NC STATE UNIVERSITY

Intermediate Programming in R Part II

Justin Post August 16-17, 2018

What do we want to be able to do?

- · Communicate findings effectively
- · Document findings
- · Make process reproducible
- · Share process

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Where do we start?

- · Review of Key Concepts
- · R Markdown Basics
 - Code Chunks
 - Images/Equations/Misc.
- · R Markdown Options
 - Documents: PDF, HTML
 - Presentations: Slides
 - Interactive Components
- · R Shiny Applications/Presentations

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What is R Shiny?

- R Shiny Package (http://shiny.rstudio.com/) allows for creation of interactive "web" applications in R
- · Developed by RStudio
- · Basically a folder with 2 R scripts:
 - ui.R (User Interface)
 - server.R (R functions that run/respond to UI)
- · Requires no HTML, CSS, or JavaScript!

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Example App



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Why use R Shiny?

- · If you know R, not too bad to learn
- · Can be great way to
 - Share data analysis results
 - Allow user to explore data
 - Explain statistical concepts/teach

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Ex: Multiple Linear Regression Idea

Explanatory Variable (x)			
	•		
Response Variable (y)			
	•		
☐ Fit Degression Equation?			
☐ Fit Regression Equation?			
		Fitted Regression Eq	uation

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How to Develop R Shiny Apps

- Explore online repositories/resources for existing apps!
- · Create a basic app
- · Customize apps
- \cdot Learn solutions to common issues when creating apps
- · Deploy the app

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Available Apps

- Many available resources!!
- Apps I've created (http://www4.stat.ncsu.edu/~post/ShinyWorkshop/apps.html)
- · Plenty of good examples
 - Shiny Showcase (https://www.rstudio.com/products/shiny/shiny-user-showcase/)
 - Shiny Gallery (https://shiny.rstudio.com/gallery/)
 - Stat Concepts (https://github.com/gastonstat/shiny-introstats/)
 - More Stat Concepts (https://www.researchgate.net/publication /298786680_Web_Application_Teaching_Tools_for_Statistics_Using_R_and_Shiny
 - Cal Poly (http://www.statistics.calpoly.edu/shiny)
- · Take a few minutes to explore some apps!

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Getting Started - Basic Needs

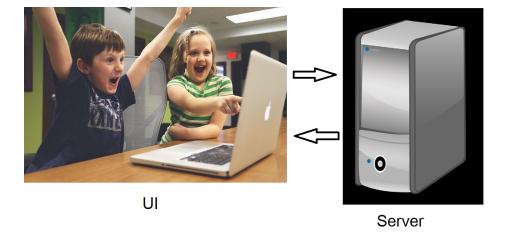
- · R, R studio
- shiny package
- · Recommended other packages
 - shinydashboard (create dashboards)
 - DT (Nice Tables)

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- · Each app has two things
 - User Interface (UI)
 - Server

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App Duties



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- · Each app has two things
 - User Interface (UI)
 - Server
- · UI determines **layout** of app
 - Sets up widgets (items users can interact with)

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- · Each app has two things
 - User Interface (UI)
 - Server
- · UI determines layout of app
 - Sets up widgets (items users can interact with)
- · Server contains R code to run for the app
 - Can include plots, model fitting, any R code really...

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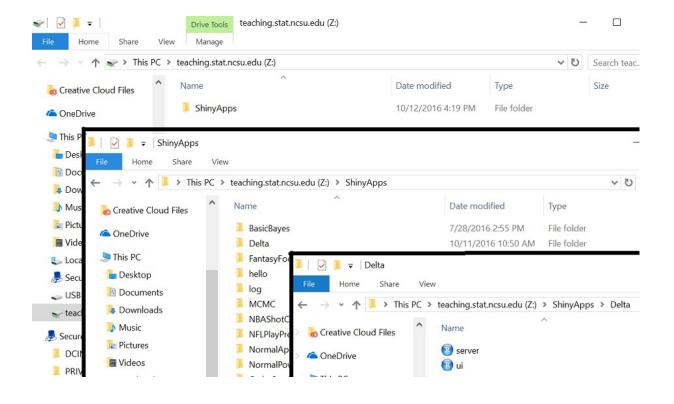
- · Each app has two things
 - User Interface (UI)
 - Server
- · UI determines layout of app
 - Sets up widgets (items users can interact with)
- · Server contains R code to run for the app
 - Can include plots, model fitting, etc.
- Can do with single file (app.R) but we'll use a separate file (ui.R and server.R)

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Two File Approach (Recommended)

- · Create folder for each App
- Each App's folder should have ui.R and ${\tt server.R}$ files
- If single file, app.R

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ui.R Basic Layout

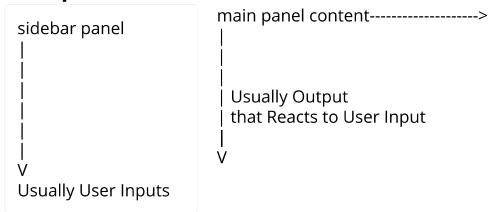
```
library(shiny)

ui <- fluidPage(
    titlePanel(),

sidebarLayout(
    sidebarPanel(#usually widgets
    ),
    mainPanel(#usually output
    )
)</pre>
```

UI Common Layout

title panel



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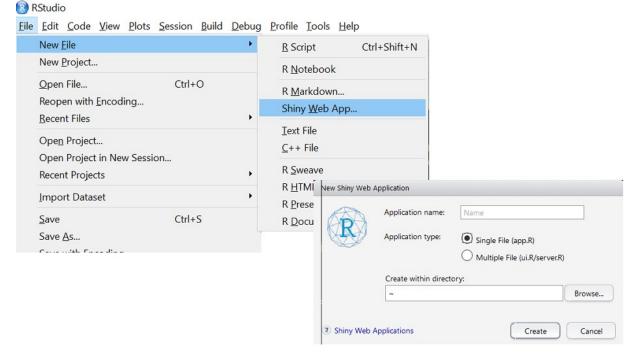
server.R Basic File

```
library(shiny)
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {
})
```

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Shiny Templates

Readily available in R studio



Two File Template

```
library(shiny)
ui <- fluidPage(
   # Application title
   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
   sidebarLayout(
      sidebarPanel(
         sliderInput("bins",
                     "Number of bins:",
                     min = 1,
                     max = 50,
                     value = 30)
      ),
      # Show a plot of the generated distribution
      mainPanel(
        plotOutput("distPlot")
      )
   )
```

Two File Template

```
# Define server logic required to draw a histogram
server <- function(input, output) {
  output$distPlot <- renderPlot({
    # generate bins based on input$bins from ui.R
    x <- faithful[, 2]
    bins <- seq(min(x), max(x), length.out = input$bins + 1)

# draw the histogram with the specified number of bins
    hist(x, breaks = bins, col = 'darkgray', border = 'white')
})
}</pre>
```

Running an App

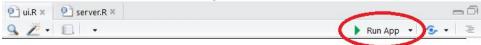
- While ui.R or server.R is your active window, click the Run App button



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Running an App

• While ui.R or server.R is your active window, click the Run App button

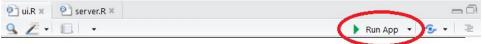


- Set working directory to ShinyApps folder
- Load shiny package
- Use runApp() function
 - ex: runApp("normalPower")

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Running an App

 \cdot While ui.R or server.R is your active window, click the Run App button



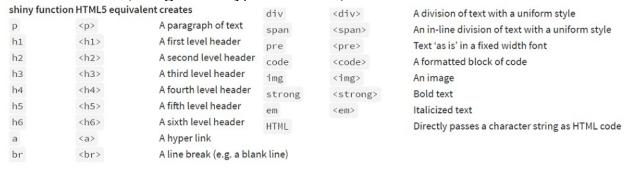
- Set working directory to ShinyApps folder
- Load shiny package
- Use runApp() function
 - ex: runApp("normalPower")
- · Running App will tie up R console!
- End by hitting Esc or closing shiny app
- · Take a minute and run the template app

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Adding to the UI

Using a comma to separate items, you can add

- · Any plain strings
- · Widgets
- Formatted text (using HTML type functions)



Output from things created in the server.R file

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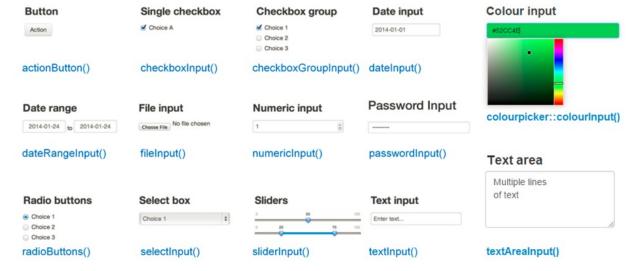
Adding to the UI - Widgets

- \cdot Widgets can be added using their *Input functions
- \cdot Separate widgets (and other items) by commas in ui.R file

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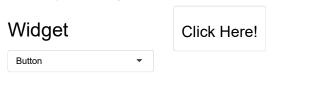
Adding to the UI - Widgets

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Shiny Widgets for the UI



Help Information for Widget

Code Used for Widget Above

What does Shiny return for use?

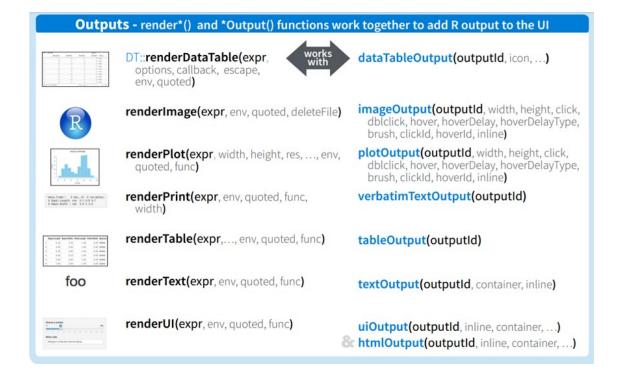
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Sharing Between Server and UI

- \cdot Widgets are used to take input from the user
- \cdot Use their values in ${\tt server.R}$ (has your analysis or vis code!)
- Functions in server.R will create output to go in the ui.R

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Sharing Between Server and UI



Adding to the UI - Example Syntax



Summary So Far

ui.r

- · Controls layout of app
- · Basic layout uses a sidebar panel and a main panel
- Use strings, formatted (html style) text, widgets (input* functions), and output from server.r (*Output functions)
- · Separate items with commas

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Activity

- UI Set-up Activity instructions (http://www4.stat.ncsu.edu/~post/IntermediateR/UISetUpActivity.html) available on web
- · Work in small groups
- · Ask questions! TAs and I will float about the room
- Feel free to ask questions about anything you didn't understand as well!

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Server file

 ${\tt server.r}$ also called the 'back-end' because it works behind-the-scenes; its actions are not directly visible

```
## set up server
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {
    # add stuff
})
```

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Server file

server.r also called the 'back-end' because it works behind-the-scenes

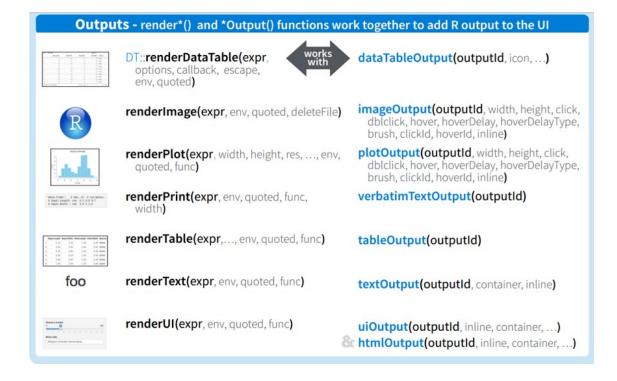
```
## set up server
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {
    # add stuff
})
```

The arguments for the server are input, output, and session. Allow us to

- 1. Take in inputs from the UI
- 2. Run functions on them
- 3. Create outputs to send back

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Creating Output to Send to UI



Creating Output to Send to UI

Example syntax

```
shinyServer(function(input,output){
  output$nameOfOutputObject<-renderPlot(
    #code that will return a plot
  )
  output$otherOutput<-renderText(
    #code that will return something that R can coerce to a string
  )
})
#in ui.r file, reference would look like
plotOutput("nameOfOutputObject")
textOutput("otherOutput")</pre>
```

Accessing Input Values in server.R

• Every input object has an inputID

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Accessing Input Values in server.R

- \cdot Every input object has an <code>inputID</code>
- \cdot In server.r, reference input value by

input\$inputID

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Accessing Input Values in server.R

- Every input object has an inputID
- · In server.r, reference input value by

input\$inputID

· Example

Input and Output

- · input and output objects are kind of like lists
- · Shiny passes the information back and forth through them

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Input and Output

- · input and output objects are kind of like lists
- \cdot Shiny passes the information back and forth through them
- · Notice how we name our output objects

output\$nameOfOutputObject<-renderPlot(...))</pre>

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Input and Output

- input and output objects are kind of like lists
- \cdot Shiny passes the information back and forth through them
- · Notice how we name our output objects

```
output$nameOfOutputObject<-renderPlot(...))</pre>
```

· Notice how we access our inputs

```
output$nameOfOutputObject<-renderPlot(
   range<-input$slide
))</pre>
```

Quick Try

- · Using the template app
- Add text output object in the server.R file (use renderText) that returns the current value of the input slider
- To do this, just reference the input (like an R function, it will return the last thing you do)
- Don't forget to add a textOutput in the ui.R file!

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Reactivity

- · Output objects do not have to depend on an input
- · Those that don't will be static
- Any 'chunk' of code in ${\tt server.r}$ that references a user input must be ${\bf reactive}$
- When a user changes the reference, the code **re-evaluates**

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Example Reactivity

Reactivity

- · Reactive variables (user inputs) can only be used in reactive contexts
- · All render* functions are reactive contexts
- server.r can run any R code, but can't access inputs unless put into a reactive context

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Error Using Reactive Variables

Following returns the error:

Warning: Error in .getReactiveEnvironment()\$currentContext: Operation not allowed without an active reactive context. (You tried to do something that can only be done from inside a reactive expression or observer.)

Other Reactive Contexts

- reactive({}) function allows for reactivity and creation of a new variable
- observe({}) function allows for reactivity

```
shinyServer(function(input,output){

#Creates a new reactive variable
newVar<-reactive({
   value<-c(input$NI+10,input$NI*3)
})

#would now print to console
observe({print(input$NI+10)})

output$textString<-renderText({
   value<-newVar() #access like a function!
   paste0("Input plus 10 is ",value[1]," and Input times 3 is ",value[2])
})
}</pre>
```

More on reactive ({})

- · 'Wraps' a normal expression to create a reactive expression (code user can cause to change)
- \cdot Can read reactive values and call other reactive expressions
- · Only re-evaluates if necessary
- · Access object as though calling it as a function

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More on reactive ({})

· Access object as though calling it as a function

```
shinyServer(function(input,output) {
    #Creates a new reactive variable
    newVar<-reactive({
       value<-c(input$NI+10,input$NI*3)
    })

    output$textString<-renderText({
       value<-newVar() #access like a function!
       paste0("Input plus 10 is ",value[1]," and Input times 3 is ",value[2])
    })
}</pre>
```

More on observe ({})

- · Can read reactive values and call reactive expressions
- · Automatically re-execute when dependencies change
- · Doesn't yield a result
- · Mostly used to update UI elements (more later)

```
shinyServer(function(input,output) {
    #would now print to console
    observe({print(input$NI+10)})

    #update UI
    observe({
        input$noPitch
            updateCheckboxGroupInput(session, "pitchTypeChoice", selected = c(""))
    })
}
```

Summary So Far

ui.r

- · Controls layout of app
- \cdot Basic layout uses a sidebar panel and a main panel
- Use strings, formatted (html style) text, widgets (input* functions), and output from server.r (*Output functions)
- · Separate items with commas

server.r

- · Back-end for app
- Create outputs that react to inputs (render* functions)
- · To respond to input, must be in a reactive context

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Devloping an App

· Highly Recommended:

Draw out what you want the app to look like

- · Write R code to complete your app in a static manner!
- · Translate to appropriate Shiny output functions

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Activity

- First Full App Activity instructions (http://www4.stat.ncsu.edu/~post /IntermediateR/FirstAppActivity.html) available on web
- · Work in small groups
- · Ask questions! TAs and I will float about the room
- Feel free to ask questions about anything you didn't understand as well!

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What do we want to be able to do?

- · Communicate findings effectively
- · Document findings
- · Make process reproducible
- · Share process

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Dynamic UI

- · Often want to update UI based on user input!
- · Recall: UI and Server basically pass lists back and forth
- · Methods for updating UI
 - update* functions
 - renderUI()/uiOutput()
 - conditionalPanel()

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- · Every input widget has a corresponding update function
 - updateActionButton()
 - updateCheckboxInput()
 - updateNumericInput()
 - ..

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- · Every input widget has a corresponding update function
 - updateActionButton()
 - updateCheckboxInput()
 - updateNumericInput()
 - ...
- · Require session argument on server() function

```
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {
   ## do stuff
})
```

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8/16/2019, 9:11 AM

Using update* Functions

- · Every input widget has a corresponding update function
 - updateActionButton()
 - updateCheckboxInput()
 - updateNumericInput()
 - ...
- · Require session argument on server() function

```
shinyServer(function(input, output, session) {
   ## do stuff
})
```

· After all observers (reactive things) evaluate, updater sends message back to client

 \cdot Syntax of update* functions similar to the functions that created the inputs

Example syntax:

```
numericInput(inputId, label, value, min = NA, max = NA, step = NA,
   width = NULL)

updateNumericInput(session, inputId, label = NULL, value = NULL,
   min = NULL, max = NULL, step = NULL)
```

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· Syntax of update* functions similar to the functions that created the inputs

Example syntax:

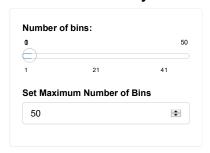
```
numericInput(inputId, label, value, min = NA, max = NA, step = NA,
   width = NULL)

updateNumericInput(session, inputId, label = NULL, value = NULL,
   min = NULL, max = NULL, step = NULL)
```

- Any arguments with ${\tt NULL}$ values ignored (i.e. will not result in any changes to the input object)
- For radioButtons(), checkboxGroupInput(), and selectInput(), the set
 of choices can be cleared by using choices = character(0) (similary for the
 set of selected)

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Old Faithful Geyser Data



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updateSliderInput() (First Attempt)

What is our issue?

updateSliderInput() (Fixed)

update* UI Functions

- · Use the template app
- · Try to add a numeric input for the user to specify the largest value of the slider
- Use the updateSliderInput function to update the max of the slider
- Don't forget observe!

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renderUI() and uiOutput()

Alternatively, renderUI() and uiOutput() can be used

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renderUI() and uiOutput()

- Alternatively, renderUI() and uiOutput() can be used
- · Note: Shiny essentially writes HTML/JavaScript for us!

renderUI() and uiOutput()

- · Alternatively, renderUI and uiOutput can be used
- · Note: Shiny essentially writes HTML/JavaScript for us!

```
print(numericInput("id","Label User Sees",value=10))

## <div class="form-group shiny-input-container">
## <label for="id">Label User Sees</label>
## <input id="id" type="number" class="form-control" value="10"/>
## </div>
```

renderUI() and uiOutput()

renderUI()

- · Makes a **reactive version** of a function that generates HTML (like any widget)
- Have renderUI () return a shiny 'tag object,', HTML, or a list of these
- Use with uiOutput() in UI file
- · Interprets the HTML and outputs appropriately (a div element)

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renderUI() and uiOutput() (using widgets)

renderUI() and uiOutput() (using HTML)

renderUI() and uiOutput() (using HTML)

Graph is Meaningless Here!



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renderUI() and uiOutput() (using HTML)

- · Use the template app
- · Try to add some dynamic updating text to the UI

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- · Create a 'panel' that is only visible if a condition is met
- · Condition can depend on input or output value
- · Accessed differently! (Use a '.' not a '\$')

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Plots of Diamonds Data



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- · Use the template app
- $\cdot\;$ Try to add a new UI element if a condition of the slider is met

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Dynamic UI Recap

- · Often want to update UI based on user input!
- · Recall: UI and server basically pass lists back and forth
- · Methods for updating UI
 - update* functions
 - renderUI()/uiOutput()
 - conditionalPanel()

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More Advanced UI Layout

- Contents of UI wrapped in fluidPage()
- · Content can be wrapped in fluidRow()'S
- · Columns can be created
- · Should sum to 12 in total width!

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Customized Layout

fluidRow with columns	2nd column	column widths in a gi ven row should add to 1-2
2nd fluidRow below above row		Columns can contain their own fluidRowas well, allowing for a lot of customization of layouts! subcol subcol

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Recap

ui.r

- · Controls layout of app (can use standard layouts or customize)
- Use strings, formatted (html style) text, widgets (input* functions), and output from server.r (*Output functions)
- · Separate items with commas
- · Update inputs, render HTML reactively, conditionally show input

server.r

- Back-end for app
- Create outputs that react to inputs (render* functions)
- · To respond to input, must be in a reactive context
- Code can be included prior to shinyServer ()

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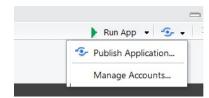
Activity

- **Dynamic UI App Activity** instructions (http://www4.stat.ncsu.edu/~post /IntermediateR/DynamicUIActivity.html) available on web
- · Work in small groups
- $\cdot\,$ Ask questions! TAs and I will float about the room
- Feel free to ask questions about anything you didn't understand as well!

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Sharing App

- · Running App locally ties up your system
- · Others can't access it!
- · Can host apps on shinyapps.io (powered by RStudio)
 - Free, but number of connects and hours limited
 - Gives stats about usage
 - Integrated into R Studio



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Sharing App

Another option:

- · Host App on Shiny Server
- · Costs money!
 - Free for academic use (I believe)
- · Might need IT help to utilize

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What do we want to be able to do?

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Where do we start?

- · Review of Key Concepts
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 - Documents: PDF, HTML
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 - Interactive Components
- · R Shiny Applications/Presentations

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Time Permitting: Miscellaneous Useful Things

Code can be placed prior to shinyServer

```
##Code here that you only need to evaluate once.
##This can include reading in data, creation of
## functions common to all sessions, and
## reading of other common r scripts.

shinyServer(function(input, output) {

##Code here that can be reactive. Differs for
## every instance of your app that runs.
})
```

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Including Other Files

```
## top of server.R, output from here is common to all users

#data set only read in once
dat <- read_csv("dataset.csv")

#function created and not modified
helper <- function(item1, item2) {item1 + item2}

shinyServer(function(input, output) {
    ##reactive things, instance of app dependent
})</pre>
```

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Including Other Files

If you have a lot of code, you can read in a separate script

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Other Useful Things

Including Other Files

If you have a lot of code, you can read in a separate script

• If external script is helpers.R in same folder as app:

```
## top of server.R
source("helpers.R")
shinyServer(function(input, output) {
    ## do stuff
})
```

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Other Useful Things

- Return NULL to remove errors when loading things
- · Can use isolate() to improve code efficiency

```
observe({
  input$saveButton # Do take a dependency on input$saveButton

# isolate a whole block
data <- isolate({
  a <- input$valueA # No dependency on input$valueA or input$valueB
  b <- input$valueB
  c(a=a, b=b)
})
writeToDatabase(data)
})</pre>
```

- · Improved data tables with DT package!
- DT example (http://shiny.stat.ncsu.edu/jbpost2/NBAShotChart/)
- Improved plots with plotly package!
- plotly example (http://shiny.stat.ncsu.edu/jbpost2/RegVis/)

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- · Can add in Latex easily!
- Include withMathJax() as a UI argument
- · Calls in javascript that will replace Latex source code
- · Must open in browser to render!

```
fluidRow(
    #add in latex functionality if needed
    withMathJax(),
    ...
```

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- · Can add tabs to your apps!
- · Create "dashboards" with shinydashboard package
- Tab and Dashboard example (http://shiny.stat.ncsu.edu/jbpost2/ OrderStatsDist/)
- · Use mouse over and click inputs!
- · Click Input Example (http://shiny.stat.ncsu.edu/jbpost2/BasketballCharting)
- · Include Shiny in your Markdown slides!
- · Use ioslides and add runtime: shiny

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- · shinythemes (https://rstudio.github.io/shinythemes/) are available
- · shinyjs package (https://github.com/daattali/shinyjs) adds more functionality
- · Can grab apps from GitHub (https://github.com/rstudio/shiny_example)
- List of all functions (https://shiny.rstudio.com/reference/shiny/latest/) for the UI and server
- · Lots of good tutorials!
 - Shiny tutorials (https://shiny.rstudio.com/tutorial/)
 - Dean Attali (http://deanattali.com/blog/building-shiny-apps-tutorial/)
 - Shiny Articles (http://shiny.rstudio.com/articles/)
- R Shiny Cheat Sheet (http://shiny.rstudio.com/images/shiny-cheatsheet.pdf)

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Debugging

- · Much harder in shiny!
- · Recommendation: Get static working code, then transfer to shiny

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Debugging

• Can use observe({print(...)})

```
shinyServer(function(input,output){
    #would now print to console
    observe({print(input$NI+10)})
}
```

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Debugging

R studio gives (http://shiny.rstudio.com/articles/debugging.html) three major approaches:

- 1. Breakpoints Pausing execution of your program
- 2. Tracing Collecting information as your program runs
- 3. Error handling Finding the source of errors (both on the client and server side) and ascertaining their cause.

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Breakpoints

· Can be used in server.r

· Click to the left of the line number

```
xlab = "Depth")
}
Browse[2]> n
debug at C:\Users\jbpost2\Documents\temp/server.
R#12: plot(x = data$carat, y = data$depth, xlab
= "Carat", ylab = "Depth")
Error in gregexpr(calltext, singleline, fixed = TRUE):
    regular expression is invalid UTF-8
Browse[2]> input$plotType
[1] "scatter"
Browse[2]> input$plotType
[1] "scatter"
Browse[2]> input$preaks
[1] - input$breaks
[1] - input$breaks
[1] - input$breaks
[1] - input$breaks
[2] - input$breaks
[2] - input$breaks
[3] - input$breaks
[4] - input$breaks
[5] - input$breaks
[6] - input$breaks
[7] - input$breaks
[8] - input$plotType
[18] - input$plotType
[19] - input$plotType
[19]
```

- Now can access values and step through program
- · Can also use browser()

Tracing

- Can run apps in 'showcase mode' (http://shiny.rstudio.com/gallery/kmeans-example.html)
- · Invoke your app with the code below

shiny::runApp(display.mode="showcase")

 $\cdot\;$ Also a reactive log that can be viewed

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Error Handling

· Check stack trace shiny returns

```
Warning: Error in model.frame.default: invalid type (list) for variable 'y'
Stack trace (innermost first):
    116: model.frame.default
    115: stats::model.frame
    114: eval
    113: eval
    112: lm
    111: <reactive:fitter> [E:\NCSU classes\ST 501-502\501online\ShinyApps\RegVis/server.R#314]
    100: fitter
    99: renderPlot [E:\NCSU classes\ST 501-502\501online\ShinyApps\RegVis/server.R#270]
    89: <reactive:plotobj>
    78: plotobi
```

Enter Debug Mode on Error

· Can make Shiny enter the debugger when an error occurs by using the following statement:

options(shiny.error = browser)

· Overall, experience helps!

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