



# R Programming

Part of "Doing data science in Positron" workshop

Posit Software, PBC





# Multiple versions of R

# R interpreter sessions

- Positron readily discovers and offers multiple versions of R
- Positron can have multiple, concurrent interpreter sessions, that can be
  - a mix of different R versions
  - a mix of R and Python sessions
  - multiple instances of a single R version

New ▾Open ▾Save

EXPLORER

OPEN EDITORS

USETHIS

R

OUTLINE

TIMELINE

create.R

create.R

addin.R

air.R

author.R

badge.R

block.R

browse.R

ci.R

citation.R

code-of-conduct.R

course.R

coverage.R

cpp11.R

cran.R

create.R

data-table.R

data.R

description.R

directory.R

create.R

R > create.R

1 #' Create a package or project

2 #'

3 #' @description

4 #' These functions create an R project:

5 #' \* `create\_package()` creates an R package

6 #' \* `create\_project()` creates a non-package project, i.e. a data analysis

7 #' project

8 #'

9 #' Both functions can be called on an existing project; you will be asked before

10 #' any existing files are changed.

11 #'

12 #' @inheritParams use\_description

13 #' @param fields A named list of fields to add to `DESCRIPTION`, potentially

CONSOLE

TERMINAL

PROBLEMS

OUTPUT

PORTS

DEBUG CONSOLE

~/rrr/usethis

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.

> devtools::load\_all()  
i Loading usethis  
>

main\*

usethis

Quarto: 1.7.31

R 4.4.2

usethis ▾

SESSION

HELP

...

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🔍

Ln 1, Col 1

Spaces: 2

UTF-8

LF

R

🔊

🔔

Select Interpreter Session

R 4.4.2 Currently Selected

/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.4-arm64/Resource...

Active Interpreter Sessions

New Interpreter Session...



New

Open

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R >

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#' overriding default values. See [use\_description()] for how you can set

#' personalized defaults using package options.

#' @param path A path. If it exists, it is used. If it does not exist, it is

#' created, provided that the parent path exists.

#' @param roxygen Do you plan to use roxygen2 to document your package?

#' @param rstudio If `TRUE`, calls [use\_rstudio()] to make the new package or

#' project into an [RStudio

#' Project](https://r-pkgs.org/workflow101.html#sec-workflow101-rstudio-projects).

#' If `FALSE` and a non-package project, a sentinel `.here` file is placed so

#' that the directory can be recognized as a project by the

#' [here](https://here.r-lib.org) or

CONSOLE

TERMINAL

PROBLEMS

TEST RESULTS

OUTPUT

PORTS

~/rrr/usethis

>

Start New Interpreter Session

Python 3.11.11 (Pyenv)

~/pyenv/versions/3.11.11/bin/python

Pyenv

Python 3.10.16 (Pyenv)

~/pyenv/versions/3.10.16/bin/python

Pyenv

Python 3.13.3 (Global)

/opt/homebrew/bin/python3

Global

Python 3.9.6 (Global)

/usr/bin/python3

Global

R 4.4.2

/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.4-arm64/Resources/bin/R

System

R 4.5.0

/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.5-arm64/Resources/bin/R

System

R 4.3.3

/Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/4.3-arm64/Resources/bin/R

System

R 4.4.2

usethis

SESSION

VARIABLES

R 4.4.2

filter

No variables have been created.

PLOTS

main

0↓ 1↑

0 0

usethis

Quarto: 1.7.31

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R

New

Open

<

>

Search

R 4.4.2

usethis

EXPLORER

OPEN EDITORS

create.R R

USETHIS

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~/rrr/usethis

>

SESSION

VARIABLES

R 4.4.2

filter

No variables have been created.

PLOTS

+ - x

R 4.4.2

R 4.5.0

R 4.5.0

R 4.3.3

main

0 ↓ 1 ↑

0 0

usethis

Quarto: 1.7.31

Ln 1, Col 1

Spaces: 2

UTF-8

LF

R

## Teaching tip

- It's best for all students in your course to be using the same R version.
- But sometimes you might not want to update (or, more likely, downgrade) your “personal” R version to match the course version.
- Testing out your course materials with the version of R your students are using without changing your default R version can be helpful.



Air

# Air formatter for R



[posit-dev.github.io/air](https://posit-dev.github.io/air)

- When you install Positron, you get Air "for free" as a pre-bundled extension.
- Air formats your R code based on some opiniated but also widely-used and agreed-upon conventions — details at [posit-dev.github.io/air/formatter.html](https://posit-dev.github.io/air/formatter.html).

# Air + Positron: practical suggestions

- Air extension ships with Positron and includes the Air binary so Air should just work in Positron.
- You can configure Air to be used at the
  - user level to say “I use Air to format the R code in all of my projects”: by adjusting your user setting (more on this in the next module) or
  - workspace level to say “We use Air to format the R code in this project”: by adjusting your workspace settings (more on this in the next module too) or with `usethis::use_air()`\*
- You can also use Air “one-off” from the *Command palette*:
  - *Air: Format Workspace Folder*
  - *Air: Format Document*
  - *Air: Format Selection*
- The Git diff is a great way to see what has changed, so inspect it before committing and pushing!
- There are various ways to disable Air formatting of a specific file, line (or lines in a pipeline), etc.

\* Currently requires dev version of usethis

# Your turn

## Format some ugly R code

- The example project we downloaded earlier has a file with poorly formatted R code: `air-practice.R`
- Open it in Positron. Alternatively, open a personal R file with questionable formatting.
- Remove the `# fmt: skip file` line, so that Air will format the file.
- Experiment with the *Format Selection* and/or *Format Document* commands to see how Air would reformat it.
- Inspect the Git diff to see what's changed.



# If you ❤️ Air *(and you will ❤️ Air)*

Turn on Format on Save for R documents by opening your `settings.json`\* and adding:

```
{
  "[r]": {
    "editor.formatOnSave": true,
    "editor.defaultFormatter": "Posit.air-vscode"
  }
}
```

\* More on settings in the next module!





# Snippets

# Snippets

- Positron's R support provides a few snippets related to R's reserved words.
- Positron provides fewer built-in snippets than RStudio.
- You can configure additional snippets at the user or workspace level.
- Positron uses TextMate syntax for snippets, inherited from VS Code. This is different from RStudio's snippet syntax.
- Snippets are typically inserted via the usual completions offered by IntelliSense. There's also a dedicated command: *Insert Snippet*.
- <https://positron.posit.co/r-snippets.html>

# Built-in snippet example: for loop

```
> for
```

 <b>for</b>	[keyword]	<pre>for (\${1:variable} in \${2:vector}) {   \${0} }</pre>	✕
 <b>for</b>	A for loop		
 <b>for</b> cats::			
 <b>for</b> foreign::			

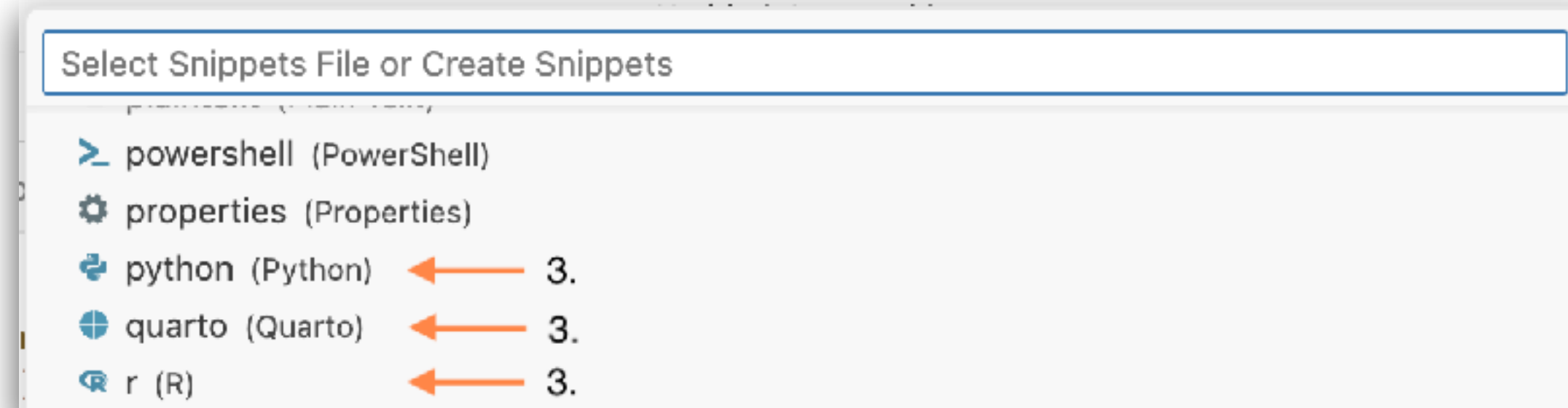
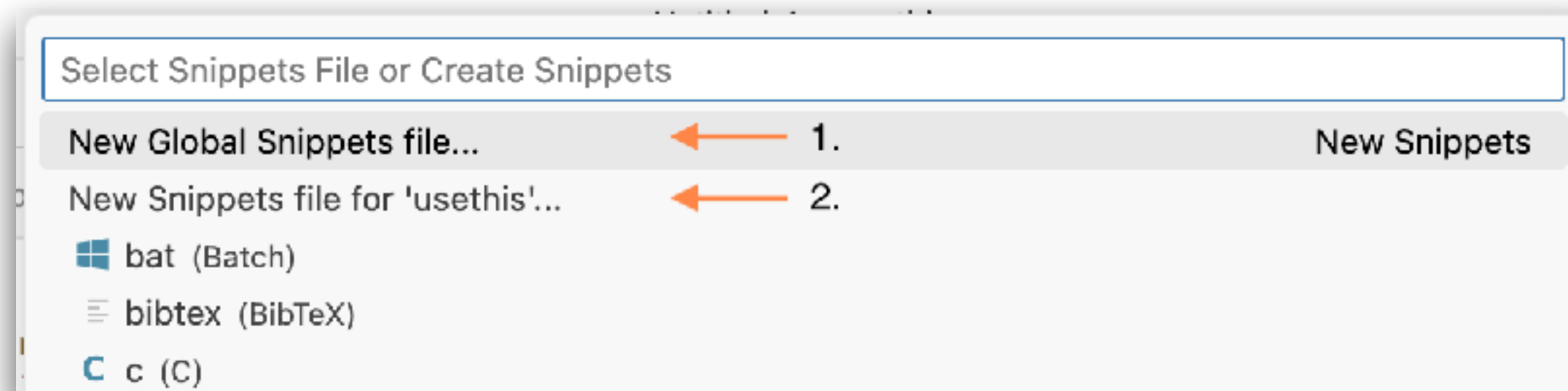
👉 helps you create code like 👉

```
for (variable in vector) {  
  # code to repeat  
}
```



# How to configure your own snippets

Command palette: *Snippets: Configure Snippets*



1. Global Snippets file: User-level. Potentially more than 1 language.
2. Workspace-specific file: Specific to 1 workspace. Potentially more than 1 language.
3. Language-specific file: User-level.

<https://positron.posit.co/r-snippets.html>