

Installing Course Packages

R works with **packages** of commands that have been developed by other people to accomplish certain tasks. Just like any software you use on your computer, these have to be installed. Then, when you want to use them, you load them in R using the command `library("package_name")`.

It's not that different from regular software. First you have to install it, then you have to open it.

To the best of my knowledge, all of the packages necessary for the course have already been installed on the OD211 computers. However, it will be necessary to install these on any computer you wish to use, including your personal computers.

It can take a few minutes to install all these packages, so I'd like you to take a stab at doing that over the weekend, so we can be prepared for class on Monday. Here is how you do it.

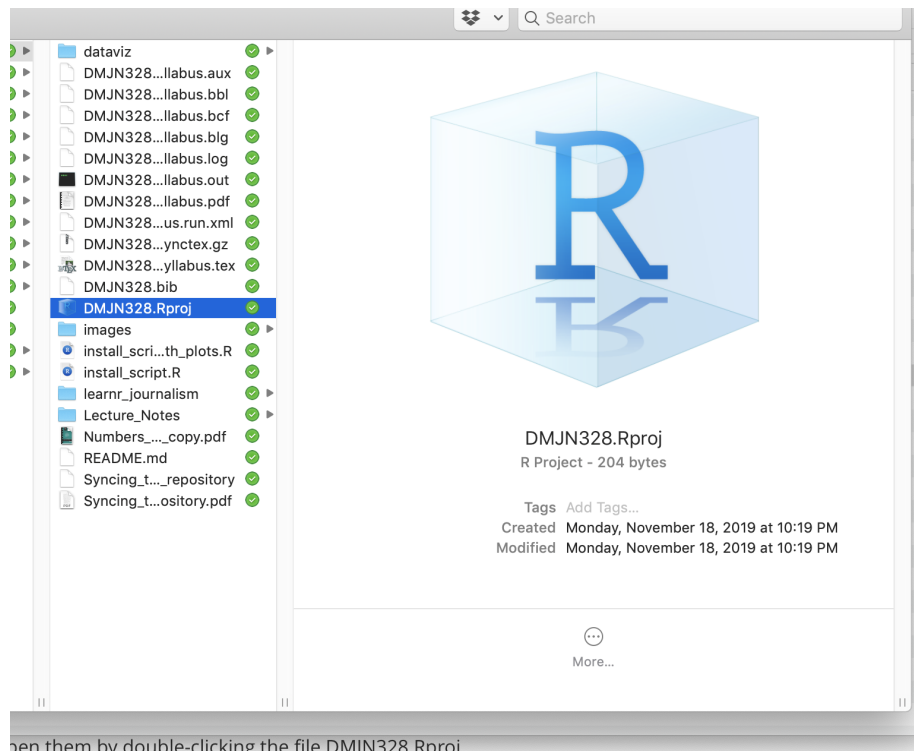
If you look inside the course folder that we cloned to your computer from your repository, you should see a file `install_script.R` and `install_script_with_plots.R`. Here is a screenshot from my own course folder; yours should look very similar to this.



Name	Date
▶ dataviz	Jan 5
DMJN328_Syllabus.aux	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.bbl	Dec 1
DMJN328_Syllabus.bcf	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.blg	Dec 1
DMJN328_Syllabus.log	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.out	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.pdf	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.run.xml	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.synctex.gz	Jan 6
DMJN328_Syllabus.tex	Jan 6
DMJN328.bib	Dec 1
DMJN328.Rproj	Nov 1
install_script_with_plots.R	Dec 1
install_script.R	Dec 1
▶ learnr_journalism	Dec 1
▶ Lecture_Notes	Jan 8
Numbers_In_Newsroom_copy.pdf	Oct 2
README.md	Dec 1
Syncing_to_course_repository	Jan 8
Syncing_to_course_repository.pdf	Jan 8

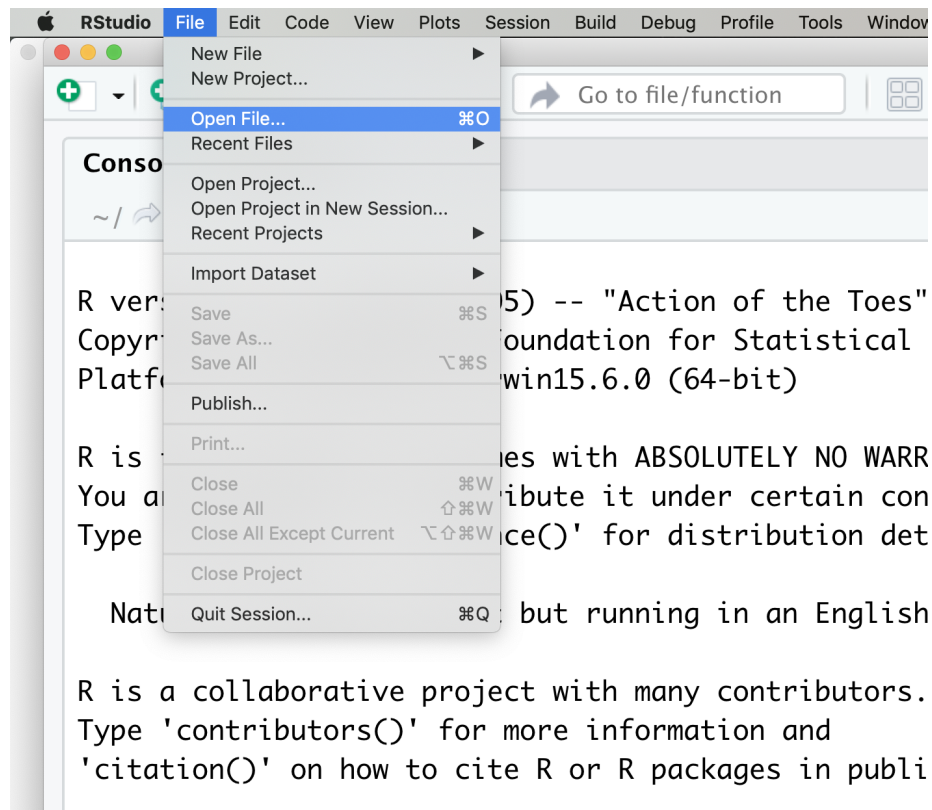
Open either of these files. The only difference between the two is that the file `install_script_with_plots.R` will make two basic graphs that tell you that everything is working well.

Open them by double-clicking the file `DMJN328.Rproj`. This should open RStudio. If it doesn't, open RStudio, select File > Open Project and navigate to your folder and open `DMJN328.Rproj`

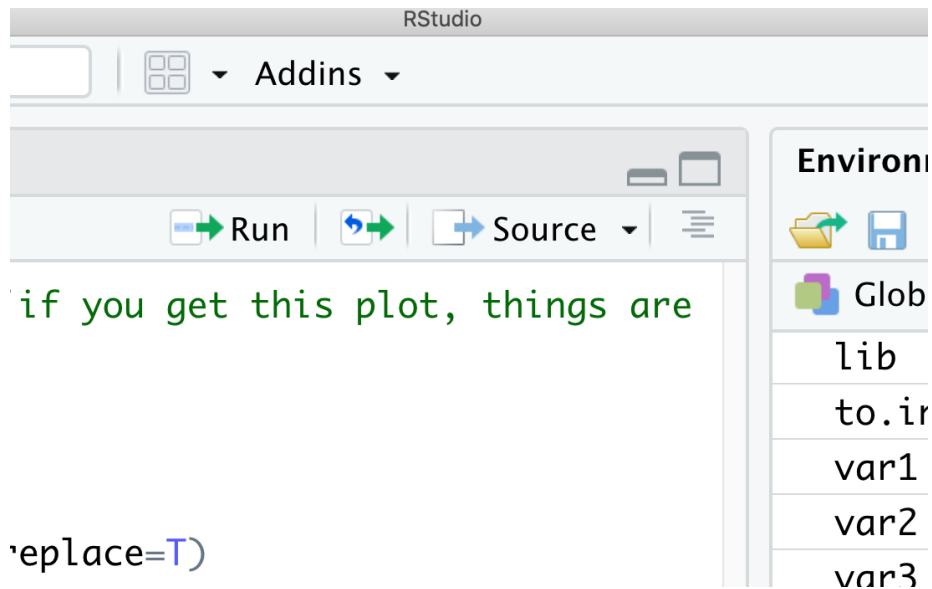


Open them by double-clicking the file DMJN328.Rproj.

Then select File > Open File. It should open a dialogue box of files in the course folder. Double-click on `install_script_with_plots.R`. You should see a new file open up in RStudio. This is an R script and this is the type of file that we will be working with through the course.



The only thing you need to do here is execute the entire R Script. The easiest way to do this at this point is to hit **Source** in the top middle of the screen. Note: you have to be connected to the internet for this to work. Also, you *may* get some messages asking you to install different versions of the software. Honestly, it won't make a huge difference, but if you do, just select "Y" for Yes or, if the option presents itself choose to install the CRAN version of the package. This might require you entering in a number (e.g. 1 or 2) in the R console and pressing enter. But it's pretty easy.



Warning: There was one small typo in the R script. The very last line might read `ggsve('test_plot_2.png')`. It **should** read `ggsave('test_plot_2.png')`. You don't need to change it, it won't effect anything. This command is just trying to save one of your test plots to your computer. If you want to you can change it to `ggsave` and save the R script, then run it. Again, this is totally not necessary at this point.

Please let me know if you encounter any difficulties!