03 - Reproducibility and Version Control ml4econ, HUJI 2023

Itamar Caspi March 26, 2023 (updated: 2023-03-26)

Replicating this Presentation

R packages used to produce this presentation

```
library(tidyverse) # for data wrangling and plotting
library(tidymodels) # for modeling the tidy way
library(knitr) # for presenting tables
library(xaringan) # for rendering xaringan presentations
```

From Best Practices to Methodology

Best Practice	Methodology
High dimensional statistics	Machine learning
<pre># code annotation</pre>	Notebooks (R Markdown, Jupyter)
<pre>mydoc_1_3_new_final_23.docx</pre>	Version control
Ready to use tables (xlsx)	Generate tables (SQL, dplyr, pandas)
??	Reproducibility
Stata, SAS, EViews	R, Python, Julia
work solo	Interdisciplinary teams

Outline

- 1. Reproducibility
- 2. The Tidyverse
- 3. Version Control
- 4. GitHub

RStudio Projects

Reproducibility

- Reproducible research: Enables others to replicate your results
- Project requirements:
 - Document your work (code and explanations)
 - List used packages (including version numbers)
 - o Detail your R environment (R version, OS, etc.)
- Reproducible mindset: Focus on code consumers, including your future self

An Aside: renv



• renv package: Create reproducible environments for R projects

• Key benefits:

- Isolated: Private package library for each project
- Portable: Easily transfer projects across computers and platforms
- Reproducible: Records exact package versions for consistent installations
- Learn more: Introduction to renv

RStudio Project Oriented Workflow

- Avoid setwd() and rm(list=ls()): Improper R script practices
- Recommended alternatives:
 - 1. Utilize RStudio's project environment
 - 2. Modify settings:
 - Go to Tools -> Global Options -> General
 - Set "Save workspace to .RData on exit" to NEVER

R Markdown

- R Markdown notebooks: Premier tool for reproducible research in R
- Knitting process: Starts with a clean slate
- R Markdown file: Integrates text, code, links, figures, tables, etc.
- Ideal for communication: Export .Rmd file as:
 - Document (Word, PDF, HTML, Markdown)
 - Presentation (HTML, Beamer, Xaringan, PowerPoint)
 - Website (blogdown)
 - Book (bookdown)
 - Journal article (pagedown)
 - Dashboard (flexdashboards)

The Tidyverse

This is Not a Pipe



Prerequisite: %>% is a pipe

- Pipe operator %>%: From magrittr package, integral to tidyverse
- Understanding %>%: Associate it with "then"
- Example:
 - o Traditional: y <- h(g(f(x), z))</pre>
 - o With pipe: y <- x %>% f() %>% g(z) %>% h()
 - Read as: Take x, then apply f(), then apply g(. , z), then apply h(), and store result in

Morning Routine

```
leave_house(get_dressed(get_out_of_bed(wake_up(me, time =
"8:00"), side = "correct"), pants = TRUE, shirt = TRUE), car
= TRUE, bike = FALSE)

me %>%
    wake_up(time = "8:00") %>%
    get_out_of_bed(side = "correct") %>%
    get_dressed(pants = TRUE, shirt = TRUE) %>%
    leave_house(car = TRUE, bike = FALSE)
```

Source: https://twitter.com/andrewheiss/status/1359583543509348356?s=20

Base R vs. the Tidyverse

• Consider the following data frame:

```
df <- data.frame(
    x = rnorm(10),
    y = rnorm(10),
    z = rnorm(10)
)</pre>
```

• Can you guess what the following code chunk does?

```
df_new <- df[df$x > 0, c("x", "y")]
df_new$xx <- df_new$x^2</pre>
```

"Piped" code?

How about this one?

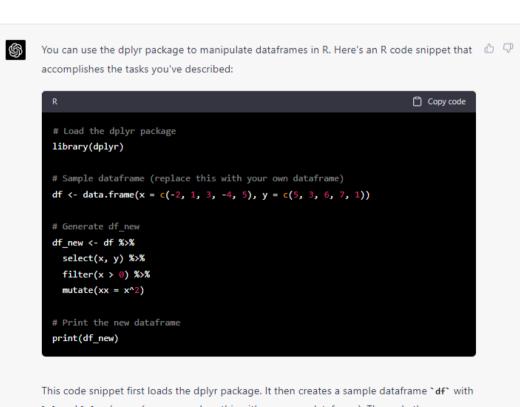
```
df_new <- df %>%
  select(x, y) %>%
  filter(x > 0) %>%
  mutate(xx = x^2)
```

The above code chunk should be read as:

"generate a new dataframe df_new by taking df, then select x and y, then filter rows where x is positive, then mutate a new variable $xx = x^2$ "

Enter ChatGPT...

Write an R code that generates a new dataframe `df_new` by taking `df`, _then_ select `x` and `y`, _then_ filter rows where `x` is positive, _then_ mutate a new variable `xx = x^2`

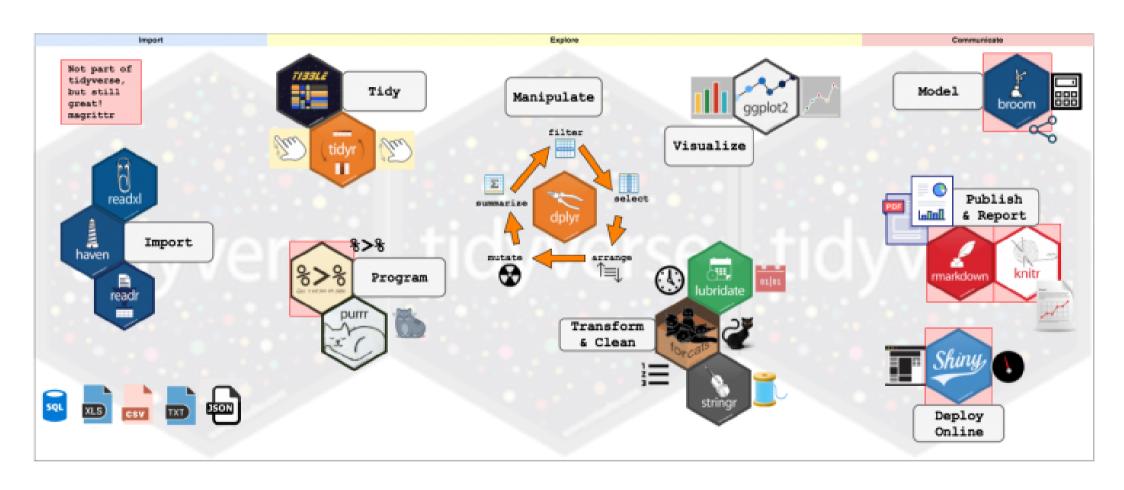


This code snippet first loads the dplyr package. It then creates a sample dataframe `df` with `x` and `y` columns (you can replace this with your own dataframe). The code then generates a new dataframe `df_new` by selecting the `x` and `y` columns, filtering rows where `x` is positive, and adding a new variable `xx` equal to `x^2`. Finally, it prints the new dataframe.

Pros & cons

- Following a "tidy" approach makes your code more readable ⇒ more reproducible.
- I believe that there is a growing consensus in the #rstats community that we should **learn** the tidyverse first.
- Nevertheless, note that the tidyverse is "Utopian" in the sense that it strives toward perfection, and thus keeps changing. By contrast, base R was built to last.
- As usual, being proficient in both (base R and the tidyverse) will get you far...

The Tidyverse



Tidyverse Packages

Which packages come with tidyverse?

```
tidyverse_packages()
```

"dtply

"hms"

"pilla

"rstu

"tidy

```
[1] "broom"
                         "cli"
                                          "crayon"
                                                                           "dplyr"
                                                          "dbplyr"
##
                         "ggplot2"
                                                          "googlesheets4" "haven"
        "forcats"
                                          "googledrive"
                                                          "magrittr"
## [13] "httr"
                         "isonlite"
                                         "lubridate"
                                                                           "modelr"
## [19] "purrr"
                                                          "reprex"
                         "readr"
                                         "readxl"
                                                                           "rlang"
                                                          "tidyr"
                                                                           "xm12"
## [25] "rvest"
                         "stringr"
                                          "tibble"
```

Note that not all these packages are loaded by default.

We now briefly introduce the tidyverse's flagship: dplyr.

dplyr: The grammar of data manipulation

• **dplyr:** Essential tool for data manipulation

• Key verbs:

```
filter() - Select observations (rows)select() - Select variables (columns)
```

- mutate() Generate new variables (columns)
- arrange() Sort observations (rows)
- summarise() Summary statistics (by groups)

Some additional verbs:

```
group_by() - Group observations by variables
```

- sample_n() Sample rows from a table
- Learn more: dplyr documentation

The tidymodels package

• Tidymodels extends the tidyverse's "grammar" philosophy to modeling tasks.

```
tidymodels::tidymodels_packages()
                       "cli"
                                       "conflicted"
                                                      "dials"
                                                                      "dplyr"
                                                                                     "ggplot2"
    [1] "broom"
    [8] "infer"
                       "modeldata"
                                       "parsnip"
                                                      "purrr"
                                                                      "recipes"
                                                                                     "rlang"
                                                      "tune"
## [15] "rstudioapi"
                       "tibble"
                                       "tidyr"
                                                                      "workflows"
                                                                                     "workflowse
## [22] "tidymodels"
```

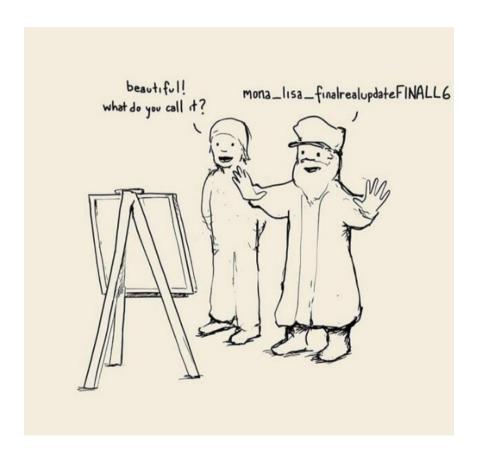
For more information, visit the tidymodels GitHub repo.

Resources

- 1. R for Data Science (r4ds) by Garrett Grolemund and Hadley Wickham.
- 2. Data wrangling and tidying with the "Tidyverse" by Grant McDerrmot.
- 3. Getting used to R, RStudio, and R Markdown by Chester Ismay and Patrick C. Kennedy.
- 4. Data Visualiztion: A practical introduction by Kieran Healy.

Version Control

Version Control



What's wrong with the "*.X_FINAL_FINAL" method?

- What changed?
- Where??
- When???
- By who????

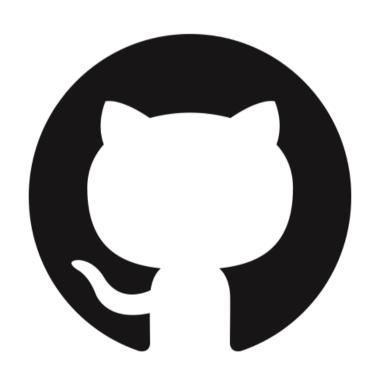
You get the picture...

Git



- Git is a distributed version control system.
- Huh?!
- Sorry. Think of "track changes" for code projects.
- Git has established itself as the defacto standard for version control and software collaboration.

GitHub



- GitHub is a web-based hosting service for version control that uses Git.
- It can be thought of as "Dropbox" for Git projects, offering advanced features beyond basic version control.
- GitHub is a popular platform for developing open-source projects, including popular R packages and other software libraries.

GitHub Desktp



- GitHub Desktop is a user-friendly graphical interface that allows developers to interact with Git repositories.
- It provides an intuitive way to manage changes to code, create and switch branches, and synchronize local and remote repositories.
- GitHub Desktop also simplifies collaboration by making it easy to create and review pull requests, resolve merge conflicts, and manage code reviews.

Resources

- 1. Happy Git and GitHub for the useR by Jenny Bryan.
- 2. Version Control with Git(Hub) by Grant McDerrmot.
- 3. Pro Git.

Let's Practice!

Suggested workflow for starting a new (desktop) R project

• RStudio:

- 1. Open RStudio.
- 2. Navigate to File -> New Project -> New Directory -> New Project.
- 3. Name your project in the "Directory name:" field and check "Create git repository".

• GitHub Desktop:

- 1. Open GitHub Desktop.
- 2. Navigate to File -> Add local repository.
- 3. Set the "Local path" to your RStudio project's folder.
- 4. Publish the local git repo on GitHub (choose private or public repo).

Suggested Git Workflow (Optional)

• Pull, Stage, Commit, Push Workflow:

- 1. Open GitHub Desktop.
- 2. Set "Current repository" to the cloned repo.
- 3. Click "Fetch origin" and **pull** any changes from the GitHub repo.
- 4. Open your project.
- 5. Make changes to one or more files.
- 6. Save the changes.
- 7. **Stage** or unstage changed files.
- 8. Write a summary (and description) of your changes.
- 9. Click "Commit to master".
- 10. Update remote by clicking "Push origin" (Ctrl + P).

Clone and Sync a Remote GitHub Repository (Optional)

• Cloning a Repository:

- 1. Launch GitHub Desktop.
- 2. Navigate to the remote repository.
- 3. Select "Clone or download".
- 4. Define the local path for your cloned repo (e.g., "C:/Documents/CLONED_REPO").

• Synchronizing a Repository:

- 1. Launch GitHub Desktop.
- 2. Switch "Current repository" to the cloned repo.
- 3. Press the "Fetch origin" button.
- 4. Pull any updates made on the remote repo.

Your Homework

• Getting Started with R and Git:

- 1. Open RStudio.
- 2. Create your first R project.
- 3. Initiate Git.¹
- 4. Create a new RMarkdown file.
- 5. Commit your changes.

¹ RStudio automatically generates a .gitignore file that tells Git which files to ignore. Click here for more details on configuring what to ignore.

slides %>% end()

Source code