

R PACKAGES

OVERVIEW OF R PACKAGES

WHAT IS AN R PACKAGE?

- From Writing R Extensions: “A directory of files which extend R”.
- Files bundled together using tar and compressed using gzip. The file extension is `.tar.gz`. These are the *source files* for the package, which then must be installed from this source code locally prior to use.
- Sometimes also called an *extension* of R.

WHAT IS AN R PACKAGE?

Example R package:

Folders	Documents	Developer
<div>weathermetrics</div> <div>PDF Documents</div> <div>weathermetrics.pdf</div> <div>Other</div> <div>weathermetrics_1.2.0.tar.gz</div> <div>weathermetrics_1.2.2.tar.gz</div>	<div>cran-comments.md</div> <div>NEWS.md</div> <div>README.md</div> <div>Folders</div> <div>data</div> <div>inst</div> <div>man</div> <div>R</div> <div>vignettes</div> <div>Other</div> <div>DESCRIPTION</div> <div>NAMESPACE</div> <div>README.Rmd</div> <div>weathermetrics.Rproj</div>	<div>data.R</div> <div>heat_index.R</div> <div>moisture_conversions.R</div> <div>rainmeasure_conversion.R</div> <div>temperature_conversions.R</div> <div>weathermetrics.R</div> <div>wind_conversions.R</div>

WHAT IS AN R PACKAGE?

You can also have “binary packages” for a certain operating system. From Writing R Extensions:

A binary package is “a zip file or tarball containing the files of an installed package which can be unpacked rather than installing from sources.”

MOTIVATION

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT IN BIOSTATISTICS

So I have a new policy when evaluating CV's of candidates for jobs, or when I'm reading a paper as a referee. If the paper is about a new statistical method or machine learning algorithm and there is no software available for that method - I simply mentally cross it off the CV. If I'm reading a data analysis and there isn't code that reproduces their analysis - I mentally cross it off. In my mind, new methods/analyses without software are just [vapor ware](#). Now, you'd definitely have to cross a few papers off my CV, based on this principle. I do that. But I'm trying really hard going forward to make sure nothing gets crossed off.

Source: Jeff Leek, Simply Statistics

MOTIVATION

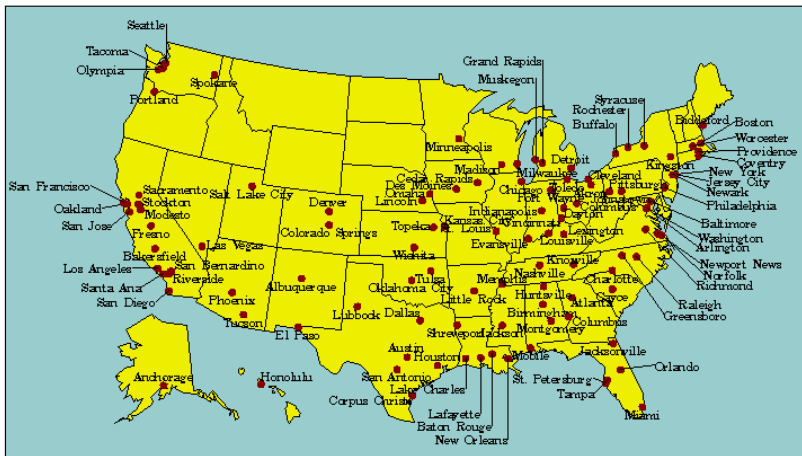
CONSIDER DEVELOPING SOFTWARE WHEN

- You have developed a new method you want to share
- You have data you'd like to make publicly available
- You find yourself doing the same task repeatedly

Why create an R package?

- Share some functions broadly
- Share some functions with a small group
- Create a version of code for yourself that's more organized and easier to use
 - Includes documentation (vignettes, help files)
 - Function names linked to package namespace
 - Once library is installed, can load easily

NMMAPS PACKAGE.



Source: www.ihaps.jhsph.edu

CONTENTS OF NMMAPS PACKAGE

NMMAPSdata package

Data

- akr
- albu
- Anch
and 105 other US cities
- *Meta-data on cities
(population,
location, counties,
Census variables)*

Functions

- readCity
- getMetaData
*and various other
functions for different
versions of the package*

Documentation

- PDF users' manual
- Instructions for each function within R
- Examples for each function within R
- Website

IMPACT OF NMMAPS PACKAGE

RESEARCH IMPACTS OF NMMAPS PACKAGE

Source: Barnett, Huang, and Turner, "Benefits of Publicly Available Data", Epidemiology 2012

- As of November 2011, 67 publications had been published using this data, with 1,781 citations to these papers
- Research using NMMAPS has been used by the US EPA in creating regulatory impact statements for air pollution (particulates and ozone)
- "Thanks to NMMAPS, there is probably no other country in the world with a greater understanding of the health effects of air pollution and heat waves in its population."

SHARING AN R PACKAGE

If you want to share your R package, there are a number of ways you can do that:

- CRAN
- GitHub
- Bioconductor: “Bioconductor provides tools for the analysis and comprehension of high-throughput genomic data.” (from the Bioconductor website.)
- Other repositories
 - Private(-ish) repositories: e.g., ROpenSci’s repository (for more, see <https://ropensci.org/blog/blog/2015/08/04/a-drat-repository-for-ropensci>)
 - drat repository: Make your own R package repository, including through GitHub pages.
- Compressed file: You can save a source tarball or binary package file with others without posting to a repository.

CRAN

Sharing on CRAN:

- Traditional way to share an R package widely
- Easiest way for others to get your package (`install.packages`)
- Some barriers:
 - Size constraint on packages (5 MB)
 - Must follow CRAN policies
 - All packages must pass a submission process. This is not a guarantee that a package does what it says, just a check that required files are where they should be and that the package more or less doesn't break things.

CRAN CHECKS



Romain François @romain_francois · Nov 11

technically trump can go to [#cran](#).

[github.com/romainfrancois...](#)

```
Maintainer: 'Romain François <romain@purple.cat>'

New submission

Version contains leading zeroes (2016.11.08)
Version contains large components (2016.11.08)
* checking package namespace information ... OK
* checking package dependencies ... OK
* checking if this is a source package ... OK
* checking if there is a namespace ... OK
* checking for executable files ... OK
* checking for hidden files and directories ... OK
* checking for portable file names ... OK
* checking for sufficient/correct file permissions ... OK
* checking whether package 'trump' can be installed ... OK
* checking installed package size ... OK
* checking package directory ... OK
* checking DESCRIPTION meta-information ... OK
* checking top-level files ... OK
* checking for left-over files ... OK
* checking index information ... OK
* checking package subdirectories ... OK
* checking R files for non-ASCII characters ... OK
* checking R files for syntax errors ... OK
* checking whether the package can be loaded ... OK
* checking whether the package can be loaded with stated dependencies ... OK
* checking whether the package can be unloaded cleanly ... OK
* checking whether the namespace can be loaded with stated dependencies ... OK
* checking whether the namespace can be unloaded cleanly ... OK
```

GITHUB

GitHub is becoming more and more common as a place to share R packages, both development packages that eventually are posted to CRAN and packages that are never submitted to CRAN.

- No restrictions / submission requirements
- GitHub repository size restrictions (1 GB, no files over 100 MB) much larger than CRAN package size restrictions (5 MB)
- GitHub packages can be installed using `install_github` from the `devtools` package
 - Requires `devtools` package, which has some set-up requirements (XCode for Mac, Rtools for Windows)
- Packages on CRAN cannot depend on packages available only on GitHub

FIND OUT MORE

To find out more about writing R packages, useful sources are:

- Writing R Extensions: Guidelines for R packages from the R Core Team.
- R Packages by Hadley Wickham
- R package development cheatsheet

BASIC EXAMPLE PACKAGE

WEATHERMETRICS

weathermetrics: Functions to Convert Between Weather Metrics

Functions to convert between weather metrics, including conversions for metrics of temperature, air moisture, wind speed, and precipitation. This package also includes functions to calculate the heat index from air temperature and air moisture.

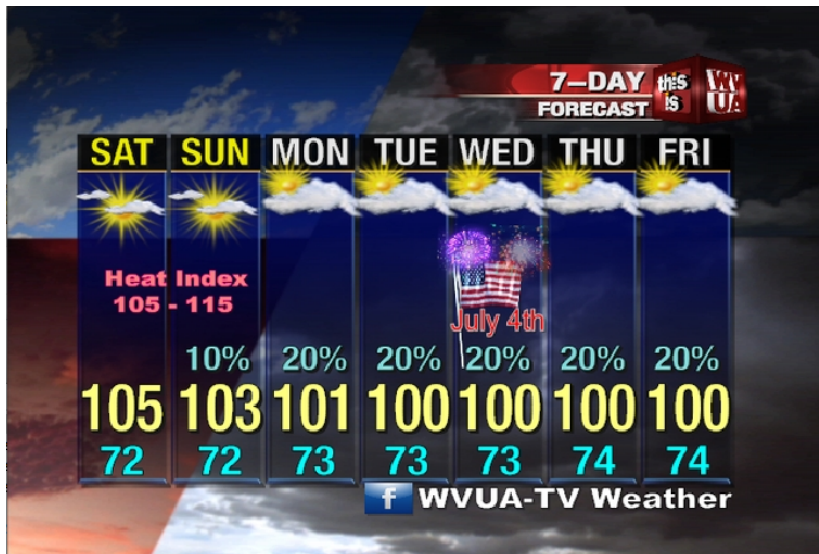
Version: 1.2.2
Depends: R (≥ 2.10)
Suggests: [knitr](#), [rmarkdown](#)
Published: 2016-05-19
Author: Brooke Anderson [aut, cre], Roger Peng [aut], Joshua Ferreri [aut]
Maintainer: Brooke Anderson <brooke.anderson@colostate.edu>
BugReports: <https://github.com/geanders/weathermetrics/issues>
License: [GPL-2](#)
URL: <https://github.com/geanders/weathermetrics/>
NeedsCompilation: no
Citation: [weathermetrics citation info](#)
Materials: [NEWS](#)
CRAN checks: [weathermetrics results](#)

WEATHERMETRICS

Key functions:

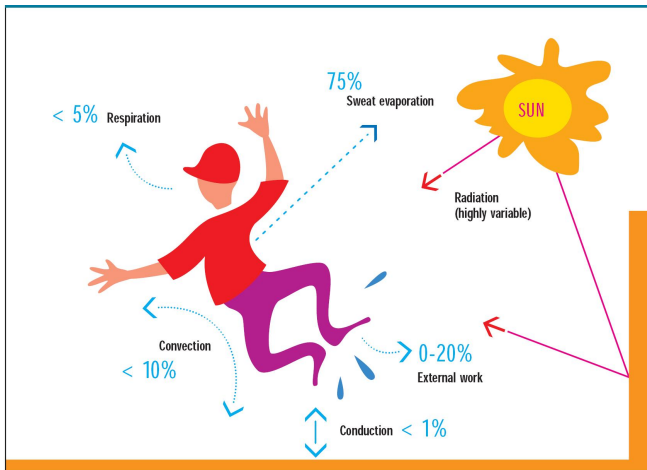
- `convert_temperature`: Convert between temperature metrics
- `convert_precip`: Convert between precipitation metrics
- `convert_wind_speed`: Convert between wind speed metrics
- `heat.index`: Calculates heat index from air temperature and a measure of air moisture (dew point temperature or relative humidity)

HEAT INDEX



BODY-ENVIRONMENT TEMPERATURE EXCHANGE

Avenues of temperature exchange between the body and the environment.



Source: Koppe et al., 2003, adapted from Havenith, 2003

HEAT INDEX AS A MEASURE OF HEAT EXPOSURE

NOAA's National Weather Service

Heat Index

Temperature (°F)

	80	82	84	86	88	90	92	94	96	98	100	102	104	106	108	110
40	80	81	83	85	88	91	94	97	101	105	109	114	119	124	130	136
45	80	82	84	87	89	93	96	100	104	109	114	119	124	130	137	
50	81	83	85	88	91	95	99	103	108	113	118	124	131	137		
55	81	84	86	89	93	97	101	106	112	117	124	130	137			
60	82	84	88	91	95	100	105	110	116	123	129	137				
65	82	85	89	93	98	103	108	114	121	128	136					
70	83	86	90	95	100	105	112	119	126	134						
75	84	88	92	97	103	109	116	124	132							
80	84	89	94	100	106	113	121	129								
85	85	90	96	102	110	117	126	135								
90	86	91	98	105	113	122	131									
95	86	93	100	108	117	127										
100	87	95	103	112	121	132										

Likelihood of Heat Disorders with Prolonged Exposure or Strenuous Activity

 Caution

 Extreme Caution

 Danger

 Extreme Danger

HEAT INDEX ALGORITHMS

The new model is now given by

$$HI = T - 1.0799e^{0.037557[1 - e^{0.0801(D-14)}]}, \quad (4a)$$

where HI, T , and D are all in degrees Celsius.

$$\begin{aligned} HI = & -42.379 + 2.04901523T + 10.14333127R - 0.22475541TR - 6.83783 \times 10^{-3}T^2 \\ & - 5.481717 \times 10^{-3}R^2 + 1.22874 \times 10^{-3}T^3R + 8.5282 \times 10^{-4}TR^2 - 1.99 \times 10^{-6}T^3R^2 \end{aligned}$$

where T is an air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) and R is a relative humidity (%).

An equation (available as a FORTRAN program from NCDC) was also provided:

$$\begin{aligned} H_i = & 16.923 + 0.185212T + 5.37941R \\ & - 0.100254TR + 9.4169 \times 10^{-3}T^2 \\ & + 7.28898 \times 10^{-3}R^2 + 3.45372 \times 10^{-4}T^2R \\ & - 8.14971 \times 10^{-4}TR^2 + 1.02102 \times 10^{-5}T^2R^2 \\ & - 3.8646 \times 10^{-5}T^3 + 2.91583 \times 10^{-5}R^3 \\ & + 1.42721 \times 10^{-6}T^3R + 1.97483 \times 10^{-7}TR^3 \\ & - 2.18429 \times 10^{-8}T^3R^2 + 8.43296 \times 10^{-10}T^2R^3 \\ & - 4.81975 \times 10^{-11}T^3R^3 + 0.5, \end{aligned}$$

where T is air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{F}$) and R is relative humidity (%).

For T_a we ignore the effects of wind and radiation and employ Steadman's (1984) regression equation

$$T_a = -1.3 + 0.92T + 2.2e,$$

where T is in Celsius and e is in kPa.

Minimum apparent temperature is a discomfort index based on air and dew point temperatures (14). It is defined as the minimum daily value of the 3-hour apparent temperature values, calculated by using the following formula: $AT = -2.653 + 0.994 \times T + 0.0153 \times (DT)^2$, where AT is apparent temperature, T is air temperature in $^{\circ}\text{C}$, and DT is dew point temperature in $^{\circ}\text{C}$.

The Weather Stress Index [51] is a summer season algorithm and is a derived form of apparent temperature (AT):

$$AT = -2.653 + (0.994T_a) + 0.368(T_d)^2, \quad (3)$$

where T_a is air temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$); T_d is dewpoint temperature ($^{\circ}\text{C}$).

NWS HEAT INDEX ALGORITHM

Heat Index Calculation

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/html/heatindex.shtml

national weather

weather.gov

National Weather Service
Hydrometeorological
Prediction Center

Site Map News Organization Search Go

DOC NOAA NWS NCEP Centers: AWC CPC EMC HPC NGO NHC OPC SPC SWPC

Local forecast by
"City, St" or Zip Code
City, St Go

Search HPC
Go

Find us on Facebook
HPC on Facebook
NCEP Quarterly
Newsletter

HPC Home
Analyses and
Forecasts
National Forecast
Charts
National High & Low
HPC Discussions
Surface Analysis
Days 1-2 CONUS
Days 3-7 CONUS
Days 4-8 Alaska
QPF
PQPF
Excessive
Rainfall

Meteorological Conversions and Calculations

Heat Index Calculator

Choose the appropriate calculator and enter the values. Then click calculate.

Using Dew Point Temperature	Using Relative Humidity
<p>Air Temperature <input type="text"/> °F <input type="text"/> °C</p> <p>Dew Point Temperature <input type="text"/> °F <input type="text"/> °C</p> <p>Calculate Reset</p> <p>Heat Index = <input type="text"/></p>	<p>Air Temperature <input type="text"/> °F <input type="text"/> °C</p> <p>Relative Humidity <input type="text"/> %</p> <p>Calculate Reset</p> <p>Heat Index = <input type="text"/></p>

CONTENTS OF WEATHERMETRICS PACKAGE

weathermetrics package

Data

- lyon
- newhaven
- norfolk
- suffolk

*Small weather
datasets to use in
examples for function
(Weather
Underground)*

Functions

- heat.index
- convert_temperature
- convert_wind_speed
- convert_precip
- dewpoint.to.humidity
- humidity.to.dewpoint

Documentation

- PDF users' manual
- Instructions for each function within R
- Examples for each function within R

CONVERT FROM CELSIUS TO FAHRENHEIT

EQUATION TO CONVERT FROM CELSIUS TO FAHRENHEIT

$$T_F = \frac{9}{5} T_C + 32$$

```
celsius.to.fahrenheit
```

```
## function (T.celsius, round = 2)
##      {
##          T.fahrenheit <- (9/5) * T.celsius + 32
##          T.fahrenheit <- round(T.fahrenheit, digits =
##          return(T.fahrenheit)
##      }
## <environment: namespace:weathermetrics>
```

CONVERT TEMPERATURES

`convert_temperature {weathermetrics}`

R Documentation

Convert from one temperature metric to another

Description

This function allows you to convert a vector of temperature values between Fahrenheit, Celsius, and degrees Kelvin.

Usage

```
convert_temperature(temperature, old_metric, new_metric, round = 2)
```

Arguments

temperature A numeric vector of temperatures to be converted.

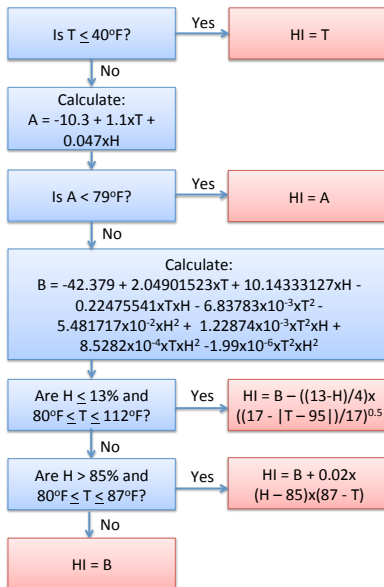
old_metric The metric from which you want to convert. Possible options are:

- `fahrenheit, f`
- `kelvin, k`
- `celsius, c`

new_metric The metric to which you want to convert. The same options are possible as for `old_metric`.

round An integer indicating the number of decimal places to round the converted value.

NWS HEAT INDEX ALGORITHM



NWS HEAT INDEX ALGORITHM

```
head(heat.index.algorithm, 10)
```

```
##  
## 1  function (t = NA, rh = NA)  
## 2  {  
## 3      if (is.na(rh) | is.na(t)) {  
## 4          hi <- NA  
## 5      }  
## 6      else if (t <= 40) {  
## 7          hi <- t  
## 8      }  
## 9      else {  
## 10         alpha <- 61 + ((t - 68) * 1.2) + (rh * 0.094)
```

NWS HEAT INDEX ALGORITHM

```
data(suffolk)
suffolk %>%
  mutate(heat_index = heat.index(t = TemperatureF,
                                  rh = Relative.Humidity)) %>%
  slice(1:5)
```

		Date	TemperatureF	Relative.Humidity	heat_index
##	1	1998-07-12	72	69	72
##	2	1998-07-13	73	66	73
##	3	1998-07-14	74	74	75
##	4	1998-07-15	78	86	80
##	5	1998-07-16	78	100	81

ELEMENTS OF AN R PACKAGE

BASIC ELEMENTS

R packages can include a number of different elements. We'll cover more of them in later classes.

There are a few common elements, though. They can be split into two groups: things you edit directly, and things that are automatically written.

BASIC ELEMENTS

Things you edit directly:

- DESCRIPTION file: The package's "Title page". Metadata on the package, including names and contacts of authors, package name, and description. This file also lists all the package *dependencies* (other packages with functions this package uses).
- R folder: R code defining functions in the package. All code is included in one or more R scripts. If you use Roxygen for help documentation, all of that is also included in these files.

Things that are automatically written:

- man folder: Help documentation for each function. These files are automatically rendered if you use Roxygen.
- NAMESPACE file: Helps R find functions in your package you want others to use.

DESCRIPTION FILE

Required elements:

- Package: Name of the package
- Version: Number of the current version of the package (e.g., 0.1.0)
- Title: Short title for the package, in title case and in 65 characters or less.
- Author and Maintainer (these two sections can be replaced with Authors@R section that uses the person function)
- Description: Paragraph describing the package
- License: Name of the license the package is under. If necessary, you can also refer to a LICENSE file included as another file in the package. Only some licenses are easily accepted by CRAN.

DESCRIPTION FILE

Other elements that are common but not required:

- Date: Release date of this version of the package.
- Imports: A list of the packages on which this package depends: other packages with functions used by the code in this package.
- URL: If there is a webpage associated with the package, the address for it. Often, this is the web address of the package's GitHub repository.
- BugReports: Where users can submit problems they've had. Often, the web address of the "Issues" page of the GitHub repository for the package.

PACKAGE NAME

The format requirements for a package name are, based on Writing R Extensions:

“This should contain only (ASCII) letters, numbers and dot, have at least two characters and start with a letter and not end in a dot.”

Hadley Wickham’s additional guidelines:

- Make it easy to Google.
- Make it all uppercase or all lower case
- Base it on a word that’s easy to remember, but then tweak the spelling to make it unique (and easier to Google).
- Abbreviate.
- Add an “r”.

PACKAGE MAINTAINER

A package can have many authors, but only one maintainer. The maintainer is in charge of fixing any problems that come up with CRAN checks over time to keep the package on CRAN. The maintainer is also the person who will be emailed about bugs, etc., by other users.

The package can have other authors, as well as people in other roles (e.g., contributor). See the helpfile for the `person` function for more on the codes used for different roles.

DESCRIPTION FILE

Package: weathermetrics

Type: Package

Title: Functions to Convert Between Weather Metrics

Version: 1.2.2

Date: 2016-05-19

Authors@R: c(person("Brooke", "Anderson",
email = "brooke.anderson@colostate.edu",
role = c("aut", "cre")),
person("Roger", "Peng",
email = "rdpeng@gmail.com", role = c("aut")),
person("Joshua", "Ferrerri",
email = "joshua.m.ferrerri@gmail.com", role = c("aut")))

Description: Functions to convert between weather metrics,
including conversions for metrics of temperature, air
moisture, wind speed, and precipitation. This package also
includes functions to calculate the heat index from
air temperature and air moisture.

(cont. on next slide)
























DESCRIPTION FILE

```
URL: https://github.com/geanders/weathermetrics/
BugReports: https://github.com/geanders/weathermetrics/issues
License: GPL-2
LazyData: true
RoxygenNote: 5.0.1
Depends:
  R (>= 2.10)
Suggests: knitr,
  rmarkdown
VignetteBuilder: knitr
```

R FOLDER

The R folder of the package includes:

- R scripts with code defining all functions for the package
- Help documentation for each function (if using Roxygen)
- Help documentation for the package data in “data.R”

Folders	Documents	Developer
 weathermetrics	 cran-comments.md	 data.R
PDF Documents	 NEWS.md	 heat_index.R
 weathermetrics.pdf	 README.md	 moisture_conversions.R
Other	Folders	 rainmeasure_conversion.R
 weathermetrics_1.2.0.tar.gz	 data	 temperature_conversions.R
 weathermetrics_1.2.2.tar.gz	 inst	 weathermetrics.R
	 man	 wind_conversions.R
	 R	
	 vignettes	
	Other	
	 DESCRIPTION	
	 NAMESPACE	
	 README.Rmd	
	 weathermetrics.Rproj	

R FOLDER

You define functions in the R scripts just as you would anytime you want to define a function in R. For example, “temperature_conversions.R” includes the following code to define converting from Celsius to Fahrenheit:

```
celsius.to.fahrenheit <- function (T.celsius, round = 2) {  
  T.fahrenheit <- (9/5) * T.celsius + 32  
  T.fahrenheit <- round(T.fahrenheit, digits = round)  
  return(T.fahrenheit)  
}
```

Only exception: use `package::function` syntax to call functions from other packages (e.g., `dplyr::mutate()`).

R FOLDER

Using `roxygen2`, you put all information for the help files directly into a special type of code comments right before defining the function.

- Start each line with `#'`.
- To render into help files, use the `document` function from the `devtools` package.
- This will write out help files in the `man` folder of the package.
- Use these comments to specify which functions should be *exported* from the package using the `@export` tag. This information will be used to render the `NAMESPACE` file for the package.

R FOLDER

```
#' Convert from Celsius to Fahrenheit.  
#'  
#' \code{celsius.to.fahrenheit} creates a numeric vector of  
#'   temperatures in Fahrenheit from a numeric vector of  
#'   temperatures in Celsius.  
#'  
#' @param T.celsius Numeric vector of temperatures in Celsius.  
#' @inheritParams convert_temperature  
#'  
#' @return A numeric vector of temperature values in Fahrenheit.  
#'  
#' @note Equations are from the source code for the US National  
#'   Weather Service's  
#'   \href{http://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/html/heatindex.shtml}  
#'   {online heat index calculator}.
```

(cont. on next slide)

R FOLDER

```
#' @author
#' Brooke Anderson \email{brooke.anderson@@colostate.edu},
#' Roger Peng \email{rdpeng@gmail.com}
#'
#' @seealso \code{\link{fahrenheit.to.celsius}}
#'
#' @examples # Convert from Celsius to Fahrenheit.
#' data(lyon)
#' lyon$TemperatureF <- celsius.to.fahrenheit(lyon$TemperatureC)
#' lyon
#'
#' @export
```

R FOLDER

Once you run document, this is all rendered as a help file. Now, when you run `?celsius.to.fahrenheit`, you'll get:

`celsius.to.fahrenheit` {weathermetrics}

R Documentation

Convert from Celsius to Fahrenheit.

Description

`celsius.to.fahrenheit` creates a numeric vector of temperatures in Fahrenheit from a numeric vector of temperatures in Celsius.

Usage

```
celsius.to.fahrenheit(T.celsius, round = 2)
```

Arguments

T.celsius Numeric vector of temperatures in Celsius.

round An integer indicating the number of decimal places to round the converted value.

Value

A numeric vector of temperature values in Fahrenheit.

Note

Equations are from the source code for the US National Weather Service's [online heat index calculator](#).

Author(s)

Brooke Anderson brooke.anderson@colostate.edu, Roger Peng rdpeng@gmail.com

R FOLDER

The start of the NAMESPACE file will be automatically written when you run document and will look like:

```
# Generated by roxygen2: do not edit by hand
```

```
export(celsius.to.fahrenheit)
export(celsius.to.kelvin)
export(convert_precip)
export(convert_temperature)
export(convert_wind_speed)
export(dewpoint.to.humidity)
```

R FOLDER

Some of the most common tags you'll use for roxygen2 are:

- `@param`: Use to explain parameters for the function.
- `@inheritParam`: If you have already explained a parameter for the help file for a different function, you can use this tag to use the same definition for this function.
- `@return`: Explanation of the object returned by the function.
- `@examples`: One or more examples of using the function.
- `@export`: Export the function, so it's available when users load the package.

By default, the first line in the roxygen2 comments is the function title and the next section is the function description. For more on roxygen2, see: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/roxygen2/vignettes/roxygen2.html>

R FOLDER

If you are automating helpfile documentation, you must also include an R script with the documentation for each data set that comes with the package.

This file will include `roxygen2` documentation for each data set, followed by the name of the dataset in quotation marks.

As an example, the next slide has the documentation in the “data.R” file for the “lyon” data set.

R FOLDER

```
#' Weather in Lyon, France
#'
#' Daily values of mean temperature (Celsius) and mean dew
#' point temperature (Celsius) for the week of June 18, 2000,
#' in Lyon, France.
#'
#' @source \href{http://www.wunderground.com/}
#'           {Weather Underground}
#'
#' @format A data frame with columns:
#'   \describe{
#'     \item{Date}{Date of weather observation}
#'     \item{TemperatureC}{Daily mean temperature in Celsius}
#'     \item{DewpointC}{Daily mean dewpoint temperature in
#'                      Celsius}
#'   }
#'
"lyon"
```


OTHER COMMON ELEMENTS

Some other elements, while not required, are common in many R packages:

- data folder: R objects with data that goes with the package. Often, these are small-ish data files for examples of how to use package functions. However, more “scientific” packages may include more substantive data in this folder. Some packages are created solely to deliver data.
- vignettes folder: One or more tutorials on why the package was created and how to use it. These can be written in RMarkdown.
- NEWS file: Information about changes in later versions of the package.
- .Rbuildignore file: Lists files and directories that should not be included in the package build
- LICENSE file: With certain licenses (MIT is a common example), you need a separate LICENSE file, to supplement the license information in the DESCRIPTION file.

LESS COMMON ELEMENTS

- `src` folder: Sources and headers for compiled code (e.g., C++).
- `demo` folder: R scripts that give demonstrations of using the package.
- `tests` folder: Test code for the package. Currently, the best way to create tests for a package are with the `testthat` package.
- `inst` folder: Various and sundries, including a CITATION file to tell others how to cite your package and executable scripts not in R (e.g., shell scripts, Perl or Python code).

CREATING AN R PACKAGE

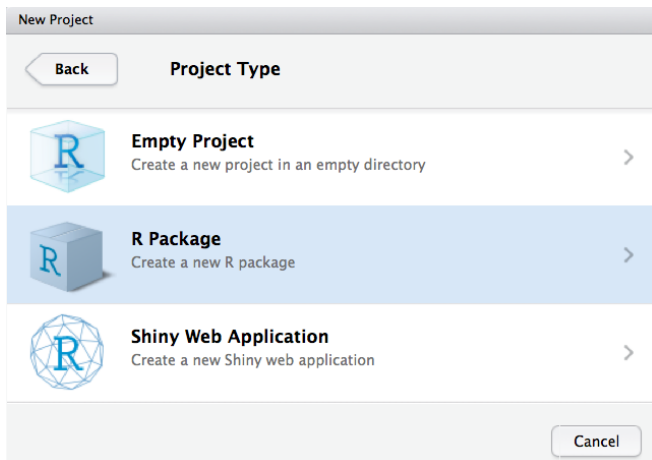
CREATING AN R PACKAGE

Invaluable tools when creating an R package:

- The `devtools` package: Various utility functions that help you develop an R package.
- *R Packages* by Hadley Wickham. Available from O'Reilly or free online at <http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz>
- GitHub: When in doubt of how to structure something, look for examples in code for other R packages. GitHub is currently the easiest way to browse through the code for many R packages.

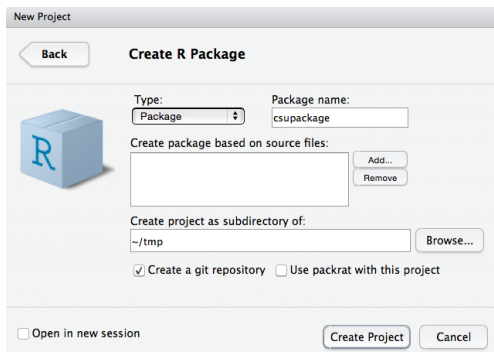
INITIALIZING AN R PACKAGE

The easiest way to start a new R package project is through R Studio. Go to “File” -> “New Project” -> “Empty Directory”. One of the options is “R Package”.



INITIALIZING AN R PACKAGE

You'll need to specify where you want to save the directory and the package name. You can also select if you'd like to use git (you'll still need to set-up and sync with GitHub if you want to post the package to GitHub).



The screenshot shows the 'New Project' dialog box in R Studio. The title bar says 'New Project'. Inside, there's a 'Back' button and a 'Create R Package' tab. On the left is a blue cube icon with a white 'R' on it. To the right of the icon are two input fields: 'Type:' with a dropdown menu showing 'Package', and 'Package name:' with a text box containing 'cspackage'. Below these is a section 'Create package based on source files:' with a large empty text box and two buttons: 'Add...' and 'Remove'. Underneath is 'Create project as subdirectory of:' with a text box containing '~/tmp' and a 'Browse...' button. At the bottom of this section are two checkboxes: 'Create a git repository' (checked) and 'Use packrat with this project' (unchecked). At the very bottom of the dialog are three buttons: 'Open in new session' (unchecked), 'Create Project', and 'Cancel'.

New Project

Back Create R Package

Type: Package Package name: cspackage

Create package based on source files:

Add... Remove

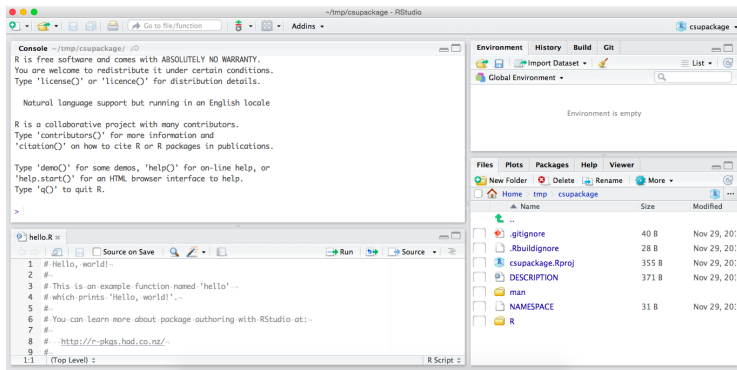
Create project as subdirectory of: ~/tmp Browse...

☒ Create a git repository ☐ Use packrat with this project

☐ Open in new session Create Project Cancel

INITIALIZING AN R PACKAGE

Once you choose this, R Studio will create a new “skeleton” directory for you, with some of the default files and directories you need (kind of like how it starts with a template for RMarkdown documents). You can add and edit files within this structure to create your package.



WORKING ON AN R PACKAGE

Once you set-up the package, most of your work will be in writing the code for the package's functions and creating documentation. The `devtools` package has some functions that are very useful for this process:

- `load_all`: Loads the last saved version of all functions in the package. You can use this to change and check functions without rebuilding the whole package and restarting R each time.
- `document`: Parse all `roxygen2` comments to create the helpfiles in the `man` directory and the `NAMESPACE` file. As soon as you've loaded an documented the last saved version of your package, you can access the help file for each function using `?`, as with other R functions.
- `Control-.` : This is a keyboard shortcut rather than a function, but it allows you to search the package for the code where a certain function is defined. As a package grows larger, this functionality is very useful for navigating the R code in the package.

WORKING ON AN R PACKAGE

The `devtools` package also has some functions that set up useful infrastructure for the package. For example, if you want to include a vignette written in RMarkdown, you need to do a few things:

- ➊ Add a new folder called `vignettes`.
- ➋ Add `inst/doc` to the `.gitignore` file. (The built pdf is written into this folder, but typically you don't want to include rendered files in git, just the code with which they were generated.)
- ➌ Make a few changes to the `DESCRIPTION` file.

Rather than having to remember how to do all this yourself, you can use the `use_vignette` function, which adds this infrastructure to the package at once.

WORKING ON AN R PACKAGE

Typically, you will only use these infrastructure calls once per package. Other useful infrastructure functions are:

- `use_cran_comments`: Add a text file with comments for the people who check the package when it's submitted to CRAN.
- `use_readme_rmd`: Create an RMarkdown "README" file that you can use to provide information on the package (similar to the vignette, but this will show up on the first page of the GitHub repo if you have one for the package).
- `use_news_md`: Create a text file to provide details of changes in later package versions.
- `use_travis`: Add the infrastructure needed to check the package on Travis when you push to GitHub.
- `use_rcpp`: Add an `src` directory and other infrastructure needed to use C++ code within the package.
- `use_testthat`: Add infrastructure for using package tests based on `testthat`.

WORKING ON AN R PACKAGE

There are a few infrastructure-type functions you might use more often:

- `use_data`: Save data currently in an R object in your working session to use as data within the package. This function saves that data as an `.rda` file in the data folder.
- `use_build_ignore`: Add a file or files to the `“.Rbuildignore”` file, so they won't cause an error with CRAN checks (one of the checks is that there aren't any unrecognized files or directories in the top level of the package).
- `use_package`: Add a package that your package depends on to the `DESCRIPTION` file.

FINALIZING AN R PACKAGE

Once you have included all the functions and documentation for a package, there are a few more steps before that version is ready to be shared:

- Create a vignette and / or README file to explain how others can use the package.
- Run the package through CRAN checks and resolve all ERRORS, WARNINGS, and NOTES. This is required if you are submitting to CRAN. It's usually a good idea and improves the package even if you're not.
- Change the version number to a stable version (typically, development versions end in .9000, like 0.0.0.9000). When you have a stable version of the package, you'll change this to a three-part number (e.g., 0.1.0).

(cont. on next slide)

FINALIZING AN R PACKAGE

- Build the package locally. For this, you can use the “Build” tab in the upper right RStudio tab (it will show up once you have a package project open).
- Build the package on other systems. You can use Travis (Unix / Linux) and `build_win` (Windows) to do this for those systems.
- Create a pdf of all help files to proofread. To do this, open a bash shell in the parent directory of the package and run R CMD Rd2pdf <packagename> (for example, if the package were `csupackage`, you'd run R CMD Rd2pdf `csupackage`). This will create a pdf in that directory with all helpfiles for all functions.
- If you want the package to be on CRAN, submit to CRAN. There is a function called `submit_cran` that will build the package and submit it to CRAN.