

# RMARKDOWN - MANUSCRIPT WORKFLOW REVISITED

Using RStudio to Write Theses, Paper, and Presentations



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## 1 Introduction

## 2 The Basics

- Getting Started
- `Rmarkdown` Document Structure
- Functionality

## 3 Basic `Rmarkdown`

## 4 Advanced `Rmarkdown`

## 5 Manuscripts

## 6 Presentations

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# What is Rmarkdown?

## What it is (*Rmarkdown/.Rmd*)

In its **essence**, Rmarkdown is a **coding document containing text** that can be used to generate:

- Manuscripts
- Presentations
- Posters
- Books
- ...

whilst **maintaining reproducibility** of research.

It is *heavily reliant* on the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  machinery.

## What you need (*Dependencies*)

To be able to use the bare minimum of Rmarkdown, you need an installation R and RStudio (These are the *basics*). *Advanced* use of Rmarkdown is usually funnelled through  $\text{\LaTeX}$  and so you'll need installations of:

- $\text{\LaTeX}$  (for generation of pdf documents)
- JabRef (for referencing)
- Perl (for glossaries)

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# Why use Rmarkdown?

Using Rmarkdown for your research comes with a multitude of advantages:

- 1 Entire **workflow in one program** (RStudio)
- 2 **Research** and reports **reproducible** at the click of **one button**
- 3 **Combines** R functionality and  $\text{\LaTeX}$  formatting (if desired)
- 4 **Consistent formatting**
- 5 **Clear presentation of code**
- 6 **Dynamic documents** (you can generate various output document types)
- 7 Applicable for **almost all document types** you may desire as an output (e.g. manuscripts, presentations, posters, etc.)

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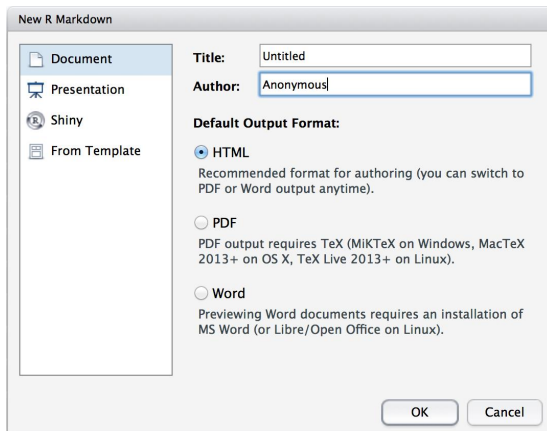
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# Rmarkdown Workflow

In the file menu of RStudio, click: **File** → **New File** → **R Markdown**



Write and edit the document and *compile* by **knitting**.

# Rmarkdown Resources

I cannot cover every aspect of Rmarkdown coding in one go. In case you bite, here are resources to help you along:

## ■ Guides

- An Introduction: <https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/lesson-1.html>
- The '*Definitive Guide*': <https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown/>

## ■ CheatSheets

- Reference Guide: <https://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/rmarkdown-reference.pdf>
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# Overview

Rmarkdown files usually come down to **three main components**:

- 1 *The YAML Header* - This sets up important characteristics of your document such as:
  - Title, Subtitle
  - Author and Date
  - Output File Type
  - Document Class and Packages (if output type is  $\text{\LaTeX}$  dependant)
- 2 *Plain Text* - This is where you write the text of your document.  $\text{\LaTeX}$  formatting is supported when the YAML Header indicates a  $\text{\LaTeX}$  dependant output file type.
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# YAML Header

A non-exhaustive list of YAML specifiers:

YAML	Function
title	The heading of your work
subtitle	A subheading for your work
author	You and co-workers (if applicable)
date	Date of delivery or presentation
output	Whether to create html, pdf, or presentation
includes	Packages and auxiliary files
documentclass	$\text{\LaTeX}$ document class (if applicable)
classoption	$\text{\LaTeX}$ document option (if applicable)
fontsize	Base font size throughout document

# Text

**Formatting** can offset the inherently boring nature of plain text and can be done:

- Through base syntax
- Through  $\text{\LaTeX}$  syntax

Text is *hard coded* but results and code outputs can be included through *soft-coding* via **in-line code**.

Text can also be supplied via **auxillary files** using the `child` syntax supplied by `Rmarkdown`. This is useful for big documents but makes cross-referencing very complicated.

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# Code Chunks

R Code chunks are started with ````\{r\}` and ended with `````. Chunks are supplied with optional arguments within the `{}` brackets. A non-exhaustive list of **chunk options**:

Option	Function
name	A name for the chunk, these have to be individual
eval	TRUE if code in chunk should be executed
include	TRUE if chunk should be run but not included in final document
echo	TRUE if code will be displayed
tidy	TRUE if code should be displayed according to <code>tidy</code> formatting rules
cache	TRUE if cache for chunk is to be stored for faster compilation on repeated knitting

# In-Line Code

In-line code can be used to display code output alongside plain text. This is done as follows:

```
# establish and R object to reference in-line  
Answer <- 42
```

Then, you write ``r Answer`` and receive the output 42.

This is especially useful when wanting to generate reports that may be re-evaluated using different analyses or novel data sets as results may change.

# Figures and Rmarkdown

*Using Rmarkdown for data visualisation is **extremely useful**:*

- Figures are generated on each compilation (unless cache is stored and code in chunk that produces the figure hasn't changed) thus always being up-to-date with the underlying data
- Subfigures are established automatically as long as subcaptions are supplied
- Figures are registered automatically for the table of figures
- Figure placement on the page is fixed (no dragging around as in MS Word)
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- **Entire workflow can happen in just one document!**

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# Setting Code Up

Basic options for coding chunks and kitting options should be defined at the beginning of the Rmarkdown document:

```
# R options
options(scipen=1, digits=4) # output options such as rounding digits

# Knitting options
knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE, # show code
  message = FALSE, # don't display code messages
  warning = FALSE, # don't display code warnings
  cache = TRUE, # establish chaches
  cache.lazy=TRUE, # don't check caches on re-run
  tidy=TRUE, # format tidy by default
  tidy.opts=list(width.cutoff=50), # width cutoff
  fig.height=8, digits=4 # default figures sizes
)
```

This chunk should usually be set to `include = FALSE` to run the code but not show any of it.

# Text Formatting

Basic Rmarkdown formatting can be used to generate more lively text:

Formatting	Result
Plain text	Plain text
<i>*italics*</i> and <code>_italics_</code>	<i>italics</i> and <i>italics</i>
<b>**bold**</b> and <code>__bold__</code>	<b>bold</b> and <b>bold</b>
superscript <sup>2</sup>	superscript <sup>2</sup>
<del>~~strikethrough~~</del>	<del>strikethrough</del>

A line break in Rmarkdown can be achieved by ending a line with two spaces.

More advanced text formatting is possible via the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  engine. An exhaustive guides for  $\text{\LaTeX}$  formatting can be found here (this covers almost all matters  $\text{\LaTeX}$ : <http://www.rpi.edu/dept/arc/docs/latex/latex-intro.pdf>).



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# Text Tables

Rmarkdown is capable of generating tables through plain text inputs:

```
Table Header | Second Header
----- | -----
Table Cell | Cell 2
Cell 3 | Cell 4
```

turns into:

Table Header	Second Header
Table Cell	Cell 2
Cell 3	Cell 4

# Figures

Figures which aren't generated via R but present as files on the hard drive have to be included into the Rmarkdown document the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  way.

This is done using the **includegraphics** command in the **graphicx** package for  $\text{\LaTeX}$ . The output of this command is sensitive to other environment specifiers such as floats (*centering*, *raggedright*, etc.).

A  $\text{\LaTeX}$  **figure environment** is useful for *including figures* which have been included this way *into the table of figures and make them available for cross-referencing*.

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# kable Tables I

The `kable` functionality in Rmarkdown enables us to generate appealing  $\text{\LaTeX}$  styled tables directly via R coding:

```
library(kableExtra)

tabout <- as.data.frame(matrix(c(1:20), nrow = 5))
rownames(tabout) <- c("R1", "R2", "R3", "R4", "R5")
colnames(tabout) <- c("C1", "C2", "C3", "C4")

kab <- kable(tabout, booktabs = TRUE, caption = paste("\\textbf{",
  "Short Description", " -> ", "Long Description",
  sep = ""), caption.short = "Short Description",
  escape = FALSE, format = "latex")

kab <- add_header_above(kable_input = kab, header = c(` ` = 1,
  `First two columns` = 2, `Last two columns` = 2),
  bold = TRUE, align = "c")

kab <- kable_styling(kab, latex_options = c("hold_position"))
print(kab)
```

Code chunks which generate `kable` tables need an additional argument:  
`results = 'asis'`.

# kable Tables II

Table 5: **Short Description** - Long Description

	<b>First two columns</b>		<b>Last two columns</b>	
	C1	C2	C3	C4
R1	1	6	11	16
R2	2	7	12	17
R3	3	8	13	18
R4	4	9	14	19
R5	5	10	15	20

It is obvious how this way of table generation **enables reproducible research** as this tables can be directly generated from data and analyses outputs.



# R Functions

Complex data analysis and data visualisation often invokes **user-generated R functions**. These should be *presented alongside all other results and data*.

Rmarkdown enables this in a three-step process:

1. **Write Function** in a chunk with `echo` set to `FALSE` (preferably in preamble)
2. **Call Function** into action in another chunk where it is needed
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# Cross-Referencing

Cross-referencing is vital for manuscripts writing and easy to implement in `Rmarkdown` when run through  $\text{\LaTeX}$ :

## Sections

- Index section by generating a label via the *label* command.
- Call section index via the *ref* command.

## Figures

- Index figure via the *label* command in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  environment or chunk option.
- Reference using the *ref* command.

## Tables

- Index table via the *label* command in  $\text{\LaTeX}$  environment or chunk option.
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## Chunks

- Generate labelling automation using the *floatrow* package for  $\text{\LaTeX}$ .
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# Bibliographies and Glossaries

Including a bibliography or a glossary is a necessity in manuscript writing:

## Bibliography

- Install JabRef
- Generate .bib bibliography file
- In YAML header or auxiliary .tex file included in YAML header, load  $\text{\LaTeX}$  package *natbib*
- Reference using the *cite* command
- Establish bibliography using the *bibliography* command

## Glossary

- Install Perl
- In YAML header or auxiliary .tex file included in YAML header, load  $\text{\LaTeX}$  package *glossaries*
- Establish glossary entries in .tex file or preamble to document file
- Establish glossary at desired location in document using the *printglossary* command
- Use glossary commands in text
- Compiling requires an extra step through your  $\text{\LaTeX}$  compiler for glossary to show up

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- In YAML header or auxiliary .tex file included in YAML header, load  $\text{\LaTeX}$  package *glossaries*
- Establish glossary entries in .tex file or preamble to document file
- Establish glossary at desired location in document using the *printglossary* command
- Use glossary commands in text
- Compiling requires an extra step through your  $\text{\LaTeX}$  compiler for glossary to show up

# Bibliographies and Glossaries

Including a bibliography or a glossary is a necessity in manuscript writing:

## Bibliography

- Install JabRef
- Generate .bib bibliography file
- In YAML header or auxiliary .tex file included in YAML header, load  $\text{\LaTeX}$  package *natbib*
- Reference using the *cite* command
- Establish bibliography using the *bibliography* command

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## 1 Introduction

## 2 The Basics

- Getting Started
- `Rmarkdown` Document Structure
- Functionality

## 3 Basic `Rmarkdown`

## 4 Advanced `Rmarkdown`

## 5 Manuscripts

## 6 Presentations

# Beamer

Beamer is the  $\text{\LaTeX}$  way of generating presentation slides and comes with a few quirks:

- Strong limitations on layout (it is best to choose from pre-established styles)
- No animations possible
- Stiff and unwieldy positioning of items

These limitations often lead to *headaches when generating the presentations* but **much cleaner looking presentations** with **consistent formatting**.

$\text{\LaTeX}$  column environment (used in Beamer presentations) do not allow for the evaluation of `Rmarkdown` syntax. This can be circumvented as by defining novel commands for the column environment instead of calling the default  $\text{\LaTeX}$  commands.

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