Data Scientist’s Toolbox: Week ,1 Lecture 3— Getting Help

R-Functions

* Access help file:
  + ?rnorm
  + Tells you where help file is for the function “rnorm”
* Search help files:
  + help.search(“rnorm”)
  + searches help files for possible desired information
* Get arguments
  + args(“rnorm”)
  + searches arguments for the function
  + look up what ‘function arguments’ are
* See code
  + rnorm
  + will pull up code for a given function
* R reference card
  + Link to a lot of helpful R functions

How to Ask an R Question:

* What steps will reproduce the problem?
* What is the expected output?
* What do you see instead?
* What version of the product (i.e. R packages, etc.) are you using?
* What operating system?

How to Ask a Data Analysis Question:

* What is the question you are trying to answer?
* What steps/tools did you use to answer it?
* What did you expect to see?
* What do you see instead?
* What other solutions have you thought about?

Etiquette for Help Sites and Forums:

* Describe the goal
* Be explicit
* Provide the minimum information
* Be courteous
* Follow up and post solutions
* Use the forums rather than email

\*\*Stack overflow

\*\*Function arguments