

Using R in forensic toxicology Your automation Swiss knife

Brigitte Desharnais, Ph.D.

SOFT 2022 Monday, October 31st 2022

From raw ingredients to beautiful dishes



Data:

- Literature
- Case info
- Instruments output
- Toxicology reports



Outcome:

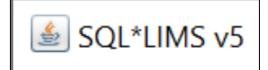
- Summaries to stakeholders
- Informative tools
- Actionable insight



Welcome to your data analysis kitchen!







Welcome to your data analysis kitchen!







Programming language

https://www.r-project.org/



Integrated development environment (IDE)

https://www.rstudio.com/



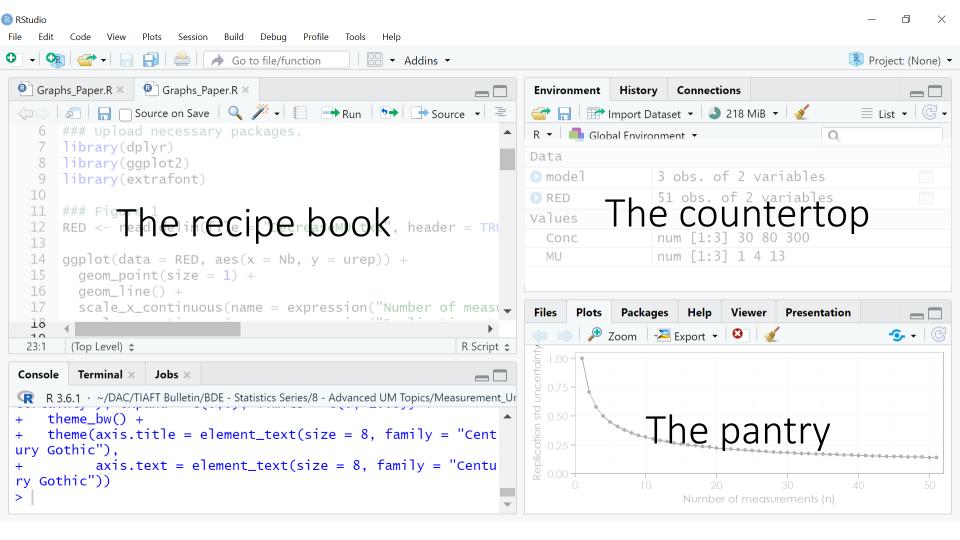
Disclaimer

I am by no means an R absolutist.

I am a pragmatist – I use what does the job quick & easy.

... it just so happens that this is often R!





Packages: fancy appliances in your kitchen



quarto



Importation

Wrangling (structure, clean)

Visualization

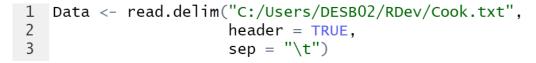
Reporting



(Data importation)

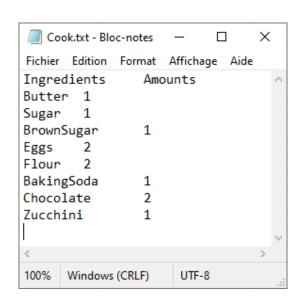
Text files

Available in base R



Environment	History	Connections		
Data				
Data	8 o	bs. of 2 va	ıriables	
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\$ Amoun	ts	: int 11	1 2 2 1 2	1

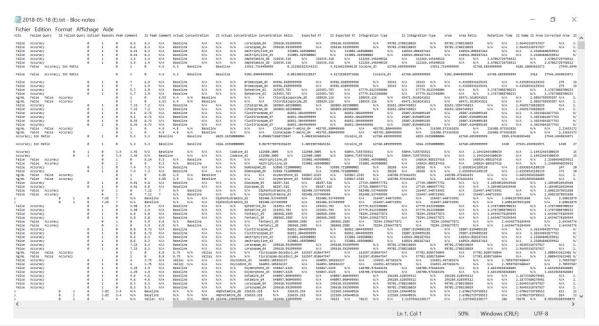
NB. Can also use "clipboard" instead of a file name!



(Data importation)

Text files

- Of course aim is more complex files!
 - E.g., exported instrumental output (Sciex)





(Data importation)

Spreadsheets

- Available in base R
- Muuuuuuuch better with packages

File format	Package
.CSV	readr
.xls(x)	readxl
Google Sheet	googlesheets4

E.g.: databases,exported instrumental output (Agilent)

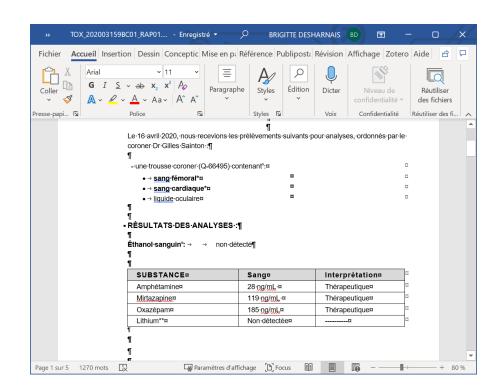




(Data importation)

Text based documents

- File type: .doc(x), .pdf, .html
- Packages required
 - readtext
 - docxtractr
- E.g.: toxicology reports, literature, systems output



... transform it however they want it...

(Data wrangling)

- Hands down, packages:
 - **dplyr** select, filter, arrange, group...



•	Ingredients [‡]	Amounts	÷
1	Butter		1
2	Sugar		1
3	BrownSugar		1
4	Eggs		2
5	Flour		2
6	BakingSoda		1
7	Chocolate		2
8	Zucchini		1

^	Ingredients	Amounts	\$
1	Butter		1
2	Sugar		1
3	BrownSugar		1
4	Eggs		2
5	Flour		2
6	BakingSoda		1
7	Chocolate		2

... transform it however they want it...

(Data wrangling)

- Hands down, packages:
 - **dplyr** select, filter, arrange, group...
 - tidyr gather, spread, separate, unite...

*	File [‡]	Matrix [‡]	Analyte	Concentration
1	2022-A	СВ	Amphetamine	20
2	2022-A	FB	Amphetamine	19
3	2022-A	UR	Amphetamine	39
4	2022-B	СВ	Amphetamine	32
5	2022-B	VH	Amphetamine	24
6	2022-B	GC	Amphetamine	5
7	2022-B	UR	Amphetamine	36
8	2022-C	СВ	Ethanol	22
9	2022-C	FB	Ethanol	29

^	File [‡]	Analyte	св ‡	FB [‡]	UR [‡]	VH [‡]	GC [‡]
1	2022-A	Amphetamine	20	19	39	NA	NA
2	2022-B	Amphetamine	32	NA	36	24	5
3	2022-C	Ethanol	22	29	NA	NA	NA

(And you can use dplyr to filter – on the same line if you want!)



... transform it however they want it...

(Data wrangling)

- Hands down, packages:
 - **dplyr** select, filter, arrange, group...
 - tidyr gather, spread, separate, unite...
 - stringr search & modify character strings (text)
 - lubridate work with time and dates
 - janitor cleaning names, empty column/lines







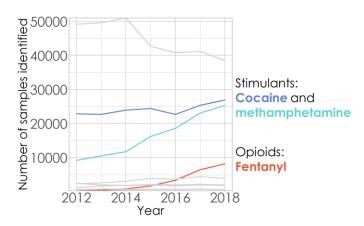


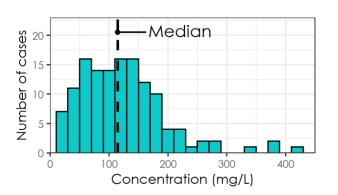


(Visualization & reporting)



- For graphs, ggplot2 & associated packages:
 - extrafont use alternative fonts for labelling
 - export send & manipulate in e.g. Power Point (!!!)
 - gganimate animated plots
 - plotly graphs that can be manipulated (zoom, save, etc.)





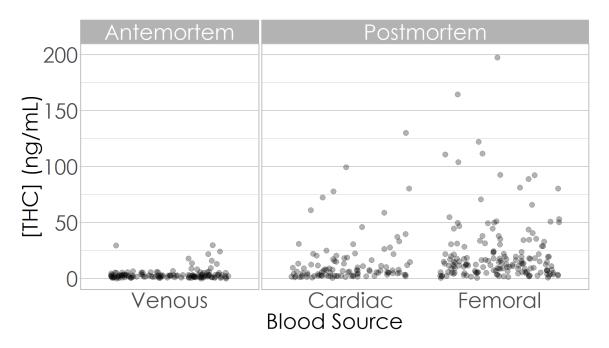


TIAFT Bulletin (2019) 49 (4), 14-26

(Visualization & reporting)



Faceted plots



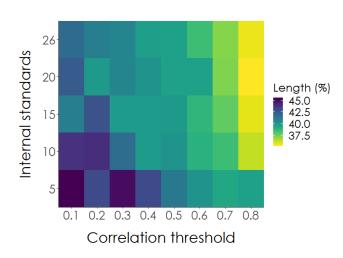
TIAFT Bulletin (2019) 49 (4), 14-26



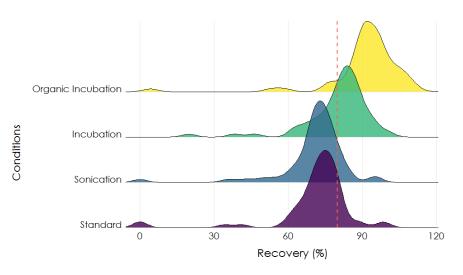
(Visualization & reporting)



- Heat maps
- Density
- Ridges



TIAFT 2019 Annual Meeting



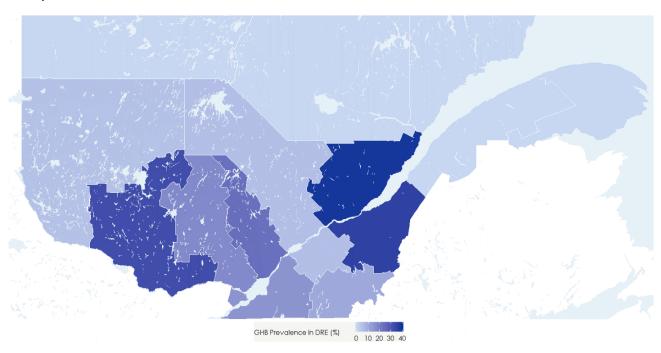
Forensic Sci Int (2020) 317, 110506



(Visualization & reporting)



Maps



SOFT 2019 Annual Meeting



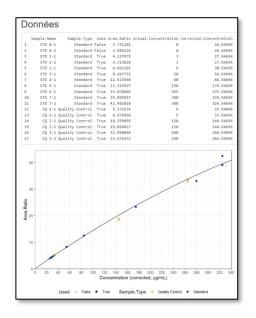
(Visualization & reporting)





- For standardized reports:
 - rmarkdown generate .html or .pdf reports
 - quarto new generation rmarkdown, includes WYSIWYG editor





(Visualization & reporting)



- For interactive reports, dashboards:
 - shiny the foundation
 - shinydashboard
 - bs4dash
 - flexdashboard
 - **=** ...
- Interactive elements can be integrated in reports!
- Examples at https://shiny.rstudio.com/gallery/

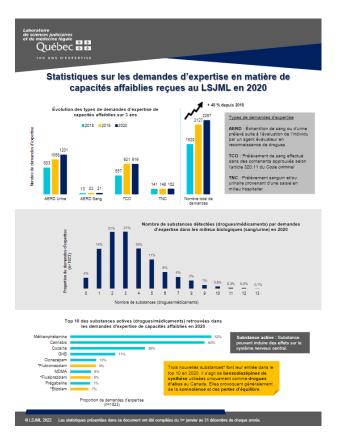


A five course meal

Applications of R in our laboratory



Hors d'oeuvre: annual summary reports





Appetizer: population distributions

GHB - Étude de population

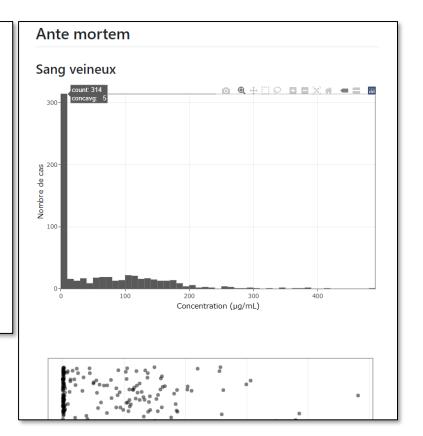
AUTHOR

Brigitte Desharnais, Laboratoire de sciences judiciaires et de médecine légale

Données entre le 2017-01-22 et le 2022-07-22 (date de batch).

Répartition des données

Milieu	Ante mortem	Post mortem
Sang veineux (SV)	630	66
ang fémoral (SF)	6	9788
ang cardiaque (SC)	0	2379
asma/Sérum (PS)	81	21
rine (UR)	715	1314
iquide occulaire (LO)	0	458





- Endogenous analytes create a validation challenge with regards to spiking matrix
- Possible solutions include
 - Standard addition
 - Surrogate matrix
 - Surrogate analyte
 - Ignoring the problem (!)

Journal of Analytical Toxicology, 2019;43:512–519 doi: 10.1093/jat/bkz024 Advance Access Publication Date: 29 May 2019



Article

A Tool for Automatic Correction of Endogenous Concentrations: Application to BHB Analysis by LC-MS-MS and GC-MS

Brigitte Desharnais^{1,2,*}, Marie-Jo Lajoie¹, Julie Laquerre¹, Stéphanie Savard¹, Pascal Mireault¹, and Cameron D. Skinner²

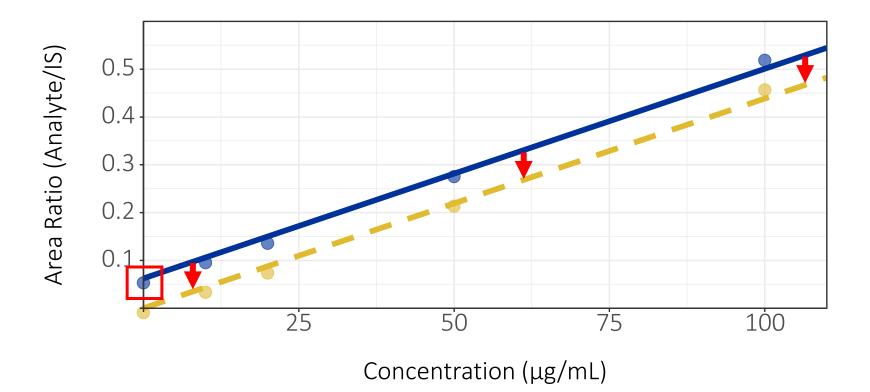
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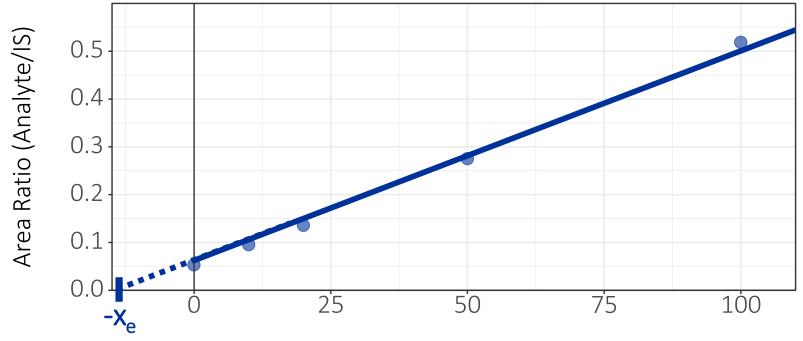
Abstract

Several substances relevant for forensic toxicology purposes have an endogenous presence in biological matrices: beta-hydroxybutyric acid (BHB), gamma-hydroxybutyric acid (GHB), steroids and human insulin, to name only a few. The presence of significant amounts of these endogenous substances in the biological matrix used to prepare calibration standards and quality control samples (QCs) can compromise validation steps and quantitative analyses. Several approaches to overcome this problem have been suggested, including using an analog matrix or analyte, relying entirely on standard addition analyses for these analytes, or simply ignoring the endogenous contribution provided that it is small enough. Although these approaches side-step the issue of endogenous analyte presence in spiked matrix-matched samples, they create serious problems with regards to the accuracy of the analyses or production capacity. We present here a solution that addresses head-on the problem of endogenous concentrations in matrices used for calibration standards and quality control purposes. The endogenous analyte concentration is estimated via a standard-addition type process. This estimated concentration, plus the spiked concentration are then used as the de facto analyte concentration present in the sample. These de facto concentrations are then used in data analysis software (MultiQuant, Mass Hunter, etc.) as the sample's concentration. This yields an accurate quantification of the analyte, free from interference of the endogenous contribution. This de facto correction has been applied in a production setting on two





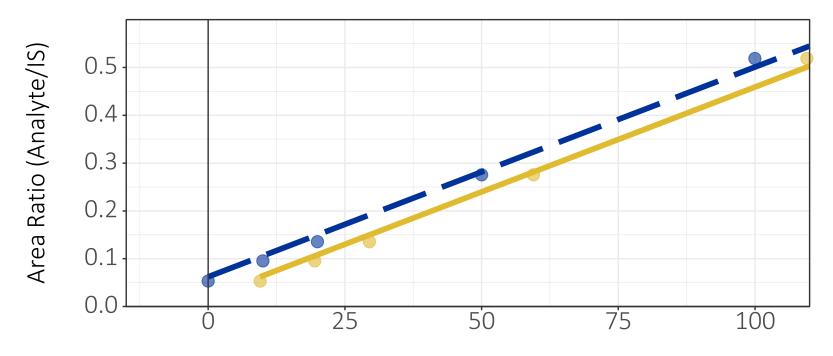




Concentration (µg/mL)



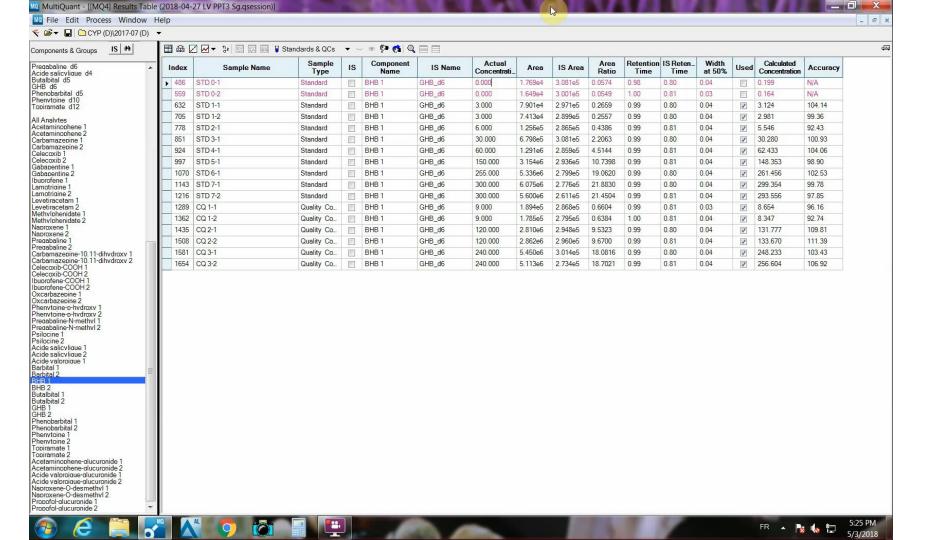
Correction: $x_r = x_s + x_e$



Concentration (µg/mL)

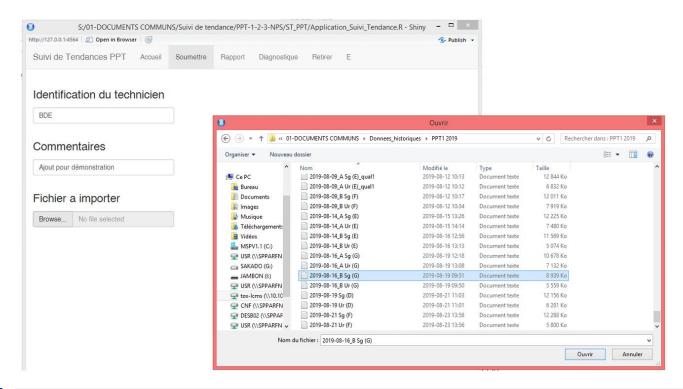




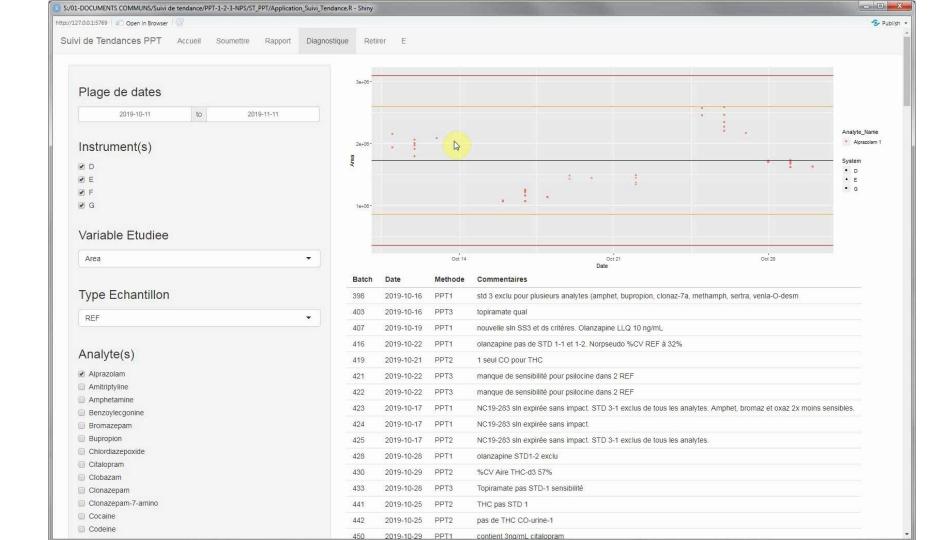


Main course: trend monitoring

LC-MS/MS method, 3 injections, 125 analytes, 7 STDs, 3x3 QCs...

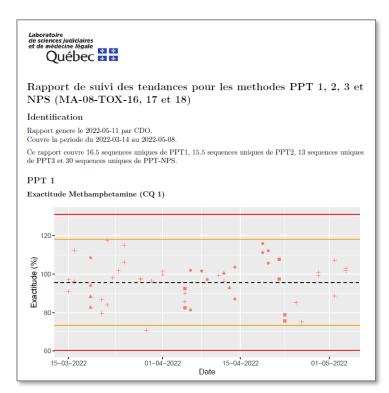


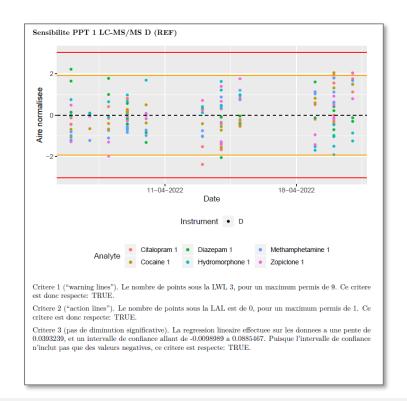




Main course: trend monitoring

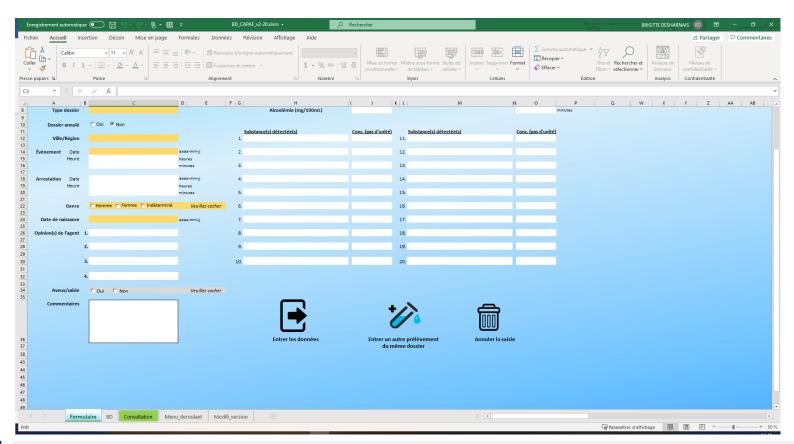
Periodic PDF report for accreditation requirements





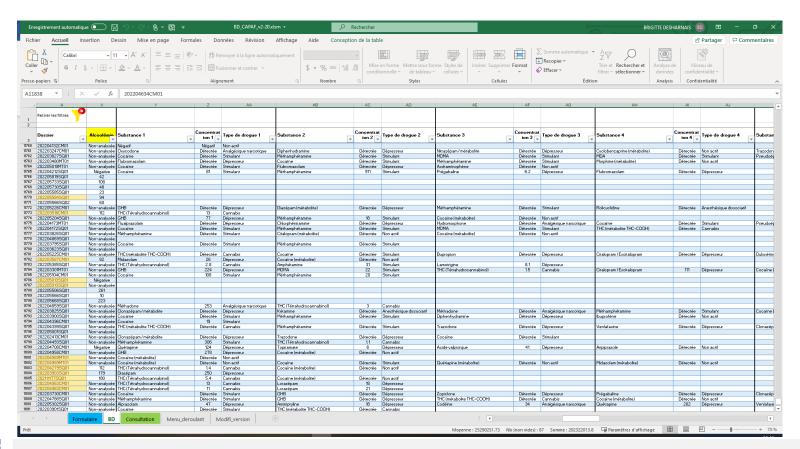


Dessert: DUID interactive dashboard

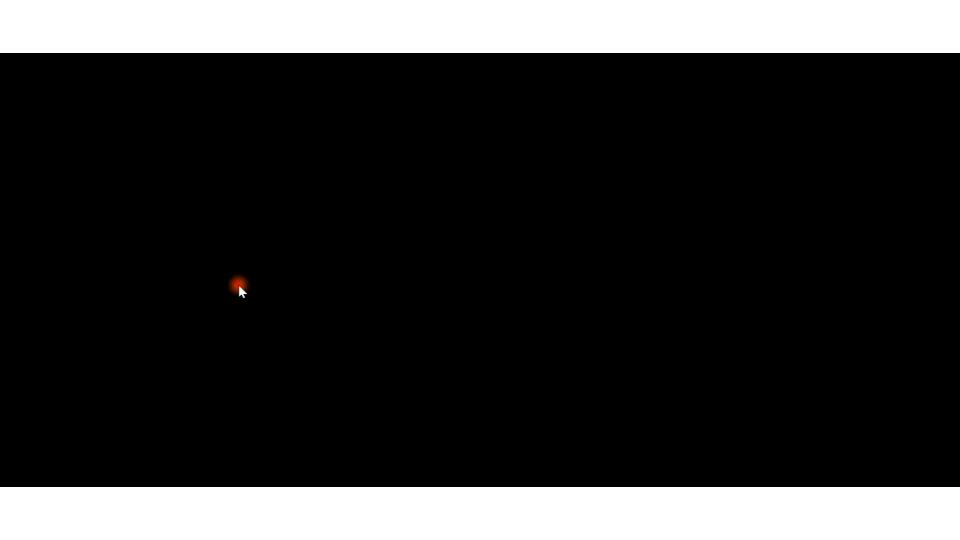




Dessert: DUID interactive dashboard







A teaser of our upcoming menus

- Just a sample of what we are doing with R!
- Take home message: if you have an idea, there's a way to do it in R.
- But we want to explore more...
- Docking with other tools
 - Excel with VBA
 - Power BI (Microsoft)
- Version control using GitHub (would help with accreditation requirements!)



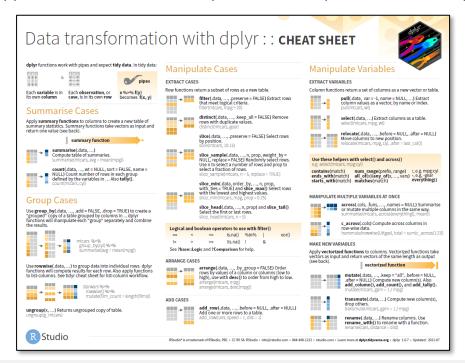
Want to get cooking?

Do you need to learn it early to be good with it?



R Studio Cheat Sheets – super dense, but it's all there...

> https://www.rstudio.com/resources/cheatsheets/

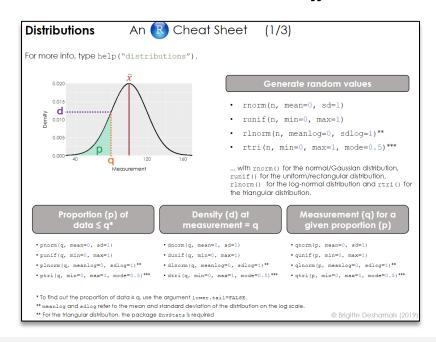




TIAFT Bulletin Statistics Series, including R Cheat Sheets – less dense

(but more stats oriented)

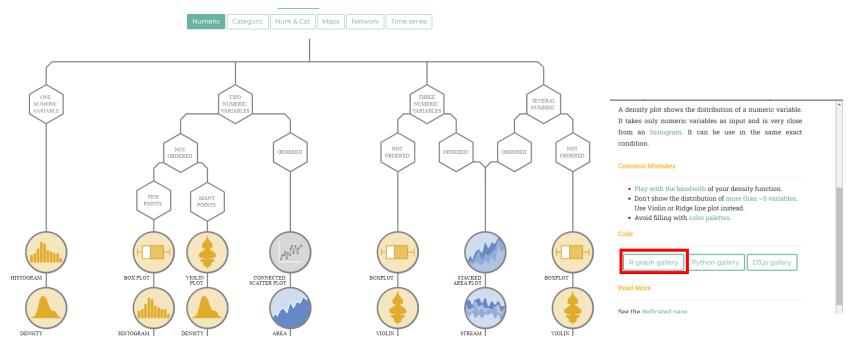
> https://1drv.ms/u/s!At1r-QnPAVZ0jjVGlQA3ex84qiRl?e=UJKKj5





From Data to Viz

> data-to-viz.com



R Bootcamp – gentle introduction by Oregon Health & Science University > https://r-bootcamp.netlify.app/



R for Data Science (H. Wickham & G. Grolemund)

> https://r4ds.had.co.nz/index.html

More free books!

> https://www.bigbookofr.com/

Shiny tutorial by R Studio

> https://shiny.rstudio.com/tutorial/written-tutorial/lesson1/



Want to get cooking? Join FoRTox!

Googling "how to (...) in R" will get you far, but still, it helps to have a community!



> Forensic Toxicology R Users Group

https://forms.gle/zejoxSemZGEHM7ak8



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Julie Laquerre (LSJML)

Pascal Mireault, M.Sc. (LSJML, U. Concordia)

Marc-André Morel (LSJML)

Stéphanie Savard (LSJML)

Prof. Cameron D. Skinner (U. Concordia)



Questions? Comments?







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→ GitHub: This is where you can find all my R scripts!

Find this presentation's material on GitHub



- > https://github.com/ToxBrigitte/soft-2022-automation-workshop
- For those not familiar with GitHub, download everything on your computer like this:

