

# Getting started with R

## Short version

A short version of recommendations to get started and familiar with R:

- “[Hands-On Programming with R](#)” (free ebook).
- The [R cheat sheet](#) is quite handy to have.

## Longer version

Here’s a longer list of recommendations for getting started with R if you prefer multiple sources to pick and choose from:

- As far as a “solid introductory courses/guide”:
  - “[Hands-On Programming with R](#)” from above is possibly the best starting point that involves explanations as well as code you can run to get comfortable/familiar with R.
  - “[R for data science](#)” (free ebook) authored by Hadley Wickam who is the biggest name in R these days – he wrote the `ggplot2` and `dplyr` packages of the “[tidyverse](#)”. This book is probably past an “introduction” level and more of a deeper dive once you’re more comfortable with R.
  - “[An Introduction to R](#)” is a pretty handy webpage to work through for a bit-longer-than-a-typical-introduction introduction. The original version was written by Bill Venables. The introduction provides a general understanding of what R is and how it works.
  - There are built-in tutorials in RStudio (see screenshot below) that are useful.

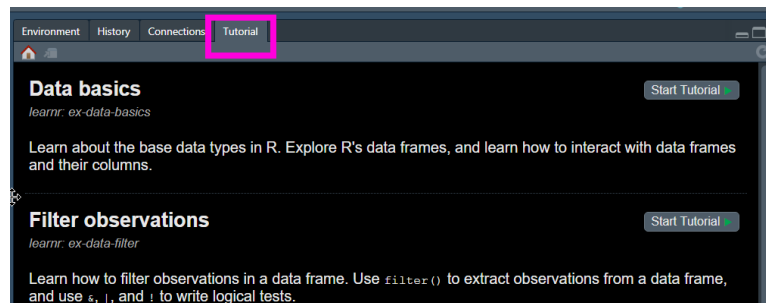


Figure 1: Environment/History/Tutorial tabs in RStudio

## Additional resources

(Ignore as you see fit!)

- I always recommend the <https://www.r-bloggers.com> mailing list. They are an aggregator of R blogs on the web and I find it is a great way to stay up to date with R developments and learn new analysis techniques. Obviously not all articles are relevant (and even reading the headlines allows you to be aware of things should they become useful later on).
- [Task Views](#) which cover the areas of maths and statistics you may need packages for doing more specific/advanced statistics things. It is maintained by a panel of experts for each topic and gives good little summaries of the packages that perform these tasks as well.

## Intermediate to advanced recommendations

- “[Advanced R](#)” by Hadley Wickham is a (free e-)book detailing many elements of R that are not taught initially (or at all) in a very accessible way.
- Depending on your mathematical inclination: “[Intro to Statistical Learning](#)” is the precursor to my favourite book (the similarly named [The Elements of Statistical Learning](#)) and is available as free pdf. It could also be equally called “Intro to machine learning (with examples in R)”. It is written by some famous statisticians (in a relative sense to other statisticians!).
- “[R Language Definition](#)”. Certainly not necessary for someone starting out in R but I find I use it a lot for understanding the underlying structure of R code when things go wrong.

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