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# Reproducible Research

## An Introduction to `knitr`

Sahir Rai Bhatnagar<sup>1</sup>

May 28, 2014

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<sup>1</sup><https://github.com/sahirbhatnagar/knitr-tutorial>

# Acknowledgements

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- Dr. Erica Moodie
- Maxime Turgeon, Kevin McGregor, Greg Voisin
- You



McGill

Department of  
Epidemiology, Biostatistics  
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Home

Statistics laboratory

# Disclaimer #1

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- Feel free to Ask questions
- Interrupt me often
- You don't need to raise your hand to speak

## Disclaimer #2



R Markdown v2



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*I don't work for, nor am I an author of any of these packages. I'm just a messenger.*

# Disclaimer #3

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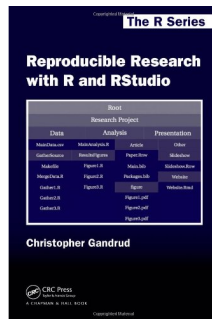
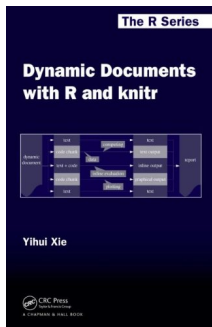
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- Material for this tutorial comes from many sources. For a complete list see:  
<https://github.com/sahirbhatnagar/knitr-tutorial>
- Alot of the content in these slides are based on these two books



# Eat Your Own Dog Food

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- These slides are reproducible
- Source code: <https://github.com/sahirbhatnagar/knitr-tutorial>

# Main objective for today

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## According to the American Physical Society:

*Science is the systematic enterprise of gathering knowledge about the universe and organizing and condensing that knowledge into **testable laws and theories**. The **success and credibility of science** are anchored in the **willingness of scientists to expose their ideas and results to independent testing and replication by other scientists***

# RR: A Minimum Standard to Verify Scientific Findings

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# RR: A Minimum Standard to Verify Scientific Findings

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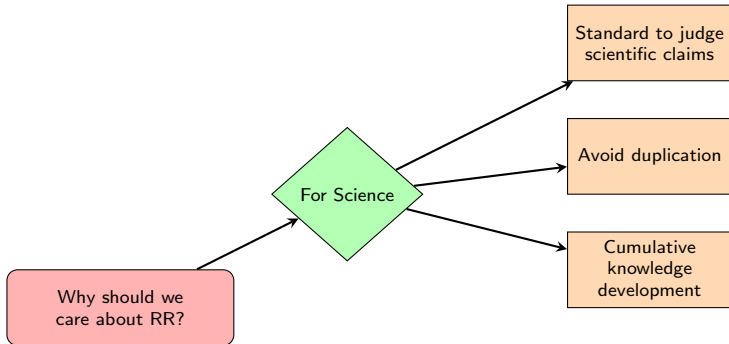
## R Markdown

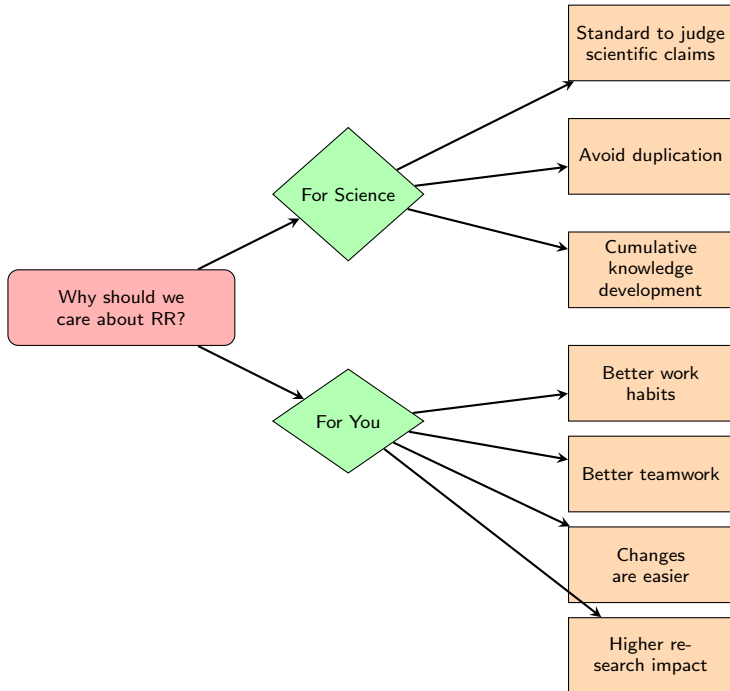
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## Reproducible Research (RR) in Computational Sciences

*The data and the code used to make a finding are available and they are sufficient for an independent researcher to recreate the finding*





# A Motivating Example

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*Demonstrate:* 001-motivating-example

# Tools for Reproducible Research<sup>2</sup>

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## Free and Open Source Software

- RStudio: Creating, managing, compiling documents
- LaTeX: Markup language for typesetting a document
- R: Statistical analysis language
- knitr: Integrate LaTeX and R code. Based on Prof. Friedrich Leisch's [Sweave](https://onepager.togaware.com/)

---

<sup>2</sup><http://onepager.togaware.com/>

# Comparison

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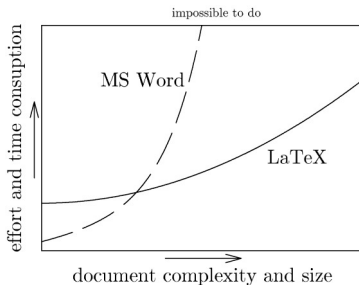


Figure 1 : Comparison

- **L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** has a greater learning curve
- Many tasks are very tedious or impossible (most cases) to do in MS Word or Libre Office



# The Philosophy behind L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

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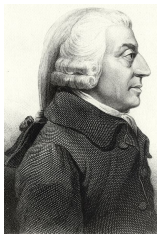
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**Figure 2 :** Adam Smith, author of *The Wealth of Nations* (1776), in which he conceptualizes the notion of the division of labour

## Division of Labour

Composition and logical structuring of text is the author's specific contribution to the production of a printed text. Matters such as the choice of the font family, should section headings be in bold face or small capitals? Should they be flush left or centered? Should the text be justified or not? Should the notes appear at the foot of the page or at the end? Should the text be set in one column or two? and so on, is the typesetter's business

# The Genius Behind L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X



**Figure 3 :** The T<sub>E</sub>X project was started in 1978 by Donald Knuth (Stanford). He planned for 6 months, but it took him nearly 10 years to complete. Coined the term “Literate programming”: mixture of code and text segments that are “human” readable. Recipient of the Turing Award (1974) and the Kyoto Prize (1996).

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# Integrated Development Environment (IDE)

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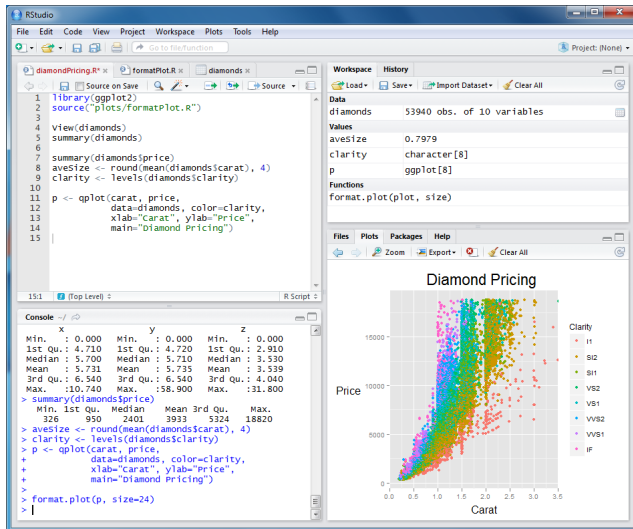
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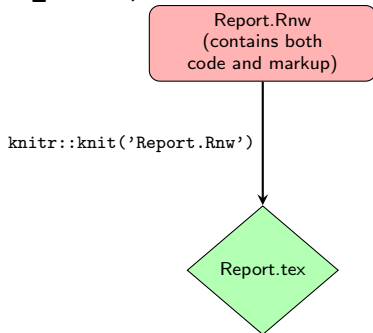
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*Demonstrate:* Explore RStudio, projects and .Rprofile

# What knitr does

**L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X** example:



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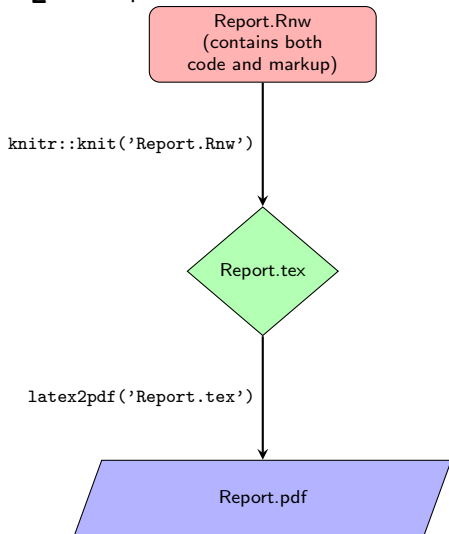
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# What knitr does

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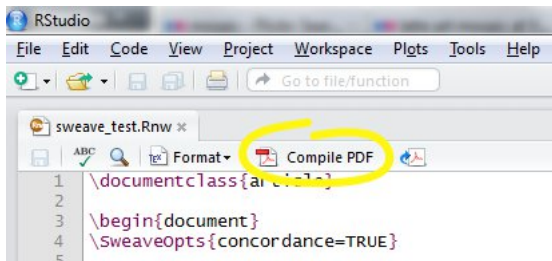
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# Compiling a .Rnw document

The two steps on previous slide can be executed in one command:

```
knitr::knit2pdf()
```

or in RStudio:



# Incorporating R code

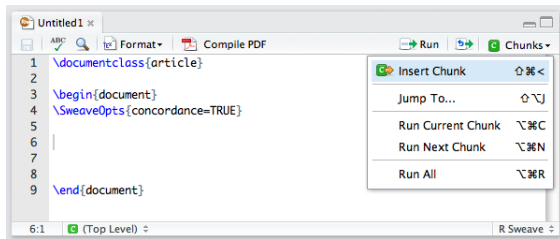
- Insert R code in a **Code Chunk** starting with

<< >>=

and ending with

@

In RStudio:



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```
<<example-code-chunk-name, echo=TRUE>>=  
library(magrittr)  
rnorm(50) %>% mean  
@
```

produces

```
library(magrittr)  
rnorm(50) %>% mean  
  
## [1] 0.031
```

# Example 2

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```
<<example-code-chunk-name2, echo=TRUE, tidy=TRUE>>=  
for(i in 1:5){ (i+3) %>% print}  
@
```

produces

```
for (i in 1:5) {  
  (i + 3) %>% print  
}  
  
## [1] 4  
## [1] 5  
## [1] 6  
## [1] 7  
## [1] 8
```

## Example 2.2

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```
<<example-code-chunk-name3, echo=FALSE>>=  
for(i in 1:5){ (i+3) %>% print}  
@
```

produces

```
## [1] 4  
## [1] 5  
## [1] 6  
## [1] 7  
## [1] 8
```

## Example 2.3

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```
<<example-code-chunk-name4, echo=FALSE, eval=FALSE>>=  
for(i in 1:5){ (i+3) %>% print}  
@
```

produces

# R output within the text

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- Include R output within the text
- We can do that with “S-expressions” using the command `\Sexpr{...}`

## Example:

The iris dataset has `\Sexpr{nrow(iris)}` rows and  
`\Sexpr{ncol(iris)}` columns

produces

The iris dataset has 150 rows and 5 columns

# Include a Figure

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```
<<fig.ex, fig.cap='Linear Regression',fig.height=3,fig.width=3>=  
plot(mtcars[ , c('disp','mpg')])  
lm(mpg ~ disp , data = mtcars) %>%  
abline(lwd=2)  
@
```

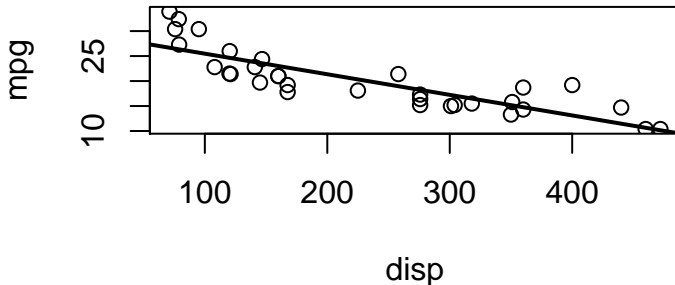


Figure 4 : Linear regression

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```
<<table.ex, results='asis'>>=
library(xtable)
iris[1:5,1:5] %>%
xtable(caption='Sample of Iris data') %>%
print(include.rownames=FALSE)
@
```

Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Species
5.10	3.50	1.40	0.20	setosa
4.90	3.00	1.40	0.20	setosa
4.70	3.20	1.30	0.20	setosa
4.60	3.10	1.50	0.20	setosa
5.00	3.60	1.40	0.20	setosa

Table 1 : Sample of Iris data

# A selection of knitr code chunk options

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# Set global chunk options

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# Option Templates

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# Code in Appendix

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# A selection of knitr code chunk options

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# A selection of knitr code chunk options

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# Opinion: Reproducible research can still be wrong: Adopting a prevention approach

**Jeffrey T. Leek<sup>a,1</sup> and Roger D. Peng<sup>b</sup>**

<sup>a</sup>Associate Professor of Biostatistics and Oncology and <sup>b</sup>Associate Professor of Biostatistics,  
Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD

computational tools such as knitr, iPython notebook, LONI, and Galaxy (8) have simplified the process of distributing reproducible data analyses.



# Is the juice worth the squeeze?

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