

Introduction to R for Data Management and Analysis

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Thursday, June 2nd, 2016

Welcome!

Introductions

- Name
- Program/Concentration
- Expectations/Familiarity with R
- Fun fact?

Class structure

- Lecture and short exercises: 90 minutes
- Break: 10-15 minutes
- Exercise: 60 minutes
- Discussion: 15 minutes

Grading

- Attendance: 15%
- Quizzes: 20%
- Exercises: 65%

Course Outline

Date	Topics	Assessment
Thurs. June 2	Introductions About this class Features of the R language Getting help and troubleshooting	Exercise
Tues. June 7	Classes and data types data.frame Import/Export subsets	Exercise and quiz

Today's class

- R and the RStudio interface
- Basic features of the language
- Getting started
- Tips
- Getting help and troubleshooting
- R as a calculator
- External resources

What is R?

- R is a programming language and environment for statistical computing and data visualization.
- “Base R” refers to the standalone suite of pre-packaged functions that allow R to function as a language.
- Extensions of the R language are what are called “packages”.
- A **package** is a container of functions that give R additional flexibility.

What is RStudio?

- IDE Interactive Development Environment
- Console + Help + Figures + Project Management
- Let's have a look at it!

How do I get started?

- First download the latest R version from r-project.org
- Install R with all the default settings
- Download RStudio from RStudio.com
- RStudio allow you to select the R version installed in your system.

General tips for learning R

- Learning R will be frustrating
- Learning a language
- Practice promotes familiarity

Features of the R Language

- case sensitive
- Spaces are ignored
- works with functions
- vectorized operations
- help pages
- ?reserved

Structure of a function

- a name followed by parentheses `help()`
- arguments
- input / output

Useful tips for learning R

Pseudo code	Example code
<code>install.packages(packagename)</code>	<code>install.packages(dplyr)</code>
<code>?functionname</code>	<code>?select</code>
<code>?package::functionname</code>	<code>?dplyr::select</code>
<code>? 'Reserved keyword or symbol' (or backticks)</code>	<code>? '%>%'</code>
<code>??searchforpossiblyexistingfunctionandortopic</code>	<code>??simulate</code>
<code>help(package = "loadedpackage")</code>	<code>help("dplyr")</code>
<code>browseVignettes("packagename")</code>	<code>browseVignettes("dplyr")</code>

First contact with R

- R as a calculator exercise

Getting help and troubleshooting

- Critically important
- “Debugging” your script
- Step by step, line by line process

External Resources

- Coursera
- edX
- RStudio
- Quick-R - Mostly for basic and base functions
- RStudio Cheatsheets