

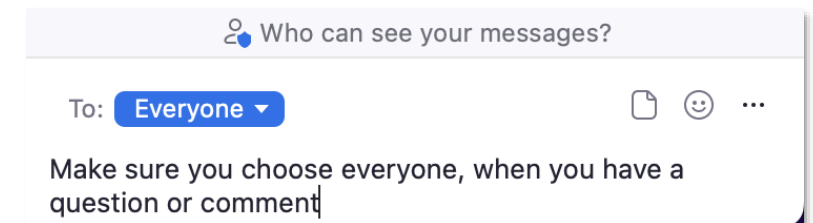
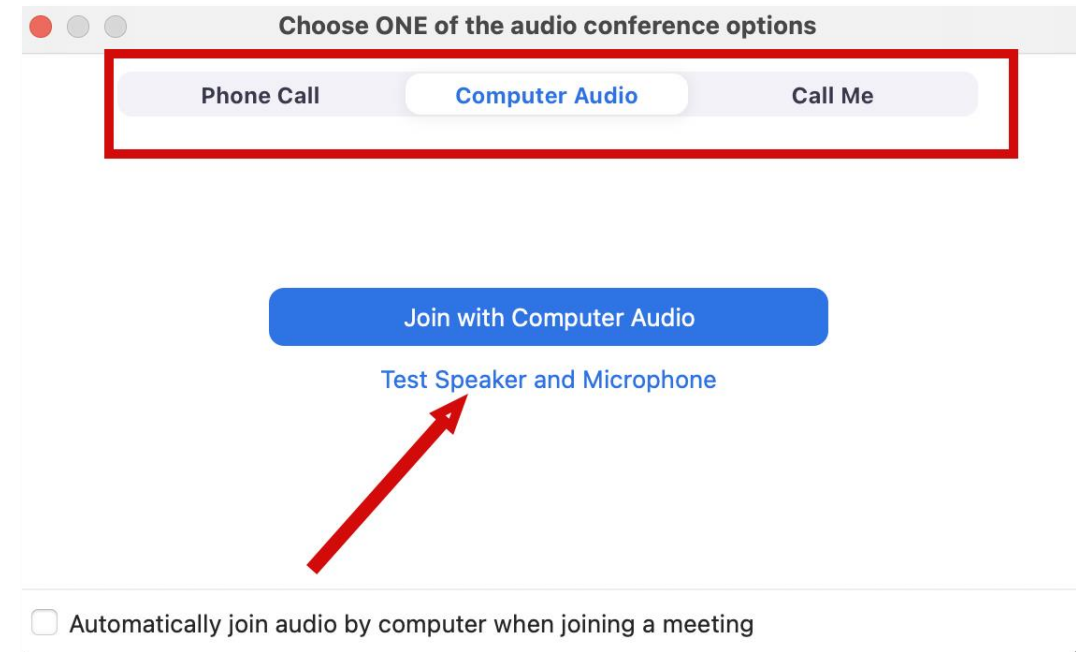
You will not hear any sound until the webinar starts.

Connect Audio

1. When you join Zoom, the **Join Audio** preferences box pops-up (Phone Call, Computer Audio, or Call Me)
2. Choose an option that works best for you
3. Join using that option
4. Use Test Speakers and Microphone option to optimize your webinar experience

Chat

Please send your chat to **Everyone** to make sure the monitor sees your question



Introduction to R and RStudio

Joelle Mornini, MLS
January 9, 2024

- Other upcoming R classes on the [NIH Library Training Calendar](#):
 - [Project Management in RStudio](#) – Jan 16, 2024 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Git in RStudio](#) - Jan 23, 2024 (1:00 pm - 2:00 pm)
 - [Version Control and GitHub](#) - Jan 30, 2024 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Data Visualization in ggplot](#) - Feb 06, 2024 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Data Visualization in ggplot: Customizations](#) - Feb 13, 2024 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)
 - [Data Visualization in ggplot: Visualizing Relationships and Linear Regression](#) - Feb 29, 2024 (1:00 pm - 2:30 pm)

- **After completing this training, you will be able to:**
 - Describe the purpose of R and RStudio
 - Organize files and directories for a set of analyses as an R Project
 - Define key terms as they relate to R: object, assign, comment, call, function, and arguments
 - Find help and learning resources related to R and RStudio

Elements of this training are from the [Introduction to R episode](#) of the [Data Analysis and Visualization in R for Ecologists](#) lesson from Data Carpentry. (Copyright (c) [Data Carpentry](#))

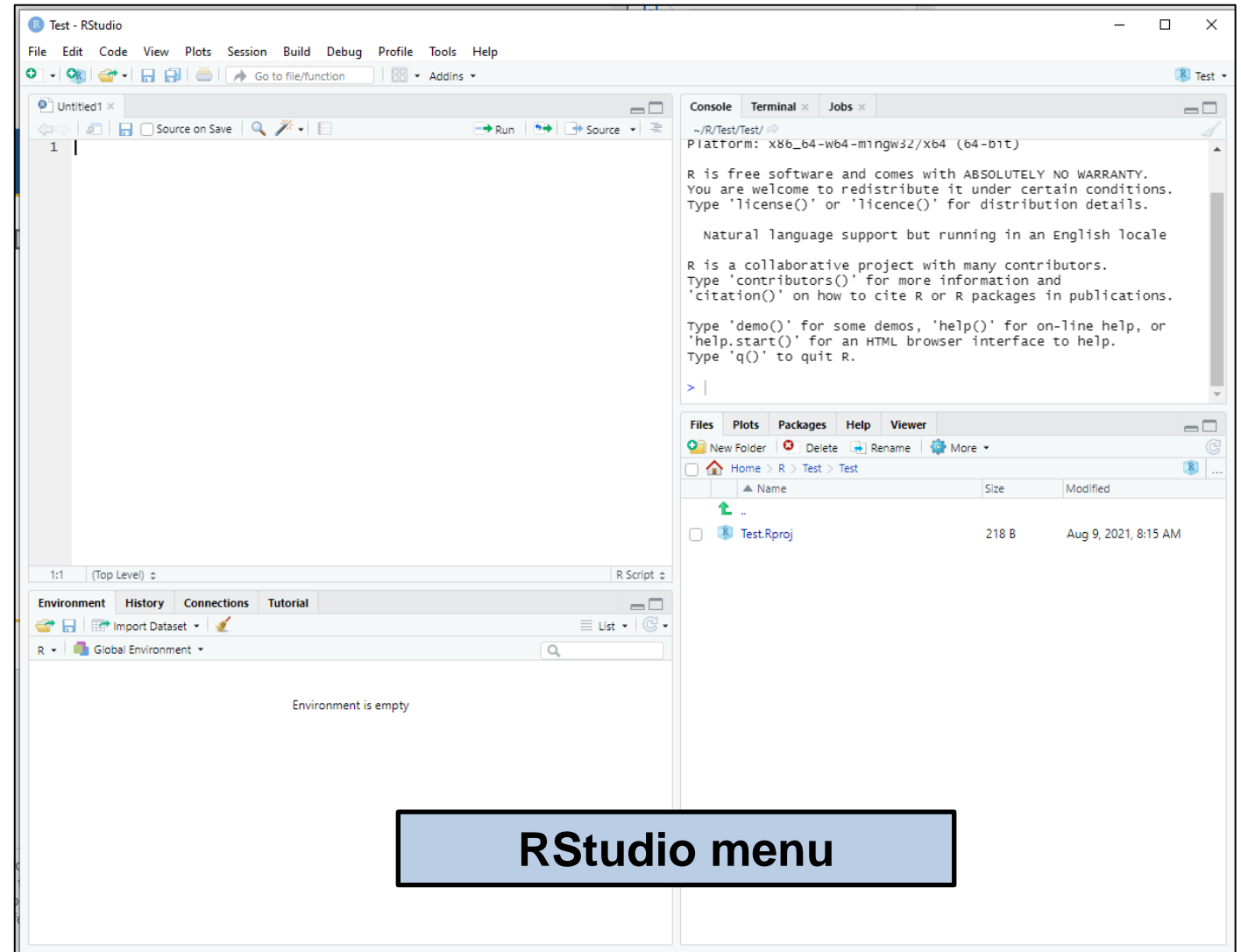
What is R and RStudio?

- **R**: Both the **programming language** and the **software** that interprets the scripts
- A language and environment for statistical computing and graphics
 - Similar to S language
 - Source: [What is R?](#) from the R Foundation



What is RStudio?

- **RStudio:** An Integrated Development Environment (IDE) for working with R and Python, distributed by Posit
- RStudio needs R to function correctly, so both R and RStudio should be installed together

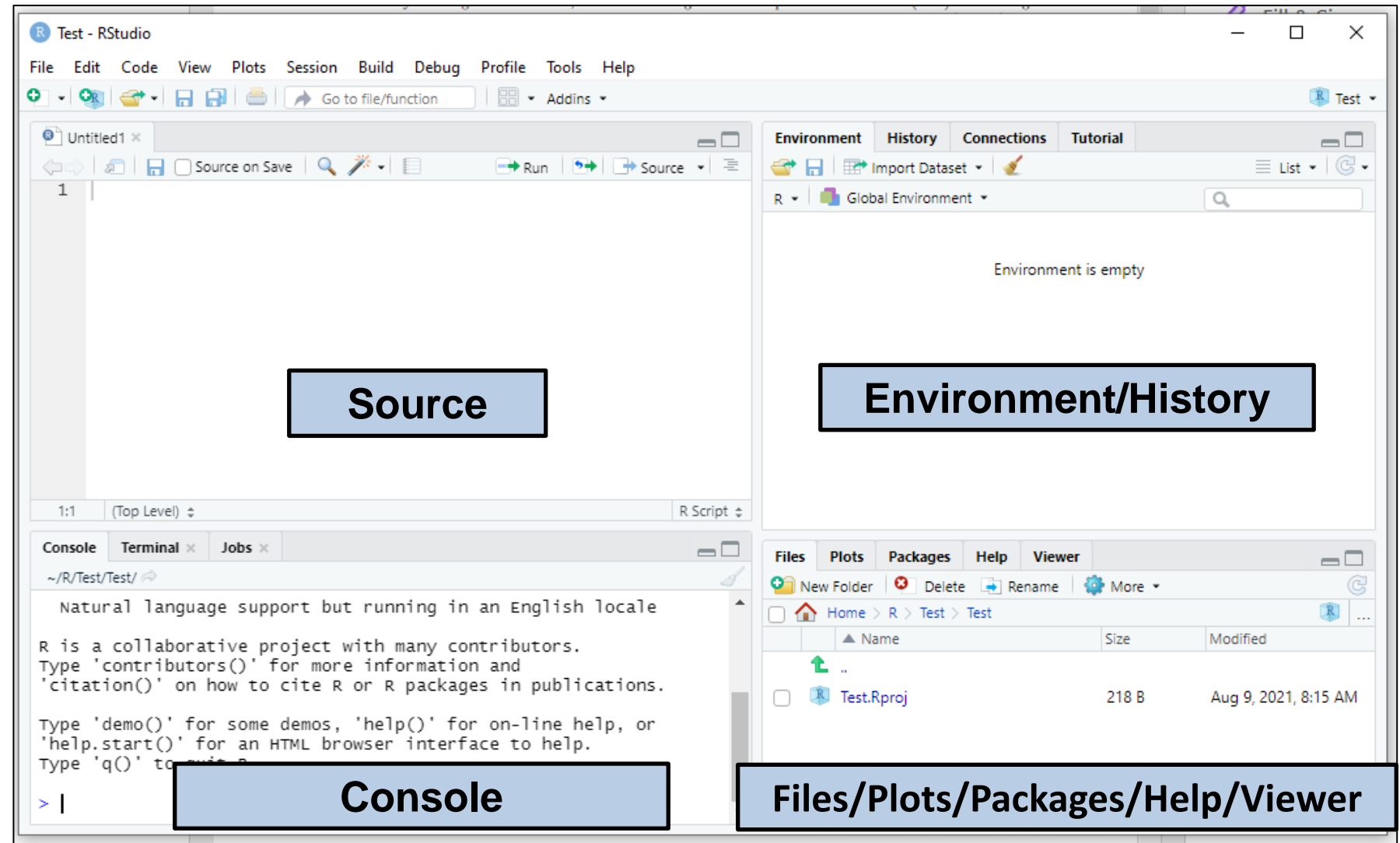


- R doesn't involve lots of pointing and clicking
- R code is great for reproducibility
- R is interdisciplinary and extensible
- R works on data of all shapes and sizes
- R produces high-quality graphics
- R is free, open-source and cross-platform

RStudio Overview

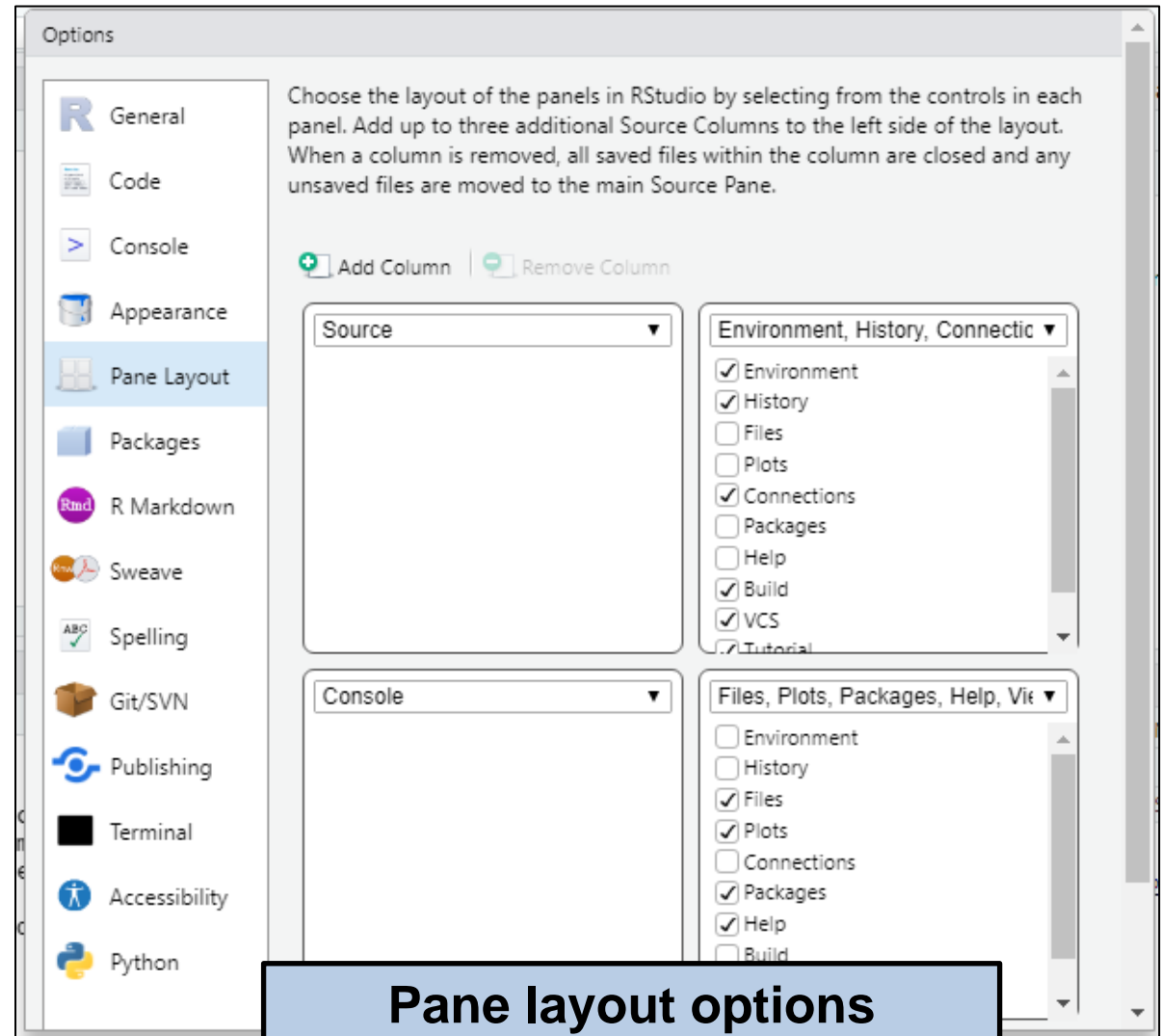
4 Panes of RStudio

- Reference document (PDF):
[RStudio IDE Cheat sheet](#)



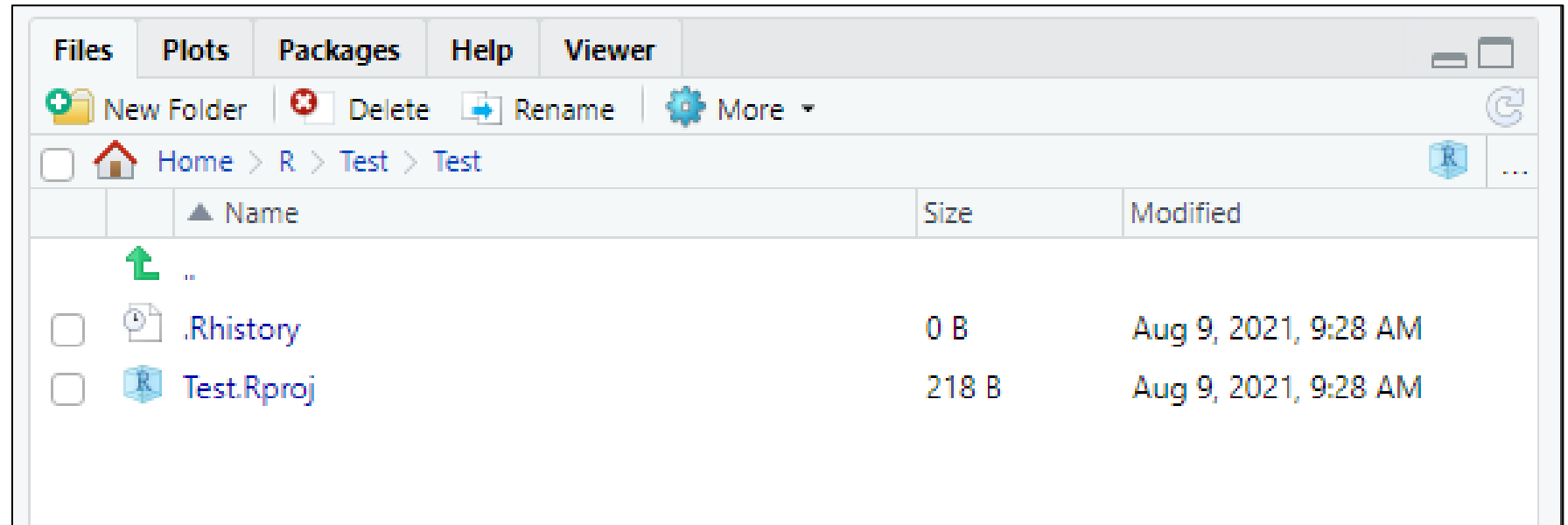
4 Panes of RStudio: Customizing Pane Layout

- The placement of these panes and their content can be customized
 - See menu Tools -> Global Options -> Pane Layout



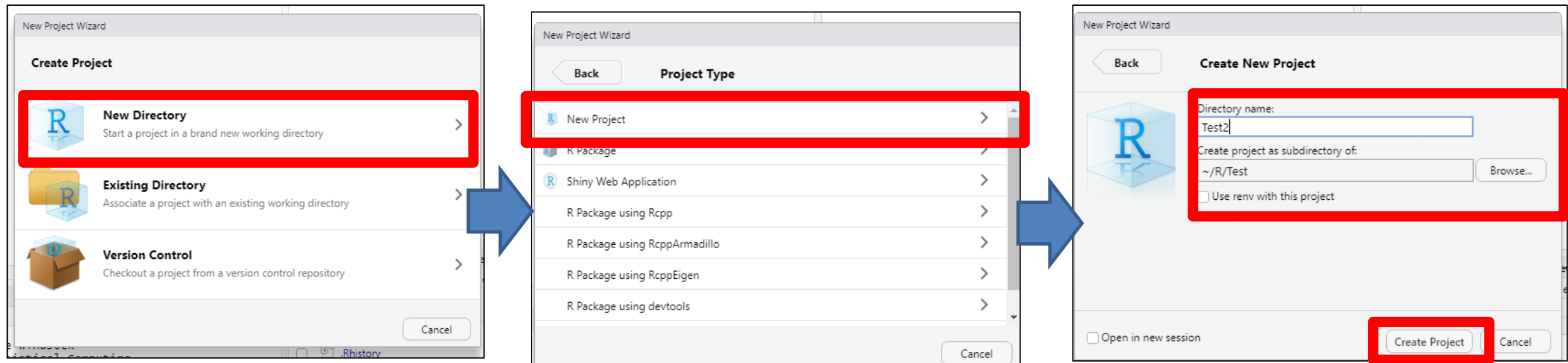
- **Working Directory:** A set of related data, analyses, and text self-contained in a single folder
- Use **Projects** feature in RStudio to create a working directory

**Working
directory created
for a Project in
RStudio**

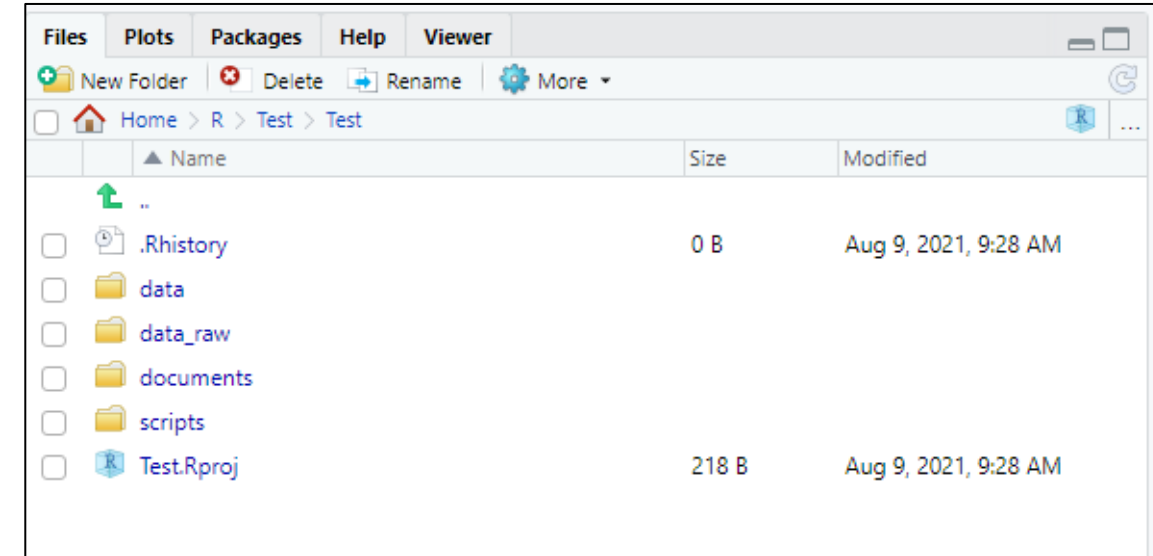


RStudio: Create a New Project

- Steps for creating a new R Project:
 - Open RStudio
 - Choose File -> New Project
 - Choose New Directory, then New Project
 - Choose name and location for new directory
 - Choose Create Project



- **Best practice:** Create folders for scripts, data, and document. For example –
 - **data_raw/** and **data/** – Folders to store raw data and intermediate datasets
 - **documents/** – Keep outlines, drafts, and other text
 - **scripts/** – Keep your R scripts for different analyses or plotting
 - Additional (sub)directories based on project needs

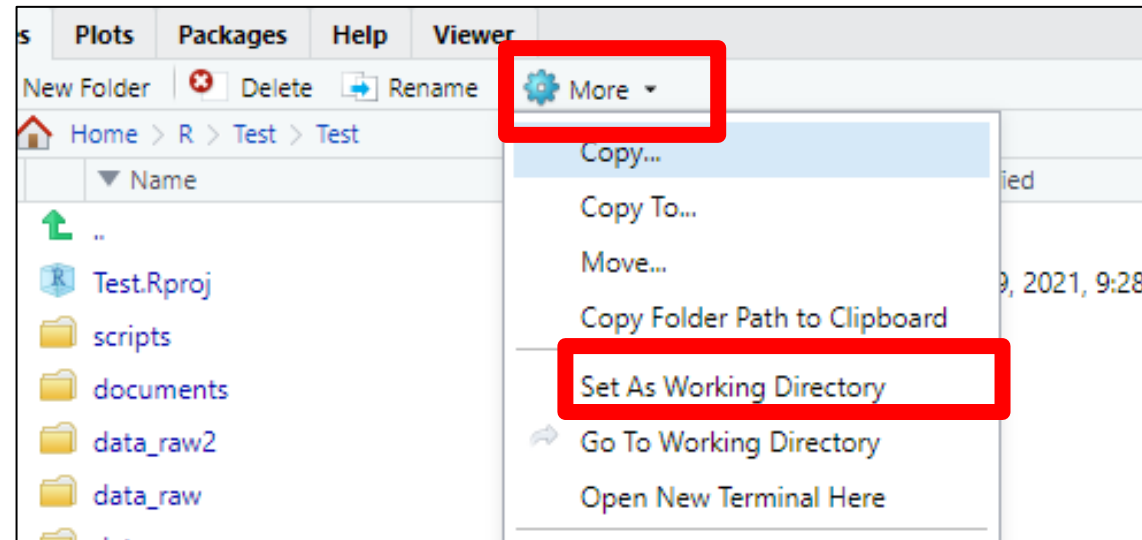


Folders organized under the working directory created for a Project in RStudio

RStudio: Check Working Directory

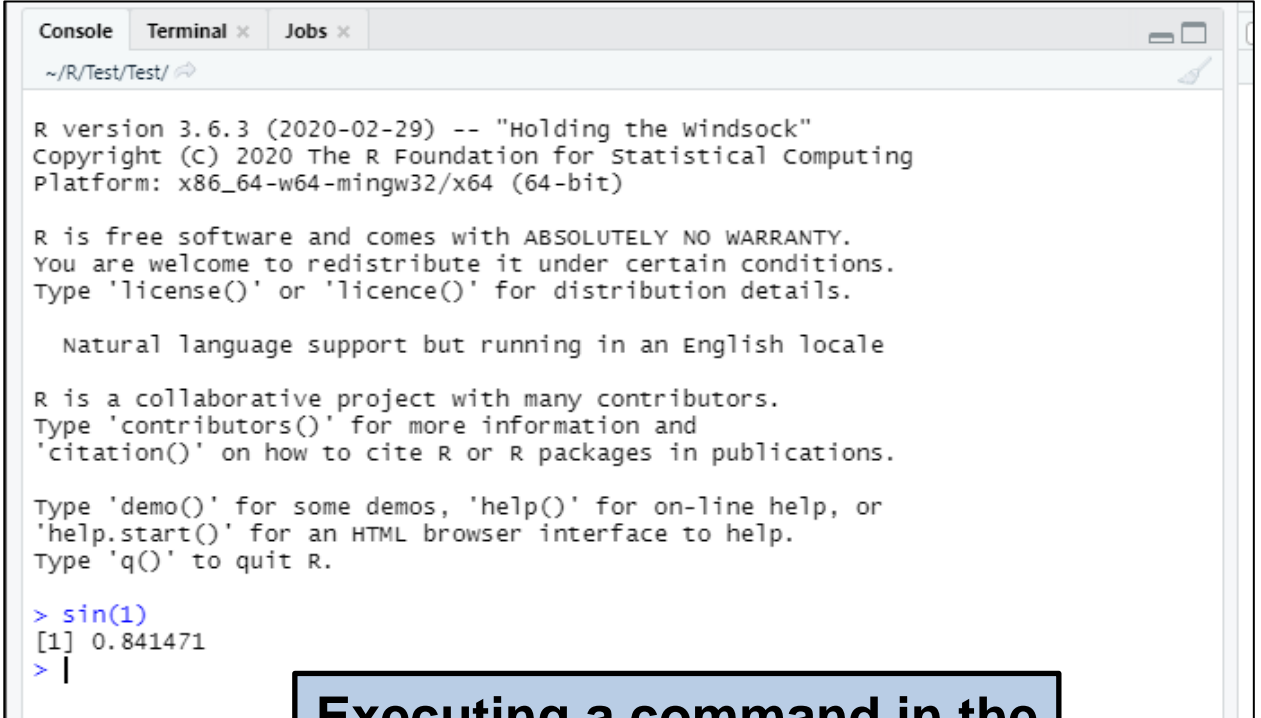
- To check if your working directory is set properly, use **getwd()**
- If working directory is not correct:
 - Change in RStudio interface in File browser using **More-> Set As Working Directory**
 - Alternatively, you can use **setwd("/path/to/working/directory")** to reset your working directory

Setting the working directory in RStudio



Interacting with R

- **Console Pane:** Where commands written in the R language can be typed and executed immediately
 - Type commands directly into the console and press Enter to execute those commands
 - Commands will be forgotten when you close the session



```
Console Terminal x Jobs x
~/R/Test/Test/

R version 3.6.3 (2020-02-29) -- "Holding the windsock"
Copyright (C) 2020 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

Natural language support but running in an English locale

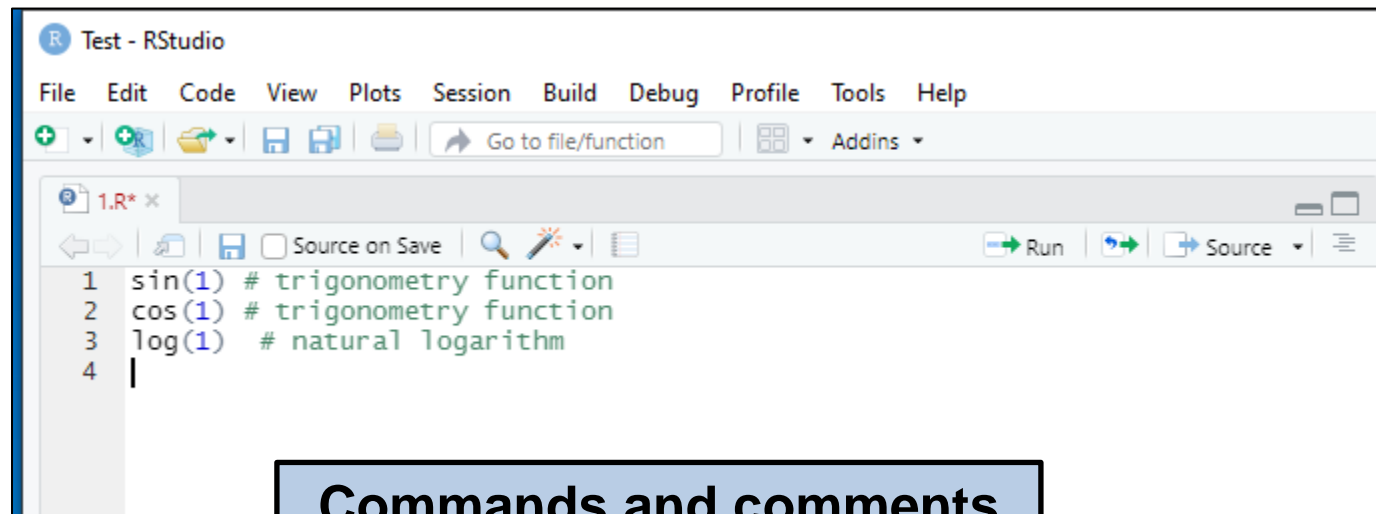
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

> sin(1)
[1] 0.841471
> |
```

Executing a command in the R console

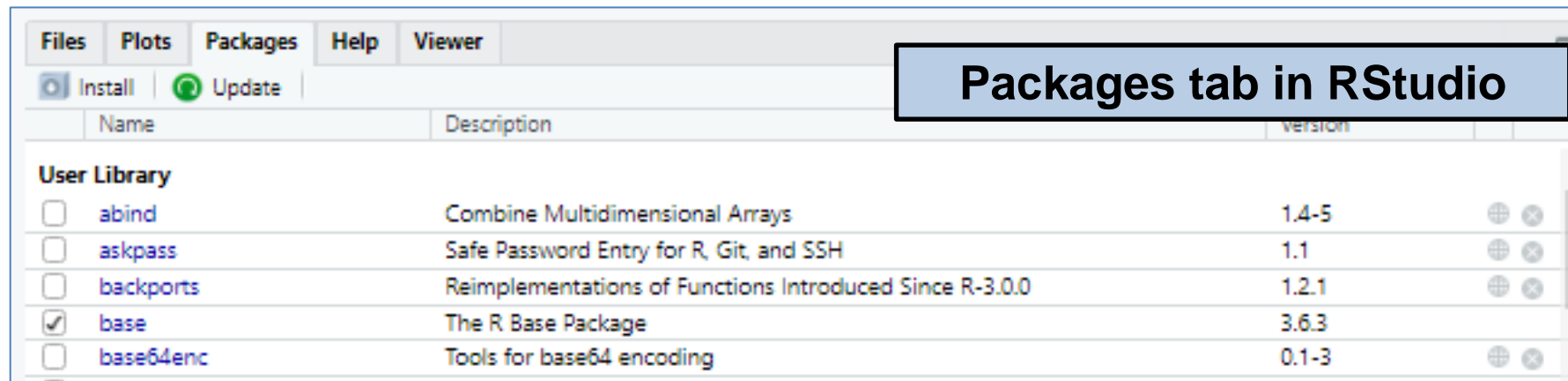
- **Script Editor:** Type commands in script editor to run and save the script
 - Makes workflow easy to replicate later



**Commands and comments
in script editor**

■ Use packages to add functions to R

- Over 10,000 packages available on [the Comprehensive R Archive Network \(CRAN\)](https://cran.r-project.org/)
- Choose **Packages tab** in RStudio to view installed packages, install new packages, update packages, and make a package available for use
- Choose the checkmark beside an installed package or enter **library(packagename)** in the console to make a package available for use



Key R Terms

Creating Objects in R and Assigning Value

- R uses **object-oriented programming**
- What are known as **objects** in R are known as **variables** in many other programming languages
- Assign **values** to objects
- To create object, give it a name followed by **assignment operator** **<-**, and then the value
 - Example: `weight_kg <- 55`

```
> weight_kg <- 55  
> |
```

Assigning value 55 to the
object weight_kg

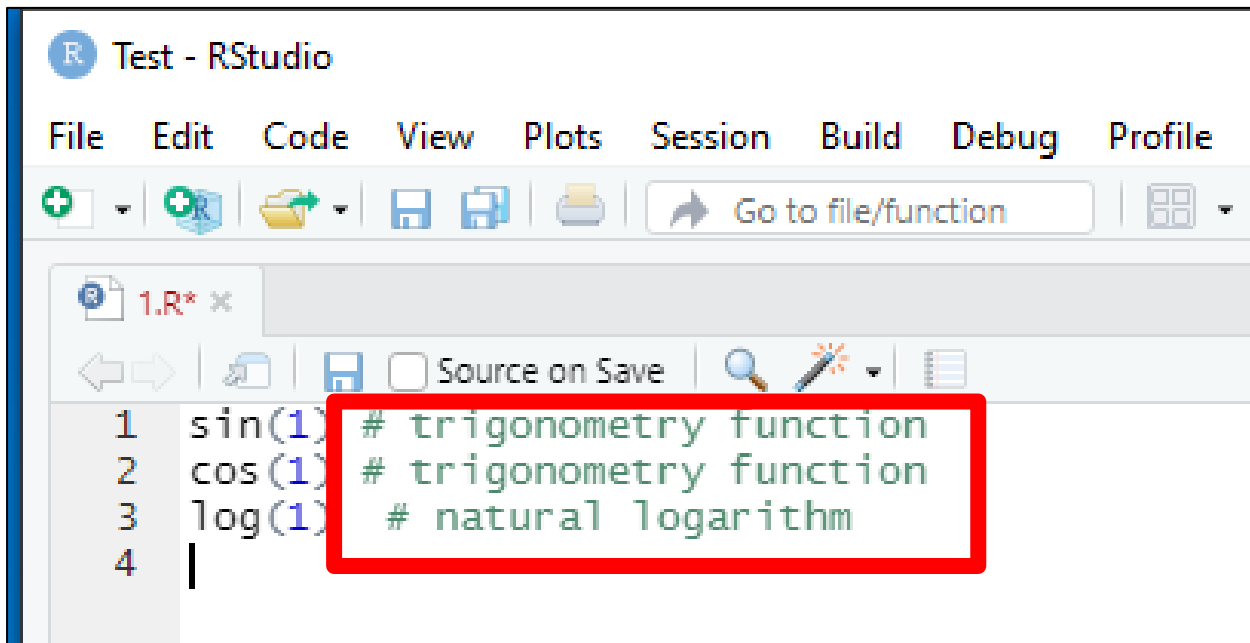
- Best practices for naming objects in R:
 - Precise and short
 - Cannot start with number (e.g., 2x is not valid but x2 is)
 - R is case sensitive (e.g., weight_kg is different from Weight_kg)
 - Cannot use names from [fundamental functions in R](#)
 - Even if allowed, best not to use other function names (e.g., c, T, mean, data, df, weights)
 - Best to avoid dots (.) within an object name
 - Recommended to use nouns for object names and verbs for function names

- R will display value of an object if you enter object name as command
 - Alternatively, enter assignment command and put in parentheses to display value as output
- Objects can be assigned new values
- Assigning a value to one object does not change the values of other objects

```
> weight_kg<-55  
> (weight_kg<-55)  
[1] 55  
> weight_kg  
[1] 55  
> weight_kg<-57.5  
> 2.2*weight_kg  
[1] 126.5  
> weight_lb<-2.2*weight_kg  
> weight_kg<-100
```

What do you think is the current content of the object weight_lb? 126.5 or 220?

- The **comment character** in R is **#**
- Anything to the right of # in a script will be ignored by R
- Useful for leaving notes and explanations in your script



The screenshot shows the RStudio interface with a menu bar (File, Edit, Code, View, Plots, Session, Build, Debug, Profile) and a toolbar. A script editor window titled '1.R*' contains the following code:

```
1 sin(1) # trigonometry function
2 cos(1) # trigonometry function
3 log(1) # natural logarithm
4
```

A red rectangular box highlights the comment lines (lines 1, 2, and 3), illustrating that text following the '#' character is treated as a comment and ignored by R.

Functions and their Arguments (1)

- **Functions:** “canned scripts” that automate more complicated sets of commands
- Many are predefined or made available by importing R packages
- Functions usually make one or more inputs called **arguments**
- Functions often return a **value**
- Executing a function known as **calling the function**

```
> a=4  
> b<-sqrt(a)  
> b  
[1] 2  
> |
```

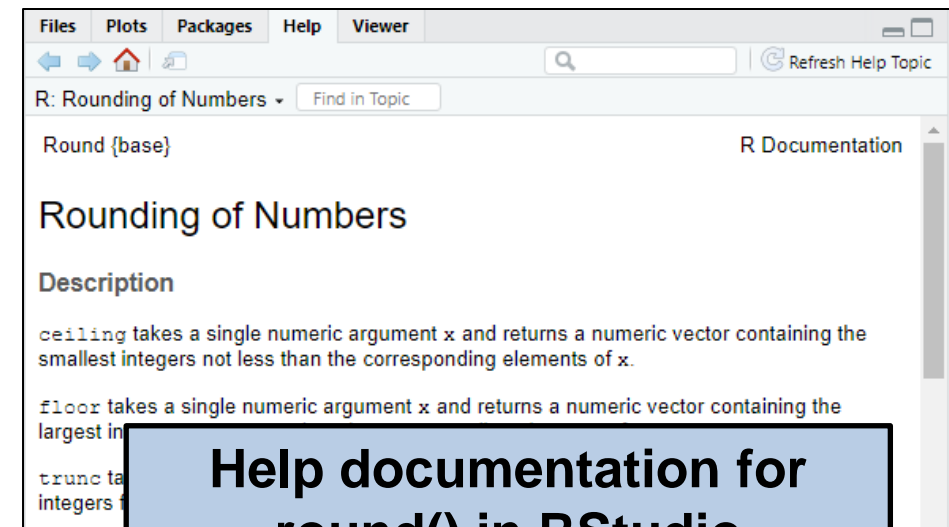
sqrt() function: argument is 4, output value is 2

Functions and their Arguments (2)

- Arguments can be anything: numbers, filenames, other objects, etc.
- Exactly what each argument means differs per function
 - Look up in documentation – Use command **?functionname**
- Some functions take arguments which may either be specified by the user or take on a default value, called **options**

```
> round(3.14159)
[1] 3
>
> ?round
> round(3.14159, digits = 2)
[1] 3.14
>
> |
```

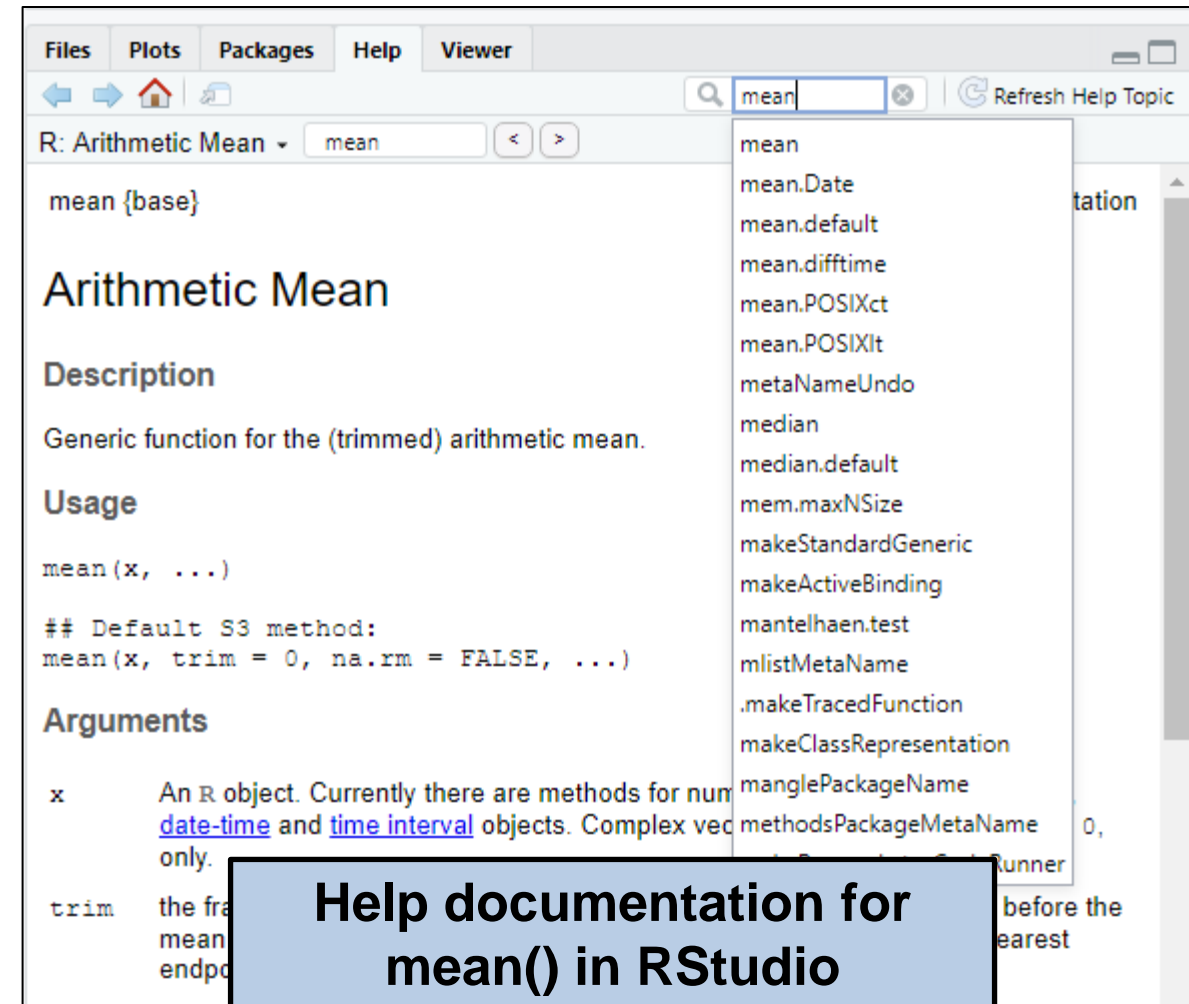
Looking up help documentation for round() function, and using option to define number of digits



Help documentation for round() in RStudio

Getting Help

- **Help menu in RStudio:**
Lower right pane (under Help tab)
- Search for help topics
- Alternatively, use command **?functionname** to find help information on a specific function
 - Use **??** To search available help pages



Finding Help Information Online

- Try search of [RDocumentation](#): Searches all R packages on CRAN and Bioconductor
- Browse [CRAN package repository](#): Find reference manuals and vignettes
- **Google search**:
 - Try “R [task]”
 - Try searching the error message and function or package name
- Check **Stack Overflow** and [search using the \[r\] tag](#)
- Search [Posit Community forums](#)

RDocumentation

Search all packages and functions

Page 1 of results for 'markdown':

Packages

markdown version: 1.7

Render **Markdown** to full and lightweight HTML/LaTeX documents with the 'commonmark' package. It also supports features that are missing in 'commonmark', such as raw HTML/LaTeX blocks, LaTeX math, superscripts, subscripts, footnotes, element attributes,...

Functions

markdown package: markdown

Markdown is a plain-text formatting syntax that can be converted to XHTML or other formats. This package provides wrapper functions (mainly mark()) based on the commonmark package.

Search for ggplot2 package on RDocumentation

Getting Help from the R User Community (1)

- Best practices to request help from R user community (on Stack Overflow, Posit Community forums, etc.):
 - Use the correct words to describe your problem, and be precise
 - Provide raw file and script up to the point of the error, when possible
 - Save R object to file, i.e.:
`saveRDS(weight_kg,
file=~ /R/Test/Test/weight_kg.rds")`
 - Always include the output of **sessionInfo()**

```
> sessionInfo()
R version 3.6.3 (2020-02-29)
Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
Running under: windows 10 x64 (build 18363)

Matrix products: default

locale:
 [1] LC_COLLATE=English_United States.1252
 [2] LC_CTYPE=English_United States.1252
 [3] LC_MONETARY=English_United States.1252
 [4] LC_NUMERIC=C
 [5] LC_TIME=English_United States.1252

attached base packages:
[1] stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods   base

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
[1] compiler_3.6.3 tools_3.6.3  yaml_2.2.1
> |
```

Output from sessionInfo()

- More resources
 - [Posting Guide: How to ask good questions that prompt useful answers](#) (The R Foundation)
 - [How to Ask for R Help](#) (Revolutions blog)
 - [A blog post by Jon Skeet](#): Advice on how to ask programming questions
 - The [reprex package](#): Create reproducible examples when asking for help
 - See presentation from [rOpenSci Blog](#)

- [An Introduction to R](#) (and other manuals, FAQ, and R Journal available through cran.r-project.org)
- [Finding Your Way to R](#) (RStudio Education from Posit, as well as other learning resources [for Beginners](#))
- [R for Reproducible Scientific Analysis](#) (from [Software Carpentry](#))
- List of online books for learning R in [NIH Library catalog](#)
- Communities to join for learning R and data science at NIH:
 - [NIH Data Science Microsoft Team](#)
 - [NIH-DATASCIENCE-L](#)

- R is a language for statistical computing and graphics, with RStudio Integrated Development Environment from Posit
- R is great for reproducibility
- R is extensible through over 10,000+ packages
- In RStudio, type commands in the script editor to run and save the script
- Find help resources built into RStudio, through sites like RDocumentation, or ask for help through various online forums

Have a Question?

- Joelle Mornini, biomedical librarian
- Office: 301-451-9333
- Email: joelle.mornini@nih.gov

Questions & Comments



National Institutes of Health
Office of Management