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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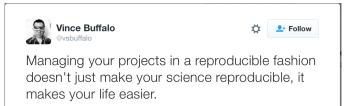


Why worry about reproducibility?

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

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- .pdf
- ▶ .html
- ▶ .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
 - ▶ Don't rely on manual commenting/uncommenting

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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

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- 2. 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
- R-Markdown and R-Oxygen with knitr for documenting your code and creating reproducible reports
- 3. GitHub for version-control, collaborating and archiving

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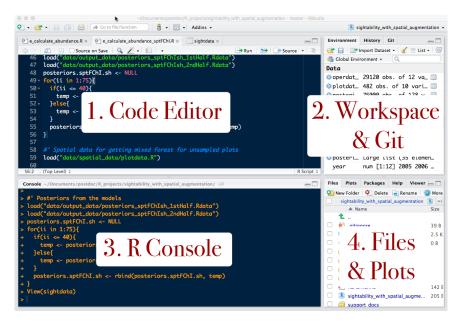
and output

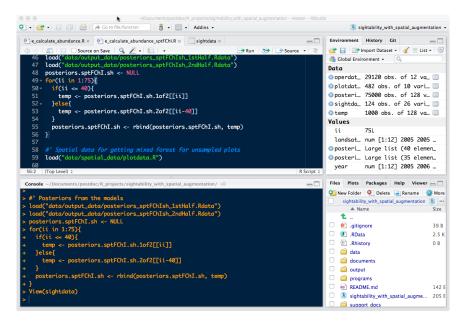
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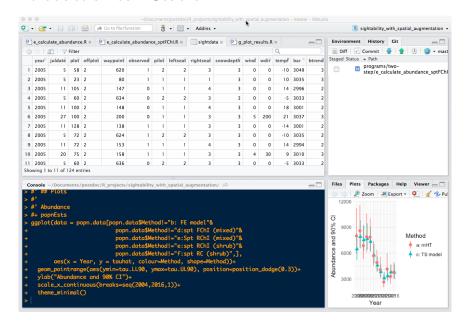
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- debugging
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- data processing
- project managment
- program version-controlling and archiving
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- plotting
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- Reproduciblity!







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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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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**.

What are RStudio projects?

What are RStudio projects? Up next, Activity 1!

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

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Now we can do some analysis of invertebrates!

- 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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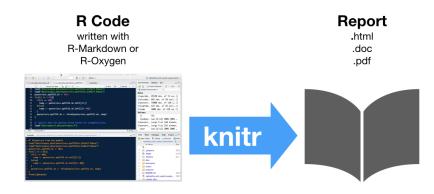
Activity Overview:

- 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:

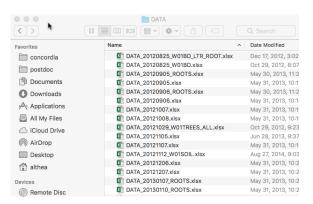
https://conservancy.umn.edu/handle/11299/181607

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

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```
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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What folder did the html end up in?

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

What folder did the html end up in?

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)

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/
 - ▶ ms.Rmd
 - ms.pdf
 - ms.docx
 - ms_figures/
 - ► fig1.jpg
 - fig2.jpg
 - transmittals/
 - from_john/
 - ► ms20170523.docx
 - ms20170625.docx
 - from_bob/
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 - submission/
 - ms.pdf
 - ▶ fig1.pdf
 - fig2.pdf
 - 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

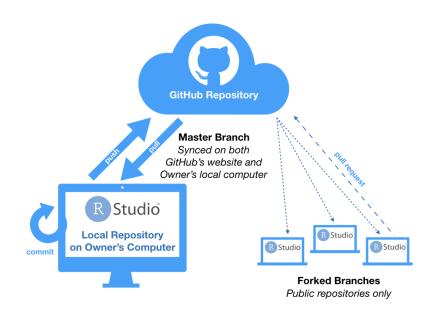


Introduction to GitHub





GitHub Overview



Activity 4: GitHub in RStudio

First, we will use the built-in interface for GitHub within RStudio.

Secondly, we will use the most common git commands in shell.

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```
git pull origin master # To pull
git add data # add files to a commit
git commit -m "commit message here" #commit
git push origin master # To push commit(s)
```

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!

We can use your feedback for the workshop at TWS. Please take a moment or two to fill out our survey.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/
1FAIpQLSdmvePcbb3wztx2JpJUhgTqpjvbR0z3etpnjGrRSRfTBnLpcQ/
viewform?usp=sf_link

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