R packages: LaTeX vignettes

Henrik Bengtsson

2015-02-18

To include a PDF vignette that is compiled from a plain LaTeX file, all you need is the LaTeX file with LaTeX comments containing meta directives to R such that it will be listed as a vignette in the package. For instance, this PDF document was compiled from LaTeX file:

1. vignettes/R_packages-LaTeX_vignettes.ltx

which contains the following meta directives at the top of the file:

%\VignetteIndexEntry{R packages: LaTeX vignettes}
%\VignetteKeyword{R package, vignette, LaTeX}
%\VignetteEngine{R.rsp::tex}

Here I choose filename extension *.ltx, which is a lesser known LaTeX filename extension, because if one uses *.tex, then R CMD check will give a NOTE complaining that the file is a stray file that should not be part of the built package.

As for any type of (non-Sweave) package vignette, don't forget to specify:

Suggests: R.rsp

VignetteBuilder: R.rsp

in your package's DESCRIPTION file. That's all it takes to include a LaTeX file that will be compiled into a PDF vignette as part of the package build.