Flowchart of the R startup process as described in „help(‚Startup')" - excluding the „--no-…" parameters

Start

R_ENVIRON set? — yes → use site environment file pointed to by this variable

no

<R_HOME>/etc/ Renviron.site exists? — yes → use .Renviron.site

no

R_ENVIRON_USER set? — yes → use user environment file pointed to by this variable

no

.Renviron in current directory? — yes → use .Renviron

no

.Renviron in user's home directory? — yes → use .Renviron

no

environment variable settings – typically overriding default

R_PROFILE set? — yes → source site profile file this variable is pointing to into workspace

no

<R_HOME>/etc/ Rprofile.site exists? — yes → source .Rprofile.site into base package

no

R_PROFILE_USER set? — yes → source user profile file this variable is pointing to into workspace

no

.Rprofile in current directory? — yes → source .Rprofile into workspace

no

.Rprofile in user's home directory? — yes → source .Rprofile into workspace

profile files (R code that is sourced in base package or workspace)

.RData in current directory? — yes → load .RData

no

.First() on search path? (usually in .Rprofile{.site}) — yes → execute .First()

execute .First.sys() from base package (e.g. require() for options(„default packages"))

.Last() on search path (in .Rprofile{.site}? — yes → execute .Last()