

Reading in data

Isabella Gollini

Data Programming with R

- When loading in data from other sources we can use some of R's built in functions.
- The basic read file command in R is `read.table`. The basic format is:

```
read.table(file = "path/to/myfile.txt", header = FALSE, sep = "")
```

- This will read in the file given in the file argument. If the top row has names in it then `header = TRUE` will remove them and set the column names to be these. The `sep` argument gives the delimiters for the different data points, `sep = ","` for example would read in a comma separated file.
- If you are using R Markdown save your data in the same folder, or in a subfolder.
- If you save the file in the same folder as your .Rmd file you don't have to specify the path to the file, and you can easily transfer your work on different machines!

```
read.table(file = "myfile.txt", header = FALSE, sep = "")
```

- There are also functions available for specific file extensions:
 - .csv via `read.csv` function
 - .xlsx via `read_excel` function from `readxl` package.
 - .sav/.por , .sas7bdat and .dta via `read_spss`, `read_sas` and `read_stata` functions respectively from `haven` package.
- Otherwise you can also do it manually using the Import Dataset dialog in RStudio:

