Robert C. Dunnell’s Systematics in Prehistory at 50

Myfirstname Mylastname1,✉, and Yourfirstname Yourlastname2

01 April, 2021

In 2021 it will be fifty years since the publication of Robert C. Dunnell’s (1971) diminutive yet dense Systematics in Prehistory. At the height of the debate between Culture History and New Archaeology, Dunnell’s work sought to address a more fundamental issue that was and still is relevant to all branches of prehistoric archaeology, and especially to the study of the Paleolithic: systematics. Dunnell himself was notorious and controversial, however, but the importance of his work remains underappreciated. Like other precocious works of that tumultuous time - for instance, David Clarke’s Analytical Archaeology (1968; cf. Lycett & Shennan 2018) - Systematics in Prehistory today remains absent from most course readings and gathers dust on library shelves. In this contribution we argue for a greater appreciation of its as yet unfulfilled conceptual and analytical promise. In particular, we briefly chart its somewhat delayed impact via evolutionary archaeology, including how it has also influenced non-Anglophone traditions – for instance in South America – and how classification issues obstinately persist in paleoanthropology and Paleolithic archaeology also today.

1 University of One Place  
2 University of Another Place

✉ Correspondence: [Myfirstname Mylastname <[fl@oneplace.edu](mailto:fl@oneplace.edu)>](mailto:fl@oneplace.edu)

Keywords: keyword 1; keyword 2; keyword 3

Highlights: These are the highlights.

## Introduction

Here are some citations Dunnell (1971) Clarke (1968) Lycett and Shennan (2018)

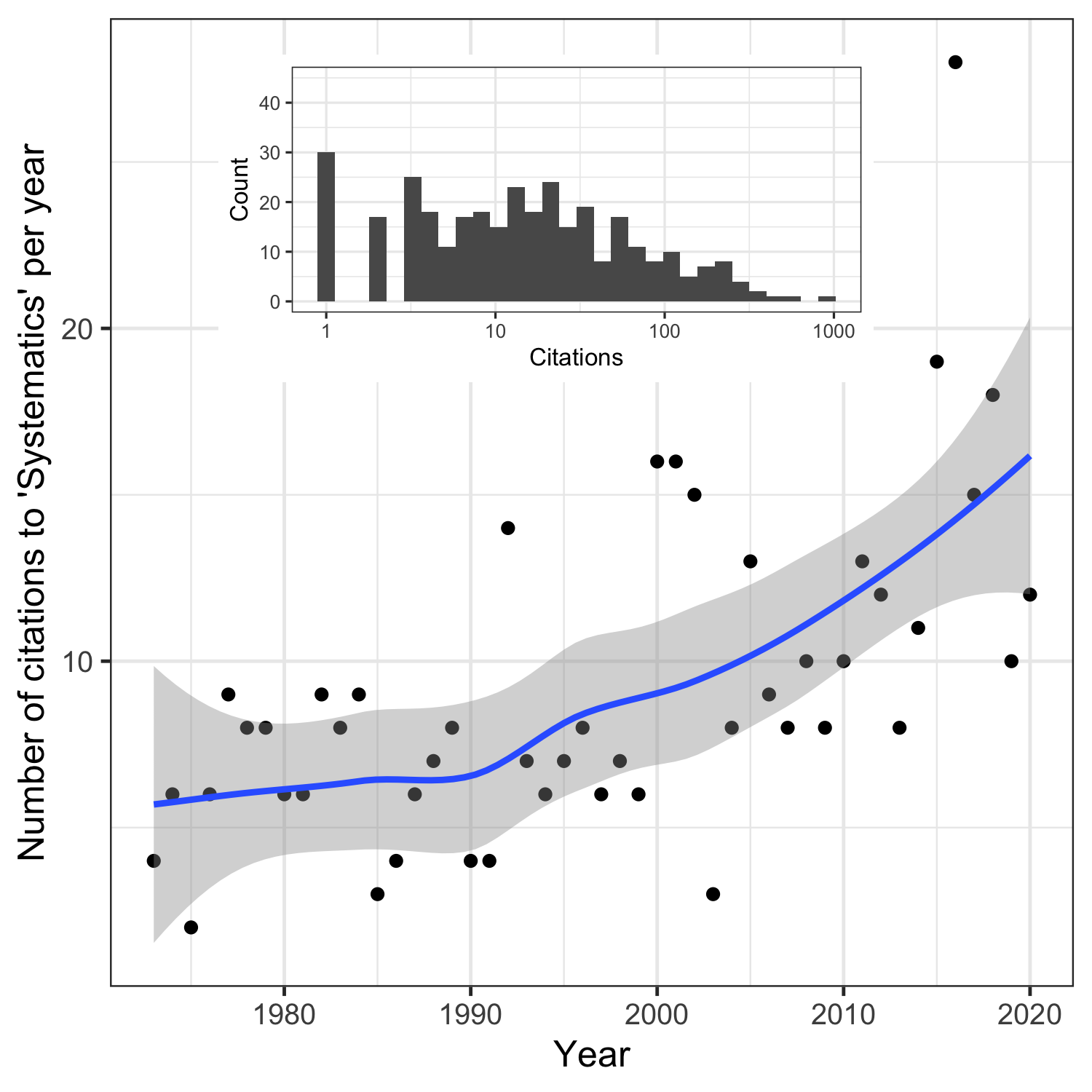


Figure 1: Citations to ‘Systematics’ over time. Inset shows distributions of citations to works citing ‘Systematics.’ Data collected from Google Scholar on October 2020

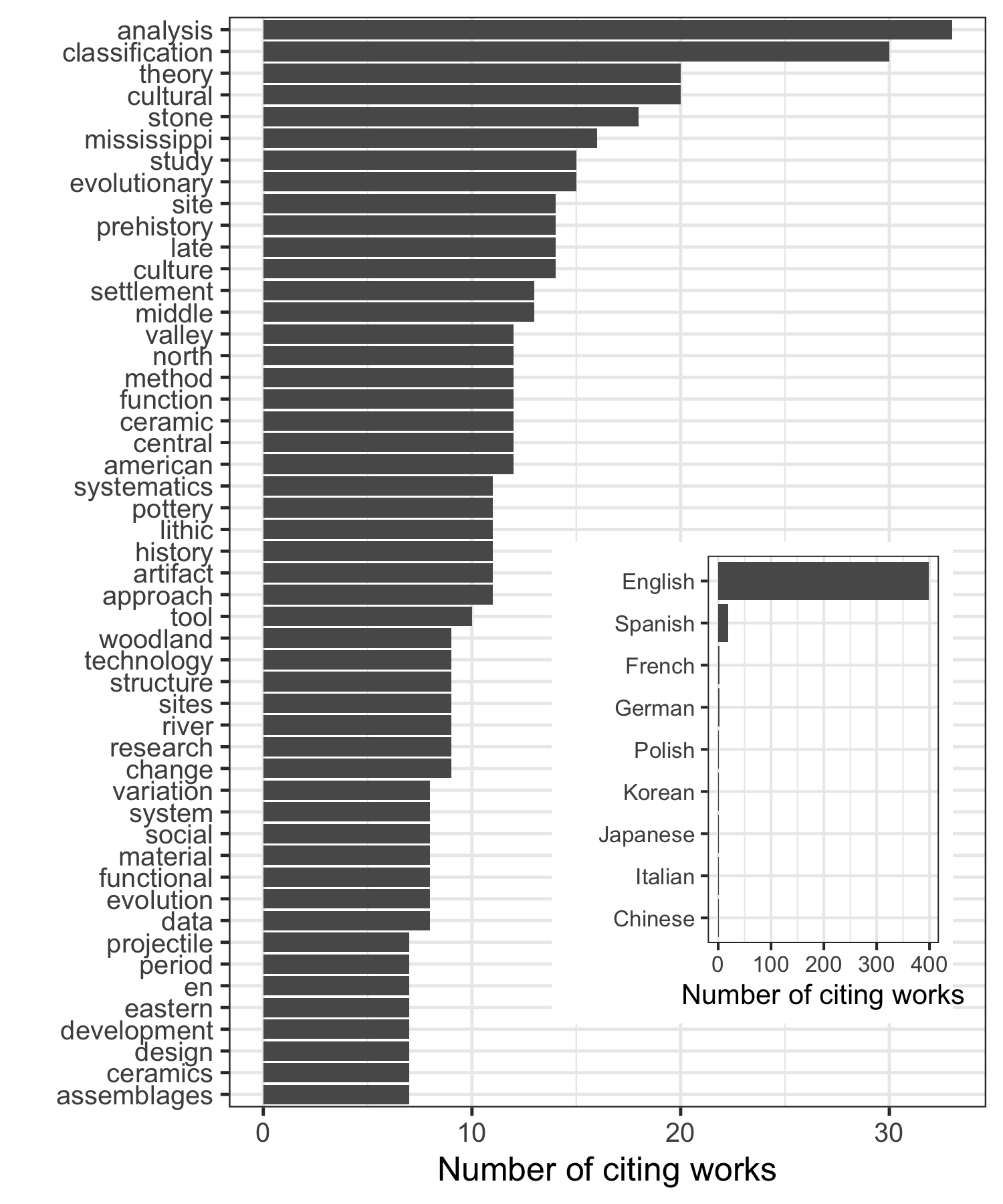


Figure 2: Keywords in titles of works citing ‘Systematics.’ Inset shows languages of works citing ‘Systematics.’ Data collected from Google Scholar on October 2020

# Acknowledgements

# References

Clarke, D.L., 1968. Analytical archaeology. Methuen, London.

Dunnell, R.C., 1971. Systematics in prehistory. The Free Press, New York.

Lycett, S.J., Shennan, S.J., 2018. David clarke’s analytical archaeology at 50. World Archaeology 50, 210–220. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00438243.2018.1470561>

### Colophon

This report was generated on 2021-04-01 00:15:36 using the following computational environment and dependencies:

#> ─ Session info ───────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
#> setting value   
#> version R version 4.0.4 (2021-02-15)  
#> os macOS Catalina 10.15.7   
#> system x86\_64, darwin17.0   
#> ui X11   
#> language (EN)   
#> collate en\_US.UTF-8   
#> ctype en\_US.UTF-8   
#> tz America/Los\_Angeles   
#> date 2021-04-01   
#>   
#> ─ Packages ───────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────  
#> package \* version date lib source   
#> assertthat 0.2.1 2019-03-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> backports 1.2.1 2020-12-09 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> bookdown 0.21.7 2021-03-25 [1] Github (rstudio/bookdown@0cec2fd)   
#> broom 0.7.5 2021-02-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> cachem 1.0.4 2021-02-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> callr 3.5.1 2020-10-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> cellranger 1.1.0 2016-07-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> cld2 \* 1.2.1 2020-12-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> cli 2.3.1 2021-02-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.3)   
#> colorspace 2.0-0 2020-11-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> cowplot \* 1.1.1 2020-12-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> crayon 1.4.1 2021-02-08 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> DBI 1.1.1 2021-01-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> dbplyr 2.1.0 2021-02-03 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> desc 1.3.0 2021-03-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.4)   
#> devtools 2.3.2 2020-09-18 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> digest 0.6.27 2020-10-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> dplyr \* 1.0.5 2021-03-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> ellipsis 0.3.1 2020-05-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> evaluate 0.14 2019-05-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> fansi 0.4.2 2021-01-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> farver 2.1.0 2021-02-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> fastmap 1.1.0 2021-01-25 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> forcats \* 0.5.1 2021-01-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> fs 1.5.0 2020-07-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> generics 0.1.0 2020-10-31 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> ggplot2 \* 3.3.3 2020-12-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> ggpmisc \* 0.3.8-1 2021-01-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> glue 1.4.2 2020-08-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> gtable 0.3.0 2019-03-25 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> haven 2.3.1 2020-06-01 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> here 1.0.1 2020-12-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> highr 0.8 2019-03-20 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> hms 1.0.0 2021-01-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> htmltools 0.5.1.1 2021-01-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> httr 1.4.2 2020-07-20 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> janeaustenr 0.1.5 2017-06-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> jsonlite 1.7.2 2020-12-09 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> knitr 1.31 2021-01-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> labeling 0.4.2 2020-10-20 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> lattice 0.20-41 2020-04-02 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.4)   
#> lifecycle 1.0.0 2021-02-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> lubridate 1.7.10 2021-02-26 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> magrittr 2.0.1 2020-11-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> Matrix 1.3-2 2021-01-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.4)   
#> memoise 2.0.0 2021-01-26 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> mgcv 1.8-34 2021-02-16 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> modelr 0.1.8 2020-05-19 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> munsell 0.5.0 2018-06-12 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> nlme 3.1-152 2021-02-04 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.4)   
#> pillar 1.5.1 2021-03-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.4)   
#> pkgbuild 1.2.0 2020-12-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> pkgconfig 2.0.3 2019-09-22 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> pkgload 1.2.0 2021-02-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> prettyunits 1.1.1 2020-01-24 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> processx 3.5.0 2021-03-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> ps 1.6.0 2021-02-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.4)   
#> purrr \* 0.3.4 2020-04-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> R6 2.5.0 2020-10-28 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> Rcpp 1.0.6 2021-01-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> readr \* 1.4.0 2020-10-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> readxl 1.3.1 2019-03-13 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> remotes 2.2.0 2020-07-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> reprex 1.0.0 2021-01-27 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> rlang 0.4.10 2020-12-30 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.3)   
#> rmarkdown 2.7.4 2021-03-25 [1] Github (rstudio/rmarkdown@a11240d)  
#> rprojroot 2.0.2 2020-11-15 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> rstudioapi 0.13 2020-11-12 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> rvest \* 1.0.0 2021-03-09 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> scales 1.1.1 2020-05-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> selectr 0.4-2 2019-11-20 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> sessioninfo 1.1.1 2018-11-05 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> SnowballC 0.7.0 2020-04-01 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> stringi 1.5.3 2020-09-09 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> stringr \* 1.4.0 2019-02-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> testthat 3.0.2 2021-02-14 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> tibble \* 3.1.0 2021-02-25 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> tidyr \* 1.1.3 2021-03-03 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> tidyselect 1.1.0 2020-05-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> tidytext \* 0.3.0 2021-01-06 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> tidyverse \* 1.3.0 2019-11-21 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> tokenizers 0.2.1 2018-03-29 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> usethis 2.0.1 2021-02-10 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> utf8 1.2.1 2021-03-12 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> vctrs 0.3.6 2020-12-17 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> withr 2.4.1 2021-01-26 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> xfun 0.22 2021-03-11 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.2)   
#> xml2 1.3.2 2020-04-23 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#> yaml 2.2.1 2020-02-01 [1] CRAN (R 4.0.0)   
#>   
#> [1] /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.0/Resources/library

The current Git commit details are: