

Introduction to Shiny



Sam Bashevkin

State Water Resources Control Board



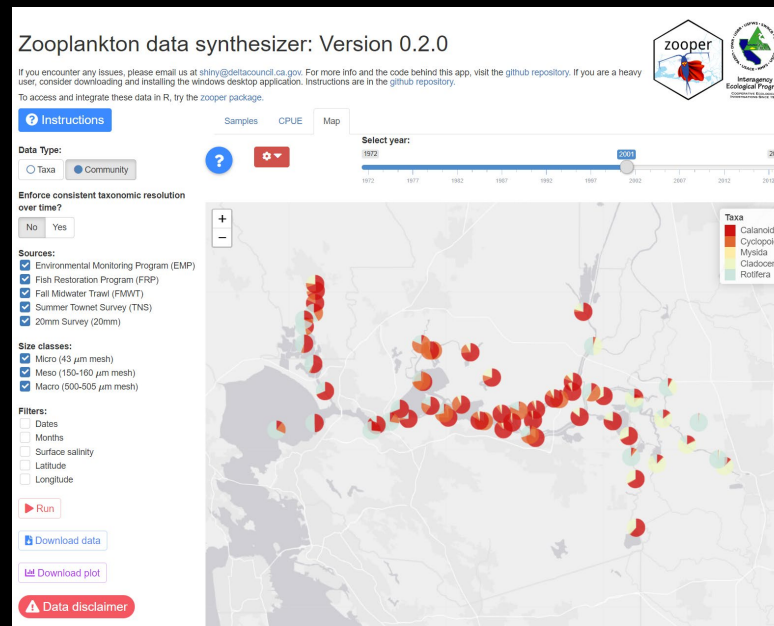
What is shiny?

- R package to build interactive apps with a graphical user interface.
- Practically any R functionality (including external packages) can be used in a shiny app.
- Apps can be hosted online and distributed as web pages, or used locally



Why Shiny?

- Bring R functionality to non-R-users.
- Communicate science.
- Toggle parameters and quickly visualize the effects.



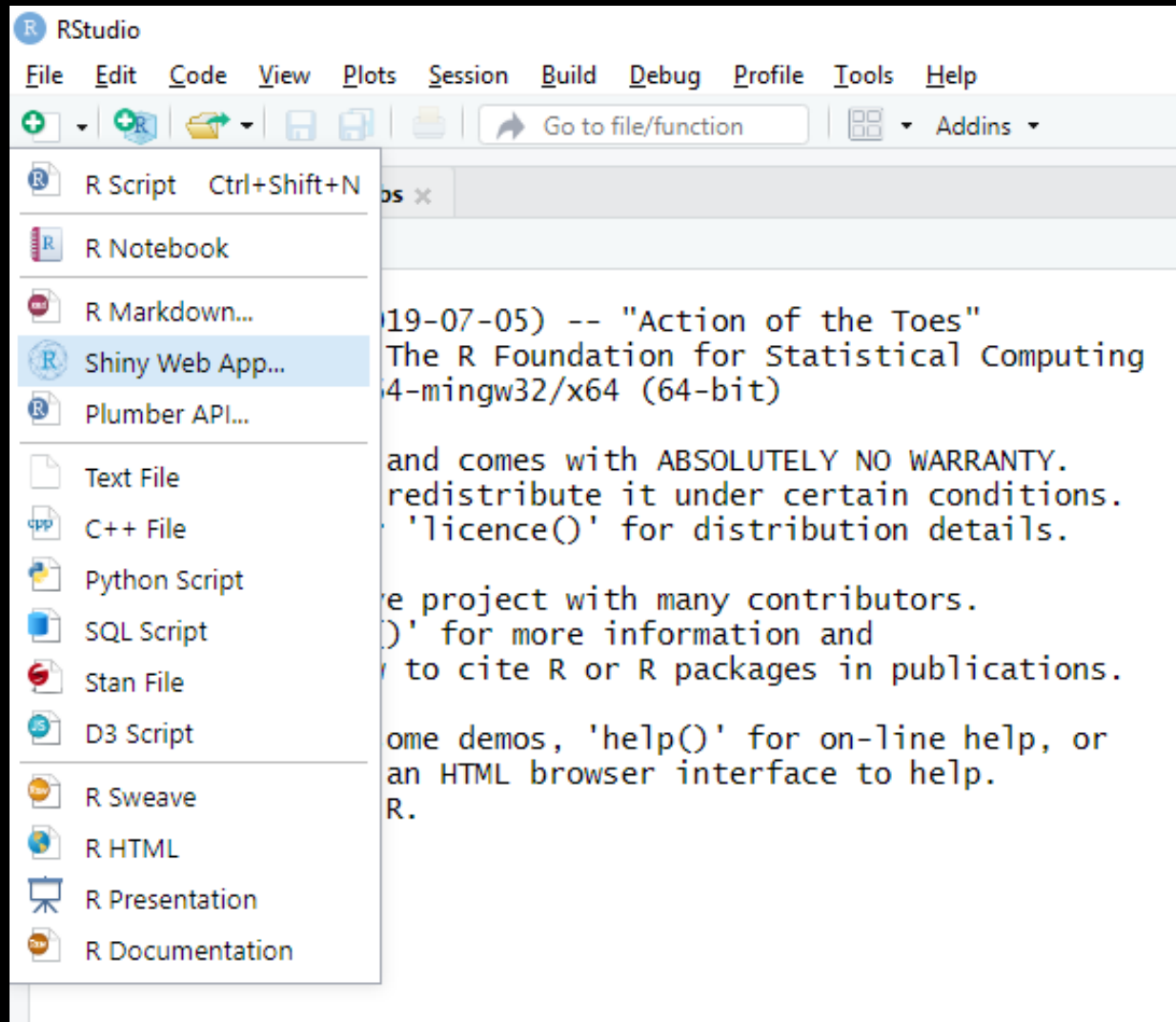
Why not shiny?



- Reduce your frustration load
- Show off your impressive coding skills
- Build something you will not have the time to maintain

```
Console Terminal x R Markdown x Jobs x
C:/Users/sbashevkin/OneDrive - deltacouncil/Spatial R lesson/
1: runApp
Warning: Error in FUN: only defined on a data frame with all numeric variables
217: stop
216: FUN
215: lapply
214: Summary.data.frame
212: eventReactiveHandler [C:/Users/sbashevkin/OneDrive - deltacouncil/Intro to shiny/app2/app2.R#37]
210: handlerFunc
197: func
195: f
194: Reduce
185: do
184: hybrid_chain
183: <reactive:eventReactive(input$run)>
182: .func
179: contextFunc
178: env$runWith
171: ctx$run
170: self$.updateValue
168: hist_plot
167: renderPlot [C:/Users/sbashevkin/OneDrive - deltacouncil/Intro to shiny/app2/app2.R#44]
165: func
125: drawPlot
111: <reactive:plotObj>
95: drawReactive
82: origRenderFunc
81: output$distPlot
1: runApp
```

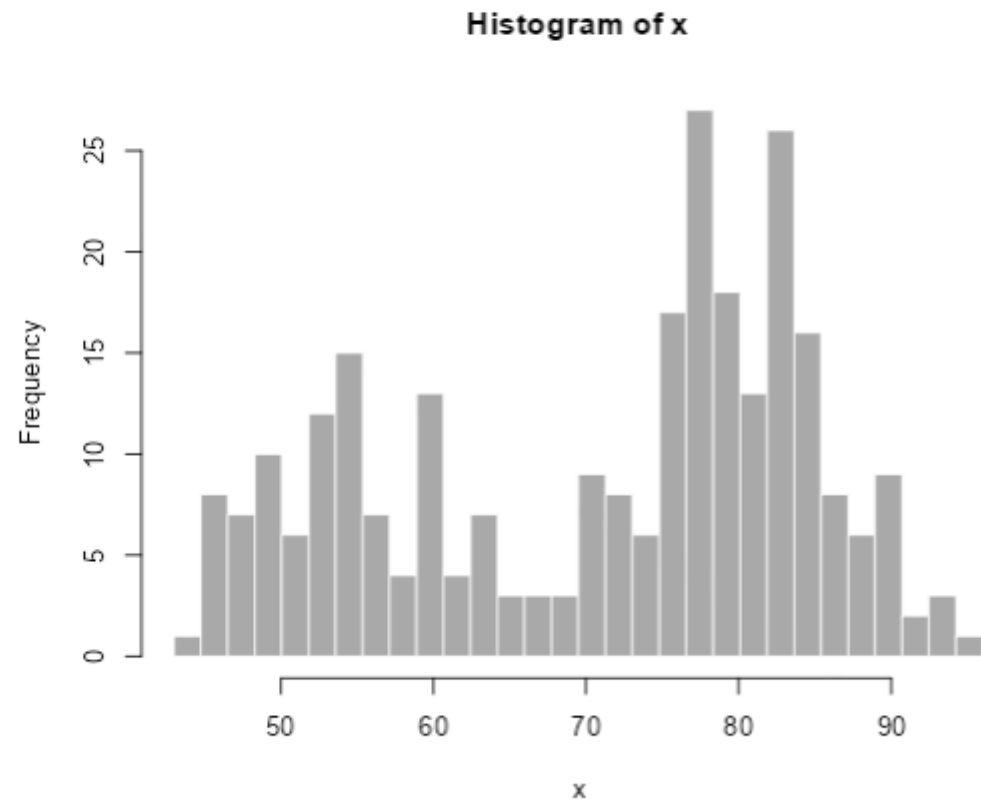
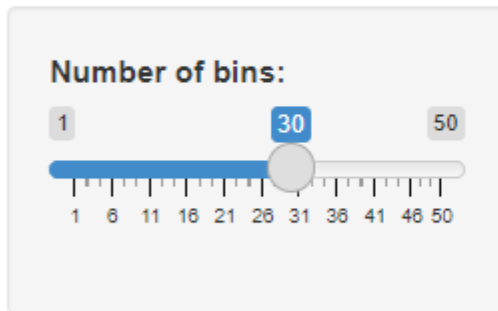
Basic shiny app



Basic shiny app



Old Faithful Geyser Data



Basic shiny app



User interface

User
inputs

Outputs
(graphs,
tables,
text, etc.)

Server

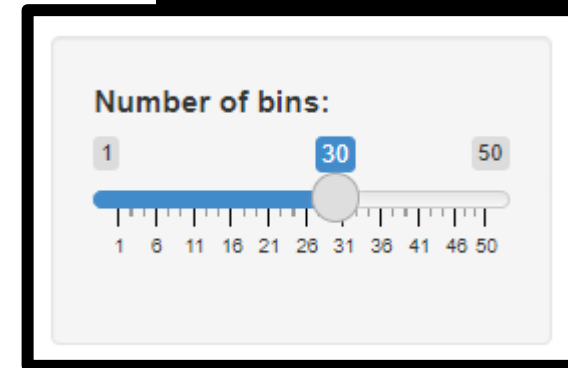
```
1 library(shiny)
2
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5
6   # Application title
7   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
8
9   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
10  sidebarLayout(
11    sidebarPanel(
12      sliderInput("bins",
13                  "Number of bins:",
14                  min = 1,
15                  max = 50,
16                  value = 30)
17    ),
18
19    # Show a plot of the generated distribution
20    mainPanel(
21      plotOutput("distPlot")
22    )
23  )
24 )
25
26 # Define server logic required to draw a histogram
27 server <- function(input, output) {
28
29   output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
30     # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
31     x <- faithful[, 2]
32     bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)
33
34     # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
35     hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
36   })
37 }
```

Basic shiny app



```
1 library(shiny)
2
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5
6   # Application title
7   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
8
9   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
10  sidebarLayout(
11    sidebarPanel(
12      sliderInput("bins",
13                  "Number of bins:",
14                  min = 1,
15                  max = 50,
16                  value = 30)
17    ),
18
19    # Show a plot of the generated distribution
20    mainPanel(
21      plotOutput("distPlot")
22    )
23  )
24 )
25
26 # Define server logic required to draw a histogram
27 server <- function(input, output) {
28
29   output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
30     # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
31     x <- faithful[, 2]
32     bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)
33
34     # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
35     hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
36   })
37 }
```

User interface



User input

Server

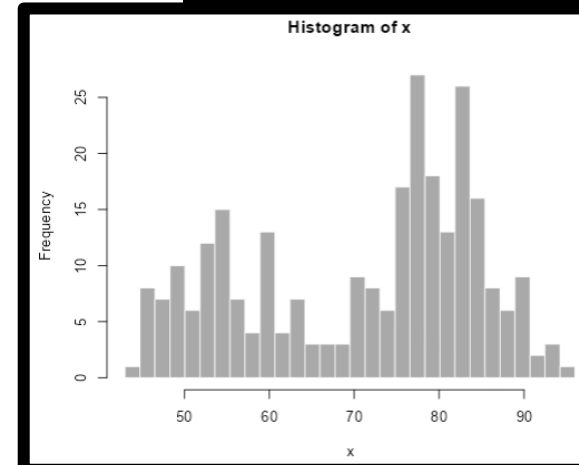
Basic shiny app



User interface

```
1 library(shiny)
2
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5
6   # Application title
7   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
8
9   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
10  sidebarLayout(
11    sidebarPanel(
12      sliderInput("bins",
13                  "Number of bins:",
14                  min = 1,
15                  max = 50,
16                  value = 30)
17    ),
18
19    # Show a plot of the generated distribution
20    mainPanel(
21      plotOutput("distPlot")
22    )
23  )
24 )
```

Graph output



```
25
26 # Define server logic required to draw a histogram
27 server <- function(input, output) {
28
29   output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
30     # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
31     x <- faithful[, 2]
32     bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)
33
34     # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
35     hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
36   })
37 }
```

Server

Shiny mechanics



The UI portion is analogous to a list of user-viewable components, wrapped in functions to set the layout

```
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5
6   # Application title
7   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
8
9   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
10  sidebarLayout(
11    sidebarPanel(
12      sliderInput("bins",
13                  "Number of bins:",
14                  min = 1,
15                  max = 50,
16                  value = 30)
17    ),
18
19    # Show a plot of the generated distribution
20    mainPanel(
21      plotOutput("distPlot")
22    )
23  )
24 )
25
```

Shiny mechanics



Load things
used by entire
app (packages,
functions, etc.)

Control layout

```
1 library(shiny)
2
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5   # Application title
6   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
7   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
8   sidebarLayout(
9     sidebarPanel(
10       sliderInput("bins",
11         "Number of bins:",
12         min = 1,
13         max = 50,
14         value = 30)
15     ),
16     # Show a plot of the generated distribution
17     mainPanel(
18       plotOutput("distPlot")
19     )
20   )
21 )
```



Shiny mechanics

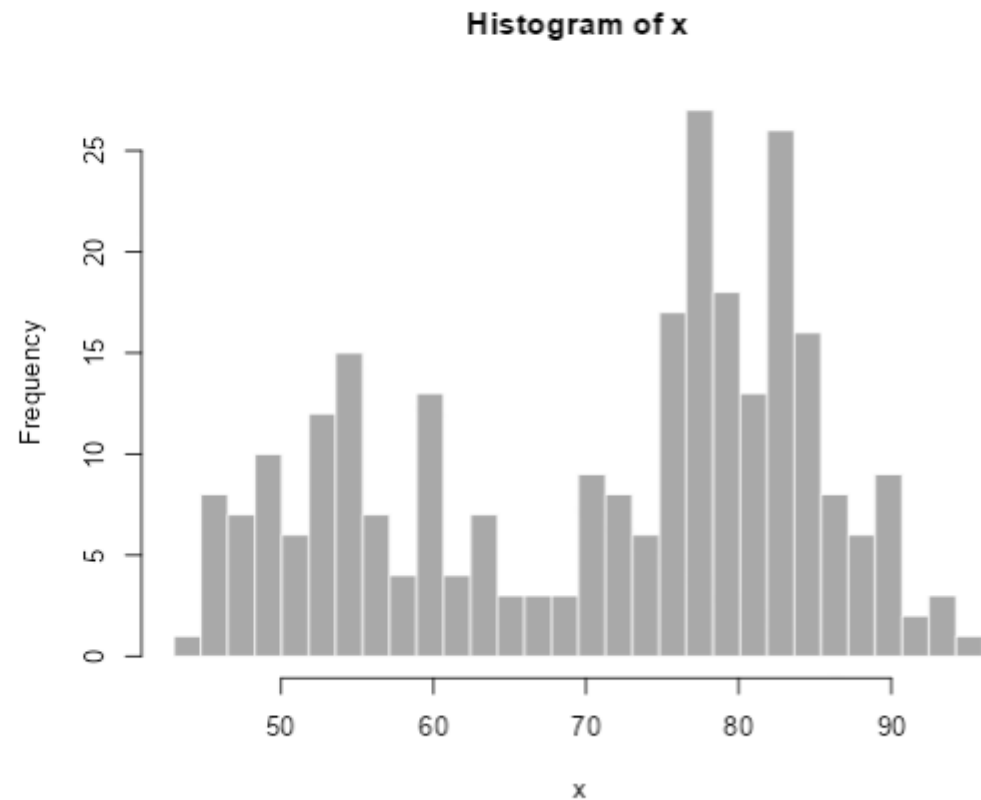
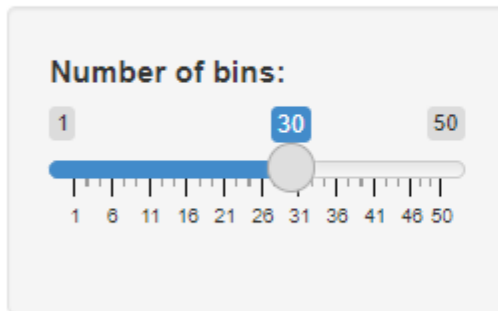
The server portion is analogous to a series of functions with the inputs from the UI as arguments

```
26 # Define server logic required to draw a histogram
27 server <- function(input, output) {
28
29   output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
30     # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
31     x <- faithful[, 2]
32     bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)
33
34     # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
35     hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
36   })
37 }
```

Basic shiny app



Old Faithful Geyser Data




More complex functionality



Old Faithful Geyser Data

Number of bins:

1 30 50

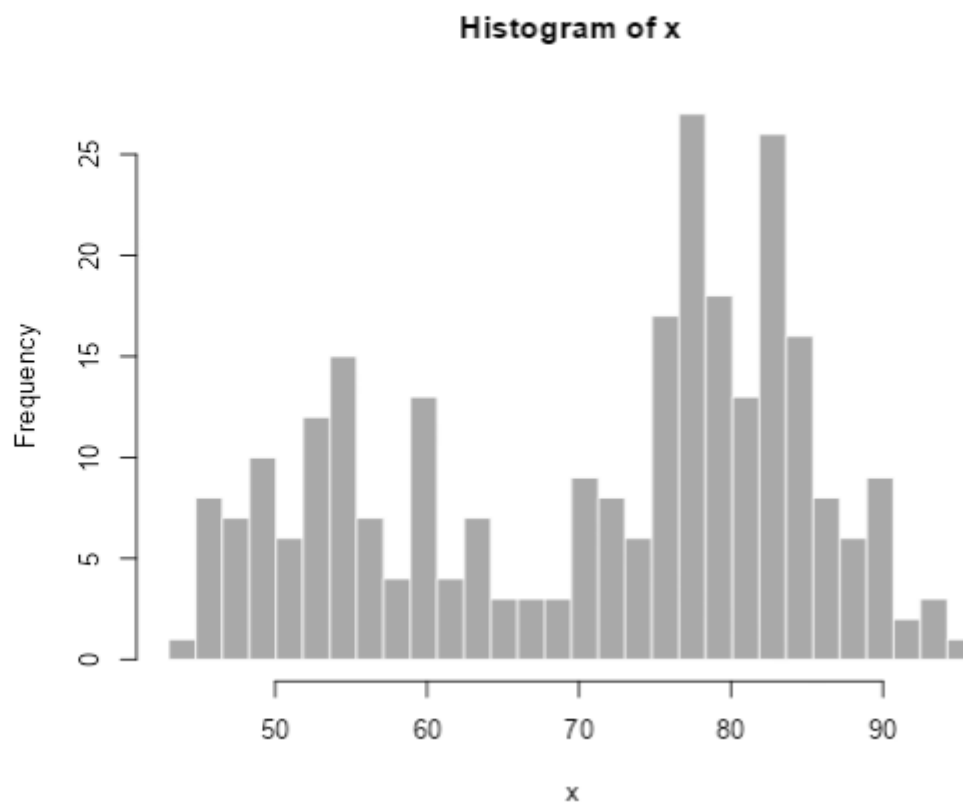


Column to plot:

☒ Time between eruptions

☐ Eruption time

Run





More complex functionality

- Use *reactive* to create intermediate values that will be triggered by any change in their dependencies (inputs).
 - If you don't want everything to update as soon as the input changes, you can use *eventReactive*
 - Useful when the user must choose multiple inputs and you don't want a process to trigger until they have made all their selections.

More complex functionality



```
1 library(shiny)
2
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5
6   # Application title
7   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
8
9   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
10  sidebarLayout(
11    sidebarPanel(
12      sliderInput("bins",
13                  "Number of bins:",
14                  min = 1,
15                  max = 50,
16                  value = 30),
17      radioButtons("column",
18                  "Column to plot:",
19                  choices=c("Time between eruptions=2", "Eruption time=1")),
20      actionButton("run",
21                  "Run")
22    ),
23
24    # Show a plot of the generated distribution
25    mainPanel(
26      plotOutput("distPlot")
27    )
28  )
29 )
30
31 # Define server logic required to draw a histogram
32 server <- function(input, output) {
33
34   hist_plot <- eventReactive(input$run, {
35     # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
36     x <- faithful[, as.integer(input$column)]
37     bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins)
38
39     # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
40     hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
41   })
42
43   output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
44     hist_plot()
45   })
46 }
```




More complex functionality

Column to plot:

☒ Time between eruptions

☐ Eruption time

UI additions

```
radioButtons("column",  
            "Column to plot:",  
            choices=c("Time between eruptions"=2, "Eruption time"=1)),  
actionButton("run",  
            "Run")
```

Run

Server additions

```
hist_plot <- eventReactive(input$run, {  
  # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R  
  x <- faithful[, as.integer(input$column)]  
  bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)  
  
  # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins  
  hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')  
})
```

More complex functionality



```
1 library(shiny)
2
3 # Define UI for application that draws a histogram
4 ui <- fluidPage(
5
6   # Application title
7   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
8
9   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
10  sidebarLayout(
11    sidebarPanel(
12      sliderInput("bins",
13                  "Number of bins:",
14                  min = 1,
15                  max = 50,
16                  value = 30),
17      radioButtons("column",
18                  "Column to plot:",
19                  choices=c("Time between eruptions"=2, "Eruption time"=1)),
20      actionButton("run",
21                  "Run")
22    ),
23
24    # Show a plot of the generated distribution
25    mainPanel(
26      plotOutput("dis Plot")
27    )
28  )
29 )
30
31 # Define server logic required to draw a histogram
32 server <- function(input, output)
33 {
34   hist_plot <- eventReactive(input$run, {
35     # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
36     x <- faithful[, as.integer(input$column)]
37     bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)
38
39     # draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
40     hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
41   })
42
43   output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
44     hist_plot()
45   })
46 }
47
48 # Run the application
49 shinyApp(ui = ui, server = server)
50
```

More complex app



Old Faithful Geyser Data

Number of bins:

1 30 50

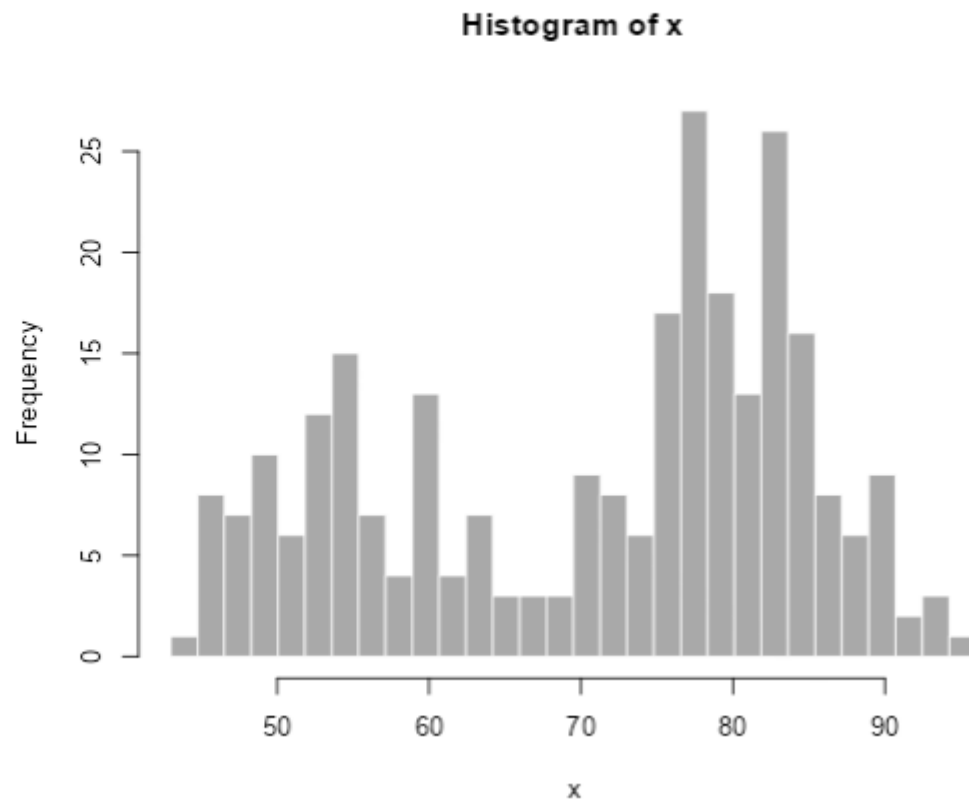
1 6 11 16 21 26 31 36 41 46 50

Column to plot:

☒ Time between eruptions

☐ Eruption time

Run





Debugging

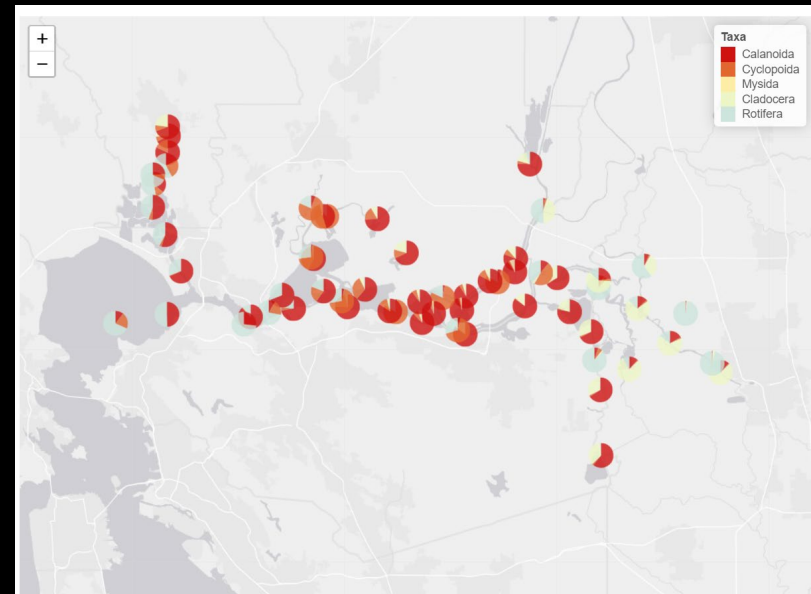
- Shiny apps are hard to debug
- Start by running code outside app.
- Many bugs I have been unable to replicate outside the app have been related to an improper sequence of events.
 - Solution: Try the *req* function to ensure no processes trigger until their dependencies exist.
 - Also can use *flush()* or *flush_all()* to control the app.



Additional packages to improve your app



- **ggiraph** or **plotly**: Hoverable interactive graphs
- **shinywidgets**: More and prettier inputs
- **leaflet**: interactive maps
- **leaflet.minicharts**: pie and bar charts over maps
- Can also customize app by inserting HTML or CSS





Deploying your app

- Online at shinyapps.io
 - Free or paid account tiers
 - The Delta Science program has a [paid account](#) and may be willing to host your app
- Or host it online on your own server if you have the time, skill, and money.

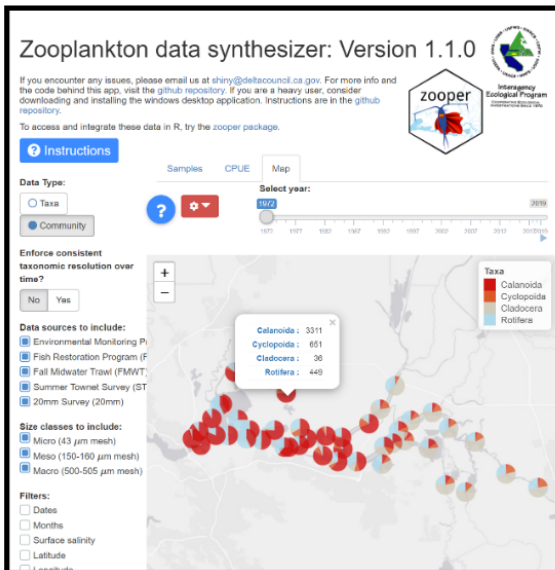
Example shiny apps from the Delta



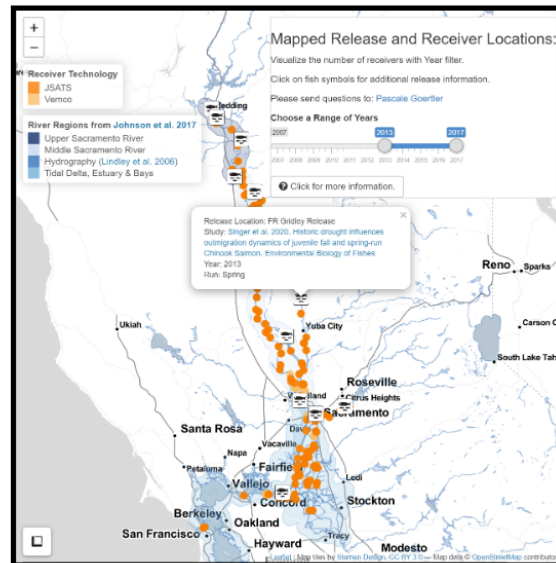
- <https://baydeltalive.com/fish/hatchery-releases>
- <https://deltascience.shinyapps.io/home> (links to all DSP hosted apps)

Hosted applications (8)

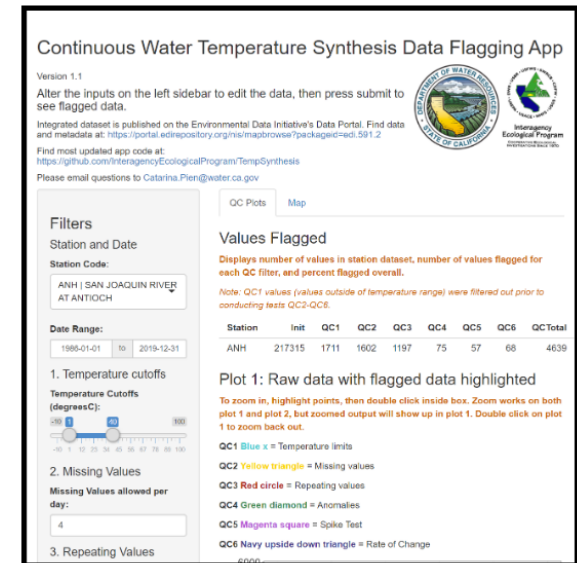
Zooplankton synthesis app



Salmon release and telemetry receiver locations



Continuous Water Temperature Data App





Resources for learning

- <https://shiny.posit.co/r/articles/>
- <https://shiny.posit.co/r/getstarted/shiny-basics/lesson1/index.html>
- <https://shiny.posit.co/r/gallery/>
- Google