

# Introduction to R and RStudio

Data analysis and visualization in R  
UC Merced

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2021-03-23

# outline

- Overview to R and RStudio
- Introduction to R
- Starting with Data
- Exploratory data analysis and basic statistics with R
- Manipulating Data Frames with **dplyr**
- Data visualisation with **ggplot2**

# **overview of R and RStudio**

# why learn R?

- the language of choice for academic statisticians
- ***libre software***: free and free-to-be-used-and-modified for any means -> one of the pillars of open science
- **script-based**: reproducibility, easier to scale up your analyses, transparency (track errors), great way to learn about methods.
- **interdisciplinary and modular**: lots of code written by area specialists. At the core of its philosophy is a smooth transition from user to programmer.
- **communication** with other tools: manuscripts, presentations, apps and dashboards

# why learn R?

- communication with **other programming languages** (ex. **reticulate** to run python scripts)
- great **graphic capabilities!**
- **official support**: help in documentation, mailing lists
- **an active and welcoming community**: email lists, Stack Overflow, **RStudio community**, useR groups, **R-Ladies+** chapters, Slack communities,  **#rstats**



# R has a modular structure: packages

- **R base** installation includes base packages developed and maintained by the **R Core Development Team**
- other packages are created by the community and hosted in **CRAN** (The Comprehensive R Archive Network) or Bioconductor, GitHub, rOpenSci.org
- to install packages from CRAN: `install.packages("tidyverse")`

# Running R in RStudio



R version 4.0.2 (2020-06-22) -- "Taking Off Again"  
Copyright (C) 2020 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing  
Platform: x86\_64-apple-darwin17.0 (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 'q()' to quit R.

> |

Project: (None)

History | Connections | Packages | Tutorial

Environment Files Plots Help Viewer

Name	Size	Modified
.anaconda	10.1 KB	Aug 24, 2020, 9:05 AM
.atom	852 B	Aug 21, 2020, 12:32 PM
.bash_history	98 B	Aug 16, 2018, 12:13 PM
.bash_profile		
.bash_pysave		
.bash_sessions		
.cache		
.CFUserTextEncoding	8 B	Apr 25, 2018, 8:34 AM
.conda	40 B	Aug 24, 2020, 9:18 AM
.condarc		
.config		
.cups		
.dropbox		
.DS_Store	18 KB	Aug 23, 2020, 6:26 PM
.gdal		
.gitconfig	440 B	Feb 11, 2020, 5:48 AM
.gitignore_global	13 B	Feb 10, 2017, 6:38 AM
.hgignore_global	27 B	Feb 10, 2017, 6:38 AM
.ipynb_checkpoints		
.ipython		
.jupyter		
.local		
.matplotlib		
.odbc.ini	0 B	Mar 16, 2020, 8:12 PM
.oracle_jre_usage		

# Setup and project organization

# working directory

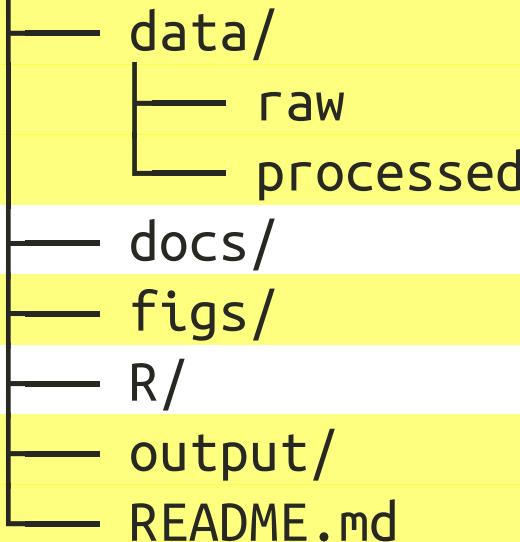
- you have to tell R where you will be working, so that it understands where to read tables, where to save outputs etc: **working directory**
- `getwd()` in the console
- the default is "**home**": check general options and the "File" tab
- you can tell R and RStudio where you want to work with **setwd()**
- even better: instead of opening RStudio open an **R script** or a **RStudio project** (just as you would in MS Word 

# project organization and best practices

- projects are better organized if we use **one folder per project** and **subfolders** within our working directory
- we shouldn't modify **raw data files** but **save processed data** (and the corresponding scripts)
- instead of **absolute paths** we should use **relative paths**:
  - `.` "here"
  - `./figs` a subfolder called `figs`
  - the upper level `..`
- avoid `C:users/your_name/your_file_structure/your_working_directory`

# In this and the following sessions

project/

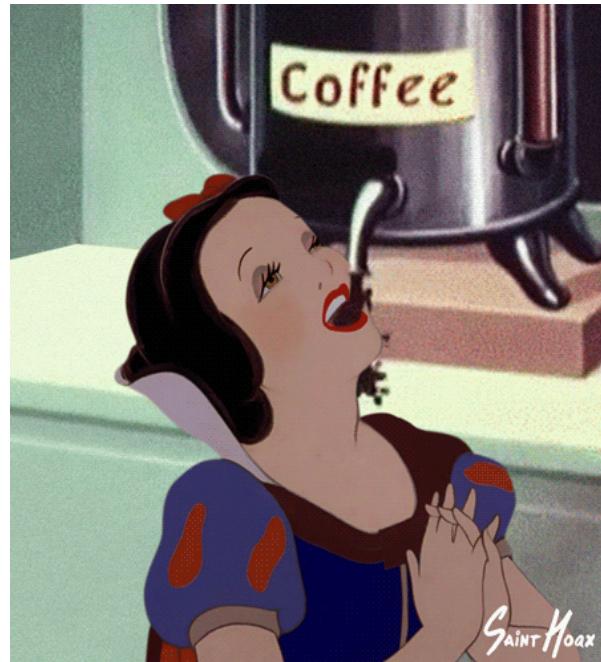


- unzip the .zip file into a folder of your preference



# RStudio projects

RStudio projects create a **.Rproj** file in your folder that acts as a shortcut for your projects



# introduction to R

# introduction to R

- `<-` is the assignment operation in R and it does not return output it **creates objects** that are saved in the workspace (**Alt + -**)
- overwriting objects **does not affect other objects**
- **naming object tips:**
  - don't begin with a number or symbol.
  - there are forbidden words
  - be consistent with your **coding style!**
  - avoid dots
  - **name functions as verbs and objects as nouns**
- you can see which objects are saved in the workspace by using **`ls()`**

# about the workspace

- R creates **objects** that occupy RAM memory: the **workspace**
- the **workspace** can be saved and loaded between sessions BUT
- **you can lose track of how you created the objects in the workspace**
- **#goodpractices** don't save the workspace

in the general options

The screenshot shows the 'General' settings dialog in RStudio. On the left is a sidebar with icons for various sections: Code, Appearance, Pane Layout, Packages, R Markdown, Sweave, Spelling, Git/SVN, Publishing, and Terminal. The 'R Sessions' section is the active tab, indicated by a grey background. At the top right are 'Basic' and 'Advanced' tabs, with 'Basic' being the active one. Below the tabs is the heading 'R Sessions'. Underneath it is a field for the 'Default working directory (when not in a project):' containing the value '~', with a 'Browse...' button next to it. There are two checked checkboxes: 'Restore most recently opened project at startup' and 'Restore previously open source documents at startup'. A red box highlights a group of settings under the heading 'Workspace': 'Restore .RData into workspace at startup' (unchecked) and 'Save workspace to .RData on exit: Never'. Below this is the 'History' section with two checked checkboxes: 'Always save history (even when not saving .RData)' and 'Remove duplicate entries in history'. The 'Other' section contains two checkboxes: 'Wrap around when navigating to previous/next tab' (unchecked) and 'Automatically notify me of updates to RStudio' (checked). At the bottom are 'OK', 'Cancel', and 'Apply' buttons.

General

Code

Appearance

Pane Layout

Packages

R Markdown

Sweave

Spelling

Git/SVN

Publishing

Terminal

Basic Advanced

R Sessions

Default working directory (when not in a project): ~ Browse...

Restore most recently opened project at startup

Restore previously open source documents at startup

**Workspace**

Restore .RData into workspace at startup

Save workspace to .RData on exit: Never

**History**

Always save history (even when not saving .RData)

Remove duplicate entries in history

**Other**

Wrap around when navigating to previous/next tab

Automatically notify me of updates to RStudio

OK Cancel Apply 39 / 66

**functions, arguments and understanding the help**

# functions and arguments

```
weight_kg <- sqrt(10)
```

```
round(3.14159)
```

```
args(round)
```

# if you know the name of the function

```
help(function)  
?function  
args(function)
```

- select the name of the function and click **F1**

Check the structure of the help file:

- Description
- Usage
- Arguments
- Details

# if you don't know the name of the function

`??kruskal`

(or search it - google it - duckduckgo it)

# the structure of a function help

## args(function)

- The arguments of a function are coded:
  - in order
  - with or without default settings

You can either

- use the arguments in order, without naming them
- use the first arguments without naming them and then some optional arguments, with name

# data types in R

```
animals <- c("mouse", "rat", "dog")
weight_g <- c(50, 60, 65, 82)
```

```
class(animals)
```

```
## [1] "character"
```

```
class(weight_g)
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
```

**character** and **numeric** but also **logical** and **integer** ("whole" numbers, with no decimal component, in N), **complex**, and others.

```
icons::fontawesome("laptop-code")
```

# subsetting vectors

- R is **1-indexed** and intervals are closed (not half-open)

```
animals <- c("mouse", "rat", "dog", "cat")
animals[2]
```

```
## [1] "rat"
```

- Subsetting is done with brackets []

```
animals[c(3, 2)]
```

```
## [1] "dog" "rat"
```

# conditional subsetting

```
weight_g <- c(21, 34, 39, 54, 55)
weight_g[c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE, TRUE)]
```

```
## [1] 21 54 55
```

Nobody works like this, instead we use **logical clauses** to **generate** these logical vectors

# logical clauses

- equality or not: `==`, `!=`
- inequalities: `<`, `>`, `<=`, `>=`
- union (OR) `|`
- intersection (AND) `&`
- belonging `%in%`
- differences between sets: `setdiff()`
- negation works `!:` "not in" `!a %in% b`

# comparing vectors

```
animals      <- c("mouse", "rat", "dog", "cat")
more_animals <- c("rat", "cat", "dog", "duck", "goat")
```

```
animals %in% more_animals
```

```
## [1] FALSE  TRUE  TRUE  TRUE
```

# comparing vectors

```
animals      <- c("mouse", "rat", "dog", "cat")
more_animals <- c("rat", "cat", "dog", "duck", "goat")

animals == more_animals
```

```
## Warning in animals == more_animals: longer object length is not a multiple
## shorter object length
```

```
## [1] FALSE FALSE  TRUE FALSE FALSE
```

- Vectors are compared **one by one AND recycled** when one of them is shorter, so use **%in%** when you want to check **belonging to a set**

# missing data

```
heights <- c(2, 4, 4, NA, 6)  
mean(heights)
```

```
## [1] NA
```

```
max(heights)
```

```
## [1] NA
```

```
mean(heights, na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
## [1] 4
```

```
max(heights, na.rm = TRUE)
```

# data structures

- **vector**: lineal arrays (one dimension: only length)
- **factors**: vectors (one-dimensional) representing **categorical variables** and thus having **levels**
- **matrices**: arrays of vectors -> the same type (all numeric or all character, for instance) (two dimensions: width and length)
- **data frames**: two-dimensional arrays but might be of combined types (i.e., column 1 with names, column 2 with numbers)
- **arrays** are similar to matrices and dataframes but may be three-dimensional ("layered" data frames)
- **list**: literally a list of anything (a list of data frames, or different objects)

# Getting help in R



# Other sources of help

- Taskviews

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/views/>

# ¡Thanks!

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