

The Examples Book

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This book contains a collection of examples that students can use to reinforce topics learned in The Data Mine seminar. It is an excellent resource for students to learn what they need to know in order to solve The Data Mine projects.

How to contribute

Contributing to this book is simple:

Small changes and additions

If you have a small change or addition you'd like to make to the book, the easiest way to quickly contribute would be the following method.

1. Navigate to the page or section that needs to be edited
2. Click on the “Edit” button towards the upper left side of the page:



3. You'll be presented with the respective RMarkdown file. Make your modifications.
4. In the “Commit changes” box, select the radio button that says *Create a new branch for this commit and start a pull request*. Give your pull request a title and a detailed description. Name the new branch, and click on “Propose file change”.

5. You’ve successfully submitted a pull request. Our team will review and merge the request shortly thereafter.

Larger changes or additions

If you have larger changes or additions you’d like to make to the book, the easiest way is to edit the contents of the book on your local machine.

Using git in the terminal

1. Setup `git` following the directions here.
2. Start by opening up a terminal and configuring `git` to work with GitHub.
3. Navigate to the directory in which you would like to clone the-examples-book repository. For example, if I wanted to clone the repository in my `~/projects` folder, I’d first execute: `cd ~/projects`.
4. Clone the repository. In this example, let’s assume I’ve cloned the repository into my `~/projects` folder.
5. Navigate into the project folder:

```
cd ~/projects/the-examples-book
```

6. At this point in time your current branch should be the `master` branch. You can verify by running:

```
git branch
```

Note: The highlighted branch starting with “*” is the current branch.

or if you’d like just the name of the branch:

```
git rev-parse --abbrev-ref HEAD
```

7. Create a new branch with whatever name you’d like, and check that branch out. For example, `fix-spelling-errors-01`.
8. Open up RStudio. In the “Files” tab in RStudio, navigate to the repository. In this example, we would navigate to `/Users/kamstut/Documents/GitHub/the-examples-b`. Click on the “More” dropdown and select “Set As Working Directory”.
9. If you do not already have `renv` installed, install it by running the following commands in the console:


```
install.packages("renv")
```

10. Restore the environment by running the following commands in the console:

```
renv::restore()
```

11. In order to compile this book, you must have LaTeX installed. The easiest way to accomplish this is to run the following in the R console:

```
install.packages("tinytex")  
library(tinytex)  
tinytex::install_tinytex()
```

12. In addition, make sure to install both `pandoc` and `pandoc-citeproc` by following the instructions here.
13. Modify the `.Rmd` files to your liking.
14. Click the “Knit” button to compile the book. The resulting “book” is within the “docs” folder.

Important note: If at any point in time you receive an error saying something similar to “there is no package called `my_package`”, simply install the missing package, and try to knit again:

```
install.packages("my_package")  
library(my_package)
```

15. To test the book out, navigate to the “docs” folder and open the `index.html` in the browser of your choice.
16. When you are happy with the modifications you’ve made, commit your changes to the repository.
17. You can continue to make modifications and commit your changes locally. When you are ready, you can push your branch to the remote repository (github.com).
18. At this point in time, you can confirm that the branch has been successfully pushed to github.com by navigating to the repository on github, and click on the “branches” tab:
19. Next, create a pull request. Note that a “Pull Request” is a GitHub-specific concept. You cannot create a pull request using `git`. Navigate to the repository <https://github.com/thedatamine/the-examples-book>, and you should see a message asking if you’d like to create a pull request:

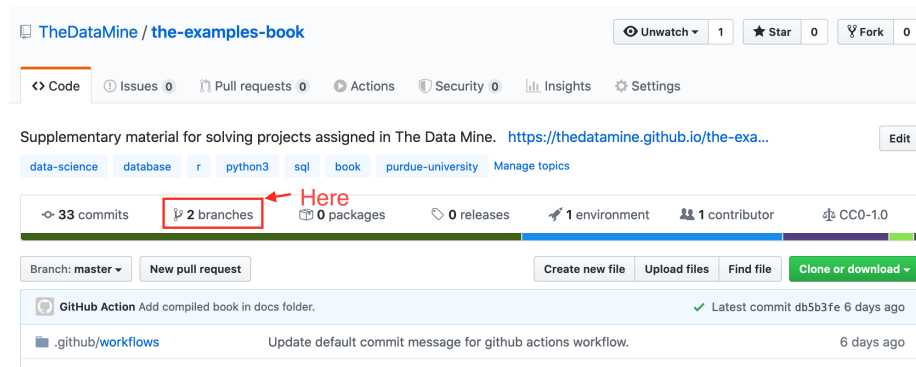


Figure 1.1:



Figure 1.2:

20. Leave a detailed comment about what you've modified or added to the book. You can click on "Preview" to see what your comment will look like. GitHub's markdown applies here. Once satisfied, click "Create pull request".

21. At this point in time, the repository owners will receive a notification and will check and potentially merge the changes into the **master** branch.

Using GitHub Desktop

1. Setup GitHub Desktop following the directions [here](#).
2. When you are presented with the following screen, select "Clone a Repository from the Internet...":



Let's get started!

Add a repository to GitHub Desktop to start collaborating



Create a Tutorial Repository...



Clone a Repository from the Internet...



Create a New Repository on your Hard Drive...



Add an Existing Repository from your Hard Drive...



ProTip! You can drag & drop an existing repository folder here to add it to Desktop

3. Click on the “URL” tab:
4. In the first field, enter “TheDataMine/the-examples-book”. This is the repository for this book.
5. In the second field, enter the location in which you’d like the repository to be cloned to. In this example, the repository will be cloned into `/Users/kamstut/Documents/GitHub`. The result will be a new folder

Clone a Repository ×

GitHub.com	GitHub Enterprise Server	URL
Repository URL or GitHub username and repository (hubot/cool-repo) <input type="text" value="URL or username/repository"/>		
Local Path <input type="text" value="/Users/kamstut/Documents/GitHub"/> Choose...		

Cancel Clone

Figure 1.3:

- called `the-examples-book` in `/Users/kamstut/Documents/GitHub`.
- Click “Clone”.
 - Upon completion, you will be presented with a screen similar to this:
 - At this point in time, your current branch will be the `master` branch. Create a new branch with whatever name you’d like. For example, `fix-spelling-errors-01`.
 - Open up RStudio. In the “Files” tab in RStudio, navigate to the repository. In this example, we would navigate to `/Users/kamstut/Documents/GitHub/the-examples-book`. Click on the “More” dropdown and select “Set As Working Directory”.
 - If you do not already have `renv` installed, install it by running the following commands in the console:

```
install.packages("renv")
```

- Restore the environment by running the following commands in the console:

```
renv::restore()
```

- In order to compile this book, you must have LaTeX installed. The easiest way to accomplish this is to run the following in the R console:



Figure 1.4:

```
install.packages("tinytex")
library(tinytex)
tinytex::install_tinytex()
```

13. In addition, make sure to install both `pandoc` and `pandoc-citeproc` by following the instructions here.
14. Modify the `.Rmd` files to your liking.
15. Click the “Knit” button to compile the book. The resulting “book” is within the “docs” folder.

Important note: If at any point in time you receive an error saying something similar to “there is no package called `my_package`”, simply install the missing package, and try to knit again:

```
install.packages("my_package")
library(my_package)
```

16. To test the book out, navigate to the “docs” folder and open the `index.html` in the browser of your choice.

17. When you are happy with the modifications you've made, commit your changes to the repository.
18. You can continue to make modifications and commit your changes locally. When you are ready, you can publish your branch:

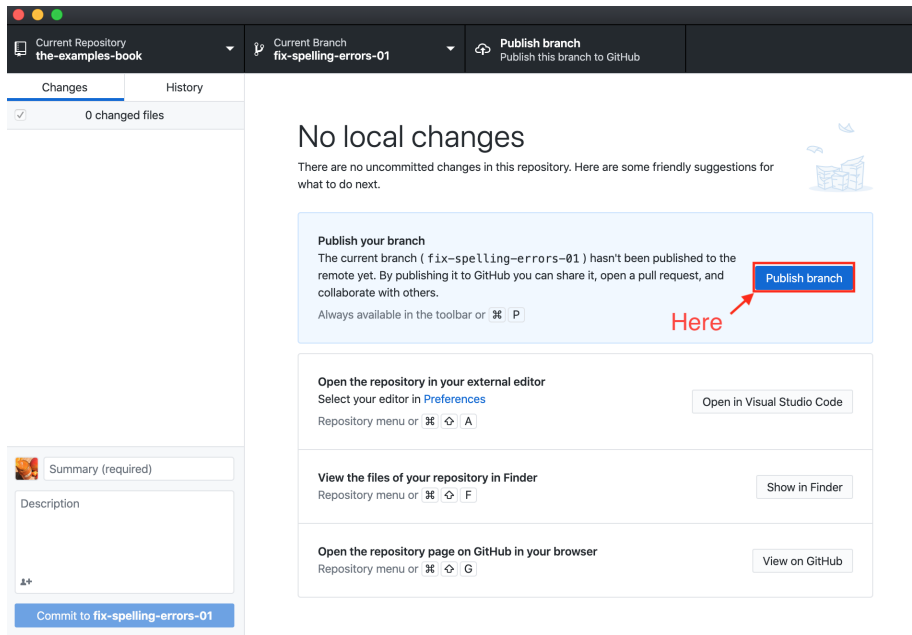


Figure 1.5:

19. Upon publishing your branch, within GitHub Desktop, you'll be presented with the option to create a pull request:
20. At this point in time, the repository owners will receive a notification and will check and potentially merge the changes into the **master** branch.

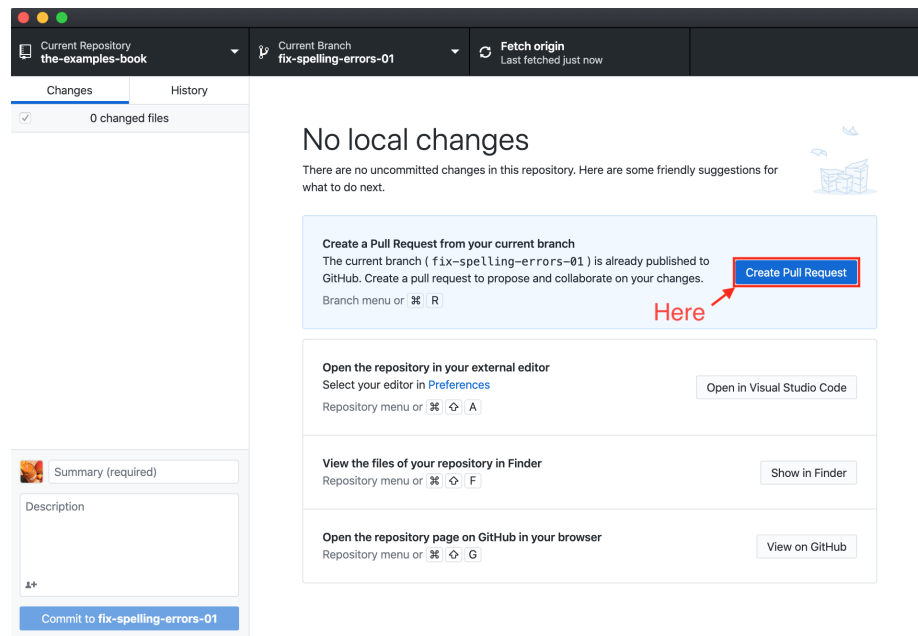


Figure 1.6:

Chapter 2

Scholar

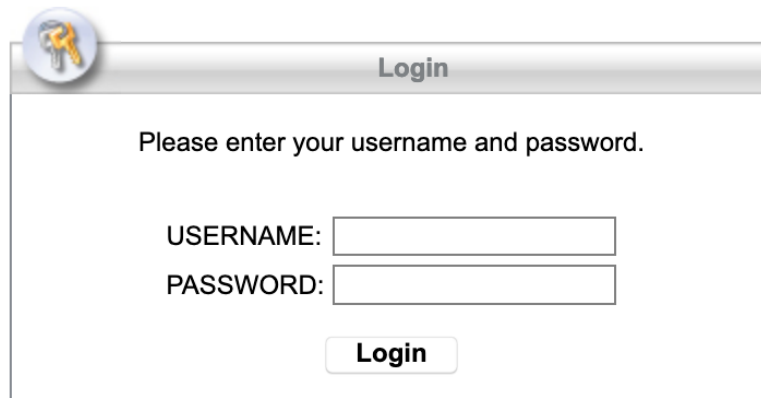
Connecting to Scholar

ThinLinc web client

1. Open a browser and navigating to <https://desktop.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>.
2. Login with your Purdue Career Account credentials (**without** BoilerKey).
3. Congratulations, you should now be connected to Scholar using the ThinLinc web client.

ThinLinc client

1. Navigate to <https://webvpn.purdue.edu/>. You should see a login screen:



Login

Please enter your username and password.

USERNAME:

PASSWORD:

Login

2. Enter your Purdue Career Account credentials (**with** BoilerKey).
3. Download and install the Cisco AnyConnect Secure Mobility Client.
4. Open the AnyConnect client and enter the domain for Purdue's vpn:



`webvpn.purdue.edu`, and click “Connect”:

5. When prompted, enter your Purdue Career Account credentials (**with** BoilerKey).
6. You should be successfully connected to Purdue's VPN! You can read more about VPNs [here](#).
7. Navigate to <https://www.cendio.com/thinlinc/download>, and download the ThinLinc client application for your operating system.



8. Install and launch the ThinLinc client: **Enter username and password to connect.**
9. Enter your Purdue Career Account information (**without** BoilerKey), as well as the server: `desktop.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu`.
10. Click on “Options...” and fill out the “Screen” tab as shown below:



11. Click “OK” and then “Connect”. **Make sure you are connected to Purdue’s VPN using AnyConnect before clicking “Connect”!**
12. If you are presented with a choice like below, click “Continue”.



13. Congratulations, you are now successfully connected to Scholar using the ThinLinc client.

NOTE: If you do accidentally get stuck in full screen mode, the F8

key will help you to escape.

NOTE: The very first time that you log onto Scholar, you will have an option of “use default config” or “one empty panel”. **PLEASE** choose the “use default config”.

SSH

Windows

MacOS

Linux

JupyterHub

1. Open a browser and navigate to <https://notebook.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>.
2. Enter your Purdue Career Account credentials (**without** BoilerKey).
3. Congratulations, you should now be able to create and run Jupyter notebooks on Scholar!

RStudio Server

1. Open a browser and navigate to <https://rstudio.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>.
2. Enter your Purdue Career Account credentials (**without** BoilerKey).
3. Congratulations, you should now be able to create and run R scripts on Scholar!

Resources

Chapter 3

Unix

Getting started

Standard utilities

`man`

`tldr`

`~ & . & ..`

`cat`

`ls`

`cp`

`mv`

`pwd`

`touch`

`wc`

`ssh`

`mosh`

`scp`

`cut`

`cut` is a tool to cut out parts of a line based on position/character/delimiter/etc and directing the output to `stdout`. It is particularly useful to get a certain

column of data.

How do I get the first column of a csv file called 'office.csv'?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
cut -d ',' -f 1 office.csv
```

How do I get the first and third column of a csv file called 'office.csv'?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
cut -d ',' -f 1,3 office.csv
```

How do I get the first and third column of a file with columns separated by the “|” character?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
cut -d '|' -f 1,3 office.csv
```

awk

sed

grep

It is very simple to get started searching for patterns in files using `grep`.

How do I search for lines with the word “Exact” in the file located /home/john/report.txt?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
grep Exact /home/john/report.txt  
  
# or  
  
grep "Exact" "/home/john/report.txt"
```

How do I search for lines with the word “Exact” or “exact” in the file located `/home/john/report.txt`?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
grep -i Exact /home/john/report.txt  
  
# or  
  
grep -i "Exact" "/home/john/report.txt"
```

How do I search for lines with a string containing multiple words, like “how do I”?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
grep -i "how do i" /home/john/report.txt
```

How do I search for lines with the word “Exact” or “exact” in the files in the folder and all sub-folders located `/home/john/`?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
grep -Ri Exact /home/john
```

How do I search for the lines that don’t contain the words “Exact” or “exact” in the folder and all sub-folders located `/home/john/`?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
grep -Rvi Exact /home/john
```

How do I search for lines where one or more of the words “first” or “second” appears in the current folder and all sub-folders?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
grep -Ri "first\\|second" .
```


How do I search for lines that begin with the word “Exact” (case insensitive) in the folder and all sub-folders located in the current directory?

The “^” is called an anchor and indicates the start of a line.

<summary>Click here for solution</summary>

```
grep -Ri "^Exact" .
```

How do I search for lines that end with the word “Exact” (case insensitive) in the files in the current folder and all sub-folders?

The “\$” is called an anchor and indicates the end of a line. Click here for solution

```
grep -Ri "Exact$" .
```

How do I search for lines that contain only the word “Exact” (case insensitive) in the files in the current folder and all sub-folders?

Click here for solution

```
grep -Ri "^Exact$" .
```

How do I search for strings or sub-strings where the first character could be anything, but the next two characters are “at”? For example: “cat”, “bat”, “hat”, “rat”, “pat”, “mat”, etc.

Click here for solution The “.” is a wildcard, meaning it matches any character (including spaces).

```
grep -Ri ".at" .
```

Resources

Regex Tester:

<https://regex101.com/> is an excellent tool that helps you quickly test and better understand writing regular expressions. It allows you to test four different “flavors” or regular expressions: PCRE (PHP), ECMAScript (JavaScript), Python, and Golang. regex101 also provides a library of useful, pre-made regular expressions.

`ripgrep`

`find`

`fd`

`top`

`less & more`

`sort`

`git`

See [here](#).

Piping & Redirection

Emacs

Nano

Vim

Writing scripts

Chapter 4

SQL

RDBMS

SQL in R

SQL in Python

Chapter 5

R

Getting started

How to install R (windows/mac/linux) How to install RStudio How to connect to RStudio Server on Scholar How to get help (`?`, `help()`, get function itself)

Variables

Logical operators

Lists & Vectors

Basic R functions

Data.frames

Reading & Writing data

Control flow

Apply functions

`apply`

`sapply`

`lapply`

`tapply`

Writing functions

Plotting

`ggplot`

`ggmap`

RMarkdown

To install RMarkdown simply run the following:

```
install.packages("rmarkdown")
```

Projects in The Data Mine are all written in RMarkdown. You can download the RMarkdown file by clicking on the link at the top of each project page. Each file should end in the “.Rmd” which is the file extension commonly associated with RMarkdown files.

You can find an exemplary RMarkdown file here:

<https://raw.githubusercontent.com/TheDataMine/the-examples-book/master/files/rmarkdown.Rmd>

If you open this file in RStudio, and click on the “Knit” button in the upper left hand corner of IDE, you will get the resulting HTML file. Open this file in the web browser of your choice and compare and contrast the syntax in the `rmarkdown.Rmd` file and resulting output. Play around with the file, make modifications, and re-knit to gain a better understanding of the syntax. Note that similar input/output examples are shown in the RMarkdown Cheatsheet.

Code chunks

Code chunks are sections within an RMarkdown file where you can write, display, and optionally evaluate code from a variety of languages:

## [1] "awk"	"bash"	"coffee"	"gawk"	"groovy"
## [6] "haskell"	"lein"	"mysql"	"node"	"octave"
## [11] "perl"	"psql"	"Rscript"	"ruby"	"sas"
## [16] "scala"	"sed"	"sh"	"stata"	"zsh"
## [21] "highlight"	"Rcpp"	"tikz"	"dot"	"c"
## [26] "fortran"	"fortran95"	"asy"	"cat"	"asis"
## [31] "stan"	"block"	"block2"	"js"	"css"
## [36] "sql"	"go"	"python"	"julia"	"sass"
## [41] "scss"	"theorem"	"lemma"	"corollary"	"proposition"
## [46] "conjecture"	"definition"	"example"	"exercise"	"proof"
## [51] "remark"	"solution"			

The syntax is simple:

```
```{language, options...}
code here...
```
```

For example:

```
```{r, echo=TRUE}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
my_variable
```
```

Which will render like:

```
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)  
my_variable
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3
```

You can find a list of chunk options [here](#).

How do I run a code chunk but not display the code above the results?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
```{r, echo=FALSE}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
my_variable
```
```

How do I include a code chunk without evaluating the code itself?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
```{r, eval=FALSE}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
my_variable
```
```

How do I prevent warning messages from being displayed?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
```{r, warning=FALSE}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
my_variable
```
```


How do I prevent error messages from being displayed?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
```{r, error=FALSE}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
my_variable
```
```

How do I run a code chunk, but not include the chunk in the final output?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
```{r, include=FALSE}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
my_variable
```
```

How do I render a figure from a chunk?

[Click here for solution](#)

```
```{r}  
my_variable <- c(1,2,3)
plot(my_variable)
```
```

How do I create a set of slides using RMarkdown?

[Click here for solution](#) Please see the example Rmarkdown file [here](#).

Please see the resulting ioslides presentation [here](#)

You can change the slide format by changing the yaml header to any of: ioslides_presentation, slidy_presentation, or beamer_presentation.

By default all first and second level headers (# and ##, respectively) will create a new slide. To manually create a new slide, you can use ***.

Resources

RMarkdown Cheatsheet:

An excellent quick reference for RMarkdown syntax.

RMarkdown Reference:

A thorough reference manual showing markdown input and expected output. Gives descriptions of the various chunk options, as well as output options.

RStudio RMarkdown Lessons:

A set of lessons detailing the ins and outs of RMarkdown.

Markdown Tutorial:

RMarkdown uses Markdown syntax for its text. This is a good, interactive tutorial to learn the basics of Markdown. This tutorial is available in multiple languages.

RMarkdown Gallery:

This gallery highlights a variety of reproducible and interactive RMarkdown documents. An excellent resource to see the power of RMarkdown.

RMarkdown Chapter:

This is a chapter from Hadley Wickham's excellent *R for Data Science* book that details important parts of RMarkdown.

RMarkdown in RStudio:

This is a nice article that introduces RMarkdown, and guides the user through creating their own interactive document using RMarkdown in RStudio.

Reproducible Research:

This is another good resource that introduces RMarkdown. Plenty of helpful pictures and screenshots.

Tidyverse

data.table

SQL in R

Scraping

shiny

Rendering images

Chapter 6

Python

Getting started

Lists & Tuples

Dicts

Control flow

Writing functions

Reading & Writing data

`numpy`

`scipy`

`pandas`

Jupyter notebooks

Writing scripts

`argparse`

Scraping

Plotting

`matplotlib`

Chapter 7

Tools

Docker

Tableau

GitHub

Overview

GitHub is a `git` repository hosting service. There are other, less well known repository hosting services such as: GitLab, Bitbucket, and Gitea. `git` itself is a free and open source version-control system for tracking changes in source code during software development.¹

`git`

Install

1. Follow the instructions here to install `git` onto your machine.

Configure `git`

1. Run the following commands:

¹<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Git>

```
git config --global user.name "You name here"  
git config --global user.email "your_email@example.com"
```

2. Next, you need to authenticate with GitHub. Create a public/private keypair:

```
ssh-keygen -t rsa -C "your_email@example.com"
```

This creates two files:

~/.ssh/id_rsa –your private key

and

~/.ssh/id_rsa.pub –your public key

3. Copy your **public** key to your clipboard.
4. Navigate and sign in to <https://github.com>.
5. Go here, and click “New SSH key”.
6. Name the key whatever you’d like in the “Title” field. Usually, I put the name of the computer I’m using.
7. Paste the key in the “Key” field, and click “Add SSH key”.
8. At this point in time you should be good to go. Verify by running the following in your terminal:

```
ssh -T git@github.com
```

You should receive a message like:

```
Hi username! You’ve successfully authenticated, but Github does  
not provide shell access.
```

Clone a repository

If you’ve followed the directions here to configure git with SSH:

1. Open a terminal and navigate into the folder in which you’d like to clone the repository. For example, let’s say I would like to clone this book’s repository into my ~/projects folder:

```
cd ~/projects
```

2. Next, run the following command:

```
git clone git@github.com:TheDataMine/the-examples-book.git
```

3. At this point in time, you should have a new folder called `the-examples-book` inside your `~/projects` folder.

Commit changes to a repository

Creating a commit is simple:

1. Navigate into your project repository folder. For example, let's assume our repository lives: `~/projects/the-examples-book`.

```
cd ~/projects/the-examples-book
```

2. Modify the repository files as you would like, saving the changes.
3. Create your commit, with an accompanying message:

```
git commit -m "Fixed minor spelling error."
```

Fetch remote changes

1. Navigate to the local repository. For example, let's assume our repository lives: `~/projects/the-examples-book`.

```
cd ~/projects/the-examples-book
```

2. Fetch and pull the changes:

```
git fetch  
git pull
```

Push local commits to the remote origin

1. First fetch any remote changes.
2. Then run the following commands:

```
git push
```

Create a new branch

To create a new branch based off of the **master** branch do the following.

1. Checkout the master branch:

```
git checkout master
```

2. Create a new branch named **fix-spelling-errors-01** based off of the master branch and check the new **fix-spelling-errors-01** branch out:

```
git checkout -b fix-spelling-errors-01
```

Publish your branch to GitHub

If your current local branch is not present on its remote origin, git push will publish the branch to GitHub.

Create a pull request

After publishing a local branch to GitHub, in order to create a pull request, simply navigate to the following link:

https://github.com/my_organization/my_repo/pull/new/my_branch_name

Replace **my_organization** with the username or organization name. For example: **thedatamine**.

Replace **my_repo** with the name of the repository. For example: **the-examples-book**.

Replace **my_branch_name** with the name of the branch you would like to have merged into the **master** branch. For example: **fix-spelling-errors-01**.

So at the end, using our examples, you would navigate to:

<https://github.com/TheDataMine/the-examples-book/pull/new/fix-spelling-errors-01>

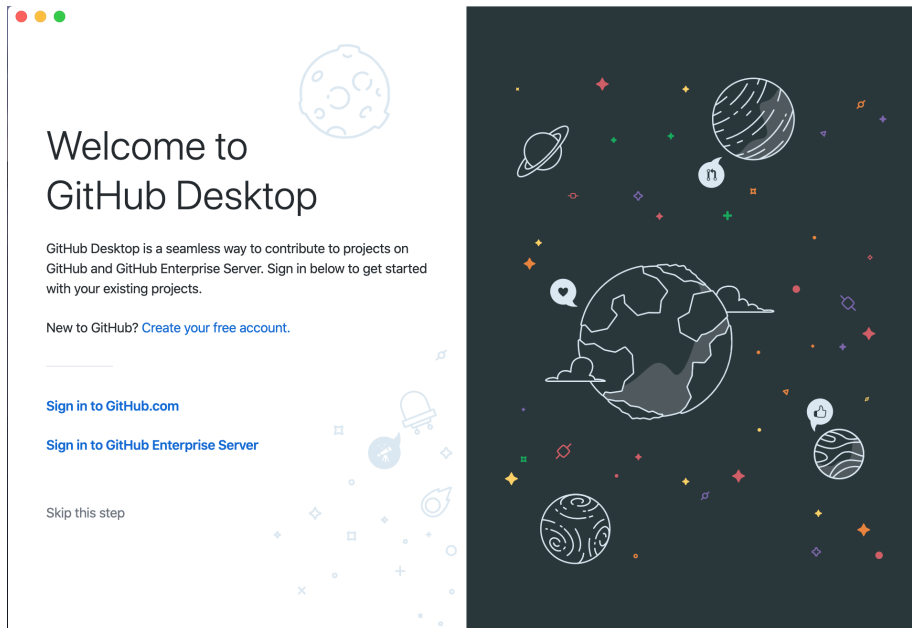
Fill out the information, and click “Create pull request”.

GitHub Desktop

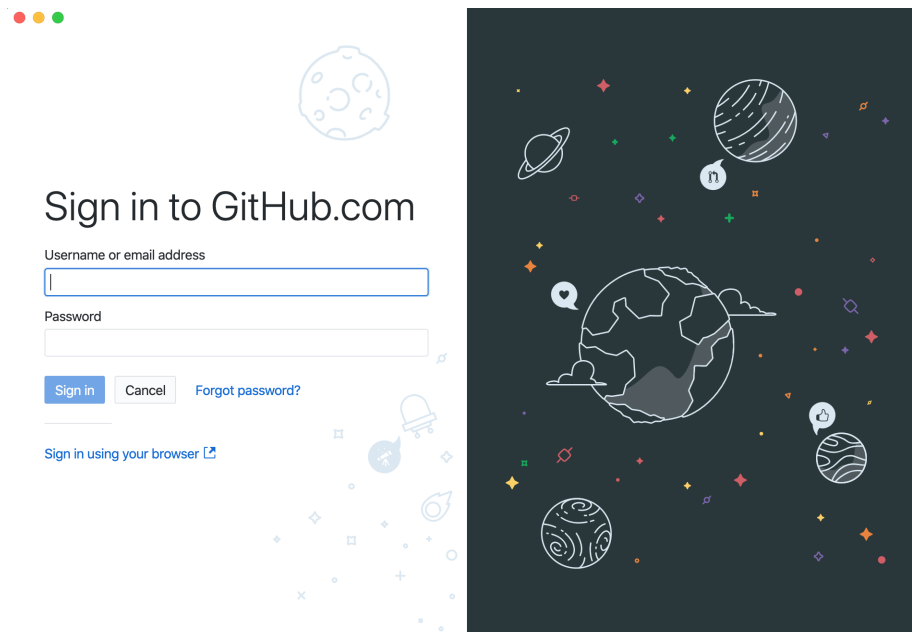
Install

1. Follow the excellent directions here to install GitHub Desktop.

2. Upon the launch of the application, you should be presented with a screen similar to this:



3. Click on "Sign in to GitHub.com." 4. Enter your GitHub credentials in the following screen:

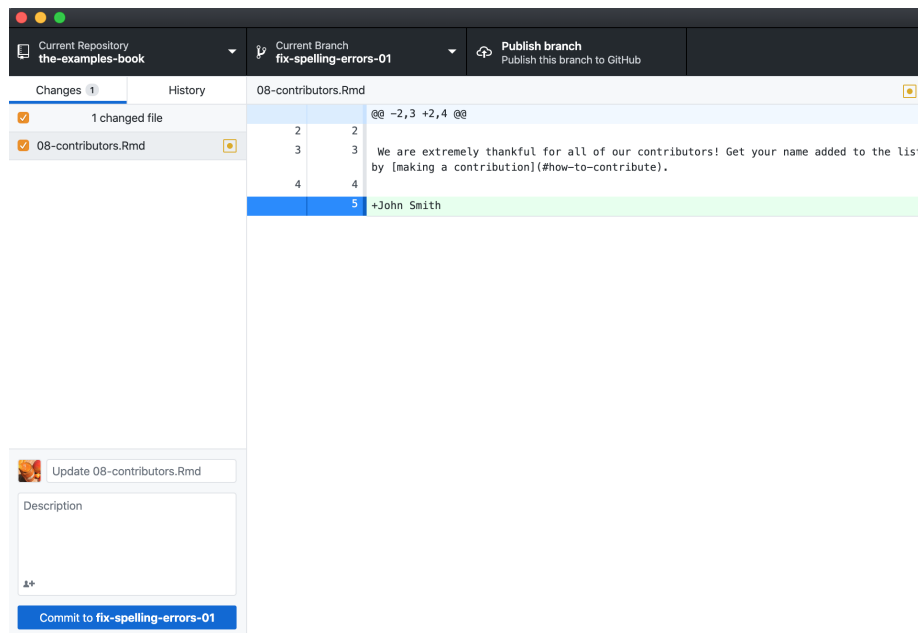


5. Continue the sign in process. You will eventually be presented with a screen

to select a repository. Congratulations! You’ve successfully installed GitHub Desktop.

Commit changes to a repository

1. First, make a change to to a file within the repository. In this example, I added a contributor named John Smith:



2. In the lower left-hand corner of the GUI, add a Commit title and description. Concise and detailed titles and descriptions are best. Click “Commit to **name-of-branch**” in this case, our branch name is **fix-spelling-errors-01**.
3. At this point in time the Commit is only local (on your machine). In order to update the remote respository (on GitHub), you’ll need to publish your branch.

If your branch is already published (present on github.com), you’ll need to push your local commits to the remote origin (which is the remote **fix-spelling-errors-01** branch in this case) by clicking on the “Push origin” button:

Push local commits to the remote origin

1. If you have commits that are ready to be pushed to the remote origin (github.com), you’ll be presented with a screen similar to this:

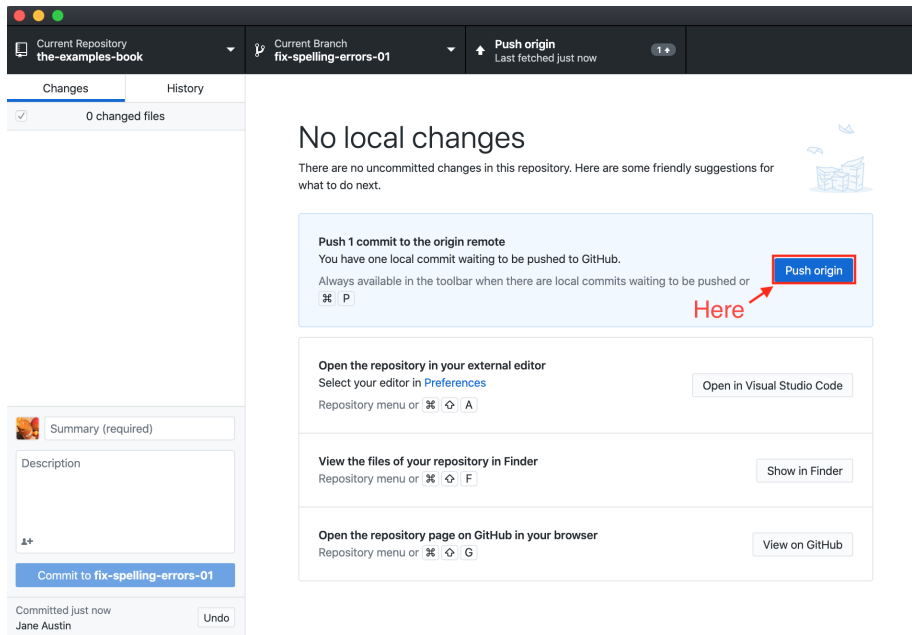


Figure 7.1:

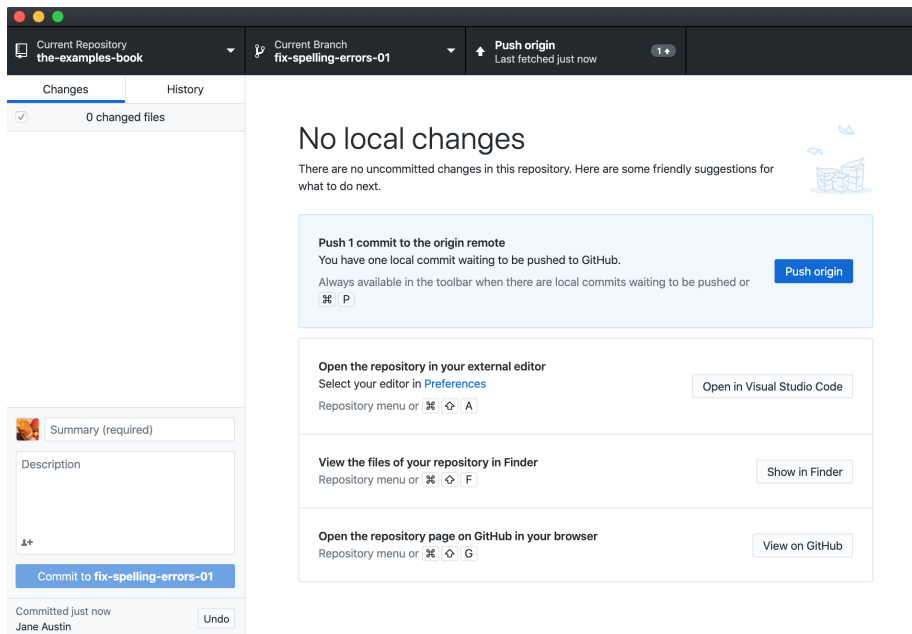


Figure 7.2:

2. Simply click on the “Push origin” button in order to push your local commits to the remote origin (which is in this case, a remote branch called `fix-spelling-errors-01`):

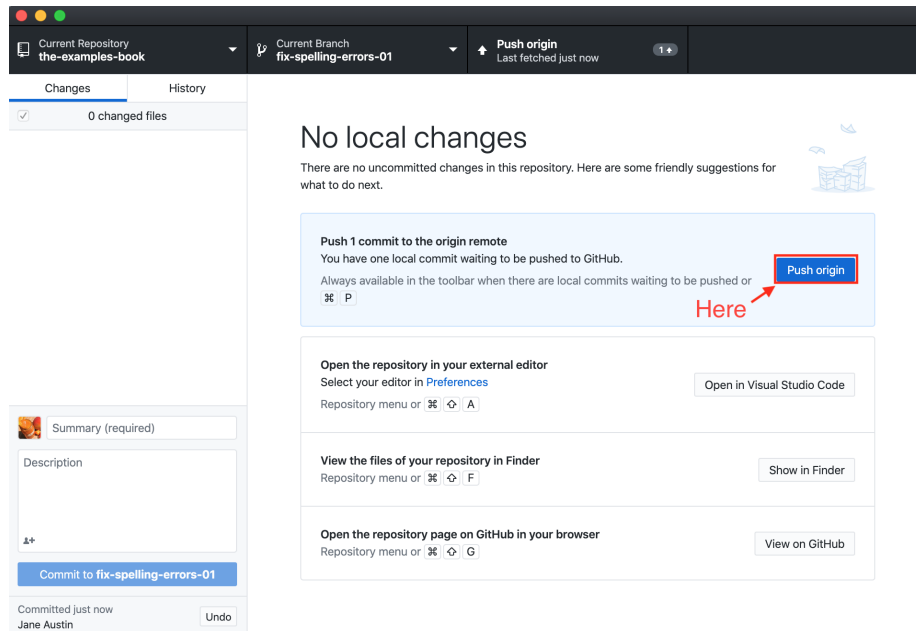
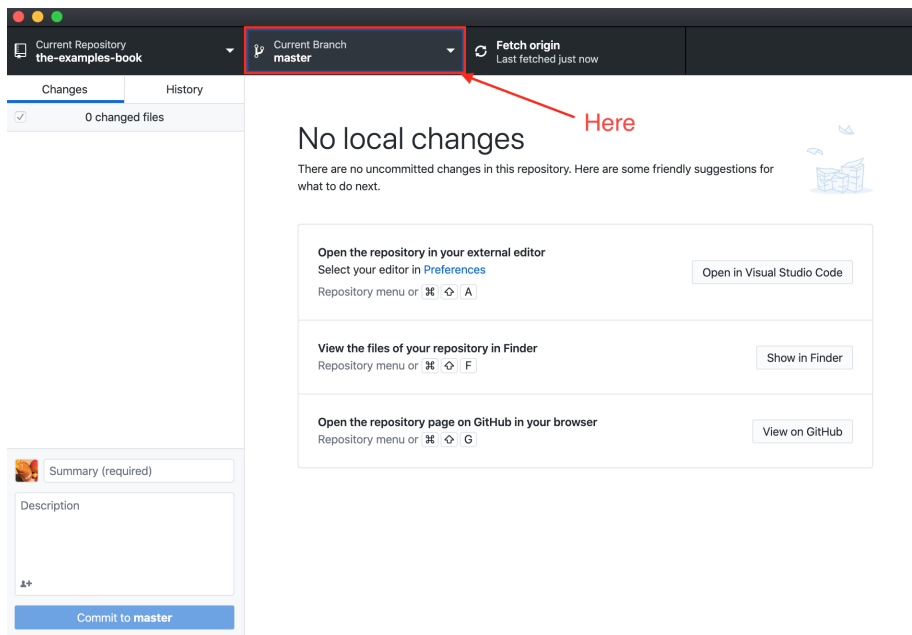


Figure 7.3:

3. You can verify that the changes have been made by navigating to the branch on github.com, and checking the commit history.

Create a new branch

1. In GitHub Desktop, click on the “Current Branch” dropdown:



2. Click on the “New Branch” button:

Branches

Pull Requests

New Branch


Here

Default Branch


✓ master

5 days ago

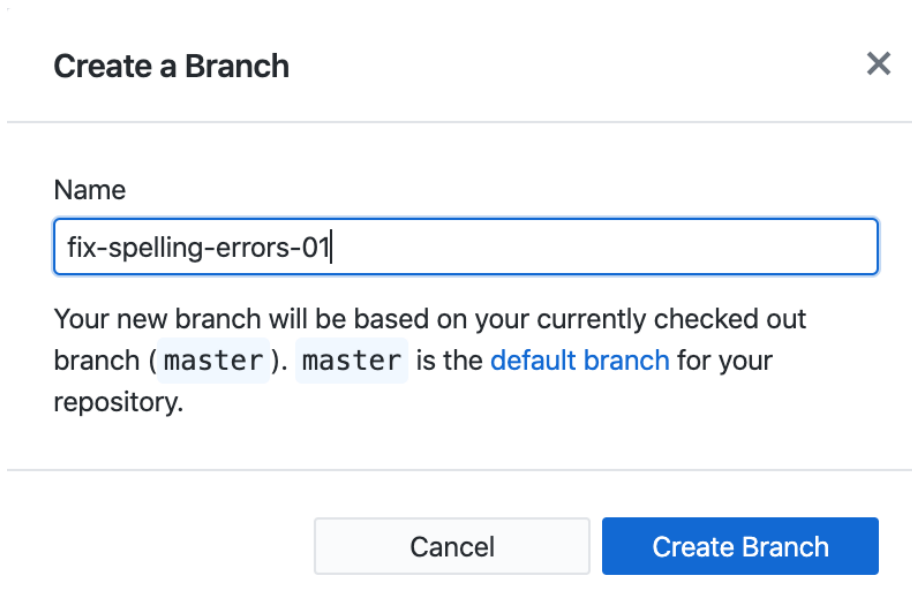
Other Branches

 origin/kevinamstutz-patch-1

5 days ago

 Choose a branch to merge into **master**

When presented with the following screen, ensure that your new branch will be based on the `master` branch:



Create a Branch ✕

Name

fix-spelling-errors-01

Your new branch will be based on your currently checked out branch (`master`). `master` is the **default branch** for your repository.

Cancel Create Branch

4. Type whatever name you'd like to give the new branch. In this case, we are calling it `fix-spelling-errors-01`. Click "Create Branch". 5. Your current branch should now be `fix-spelling-errors-01` or whatever name you entered in step (4). You can see this in the dropdown:

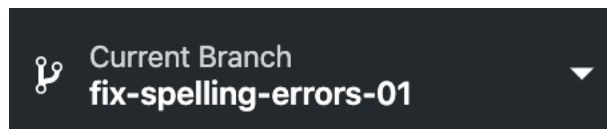
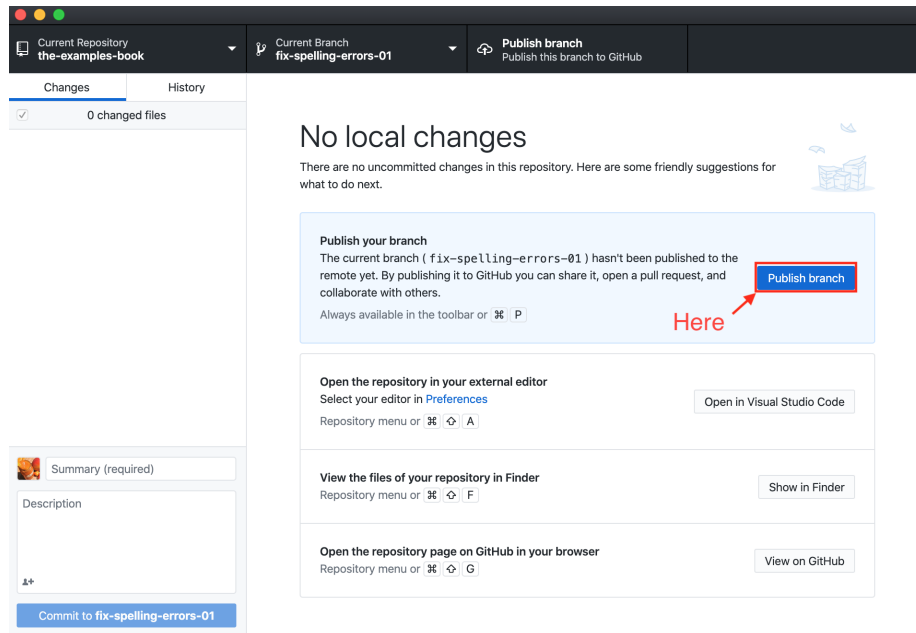


Figure 7.4:

Publish your branch to GitHub

1. If the branch you created is not already present remotely, you'll have a button available to you that says "Publish Branch". Clicking this button will push the branch to the remote repository (on github.com):



2. You can confirm that the branch has been successfully pushed to github.com by navigating to the repository on github, and clicking on the “branches” tab:

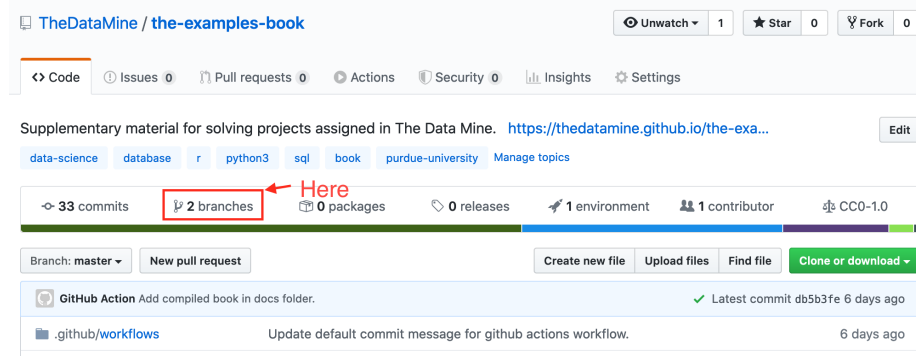


Figure 7.5:

Create a pull request

1. If the branch you are working on is already published remotely, and the remote repository and local repository are both up to date, you will be presented with a screen similar to this:

Note that if your local repository is ahead of the remote repository, you will instead be presented with a screen similar to this:

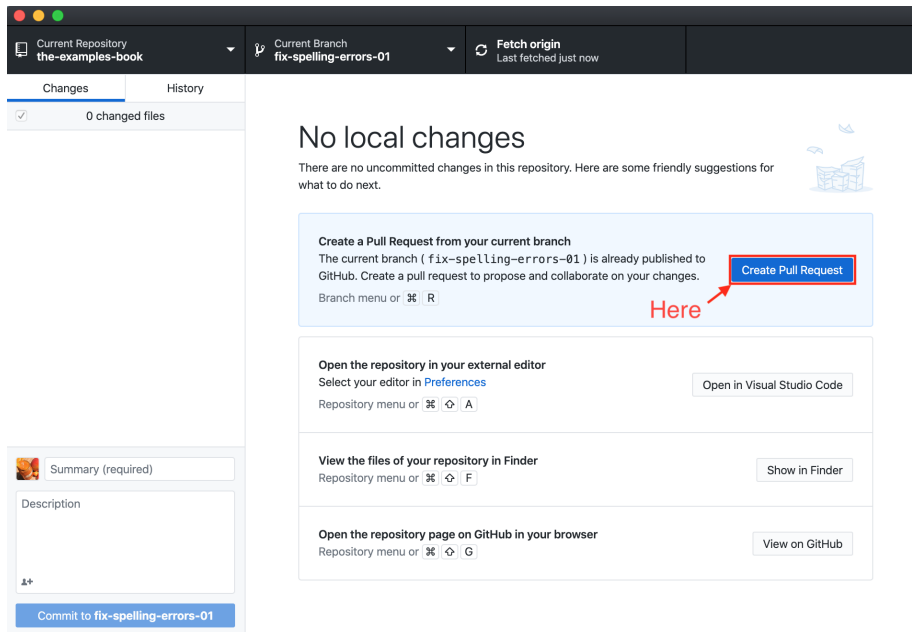


Figure 7.6:

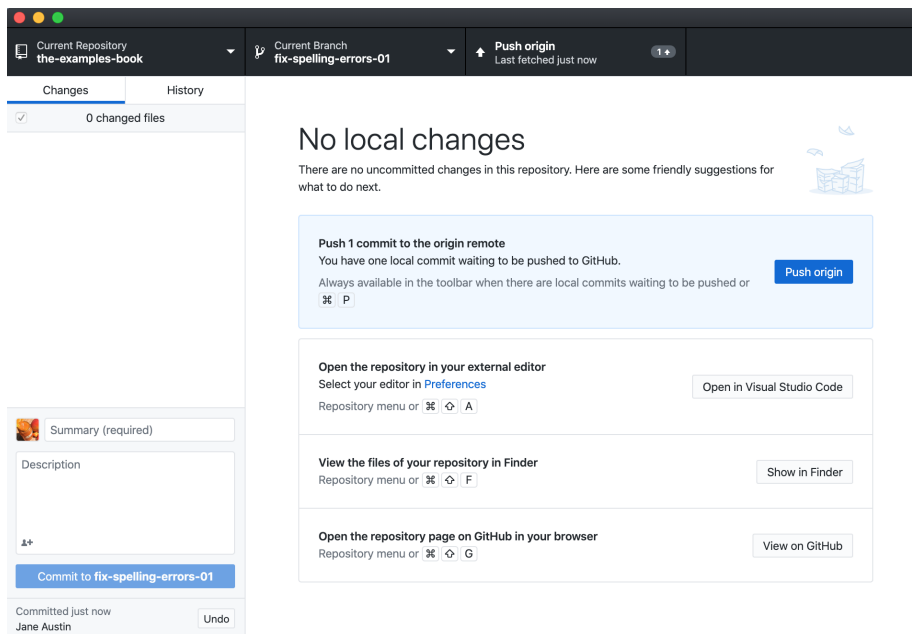


Figure 7.7:

You will first need to push your local commits to the origin (which is the remote `fix-spelling-errors-01` branch in this case) by clicking on the “Push origin” button.

2. Click the “Create Pull Request” button. This will open up a tab in your browser:

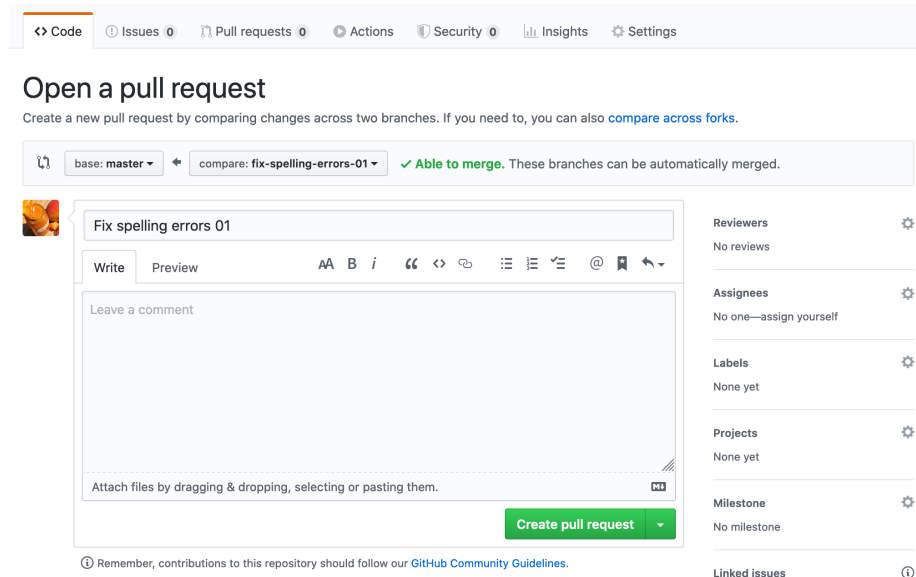


Figure 7.8:

3. Leave a detailed comment about what you’ve modified or added to the book. You can click on “Preview” to see what your comment will look like. GitHub’s markdown applies here. Once satisfied, click “Create pull request”.

Resources

GitHub glossary:

An excellent resource to understand `git` and GitHub specific terminology.

Learn git branching:

An interactive game that teaches you about `git` branching.

VPNs

Chapter 8

FAQs

How do I connect to Scholar from off-campus?

There are a variety of ways to connect to Scholar from off-campus. You can use the ThinLinc web client, or setup a VPN connection to Purdue's VPN, and connect using the ThinLinc client application. If you just want to use Jupyter notebooks, you can use JupyterHub. If you just want to use RStudio, you can use RStudio Server.

Is there an advantage to using the ThinLinc client rather than the ThinLinc web client?

Yes. Although it is marginally more difficult to connect with, the ThinLinc client allows the user to copy and paste directly from their native operating system. So for example, if you have an RStudio session opened on your MacBook, you can directly copy and paste code onto Scholar using the ThinLinc client. You are unable to do this via the ThinLinc web client.

GitHub Classroom is not working – can't authorize the account.

This is usually a browser issue. GitHub Classroom does not work well with Microsoft Edge or Internet Explorer. Try Firefox or Safari or Chrome.

In Scholar, my font size looks weird or my cursor is offset.

In scholar, navigate to **Tools > Global Options > Appearance**, and select the “Monospace” font, and click the “Apply” button.

How do I make the ThinLinc window bigger without going to the dreaded “full screen” mode?

See [here](#).

I’m unable to type into the terminal in RStudio.

Try opening a new terminal, try clearing the terminal buffer, or interrupting the current terminal. All these options come from a menu that will pop up when you hit the small down arrow next to the words “Terminal 1” (it might be another number depending on how many terminals are open) which is on the left side right above the terminal in RStudio.

I’m unable to connect to RStudio Server.

Try closing it, clearing your cookies, and using the original link: <https://rstudio.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>, or for ease of scrolling, try <https://desktop.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>, and open up RStudio from within the ThinLinc web client.

RStudio initialization error.

1. Navigate to <https://desktop.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/> and login using your Purdue Career Account credentials.
2. Open a terminal (*not* RStudio, but rather, a terminal).
3. Run the following commands, one at a time. Be sure to replace *yourusername* with your actual Purdue alias. These commands connect you to the various Scholar frontends and kill all of the processes running under your username.

```
ssh scholar-fe00;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;
```

```
ssh scholar-fe01;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;  
  
ssh scholar-fe02;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;  
  
ssh scholar-fe03;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;  
  
ssh scholar-fe04;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;  
  
ssh scholar-fe05;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;  
  
ssh scholar-fe06;  
killall -9 -u yourusername;
```

During one of these 7 processes (from 00 to 06) you will get logged out of Scholar. When this happens, repeat steps (1) and (2) and continue to execute remaining commands. Once you have killed your processes on all 7 machines, there should no longer be any lingering processes that prevent you from logging in.

RStudio crashes when loading a package.

Follow the directions under rstudio initialization error.

RStudio license expired.

If you are getting this message on a Saturday night, this is due to the Scholar frontends rebooting. Orphan processes are cleaned up and memory reclaimed. This process can cause a disruption in the communication that RStudio needs to do. This disruption is interpreted as a licensing issue. Simply wait and try again the next day.

RStudio is taking a long time to open.

It is possible that you saved a large .RData file the last time that you closed RStudio. (It is OK to avoid saving the .RData file, for this reason.) If you did save your .RData file, and you want to remove it now, you can do the following:

1. Close RStudio.
2. Open the File Manager (it is located in the dock, and looks like a filing cabinet).
3. Select your home directory (Dr. Ward's is called "mdw", for instance).
4. You need to see the "hidden files", which you can do by pressing Control-H or by choosing View / Show Hidden Files in the menu at the top of the File Manager window.
5. Drag your `.RData` file to the Trash.
6. Click on the Trash and then choose File / Empty Trash from the File Manager window, and then click "Empty Trash" to confirm that you want to empty the Trash.

How can you run a line of R code in RStudio without clicking the "Run" button?

1. Click anywhere on the line (you do not need to highlight the line, and you do not need to click at the start or end of the line; anywhere on the line is ok).
2. Type the "Control" and "Return" keys together to run that line.

My R session freezes.

1. Log out of Scholar.
2. Log back into Scholar using the ThinLinc client.

Before entering your password in ThinLinc, be sure to click on the "End Existing Session" option in the ThinLinc window (to the left of where you type your password). This will resent your Scholar session.

White screen issue when loading RStudio.

1. Log in to Scholar.
2. Open a terminal (click the black box at the bottom of the screen).
3. Run the following commands:

```
# Note: You can use -fe01, -fe02, ..., -fe06 instead of -fe00.  
# Until you find one that works.  
ssh -Y scholar-fe00  
module load rstudio  
rstudio
```

4. When Scholar is reset, load RStudio by opening a terminal and running the following commands:

```
ml gcc
ml rstudio
rstudio
```

Scholar is slow.

Possibility one:

Most of the files we use in this class would require dozens of seconds to load using `read.csv()` in R.

Here is another trick to save you some time in data import:

1. Read only the first, say, 10000 rows of data (see instructions below), and complete your code using the smaller dataset. The code works for the subset of data should also work for the complete data. **This output is not your final answer!**
2. Once you complete the code, read in the entire dataset, and run the code to RStudio. You may even close the ThinLinc after submitting the code as long as you do not close your RStudio window. Closing RStudio will stop your code from running. It is also highly recommended to save your code prior to running it.
3. Some time (e.g., a few hours) later, you can come back and check your output. Scholar is a computing facility that is always on, and thus you can leave it do the work.

How do you read the first 10000 rows then? For example, we usually use the following line of code to read all of the election data:

```
myDF <- read.csv('/class/datamine/data/election/itcont2020.txt')
```

Now, with an additional parameter `nrows`, you can decide how many rows to read:

```
myDF_short <- read.csv('/class/datamine/data/election/itcont2020.txt', nrows = 10000)
```

Possibility two:

You could be close to using 100% of your quota on scholar.

1. Log into Scholar using the ThinLinc client.

2. Open a terminal, and run the following command: `myquota`.

Important note: It will ask for your Purdue password (but won't show it to you as you type). If your quota is at or near 100%, you will need to delete some of your files on Scholar. A healthy server needs < 80% full.

There are no menus in Scholar.

Although this is a less common problem, it can happen if you accidentally selected "one empty panel" when you first logged into Scholar. To fix this, do as follows:

1. Open a terminal by clicking on the **Home** icon – it looks like a house –. This will open a window in the **File Manager**. Then, choose from the menu in **File Manager** window: **File > Open Terminal Here**.
2. Run **exactly** the following command in the terminal:

```
cp /etc/xdg/xfce4/panel/default.xml ~/.config/xfce4/xfconf/xfce-perchannel-xml/xfce4-panel.xml
```

3. Log out of Scholar. As this can be hard without menus, run in the terminal:

```
killall -9 -u [PUT USERNAME HERE]
```

Example: Dr. Ward would type:

```
killall -9 -u mdw
```

Running the command above will kill your session. When you log back in, the menu system will work properly.

Firefox in Scholar won't open because multiple instances running.

The easy fix:

1. Open your **File Browser** in Scholar.
2. Choose the **Option View > Show Hidden Files**.
3. Inside your home directory, throw away the directory `.mozilla`.

HOW TO TRANSFER FILES BETWEEN YOUR COMPUTER AND SCHOLAR.57

Now your Firefox should load.

More complicated fix (*if the easy fix doesn't work*):

1. Open a terminal, and run the following commands:

```
cd ~/.mozilla/firefox  
rm profiles.ini
```

Alternatively, you can run `rm -rf ~/.mozilla.`

Important note: *Make sure that you don't leave a space after the period. The period needs to be directly next to the slash.*

2. Log out of Scholar.
3. Log back into Scholar using the ThinLinc client. When logging in, after you type your password in ThinLinc, but before you press the “Connect” button, make sure that you check the box “End Existing Session”.

How to transfer files between your computer and Scholar.

Solution 1: email

Attach the files in an e-mail to yourself. To do so inside Scholar, use the browser to log on to your e-mail client (located in the dock and the icon looks like a blue-and-green picture of the globe).

Solution 2: use scp

To send a file from your computer to Scholar:

1. Open a terminal.
2. Go to the directory where you have the file you want to transfer using the command with updated directory location `/directory/with/file/to/send`

```
cd /directory/with/file/to/send
```

3. Run the following command with the corresponding `filename`, `username`, and `where/to/put/filename` directory

```
scp filename username@scholar.rcac.purdue.edu:/where/to/put/filename
```

Example: Dr. Ward wants to transfer the file titled `my_file.txt` to a folder in his main directory called `my_folder`, he would run:

```
scp my_file.txt mdw@scholar.rcac.purdue.edu:/my_folder/my_file.txt
```

To send a file from Scholar to your computer:

1. Open a terminal.
2. Run the following command with the corresponding `file/to/send/filename`, `username`, and `where/to/put/filename` directory:

```
scp username@scholar.rcac.purdue.edu:/file/to/send/filename /where/to/put
```

Example: If Dr. Ward wants to transfer the file titled `my_file.txt` located in a folder named `my_folder_in_scholar` to a folder in his personal computer called `my_folder` in his main directory, he would run:

```
scp mdw@scholar.rcac.purdue.edu:/my_folder/my_file.txt /my_folder/my_file.txt
```

ThinLinc app says you can't create any more sessions.

You will need to close any other sessions that you are running and start a new one. To do so, click on a little box under the password, over on the left-hand side, which says "End existing session".

How to install ThinLinc on my computer.

See [here](#).

Forgot my password or password not working with ThinLinc.

First, ensure you are typing it correctly by typing it somewhere you can see, and copying and pasting the password back into ThinLinc. Remember that Scholar wants your Career Account credentials, not the Boiler Key.

If you are using the app version of ThinLinc, try using the web version or Jupyter.

If the steps above do not work, you need to change your Career Account password. To do so:

1. Go to Secure Purdue.
2. Click on the option “Change your password”.
3. After logging in, search for the link “Change Password” that “Allows you to change your Purdue Career Account password”.

Jupyter Notebook download error with IE.

Please note that Internet Explorer is **not** a recommended browser. If still want to use Explorer, make sure you download the notebook as “All Files” (or something similar). That is, we need to allow the browser to save in its natural format, and not to convert the notebook when it downloads the file.

Jupyter Notebook kernel dying.

- Make sure you are using the R 3.6 (Scholar) kernel.
- Make sure you are using `https://notebook.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu` and not `https://notebook.brown.rcac.purdue.edu`. (Use Scholar instead of Brown.)
- Try clicking **Kernel > Shutdown**, and then reconnect the kernel.
- If one particular Jupyter Notebook template gives you this error, then create a new R 3.6 (Scholar) file.
- Try re-running the code from an earlier project that you had set up and working using Jupyter Notebooks.
- One student needed to re-run the setup command one time in the terminal:

```
source /class/datamine/data/examples/setup.sh
```

- You could be close to using 100% of your quota on scholar.
1. Log into Scholar using the ThinLinc client.
 2. Open a terminal, and run the following command: `myquota`.

Important note: It will ask for your Purdue password (but won’t show it to you as you type). If your quota is at or near 100%, you will need to delete some of your files on Scholar. A healthy server needs < 80% full, aim for that.

Python kernel not working, Jupyter Notebook won't save.

1. Navigate to <https://notebook.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>, and login.
2. Click on the “Running” tab and shutdown all running kernels.
3. Log into Scholar using the ThinLinc client.
4. Open a terminal, and run the following commands:

```
pip uninstall tornado(  
/class/datamine/data/examples/setup2.sh
```

5. Go back to <https://notebook.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu/>, click on “Control Panel” in the upper right hand corner.
6. Click the “Stop My Server” button, followed by the green “My Server” button.

Installing my_package for Python

Do **not** install packages in Scholar using:

```
pip install my_package
```

or

```
pip install my_package --user
```

We’ve tried to provide you with a ready-made kernel with every package you would want or need. If you need a newer version of some package, or need a package not available in the kernel, please send us a message indicating what you need. Depending on the situation we may point you to create your own kernel.

Displaying multiple images after a single Jupyter Notebook Python code cell.

Sometimes it may be convenient to have several images displayed after a single Jupyter cell. For example, if you want to have side-by-side images or graphs for comparison. The following code allows you to place figures side-by-side or in a grid.

Note you will need the included import statement at the very top of the notebook.

```

import matplotlib.pyplot as plt

number_of_plots = 2
fig, axs = plt.subplots(number_of_plots)
fig.suptitle('Vertically stacked subplots', fontsize=12)
axs[0].plot(x, y)
axs[1].imshow(img)
plt.show()

number_of_plots = 3
fig, axs = plt.subplots(1,number_of_plots)
fig.suptitle('Horizontally stacked subplots', fontsize=12)
axs[0].plot(x, y)
axs[1].imshow(img)
axs[2].imshow(img2)
plt.show()

number_of_plots_vertical = 2
number_of_plots_horizontal = 2

# 2 x 2 = 4 total plots
fig, axs = plt.subplots(number_of_plots_vertical,number_of_plots_horizontal)
fig.suptitle('Grid of subplots', fontsize=12)
axs[0][0].plot(x, y) # top left
axs[0][1].imshow(img) # top right
axs[1][0].imshow(img2) # bottom left
axs[1][1].plot(a, b) # bottom right
plt.show()

```

RMarkdown “Error: option error has NULL value” when knitting“.

This error message occurs when using the RStudio available on Scholar via ThinLinc, and running a code chunk in RMarkdown by clicking the green “play” button (Run Current Chunk). Do *not* click on the green triangle “play” button. Instead, knit the entire document, using the “knit” button that looks like a ball of yarn with a knitting needle on it.

How do you create an RMarkdown file?

Any text file with the .Rmd file extension can be opened and knitted into a PDF (or other format). If you’d like to create an RMarkdown file in RStudio, you

can do so.

1. Open an RStudio session.
2. Click on **File > New File > RMarkdown...**
3. You may put R code into the R blocks (the grey sections of the document), and put any comments into the white sections in between.

This is an excellent guide to RMarkdown, and this is a cheatsheet to get you up and running quickly.

Problems building an RMarkdown document on Scholar.

If you are having problems building an RMarkdown document on Scholar, try the following:

- Dump the previously loaded modules.

1. Open up a terminal.
2. Run the following commands:

```
module purge
ml gcc
ml rstudio
rstudio
```

This will purge (remove) previously loaded modules.

- Remove your R directory:

1. Open up a terminal.
2. Run the following commands:

```
cd ~
rm -rf R
```

This will force the removal of your R directory. It will remove your old R libraries. They will reload the newest versions if you install them again, and as you use them.

This is recommended, especially at the start of the academic year.

If your R is taking a long time to open, see [here](#).

How can I use SQL in RMarkdown?

When you use SQL in RMarkdown you can highlight the code in code chunks just like R by writing “sql” instead of “r” in the brackets:

“`asis

```
SELECT * FROM table;
```

“`

You will notice that all the SQL code chunks provided in the template have the option `eval=F`. The option `eval=F` or `eval=FALSE` means the SQL statements would be shown in your knitted document, but without being executed.

To actually *run* SQL inside RMarkdown see [here](#).

You can read about the different languages that can be displayed in RMarkdown [here](https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown/language-engines.html): <https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown/language-engines.html>.

Copy/paste from terminal inside RStudio to RMarkdown.

If you’re using the terminal inside the Scholar RStudio at <https://rstudio.scholar.rcac.purdue.edu>, right clicking won’t work. A trick that does work (and often works in other situations as well) is the keyboard shortcut `ctrl-insert` for copy and `shift-insert` for paste. Alternatively, use the Edit/Copy from the menu in the terminal.

How do I render an image in a shiny app?

There are a variety of ways to render an image in an RShiny app. See [here](#).

The package `my_package` is not found.

The package might not be installed. Try running:

```
install.packages("ggmap")
```

Note that if you have already run this on ThinLinc, there is no need to do it again.

Another possibility is that the library is not loaded, try running:

```
library(ggmap)
```

Problems installing ggmap.

Two possible fixes:

1. Open a terminal and run:

```
rm -rf ~/R
```

After that, re-open RStudio and re-install ggmap:

```
install.packages("ggmap")  
  
# Don't forget to load the package as well  
library(ggmap)
```

2. Open a terminal and run:

```
module load gcc/5.2.0
```

After that, restart all RStudio processes.

Error: object_name is not found

In R if you try to reference an object that does not yet exist, you will receive this error. For example:

```
my_list <- c(1, 2, 3)  
mylist
```

In this example you will receive the error `Error: object 'mylist' not found`. The reason is `mylist` doesn't exist, we only created `my_list`.

Zoom in on ggmap.

Run the following code in R:


```
?get_googlemap
```

Under the arguments section you will see the argument `zoom` and can read about what values it can accept. For the zoom level, a map with `zoom=9` would not even show the entire state of California. Try different integers. Larger integers “zoom in” and smaller integers “zoom out”.

Find the latitude and longitude of a location.

1. Install the `ggmap` package.
2. Run the following lines of code to retrieve latitude and longitude of a location:

```
as.numeric(geocode("London"))
```

Replace “London” with the name of your chosen location.

Problems saving work as a PDF in R on Scholar.

Make sure you are saving to your own working directory:

```
getwd()
```

This should result in something like: `/home/<username>/...` where `<username>` is your username. Read this to find your username.

If you don’t see your username anywhere in the resulting path, instead try:

1. Specifying a different directory:

```
dev.print(pdf, "/home/<username>/Desktop/project4map.pdf")
```

Make sure you replace `<username>` with your username.

2. Try setting your working directory before saving:

```
setwd("/home/<username>/Desktop")
```

Make sure you replace `<username>` with your username.

What is a good resource to better understand HTML?

<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/html-course-structure-of-an-html-document/>

Is there a style guide for R code?

<https://style.tidyverse.org/>

Is there a guide for best practices using R?

<https://www.r-bloggers.com/r-code-best-practices/>

1. Comment what you are going to do.
2. Code – what did you do?
3. Comment on the output – what did you get?

Tips for using Jupyter notebooks.

See [here](#)

What is my username on Scholar?

To find your username on Scholar:

1. Open a terminal.
2. Execute the following code:

```
echo $USER
```

How to submit homework to GitHub without using Firefox?

You can submit homework to GitHub without using Firefox by using `git` in a terminal. You can read more about git [here](#).

How and why would I need to “escape a character”?

You would need to escape a character any time when you have a command or piece of code where you would like to represent a character literally, but that character has been reserved for some other use. For example, if I wanted to use `grep` to search for the `$` character, literally, I would need to escape that character as its purpose has been reserved as an indicator or anchor for the end of the line.

```
grep -i "$50.00" some_file.txt
```

Without the `\` this code would not work as intended. Another example would be if you wanted to write out $10*10*10 = 1000$ in markdown. If you don’t escape the asterisks, the result may be rendered as $10/010 = 1000$, which is clearly not what was intended. For this reason, we would type out:

```
10\*10\*10 = 1000
```

Which would then have its intended effect.

Chapter 9

Contributors

We are extremely thankful for all of our contributors! Get your name added to the list by making a contribution.