Developing a Workflow to Maximize Reproducibility and Research Impact: Managing Data, Computer Code, and Projects for Success

Althea A. ArchMiller & John R. Fieberg

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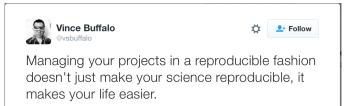
- Program R <www.r-project.org> (required)
- RStudio <www.rstudio.com/products/RStudio> (required)
- ▶ Git <git-scm.com> (optional)
- GitHub account <github.com> (optional)
- Microsoft Word (preferable)

Why worry about reproducibility?

Working towards future reproducibility makes my code easier for my collaborators (and me) to read, run, and debug today, and that's why I think reproducibility is a win-win for all researchers."
-Althea



Why worry about reproducibility?



- make your life easier! Now, and in the future
- collaborations
- broader research impact
- increased citations
- transparency
- grant and journal requirements

"[Reproducibility] provides security, saves time, and forces me to be more thoughtful about my workflow." - Ethan Young

What formats are your research documents stored in?

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- .pdf
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- ▶ .R/.Rdata
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- .doc/.docx
- .sas
- .xls/.xlsx
- any other proprietary file format
 - ▶ NO these are not "reproducible"

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 - Clear environment often and at beginning of script
 - ► Each program should focus on one main task or analysis
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- Are your files easily shared with others?
 - Organized directory structure
 - Files relatively linked
 - Well-documented & commented
 - Consistency in coding practices

"The point of having style guidelines is to have a common vocabulary of coding so people can concentrate on *what* you are saying, rather than on *how* you are saying it." - Google's R Style Guide

Do you treat your data as read-only?

- Don't use Excel, etc., to manipulate raw data
- Use an R script for data processing
 - Process data in one script, then save for loading into subsequent scripts
- When archiving, provide raw data and processing code not just final tables

Workshop Outline

The goal for this workshop is to help you develop the tools to develop a workflow to maximize reproducibility, collaborations, and research impact.

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- R-Markdown and R-Oxygen with knitr for documenting your code and creating reproducible reports

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- 1. RStudio Projects for organizing data, code, and output
- 2. R-Markdown and R-Oxygen with knitr for documenting your code and creating reproducible reports
- 3. GitHub for version-control, collaborating and archiving

1. RStudio Projects for organizing data, code,

and output

RStudio is a GUI for R that eases

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- debugging
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- data processing
- project managment
- program version-controlling and archiving
- plotting
- R library installation and updating

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- Reproduciblity!

Think about a typical research project, maybe a dissertation chapter or an experiment that you've managed from data collection through publication. What are typical **folders** that you've used?

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- Raw data
- Processed data
- Analysis scripts
- Paper/Manuscript-related documents
- Sharing documents ("transmittals")
- Metadata
- Maps or other deliverables

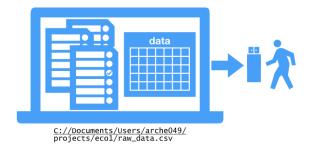
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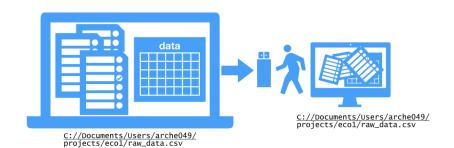
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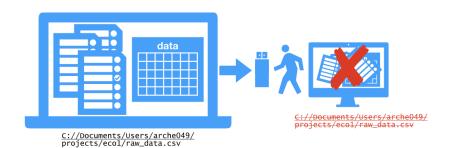
RStudio Projects provide an opportunity for you to organize and manage all of these types of folders in **one place** in a way that **relatively links** everything together and **eases sharing**.

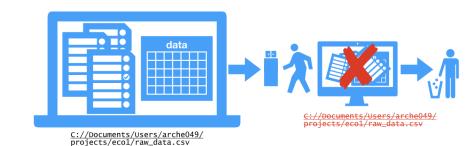


C://Documents/Users/arche049/
projects/ecol/raw_data.csv



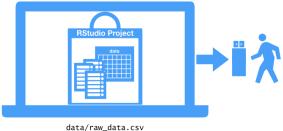


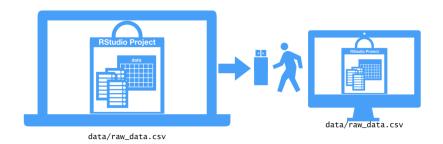


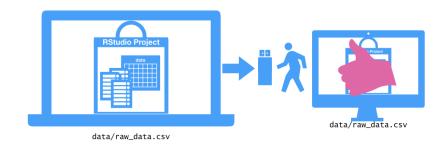


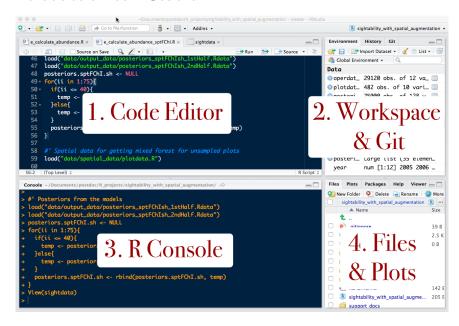


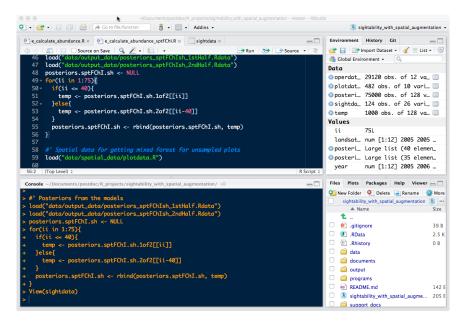
data/raw_data.csv

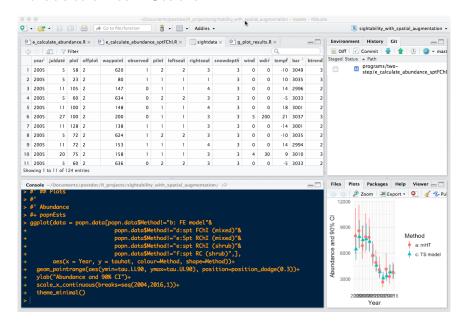












Here, we will read in and process three weeks of experimental data and do some preliminary analysis. Then, we will get a final (4th) week of data, which we will merge with the original data.

The goals are to:

- 1. Be introduced to RStudio
- 2. Create a framework for keeping data organized and up-to-date
- 3. Automatically update our analyses based on the master dataset

Context: Abundance data from \sim 75 invertebrate species sampled on various beaches along the Dutch coast.

Zuur, A.F., E.N. Ieno, and G.M. Smith (2007) Analysing Ecological Data. Springer, New York.

Introduction to RStudio

► Open RStudio

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- Set up global options

Remember to not save .Rdata or history! This is important for ensuring that your code is linear and reproducible (i.e., at the beginning of each script, you load all the data you will need for that entire script - no more, no less!)

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Create a project (using existing, unzipped directory)

Now, your R code pathways will be relatively linked to where that .Rproj file is located. This eases programming and collaboration!

Activity 1: Data management and updating

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Now we can do some analysis of invertebrates!

Activity 1: Data management and updating

- In the File window of RStudio, copy the student_folders/student_template folder. Rename the folder after yourself (or an alias).
- Open a new R Script file and save it to that new folder as student_folders/ yourname/activity1a_data_processing.R

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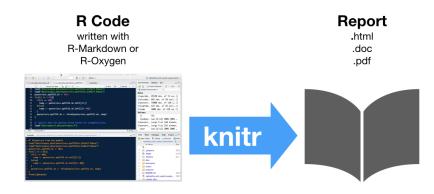
Activity Overview:

- 1. We will read in first three weeks of data and combine them, process the data a little bit, and save the merged/processed data for analysis.
- We will save another new R Script file as "activity1b_data_analysis.R" and code/run some preliminary regression analysis.
- 3. We will pretend to have just gotten the final week's data in and update everything in a "reproducible" way.

documenting your code and creating reproducible reports

2. R-Markdown and R-Oxygen with knitr for

Overview of knitr



Why knitr for manuscripts?



I am having to re-do some pretty onerous data cleaning work, and I am SO THANKFUL that it is all in knitr, fully reproducible, etc. #rstats

Why **knitr** for manuscripts?



"I can do reproducible work in R (making me happy) and format the output report in Word (making my collaborators happy)" - Richard Layton http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/articles_docx.html

all in knitr, fully reproducible, etc. #rstats

Why knitr for manuscripts?

Native R Scripts (.R extensions) (or any analysis code) are generally not designed for reading, but the **knitr** library has been designed for converting R scripts into readable reports, such as Word, PDF, and/or html documents.

Not only do these types of reports help with collaborating, they provide a great framework for archiving your analyses and results.

Example:

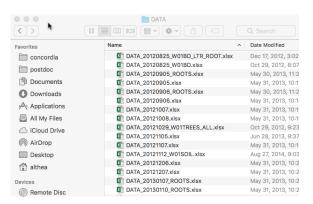
https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/181607

Documenting Code: General tips

- Consistent and meaningful naming conventions
 - ightharpoonup a = b*c
 - weekly.pay = hours.worked*pay.rate (not cross-compatible)
 - weekly_pay = hours_worked*pay_rate
 - weeklyPay = hoursWorked*payRate

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 - weekly_pay = hours_worked*pay_rate
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- Use YYYYMMDD or equivalent for dates



Documenting Code: R-Markdown

R-Markdown combines markdown language, which is "an easy-to-write plain text format" and embedded R code chunks that are "run so their output can be included in the final document" [1]

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```
14 This is an R Markdown document. Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring HTML, PDF, and MS Word documents. For more details on using R Markdown see <a href="http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com">http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com</a>.

15
16 When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document. You can embed an R code chunk like this:

17
18 *** {r cars}
19
20
20
21
```

This is an R Markdown document. Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring HTML, PDF, and MS Word documents. For more details on using R Markdown see

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When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document. You can embed an R code chunk like this:

```
summary(cars)
                        dist
       speed
                          : 2.00
   1st Ou.:12.0
                  1st Ou.: 26.00
                  Median : 36.00
   Median :15.0
    Mean
           :15.4
                  Mean
                         : 42.98
   3rd Ou.:19.0
                  3rd Ou.: 56.00
   Max.
          :25.0
                  Max.
                         :120.00
```

Documenting code: R-Markdown

Exercise 2a: Introduction to R-Markdown

- ► File > New File > R Markdown...
- Choose "html" optionally put in a title and press "OK"
- ▶ This R-Markdown template is ready to "knit" into an html as-is
 - Click the blue Knit button
 - Save as "student_folders/yourname/activity2a_intro_rmarkdown.Rmd"
 - View the resultant html
- ► Take a few minutes to modify the .Rmd and view how the changes appear in the knit html document.

https://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/rmarkdown-cheatsheet.pdf

Documenting code: ezknitr

What folder did the html end up in?

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Now imagine if you wanted to keep the programs/scripts in a folder separate from reports (highly recommended!). You can easily direct the output html file into a different folder using **ezknitr** package.

Documenting code: ezknitr

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Now imagine if you wanted to keep the programs/scripts in a folder separate from reports (highly recommended!). You can easily direct the output html file into a different folder using **ezknitr** package.

```
library(ezknitr)
ezknit("student_folders/yournm/activity2a_intro_rmarkdown.Rmd",
          out_dir = "student_folders/yournm/reports",
          fig_dir = "figures",
          keep_md = F)
```

Note: When using ezknit, must manually save the .Rmd file before knitting!

Instead of using the R-Markdown language, you can also use **pure R scripts** plus **Roxygen comments** (#') to create fully reproducible reports.

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Benefit: The entire program can be written and run in the familiar R Script file, then "spun" into an html/Word/pdf document at any point.

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► Learning to code with R-Oxygen is arguably more natural since we already use # for commenting

Additionally, use #+ to define and label R chunks like we did with the "' $\{r\dots\}$ code in the R-Markdown language.

Activity 2b: Introduction to R-Oxygen

Here, we'll quickly convert "activity1b_data_analysis.R" into an html document.

- 1. Open "activity1b_data_analysis.R"
- 2. Save As...

"student_folder/yourname/activity2b_intro_roxygen.R"

LaTeX

Another benefit of using knitr/Rmd/Roxygen for creating statistical reports is the nice interface with LaTeX equation syntax.

Activity 3. LaTeX Equations

- 1. Create a new .Rmd html document
- 2. Save it as "student_folders/yourname/activity3_latex.Rmd"
- 3. Create the following in the output html

```
 \alpha + \beta = 2\theta 
 \pi^2 = 9.86 
 \sum_{i=1}^{n} \sqrt{i} = 42 \text{ (advanced)}
```

4. When you "knit" remember to use ezknitr:

https://tobi.oetiker.ch/lshort/lshort.pdf (hint: tables on p75)

Putting RStudio & knitr together: Project

Workflow

Example project directory

- ▶ data/
 - raw_data/
 - processed_data/
 - output_data/
- manuscript/
 - ms_figures/
 - transmissions/
 - submission/
- ▶ output/
 - ▶ figures/
- programs/
- project_file.Rproj

- data/
 - raw_data/
 - survey_data20161227.csv
 - survey data20161230.csv
 - survey_data20170103.csv
 - processed_data/
 - survey_data_all.Rdata
 - output_data/
 - ▶ model_out.Rdata

- programs/
 - ► a_data_processing.R
 - ▶ b_data_analysis.R
 - ► c_plots.R

- output/
 - a_data_processing.html
 - b_data_analysis.html
 - ► c_plots.html
 - figures/
 - eda1.jpg
 - scatter1.jpg

- manuscript/
 - ms.Rmd
 - ms.pdf
 - ms.docx
 - ms_figures/
 - ▶ fig1.jpg
 - ▶ fig2.jpg

- manuscript/
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 - fig2.jpg
 - transmittals/
 - from_john/
 - ► ms20170523.docx
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 - coverletter.docx

Example of an RStudio project that Althea & John used from conceptualization through publication.

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Activity 3: Creating a reproducible report using R-Markdown

Tasks:

- 1. Knit the rmd as is into a .doc file
- 2. Add a third week of data and update report
- 3. Change the formatting using the word-styles-reference-01.docx

3. GitHub for version-control, collaborating and

archiving

Introduction to GitHub

GitHub provides a place for you to back-up and version-control your R projects.

- ▶ Interfaces directly with RStudio
- Free (public repositories or with university email) or cheap (private repositories)
- ► Facilitates collaboration with other co-authors (or the public)
- Can go back to previous code versions (version-control aspect)

Once you're up and running, it's (usually) simple to use!

Introduction to GitHub

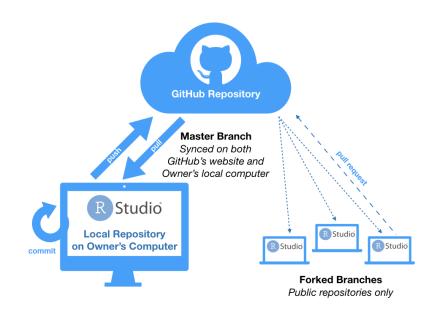


Introduction to GitHub





GitHub Overview



repository

- ► A project (here, an RStudio Project) that contains code, analysis, output, etc that is held by GitHub
- Repositories may be public or private
- Most repositories will have one "owner" with direct writing privileges; however,
- ► All repositories can be made to include more than one "owner" or "collaborator" with direct write privileges

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branch

- A particular version of a repository
- The "master" branch is the original version of the repository, which can be forked (see below) or edited directly by branch owners/collaborators.
- "Forked" branches are any "clones" that are made by anyone other than the repository owner

commit

- ▶ Verb: to save a change or series of changes to the repository, with an associated "commit message"
- Noun: the saved changes as an entity, which can be "pushed" back to the associated branch

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push

- ▶ To merge 1 or more commits back to the associated branch
- You can only push directly to repositories that you have ownership or collaborator privileges for
- If you don't have direct writing privileges, you have to create a "pull request"
- The direction of a push is from your local version (RStudio) to GitHub server

pull

- ► To take any changes that have been made to the associated branch and sync them with your local version
- ► The direction of a pull is from the GitHub server to your local version (RStudio)

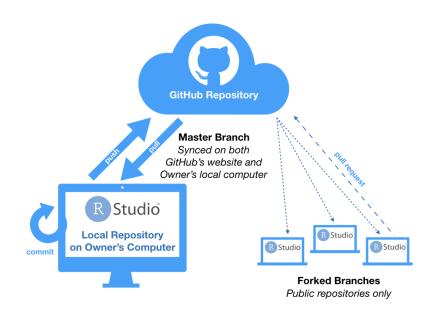
pull

- ► To take any changes that have been made to the associated branch and sync them with your local version
- ► The direction of a pull is from the GitHub server to your local version (RStudio)

pull request

- ▶ A series of commits that have been made on a forked branch that are being asked to merge with the next upstream branch (i.e., usually the master branch)
- ► You will view and accept pull requests through GitHub directly
- ► Side note: Called "pull requests" because you are requesting the branch owner to pull in your changes to their branch.

GitHub Overview



Activity 4: Sync today's Rstudio project with GitHub

- 1. Add git repository to your RStudio project (in RStudio)
- 2. Commit all of today's work (in RStudio)
- 3. Push to GitHub (GitHub and RStudio shell)
 - In GitHub, new repository of same name as your project (here: "TWS reproducibility_workshop")
 - ▶ Open RStudio shell (In RStudio, Tools > Shell...)

```
git remote add origin https://github.com/
    gitusername/TWS_reproducibility_workshop.git
git config remote.origin.url
    git@github.com:gitusername/TWS_reproducibility_workshop.git
git push -u origin master
git pull -u origin master
```

GitHub

Additional GitHub Tips

- ► Don't use github with large files (push limit of 100MB, warning >50MB)
 - ▶ If necessary, use git-large-file add on (advanced!)
- Create new projects in GitHub first, then sync them with RStudio (File > New Project > Version Control > Git)

Thanks!

	COMMENT	DATE
Q	CREATED MAIN LOOP & TIMING CONTROL	14 HOURS AGO
φ	ENABLED CONFIG FILE PARSING	9 HOURS AGO
þ	MISC BUGFIXES	5 HOURS AGO
φ	CODE ADDITIONS/EDITS	4 HOURS AGO
Q.	MORE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
9	HERE HAVE CODE	4 HOURS AGO
0	AAAAAAA	3 HOURS AGO
6	ADKFJ5LKDFJ5DKLFJ	3 HOURS AGO
ø	MY HANDS ARE TYPING WORDS	2 HOURS AGO
þ	HAAAAAAANDS	2 HOURS AGO

AS A PROJECT DRAGS ON, MY GIT COMMIT MESSAGES GET LESS AND LESS INFORMATIVE.

Additional resources

- https://swcarpentry.github.io/r-novice-gapminder/ 02-project-intro/
- knitr documentation and help https://yihui.name/knitr/
- Markdown basics https: //daringfireball.net/projects/markdown/basics
- R-Oxygen formatting/tips https://rpubs.com/alobo/spintutorial
- Online Reproducible Research Course http://eriqande.github.io/rep-res-web/
- Excellent GitHub/RStudio tutorial
 https://www.r-bloggers.com/rstudio-and-github/