R Workflow Essentials

Data Workflow in R

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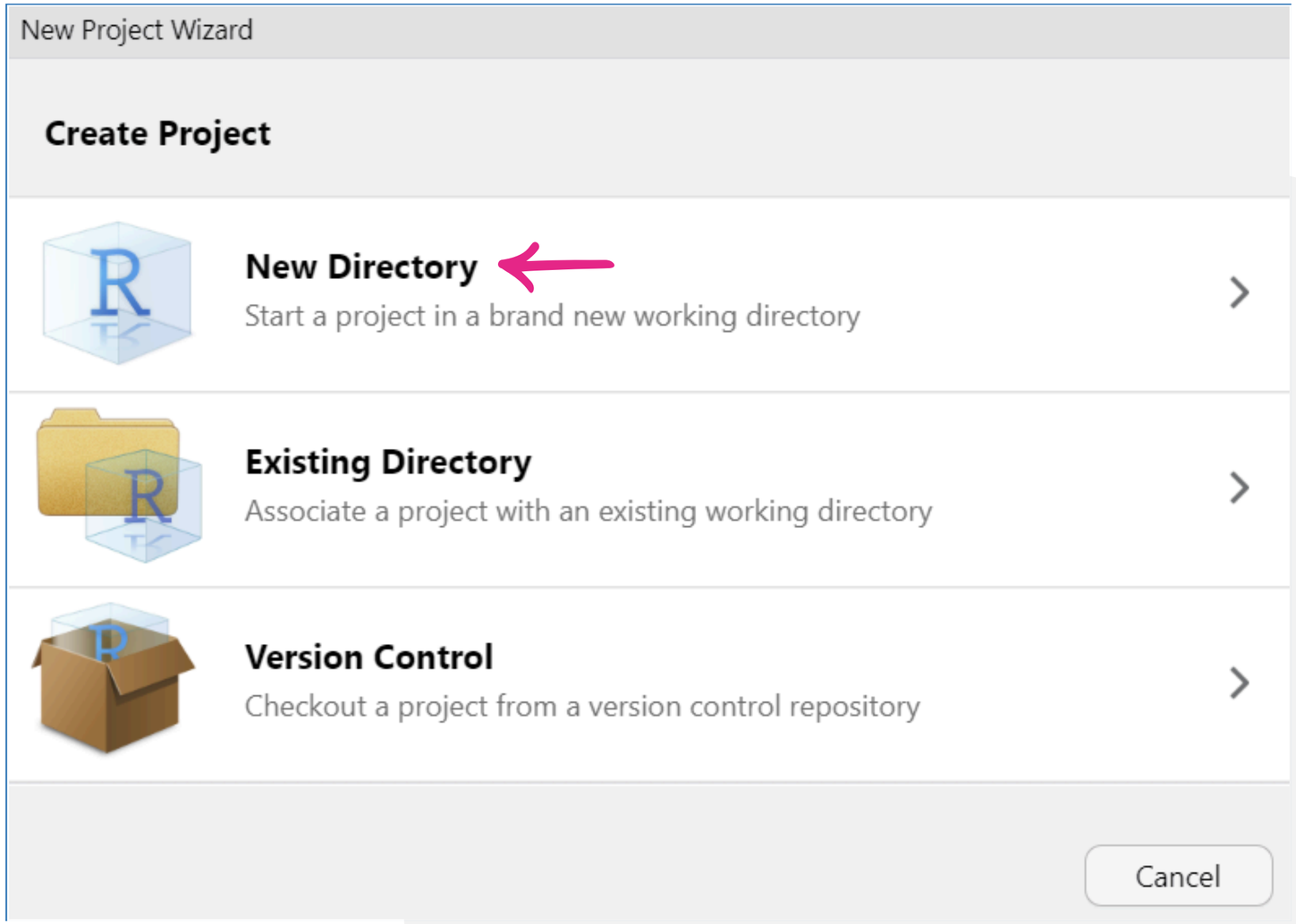
Working Directory

The first and most important thing to do before starting any work in **R** is to set the working directory.

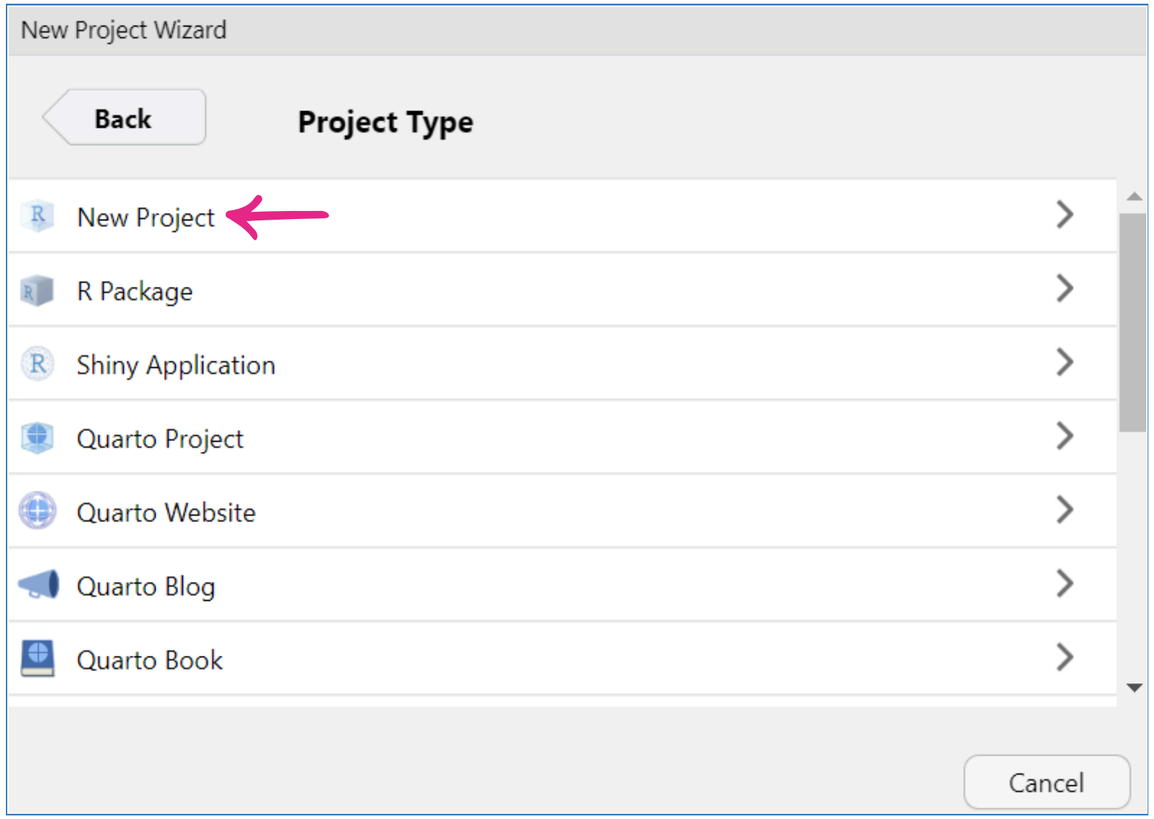
The working directory is a folder that contains **R codes**, **R outputs**, and **datasets** that contribute to the **R project**.

The recommended method to set up a working directory is by creating a new **R project**. In **RStudio**, go to the **File** menu and choose **New Project**.

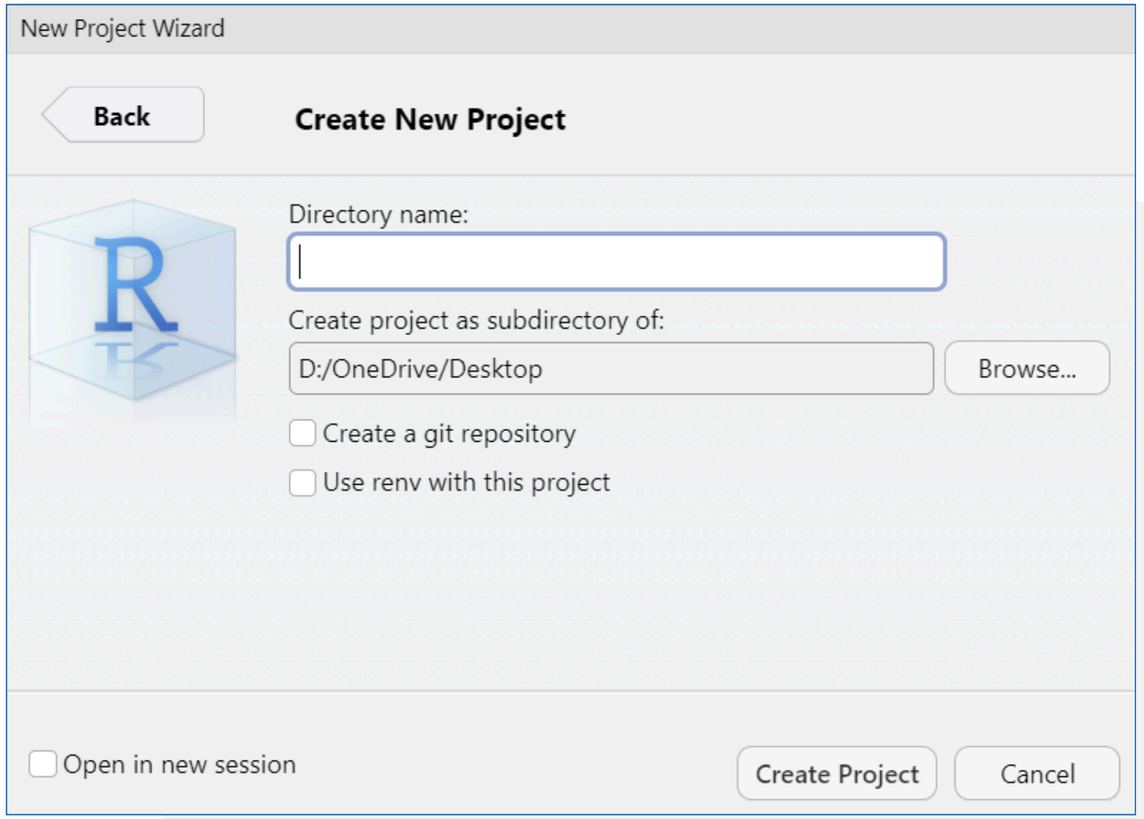
In the **New Project Wizard**, select **New Directory**.



Working Directory

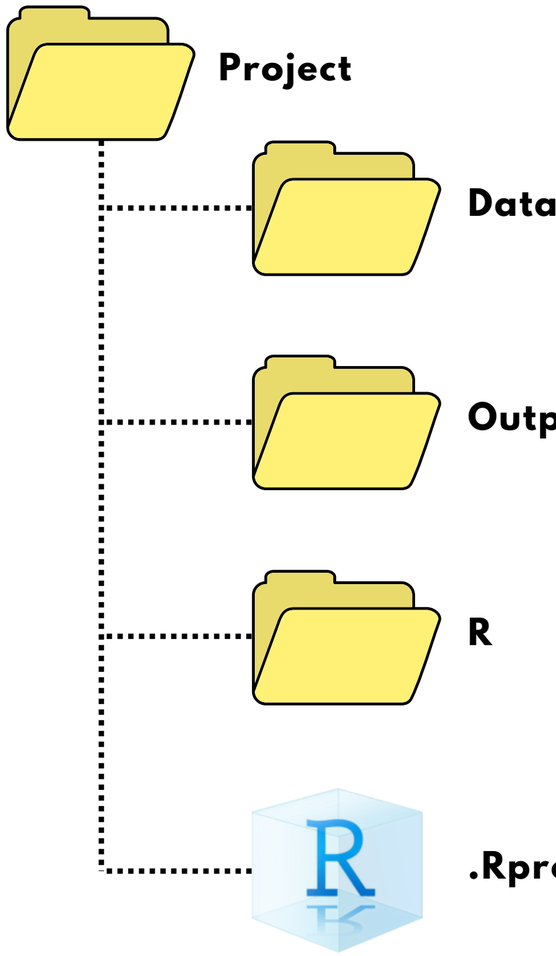


Then choose **New Project**.



Name your **R project** and choose the location where the folder or working directory containing this **R project** will be located.

It is advisable to create subfolders within your working directory to properly manage your files and other **R objects**.



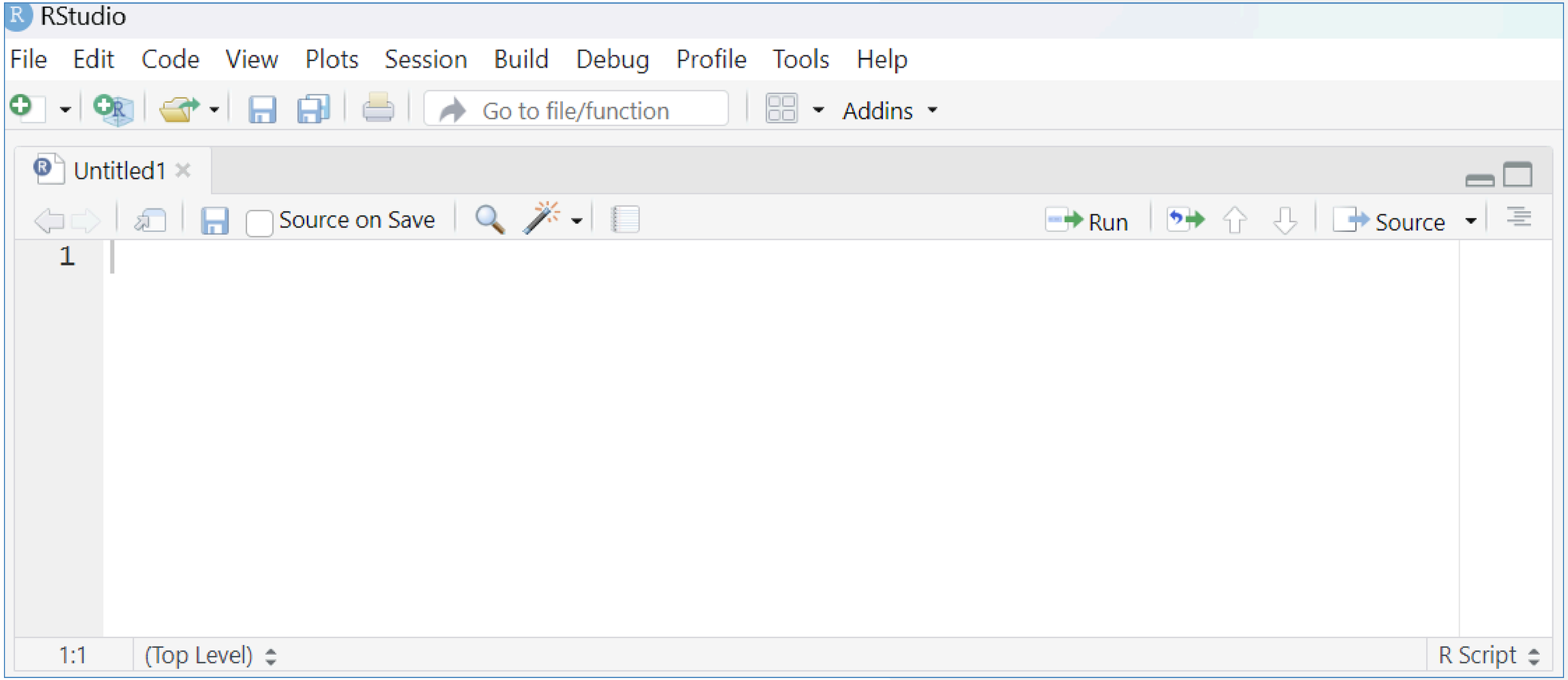
Stores all the raw data files needed for analysis.

Keeps the results of the analysis, such as plots, tables, etc.

Contains R scripts used for data analysis.

*Once a new **R project** is created, a file with the extension **".Rproj"** will appear inside the folder. You can double-click this file to directly open the project.*

R Script



In **RStudio**, go to the **File** menu, then select **R Script**. The **Source** pane with a blank **R script** will appear as shown below.

R Packages

R packages are collections of functions and data sets developed by the community, enhancing the power of **R** by improving existing base **R** codes and functions or adding new ones. There are two methods for installing R packages:

Method 1: Using R Code

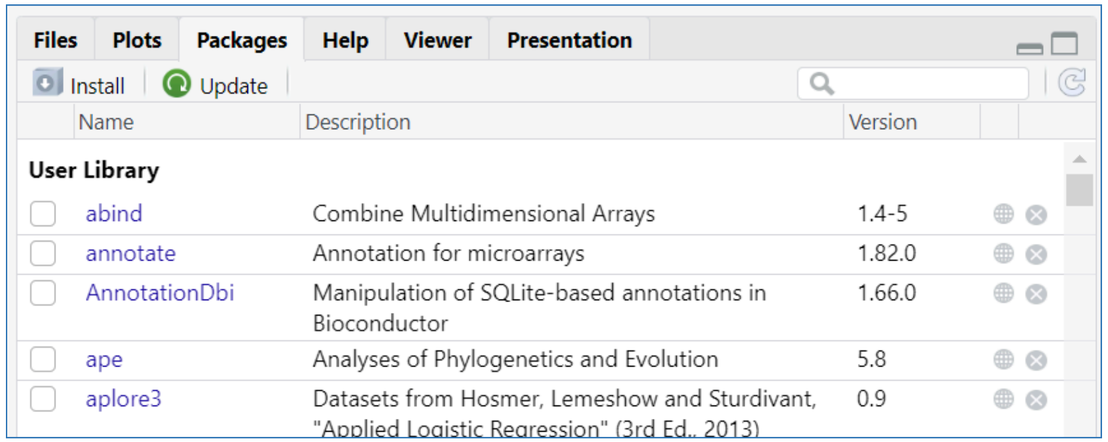
Type the following code to install an **R** package, for example, the **`tidyverse`** package:

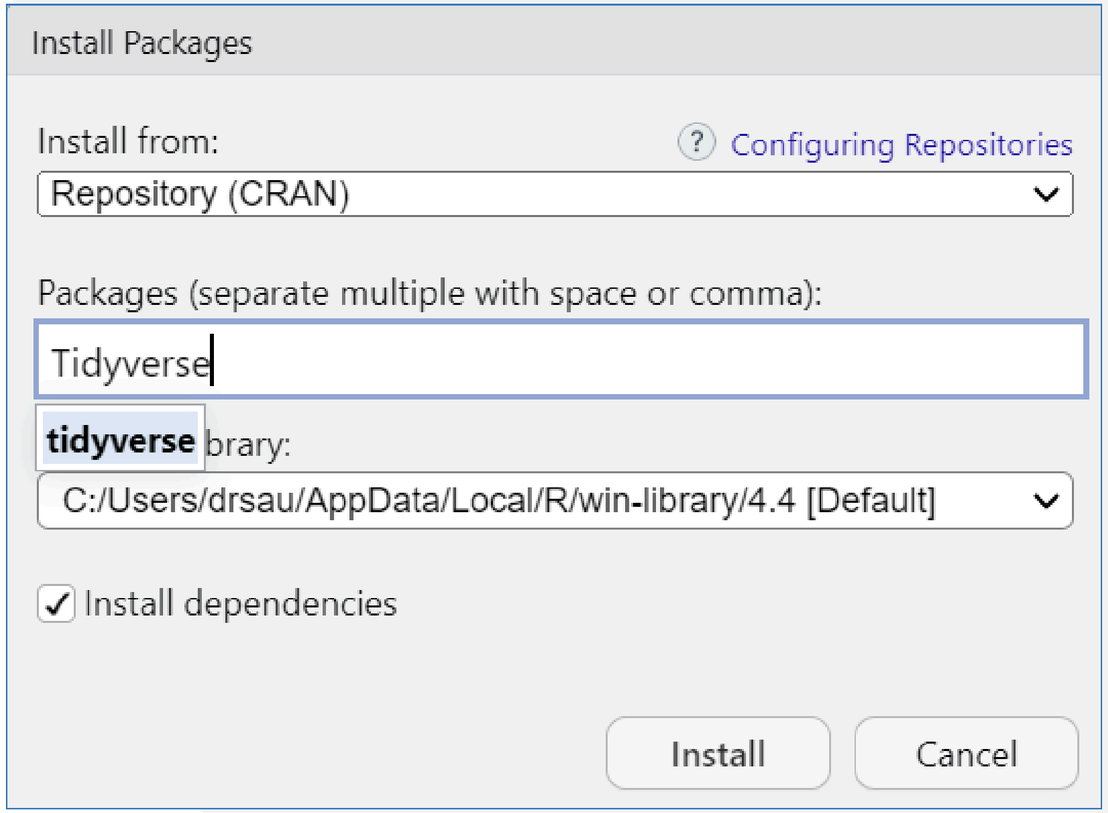
In R script:

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

Method 2: Using the Packages Tab

In the **Packages** tab, click **`Install`** and choose the package you want to install.





R Packages

Loading the Packages

To use functions available in a package, you need to load the particular package:

In R script:

```
library(tidyverse)
```

*Installing packages only needs to be done once. However, loading the packages is required whenever you start a new **R script**.*

Read Data

To begin data analysis, we need to import data into **R**. The commonly used term for this process is ***"reading the data."*** There are various types of data that require different packages to facilitate reading from different formats.

Comma-Separated Value (.csv) Files

The **`read_csv()`** function from the **`readr`** package, which is part of the **`tidyverse`**, can be used to read **CSV** files.

In R script:

```
library(readr)
mydata <- read_csv("data.csv")
```

Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) Files

To read **Excel** files, you can use the **`read_excel()`** function from the **`readxl`** package.

In R script:

```
library(readxl)
mydata <- read_excel("data.xlsx")
```

SPSS (.sav) Files

The **`haven`** package provides the **`read_sav()`** function to read **SPSS** files.

In R script:

```
library(haven)
mydata <- read_sav("data.sav")
```

Stata (.dta) Files

The **`haven`** package also supports reading **Stata** files using the **`read_dta()`** function.

In R script:

```
library(haven)
mydata <- read_dta("data.dta")
```

Keyboard Shortcuts

Execute Line

Save Your Script

Undo Change

Select Full Script

Search And Replace

Go To End Of Line

Go To Start Of Line

Open A File

Assignment Operator

Pipe Operator

Insert Code Chunk

Show All Keyboard Shortcuts


Thank
You