

Advanced R

Unit 2

Sereina Herzog

Institute for Medical Informatics, Statistics and Documentation
Medical University of Graz

06.03.2025

Course Content - Advanced R (Unit 2)

- ▶ Splitting Rmd files
 - `knit_child()`

Splitting Rmd files

Why split Rmd files?

- ▶ If R markdown document is too long
 - split it into shorter documents, and include them as child documents

Why split Rmd files?

- ▶ If R markdown document is too long
 - split it into shorter documents, and include them as child documents
- ▶ If you want to use the same R markdown document again
 - include this R markdown document as a child document

What is `knit_child()`?

It is a function which knits a child document and returns a character string to input the result into the main document.

How to use `knit_child()`?

- ▶ It is designed to be used in the chunk option *child*
 - link (<https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown-cookbook/child-document.html>)

How to use `knit_child()`?

- ▶ It is designed to be used in the chunk option *child*
 - link (<https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown-cookbook/child-document.html>)
- ▶ It can be used in combination with chunk option *results* and function *cat()*

knit_child() with cat()

- ▶ within header of chunk: $\{r, results = 'asis'\}$

```
cat(knit_child("0_subRmds/subRmd_example.Rmd"), sep = '\n')
```

knit_child() with cat()

- ▶ within header of chunk: $\{r, results = 'asis'\}$

```
cat(knit_child("0_subRmds/subRmd_example.Rmd"), sep = '\n')
```

- ▶ Suggestions
 - in folder Rmarkdown have folder '0_subRmds'
 - start filenames of these subroutine Rmds with *subRmd_XXX_vYYYYMMDD.Rmd*

knit_child() with cat()

- ▶ within header of chunk: $\{r, results = 'asis'\}$

```
cat(knit_child("0_subRmds/subRmd_example.Rmd"), sep = '\n')
```

- ▶ Suggestions
 - in folder Rmarkdown have folder '0_subRmds'
 - start filenames of these subroutine Rmds with *subRmd_XXX_vYYYYMMDD.Rmd*
- ▶ Important
 - if you reuse a 'subRmd' several times → use no chunk name

Example - *UNIT2_ex0_exampleA.Rmd*

```
dt_analysis <- iris  
var_int <- "Sepal.Length"
```

```
cat(knit_child("0_subRmds/subRmd_exampleA.Rmd"), sep = '\n')
```

- ▶ within header of chunk with 'knit_child': $\{r, results = 'asis'\}$

Example - *subRmd_exampleA.Rmd*

```
ggplot(data = dt_analysis,  
       aes(x = get(var_int))) +  
  geom_histogram(fill = "grey80", color = "black") +  
  theme_bw()
```

- ▶ important - subRmd has no header
 - open new Rmd file
 - ▶ File/new File/R Markdown ...
 - ▶ delete the suggested content

Example - *UNIT2_ex0_exampleB.Rmd*

```
for(i in 1:length(parameters)){  
  var_int <- parameters[i]  
  cat(knit_child("0_subRmds/subRmd_exampleB.Rmd"), sep = '\n')  
}
```

Example - *subRmd_exampleB.Rmd*

```
## Parameter `r i`: `r var_int`  
  
```{r}  
l <- sum(!is.na(dt %>% pull(var_int)))
```  
  
* has class: `r class(dt %>% pull(var_int))`  
* has `r l` valid observations  
  
```{r}  
rm(l)
```
```

Let's run exampleA and exampleB

- ▶ We work through
 - example A
 - example B

Exercise subRmd

- ▶ Work through 'Unit 2 - Exercise 1'

Links

Links (I)

- ▶ Introduction to R
 - R for Data Science (<https://r4ds.hadley.nz/>)
- ▶ Plots using ggplot
 - Overview with further links to course material: <https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org/>
- ▶ Display tables using flextable
 - flextable bool <https://ardata-fr.github.io/flextable-book/>
 - Function references <https://davidgohel.github.io/flextable/reference/index.html>
- ▶ `knit_child()`
 - link (<https://bookdown.org/yihui/rmarkdown-cookbook/child-document.html>)

Links (II)

- ▶ Download R
 - CRAN (<https://cran.r-project.org/>)
- ▶ Download RStudio
 - RStudio Desktop (<https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/>)