

Lecture 2: Syntax, control flow, functions

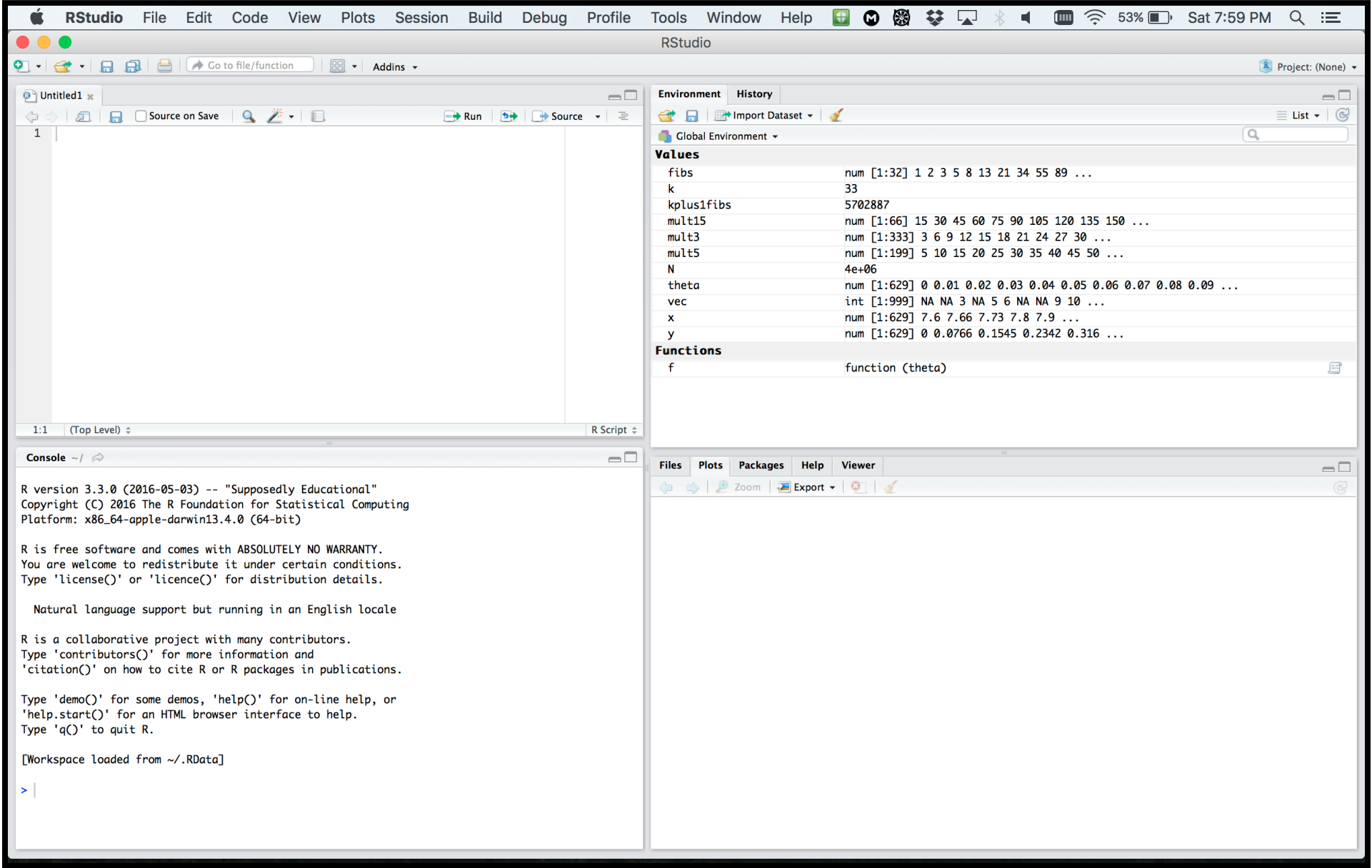
October 5, 2017

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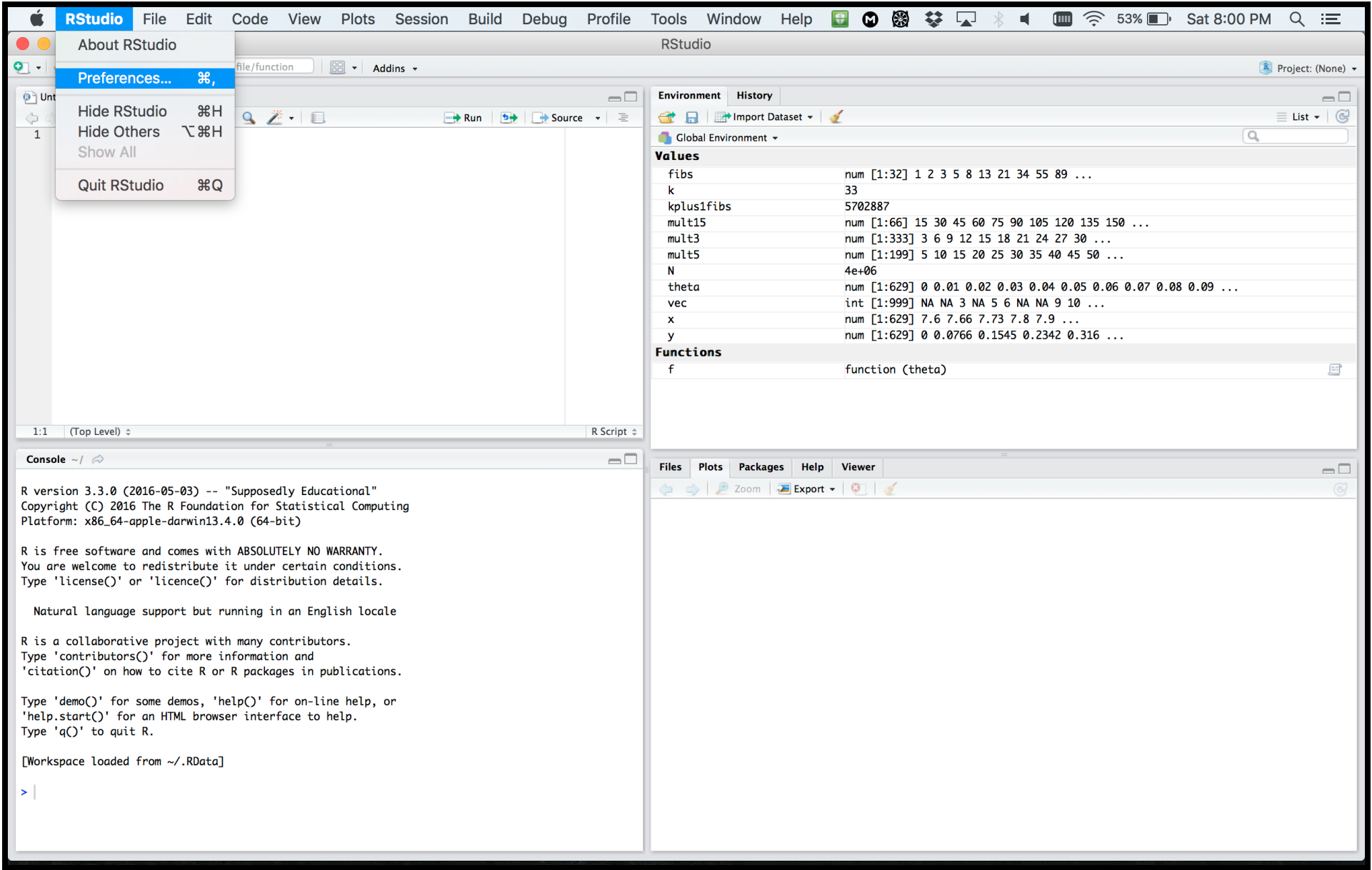
- RStudio
- Syntax
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- Functions

RStudio

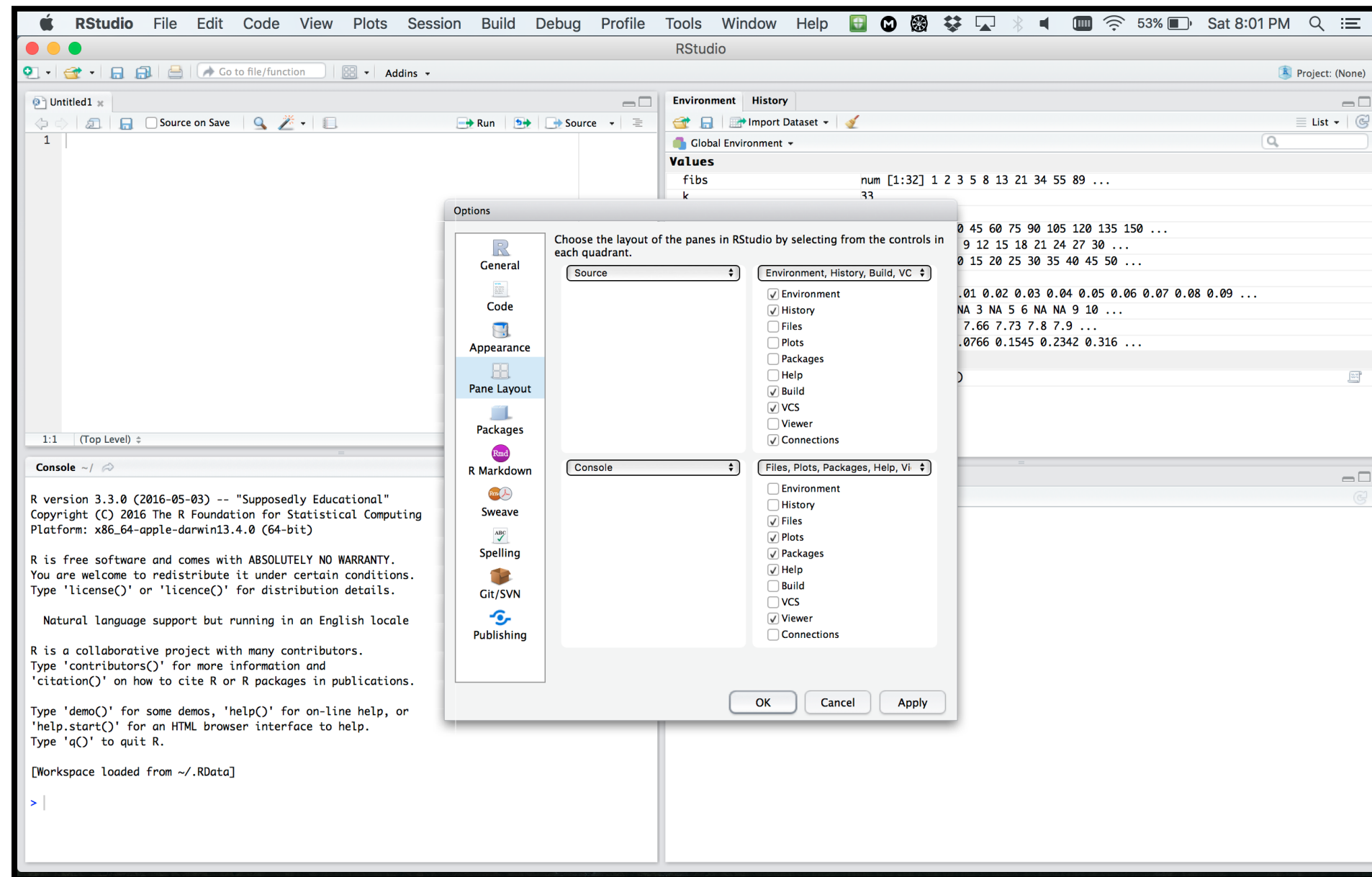
RStudio window



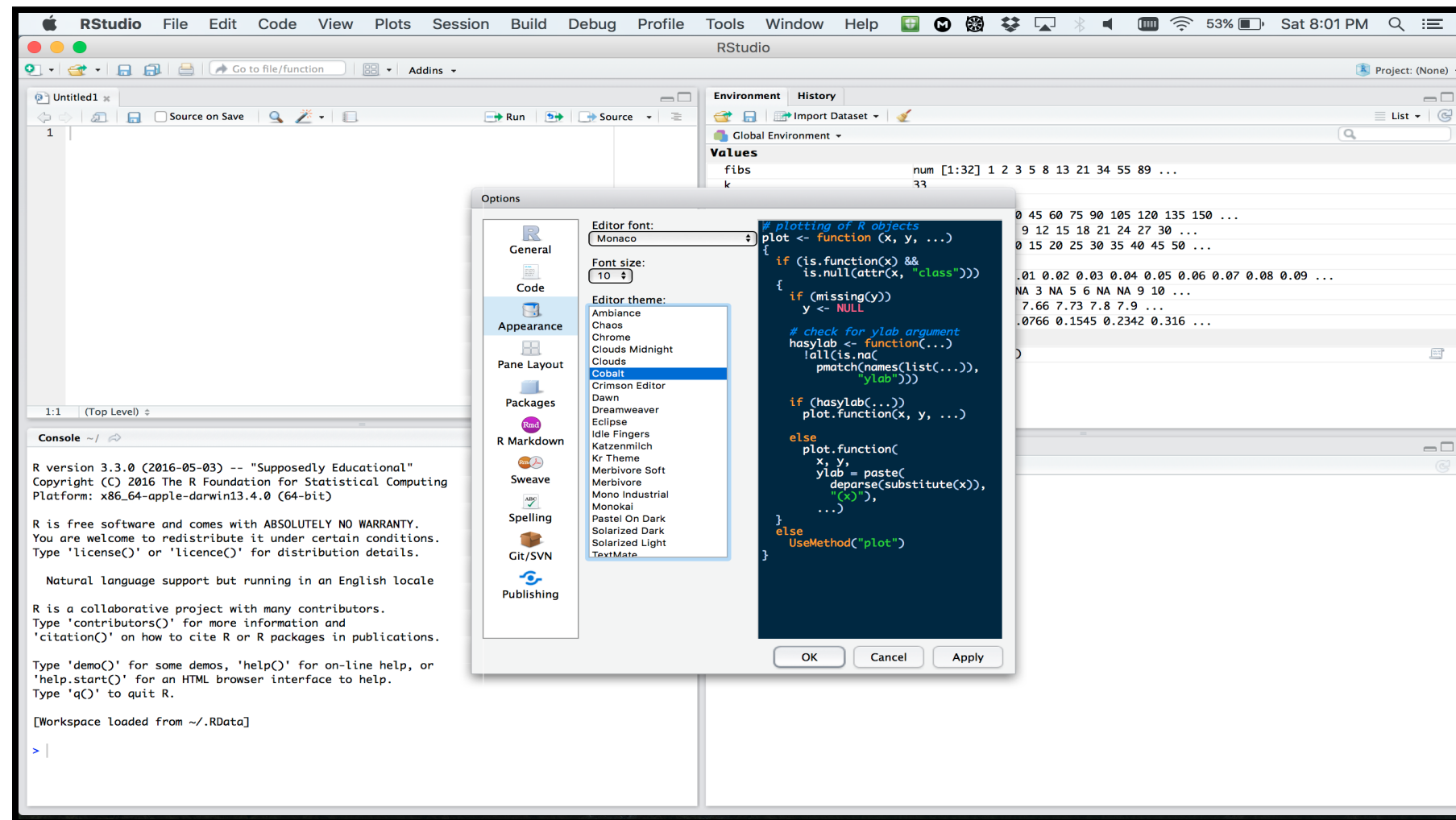
RStudio preferences



RStudio layout

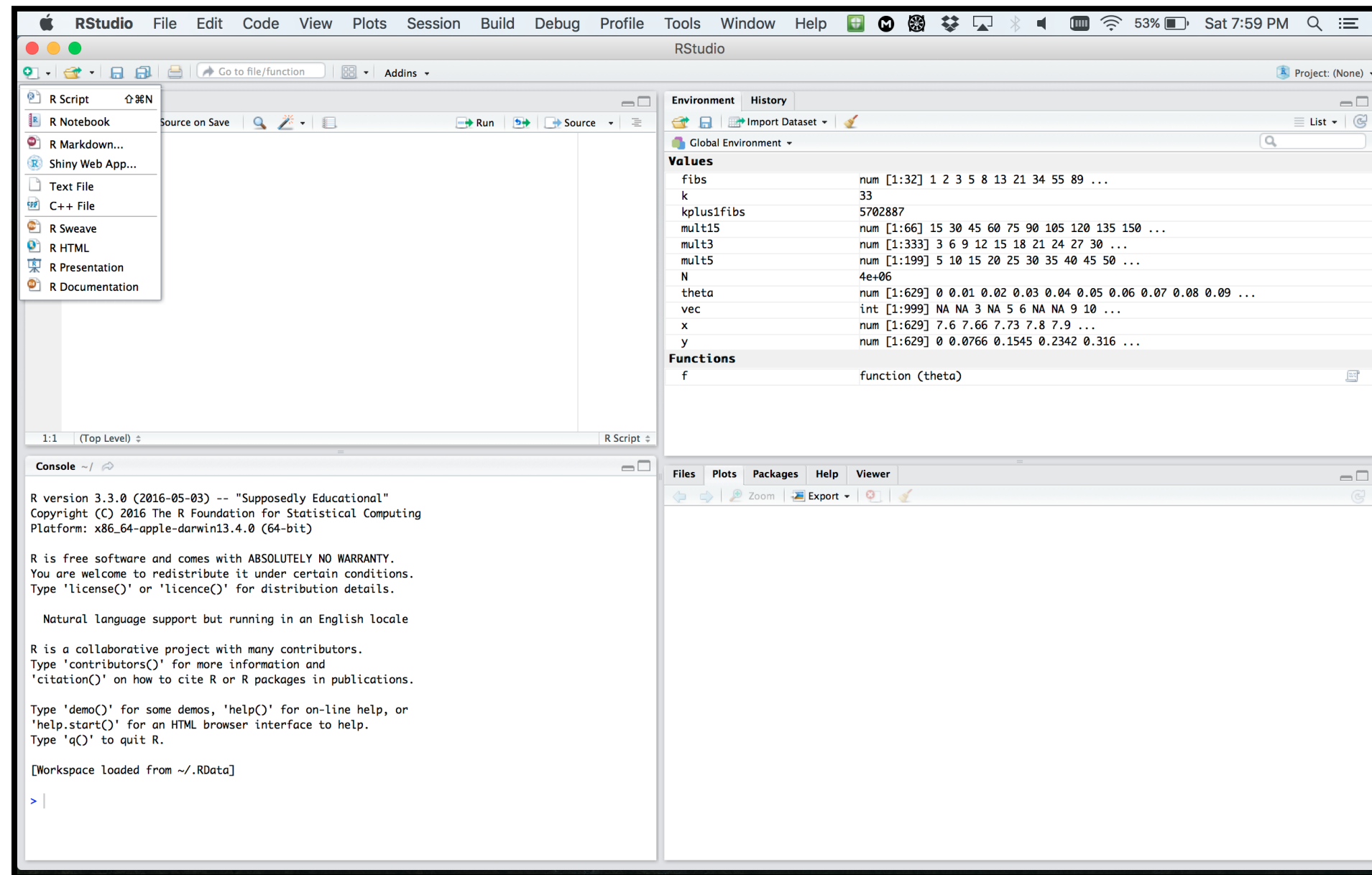


RStudio appearance



More on RStudio customization can be found [here](#)

R document types



R document types

- **R Script** a **text file** containing R commands stored together.
- **R Markdown** files can generate high quality reports containing notes, code and code outputs. **Python and bash code** can also be executed.
- **R Notebook** is an R Markdown document with **chunks that can be executed independently and interactively**, with output visible immediately beneath the input.
- **R presentation** let's you author **slides** that make use of R code and LaTeX equations as **straightforward** as possible.
- **R Sweave** enables the embedding of **R code within LaTeX documents**.
- **Other** documents

Working with code chunks

Keyboard shortcuts:

- Insert a new code chunk: **Ctrl + Alt + I** (Mac OS: **Cnd + Option + I**)
- Run the current chunk: **Ctrl + Shift + Enter** (Mac OS: **Cmd + Shift + Enter**)
- Run the current statement (the line where the cursor is) **Ctrl + Enter** (Mac OS: **Cmd + Enter**)

Syntax

Style Guide

- There are two main style conventions used in R:
 - [Hadley Wickam style](#)
 - [Google R style](#)
- You can use either of the two style guides or create your own customized style.
- But you should stay **consistent**, e.g. if you choose to assign variables with `<-`, stick to it and don't use `=`.

Identifiers

Google Convention:

- No underscores (`_`) or hyphens (`-`) in identifiers.
- **Variable names** all with lower case letters; words separated with dots ('variable.name'), but 'variableName' is also accepted
- **Function names** have initial capital letters and no dots ('FunctionName'). Function names should be verbs. Constants are named like functions but with an initial k.

```
# Good
avg.clicks           # variable name
CalculateAvgClicks   # function name
# Bad
avg_Clicks           # variable name
calculate_avg_clicks , calculateAvgClicks # function name
```

Identifiers

Hadley Convention:

- Variable and function names should be lowercase.
- Use an underscore (_) to separate words within a name.
- Generally, variable names should be nouns and function names should be verbs.
- Use names that are concise and meaningful.

```
# Good  
day_one  
day_1
```

```
# Bad  
first_day_of_the_month  
DayOne  
dayone  
djm1
```

Spacing

- Place spaces around all infix operators (=, +, -, <-, etc.).
- Always put a space after a comma, and never before (just like in regular English).
- Place a space before left parentheses, except in a function call.

Good

```
average <- mean(feet / 12 + inches, na.rm = TRUE)
if (debug) do(x)
plot(x, y)
if (debug) do(x)
diamonds[5, ]
```

Bad

```
average<-mean(feet/12+inches,na.rm=TRUE)
if(debug)do(x)
plot (x, y)
if ( debug ) do(x)  # No spaces around debug
x[1,]               # Needs a space after the comma
x[1 ,]              # Space goes after comma not before
```

Code Documentation

- Comment your code! They will be helpful when you read your code a month after you wrote it.
- In R each line of a comment should begin with a comment symbol “#”.

```
# Function returns the answer to life,  
# the universe and everything else  
get_answer <- function(){  
  return(42)  
}
```

- Comments are not subtitles, i.e. don't repeat the code in the comments.

```
# Loop through all bananas in the bunch  
for(banana in bunch) {  
  # make the monkey eat one banana  
  MonkeyEat(b)  
}
```

- Use commented lines of - and = to break up your file into easily readable chunks.

```
# Load data -----  
# Plot data -----
```

Curly braces

- An opening curly brace “{” should never go on its own line and should always be followed by a new line.
- A closing curly “}” brace should always go on its own line, unless it’s followed by else.
- Always indent the code inside curly braces.
- It’s ok to leave very short statements on the same line

```
# Good
if (y < 0 && debug) {
    message("Y is negative")
}
if (y == 0) {
    log(x)
} else {
    y ^ x
}
```

```
# Bad
if (y < 0 && debug)
    message("Y is negative")

if (y == 0) {
    log(x)
}
else {
    y ^ x
}
```

```
if (y < 0 && debug) message("Y is negative")
```

File Input/Output

Working Directory

- The **current working directory** (cmd) is the location which R is currently pointing to
- Whenever you try to read or save a file without specifying the path explicitly, the cmd will be used by default.
- When are executing code from an R markdown/notebook code chunk, the cmd is **the location of the document**.
- To see the current working directory use `getwd()`:

```
getwd()    # with no arguments
```

```
## [1] "/home/lanhuong/MEGA/Teaching/cme1"
```

- To change the working directory use `setwd(path_name)` with a specified path as na argument:

```
setwd("path/to/directory")
```

Paths and directory names

- In Windows, a directory usually has an address of the following form:
`C:\Users\lan\folder`.
- R inherits its file and folder naming conventions from unix, and instead uses forward slashes instead of backslashes, e.g.
`C:/Users/lan/folder/`
- The Mac OSX already uses the unix standards, the address is usually of the form: `/home/lan/folder/`.
- So, when working in R use the forward slashes “/”.
- Actually for Windows, you can use either “`C:/Path/To/A/File`” or “`C:\\Path\\To\\A\\File`”.

Paths and directory names

- R uses forward slashes for the directories, because backslashes serve a different purpose. They are used as escape characters to isolate special characters and stop them from being immediately interpreted.
- To avoid problems, directory names should NOT contain spaces and special characters.
- Use a “Tab” for autocompletion to find file paths more easily.

Data import

- **Text Files in a table format** can be read and saved to a selected variable using a `read.table()` function. Use `?read.table` to learn more about the function.
- A common text file format is a **comma delimited text file**, `.csv`. These files use a comma as column separators, e.g:

```
Year,Student,Major  
2009, John Doe,Statistics  
2009, Bart Simpson, Mathematics I
```

- To read these files use the following command:

```
mydata <- read.table("path/to/filename.csv", header=TRUE, sep = ",")  
# read.csv() has convenient argument defaults for '.csv' files  
mydata <- read.csv("path/to/filename.csv")
```

- Optionally, use `row.names` or `col.names` arguments to set the row and column names.

Data import

- **Excel files.** To read the excel files you need to first install a package “xlsx”. Simply run `install.packages("xlsx")`.

```
# first row contains variable names
library(xlsx)
# read the 1st worksheet
mydata <- read.xlsx("/path/to/filename.xlsx", 1)

# read in the worksheet named mysheet
mydata <- read.xlsx("/path/to/filename.xlsx", sheetName = "mysheet")
```

- **SAS files.** You need to install the `Hmisc` or `foreign` packages first.

```
# First, save your SAS dataset in trasport (xport) format
libname out xport 'path/to/filename.xpt';
data out.mydata;
set sasuser.mydata;
run;

# Then, in R
library(Hmisc)
mydata <- sasxport.get("path/to/filename.xpt")
# character variables are converted to R factors
# or
library(foreign)
mydata <- read.xport("path/to/filename.xpt")
```

Data export

- Text files:

```
write.table(mydata, "path/to/filename.txt", sep="\t") # tab-delimited
write.table(mydata, "path/to/filename.csv", sep=",") # comma-delimited
write.csv(mydata, "path/to/filename.csv") # comma-delimited
```

- Excel spreadsheet:

```
library(xlsx)
write.xlsx(mydata, "path/to/filename.xlsx")
```

- SAS files:

```
# write out text datafile and an SAS program to read it
library(foreign)
write.foreign(mydata, datafile = "path/to/filename.txt",
              codefile = "path/to/filename.sas", package="SAS")
```

Here are links to more details on data [import](#) and [export](#).

Saving the workspace

- You can choose to **save all objects** currently in the workspace (variables, functions, etc.) into a file e.g. `filename.rda`.
- The file `filename.rda` can be loaded next time you work with R.
- You can also save a single object or a subset of specified objects currently in the workspace.

```
# save the workspace to file  
save.image(file = "path/to/filename.rda")  
  
# save specific objects to a file  
save(object_list, file = "path/to/filename.rda")  
  
# save just a single object  
saveRDS(object, file = "path/to/filename.rds")
```

- Saved objects/workspace can be loaded back in a new R session.

```
# load a workspace into the current session  
load("path/to/filename.rda")  
  
# read just the previously saved 1 object  
object <- readRDS("path/to/filename.rds")
```

Exercise 1

- Download “Lec2_ex.Rmd” file from the Lectures tab on class website.
- Open the file in RStudio.
- Do Exercise 1.

Control flow

Booleans/Logicals

Booleans are logical data types (TRUE/FALSE) associated with conditional statements, which allow different actions and change control flow.

```
# equal "=="  
5 == 5
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
# not equal: "!="  
5 != 5
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
# greater than: ">"  
5 > 4
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
# greater than or equal: ">=" (# similar  
5 >= 5
```

```
# You can combine multiple boolean expres  
TRUE & TRUE
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
TRUE & FALSE
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
TRUE | FALSE
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
!(TRUE)
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

Booleans/Logicals

In R if you combine 2 vectors of booleans, by each element then use &. Remember the **recycling property** for vectors.

```
c(TRUE, TRUE) & c(FALSE, TRUE)
```

```
## [1] FALSE TRUE
```

```
c(5 < 4, 7 == 0, 1 < 2) | c(5==5, 6 > 2, !FALSE)
```

```
## [1] TRUE TRUE TRUE
```

```
c(TRUE, TRUE) & c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE, FALSE) # recycling
```

```
## [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE
```

Booleans/logicals

If we use double operators && or || is used only the first elements are compared:

```
c(TRUE, TRUE) && c(FALSE, TRUE)
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
c(5 < 4, 7 == 0, 1 < 2) || c(5==5, 6 > 2, !FALSE)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
c(TRUE, TRUE) && c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE, FALSE)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

Booleans/logicals

- Another possibility to combine booleans is to use `all()` or `any()` functions:

```
all(c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE))
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
any(c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE))
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
all(c(5 > -1, 3 >= 1, 1 < 1))
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
any(c(5 > -1, 3 >= 1, 1 < 1))
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

Control statements

- **Control flow** is the order in which individual statements, instructions or function calls of a program are evaluated.
- Control statements allow you to do more complicated tasks.
- Their execution results in a choice between which of two or more paths should be followed.
 - If / else
 - For
 - While

If statements

- Decide on whether a block of code should be executed based on the associated boolean expression.
- **Syntax.** The if statements are followed by a boolean expression wrapped in parenthesis. The conditional block of code is inside curly braces {}.

```
if (traffic_light == "green") {  
    print("Go.")  
}
```

- 'if-else' statements let you introduce more options

```
if (traffic_light == "green") {  
    print("Go.")  
} else {  
    print("Stay.")  
}
```

- You can also use `else if()`

```
if (traffic_light == "green") {  
    print("Go.")  
} else if (traffic_light == "yellow") {  
    print("Get ready.")  
} else {  
    print("Stay.")  
}
```

For loops

- A for loop is a statement which **repeats the execution a block of code** a given number of iterations.

```
for (i in 1:5){  
  print(i^2)  
}
```

```
## [1] 1  
## [1] 4  
## [1] 9  
## [1] 16  
## [1] 25
```

While loops

- Similar to for loops, but repeat the execution as long as **the boolean condition supplied is TRUE**.

```
i = 1
while(i <= 5) {
    cat("i =", i, "\n")
    i = i + 1
}
```

```
## i = 1
## i = 2
## i = 3
## i = 4
## i = 5
```

Next

- `next` halts the processing of the current iteration and advances the looping index.

```
for (i in 1:10) {  
  if (i <= 5) {  
    print("skip")  
    next  
  }  
  cat(i, "is greater than 5.\n")  
}
```

```
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## 6 is greater than 5.  
## 7 is greater than 5.  
## 8 is greater than 5.  
## 9 is greater than 5.  
## 10 is greater than 5.
```

- `next` applies only to the innermost of nested loops.

```
for (i in 1:3) {  
  cat("Outer-loop i: ", i, ".\n")  
  for (j in 1:4) {  
    if(j > i) {  
      print("skip")  
      next  
    }  
    cat("Inner-loop j:", j, ".\n")  
  }  
}
```

```
## Outer-loop i: 1 .  
## Inner-loop j: 1 .  
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## Outer-loop i: 2 .  
## Inner-loop j: 1 .  
## Inner-loop j: 2 .  
## [1] "skip"  
## [1] "skip"  
## Outer-loop i: 3 .  
## Inner-loop j: 1 .  
## Inner-loop j: 2 .  
## Inner-loop j: 3 .  
## [1] "skip"
```

Break

- The `break` statement allows us to break out of a `for`, `while` loop (of the smallest enclosing).
- The control is transferred to the first statement outside the inner-most loop.

```
for (i in 1:10) {  
  if (i == 6) {  
    print(paste("Coming out from for loop where i = ", i))  
    break  
  }  
  print(paste("i is now: ", i))  
}
```

```
## [1] "i is now: 1"  
## [1] "i is now: 2"  
## [1] "i is now: 3"  
## [1] "i is now: 4"  
## [1] "i is now: 5"  
## [1] "Coming out from for loop where i = 6"
```

Exercise 2

- Go back to “Lec2_ex.Rmd” in RStudio.
- Do Exercise 2.

Functions

Functions

- A **function** is a procedure/routine that performs a specific task.
- Functions are used to **abstract** components of larger program.
- They are like a mathematical functions. They **take some input and then do something to find the result.**
- Functions allow you to **automate common tasks** in a more powerful and general way than copy-and-pasting.
- A general rule is that you should **use a function, whenever you've copied and pasted a block of code more than twice.**

Function Definition

- To define a function you assign a variable name to a function object.
- Functions take **arguments**, **mandatory** and **optional**.
- Provide the brief **description of your function in comments** before the function definition.

```
# Computes mean and standard deviation  
# and optionally prints the results.  
mysummary <- function(x, print=TRUE) {  
  center <- mean(x)  
  spread <- sd(x)  
  if (print) {  
    cat("Mean =", center, "\n",  
        "SD = ", spread, "\n")  
  }  
  result <- list(mean=center,  
                 sd=spread)  
  return(result)  
}
```

Calling functions

```
x <- rnorm(n = 500, mean = 4, sd = 1)
y <- mysummary(x)
```

```
## Mean = 3.991476
## SD = 1.018762
```

```
# without printing
y <- mysummary(x, print = FALSE)
```

```
# Results are stored in list "y"
y$mean
```

```
## [1] 3.991476
```

```
y$sd
```

```
## [1] 1.018762
```

```
# The order of arguments does not matter if the names are specified
y <- mysummary(print=FALSE, x = x)
```

Exercise 3

- Go back to “Lec2_ex.Rmd” in RStudio.
- Do Exercise 3.