Updating R from R

1. Open your R graphic user interface. This is different from RStudio. On a PC, you can find it by navigating through your apps (Or C:/ProgramData/Microsoft/Windows/Start Menu/ Programs/R) and clicking on the newest (highest number) version of R installed.
2. Once you’ve opened your R GUI, you will use the following code to update R from R.
   1. install.packages(“installr”)
      1. It is best practice to select a CRAN mirror that is physically close to your location. It has a marginal effect on speed of package installation.
   2. library(installr)
   3. updateR()
      1. At this point you’ll navigate through a series of pop up windows. I usually refuse to see news of the new update, refuse to copy my R profile, and refuse any other small items. None of it affects the installation of R itself.
      2. Go through the installation wizard. Let it select defaults for you—it’s pretty good about selecting the proper bit installation given your device.
      3. Once installation is complete, you’ll be asked if you want to copy your packages to the new installation of R. This is only important when you are updating to a new major release (example: 4.2.blah to 4.3.blah). If you have a bunch of packages stored in your 4.2.blah library, it will take *ABSOLUTELY FOREVER* to copy them all at once to your new 4.3.blah library. I usually decline to copy packages during installation. Instead, I’ll reinstall them to the new 4.3.blah library folder on the fly as I need to use them again. If I update at a time where I don’t need to use R again immediately (like when I go home for the day), then maybe I’ll let it copy my packages.
3. You don’t usually need to update R every time a new minor release is put up. Good package developers try their best to make their packages backwards compatible with very old versions of R. I do recommend updating at least once a year, and definitely with every new major release. The longer you wait to update, the more annoying the process becomes.

Updating just packages from RStudio

1. If you don’t need to update R but want to check for new package releases, go to Tools on the top bar of RStudio. Then hit Check for Package Updates. Select whatever you want to update and let it rip.
2. You can also check for new versions of RStudio using Help > Check for updates on the top bar. If there is a new version of RStudio, you will be directed to the RStudio website to download it.