

Simple hints for using R Studio

Using the Source window

The Source window is an editor. Using it, you can open, create and save script files. For anything but running a quick command this is better than using the command line because you can edit, save and rerun your work.

By default, in R Studio the Source window is the upper right-hand pane.

You can run the code in the Source window using commands from the Code menu. Be sure to notice the keyboard shortcuts for the commands we use. They will save you a lot of time.

Here's a quick tutorial on running code from the Source window.

1. Open a file in the Source window. If this is Studio 1, open `studio1-samplecode.r`
2. From the Session menu, choose 'Set Working Directory' and pick 'To Source File Location'. This will let R find the files it needs.
3. To run the entire file choose 'Source' from the Code menu.
4. To run a few lines of code, select them and choose 'Run Selected Line(s)' from the Code menu.
5. You should also be able to see Run and Source buttons near the top of the Source window.

Cleaning the Environment and Plots

Before turning in your code, it is important to test it in a clean environment. This makes sure it will behave the way you expect when we run it on our machines.

To clean the environment.

1. Find and choose the Environment tab on one of your windows.
2. Click the broom icon
3. Click Yes.

By the way, the Environment is a good place to quickly check the values of variables.

Likewise you can clean out the plots window..