

11: Crafting Reports

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LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the purpose of using R Markdown as a communication and workflow tool
2. Incorporate Markdown syntax into documents
3. Communicate the process and findings of an analysis session in the style of a report

USE OF R STUDIO & R MARKDOWN SO FAR...

1. Write code
2. Document that code
3. Generate PDFs of code and its outputs
4. Integrate with Git/GitHub for version control

BASIC R MARKDOWN DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

1. **YAML Header** surrounded by `---` on top and bottom
 - YAML templates include options for html, pdf, word, markdown, and interactive
 - More information on formatting the YAML header can be found in the cheat sheet
2. **R Code Chunks** surrounded by `"on top and bottom" + Create using Cmd/Ctrl+Alt+I`
 - Can be named `{r name}` to facilitate navigation and autoreferencing
 - Chunk options allow for flexibility when the code runs and when the document is knitted
3. **Text** with formatting options for readability in knitted document

RESOURCES

Handy cheat sheets for R markdown can be found: [here](#), and [here](#).

There's also a quick reference available via the **Help**→**Markdown Quick Reference** menu.

Lastly, this website give a great & thorough overview.

THE KNITTING PROCESS



- The knitting sequence
- Knitting commands in code chunks:
 - `include = FALSE` - code is run, but neither code nor results appear in knitted file
 - `echo = FALSE` - code not included in knitted file, but results are

- `eval = FALSE` - code is not run in the knitted file
- `message = FALSE` - messages do not appear in knitted file
- `warning = FALSE` - warnings do not appear...
- `fig.cap = "..."` - adds a caption to graphical results

WHAT ELSE CAN R MARKDOWN DO?

See: <https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com> and class recording. * Languages other than R... * Various outputs...

WHY R MARKDOWN?

<Fill in our discussion below with bullet points. Use italics and bold for emphasis (hint: use the cheat sheets or Help → Markdown Quick Reference to figure out how to make bold and italic text).>

- Can save different output types (e.g. PDF, HTML)
- Text formatting facilitates use with GitHub version control
- Easy to format code, text, graphics

TEXT EDITING CHALLENGE

Create a table below that details the example datasets we have been using in class. The first column should contain the names of the datasets and the second column should include some relevant information about the datasets. (Hint: use the cheat sheets to figure out how to make a table in Rmd)

Dataset Name	Data
EPAair_O3_NC2018	Ozone data for North Carolina from 2018
NTL-LTER_Lake_nutrients_Raw	Total phosphorus and total nitrogen measurements
USGS_Site02085000_Flow_Raw	USGS stream gage data for 02085000

R CHUNK EDITING CHALLENGE

Installing packages

Create an R chunk below that installs the package `knitr`. Instead of commenting out the code, customize the chunk options such that the code is not evaluated (i.e., not run).

```
install.packages("knitr")
```

Setup

Create an R chunk below called “setup” that checks your working directory, loads the packages `tidyverse`, `lubridate`, and `knitr`, and sets a ggplot theme. Remember that you need to disable R throwing a message, which contains a check mark that cannot be knitted.

Load the `NTL-LTER_Lake_Nutrients_Raw` dataset, display the head of the dataset, and set the date column to a date format.

Customize the chunk options such that the code is run but is not displayed in the final document.

Data Exploration, Wrangling, and Visualization

Create an R chunk below to create a processed dataset do the following operations:

- Include all columns except `lakeid`, `depth_id`, and `comments`

- Include only surface samples (depth = 0 m)
- Drop rows with missing data

```

nutrients.processed <-
  nutrients %>%
  rename(Lake_Name = lakename) %>%
  select(-c(lakeid, depth_id, comments)) %>%
  filter(depth == 0) %>%
  na.omit()

```

Create a second R chunk to create a summary dataset with the mean, minimum, maximum, and standard deviation of total nitrogen concentrations for each lake. Create a second summary dataset that is identical except that it evaluates total phosphorus. Customize the chunk options such that the code is run but not displayed in the final document.

Create a third R chunk that uses the function `kable` in the `knitr` package to display two tables: one for the summary dataframe for total N and one for the summary dataframe of total P. Use the `caption = " "` code within that function to title your tables. Customize the chunk options such that the final table is displayed but not the code used to generate the table.

Table 2: Summary Statistics for Total Nitrogen by Lake

Lake_Name	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Std_Dev
Central Long Lake	690.0469	953.063	343.020	209.09341
Crampton Lake	362.6813	376.304	353.380	12.05748
East Long Lake	810.7834	2608.956	380.620	335.41457
Hummingbird Lake	1036.6695	1221.960	779.053	204.36889
Paul Lake	368.7564	628.625	45.670	106.34741
Peter Lake	561.8752	2048.151	219.720	305.64909
Tuesday Lake	423.5605	554.418	237.363	78.84522
West Long Lake	762.6017	2870.302	303.170	402.95992

Table 3: Summary Statistics for Total Phosphorus by Lake

Lake_Name	Mean	Maximum	Minimum	Std_Dev
Central Long Lake	21.70981	37.270	8.190	7.076388
Crampton Lake	11.16033	15.555	5.803	4.946759
East Long Lake	29.28984	101.050	8.000	17.375710
Hummingbird Lake	36.21925	42.119	32.765	4.146717
Paul Lake	10.45606	36.070	1.222	4.805142
Peter Lake	18.39153	64.383	0.000	10.976205
Tuesday Lake	11.71853	18.663	6.325	3.044289
West Long Lake	19.82981	63.243	2.690	10.541276

Create a fourth and fifth R chunk that generates two plots (one in each chunk): one for total N over time with different colors for each lake, and one with the same setup but for total P. Decide which geom option will be appropriate for your purpose, and select a color palette that is visually pleasing and accessible. Customize the chunk options such that the final figures are displayed but not the code used to generate the figures. In addition, customize the chunk options such that the figures are aligned on the left side of the page. Lastly, add a `fig.cap` chunk option to add a caption (title) to your plot that will display underneath the figure.

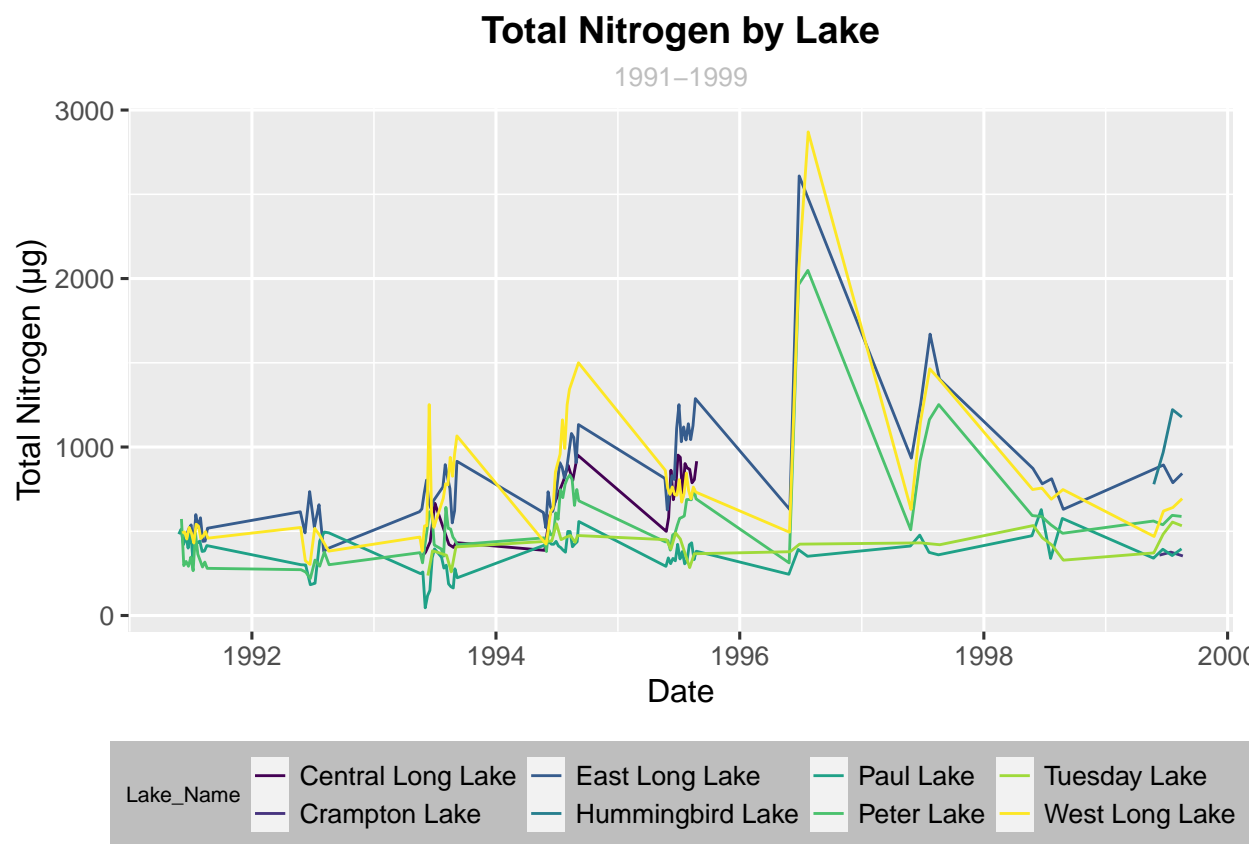


Figure 1: Total Nitrogen by Lake

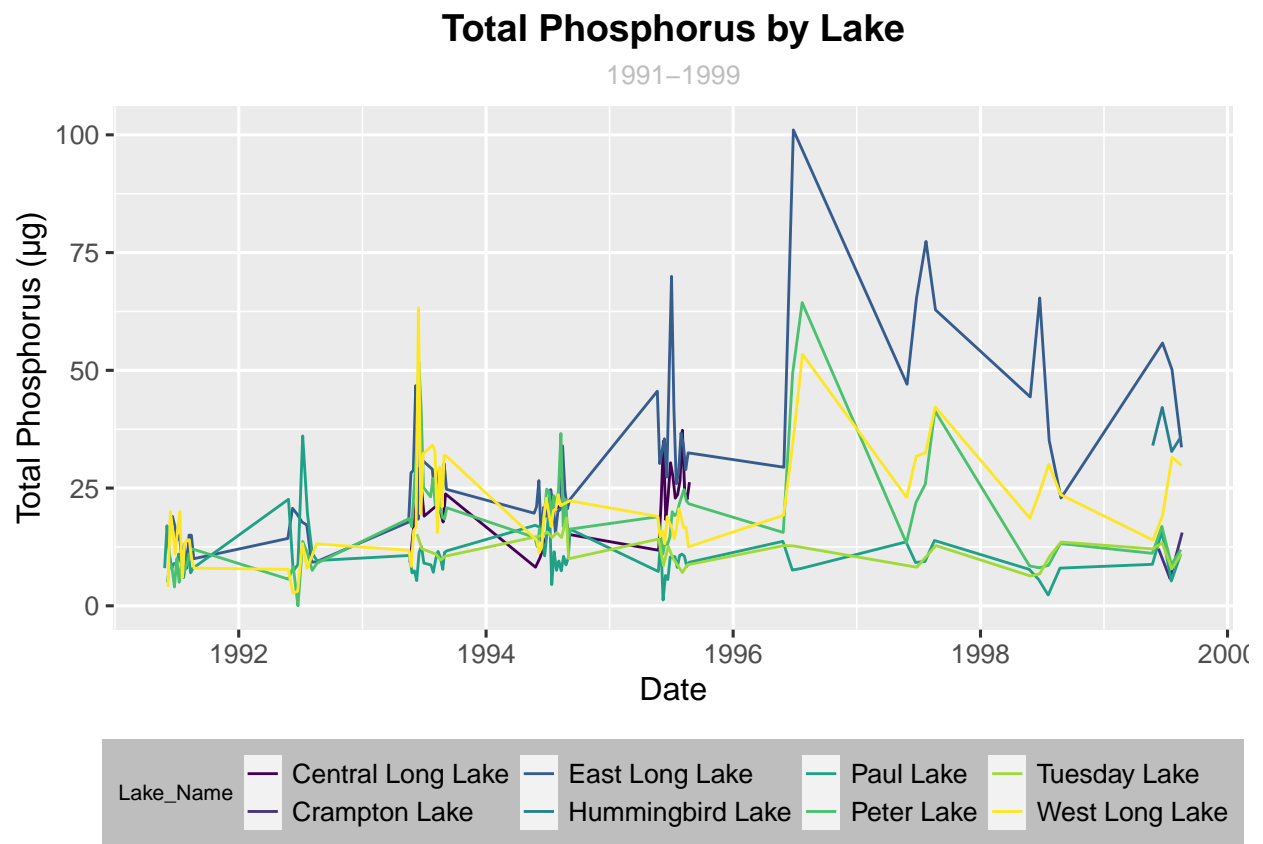


Figure 2: Total Phosphorus by Lake

Communicating results

Write a paragraph describing your findings from the R coding challenge above. This should be geared toward an educated audience but one that is not necessarily familiar with the dataset. Then insert a horizontal rule below the paragraph. Below the horizontal rule, write another paragraph describing the next steps you might take in analyzing this dataset. What questions might you be able to answer, and what analyses would you conduct to answer those questions?

My research focused on analyzing the levels of total phosphorus and total nitrogen across 8 lakes located in the long-term ecological research site in the North Temperate Lakes District in Wisconsin. Hummingbird Lake has the greatest mean total phosphorus and total nitrogen levels across all lakes. The variation in total nitrogen and total phosphorus levels was highly variable across all lakes. Crampton Lake's total nitrogen had a standard deviation of 12.06 while West Long Lake's total nitrogen had a standard deviation of 402.96. We saw similar variation results in total phosphorus: Tuesday Lake's standard deviation was 3.04 while East Long Lake's standard deviation was 17.38. When graphed, our results showed a spike in total nitrogen and total phosphorus levels around mid-1996 for several lakes and a general return to the lower pre-1996 levels by 1999.

Our research has raised some interesting questions: *Are there any seasonal or non-seasonal trends in total phosphorus and total nitrogen levels?* Did any major events contribute to the spike in total phosphorus and total nitrogen across several lakes in mid-1996? *Why does Hummingbird Lake have higher total phosphorus and total nitrogen levels than the other lakes?

To better understand this dataset, I would construct a linear model and conduct a time series analysis to explore seasonal and nonseasonal trends. I think creating visuals using spatial analysis to display the range of total nitrogen and total phosphorus levels across lakes would also be interesting. I would also conduct an exploration of natural events that occurred around the time of the mid-1996 spike for several lakes to see if I could identify any potential causes of the sudden increase in nutrient levels.

KNIT YOUR PDF

When you have completed the above steps, try knitting your PDF to see if all of the formatting options you specified turned out as planned. This may take some troubleshooting.

OTHER R MARKDOWN CUSTOMIZATION OPTIONS

We have covered the basics in class today, but R Markdown offers many customization options. A word of caution: customizing templates will often require more interaction with LaTeX and installations on your computer, so be ready to troubleshoot issues.

Customization options for pdf output include:

- Table of contents
- Number sections
- Control default size of figures
- Citations
- Template (more info [here](#))

pdf_document:

toc: true

number_sections: true

fig_height: 3

fig_width: 4

citation_package: natbib

template: