Organization

Part of "Doing data science in Positron" workshop

Posit Software, PBC

CC BY SA

Adopt a folder-oriented workflow

Why:

- Work on more than one thing at a time across multiple Positron sessions.
- Collaborate, communicate, distribute.
- Start and stop.

How:

- Dedicated folder containing all the associated with a given project together — input data, scripts, analytical results, and figures.
- (Maybe also) special files that designate the folder as a workspace.

What’s in a folder?

Open Folder = dedicated Positron window

- File explorer rooted at the folder.
- Dedicated R process with working directory set to the folder.
- Terminal working directory set to the folder.

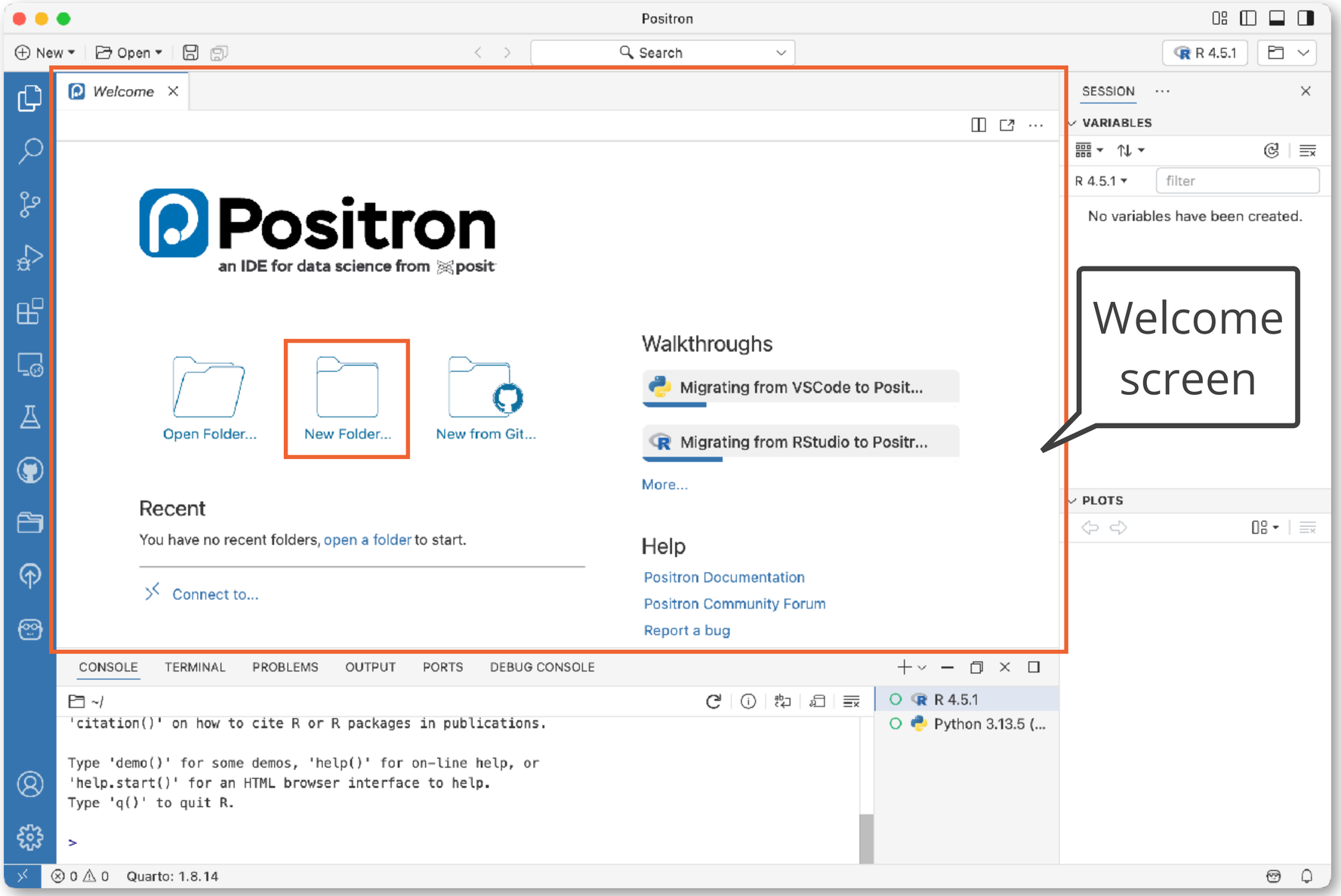
New folder

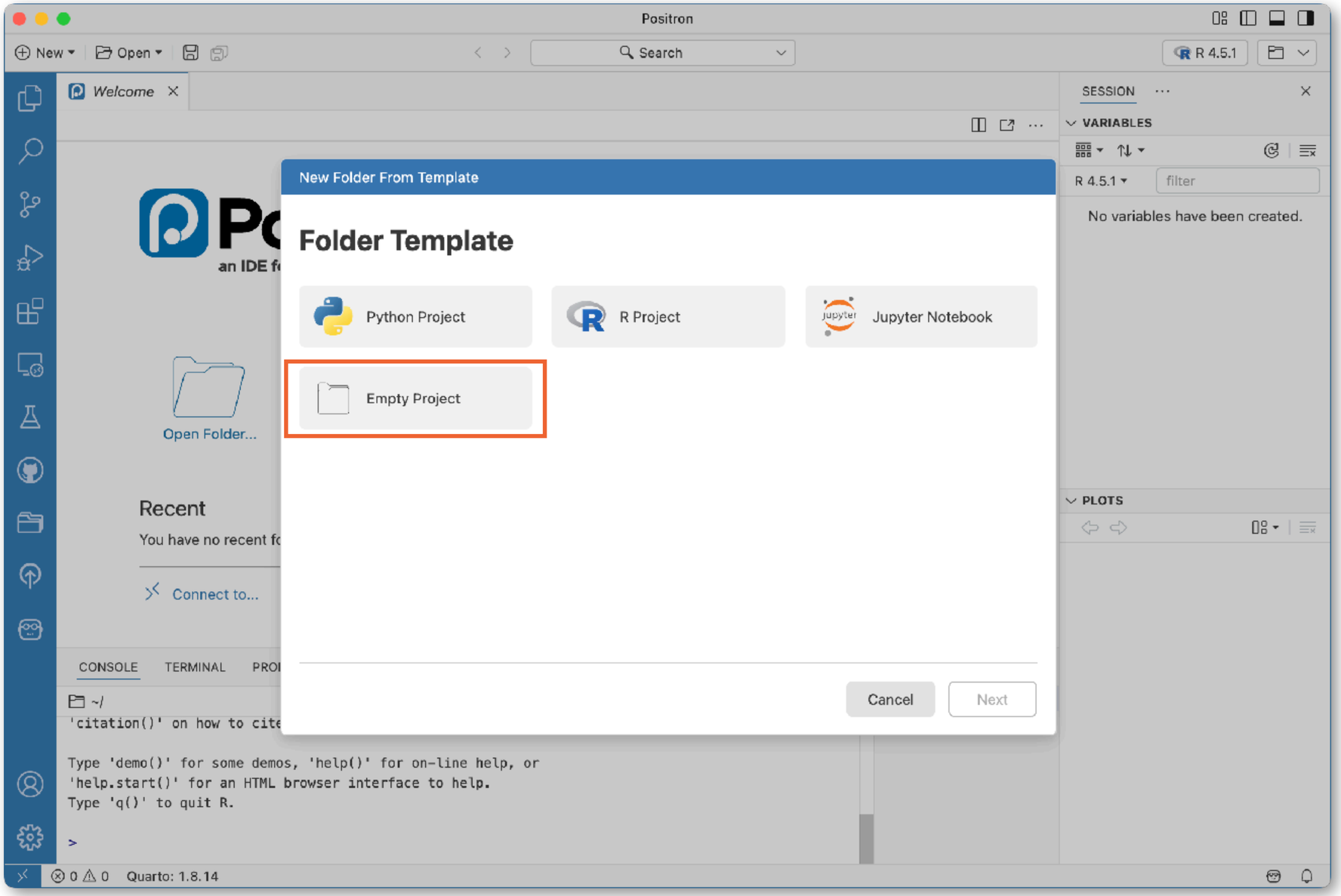
Your turn

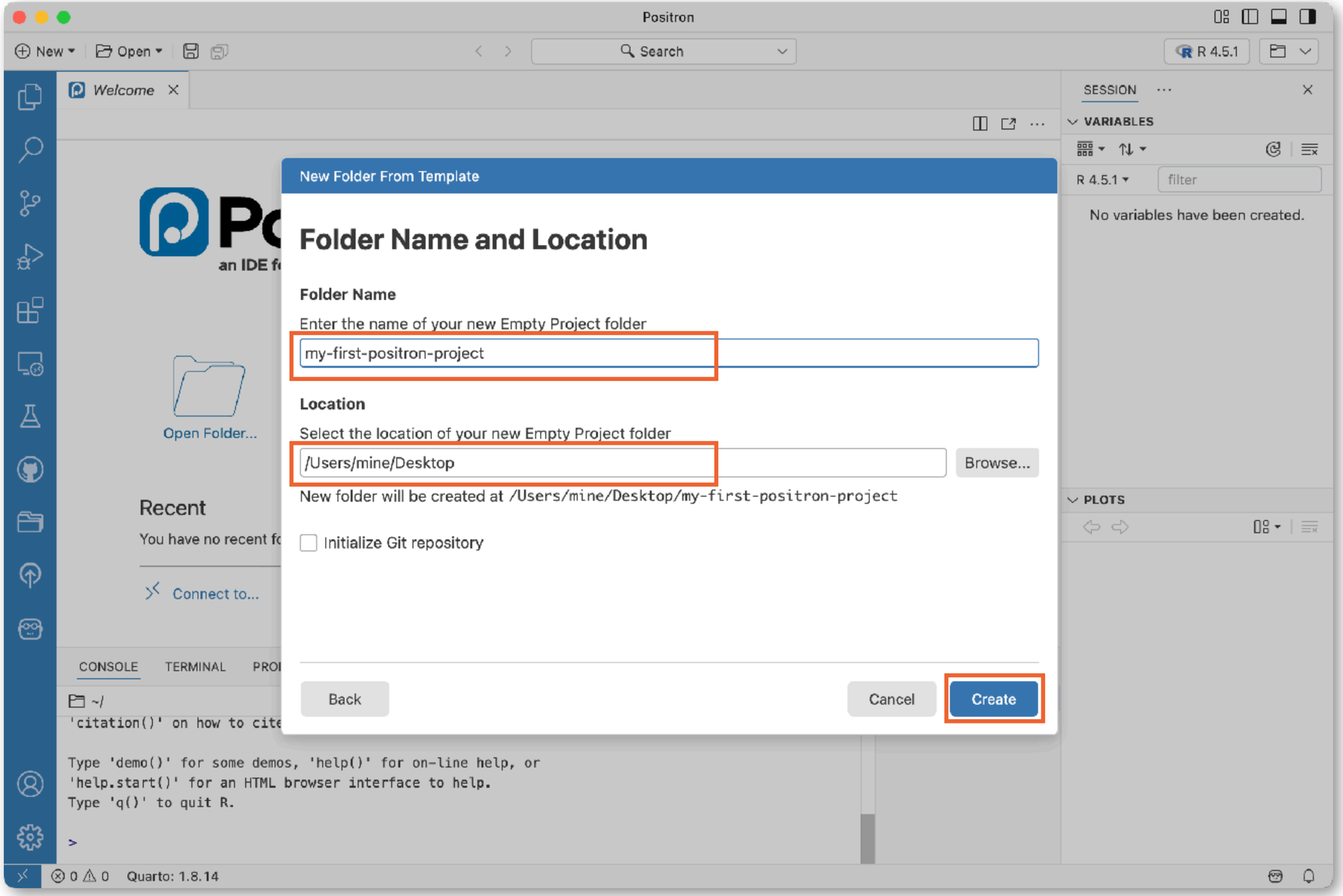
Create new folder

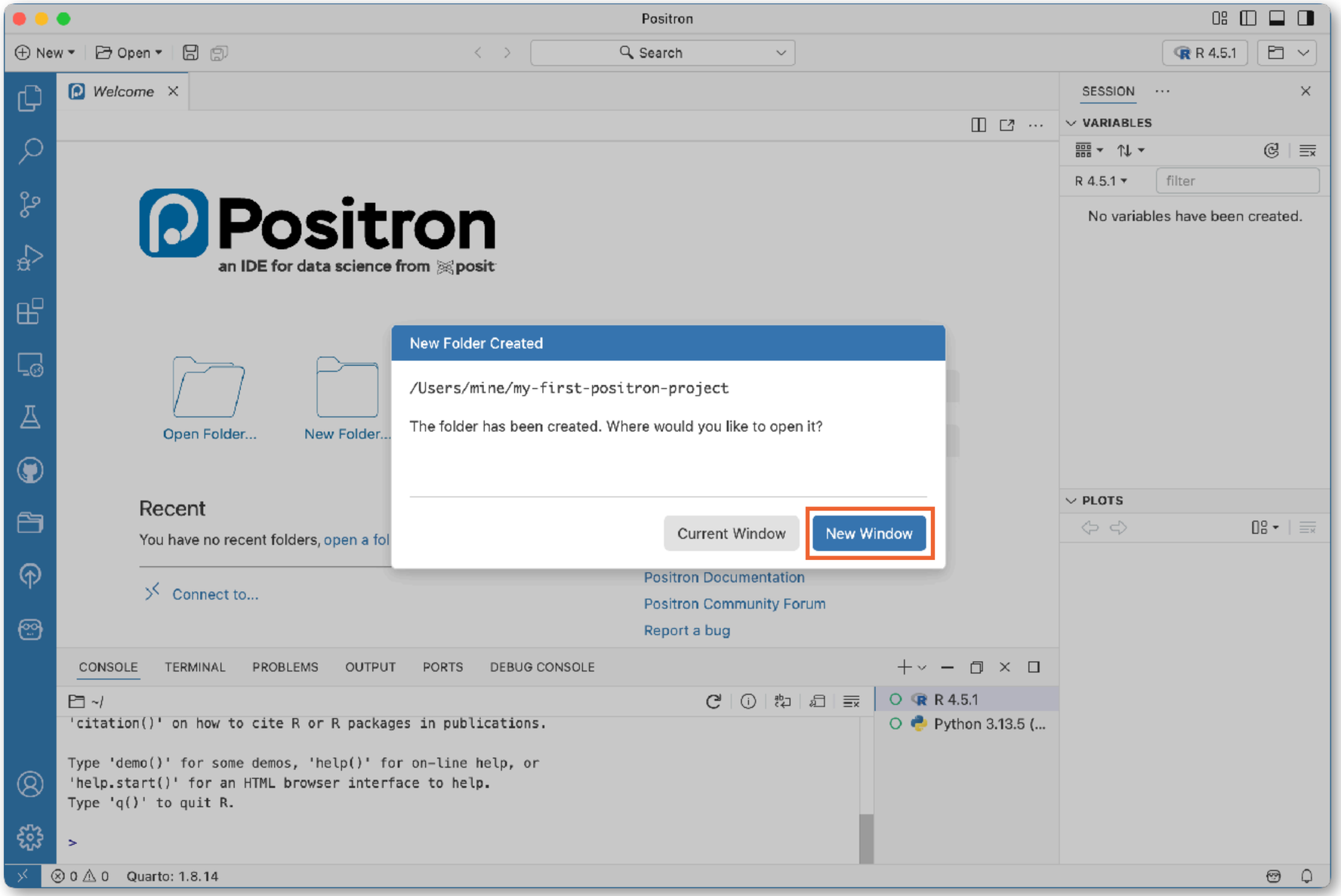
3m 00s

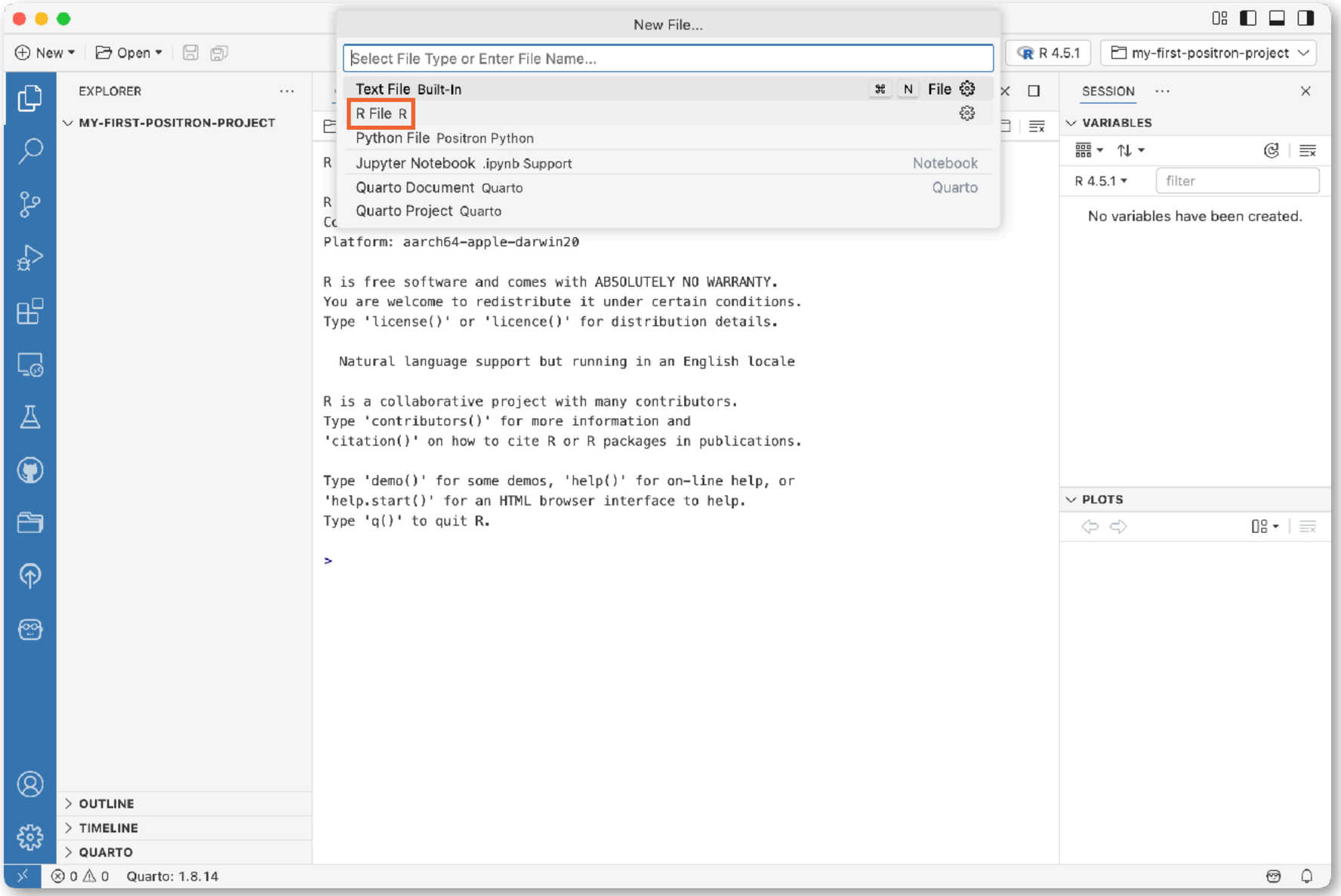
- In the Positron Welcome screen, follow the prompts to create a **New Folder...**:
  - Empty project
  - Name it `my-first-positron-project`
  - Place it on your Desktop
  - Open in a New Window
- Add an R script to the folder and save it.
- How can you tell which folder is open in Positron?

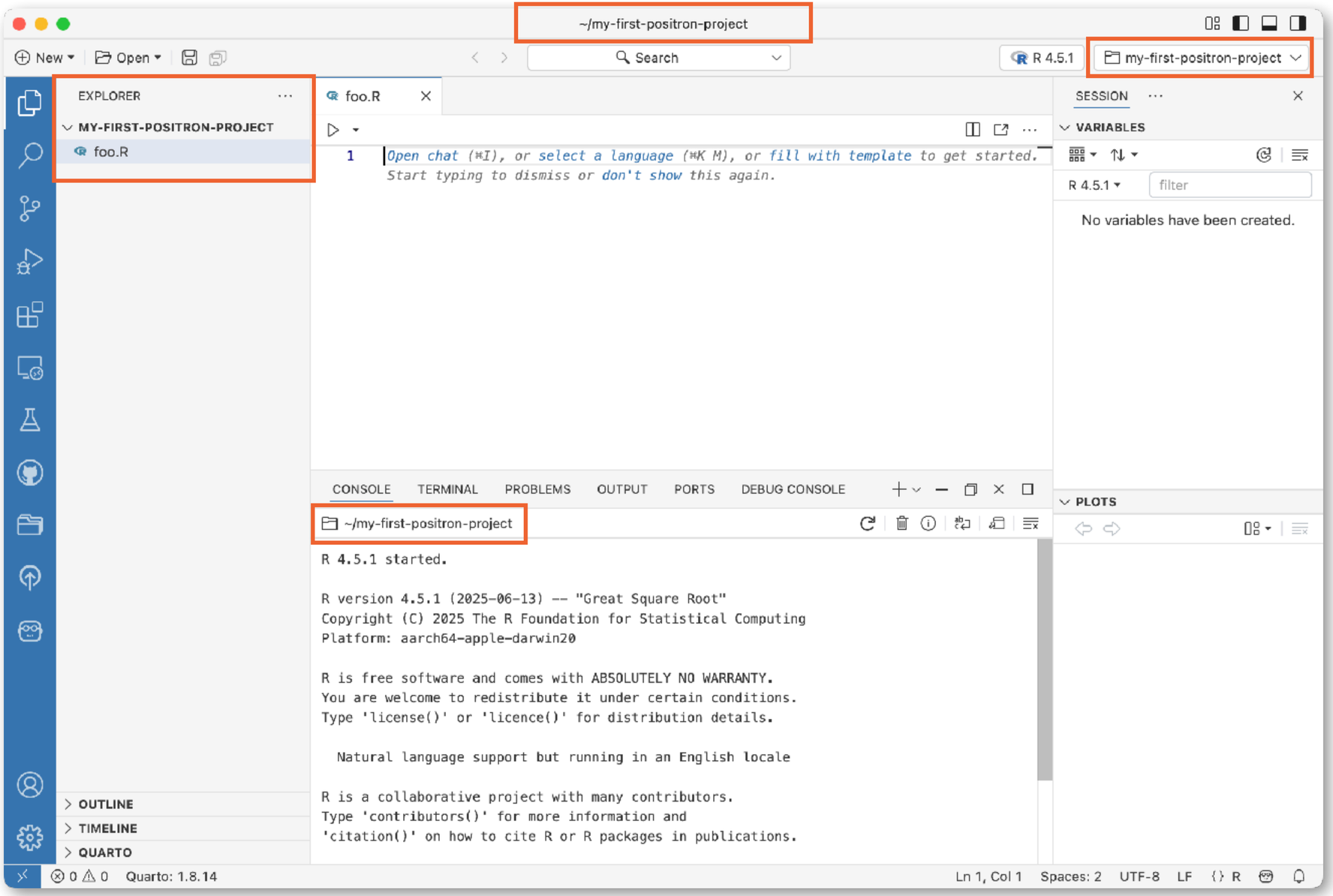

Positron
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
Welcome
Positron
an IDE for data science from posit
Open Folder...
New Folder...
New from Git...
Walkthroughs
Migrating from VSCode to Posit...
Migrating from RStudio to Positr...
More...
Recent
You have no recent folders, open a folder to start.
Connect to...
Help
Positron Documentation
Positron Community Forum
Report a bug
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
PORTS
DEBUG CONSOLE
~/
'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.
>
R 4.5.1
Python 3.13.5 (...
Quarto: 1.8.14
Welcome screen


Positron
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
Welcome
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
New Folder From Template
Folder Template
Python Project
R Project
Jupyter Notebook
Empty Project
Cancel
Next
Open Folder...
Recent
You have no recent fo
Connect to...
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
~/
'citation()' on how to cite
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.
>
Quarto: 1.8.14


Positron
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
Welcome
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
New Folder From Template
Folder Name and Location
Folder Name
Enter the name of your new Empty Project folder
my-first-positron-project
Location
Select the location of your new Empty Project folder
/Users/mine/Desktop
Browse...
New folder will be created at /Users/mine/Desktop/my-first-positron-project
Initialize Git repository
Back
Cancel
Create
Open Folder...
Recent
You have no recent fo
Connect to...
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
~/
'citation()' on how to cite
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.
>
0 0
Quarto: 1.8.14


Positron
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
Welcome
Positron
an IDE for data science from posit
Open Folder...
New Folder...
Recent
You have no recent folders, open a fol
Connect to...
Positron Documentation
Positron Community Forum
Report a bug
New Folder Created
/Users/mine/my-first-positron-project
The folder has been created. Where would you like to open it?
Current Window
New Window
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
PORTS
DEBUG CONSOLE
~/
'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.
>
R 4.5.1
Python 3.13.5 (...
0 0
Quarto: 1.8.14


New File...
Select File Type or Enter File Name...
Text File Built-In
⌘ N File
R File R
Python File Positron Python
Jupyter Notebook .ipynb Support
Notebook
Quarto Document Quarto
Quarto
Quarto Project Quarto
New
Open
R 4.5.1
my-first-positron-project
EXPLORER
MY-FIRST-POSITRON-PROJECT
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
Platform: aarch64-apple-darwin20
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.
>
OUTLINE
TIMELINE
QUARTO
0 0
Quarto: 1.8.14


~/my-first-positron-project
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
my-first-positron-project
EXPLORER
MY-FIRST-POSITRON-PROJECT
foo.R
foo.R
1
Open chat (⌘I), or select a language (⌘K M), or fill with template to get started.
Start typing to dismiss or don't show this again.
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
PORTS
DEBUG CONSOLE
~/my-first-positron-project
R 4.5.1 started.
R version 4.5.1 (2025-06-13) -- "Great Square Root"
Copyright (C) 2025 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: aarch64-apple-darwin20
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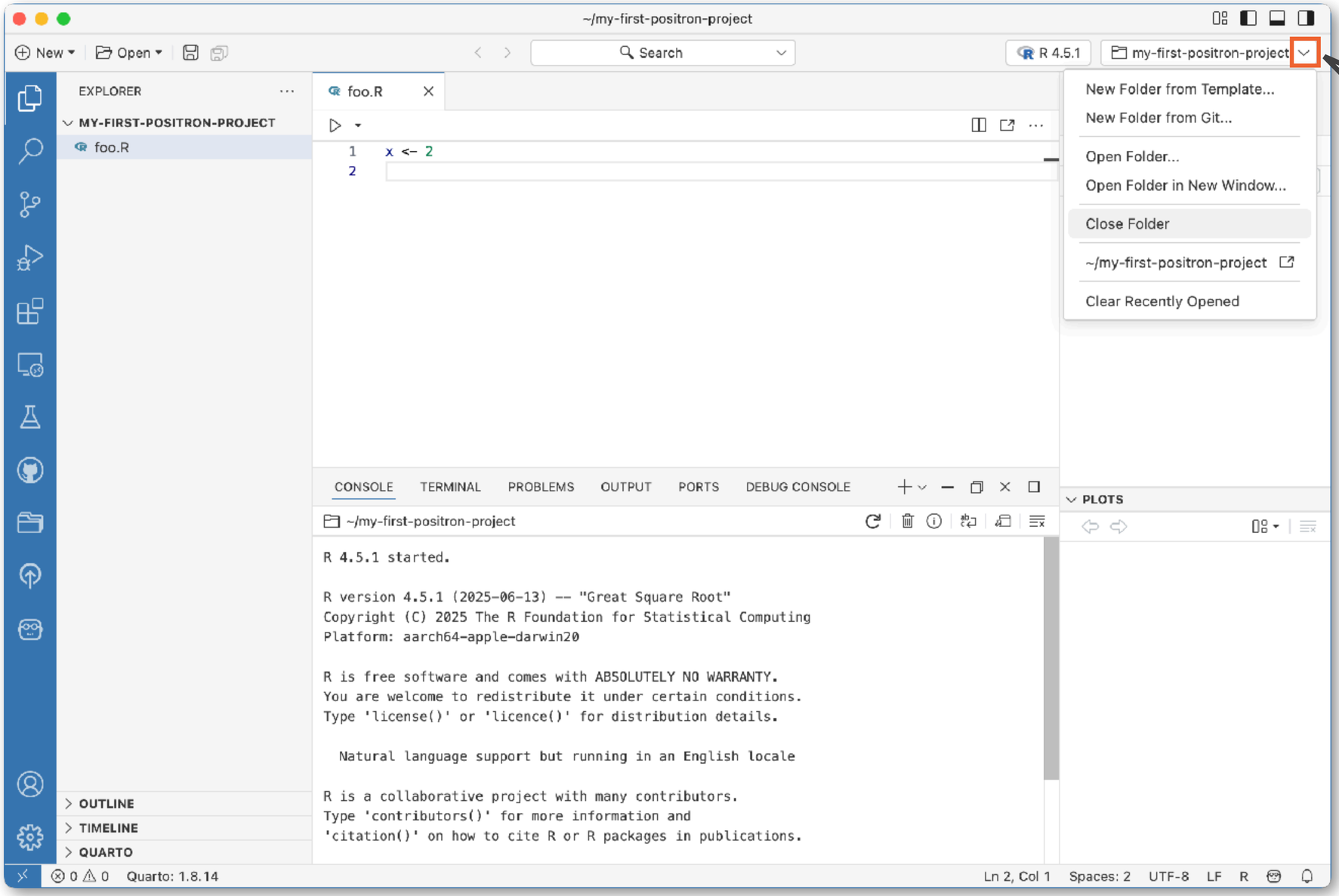
PLOTS
OUTLINE
TIMELINE
QUARTO
Quarto: 1.8.14
Ln 1, Col 1
Spaces: 2
UTF-8
LF
R

Demo

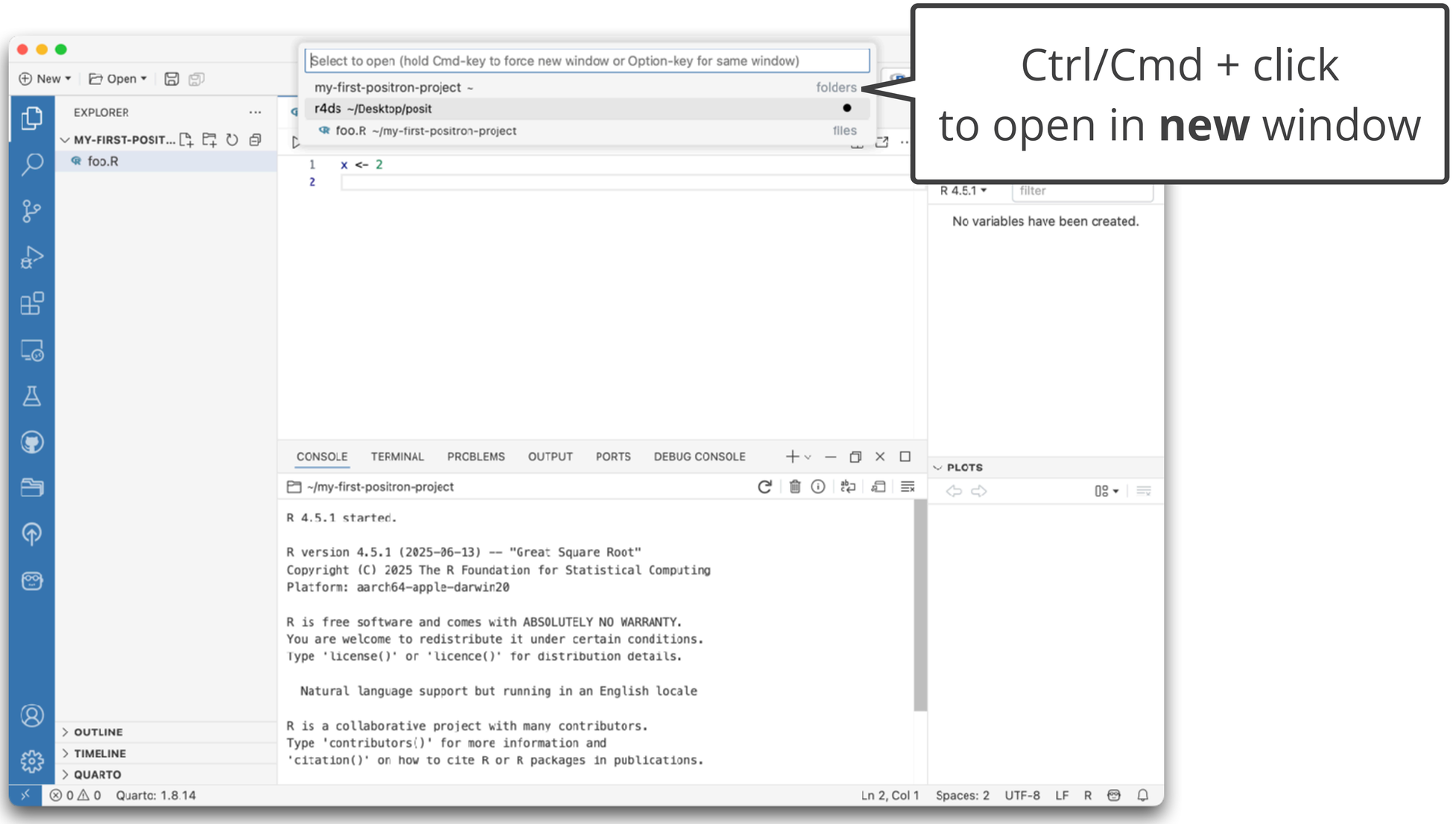
Folder workflow

- Close one Positron window: **File > Close Window**
- Close all Positron windows: Windows: **File > Exit,** Mac: **Positron > Quit**
- Open Positron: last window(s) open will reopen
- Folder menu in top bar
  - Close folder
  - Open recent folder
- Open Recent (including folders): `Crtl + R`



Click to reveal menu

Ctrl + R


Select to open (hold Cmd-key to force new window or Option-key for same window)
my-first-positron-project ~
folders
r4ds ~/Desktop/posit
foo.R ~/my-first-positron-project
files
Ctrl/Cmd + click
to open in **new** window
New
Open
EXPLORER
MY-FIRST-POSIT...
foo.R
1 x <- 2
2
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
PORTS
DEBUG CONSOLE
~/my-first-positron-project
R 4.5.1 started.
R version 4.5.1 (2025-06-13) -- "Great Square Root"
Copyright (C) 2025 The R Foundation for Statistical Computing
Platform: aarch64-apple-darwin20
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Natural language support but running in an English locale
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Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
OUTLINE
TIMELINE
QUARTO
Quarto: 1.8.14
Ln 2, Col 1
Spaces: 2
UTF-8
LF
R

RStudio Projects vs. Positron ???s

- RStudio places an `.Rproj` file in a folder to designate it as an RStudio Project.
- Used for storing project-level preferences, launching projects, and for identifying the project root (e.g., for `here::here()`).

- Positron doesn't place anything that functions exactly like an Rproj file in every folder.
- Unless you set workspace-level preferences, which prompts the creation of a `.vscode/settings.json` file that stores these preferences.
- *Note:* In Positron, here::here() will find the folder root typically through finding a `.git` folder.

Positron and the `.Rproj` file

- Positron doesn't do anything with the contents of an `.Rproj` file.
- For example, your `.Rproj` file might indicate preferences like using spaces for tabs (**`UseSpacesForTab: Yes`**) or using line breaks after each sentence in Quarto or R Markdown files (**`MarkdownWrap: Sentence`**).
- We'll discuss expressing some of these as Positron settings in a later module.
- For Quarto projects, some might be best set in `_quarto.yml`.

r4ds.Rproj

```
Version: 1.0

RestoreWorkspace: Default
SaveWorkspace: Default
AlwaysSaveHistory: Default

EnableCodeIndexing: Yes
UseSpacesForTab: Yes
NumSpacesForTab: 2
Encoding: UTF-8

RnwWeave: Sweave
LaTeX: XeLaTeX

StripTrailingWhitespace: Yes

BuildType: None

UseNativePipeOperator: Yes

MarkdownWrap: Sentence
MarkdownCanonical: Yes

SpellingDictionary: en_US
```

3m 00s

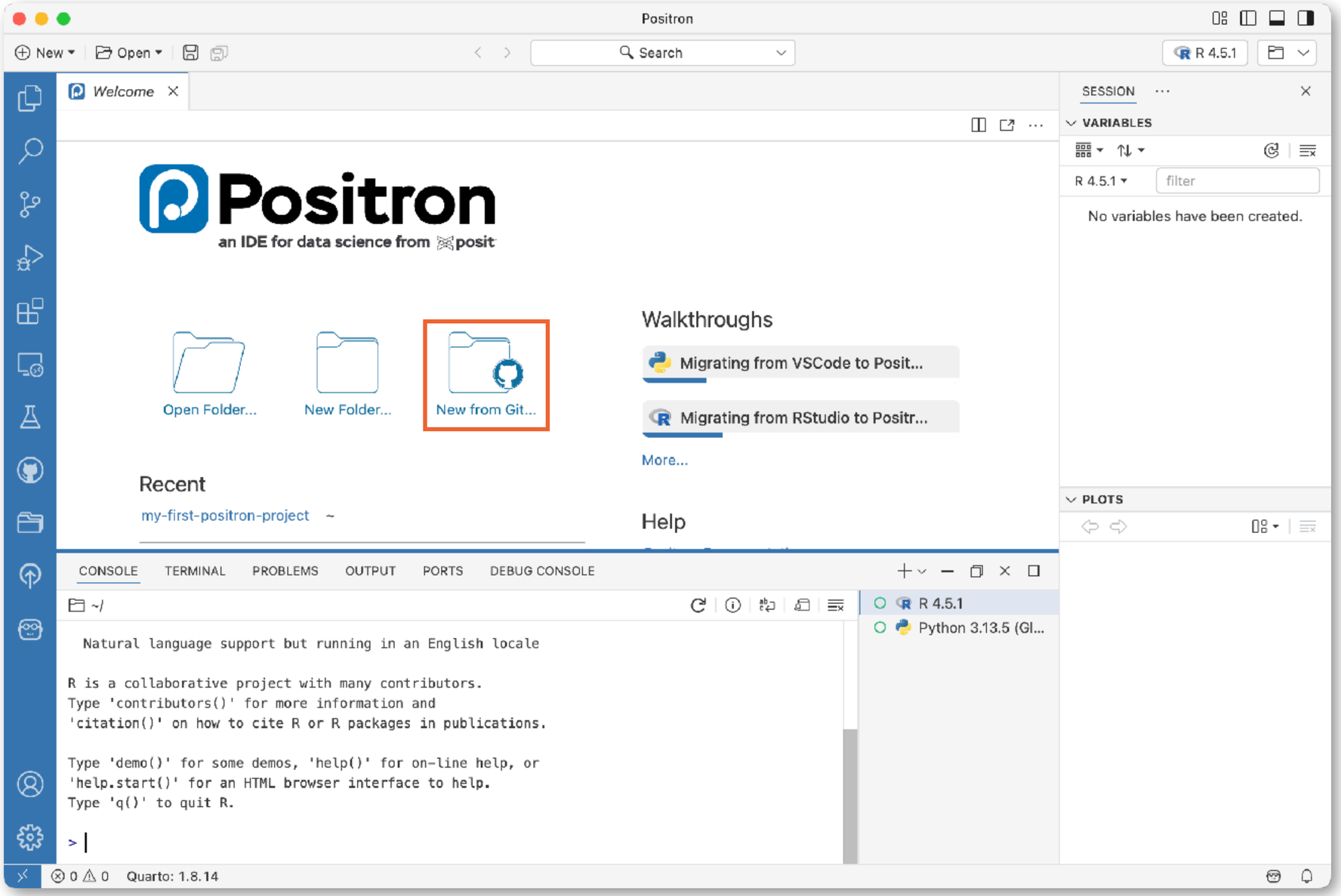
Your turn

Open new folder from Git

You'll need this project in the next module. Ask for help if you get stuck!

- Open a **New Folder from Git**:
  - The repo: https://github.com/posit-dev/positron-workshop-project
  - As a folder on your Desktop

  No Git?
  Run in the R Console:
  `usethis::use_course("posit-dev/positron-workshop-project")`


Positron
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
Welcome
Positron
an IDE for data science from posit
Open Folder...
New Folder...
New from Git...
Walkthroughs
Migrating from VSCode to Posit...
Migrating from RStudio to Positr...
More...
Recent
my-first-positron-project ~
Help
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
PORTS
DEBUG CONSOLE
~/
R 4.5.1
Python 3.13.5 (Gl...
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
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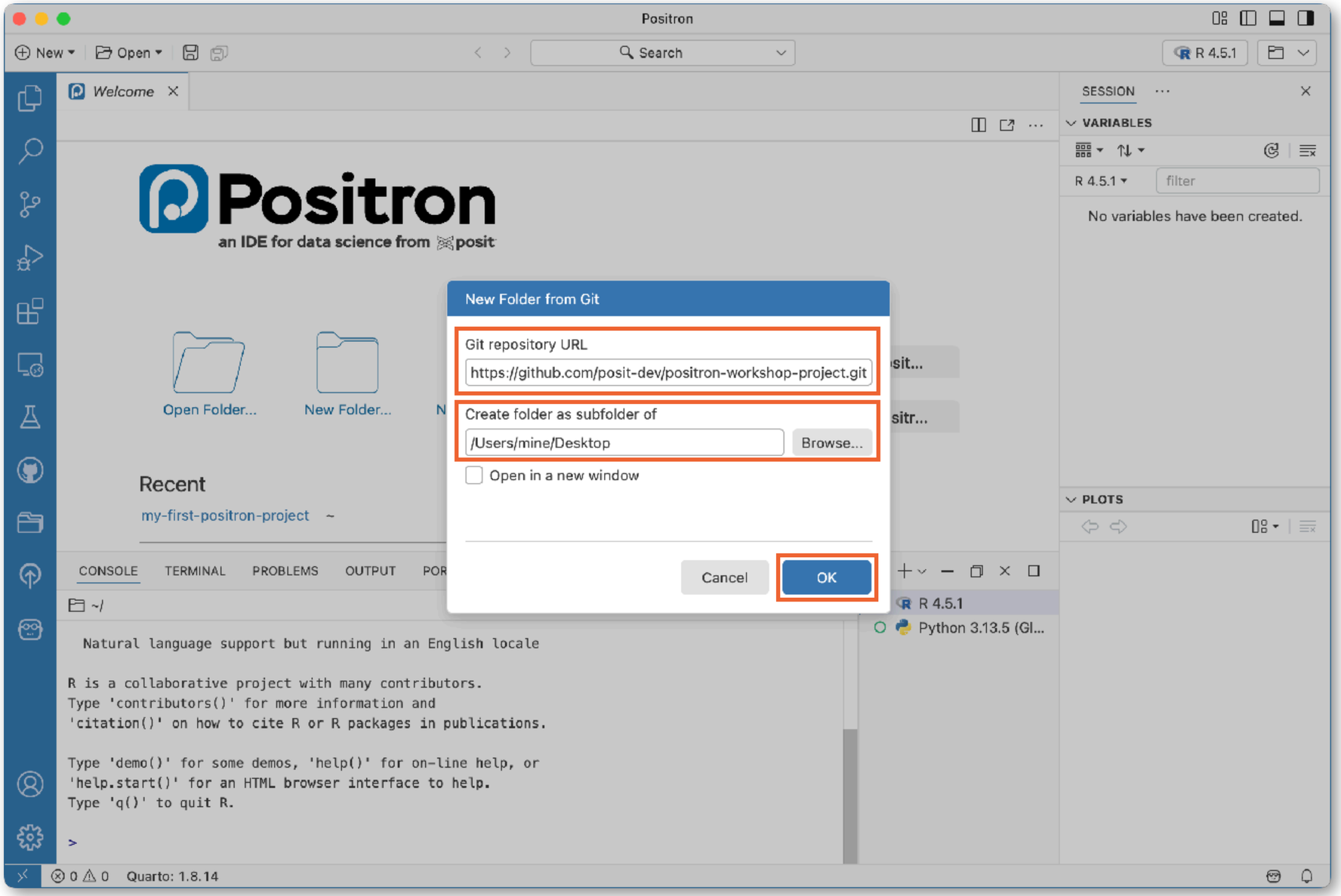
Type 'q()' to quit R.
>
0 0
Quarto: 1.8.14


Positron
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
Welcome
Positron
an IDE for data science from posit
Open Folder...
New Folder...
Recent
my-first-positron-project ~
New Folder from Git
Git repository URL
https://github.com/posit-dev/positron-workshop-project.git
Create folder as subfolder of
/Users/mine/Desktop
Browse...
Open in a new window
Cancel
OK
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
~/
Natural language support but running in an English locale
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
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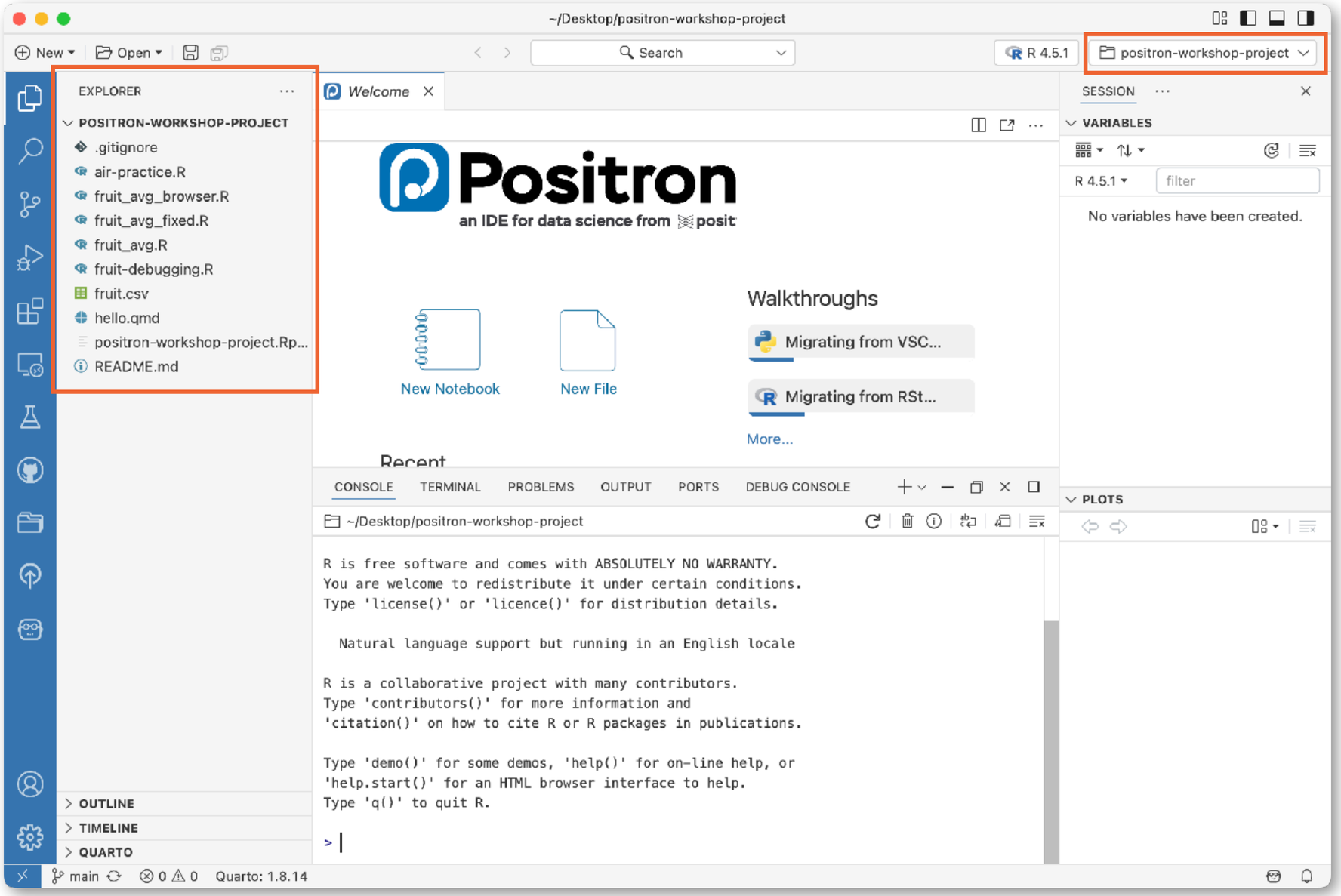
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.
>
R 4.5.1
Python 3.13.5 (Gl...
0 0
Quarto: 1.8.14


~/Desktop/positron-workshop-project
New
Open
Search
R 4.5.1
positron-workshop-project
EXPLORER
POSITRON-WORKSHOP-PROJECT
.gitignore
air-practice.R
fruit_avg_browser.R
fruit_avg_fixed.R
fruit_avg.R
fruit-debugging.R
fruit.csv
hello.qmd
positron-workshop-project.Rp...
README.md
Welcome
Positron
an IDE for data science from posit
New Notebook
New File
Walkthroughs
Migrating from VSC...
Migrating from RSt...
More...
Recent
SESSION
VARIABLES
R 4.5.1
filter
No variables have been created.
PLOTS
CONSOLE
TERMINAL
PROBLEMS
OUTPUT
PORTS
DEBUG CONSOLE
~/Desktop/positron-workshop-project
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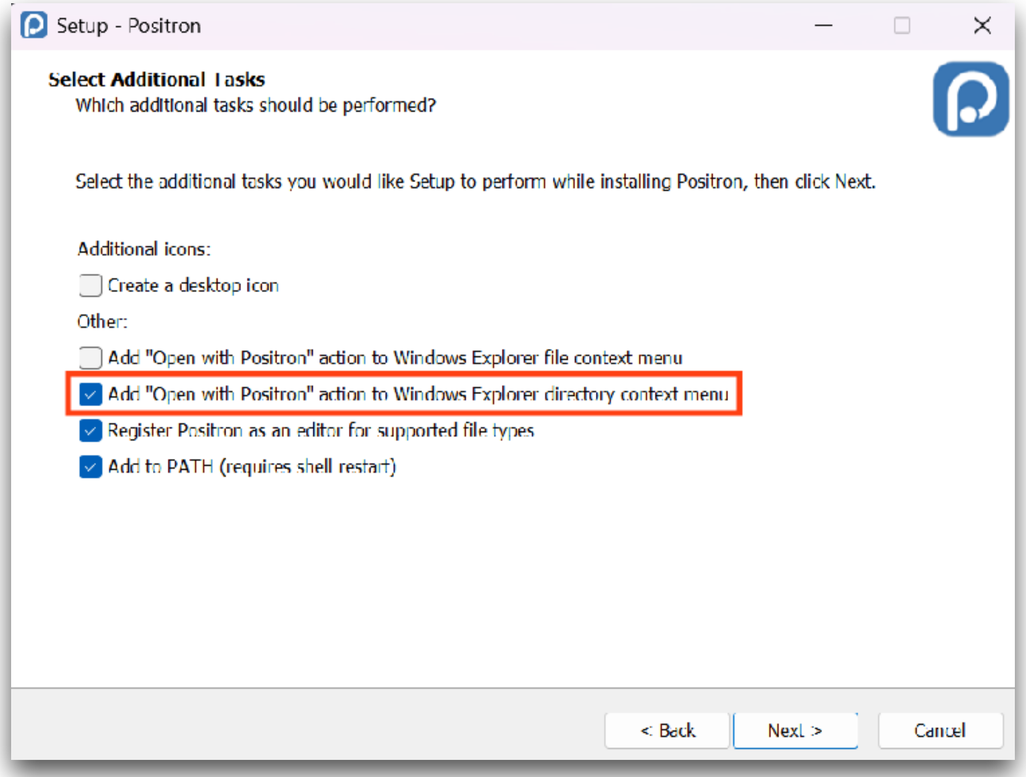
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.
>
OUTLINE
TIMELINE
QUARTO
main
0 0
Quarto: 1.8.14

Launch Positron

Windows: Launch from File Explorer

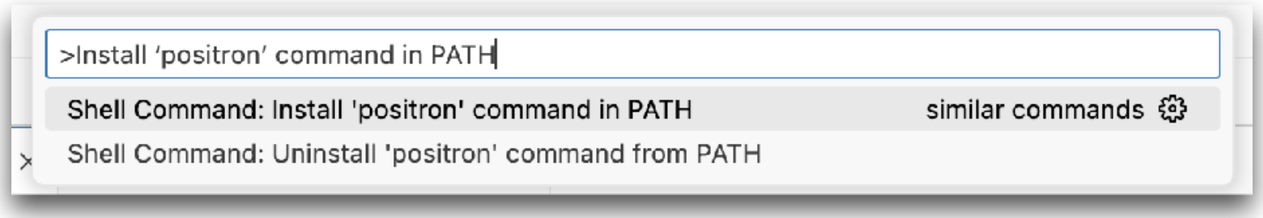
Setup: When installing Positron, enable context menu integration in Setup > Select Additional Tasks by checking the box to “Open with Positron”.



In File Explorer: Right-click on a folder and select “Open with Positron” from the context menu.

Mac OS: Launch from Finder (via Terminal)

Setup: Add Positron to your `PATH` via the Command Palette by pressing Cmd+Shift+P to open the palette and typing *Install 'positron' command in PATH*.



In Finder: Right-click on a folder and select "New Terminal at Folder" then, in the Terminal, type `positron .` to launch Positron.

Learn more

Positron docs: Migrating from RStudio > The Rproj file

positron.posit.co/rstudio-rproj-file.html