



First Steps in R (part 2)

Enrico Toffalini

PSICOSTAT

Let's see how to

Part 1:

- Create, name objects;
- Use basic operations (arithmetical, relational, logical);
- Basic types of data;

Part 2:

- Install, load from CRAN (and more), call functions, help;
- Using functions;
- Set up your Working Directory;
- Import, export workspace and data

Install packages... and more

Traditional installing of a package from CRAN:

```
install.packages("effsize")
```

installing of multiple packages from CRAN at once:

```
install.packages( c("effsize","psych","ggplot2") )
```

For development or personal use, you may occasionally install packages from outside CRAN, such as from GitHub:

```
devtools::install_github("FilippoGamberota/filor")  
devtools::install_github("EnricoToffalini/toffee")
```

After installing, you need to load the packages using function **library**:

```
library(effsize)  
library(ggplot2)
```

Install packages... and more

call functions

After loading a package, its functions are directly callable throughout the R session:

```
library(psych)
```

```
fisherz(rho=0.8) # use a function from the "psych" package
```

```
[1] 1.098612
```

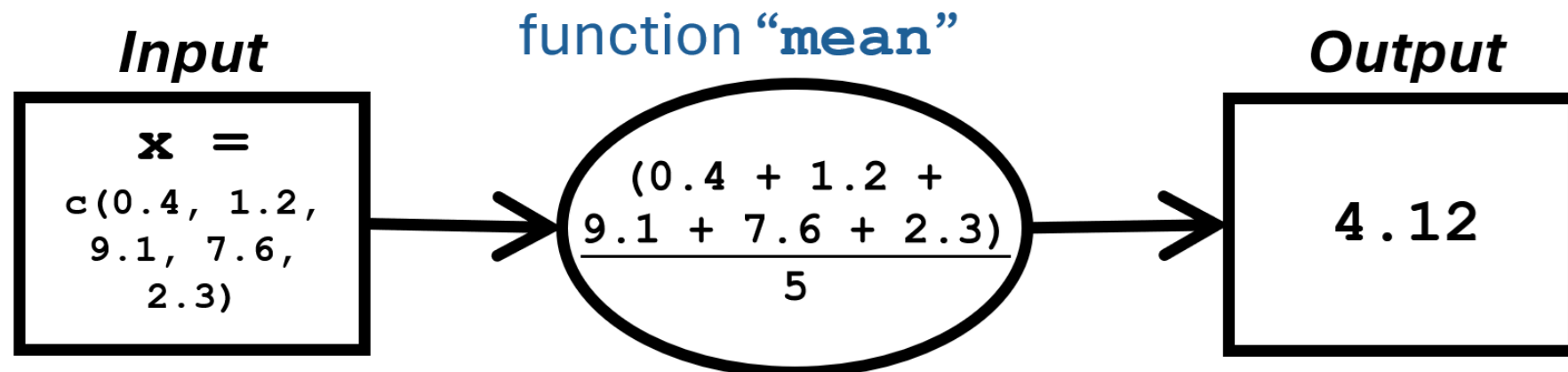
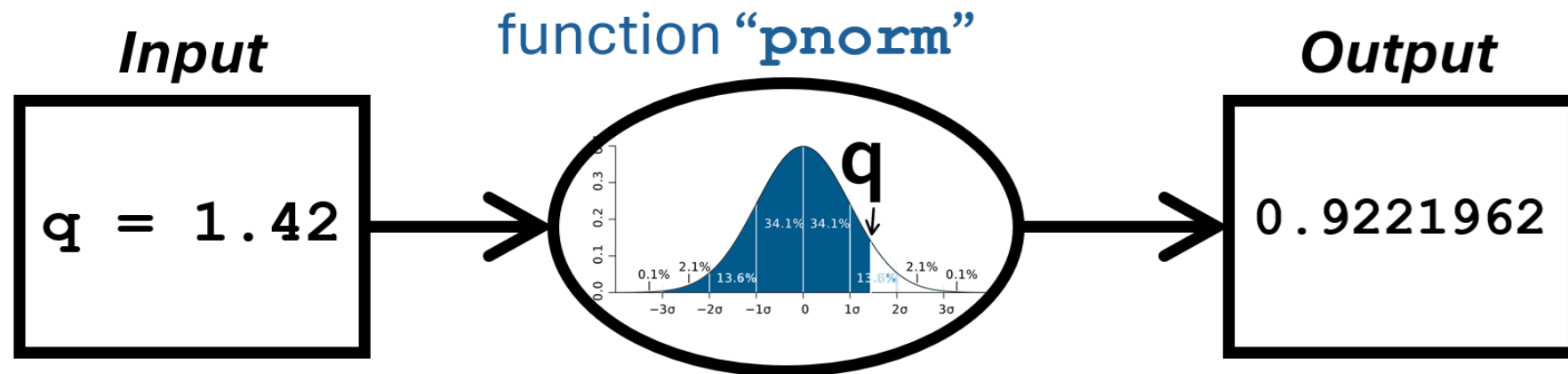
you may directly call any function from any installed package, even without loading it, using “::”; this is especially useful when there is a risk of functions with conflicting names, or if you just don’t want to load an entire package for using a single function:

```
psych::fisherz(rho=0.8)
```

```
[1] 1.098612
```

Functions and arguments

Functions typically take some *input* parameters, known as *arguments*, process that, and yield some *output*/result(s)



Functions and arguments

arguments

- values or variables you pass to a function as input, or to control its behavior

for example, `seq()` generates a sequence of numbers; “`from`” and “`to`” are arguments: it will provide the integers between these two extremes:

```
seq(from = 3, to = 7)
```

```
[1] 3 4 5 6 7
```

`length.out` controls how many equally spaced numbers must be generated:

```
seq(from = 3, to = 7, length.out = 4)
```

```
[1] 3.000000 4.333333 5.666667 7.000000
```

alternatively, `by` defines the step size between numbers:

```
seq(from = 3, to = 7, by = 0.6)
```

```
[1] 3.0 3.6 4.2 4.8 5.4 6.0 6.6
```

Functions and arguments

arguments

- values or variables you pass to a function as input, or to control its behavior

`rnorm()` will generate “n” random numbers from a normal distribution with “mean” as the average and “sd” as the standard deviation:

```
rnorm(n = 5, mean = 100, sd = 15)
```

```
[1] 101.11878 86.15239 87.48608 90.09657 99.67104
```

Positional matching - know that arguments names may be omitted if placed in the correct order

```
rnorm(5, 100, 15)
```

```
[1] 87.53946 112.09042 92.14481 99.76426 114.24392
```

Functions and arguments

Default arguments - a function *might* still work even if some arguments are omitted, as it can use its own *default values* (in this case “`mean=0, sd=1`”)

```
rnorm(n = 5)
```

```
[1] 0.04710388 0.66652031 -1.53833364 -0.09456146 -1.04399811
```

Errors - however, omitting mandatory arguments will result in an *Error*

```
rnorm(mean = 100, sd = 15)
```

Error in rnorm(mean = 100, sd = 15): argument "n" is missing, with no default

Warnings - Some inputs may cause the function to produce *Warnings* and bad output, but do **not** stop code execution

```
rnorm(n = 5, mean = 100, sd = -15)
```

```
Warning in rnorm(n = 5, mean = 100, sd = -15): NAs produced
```

```
[1] NaN NaN NaN NaN NaN
```


Functions and arguments

HELP! see the documentation of a function

There are two ways to access documentation: using “?” and using `help()`

```
?rnorm # this will work  
help(rnorm) # this does the same
```

FilesPlotsPackagesHelpViewerPresentation

←→🏠🔍

R: The Normal Distribution - Find in Topic

Normal {stats}R Documentation

The Normal Distribution

Description

Density, distribution function, quantile function and random generation for the normal distribution with mean equal to `mean` and standard deviation equal to `sd`.

Usage

```
dnorm(x, mean = 0, sd = 1, log = FALSE)
pnorm(q, mean = 0, sd = 1, lower.tail = TRUE, log.p = FALSE)
qnorm(p, mean = 0, sd = 1, lower.tail = TRUE, log.p = FALSE)
rnorm(n, mean = 0, sd = 1)
```

Arguments

<code>x, q</code>	vector of quantiles.
<code>p</code>	vector of probabilities.
<code>n</code>	number of observations. If <code>length(n) > 1</code> , the length is taken to be the number required.
<code>mean</code>	vector of means.
<code>sd</code>	vector of standard deviations.
<code>log, log.p</code>	logical; if TRUE, probabilities <code>p</code> are given as <code>log(p)</code> .
<code>lower.tail</code>	logical: if TRUE (default) probabilities are $P[X \leq x]$ otherwise $P[X > x]$

Set up Working Directory

The **Working Directory** (WD) is the location of the folder in your computer where R reads and saves files by default.

If you import/export anything (*data, figures, workspaces*, etc.) you need to know your WD!

The `getwd()` function allows you to display the location of your current WD. Let's see my own:

```
getwd()
```

```
[1] "C:/Users/enric/OneDrive - Università degli Studi di  
Padova/Documents/Dottorato lezioni didattica/R for Data Science/_GITHUB Basics  
R DataScience/Slides"
```

Set up Working Directory

As a general rule:

- When you open R or the RStudio app, the default WD may be the `documents` folder (in Windows) or the `home directory` (e.g., `/home/username`; in Linux or macOS);
- This default may be reset at any time from inside RStudio on `Tools > Global Options... > General`;
- When RStudio is newly open by opening a file (e.g., a `.R` script file), the WD may be set at that file location (*actually my favorite*);
- However, you can set a new WD at any time from within the R code, using the `setwd()` function, for example:

```
setwd( "C:/Users/enric/" )
```

Set up Working Directory

RStudio Projects may eliminate the need of using `setwd()` within scripts.

- You can create a *new project* with **File > New Project...** choose a specific folder
- Keep all materials of your project in the same folder as the newly created **.Rproj** file
- As you open the **.Rproj**, it will automatically start a new *RStudio* session with the WD set into that folder.

Set up Working Directory

Finally, *not vital for now*, but know the difference between:

- **Absolute path:** "`C:/Users/enric/`" indicates the full directory path from the root
- **Relative paths:** for import/export purposes you may move around the current WD
 - for example `png(filename="figures/Fig1.png")` may save *Fig1.png* into the *figures* directory which is **inside** the current WD;
 - differently, `png(filename="../../figures/Fig1.png")` may save *Fig1.png* into the *figures* directory which is **outside, one level up** the current WD

Import/export

Now let's see how to perform **import/export** operations for:

- **The Workspace:** all objects that exist in your current R session, all results and computations stored so far (see them in the “*Environment*” panel or with `ls()`);
- **Data: SUPER IMPORTANT!** we will focus especially on tabular (Excel-like) data, that we treat as dataframes;
- **Figures:** save your plots for reports and more in `.pdf`, `.png`, and more formats.

Import/export

Workspace

All your R code (script) is generally stored in text files with a `.R` extension. But where do you save your results and objects?!

You can export the entire *workspace* (with all your objects) using the `save.image()` function:

```
# let's populate the workspace first
myName = "Enrico"
prof = TRUE
coursesTaught = 4L
age = 36

# now let's save it
save.image("myWS.RData")
```

Specifying `"myWS.RData"` is not mandatory but recommended, otherwise your file will simply be named `".RData"`. (By the way... *where* will it be saved?)

Import/export

Workspace

Alternatively, you may even save just one or a few workspace objects, rather than all:

```
# let's populate the workspace first  
myName = "Enrico"  
prof = TRUE  
coursesTaught = 4L  
age = 36  
  
# now let's save only two objects  
save(myName, age, file="myWS.RData")
```

This will save only variables **myName** and **age** into a newly created file named **myWS.RData**

This may be useful when you have an overcrowded workspace and prefer to save only a few objects that store the final results

Import/export

Workspace

Once you open a new R session, you may load the previously stored workspace using the `load()` function, specifying `load("workspace_name.RData")`, like this:

```
# empty the workspace to make sure there's actually nothing!
rm(list=ls())
ls()

# now load the previously saved workspace
load("myWS.RData")
# make sure that the objects have been loaded
ls()
```

Import/export

Data

Arguably a **fundamental skill** for anyone working in data science!

Most people use *MS Excel* or similar software (e.g., *LibreOffice Calc*) for handling data, which produce their own file formats (e.g., `.xlsx`). That's perfectly fine. However... the **most versatile data format is `.csv` (comma-separated values)**, a simple text (no formatting, no licences required) file format for storing tabular data/dataframes.

- **Best practice:** Save data in `.csv` format from your software of choice before importing it in R.

Import/export

Data

Here's an example of using the `read.csv()` function for importing data:

```
# IMPORT csv data from a "data" subfolder, and store it in an object named df
df = read.csv("data/Performance.csv", header=TRUE, sep=";", dec=".")

head(df) # have a look at the first few rows
```

	id	name	anx	acc	time
1	1	nydga	20	15	2.077932
2	2	bwknr	14	9	2.436858
3	3	sauuj	18	12	2.549814
4	4	vnjgi	27	15	4.386718
5	5	oueiy	21	11	5.248933
6	6	neebj	12	13	3.463094

Actually, specifying “`header=TRUE`, `sep=";`, `dec=".`” is unnecessary and could be omitted because it is the default... but it may be useful to get accustomed with functions arguments; also, in Italian Excel export settings, it is possible that *separator character* (`sep`) be “`;`”, and *decimal point character* be “`,`” so... be aware of your settings!

Import/export

Data

If you absolutely want to **import** your data directly from a **MS Excel** document (**.xlsx**), you may use function **read_excel()** from the package **readxl**:

```
library(readxl)
df = data.frame( read_excel("data/Performance.xlsx") )
# data.frame() forces it to be a dataframe, otherwise it's a tibble
head(df)
```

	id	name	anx	acc	time
1	1	nydga	20	15	2.077932
2	2	bwknr	14	9	2.436858
3	3	sauuj	18	12	2.549814
4	4	vnjgi	27	15	4.386718
5	5	oueiy	21	11	5.248933
6	6	neebj	12	13	3.463094

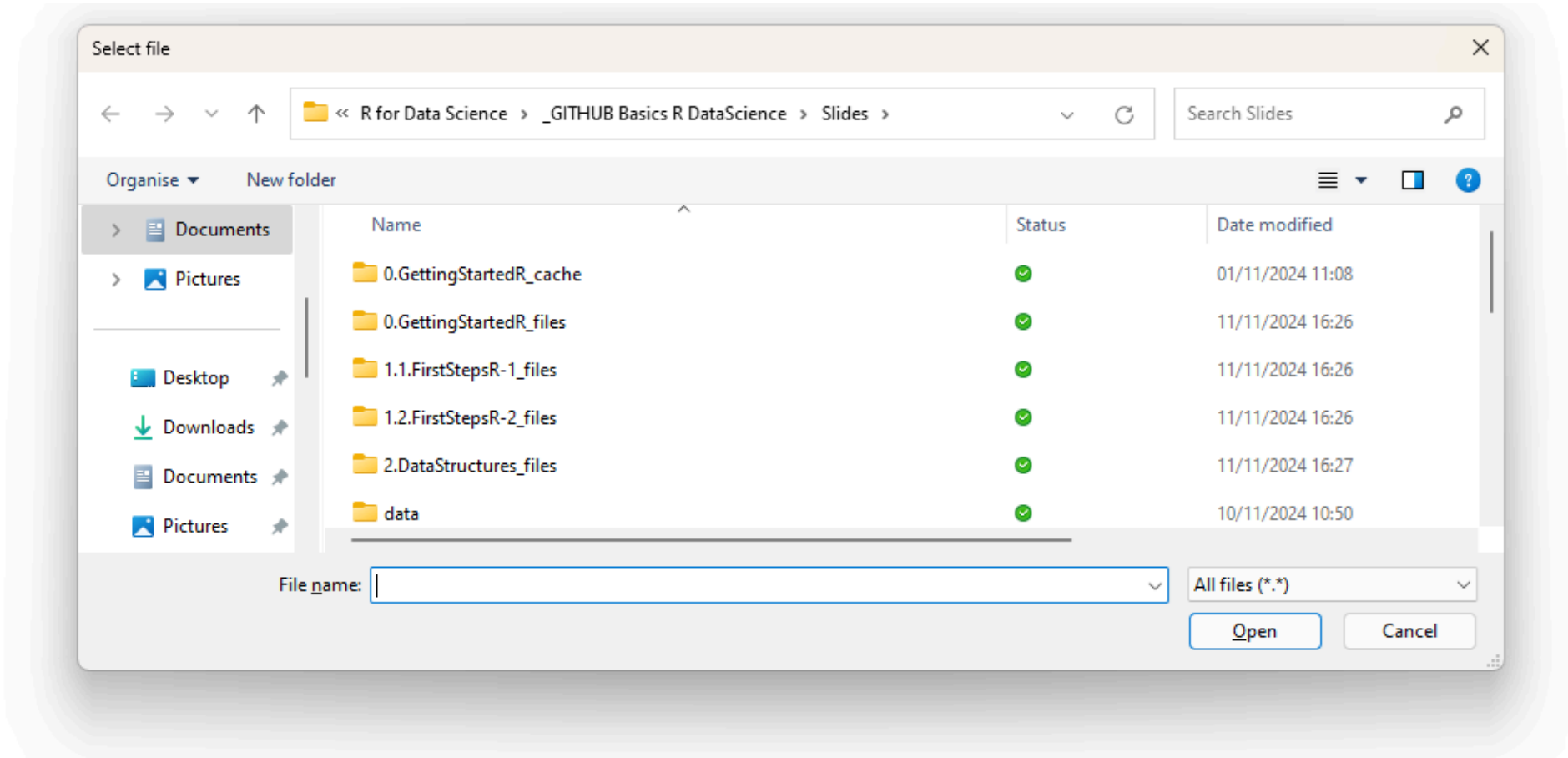
- You may even import data from an **SPSS** document (**.sav**) using the **read.spss()** function from the **foreign** package

Import/export

Data

A good trick if you don't want to specify any relative or absolute path, and want to manually select data each time, is using the **file.choose()** function:

```
df = read.csv(file.choose(), header=TRUE, sep="," , dec=".")
```



Import/export

Data

Other “tricks” for importing data involve using the functions in the **RStudio menu**, particularly:

- File > Import Dataset > From text (base)...
- File > Import Dataset > From Excel
- File > Import Dataset > From SPSS...

However ... using these functions is not best practice, because they are specific to the RStudio IDE. **It's better to use code for reproducibility**

Import/export

Data

You have processed data with R, now... how to **export** it?

When collaborating with someone also using R, you may choose to exchange data directly by exporting the object or the entire workspace as a **.RData** file, using the **save()** or **save.image()** function respectively.

However, if you need to export your data in a more universally readable tabular format, such as **.csv**, you may use **write.table()**:

```
# specify the dataframe to export (here named "df")  
# along with the desired file name, and other arguments  
  
write.table(df, file="myExportedData.csv", sep=";", row.names=F)
```

Import/export

Figures

R has a collection of functions for exporting figures in different formats: `pdf()`, `png()`, `jpeg()`, `bmp()`, `tiff()`, `svg()`.

Here is an example using `png()` :

```
# set up a graphic output file named "MyFigure.png" with some settings
png("MyFigure.png", height=1500, width=2000, units="px", res=300)

# code for creating a simple boxplot
boxplot(iris$Sepal.Width)

# close the graphic output file and actually export the plot
dev.off()
```