

11: Crafting Reports

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LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Describe the purpose of using R Markdown as a communication and workflow tool
2. Incorporate Markdown syntax into documents
3. Communicate the process and findings of an analysis session in the style of a report

USE OF R STUDIO & R MARKDOWN SO FAR...

1. Write code
2. Document that code
3. Generate PDFs of code and its outputs
4. Integrate with Git/GitHub for version control

BASIC R MARKDOWN DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

1. **YAML Header** surrounded by `---` on top and bottom
 - YAML templates include options for html, pdf, word, markdown, and interactive
 - More information on formatting the YAML header can be found in the cheat sheet
2. **R Code Chunks** surrounded by `"on top and bottom" + Create using Cmd/Ctrl+Alt+I`
 - Can be named `{r name}` to facilitate navigation and autoreferencing
 - Chunk options allow for flexibility when the code runs and when the document is knitted
3. **Text** with formatting options for readability in knitted document

RESOURCES

Handy cheat sheets for R markdown can be found: [here](#), and [here](#).

There's also a quick reference available via the **Help→Markdown Quick Reference** menu.

Lastly, this website give a great & thorough overview.

THE KNITTING PROCESS

- The knitting sequence



- Knitting commands in code chunks:
- `include = FALSE` - code is run, but neither code nor results appear in knitted file
- `echo = FALSE` - code not included in knitted file, but results are
- `eval = FALSE` - code is not run in the knitted file
- `message = FALSE` - messages do not appear in knitted file
- `warning = FALSE` - warnings do not appear...
- `fig.cap = "..."` - adds a caption to graphical results

WHAT ELSE CAN R MARKDOWN DO?

See: <https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com> and class recording. * Languages other than R... * Various outputs...

WHY R MARKDOWN?

<Fill in our discussion below with bullet points. Use italics and bold for emphasis (hint: use the cheat sheets or Help → Markdown Quick Reference to figure out how to make bold and italic text).>

- It's easy enough to do **bullet points** in R Markdowns
- It has *value* in creating clean reports about data
- Commenting without confusing it with your code
- Easy to share with other people
- Great for crafting reports
- Doing this in RStudio and version control with Git is seamless

TEXT EDITING CHALLENGE

Create a table below that details the example datasets we have been using in class. The first column should contain the names of the datasets and the second column should include some relevant information about the datasets. (Hint: use the cheat sheets to figure out how to make a table in Rmd)

Dataset names	Relevant information
PeterPaul	Nutrient loads for Peter and Paul Lake
Garinger Ozone	The amount of ozone at the Garinger site
EPA.10 - EPA.19	Datasets that include information on ozone and particulate matter

R CHUNK EDITING CHALLENGE

Installing packages

Create an R chunk below that installs the package `knitr`. Instead of commenting out the code, customize the chunk options such that the code is not evaluated (i.e., not run).

```
install.packages('knitr')
```

Setup

Create an R chunk below called “setup” that checks your working directory, loads the packages **tidyverse**, **lubridate**, and **knitr**, and sets a ggplot theme. Remember that you need to disable R throwing a message, which contains a check mark that cannot be knitted.

Load the NTL-LTER_Lake_Nutrients_Raw dataset, display the head of the dataset, and set the date column to a date format.

Customize the chunk options such that the code is run but is not displayed in the final document.

Data Exploration, Wrangling, and Visualization

Create an R chunk below to create a processed dataset do the following operations:

- Include all columns except lakeid, depth_id, and comments
- Include only surface samples (depth = 0 m)
- Drop rows with missing data

```
Nutrients_revised_df <- Nutrients_df %>%  
  select(lakename:sampleddate, depth:po4) %>%  
  filter(depth == 0) %>%  
  drop_na(depth:po4)
```

Create a second R chunk to create a summary dataset with the mean, minimum, maximum, and standard deviation of total nitrogen concentrations for each lake. Create a second summary dataset that is identical except that it evaluates total phosphorus. Customize the chunk options such that the code is run but not displayed in the final document.

Create a third R chunk that uses the function **kable** in the **knitr** package to display two tables: one for the summary dataframe for total N and one for the summary dataframe of total P. Use the **caption = " "** code within that function to title your tables. Customize the chunk options such that the final table is displayed but not the code used to generate the table.

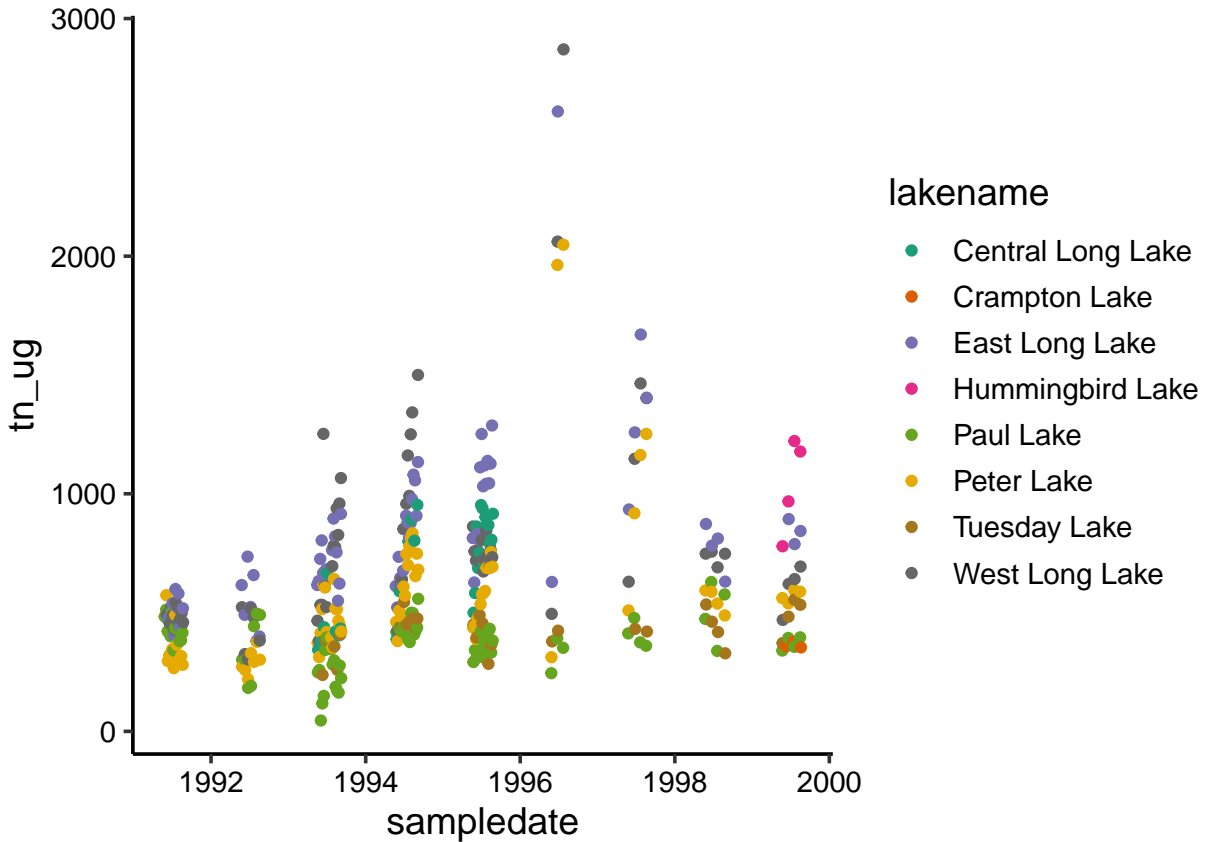
Table 2: Nitrogen Summaries

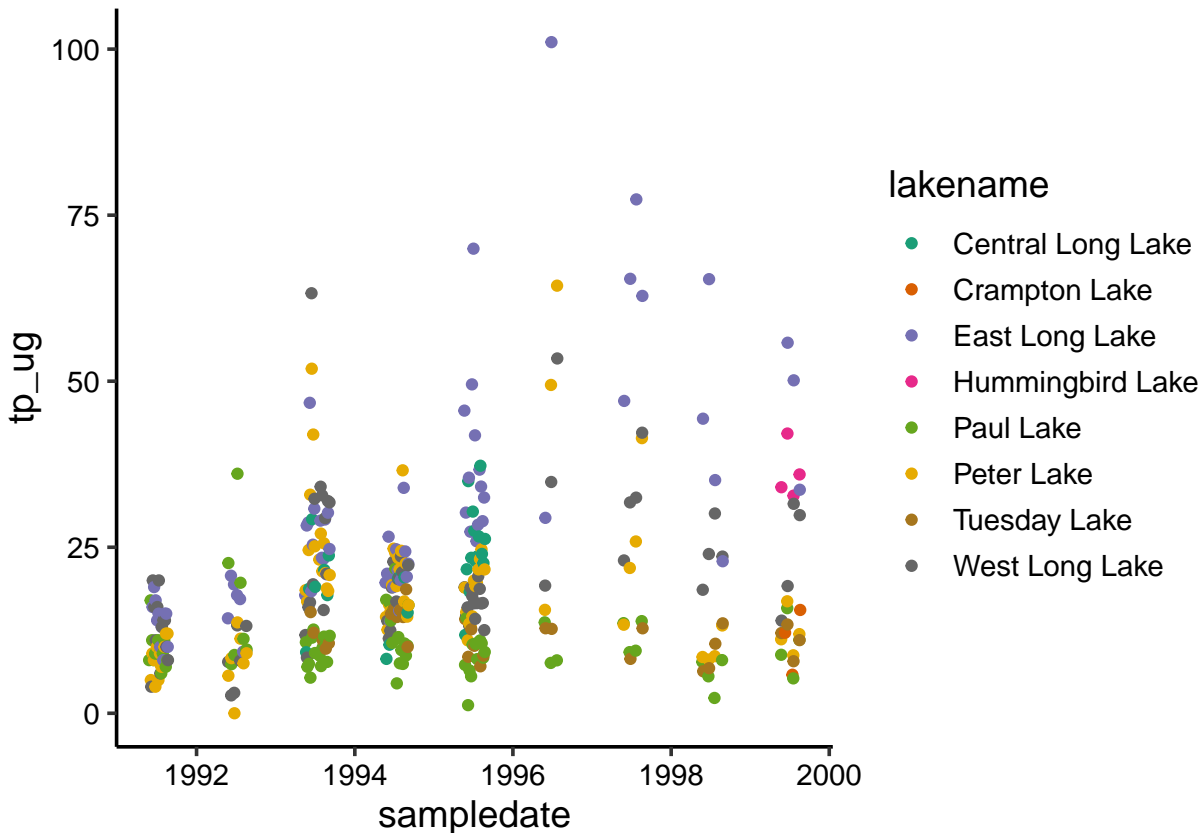
lakename	meanTN	minTN	maxTN
Central Long Lake	690.0469	343.020	953.063
Crampton Lake	362.6813	353.380	376.304
East Long Lake	810.7834	380.620	2608.956
Hummingbird Lake	1036.6695	779.053	1221.960
Paul Lake	368.7564	45.670	628.625
Peter Lake	561.8752	219.720	2048.151
Tuesday Lake	423.5605	237.363	554.418
West Long Lake	762.6017	303.170	2870.302

Table 3: Phosphorus Summaries

lakename	meanTN	minTN	maxTN
Central Long Lake	21.70981	8.190	37.270
Crampton Lake	11.16033	5.803	15.555
East Long Lake	29.28984	8.000	101.050
Hummingbird Lake	36.21925	32.765	42.119
Paul Lake	10.45606	1.222	36.070
Peter Lake	18.39153	0.000	64.383
Tuesday Lake	11.71853	6.325	18.663
West Long Lake	19.82981	2.690	63.243

Create a fourth and fifth R chunk that generates two plots (one in each chunk): one for total N over time with different colors for each lake, and one with the same setup but for total P. Decide which geom option will be appropriate for your purpose, and select a color palette that is visually pleasing and accessible. Customize the chunk options such that the final figures are displayed but not the code used to generate the figures. In addition, customize the chunk options such that the figures are aligned on the left side of the page. Lastly, add a fig.cap chunk option to add a caption (title) to your plot that will display underneath the figure.





Communicating results

Write a paragraph describing your findings from the R coding challenge above. This should be geared toward an educated audience but one that is not necessarily familiar with the dataset. Then insert a horizontal rule below the paragraph. Below the horizontal rule, write another paragraph describing the next steps you might take in analyzing this dataset. What questions might you be able to answer, and what analyses would you conduct to answer those questions?

There are some lakes in North Carolina that have more nutrient loads than the other. In particular, it looks like Hummingbird Lake, East Long Lake, and Central Long Lake all have higher nutrient loads than the others, both in terms of average total phosphorus and average total nitrogen levels. We can see this within the visualization. It shows that while lake nutrient loads have varied over time, there are some lakes that are consistently lower on nutrient loads and some that are consistently higher.

In analyzing this dataset, I might observe how each lake's nutrient loads have changed over time. I might also look at the correlation between nitrogen and phosphorus in these different lakes to see if they're connected. Further, I would see which lakes have statistically significant findings and eliminate those that do not from the analyses.

KNIT YOUR PDF

When you have completed the above steps, try knitting your PDF to see if all of the formatting options you specified turned out as planned. This may take some troubleshooting.

OTHER R MARKDOWN CUSTOMIZATION OPTIONS

We have covered the basics in class today, but R Markdown offers many customization options. A word of caution: customizing templates will often require more interaction with LaTeX and installations on your computer, so be ready to troubleshoot issues.

Customization options for pdf output include:

- Table of contents
- Number sections
- Control default size of figures
- Citations
- Template (more info [here](#))

```
pdf_document:  
toc: true  
number_sections: true  
fig_height: 3  
fig_width: 4  
citation_package: natbib  
template:
```