Introduction

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Introduction to R and RStudio

Goal of this course

- Gentle introduction to:
 - Programming languages
 - R for data science
- Provide a foundation for Gerko Vink's course

Why do we care about R?

Why programming languages?

- Faster
- Easier
- Communication: Beautiful plots/interactive
- Flexibly (new methods)
- Reproducibility! (open an old Excel file and try to understand what you did)

Why R:

- Designed for statistics/data science
- Huge community of users
- From a personal perspective: You know R = you are employed

R for data science

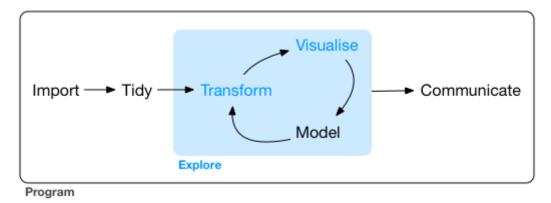


Figure 1: Source: R for Data Science

What is R / RStudio?

Communicating with the comptuer

$R\,\sim\,English$

• Programming language, allows you to communicate with the computer

RStudio: Integrated Development Environment ~ Word

- Makes using R as effective and efficient as possible:
 - Code editor
 - Nice extras: Syntax highlighting; Code completion; File explorer; Help

R packages ~ Tabs in Word

Run pieces of code

- Extend the functionalities of base R
- You can install and use new packages:

install.packages("ggplot2") #Install new package (you only need to do it once)
library(ggplot2) #Load the package

RStudio Source editor Write your R code (load data, clean it, model it, etc) Environment/Workplace All the variables that you have defined Files File explorer, find your files. Help Get information about code (super useful!) Console Write R code (not recommended at this point) and see the output of your R scripts Plots See the plots, and export it History History of all the code you have run. Packages All packages that you have loaded (I don't recommend loading/unloading packages this way) Terminal Run commands on your terminal (this is not R, you won't need to use this) Basic units of RStudio

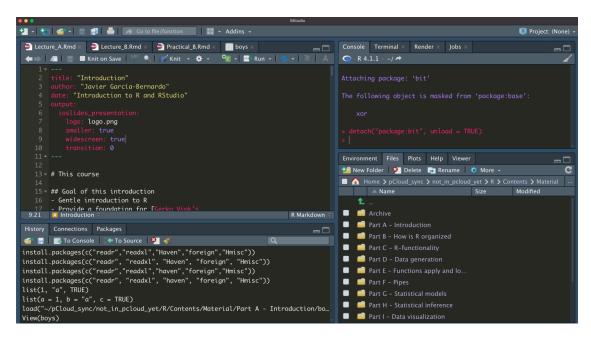


Figure 2: RStudio

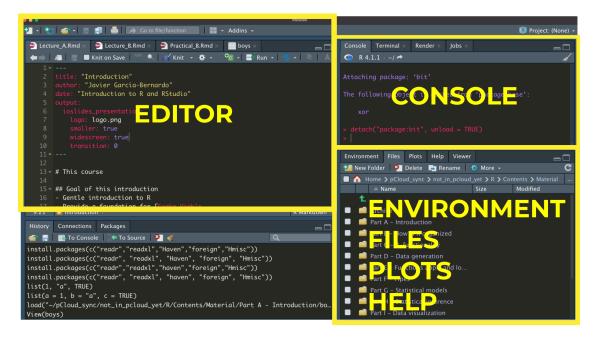


Figure 3: Basic units

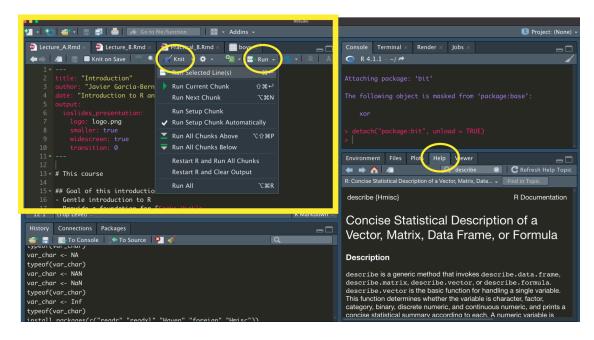


Figure 4: Run code

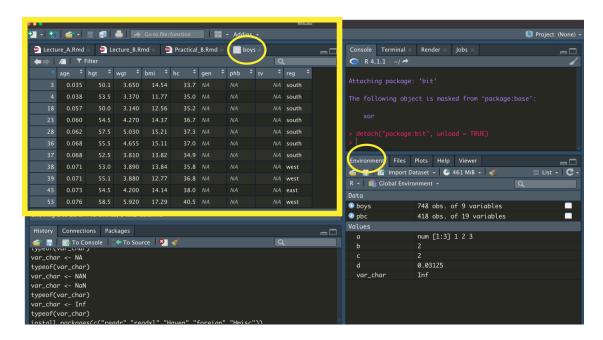


Figure 5: View data

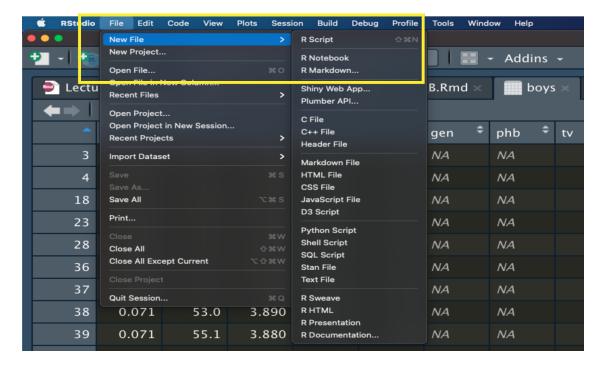


Figure 6: Create new files

Create a new file: RScript and RNotebook

Paths & working directory

Paths and working directory (folder)

- Your computer finds files by their path:
 - "/Users/javiergb/Desktop/somefile.csv" (Mac/Linux)
 - "C:\Users\javiergb\Desktop\somefile.csv" (Windows)
- In Windows:
 - Always use "/" (R will convert it)
 - "\" is a "escape character", with a special meaning
- Paths can be:
 - Absolute (as the ones above). They are defined from the root directory, the top-most directory.
 - Relative. They are defined from the working directory
 - \ast e.g. "data/some file.csv" -> in our working directory, find the folder "data", and inside, the file "some file.csv"
 - * It makes possible to use the code in different computers.

Paths and working directory (cont)

Important shortcuts for relative paths:

- "../somefile.csv": find "somefile.csv" one level down
- "../../somefile.csv": find "somefile.csv" two levels down
- "./somefile.csv": find "somefile.csv" in the current level (not so useful, it is identical to "somefile.csv")

• "~/somefile.csv": find "somefile.csv" in your home directory

Changing the working directory with RStudio:

- "Session (top menu) -> Set Working directories"
- "Files (RStudio unit) -> More -> Set as working directory"

Type of R documents

R-scripts (.R)

- Text file with R code (you can open it in any text editor)
- Working directory:
 - If associated to a project: your home directory (e.g. "/Users/javiergb")
 - If not associated to a project: the project directory
- Output in the console/plots menus

Rstudio-projects (.Rproj)

- Contains a .Rproj file within the directory, with project options.
- Working directory: the project directory where the .Rproj file resides.
- More info on setting up projects

R-notebooks (.Rmd)

- R-markdown files (like this one!) combines chunks of texts and code
- Working directory: the directory where the notebook is located
- Outputs directly in the editor. Can be knitted to HTML/PDF/Word
- Most useful for data science

How does R (and Python) work

Variables and code

Variables:

- Tell the computer to save an object (a number, a string, a spreadsheet) with a name.
- Creating variables in R is very straightforward:
 - you just use <- (assignment operator)
- For example, if you assign the value 100 (an element) to variable a, you would type

```
a <- 100
print(a)
```

[1] 100

Code:

- Instructions to modify variables
- Can be organized in functions: blocks of code that take some input and return some output

Objects in R:

• Everything is an object in R, and can be assigned to a variable name

Basic data types (elements)

```
character: "some text"
numeric: e.g., 2.1
integer: e.g., 2L
logical: TRUE/FALSE
factor: e.g., factor("amsterdam")
```

Basic data structures

• Consist of data types and functions to transform them

```
- vector: c(2, 4, 2)
- list: list(first_col = 1, second = "a", third = TRUE)
- matrix: matrix(c(4, 4, 4, 4), nrow = 2, ncol = 2)
- data.frame: The most important ~ spreadsheet
```

The help

- Everything that is published on the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) and is aimed at R users, must be accompanied by a help file.
- If you know the name of the function that performs an operation, e.g. anova(), then you just type ?anova or help(anova) in the console, or use the "Help" menu.
- If you do not know the name of the function: type ?? followed by your search criterion. For example ??anova returns a list of all help pages that contain the word 'anova'
- Alternatively, the internet will tell you almost everything you'd like to know and sites such as http://www.stackoverflow.com and http://www.stackexchange.com, as well as Google can be of tremendous help.
 - If you google R related issues; use 'R:' as a prefix in your search term

Calling objects

- You just use type the name you have given to the object
- For example, we assigned the value 100 to object a.

```
a <- 100
```

To call object a, we would type

```
## [1] 100
```

Writing code

1. Using functions

```
# This is a comment, it won't be read by R
student_number <- 4
paste("The number of students is: ", student_number, sep = " ")</pre>
```

```
#sep can be any character, or "\n" (newline), "\t" (tab),
```

2. Using packages

```
## Rows: 748 Columns: 2
## Delimiter: ","
## dbl (2): age, hgt
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
## i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.
##
       age
                     hgt
##
  Min.
        : 0.035 Min.
                      : 50.00
  1st Qu.: 1.581
                1st Qu.: 84.88
##
## Median :10.505
                Median :147.30
## Mean
       : 9.159
                      :132.15
                 Mean
## 3rd Qu.:15.267
                 3rd Qu.:175.22
## Max. :21.177
                       :198.00
                 Max.
##
                 NA's
                       :20
```

3. Some other important considerations

The computer cannot read your mind

```
a <- 100
print()
```

Error in print.default(): argument "x" is missing, with no default

The computer reads from the top to the bottom

```
a <- 100
print(b)
b <- 10</pre>
```

```
## Error in print(b): object 'b' not found
```

Practical A

Goal: Get used to RStudio using R as a calculator, and install one library

- 1. Create an R script
- 2. Create an R project
- 3. Create an R notebook