**The Workspace**

The workspace is your current **R** working environment and includes any user-defined objects (vectors, matrices, data frames, lists, functions). At the end of an **R** session, the user can save an image of the current workspace that is automatically reloaded the next time **R** is started. Commands are entered interactively at the **R** user prompt. **Up** and **down arrow keys** scroll through your command history.   
  
You will probably want to keep different projects in different physical directories. Here are some standard commands for managing your workspace.

**IMPORTANT NOTE FOR WINDOWS USERS:**   
**R** gets confused if you use a path in your code like  
  *c:\mydocuments\myfile.txt*  
   This is because R sees "\" as an escape character. Instead, use   
 *c:\\my documents\\myfile.txt*  
    *c:/mydocuments/myfile.txt*   Either will work. I use the second convention throughout this website.

getwd() # print the current working directory - cwd   
ls()    # list the objects in the current workspace

setwd(mydirectory)      # change to mydirectory  
setwd("c:/docs/mydir")  # note / instead of \ in windows   
setwd("/usr/rob/mydir") # on linux

# view and set options for the session  
help(options) # learn about available options  
options() # view current option settings  
options(digits=3) # number of digits to print on output

# work with your previous commands  
history() # display last 25 commands  
history(max.show=Inf) # display all previous commands  
  
# save your command history   
savehistory(file="*myfile*") # default is ".Rhistory"   
  
# recall your command history   
loadhistory(file="*myfile*") # default is ".Rhistory"

# save the workspace to the file .RData in the cwd   
save.image()  
  
# save specific objects to a file  
# if you don't specify the path, the cwd is assumed   
save(object list,file="myfile.RData")

# load a workspace into the current session  
# if you don't specify the path, the cwd is assumed   
load("myfile.RData")

q() # quit R. You will be prompted to save the workspace.