



UNDERSTANDING R & RSTUDIO: A BEGINNER'S GUIDE

1 WHY R AND RSTUDIO?

R is a statistical software package and programming language. It has a command-line interface, meaning the user types commands for users to run. An R script file is a text file containing a set of R commands, though an R Markdown file is often easier to work with so that is what we will explore today.



2 INSTALLATION

To install R: Go to <https://cran.r-project.org/> and press Download for your operating system (Linux/Mac/Windows)

To install RStudio: Go to <https://posit.co/>. Download and install the "Open Source Edition" version of "RStudio Desktop" for your operating system.



3 GETTING STARTED

Create a new R Markdown files in RStudio. Using the menu bar, choose "File – New File – R Markdown". A popup should appear. Input the title and author of the document. Choose what output format the document will be in (HTML, PDF, or Word). The default is HTML. After clicking "OK", an R Markdown template file will be created. To knit the file into an HTML document, click on the "Knit" button and choose "Knit to HTML".

Note: To knit to a PDF file, LATEX needs to be installed on your computer.



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