Introduction to "R" Introduction to R and RStudio

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28 September 2019

About the course

Managing Expectations

- ► R is a (programming) language.
- ▶ Just as you cannot learn Latin in 1 1/2 days, you will not be fluent in R after this workshop.

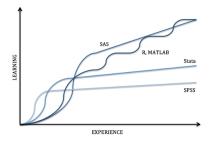


Figure 1: R Learning Curve, https://sites.google.com/a/nyu.edu/statistical-software-guide/summary

► More on Why R is Hard to Learn

Course materials

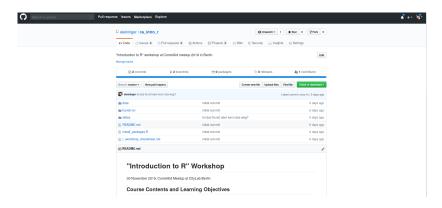


Figure 2: https://github.com/aleininger/ca_intro_r

https://github.com/aleininger/ca_intro_r

Course materials

- ► Slides, exercises and solutions here
 - https://github.com/aleininger/ca_intro_r
 - Based on: https://gitlab.com/arndtl/r_workshop
- Download the zip file
 - or clone the repository if you use Git
- Extract the zip file
- rename the folder to r_workshop if necessary

Introducing RStudio

RStudio GUI

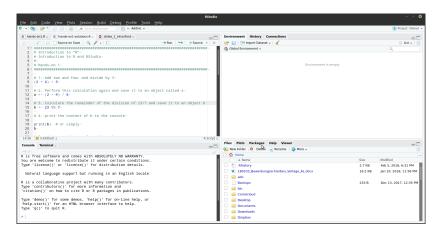


Figure 3: RStudio GUI

RStudio GUI

Options \rightarrow Pane Layout

Option \rightarrow Appearance

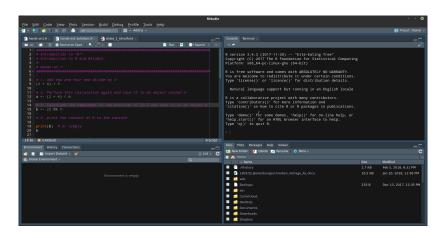


Figure 4: RStudio GUI

First steps in R

Coding in R



Figure 5: R console

Mathematical expressions will be evaluated

Examples

```
1 + 2
## [1] 3
2^2
## [1] 4
9/3
## [1] 3
# R calculates the result and prints it to console
```

Coding in R

► Character input: R will check for functions and objects in its memory that match the input

```
randomtext
## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'randomtext' not f
# returns an error since there is no such object
```

If there is no assignment to an object output will be printed to the console.

The assignment operator

- Introducing R's assignment operator <-, = also works but is frowned upon
 - ► Inversely, -> also works
- ► The shortcut Alt + produces the assignment operator

```
1 + 3 # calculates the result and prints it to the console
## [1] 4

sum <- 1 + 3 # calculates the result and saves it to
# object 'sum' nothing is printed on the console

sum # prints 4 on the console
## [1] 4
# when you run an object name it is fed to the print()
# function by default
```

Quick hands-on

- 1. Save the text "Hello World" to an object called obj.
- 2. Austria became a member of the European Union in 1995. Calculate how many years it's been since then.
- 3. Save the result of that calculation to obj.
- 4. Using obj, create another object called months that contains the number of months that Austria spends as a EU member (hint: they joined on January 1st).

<- vs. =

- ▶ the origins of the <- symbol come from old APL keyboards that actually had a single <- key on them</p>
- however, there are subtle differences between <- and =</p>

```
x < -y < -5
x = y = 5
x = y < -5
X
## [1] 5
## [1] 5
x < -y = 5
## Error in x \leftarrow y = 5: could not find function "<-<-"
median(a <- 1:10)
## [1] 5.5
median(a = 1:10)
## Error in is. factor(x): argument "x" is missing, with no defau
```

<- vs. < -

```
x<-3
x
x < -3
```

http://stat.ethz.ch/R-manual/R-patched/library/base/html/assignOps.html

- ▶ R functions are what in other programs are called commands, i.e. Stata. They take information we give to them, do something with the information, then output something.
- ▶ We pass information to functions with arguments.

```
print(x = 'Hello World!')
## [1] "Hello World!"
# x is the name of argument which is supplied with
# the character vector 'Hello Wien' which is then
# printed to the console

print('Hello World!')
## [1] "Hello World!"
# you can omit argumnt names and R will use the order
# of arguments to identify them
```

➤ The function print() is also called when you just enter the name of an object or text ike "Hello World!"

Functions vs. Objects

```
print <- 'Hello World!' # this is an object
print() # this is a function
## Error in print.default(): argument "x" is missing, with no de
print(print) # prints the object 'print'
## [1] "Hello World!"</pre>
```

Functions alway have brackets even if there're no arguments.

```
Sys.Date()
## [1] "2019-11-30"
```

##

rnorm(n = 100, mean = 1, sd = 2)[1] -0.707344879

```
0.397151774 -3.893500155
                                       5.440002461
                                                     0.649397114
##
     [6]
                                                                   4.
          0.942541332 -0.953931124
                                      -0.169408538 -3.137676621
                                                                   0.
##
    [11]
    [16]
         -0.909244099
                         3.357195076
                                      -3.789542987
                                                     0.324946211
##
                                                                   2.
##
    [21]
          3.264130573
                         2.868485670
                                       4.410816798
                                                     1.299895083
                                                                   1.
                                       3.664434643
                                                    -0.603908002
##
    [26]
         -0.372693152
                       -0.252689172
                                                                   4.
    [31]
         -0.279225108
                         1.225974652
                                       0.363343214
                                                     1.385382122
##
                                                                  -0.
    [36]
          0.053095021
                        -0.851303464
                                       0.049885457
                                                     2.737777983
##
                                                                  -2.
    [41]
          3.402432201
                         1.232511620
                                       0.077457832
                                                    -0.846792555
                                                                   0.
##
##
    [46]
          1.980387986
                         1.830261038
                                       3.269633973
                                                     3.577006674
                                                                  -3.
##
    Γ517
          0.760260254
                         1.243975237
                                       0.763603120
                                                     4.066515647
                                                                   1.
          2.242083657
                       -0.895299377
                                       0.110240180
                                                     0.456215260
##
    Γ561
                                                                   0.
##
    [61]
          -2.205282847
                       -0.227519134
                                       1.418071528
                                                     2.307632949
                                                                   5.
##
    [66]
          3.682111093
                        -0.178927702
                                       1.822191572
                                                    -0.340547732
                                                                   0.
##
    [71]
          2.479903359
                         2.949368148
                                       4.265056353
                                                     0.372564362
                                                                   2.
##
    [76]
          2.082144201
                         0.219684553
                                       2.304222931
                                                     2.136638959
                                                                  -0.
                                                     2.263246120<sub>18/1</sub>.
##
    [81]
          -1.836921098
                         0.262967499
                                      -0.007715346
```

creates a vector of 100 random draws from a normal distribution with mean 1 and standard deviation 2

0.727899185

0.258439422

4.

1.918621483

##

##

##

##

[76]

Γ817

[86]

Γ917

0.01394200

-1.09231370

1.83137155

0.82125204

```
rnorm(100, 1, 2)
                   # does the same
##
     Γ17
         -0.98056021
                      -1.55611758
                                   -2.49909187 -1.92152342
                                                              2.0826
##
     [6]
           1.93576599
                        1.56232244
                                    5.90416531
                                                -0.90633413
                                                              1.7556
##
    [11]
           1.51793540
                        0.33429831
                                    0.30081082
                                                 3.82647904
                                                             -0.7317
##
    Γ167
           0.25688217
                        1.03657106
                                   -0.01175756
                                                 0.03901799
                                                             -0.3222
##
    [21]
           1.32056669
                       2.32711434
                                    0.24726687
                                                 0.19404016
                                                             -0.1379
##
    [26]
          2.29400128
                        0.51495972
                                     0.35373969
                                                -0.99231190
                                                              1.8237
    [31]
           1.05163114
                        1.03569712 -2.00559252
                                                 2.24561696
                                                             -0.8348
##
    [36]
          4.09007248
                                   -1.27606811
                                                 0.73655098
                                                              3.8459
##
                       4.18996684
    [41]
           1.65909812
                      -0.82735470
                                    6.04408268
                                                 0.07984806
                                                              3.9382
##
    [46]
         -0.44244249
                       2.31461512
                                    0.97975365
                                                 2.08750001
                                                              5.3584
##
##
    [51]
          4.31666785
                        0.73012345
                                    0.72089116
                                                -0.33036295
                                                              1.8399
    [56]
           1.04075804
                        1.13990214
                                    2.99554077
                                                 0.95820985
                                                             -0.4696
##
    [61]
         -0.43200577
                        0.33053650
                                     0.83331540
                                                -0.86989307
                                                              2.3328
##
    [66]
           1.67649715
                       4.92787844
                                   -3.33225991
                                                             -3.5437
##
                                                -0.74181376
##
    [71]
           0.70283465
                       -1.13978773
                                   -2.97021267
                                                 2.64203838
                                                              2.3346
```

1.40467928

0.81305931

1.48196914

-1.75860933

-0.29154057

0.65870670

3.11230765

-0.45735483

2.50408381

0.66587899

0.48762924

-0.29379886

2.8268

4.2618

0.3157 1.**19**154

```
rnorm(1, 2, 100) # does this do the same?
```

##

##

##

##

##

[41]

[46]

[51]

[56]

[61]

0.39299010

-0.72746364

3.45155386

0.68040153

-2.60669945

```
# does this do the same?
rnorm(1, 2, 100)
## [1] -59.52945
d <- rnorm(100, 1, 2) # the output of the function can of
# course be assigned to an object
   # prints the object to the console
                                                           2.0712
##
     [1] -1.12223316
                      1.23576691
                                   1.46813447
                                               2.17204766
                      0.25093104 -2.37979916
                                               0.88302276
##
     [6]
          3.89424491
                                                            1.5284
    [11] -0.81341596
                      0.42733343
                                   2.28766626
                                               1.73776331 -2.9127
##
    [16] -2.60684672
                     -0.96654004 -1.63936442
                                               0.80217490
                                                           -0.2506
##
##
    [21]
          0.65499491
                     -2.49487388 -0.80883236
                                               0.61378627
                                                            3.7418
          3.70488976
                      1.38433962
                                               2.05874223
                                                            0.5640
##
    [26]
                                   3.46548749
    [31] -0.70548441
                       1.07446648
                                   2.14457177
                                               0.85810856 -0.1800
##
    [36]
          1.19453528
                      0.60815483
                                   1.35143330
                                               5.43913239
##
                                                            3.1887
```

1.70490800

2.69747352

4.15318934

-0.02505842

6.18675894

2.52949118

1.31394570

-2.18398450

3.96936553

3.00258934

-3.07968681

2.17457597 -0.24416019

1.36343843 -1.36540162

1.1573

3.1556

1.8207

2.1803

-2.8299

Getting help

- ► When writing function calls hit ☐ for autocomplete of function names, argument names and arguments
- ► Type help() and the name of the function within the brackets.
 - ► For example, help(lm) will take you to the lm() functions's manual
 - ?lm is shorter and does the same

Reading a help file

- 1. Description what the command does
- 2. *Usage* Shows a call to the function with all arguments set to their default.
- 3. Details and Values Explanation of further particulars
- 4. Examples Code snippets
- You don't always need to set a lot of arguments but you should pay attention to what the defaults are.
- If you don't know the function you want to use, you will have try and describe your problem to a search engine of your choice.

Comments

- Commenting code is important. It enables others to understand your code (that includes your future self!)
- ► There is only one comment sign in R: #
- Everything on a line following the # is a comment
- For a multiline comment every line needs to start with a #
- ► The keyboard shortcut in RStudio for commenting out one or multiple lines is Ctrl + ① + C
 - Use the same shortcut on a comment to 'uncomment'

Comments

► An example from hands-on/01_intro/hands-on1.R

```
# Introduction to "R"
# Introduction to R and RStudio
#
# Hands-on 1
# 1. Add two and four and divide by 3
(2 + 4) / 3 # adds 2 and 4 together and then divides by 3
## [1] 2
```

More on RStudio

Running code

- ... from the source editor
 - ► Ctrl + → runs the code on a single line
 - Set "Ctrl + Enter" to "Current line" in Options \rightarrow Code: If a function is not finished on a line R will wait for further input
 - You can run subparts of a line or multiple lines by highlighting the code you want to execute and then pressing Ctrl + 4
- ... from the console
 - ► Hit 🔲 to run a line of code

Use Ctrl + 1 and Ctrl + 2 to swith between editor and console.

Use if for autocomplete in both editor and console

Some mathematical expressions in R

```
2 + 2 # Addition

3 - 2 # Substraction

2 * 2 # Multiplication

10 / 3 # Division

a %*% b # Matrix multiplication
```

https://stat.ethz.ch/R-manual/R-devel/library/grDevices/html/plotmath.html

Hands-on 1

Hands-on 1

 $\verb|hands-on/01_intro/hands-on1.R||$

Working with data

Opening a file

- Reading a file is done through a function, here we'll use read.csv()
- This function is for reading comma-separated vector files, short CSV
- ► Here's an example

```
V1, V2, V3, V4
1, 0, 2, male
2, 2, 1, female
```

- Using ?read.csv we learn that the function takes a file path as input
 - All other arguments have defaults and do not need to be specified

File paths

- ► File paths tell the computer where to read and write information.
- Separators between folder names differ between Windows (\) and Mac/Linux (/).
- ► However, in R, independent of the OS used, forward slashes (/) are used exclusively.

Absolute and relative file paths on Windows

```
C:
+- Users
+- Bill
| +- Dropbox
| +- coolproject
| + code
| + data
| +- master.csv
+- Melinda
```

- Absolute path to project folder: C:/Users/Bill/Dropbox/coolproject
- Relativ path to file master.csv: data/master.csv

Absolute and relative file paths on Mac OS

```
/
+- Users
+- Steve
| +- Dropbox
| +- coolproject
| + code
| + data
| +- master.csv
+- Laurene
```

- ► Absolute path to folder coolproject: /Users/Steve/project_w_bill_and_linus
- Relative path to file master.csv: data/master.csv

Absolute and relative file paths on Linux

- ► Absolute path to project folder: /home/linus/coolproject
- Relative path to file script.R: data/master.csv

Absolute vs. relative paths

- Ideally use an absolute path only for setting the working directory
- Everything else should be relative paths
- ► Absolute paths cause errors when you give a project folder to a coauthor/collaborator

```
setwd('C:/Users/Bill/project_w_steve_and_linus') # code for Bill
setwd('/Users/Steve/project_w_bill_and_linus') # code for Steve
setwd('/home/linus/project_w_bill_and_steve') # code for Linus

df <- read.csv('data/master.csv') # same relative path for every</pre>
```

Opening a dataset

```
+- home
  +- arndt
      +- Git
         +- r_workshop
            +- data
               +- BundestagForecastReplicationData.csv
# 1. Set your working directory
setwd('/home/arndt/Git/r workshop/')
# 2. open the file
# what happens if you run this line of code?
read.csv('data/BundestagForecastReplicationData.csv')
```

Data from Kayser, Mark A. and Arndt Leininger (2016) "A Predictive Test of Voters' Economic Benchmarking: The 2013 German Bundestag Election", *German Politics*, 25(1), pp. 106-130

Opening a dataset

```
##
                      date
                                     outgovcoa
                                                   chdate
      X wp year
         1 1949 14.08.1949
## 1
                                               15.09.1949
## 2
        2 1953 06.09.1953 CDU/CSU, FDP and DP 15.09.1949
## 3
                                   CDU/CSU, DP 15.09.1949
         3 1957 15.09.1957
                                       CDU/CSU 15.09.1949
## 4
         4 1961 17.09.1961
## 5
         5 1965 19.09.1965
                               CDU/CSU and FDP 16.10.1963
## 6
         6 1969 28.09.1969
                               CDU/CSU and SPD 01.12.1966
## 7
         7 1972 19.11.1972
                                   SPD and FDP 21.10.1969
## 8
     8
         8 1976 03.10.1976
                                   SPD and FDP 16.05.1974
## 9
         9 1980 05.10.1980
                                   SPD and FDP 16.05.1974
##
  10 10 10 1983 06.03.1983
                               CDU/CSU and FDP 01.10.1982
  11 11 11 1987 25.01.1987
                               CDU/CSU and FDP 01.10.1982
## 12 12 12 1990 02.12.1990
                               CDU/CSU and FDP 01.10.1982
## 13 13 13 1994 16.10.1994
                               CDU/CSU and FDP 01.10.1982
## 14 14 14 1998 27.09.1998
                               CDU/CSU and FDP 01.10.1982
```

Opening a dataset

► The argument stringsAsFactors = F will be explained in a bit

getwd()

If you're unsure what your working directory is set to: getwd()

```
## [1] "/home/arndt/Git/r_workshop"
```

Quick hands-on

- Set the working directory to the r_workshop folder using (setwd()).
- Read the file BundestagForecastReplicationData.csv contained in the subfolder data. Assign the output of read.csv() to an object called df.
- 3. Have a look at the data set using the function View(). Check ?View if you have difficulties.
- 4. Also check out head() and tail().

Data in R

- Data sets in R are most often saved as objects of type data.frame.
- ➤ A data.frame ist just another object and so you can have multiple objects of type data.frame in your memory at the same time.

df2 <- df

- ► An understanding that a data.frame is a matrix is an important basis for competent usage of R.
- As usual: columns are variables and rows are observations.

Variables

Variables in a data.frame can be accessed via a simple method in R

```
# Our data.frame contains many variables
# To get a list of the variable names and the variable names onl
names(df)
## [1] "X"
                   "wp" "year" "date"
## [6] "chdate" "chancellor" "opcandidate" "outgovshare"
## [11] "logterms" "gergrow" "benchgrow" "pid"
# Say we're interested in the variable 'outgovshare'
df$outgovshare
## [1] NA 58.0 53.6 45.4 57.1 46.1 54.2 50.5 53.5 55.8 53.4 5
## [15] 47.1 42.3 33.8 NA
```

Finding out about the type of a variable

class() returns the type of a variable or in fact any object in R

```
class(df$wp)
## [1] "integer"
class(df$outgovcoa)
## [1] "character"
class(df)
## [1] "data.frame"
```

Quick quiz

Which of the code snippets are complete statements that R will run without error? What's wrong with the others?

- 1. print("Hello World!')
- 2. B <- 2/3
- **3.** setwd('C:\Users\Arndt\Documents')
- 4. getwd
- 5. rnorm(n = 10, mean = 0, sd = 2 # sd is short for standard deviation)

Interlude: the concatenate function c()

- c() is short for concatenate
- It assembles multiple individual values into a vector
- ► E.g.

```
c(1, 2, 4, 5)
## [1] 1 2 4 5

c(1, 2, TRUE, "Hallo")
## [1] "1" "2" "TRUE" "Hallo"
```

► If different types of values are pased on to c() the function will force them to be of type character

Variables

There are basically four types of variables in R.

- 1. Numeric
- 2. Character
- 3. Factor
- 4. Logical

(Yes, there's also a datetime type.)

Numeric vector

- A numeric vector contains numbers
- With as.numeric() you can turn numbers saved as characters into numbers

```
'3' / 3
## Error in "3"/3: non-numeric argument to binary operator
as.numeric('3') / 3
## [1] 1
```

Character vector

- Character vectors contain text just as string variables in Stata
- With as.character() you can turn objects into character objects
- ▶ Both " and ' can be used

```
# Example
four <- '4'

four
## [1] "4"
four * 4
## Error in four * 4: non-numeric argument to binary operator
as.numeric(four) * 4
## [1] 16</pre>
```

Factor variables

- Factors are used to save categorical (nominal or ordinal) variables
- With as.factor() you can turn objects into factor objects
- By default, when reading datasets with read.csv(), R will turn character variables into factors unless you set stringsAsFactors = FALSE

```
fac <- factor(c("Democrat", "Republican", "Independent"))
fac
## [1] Democrat Republican Independent
## Levels: Democrat Independent Republican</pre>
```

Factor variables

 Ordered factors can be created by setting the argument ordered=T

```
data_analysis_software <- c('Excel', 'SPSS', 'Stata', 'R')
data_analysis_software <-
    factor(data_analysis_software,
        levels = data_analysis_software, ordered = T)
data_analysis_software
## [1] Excel SPSS Stata R
## Levels: Excel < SPSS < Stata < R
# ;-)</pre>
```

Logical

- ► Logical is a boolean factor that takes on the values TRUE (also abbreviated as T) and FALSE (F)
- ► Logical vectors can be used in mathematical operations: TRUE is treated as 1 and FALSE as 0

```
truefalse <- c(TRUE, FALSE, T, F)
truefalse
## [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE

example <- 2 > 1
example
## [1] TRUE
```

Quick hands-on

- Create a vector called boolean which contains two elements, the values TRUE and FALSE, by using the concatenate function c()
- 2. Create a vector called number containing the values 2 and 3
- 3. Multiply the vectors boolean and number
- 4. Save the result in a vector called result
- 5. Print the vector result to the console
- **6.** Check the type of the vector result using class()
- 7. Turn vector result into a vector of type character

Creating a new variable

 Creating a new variable is done by assigning a value to a previously undefined variable

```
df$newvar <- df$outgovshare / 100
# express vote share in fration instead of percentages
df$newvar
## [1] NA 0.580 0.536 0.454 0.571 0.461 0.542 0.505 0.535 0.
## [12] 0.548 0.484 0.413 0.471 0.423 0.338 NA</pre>
```

Replacing the content of a variable

```
df$outgovshare <- df$newvar
# the content of the variable is replaced without any warning!</pre>
```

Deleting a variable

```
ncol(df)
## [1] 15
df$newvar <- NULL
ncol(df)
## [1] 14</pre>
```

Deleting an object

```
# but
a <- NULL
a
## NULL
rm(a) # deletes object a from R's memory</pre>
```

- NULL is the logical representation of a statement that is neither TRUE nor FALSE
- https://www.r-bloggers.com/r-na-vs-null/

Calculating the mean

```
mean(df$outgovshare)
## [1] NA
```

Missing values

```
df$outgovshare
## [1] NA 58.0 53.6 45.4 57.1 46.1 54.2 50.5 53.5 55.8 53.4 5
```

Missing values in R are denoted by NA

[15] 47.1 42.3 33.8 NA

- ▶ NA can appear in numeric, factor and character variables
- NAs are not automatically disregarded by all functions

Calculating the mean

```
mean(df$outgovshare, na.rm = T)
## [1] 49.70625
```

Demeaning a variable

Saving data

- write.csv() writes a data.frame object to a CSV-file
- It takes an object and file path as input
- ► Hint: set row.names = F otherwise R will write a first column of row names (most of the times simply a running count of the lines) into the file. The first row of this first column will be empty which can cause problems with other programs when trying to open the file

```
getwd()
## [1] "/home/arndt/Git/ca_intro_r/"
write.csv(df, 'data/newdata.csv', row.names = F)
```

row.names = T

```
write.csv(df, 'data/newdata.csv', row.names = F)
write.csv(df, 'data/newdata.csv')

Resulting file:
"X","wp","year","date","outgovcoa", ...
"1", 1,1,1949,"14.08.1949","","15.09.1949","", ...
"2", 2,2,1953,"06.09.1953","CDU/CSU, FDP and DP", ...
"3", 4,4,1961,"17.09.1961","CDU/CSU","15.09.1949", ...
...
```

row.names = F

```
write.csv(df, 'data/newdata.csv', row.names = F)
```

Resulting file:

```
"X", "wp", "year", "date", "outgovcoa", ...

1,1,1949, "14.08.1949", "", "15.09.1949", "", ...

2,2,1953, "06.09.1953", "CDU/CSU, FDP and DP", ...

4,4,1961, "17.09.1961", "CDU/CSU", "15.09.1949", ...
```

Hands-on 2

Hands-on 2

 $\verb|hands-on/01_intro/hands-on2.R|$

Appendix

Some commonly used functions in R

http://www.statmethods.net/management/functions.html

Keyboard shortcuts

- ► for autocomplete
- ► Alt + produces the assignment operator <-
- ► Ctrl + 1 + C for comments, toggle on/off
- ► Ctrl + → runs from the script
- ► ↑ and ↓
- ► In console Ctrl + ↑ as well as ↑ and ↓ to toggle input
- ► Switch to source: Ctrl + 1
- ► Switch to console: Ctrl + 2
- ► Ctrl + L produces a clear screen

Cheat sheets

Base R

RStudio IDE

Data Visualization with ggplot2

Data Transformation with dplyr

Colors in R

R Reference Card

Built-in Functions

Model formulas in R

Some cheat sheets can also be found through RStudio: $\mathsf{Help} > \mathsf{Cheatsheets}$.

Find more at rstudio.com/resources/cheatsheets/