Introduction to R
Data Science Skills Day 2022

Anjali Silva, PhD

Summer Undergraduate Data Science Research Program
University of Toronto
03 June 2022

a.silva@utoronto.ca anjalisilva.github.io @Silva_Anjali

Welcome!

- Instructor: Anjali Silva, PhD
  - Researcher and Lecturer, Department of Cell & Systems Biology, U of T
  - Data Analyst, University of Toronto Libraries
  - Pronouns: she/her
  - Name Phonetic: Un-j-li Sil-va
  - Hear Name Pronunciation: https://namedrop.io/anjalisilva

Course Description

- Introduction to R
  Data Science Skills Day

  - The vast amount of data produced by evolving information technology requires tools and skills. Among the many tools, R is a free, open-source language for data sciences. R is a programming language that can aid in the process of data analysis. This course is a beginner level, introductory course for R for data analysis. We will learn about R, RStudio (the environment use to work in R), including installation, and apply R for beginner-level data modeling and visualization. By the end of the course, you'll have a introduction to the flexibility of R, different functionalities, and understand how to apply it for basic data exploration.

  - Friday 10:00 am – 4 pm EST; online - synchronous.

Material

- Lesson Material Adapted via:
  - https://datacarpentry.org/r-socialsci/
- Instructor Slides:
  - https://github.com/anjalisilva/DSI_IntroductionToR
  - SlideIntroR2022.pdf
- Instructor R Script:
  - https://github.com/anjalisilva/DSI_IntroductionToR
  - Script.R

Course Objectives

- Learning Objectives:
  - Install R and RStudio
  - Navigate the RStudio environment
  - Discover how to use RStudio to apply R to your analysis.
  - Importing data from a spreadsheet
  - View attributes of a dataset
  - Understand differences in varying data types and structure
  - Write and test functions
  - Generate simple visualizations
  - Be aware of sources for getting help in R
  - Be aware of sources for expanding skills in R

Course Expectations

- Be respectful.
- One speaker at a time.
- Keep yourself on mute, unless you need to speak or ask a question.
- You may save your questions to 'Any questions?' section.
- If you have a question, use raise hand feature. First say your name, then ask the question.
- If you have a question, you may type it to chat as well.

Course Expectations

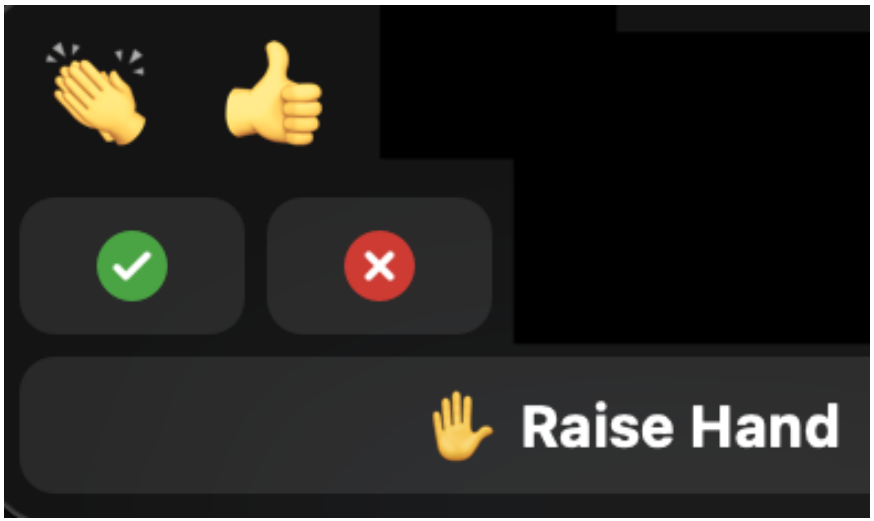


Figure: Zoom 'Reactions' that you may use.

Outline

Time	Topic
10.00 -10.10 am	Introduction
10.10 - 11.00 am	Setup and RStudio
11.00 - 11.15 am	Short Break
11.15 - 12.15 pm	Analyzing Patient Data
12.15 - 1.00 pm	Lunch
1.00 - 2.15 pm	Data Types and Structures
2.15 - 2.30 pm	Short Break
2.30 - 3.45 pm	Creating Functions
3.45 - 4.00 pm	Next Steps and Final Remarks

Any questions?

Setup and Before We Start

- Link: https://datacarpentry.org/r-socialsci/00-intro/index.html

What is R?

- A language and environment for statistical computing and graphics.
- R was initially written by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman.
- Since mid-1997, the R Core Team modify the R source.
- R runs on a wide variety of UNIX platforms, Windows and MacOS.

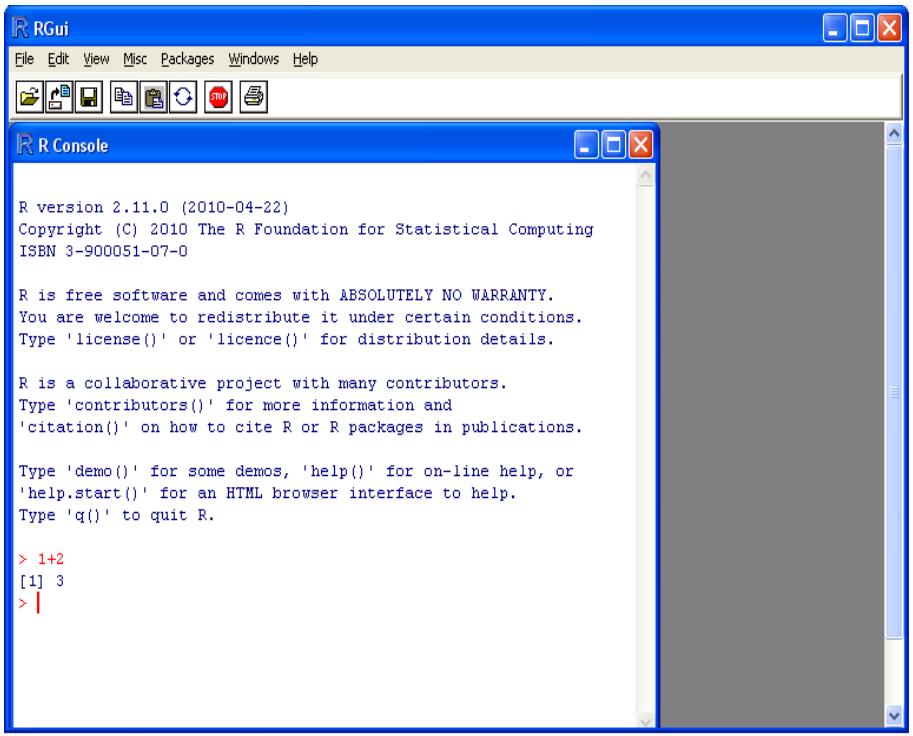
R continue...

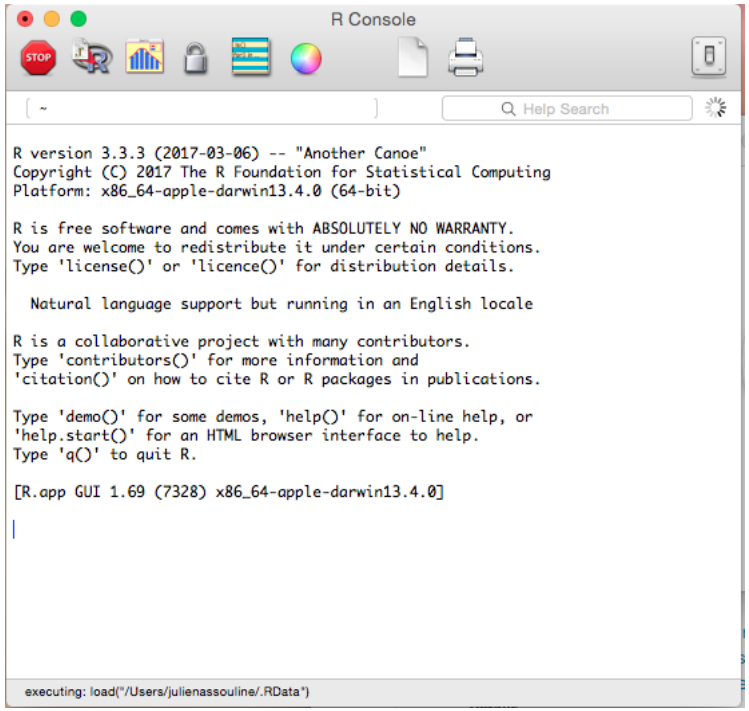
- R is a scripting language, thus an interpreter executes commands one line at a time.
- A Free software under the terms of the GNU General Public License.
- R home page: https://www.R-project.org/
- How can R be obtained?
  - Via CRAN, the "Comprehensive R Archive Network".
  - https://cran.r-project.org/

R continue...

- How can R be installed?
  - Unix
    - https://cran.r-project.org/doc/FAQ/R-FAQ.html#How-can-R-be-installed-_0028Unix_002dlike_0029
  - Windows
    - https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/base/
  - Mac
    - https://cran.r-project.org/bin/macosx/

R continue...


RGui
File Edit View Misc Packages Windows Help
R Console
R version 2.11.0 (2010-04-22)
Copyright (C) 2010 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
ISBN 3-900051-07-0
R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.
> 1+2
[1] 3
>


R Console
Help Search
R version 3.3.3 (2017-03-06) -- "Another Canoe"
Copyright (C) 2017 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin13.4.0 (64-bit)
R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.
Natural language support but running in an English locale
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.
[R.app GUI 1.69 (7328) x86_64-apple-darwin13.4.0]
executing: load("/Users/julienassouline/.RData")

R continue...

- R can be used interactively or non-interactively.
- Interactively, with or without an integrated development environment (IDE): RStudio.
- Non-interactively via scripts.
- R is designed with interactive data exploration in mind.
- A version of R is released each year. Current release is 4.2.0.

Why learn R?

- R does not involve lots of pointing and clicking, and that's a good thing.
- R code is great for reproducibility.
- R is interdisciplinary and extensible.
- R works on data of all shapes and sizes.
- R produces high-quality graphics.
- R has a large and welcoming community.
- Not only is R free, but it is also open-source and cross-platform.

Documentation for R

- Online documentation for functions and variables in R exists.
- Obtained by typing *help(FunctionName)* or *?FunctionName* at the R prompt, where FunctionName is name of function.
- E.g., if 'sum' is the function then:

```
> help(sum)
> ?sum
```

RStudio

- RStudio contains many features that make the development process easier and faster.

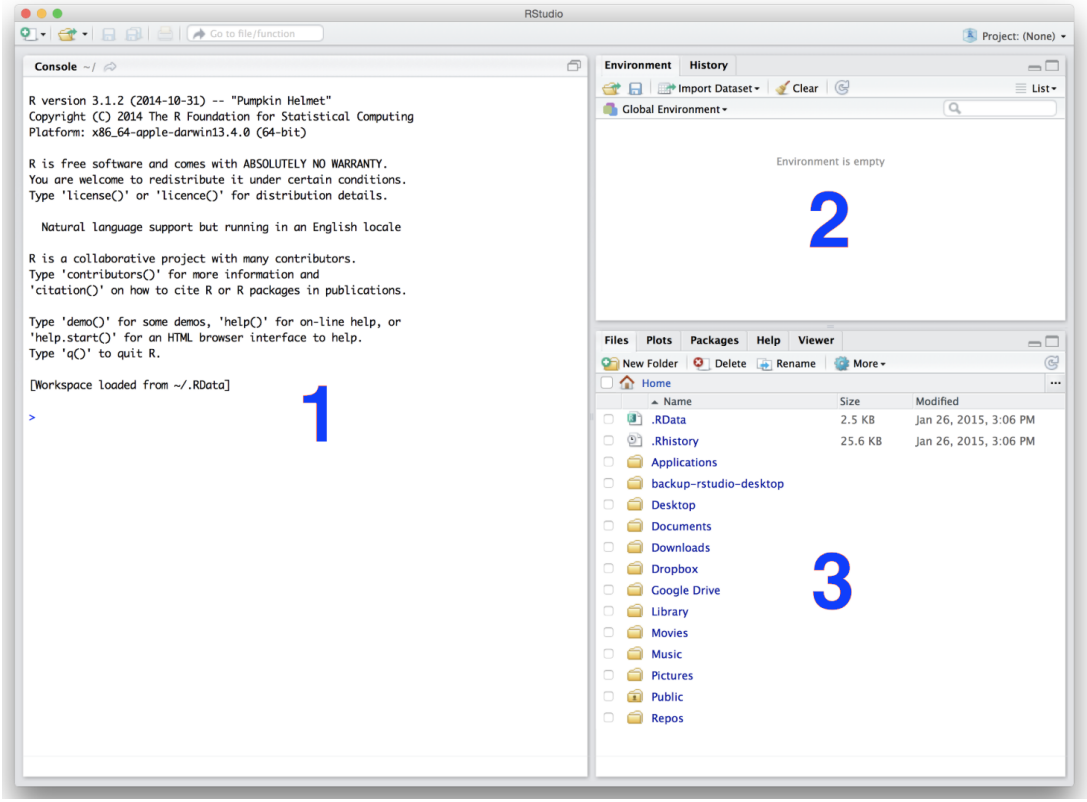


Figure: Anatomy of default RStudio. 1. This is the Console. 2. Environment and History. 3. Files, Plots, Packages, Help and Viewer. If a script is opened up, it will appear on top of Console.

Any questions?

Practical - Setup

- This lesson assumes you have (current) versions of the following installed on your computer:
  1. the R software itself, and
  2. RStudio Desktop

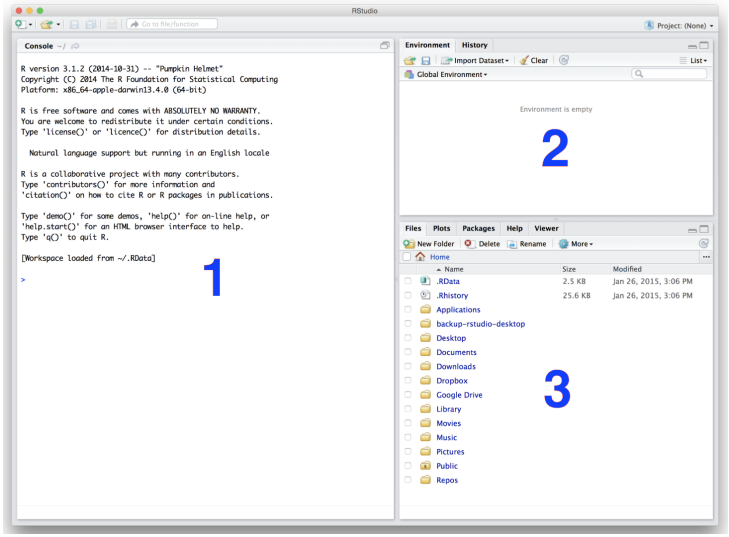
- Any questions with R or RStudio setup?

- If you have downloaded R and RStudio, read about RStudio
  http://swcarpentry.github.io/r-novice-inflammation/09-supp-intro-rstudio/index.html

Practical - Explore RStudio

RStudio

- By now, you should have RStudio installed.



- There are two main ways of interacting with R:
  - Using the console
  - By using script files

- Click on 'Tools' $\rightarrow$ 'Keyboard Shortcuts Help' for shortcuts.

Interacting with R

- Console:
  - Type commands directly into the console and press 'Enter' to execute.
- Script:
  - Put cursor at the end of the line to execute OR highlight the section.
  - Press 'Ctrl' + 'Enter' on Windows, Mac OR 'Cmd' + 'Return' on Mac.
- Clear console with clear it with 'Ctrl' + 'L'.
- If R is still waiting for you to enter more text, the console will show a + prompt.

R Project

- Good to keep data, analyses, and text in a single folder.
- RStudio interface for this is Projects.
  - File → New project; choose New directory → New project
- Enter a name for this new folder ("directory") and choose a convenient location for it. This will be your working directory.
  - On Desktop, save as 'data-carpentry'
- Click on 'Create' project.
- Create a new file where we will type our scripts.
  - Go to File → New File → R script. Click the save icon on your toolbar and save your script as "script.R".

Some Basics

Organize Working Directory

- Structure of the working directory is very important.

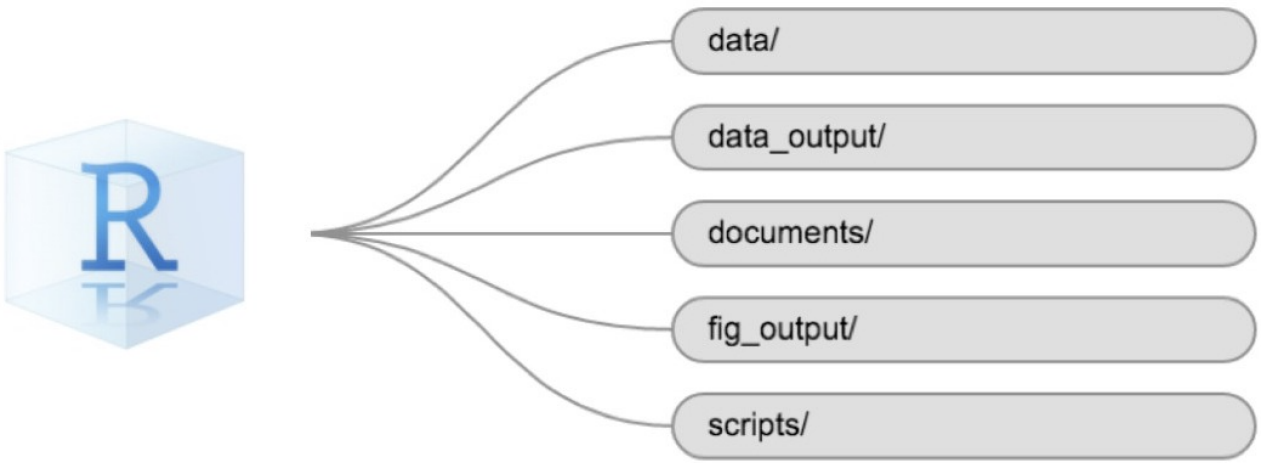


Figure: Examples of suggested directories within working directory or R Project.

R Features

- In R, the indexing begins from 1.
- R is case sensitive ("X" is not the same as "x").
- R uses dynamic variable typing, so variables can be used over and over again.

Assignment and Commenting

- The $\leftarrow$ symbol is the assignment operator.
- To assign a value to a variable called 'test1'

```
test1 <- 123
test1
```

- Comment using # character

```
test1 <- 123  # This is a comment
test1 # This is called auto-printing
```

R Version

- To obtain session information

  `sessionInfo()`

- Version information:

  `R.Version()`

- Show objects in workspace

  `ls()`

R Built-in Functions

- There are many built-in functions. You will learn these as you go.
- The "argument" of the function is provided inside the brackets.
- The "return value" of the function is the value provided back.
  - E.g. 1, sessionInfo() is a built-in function.
  - E.g. 2: install.packages() is a built-in function.
- Built-in functions are part of base packages in R.
- Some functions are not built-in. To get these, need to download pacakges.

Practical

1. Explore the 'Packages' tab on RStudio.
2. Explore the built-in function install.packages().
3. Do final steps of Setup (https://datacarpentry.org/r-socialsci/setup.html)
4. `install.packages("tidyverse")`
5. `install.packages("here")`
6. Download data file using R
   - `download.file("https://ndownloader.figshare.com/files/114921`
     `"data/SAFI_clean.csv", mode = "wb")`
7. OR download data file directly:
   - https://ndownloader.figshare.com/files/11492171

Any questions?

Exercise

- Use both the Console and the Packages tab to confirm that you have the tidyverse installed.

Short Break

Introduction to R

Lunch

Starting with Data

Data Wrangling with dplyr and tidyr

Data Visualisation with ggplot2

Next Steps and Final Remarks

What R packages are available?

- CRAN
  - >16K packages [as of 2022]
  - https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/
- Bioconductor
  - >1900 packages [as of 2022]
  - https://bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/
- GitHub
  - > 63K results [as of 2022]
  - https://github.com/search?q=r+packages&type=Repositories

Practical

Any questions?

R Data Types

- Numeric: floating types (double precision).
- Logicals: booleans = TRUE/FALSE or T/F.
- Character strings.
- Examples:

```
xValue <- 100
xValue

yVariable <- FALSE
yVariable

zVariable <- "hello"
zVariable
```

R Class

- Numbers in R are usually treated as numeric objects (i.e. double precision real numbers).
- To explicitly assign an integer, need to specify the L suffix.

```
x <- 1L
x
class(x) # "integer"
```

R Class

- Complex class:

```
x <- c(2 + 0i, 5 + 4i)
class(x) # "complex"
```

- Inf represents infinity:

```
Inf
1 / Inf # 0
```

- NaN represents an undefined value/missing value:

```
NaN # not a number
0 / 0 # NaN
```

Concatenating

- c() function concatenating elements together:

```
x <- c(0.5, 0.6)
class(x) # "numeric"

x <- c("a", "b", "c")
class(x) # "character"

x <- c(TRUE, FALSE)
class(x) # "logical"
```

Character Strings

- Character strings are collections of characters.
- Provided as values in single or double quotes.

```
xVariable <- 'hello'
class(xVariable) # "character"

zVariable <- "hello"
class(zVariable) # "character"
```

- "paste" converts inputs to strings, concatenate and return:

```
paste(xVariable)
```

Character Strings

- "cat" concatenates and prints the arguments to the screen:

```
cat("\n", xVariable, zVariable) # "\n" adds new line
```

- "print" prints the argument:

```
print(c(zVariable, xVariable))
```

Missing Values

- Missing values are denoted by NA (Not Available) or NaN (Not a Number).

```
x <- c(1, 3, NA, 4, 5)
class(x) # "numeric"

y <- c(1, 3, NaN, 4, 5)
class(y) # "numeric"

# is.na() is used to test objects if they are NA
# is.nan() is used to test for NaN

is.na(x) # FALSE FALSE  TRUE FALSE FALSE
is.nan(x) # FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE
```

Question: What is the difference between NA and NaN in R?

Any questions?

- To do: Journal Entry 1 (Note, may need a distribution of Latex installed).
- Take a look at 'Initial submission + Presentation of R package'.

Practical

- Today we looked at the following topics.
  - Assignment and Commenting
  - Over-writing
  - Built-in Functions
  - Help
  - Classes
  - Concatenating
  - Character Strings
  - Missing Values

Practical - Tips for Solving Issues

- Copy and paste the entire **exact** error message into Google.
  - Someone else may have gotten this same error and has asked a question.
- Copy and paste the entire error message into Google, followed by 'r'.
- Google the name of the function with term 'tutorial r' to see tutorials.
- If struggling with code for a plot, Google 'r plot plotname', then click on Images.
- If errors with reading files, ensure path is correct. Check using getwd().