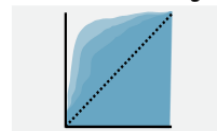


Module Overview

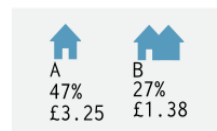
Assignment due:
15 March 3pm
(summative – 30%)

Final project due:
28 March 3pm
(summative – 70%)

Week 07 - What is a good model?



Week 09 - Data Driven Decisions



Week 11 - Project Week



Week 08 - Text Analytics

Text **analytics** is
turning **language**
into **numbers**.

Week 10 - AI and Organizations



Module Structure

Week	Date	Topics	Deadlines
T2:01		Data analytic thinking	
T2:02		Managing and cleaning data	
T2:03		Data visualisation	
T2:04		Clustering and similarity	HOMEWORK
T2:05		Predictive modelling	
T2:06		READING WEEK	
T2:07		What is a good model?	
T2:08		Text analytics	
T2:09		Data-driven decisions	ASSIGNMENT
T2:10		Artificial intelligence and ethics	
T2:11			FINAL PROJECT

ASSIGNMENT CRITERIA (15 March):

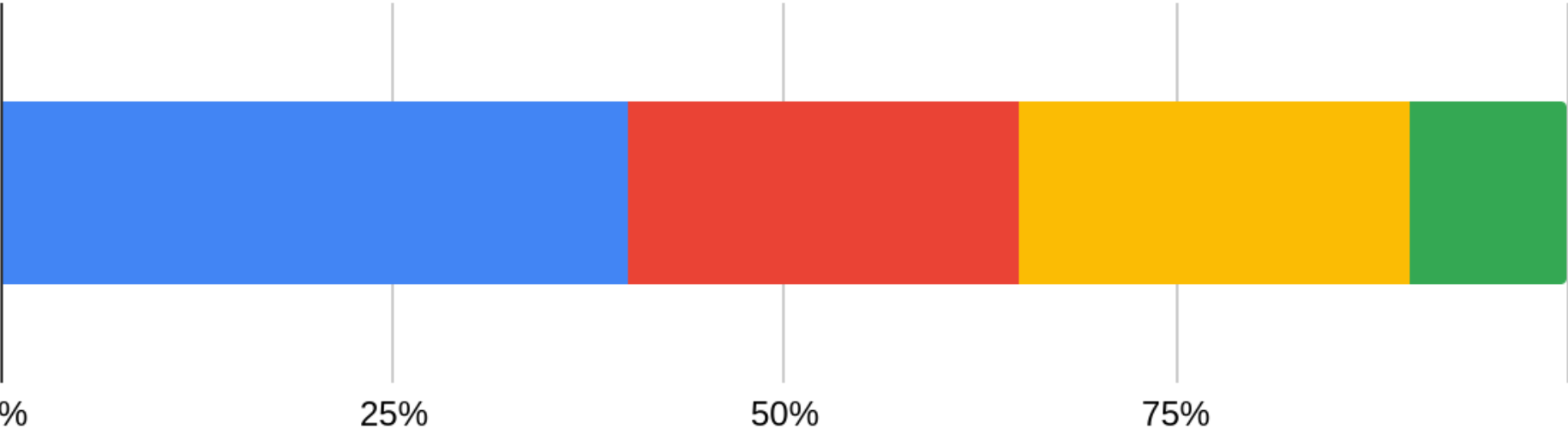
Fully correct answers that complete the task in the expected manner will be given a high distinction of 8/10. For a full 10/10 I have left some room for innovation and personal exploration. Students who go above the expected, integrate a new package, attempt a new plot, try a new analysis, can be rewarded here.

Score	Description
0	The problem was not attempted.
2	The problem was attempted but largely incomplete or incorrect.
4	Concepts are understood, but not well explained in the context of the problem. Calculations yield the wrong answer due to minor or major errors. Plots are incorrectly generated.
6	The approach is generally correct. Calculations yield the wrong answer due to minor errors. Plots are roughly correct.
8	The solution is correct, well-documented, and the writing is clear. Reproducible code provides a correct step-by-step solution and is easy to follow. Plots are correct, detailed, and clearly explained.
10	The solutions are exceptional, clear, and creative. The solutions provided innovate and expand on existing knowledge.

FINAL REPORT CRITERIA
(28 March)

Analytics Report Critique Marking Breakdown

■ Critique and Reflection ■ Predictive Model ■ Visualization ■ Style and Structure



Getting started

1. Read the handbook and ask questions
2. Download and install R and RStudio
3. Go to ELE and review/prep for Week 1:
 - Watch the videos
 - Access the textbook



This is not a
programming
class



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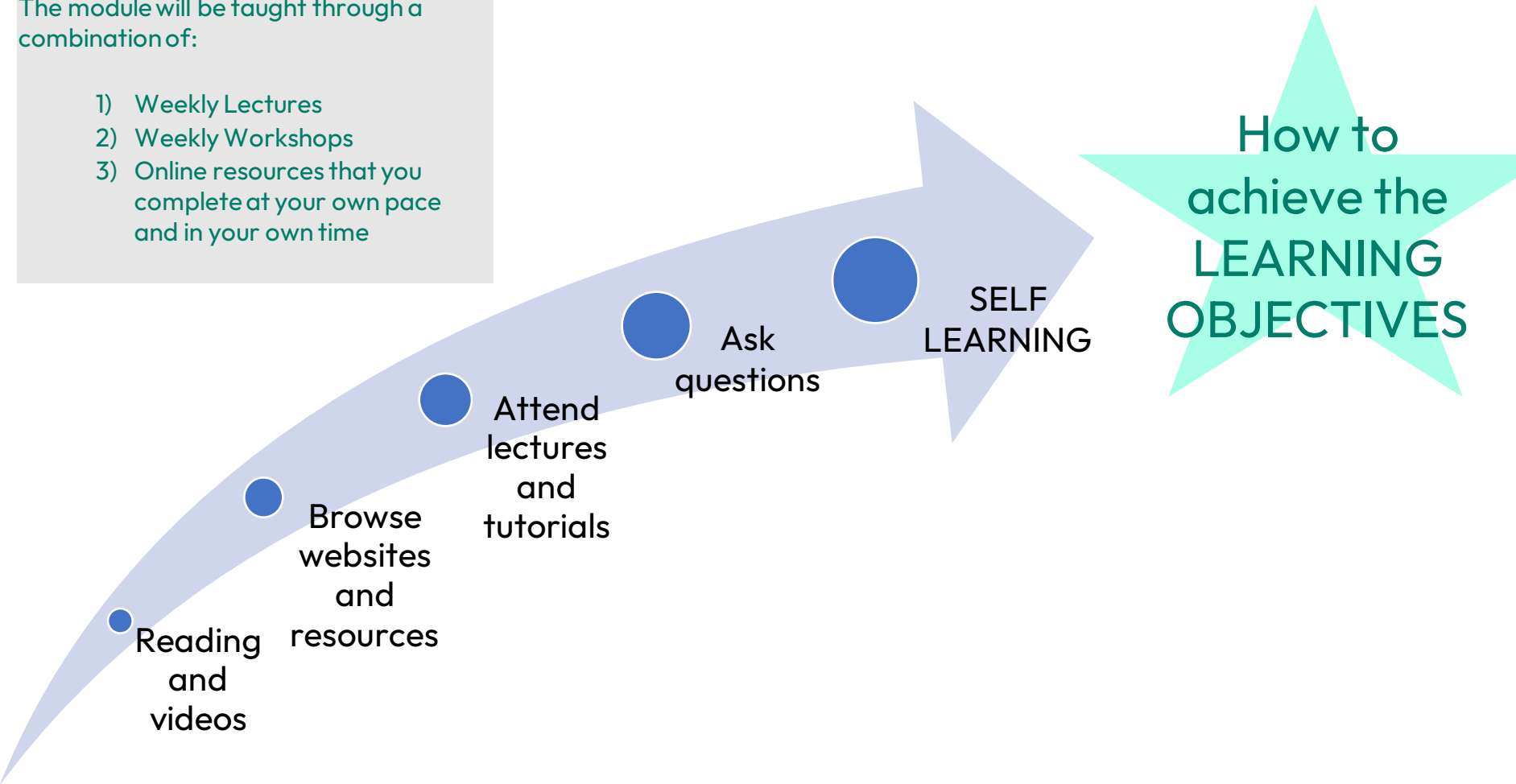
LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After this course you should be able to...

- Critically evaluate current approaches used for collection, management, communication and analysis of commercial, operational and sustainability data, and how this data is used to support decision-making.
- Apply *Design Thinking* techniques to the analysis of a specific business challenge and use these to identify required information flows.
- Use data visualisation techniques to share original content and insight with a general management audience
- Demonstrate familiarity with analytical tools available for the analysis of numerical and textual data and use these to find, derive and evaluate information.
- Discuss current developments and thinking in the information management industry, specifically around big data management, analytics, cloud, and visualisation techniques.

The module will be taught through a combination of:

- 1) Weekly Lectures
- 2) Weekly Workshops
- 3) Online resources that you complete at your own pace and in your own time



How to
achieve the
LEARNING
OBJECTIVES

Reading
and
videos

Browse
websites
and
resources

Attend
lectures
and
tutorials

Ask
questions

SELF
LEARNING



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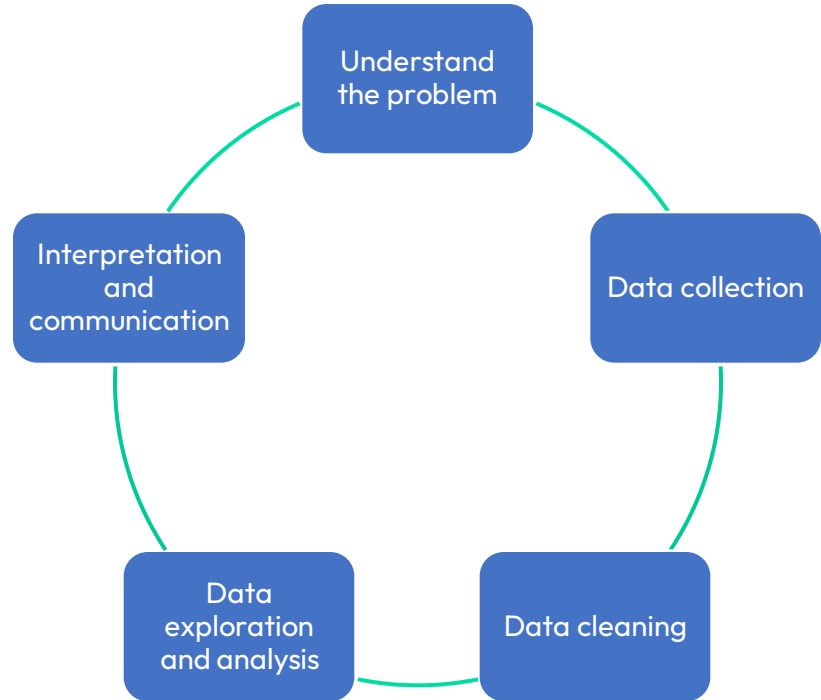
Introduction to Business Analytics



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Data Analytics is the process of collecting, transforming, and analysing large volumes of data to gain information, knowledge and insights that inform decision-making and drive improvements.

It involves using various tools, techniques, and algorithms to examine data and extract valuable information. This, in turn, enables businesses and organisations to make data-driven decisions and thus gain a competitive edge.



Types of data analytics

✓ **Descriptive analytics: What happened / is happening?**

Uses historical and real time data to describe the current or past situation, aggregate data into summaries, separate out patterns
e.g. visualisations, dashboards, data mining, clustering

✓ **Diagnostic analytics: Why did it happen?**

Predicts potential future outcomes based on past data
e.g. statistical forecasting, machine learning

✓ **Predictive analytics: What will happen?**

Predicts potential future outcomes based on past data
e.g. statistical forecasting, machine learning

✓ **Prescriptive analytics: What can we do about it?**

Offers potential or optimal solutions
e.g. simulation, optimisation, game theoretical approaches



Data-driven decision making

Using data to gather insights, identify patterns, and draw conclusions to guide decisions.

E.g., customer behaviour, market trends, operational efficiency, strategic choices for growth or success.

Competitive advantage

Data and effective data analysis capability is a competitive asset toward meeting customer needs.

E.g., pricing strategies, marketing and branding campaigns, safety and quality.

Personalisation and customer experience

Understanding individual preferences and customer behaviour to increase customer loyalty and satisfaction.

E.g., customer segmentation, predictive analysis, sentiment analysis, churn prediction.

Operational efficiency

Data analysis can be used to optimise internal processes, identify inefficiencies and bottlenecks, reduce costs.

E.g., pathway modelling, simulation, optimisation, real-time monitoring, predictive maintenance.

Predictive analytics

Predictive modelling and forecasting can be used to anticipate future trends to stay ahead of challenges and opportunities.

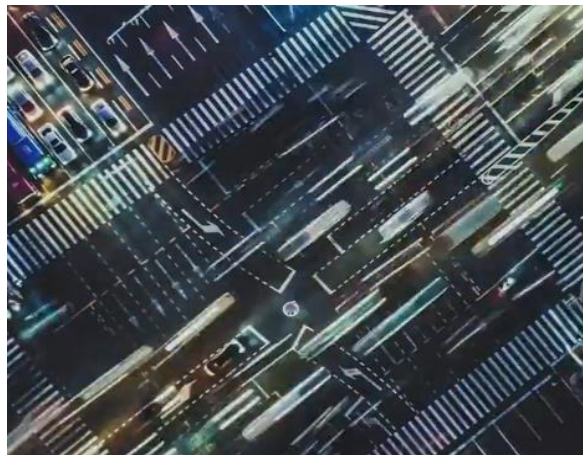
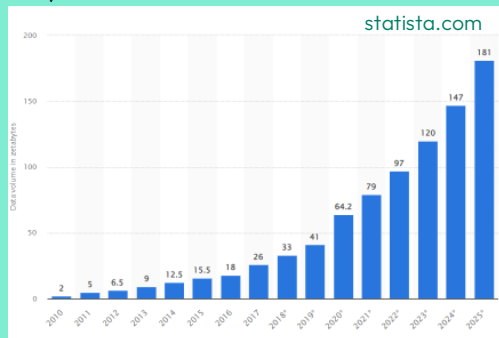
E.g., demand prediction, drivers of customer choice, features predicting churn.

Internet-of-things (IoT) and Big Data

Using sensors and IoT devices connecting everyday objects and machines to the internet creates vast amounts of data that can be used to monitor, predict and optimise systems and processes.

Future and Scope in Data Analytics

Volume of data/information created, captured, copied, and consumed worldwide from 2010 to 2020, with forecasts from 2021 to 2025



“Now that we’re paying such close attention, we can see how data can also be inconclusive, misunderstood and even abused.

We sense now that data has a Big Data problem, opening the door to opportunists who manipulate and misrepresent data to promote their own agenda, undermining both public health as well as civil liberties.

From the politicization of data, to the growing realization of data biases and lack of appropriate investment in data analysis...”

Forbes.com

Week 1 tasks:



Read Chapters 1 and 2
of textbook and watch
videos



1. Download and install R
and RStudio
2. Work on introductory
workshop for Week 1

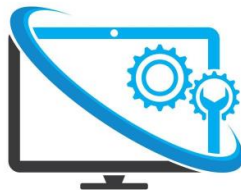


Get in touch through
office hours for any
questions

Week 2 tasks:



Read the materials



1. Prepare for workshop 2



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office hours for any
questions



PRODUCTS ▾

SOLUTIONS ▾

LEARN & SUPPORT ▾

EXPLORE MORE ▾

PRICING



DOWNLOAD

RStudio Desktop

Used by millions of people weekly, the RStudio integrated development environment (IDE) is a set of tools built to help you be more productive with R and Python.

Don't want to download or install anything? Get started with RStudio on [Posit Cloud for free](#). If you're a professional data scientist looking to download RStudio and also need common enterprise features, don't hesitate to [book a call with us](#).

1: Install R

RStudio requires R 3.3.0+. Choose a version of R that matches your computer's operating system.

DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL R

2: Install RStudio

DOWNLOAD RSTUDIO DESKTOP FOR WINDOWS

Size: 214.34 MB | [SHA-256: FE62B784](#) | Version: 2023.09.1+494 |
Released: 2023-10-17



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[DOWNLOAD AND INSTALL R](#)

1

Download and Install R

Precompiled binary distributions of the base system and contributed packages of R:

- [Download R for Linux \(Debian, Fedora/Redhat, Ubuntu\)](#)
- [Download R for macOS](#)
- [Download R for Windows](#)

R is part of many Linux distributions, you should check with your Linux



2

Subdirectories:

[base](#)
[contrib](#)
[old contrib](#)
[Rtools](#)

Binaries for base distribution. This is what you want to [install R for the first time](#).

Binaries of contributed CRAN packages (for R \geq 3.4.x).

Binaries of contributed CRAN packages for outdated versions of R (for R $<$ 3.4.x).

Tools to build R and R packages. This is what you want to build your own packages on Windows, or to build R itself.



3

[Download R-4.3.1 for Windows](#) (79 megabytes, 64 bit)

[README on the Windows binary distribution](#)

[New features in this version](#)



PRODUCTS ▾

SOLUTIONS ▾

LEARN & SUPPORT ▾

EXPLORE MORE ▾

PRICING



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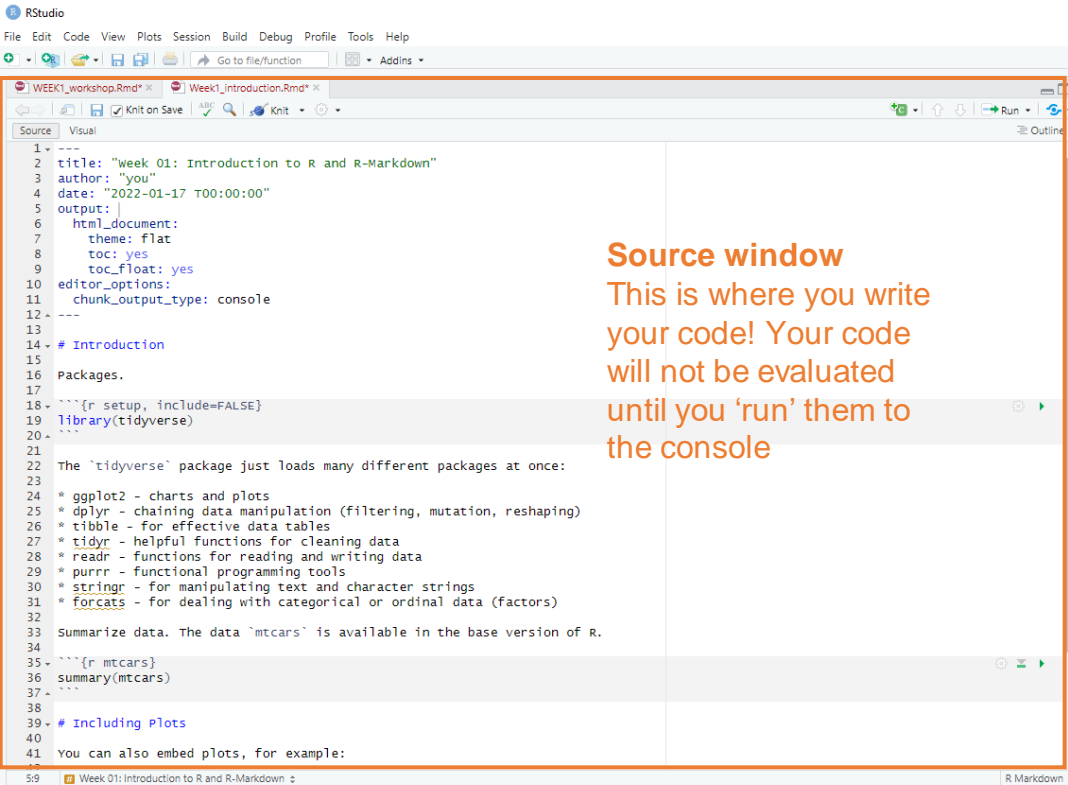


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Download files for Workshop 1

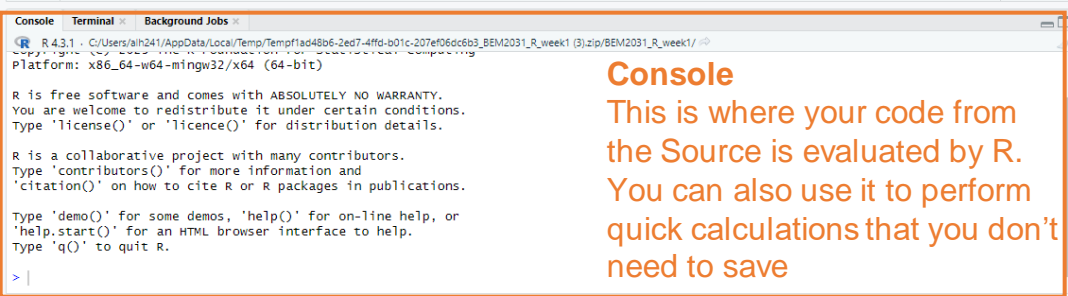
Extract and save them somewhere sensible, for example:

Desktop > Y2_T2_Modules > BEM2031 > Workshops > Week 1



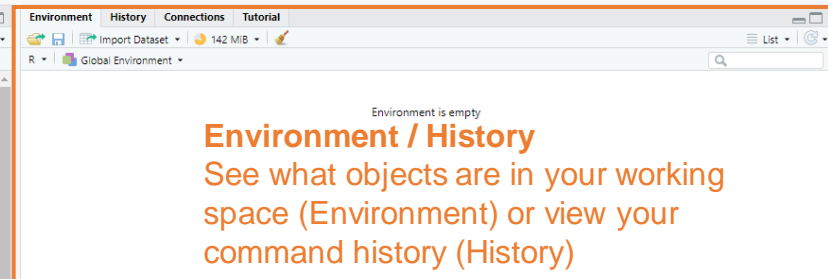
Source window

This is where you write your code! Your code will not be evaluated until you 'run' them to the console



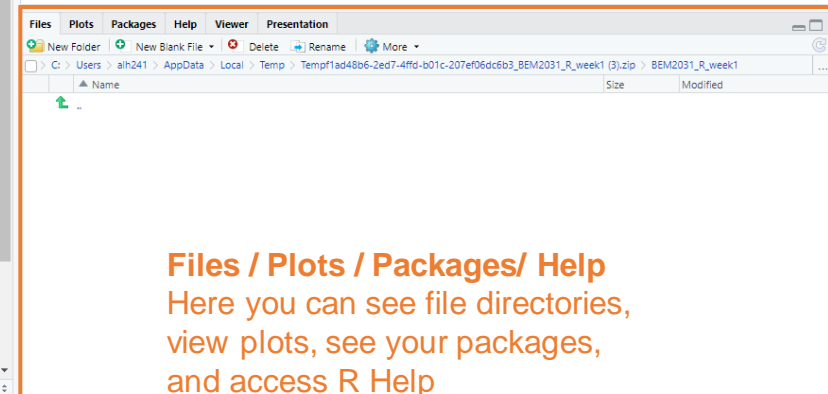
Console

This is where your code from the Source is evaluated by R. You can also use it to perform quick calculations that you don't need to save



Environment / History

See what objects are in your working space (Environment) or view your command history (History)



Files / Plots / Packages/ Help

Here you can see file directories, view plots, see your packages, and access R Help


```
Studio
File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Help
Go to file/function
WEEK1_workshop.Rmd WEEK1_introduction.Rmd
Source Visual
10 editor_options:
11 chunk_output_type: console
12 ---
13
14 # Introduction
15
16 Packages.
17
18 ```{r setup, include=FALSE}
19 library(tidyverse)
20 ```
21
22 The 'tidyverse' package just loads many different packages at once
23
24 * ggplot2 - charts and plots
25 * dplyr - chaining data manipulation (filtering, mutation, reshaping)
26 * tibble - for effective data tables
27 * tidyr - helpful functions for cleaning data
28 * readr - functions for reading and writing data
29 * purrr - functional programming tools
30 * stringr - for manipulating text and character strings
31 * forcats - for dealing with categorical or ordinal data (factors)
32
33 Summarize data. The data 'mtcars' is available in the base version
34
35 ```{r mtcars}
36 summary(mtcars)
37 ```
38
39 # Including Plots
40
41 You can also embed plots, for example:
42
43 ```{r displacement_mpg, echo=FALSE}
44 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = disp, y = mpg)) +
45   geom_point()
46 ```
47
48 ```{r header, echo=TRUE}
49 head(mtcars)
50 ```
51
52 Week 01: Introduction to R and R-Markdown
```

```
Console Terminal Background Jobs
R 4.3.1 - C:/Users/aih241/AppData/Local/Temp/Temp1ad48b6-2ed7-4ff6-b01c-207ef06dc6b3_BEM2031_R_w...
>
> # Chunk 3: displacement_mpg
> ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = disp, y = mpg)) +
+   geom_point()
>
> # Chunk 4: header
> head(mtcars)
      mpg  cyl  disp  hp  drat   wt   qsec  vs  am  gear  carb
Mazda RX4    21.0   6  160 110  3.90 2.620 16.46  0   1    4    4
Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0   6  160 110  3.90 2.875 17.02  0   1    4    4
Datsun 710    22.8   4  108  93  3.85 2.320 18.61  1   1    4    1
Hornet 4 Drive 21.4   6  258 110  3.08 3.215 19.44  1   0    3    1
Hornet Sportabout 18.7  8  360 175  3.15 3.440 17.02  0   0    3    2
valiant      18.1   6  225 105  2.76 3.460 20.22  1   0    3    1
>
```

Week 01: Introduction to R and R-Markdown

you

2022-01-17 T00:00:00

Contents

Introduction

1

Including Plots

2

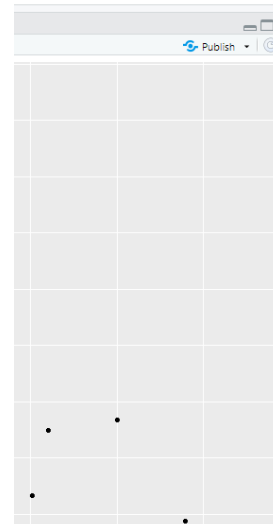
Introduction

Packages.

The `tidyverse` package just loads many different packages at once:

- `ggplot2` - charts and plots :)
- `dplyr` - chaining data manipulation (filtering, mutation, reshaping)
- `tibble` - for effective data tables
- `tidyr` - helpful functions for cleaning data
- `readr` - functions for reading and writing data
- `purrr` - functional programming tools
- `stringr` - for manipulating text and character strings
- `forcats` - for dealing with categorical or ordinal data (factors)

Summarize data. The data `mtcars` is available in the base version of R.





Any questions?

?