# Getting starting with $\boldsymbol{R}$

#### Alexandre Courtiol

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June 2018

### Who am I?

- evolutionary biologist / statistician
- studies in France (Montpellier), postdoc in the UK (Sheffield)
- researcher at Leibniz IZW / lecturer at Freie University
- experience with **R**:
  - 2003 -: study R (still ongoing)
  - 2008 -: use **R** most days
  - 2010 -: teach **R**
  - 2016 –: develop **R** packages

# Getting started with $\boldsymbol{R}$

- What is R?
- First steps in F
- Basics
- Organising data
- Importing/exporting data
- 6 Plotting
- Learning about R

## Getting started with ${\bf R}$

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 ${f R}$  is a programming language and software environment for statistical computing & graphics.

Key points about  $\mathbf{R}$ :

- free for all
- open source (explore: https://github.com/wch/r-source)

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  - from laptop to most advanced supercomputers
  - local or remote
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- rich (tons of **R** packages out there)
- cutting edge (check updates for today: http://dirk.eddelbuettel.com/cranberries/cran/updated/)

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- rich (tons of R packages out there)
- cutting edge (check updates for today: http://dirk.eddelbuettel.com/cranberries/cran/updated/)
- used by millions
- R is the best software environment for statistical computing, but it is far from perfect!

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## A short history of S/R

```
S (http://ect.bell-labs.com/sl/S/)
```

- 1976-1980: version 1: interactive statistical system, Fortran based (Becker, Chambers, & al. at Bell Labs)
- 1980-1988: version 2: portable version (thanks to Unix)
- 1988: version 3 (\$3): "everything is an object" paradigm, C-based (very much like R)
- 1991: a large statistical modeling toolbox is added to \$3
- 1993: S+ exclusive license (to StatSci, later MathSoft, later SolutionMetrics)
- 1998: version 4 (**\$**4): advanced object-oriented features
- 2012: **S**+ becomes TIBCO Enterprise Runtime for R (TERR)

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## A short history of S/R

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### R (https://www.r-project.org/about.html)

- 1993: the replication of S as the R project starts (Ihaka & Gentleman at University of Auckland)
- 23/04/1997: first version of R archieved on The Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN)
- 05/12/1997: **R** version 0.6 is part of GNU project ("freedom to share, freedom to change")
- 29/02/2000: R version 1.0 (judged stable enough for production use by the R Development Core Team)

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### Good for:

- data manipulation
- plots, including GIS
- analysing small, medium and big data
- programming around data

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### Good for:

- data manipulation
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- programming around data

### Not optimal for:

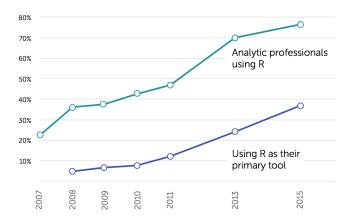
- beginners
- data entry
- formal algebra

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#### **RISE OF R USAGE**



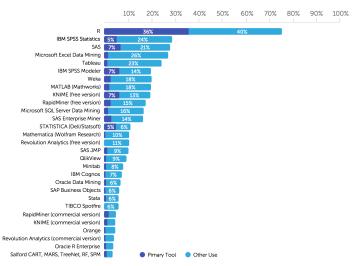
Rexer Analytics

[1220 analytic professionals from 72 countries participated in this survey]

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### What else?

#### **TOOL USE**



Rexer Analytics

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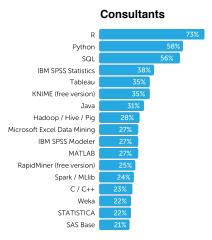
# Most Data Scientists use Multiple Tools





What data science / analytic tools, technologies, and languages did you use in the past year?



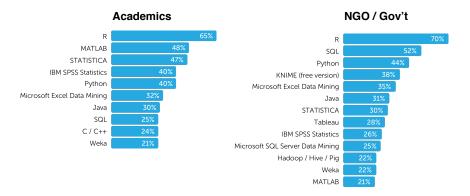


# Most Data Scientists use Multiple Tools





What data science / analytic tools, technologies, and languages did you use in the past year?



# Rich companies rely on R too!

Some examples from a blog post (http://blog.revolutionanalytics.com/2014/05/companies-using-r-in-2014.html)

- Facebook (data analysis, big-data visualization, user behaviour analysis)
- Google (advertising effectiveness, economic forecasting, and big-data statistical modeling)
- Twitter (data visualization and semantic clustering)
- The City of Chicago (food poisoning monitoring)
- The New York Times (interactive features such as the Dialect Quiz and the Election Forecast)
- Microsoft (Xbox matchmaking)
- The Human Rights Data Analysis Group (counts of casualties in war zones)
- ANZ Bank (credit risk analysis)
- The FDA (regulatory drug approvals process)
- Monsanto (statistical analysis in plant breeding, fertility mapping and yield forecasting)
- Lloyds of London (risk analysis and catastrophe modeling)
- RealClimate.org (climate change analysis)
- NOAA (flood warnings)

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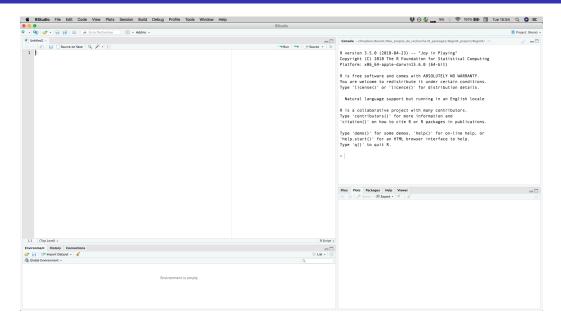
### Installation steps

- check that you do get internet access
- install R: https://cran.r-project.org/
- install RStudio: https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/
- open RStudio

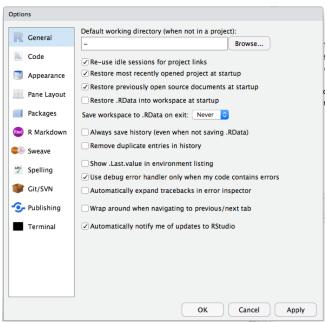
Note: we will use RStudio but you don't have to (RStudio is free but not for all).

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#### RStudio



### Better default setting for RStudio



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### Basic arithmetic

Try in the following in the "Console" pannel:

```
1 + 1
## [1] 2
1 - 1
## [1] 0
2 * pi
## [1] 6.283185
3 / 2
## [1] 1.5
10 %% 3
## [1] 1
5^2
## [1] 25
5^2 + 1
## [1] 26
5^(2+1)
## [1] 125
5^{(2+1)}
## [1] 125
```

Conclusion: you may never need a hand calculator anymore!

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## Good practice

- only use the "Console" pannel to mess around
- write a script and comment it properly
- make sure your script always work

## The concept of an R script

All instructions must be written as a computer script!

- it is just a text file (no need for R to read it, it never gets corrupted)
- the script must be saved at a known location
- all non-R instruction must be preceded by #

#### Why bother?

- transparent & reproducible
- easy to share & modify

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- only use the "Console" pannel to mess around
- write a script and comment it properly
- make sure your script always work
- store each result as an object with a useful name

Objects

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### Creating objects

#### Objects are being assigned using the "arrow" operator:

```
one.plus.one <- 1 + 1 # storing the result
```

#### Objects are being used through their name (that is the whole point):

```
one.plus.one # displaying the result
## [1] 2
one.plus.one.plus.one <- one.plus.one + 1
one.plus.one.plus.one
## [1] 3
```

### Tip:

```
(one.times.two <- 1 * 2) # storing and displaying the result
## [1] 2
```

Note 1: avoid spaces & weird characters in object names to avoid troubles.

Note 2: names are case sensitive.

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### Common mistakes

#### The huge majority of beginners problems are typos:

```
one.plus.one
## [1] 2
one.plus.two
## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'one.plus.two' not found
one.plusone
## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'one.plusone' not found
1 +
one.plus.one <- 1 + 1
## Error in 1 + one.plus.one <- 1 + 1: target of assignment expands to non-language object</pre>
```

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### The concept of an R object

What is an object?

- everything in R is an object (more on that later)
- objects have names
- objects allow astraction
- objects belongs to classes for which specific methods exist (and can be created)

### Note for geeks who know other computer languages

R objects are (by default) not mutable (there is copy on demand):

```
a <- 1
b <- a
b <- a
b + 1
b
m## [1] 2
a
### [1] 1
```

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### **Functions**

```
citation() # function showing how to cite R
## To cite R in publications use:
##
    R Core Team (2018). R: A language and environment
    for statistical computing. R Foundation for
    Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL
    https://www.R-project.org/.
##
## A BibTeX entry for LaTeX users is
##
##
    @Manual{,
##
      title = {R: A Language and Environment for Statistical Computing},
##
      author = {{R Core Team}},
##
      organization = {R Foundation for Statistical Computing},
##
      address = {Vienna, Austria},
##
      year = \{2018\},
##
      url = {https://www.R-project.org/},
##
##
## We have invested a lot of time and effort in creating
## R, please cite it when using it for data analysis.
## See also 'citation("pkgname")' for citing R packages.
help(citation) # getting help for this function
?citation() # same but shorter (syntactic sugar)
```

### **Functions**

```
mean()
?mean()
Usage:
     mean(x, ...)
     ## Default S3 method:
     mean(x, trim = 0, na.rm = FALSE, ...)
Arguments:
       x: An R object. Currently there are methods for numeric/logical
          vectors and date, date-time and time interval objects, and
          for data frames all of whose columns have a method. Complex
          vectors are allowed for 'trim = 0', only.
    trim: the fraction (0 to 0.5) of observations to be trimmed from
          each end of 'x' before the mean is computed. Values of trim
          outside that range are taken as the nearest endpoint.
   na.rm: a logical value indicating whether 'NA' values should be
          stripped before the computation proceeds.
[...]
```

#### Basic syntax:

```
sign(x = -5)
## [1] -1
sign(-5) # dangerous: avoid!
## [1] -1
sign(y = -5)
## Error in sign(y = -5): supplied argument name 'y' does not match 'x'
```

### Equal signs and arrows are not the same:

```
sign(y <- -5) # dangerous: avoid!
## [1] -1

y
## [1] -5
sign(x = y <- -5) # same as above
## [1] -1</pre>
```

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## Syntax for functions

Not puting the parentheses shows the definition of the function:

```
sign ## function (x) .Primitive("sign")
```

All functions need parentheses and exceptions correspond to syntactic sugar:

```
1 + 1

## [1] 2

+ '(1, 1)

## [1] 2

a < - 1

a

## [1] 1

'<- '(a, 1)

a

## [1] 1
```

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## Finding functions

To find the name of the function you are look for, you may try:

```
??"linear model"
```

or

```
help.search(pattern = "linear model", package = "stats") # if you know where to look for
```

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## The concept of an R package

### Packages extend **R** functionalities:

- for most users; e.g. ggplot2
- for specific users; e.g. IsoriX
- for developpers; eg. Rcpp

#### Key facts about packages:

- a package is a folder (often compressed) containing R functions, data & documentation
- a library is an installed package
- there are tons of packages out there:
  - 12564 packages are available on cran.r-project.org
  - ~ 1500 packages aimed at bioinformatic on bioconductor.org
  - many more on github.com
  - many more shared between users in other ways

Note: packages can be used to create research compendia!

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# Installing a package

Simple situation: the package is available as binary for your system on CRAN

```
install.packages("dpylr")
```

In general, the installation procedure depends on:

- where the package is being hosted (local, CRAN, bioconductor, GitHub, other)
- if the package contains sources in another language that have been compiled or not (yes, no)

In order to be able to install packages that require compilation (and thus have access to more or newer version of packages), you need to install:

- Rtools if you use Windows (https://cran.r-project.org/bin/windows/Rtools/)
- Xcode if you use macOS (https://developer.apple.com/xcode/)
- nothing if you use Linux or other Unix-based system

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## Installing the package for this course

The package is not on CRAN as I want to be able to update it instantaneously and have potentially large files. I host the package here: https://github.com/courtiol/BeginR You should install it as follows:

```
install.packages("drat")
drat::addRepo("courtiol")
install.packages("BeginR")
```

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## Loading a package

Loading a package makes the exported functions of the package and its data (if lazy-loaded) available to the user. Example:

library(BeginR)

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## Updating **R** packages

### Some things to know:

- R packages evovle quickly
- young R packages can be very buggy
- packages are not reviewed

#### Good practice:

update your R packages daily

```
update.packages(ask = FALSE)
```

- check what is being changed if you heavily rely on a recent package
- contact the maintainer when you spot bugs (but write minimal reproductive examples!)

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## Updating **R**

#### Some things to know:

- R has many bugs (like all other software)
- R bugs are reported, discussed and solved in the open (unlike most other software): https://bugs.r-project.org/bugzilla3/
- each new version of R is in general more efficient, richer, and less buggy

#### What to do?

- check for R new versions on CRAN
- check for what has changed if you fancy (https://cran.r-project.org/index.html)
- install the new version of R (unless it is not a minor update that you don't need)
- re-install all your packages

Note 1: some packages can help to do this: InstallR on Windows and UpdateR on macOS Note 2: also update Rstudio for full compatibility with **R**.

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### Useful resources

- the help files and official documentation (boring but thorough https://cran.r-project.org/manuals.html)
- a nice blog: http://www.r-bloggers.com/
- 2 R local meetup groups: https://www.meetup.com/Berlin-R-Users-Group/ & https://www.meetup.com/rladies-berlin/

#### Books:



# Why is R the right choice for you?

R is a free open source programming language and software environment for statistical computing & graphics.

R includes long-established parametric and non-parametric tests, forefront methods in regression, classification & clustering, and much more.

- numerous functions are included within the core installation of R
- 12564 packages are available on cran.r-project.org
- $\bullet \sim 1500$  packages aimed at bioinformatic on bioconductor.org

The user can run workflows stored in one or several script file(s), which allows for reproducible research & easy communication.

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## Installing a package to check proxy settings in R-Studio

```
install.packages("coin") # dialog box may be behind!
```

If it does not work follow one of the following options and try again!

• option 1:

```
options(repos = c(CRAN = "http://cran.r-project.org"))
```

option 2: (for MAC users)

```
Sys.setenv(http_proxy = "http://192.168.2.2:3128")
```

• option 3:

```
paste(R.home(), "etc", "Renviron.site", sep = "/") # or "\" for windows
## [1] "/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Resources/etc/Renviron.site"
```

```
edit this file by adding:
http_proxy=http://192.168.2.2:3128/
https_proxy=http://192.168.2.2:3128/
```

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## **Functions**

```
mean(x = c(1, 5, 3, 4))
## [1] 3.25
vector.of.numbers <- c(1, 5, 3, 4)
mean(x = vector.of.numbers)
## [1] 3.25
mean(vector.of.numbers)
## [1] 3.25
mean(y = vector.of.numbers)
## Error in mean.default(y = vector.of.numbers): argument "x" is missing, with no default</pre>
```

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# Challenge #1

```
new.vector <- c(vector.of.numbers, 6, NA, 2)
new.vector
## [1] 1 5 3 4 6 NA 2</pre>
```

Try to compute the mean of new.vector using mean()!

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# Key principles of the R language

- Everything that exists in R is an object
- Everything that happens in R is a function call

John M. Chambers

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This is true even for things that do not look like it at first glance:

```
class(`+`) # same for `?`...
## [1] "function"
    '+`(1, 1)
## [1] 2
```

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Vectors allow the organisation of entities (e.g. numbers, characters...) along one dimension which can be indexed!

```
height.girls <- c(178, 175, 159, 164, 183, 192)
height.boys <- c(181, 189, 174, 177)

height.girls[2]
## [1] 175
height.boys[3]
## [1] 174
```

#### Vectors can be combined:

```
height <- c(height.girls, height.boys)
height
## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192 181 189 174 177
```

They can be indexed logically (i.e. indexed by anything leading to a vector of booleans):

```
height > 179

## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE

## [10] FALSE

height[height > 179]

## [1] 183 192 181 189

height[!(height == min(height))]

## [1] 178 175 164 183 192 181 189 174 177

height[height != min(height)]

## [1] 178 175 164 183 192 181 189 174 177
```

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### They work with other things than numbers:

#### Many functions can take a vector as an input:

```
unique(sex)
                                                                  min(height)
## [1] girl boy
                                                                   ## [1] 159
## Levels: boy girl
                                                                  max(height) # try range()
length(sex)
                                                                   ## [1] 192
## [1] 10
                                                                   mean(height) # try median()
table(sex)
                                                                   ## [1] 177.2
## sex
                                                                   var(height) # try sd()
## boy girl
                                                                   ## [1] 103.0667
## 4 6
summary(height)
      Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu.
                                            Max.
## 159.0 174.2 177.5 177.2 182.5 192.0
```

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Data frames allow the organisation of entities as a matrix-like structure whose columns have the same length:

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### It is good practice to always check their structure:

```
str(dataframe.ht)
## 'data.frame': 10 obs. of 2 variables:
## $ Height: num 178 175 159 164 183 192 181 189 174 177
## $ Sex : Factor w/ 2 levels "boy", "girl": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1
```

#### You access the columns by means of the extractor \$

```
height

## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192 181 189 174 177

rm(list = c("height", "sex")) # removing original vectors
height

## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'height' not found
dataframe.ht#Height #Or: with(data = dataframe.ht, Height)

## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192 181 189 174 177
```

 $\Rightarrow$  What is the average height?

Some functions can take a data frame as an input:

```
summary(dataframe.ht)
## Height Sex
## Min. :159.0 boy :4
## 1st Qu::174.2 girl:6
## Median :177.5
## Mean :177.2
## 3rd Qu::182.5
## Max :192.0
```

Note: this will be the case of a lot of functions performing statistical tests!

How to compute the average height per sex?

simple

```
mean(dataframe.ht$Height[dataframe.ht$Sex == "boy"])
## [1] 180.25
```

more elegant

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#### They can also be indexed:

```
dataframe.ht[1, ]

## Height Sex

## 1 178 girl

dataframe.ht[, 1] # Or: dataframe.ht[, "Sex"]

## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192 181 189 174 177
```

### Data frames

#### They can be edited:

```
dataframe.ht[1, 1]
## [1] 178
dataframe.ht[1, 1] <- 171.3
dataframe.ht[1, 1]
## [1] 171.3
dataframe.ht$linenumber <- 1:nrow(dataframe.ht)  # add column
ncol(dataframe.ht)  # try dim()
## [1] 3
dataframe.ht$linenumber <- NULL  # remove column
ncol(dataframe.ht)</pre>
```

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### Lists

Lists allow the organisation of any set of entities into a single R object:

```
list.ht <- list(girls = height.girls, boys = height.boys)
list.ht
## $girls
## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192
##
## $boys
## [1] 181 189 174 177</pre>
```

### Lists

Lists can also be indexed and their elements extracted:

```
list.ht$girls
## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192
list.ht["boys"]  # still a list
## $boys
## [1] 181 189 174 177
list.ht[["boys"]]  # vector
## [1] 181 189 174 177
list.ht[[2]][3]
## [1] 174
```

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### Lists

#### Some functions can take a list as an input:

```
lapply(list.ht, FUN = mean)
## $girls
## [1] 175.1667
##
## $boys
## [1] 180.25
```

### Summary

```
dataframe.ht
     Height Sex
## 1 171.3 girl
     175.0 girl
## 3
      159.0 girl
## 4
      164.0 girl
## 5
      183.0 girl
## 6
     192.0 girl
## 7
      181.0 boy
## 8
     189.0 boy
     174.0 boy
## 10 177.0 boy
```

```
list.ht

## $girls

## [1] 178 175 159 164 183 192

##

## $boys

## [1] 181 189 174 177
```

### Summary

data.frame

- All columns have same length
- Each column can have its own class (e.g. numeric, factor, character)

• list

- Each element can have its own length
- Each element can have its own class (e.g. numeric, factor, character)

# Getting started with $\boldsymbol{R}$

- What is R?
- 2 First steps in R
- Basics
- Organising data
- Importing/exporting data
- O Plotting
- Learning about R

# Getting started with R

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## Working directory

```
getwd() # to change, use setwd()
## [1] "/Users/alex/Dropbox/Boulot/Mes_projets_de_recherche/R_packages/BeginR_project/BeginR/vignettes/introduction"
dir() # listing all files in the working directory

## [1] "figure" "introduction.nav"

## [3] "introduction.pdf" "introduction.Rnw"

## [6] "introduction.snm" "introduction.tex"

## [7] "introduction.toc" "introduction.vrb"

## [9] "my_plot.pdf" "my.first.R.dataframe.csv"

## [1] "my.first.R.dataframe.csv"
```

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# Exporting and importing data in R

```
write.csv(dataframe.ht,
    file = "my.first.R.dataframe.csv", row.names = FALSE)

rm(list = ls()) # deleting everything in R

dataframe.ht <- read.csv("my.first.R.dataframe.csv")</pre>
```

R cannot read/write .xls files out of the box
Packages can do that but it is safer to use .csv files

Excel can read and write .csv files!

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# Challenge #2

Create a dataframe using your favorite spreadsheet software and import it in R!

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# Getting started with ${\sf R}$

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# Foreplay

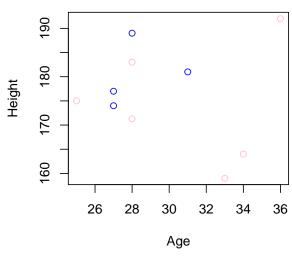
First, let's create a new column Age in our set dataframe.ht:

```
dataframe.ht$Age <- c(28, 25, 33, 34, 28, 36, 31, 28, 27, 27)
head(dataframe.ht)

## Height Sex Age
## 1 171.3 girl 28
## 2 175.0 girl 25
## 3 159.0 girl 33
## 4 164.0 girl 34
## 5 183.0 girl 36
## 6 192.0 girl 36
```

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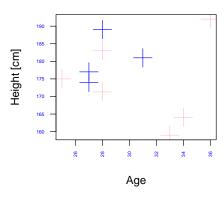
## Scatter plot



## Scatter plot

?plot.default

```
?par # to set graphical parameters
plot(Height - Age, data = dataframe.ht, col = color.sex,
    pch = 3, xlab = "Age", ylab = "Height [cm]",
    cex = 3, cex.lab = 1.2, cex.axis = 0.5,
    las = 2, col.axis = "blue")
```



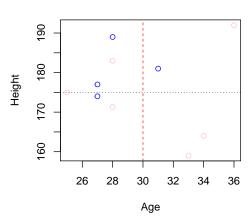
### Decorating plots

abline(h = 175, lty = "dotted")

?abline

Drawing lines (h = horizontal, v = vertical, or "intercept, slope"):

```
?text
plot(Height ~ Age, data = dataframe.ht, col=color.sex)
abline(v = 30, lty = "dashed", col = "red") #lty = line type
```

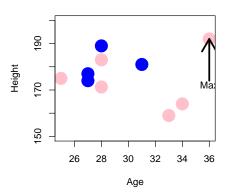


### Decorating plots

#### Drawing arrows and adding text:

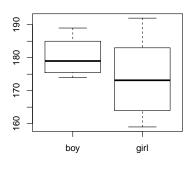
```
?arrows
?text
```

```
plot(Height - Age, data = dataframe.ht, col = color.sex,
    pch = 16, cex = 3, ylim = c(150, 200))
max.value <- max(x = dataframe.ht$Height)
where.max <- dataframe.ht$Age[which.max(x = dataframe.ht$Height)]
arrows(x0 = where.max, y0 = max.value - 18,
    x1 = where.max, y1 = max.value, col = "black", lwd = 3) #lwd = line width
text(x = where.max, y = max.value - 20, labels = "Max")</pre>
```

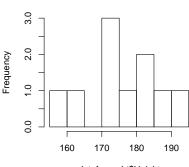


# Box plots and histograms

```
par(mfrow = c(1, 2))
boxplot(Height ~ Sex, data = dataframe.ht)
hist(dataframe.ht$Height)
```

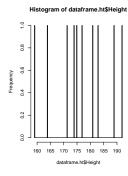


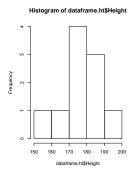
#### Histogram of dataframe.ht\$Height

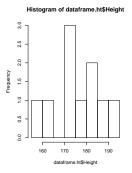


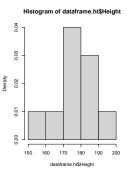
dataframe.ht\$Height

### Histograms









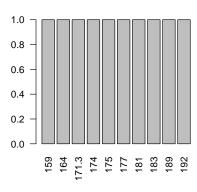
June 2018

## Histograms

```
my.h <- hist(dataframe.ht$Height)</pre>
my.h
## $breaks
## [1] 155 160 165 170 175 180 185 190 195
## $counts
## [1] 1 1 0 3 1 2 1 1
## $density
## [1] 0.02 0.02 0.00 0.06 0.02 0.04 0.02 0.02
##
## $mids
## [1] 157.5 162.5 167.5 172.5 177.5 182.5 187.5 192.5
##
## $xname
## [1] "dataframe.ht$Height"
## $equidist
## [1] TRUE
##
## attr(,"class")
## [1] "histogram"
```

### Bar charts

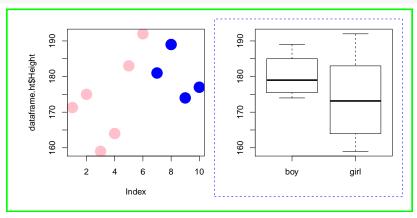
```
mybp <- table(dataframe.ht$Height)</pre>
mybp
##
     159
          164 171.3
                       174
                             175
                                   177
                                         181
                                               183
                                                           192
                                                     1
                                         1
par(mfrow = c(1, 1), las = 2)
barplot(mybp)
```



## Margins and multiple figures

Dividing the graphics device: mfrow = multiframe rowwise, mar = margins (dashed blue), oma = outer margins (green)

```
par(mfrow = c(1, 2), mar = c(4, 4, 1, 1),
    oma = c(1.5, 2, 1, 1))
plot(dataframe.ht$Height, col = color.sex, pch = 16, cex = 3)
boxplot(Height ~ Sex, data = dataframe.ht)
```



### Exporting figures

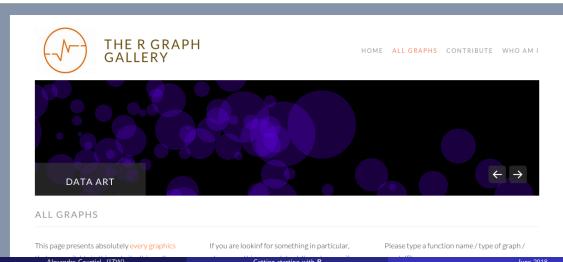
### R code for graphs and examples

1. Check graph example codes in the help function, e.g.

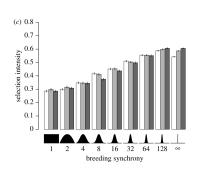
example(hist)

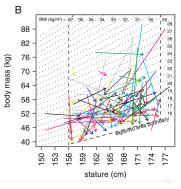
#### 2. Scroll the web

(e.g. http://www.r-graph-gallery.com/all-graphs/)



# Some of my home-made R graphics

















79 harmonics 316 harmonics



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### How to learn R on your own?

#### R:

RSiteSearch("keyword(s)")

#### Internet:

- http://www.r-project.org/ (Manuals in many languages for free)
- http://www.r-bloggers.com/ (Blog!)

#### Books:

