

Causal Inference Workshop

Instructions: Installing R

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1 Introduction

We are looking forward to meeting you at the workshop “Causal Inference and Causal Diagrams in Medical Decision Making Using Big Real World Observational Data” at the SMDM Conference on October 14, 2018. The workshop will be divided between lecture and hands-on practical experiences using R. To get the most of the workshop, we recommend that you bring your laptop with the necessary software installed and the data set and handout downloaded. We will be providing you with all of the code you will need to run the practicals, but please come prepared. The following instructions describe how to install R (this includes the base packages) and RStudio, the graphical user interface we will be using. The whole process should take no more than 15 minutes.

Before you begin, please make sure you have administrator privileges on your laptop to make the installation process run as smoothly as possible.

2 Installing R

R is open-source software, and can be downloaded for free from the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) at <http://cran.r-project.org>. Click the appropriate link for your operating system and follow the installation instructions (download the .exe or .pkg file, then double click when finished downloading to run the installer). Agree to all of the default settings. Running the most recent version of R is recommended.

R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. It provides a wide variety of statistical techniques (e.g. linear and nonlinear modeling, statistical tests, plotting, classification, clustering). Basic R can be supplemented with user-written packages, which cover a wide variety of statistics. There are several packages included with the base R installation, and many more are freely available online. You can find R packages to install from

- CRAN

- Bioconductor
- Github

We will provide code for you to install any extra R packages as necessary throughout the workshop.

Although you can run code directly in R, we recommend installing and running RStudio to facilitate an easier-to-use workflow.

3 Installing RStudio

RStudio is an integrated development environment (IDE) for R. It includes a console, syntax-highlighting editor that supports direct code execution, as well as tools for plotting, history, debugging and workspace management. RStudio Desktop can be downloaded for free from:

<https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download>

Please select the file that corresponds to your operating system.

3.1 If you are using a Mac OSX

Some R packages require compilation. That requires utilities not installed on OS X by default. You can wait to do the following until it's needed, but since you're already installing things...

- Get Xcode from <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/xcode/id497799835?mt=12> and install it like any “normal” Mac application.
- When the installation is done, open Xcode then close it just to verify it installed correctly
- Find and open the Terminal program in the Utilities folder under the Applications folder (or by typing apple key + space bar and typing “Terminal” into the search bar that appears)
- Paste the following into the Terminal window and hit enter/return (accept any dialog/prompt):

```
xcode-select --install
```

- Close the Terminal application

You may also want to have downloaded and installed XQuartz, which can be found at

<https://www.xquartz.org/releases/XQuartz-2.7.11.html>