



Organization

Part of "Doing data science in Positron" workshop

Posit Software, PBC



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.

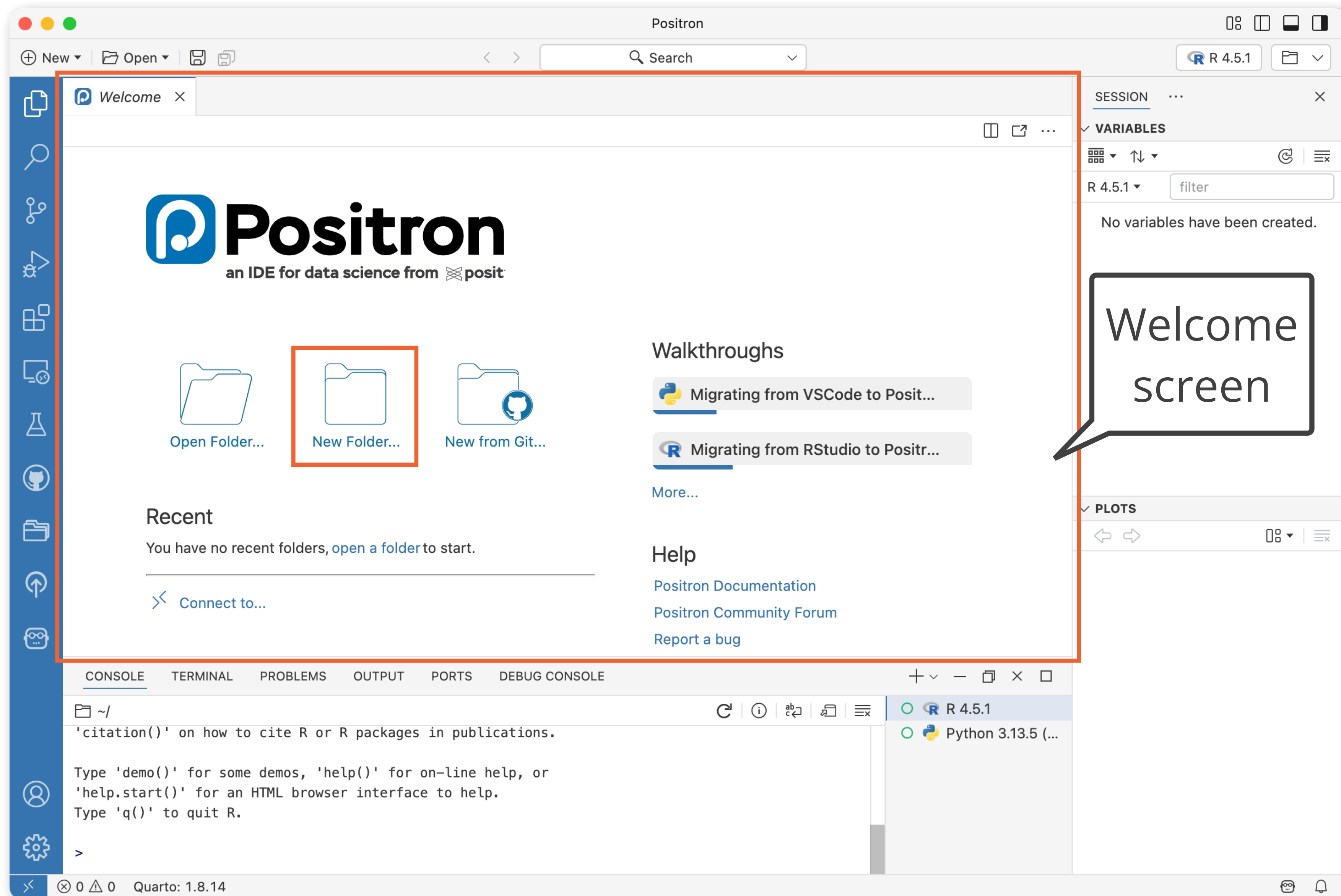
New folder

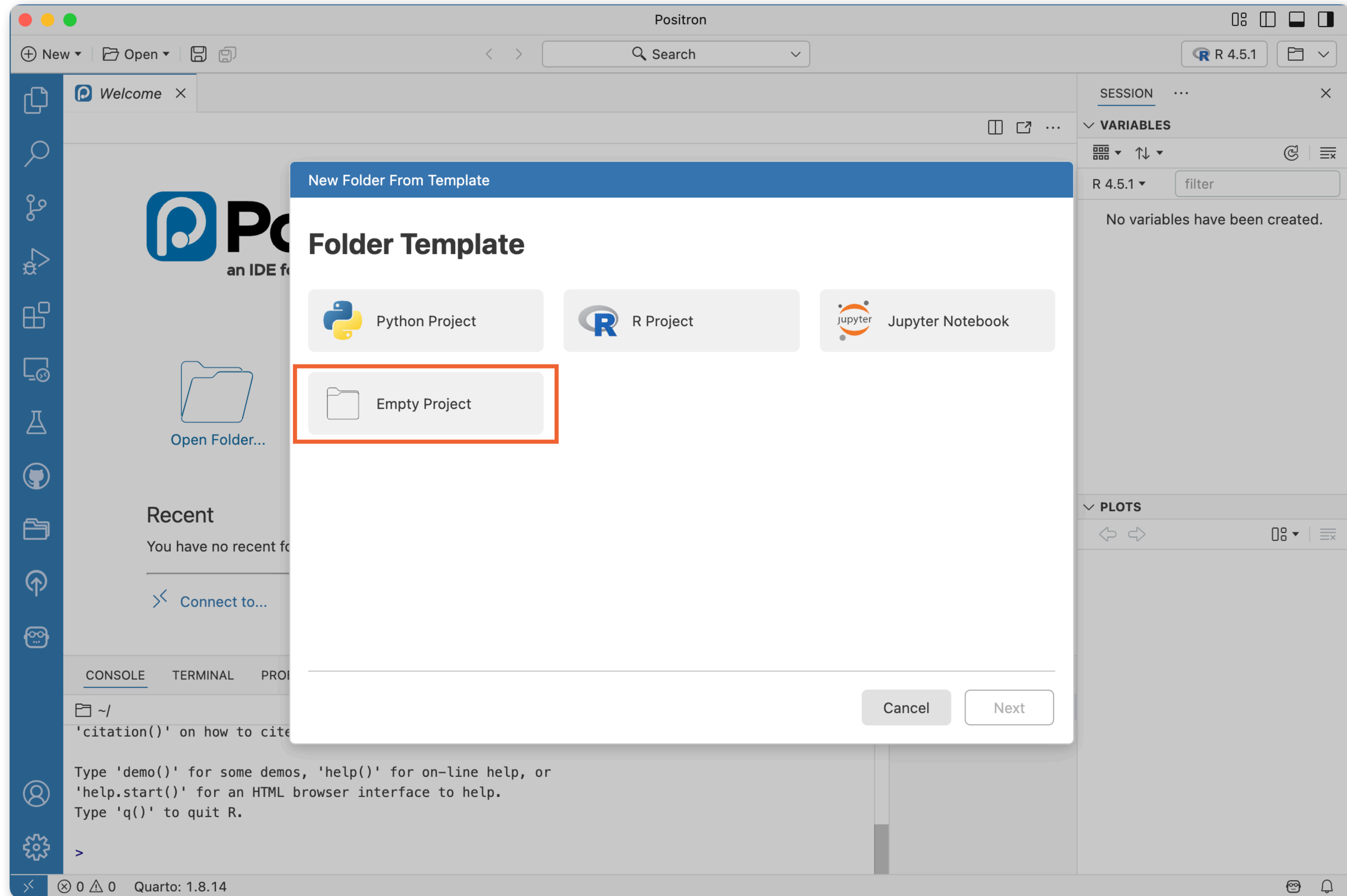
3_m 00_s

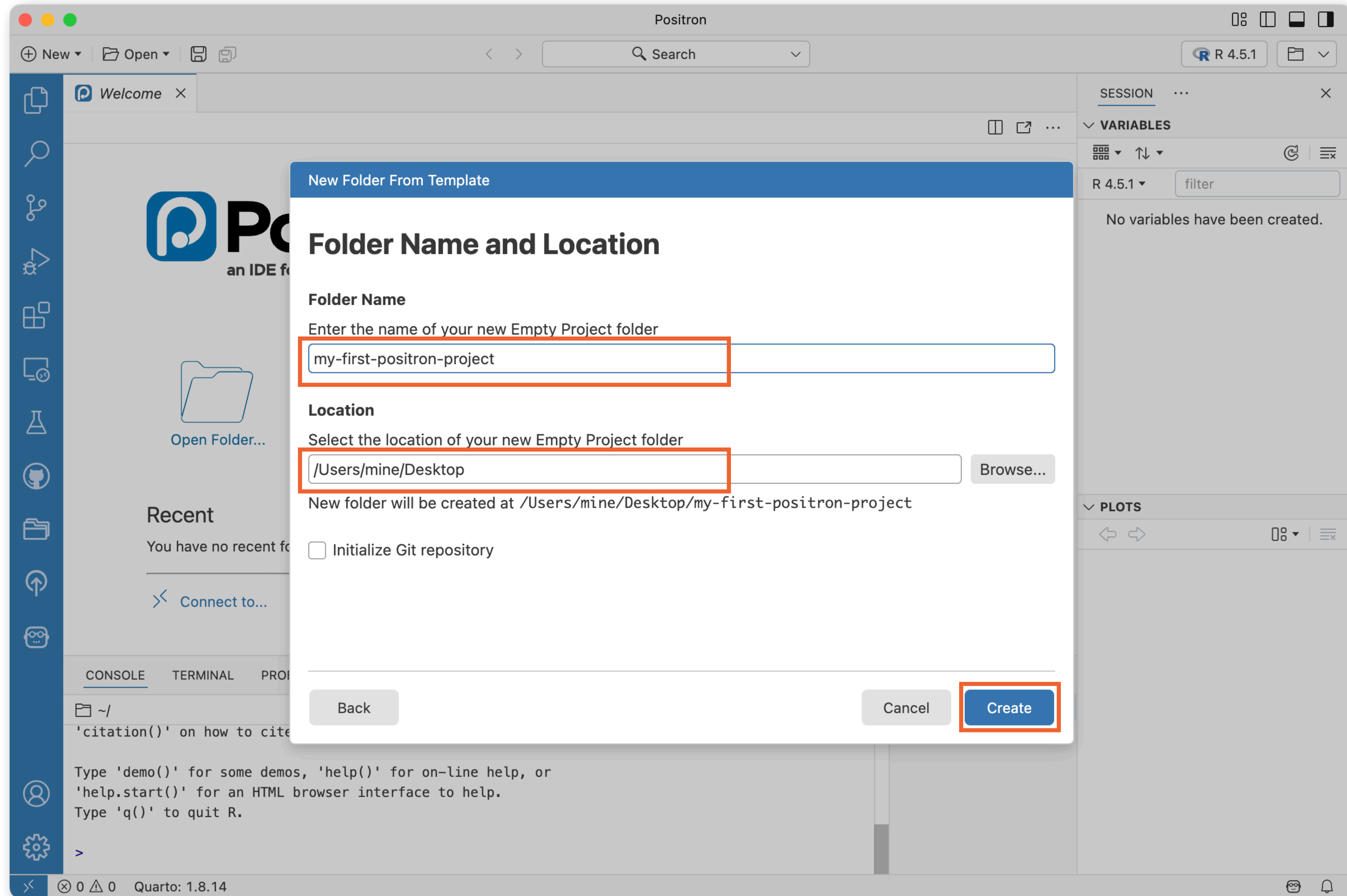
Your turn

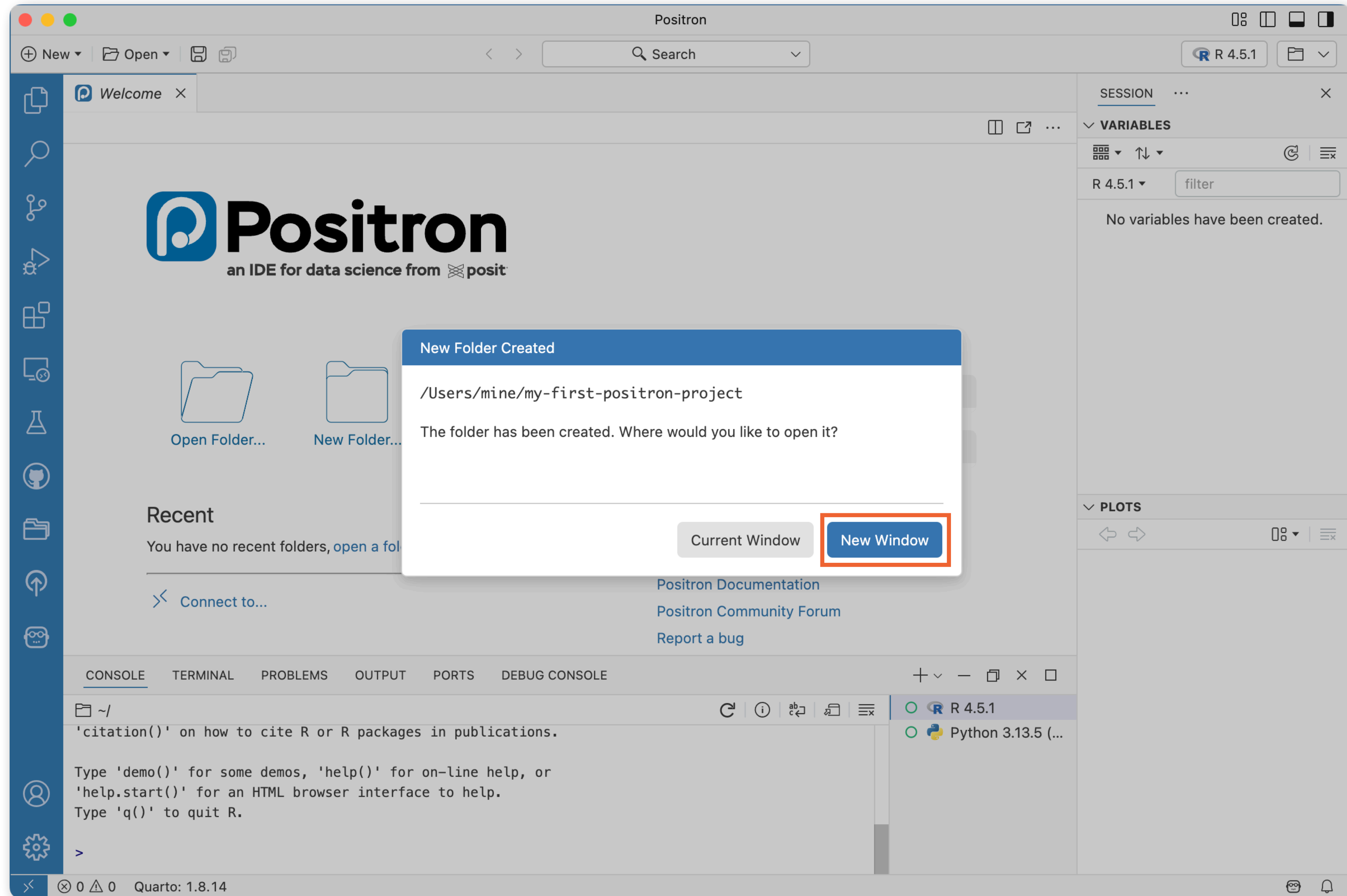
Create new folder

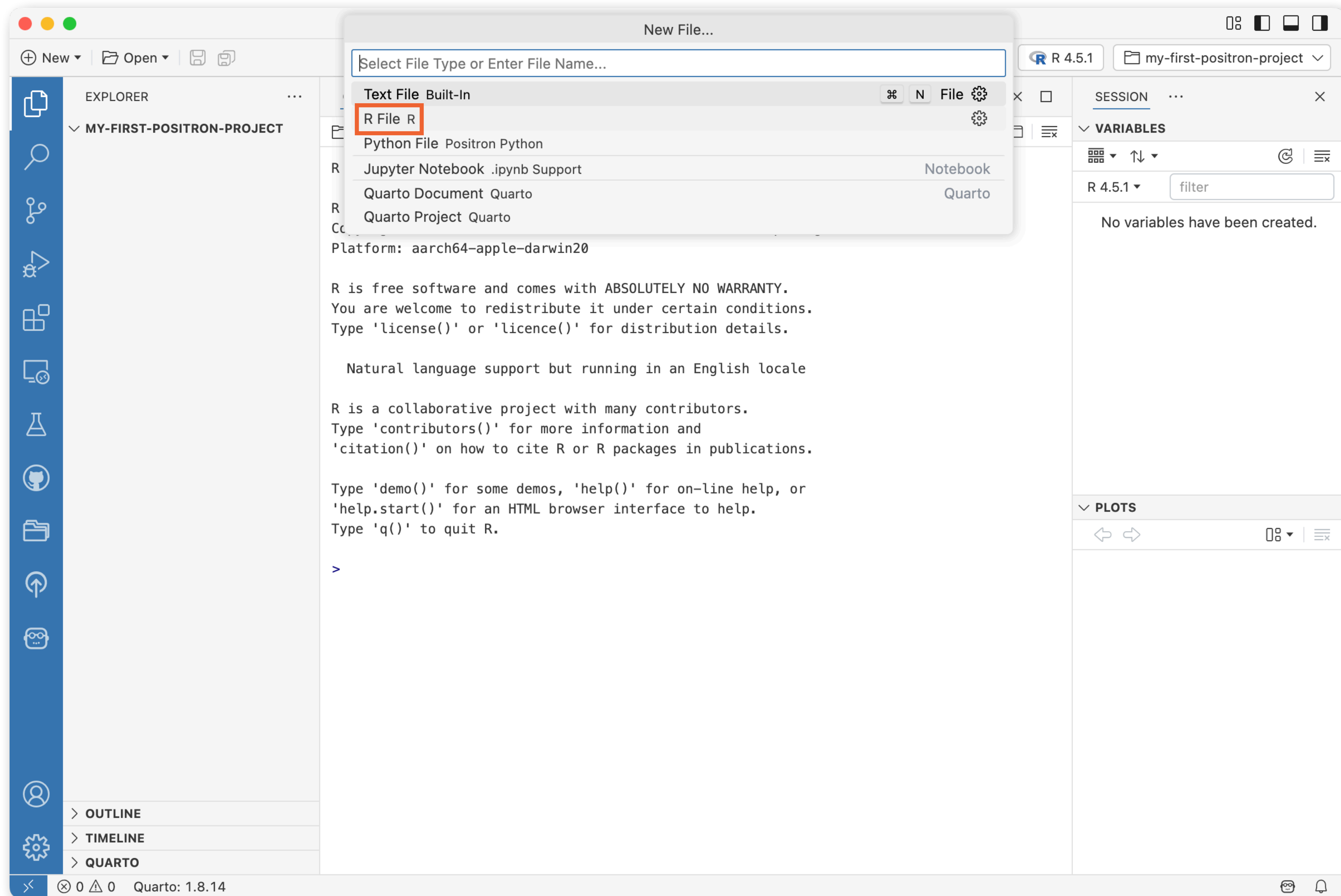
- In the Positron Welcome screen, follow the prompts to create a **New Folder...**:
 - Empty project
 - Name it `my-first-positron-project`
 - Place it on your Desktop
 - Open in a New Window
- Add an R script to the folder and save it.
- How can you tell which folder is open in Positron?











~/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

~/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

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.

OUTLINE

TIMELINE

QUARTO

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): **Ctrl + R**

New

Open

<

>

Search

R 4.5.1

my-first-positron-project

EXPLORER

MY-FIRST-POSITRON-PROJECT

foo.R

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"

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PLOTS

0

0

Quarto: 1.8.14

Ln 2, Col 1

Spaces: 2

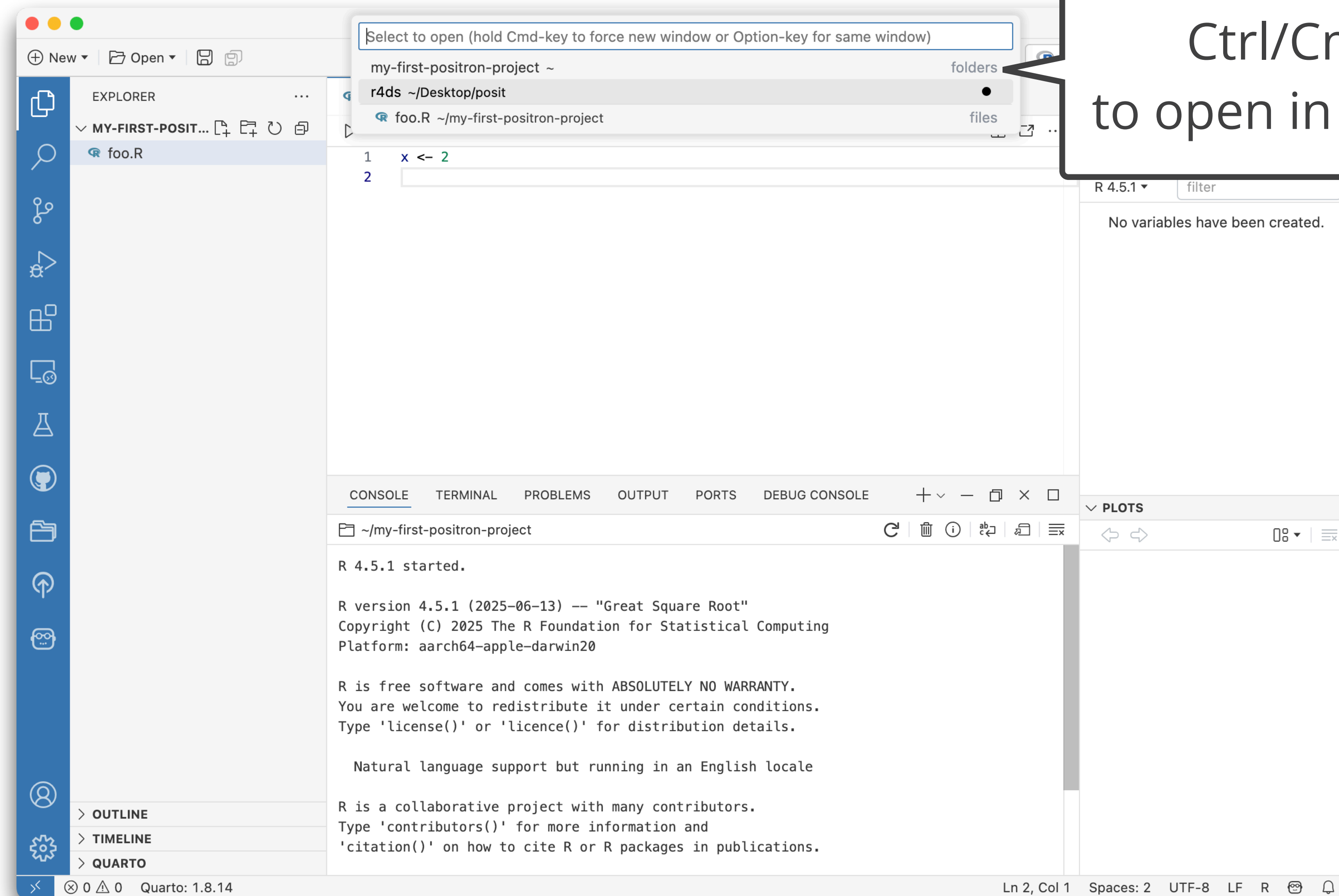
UTF-8

LF

R

Click to reveal menu

Ctrl + R



3_m 00_s

Your turn

Open RStudio Project as a folder

- Locate a project that you usually work on in RStudio that has an Rproj file.
- Open the project folder in Positron.

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
```

3_m 00_s

Your turn

Open new folder from Git

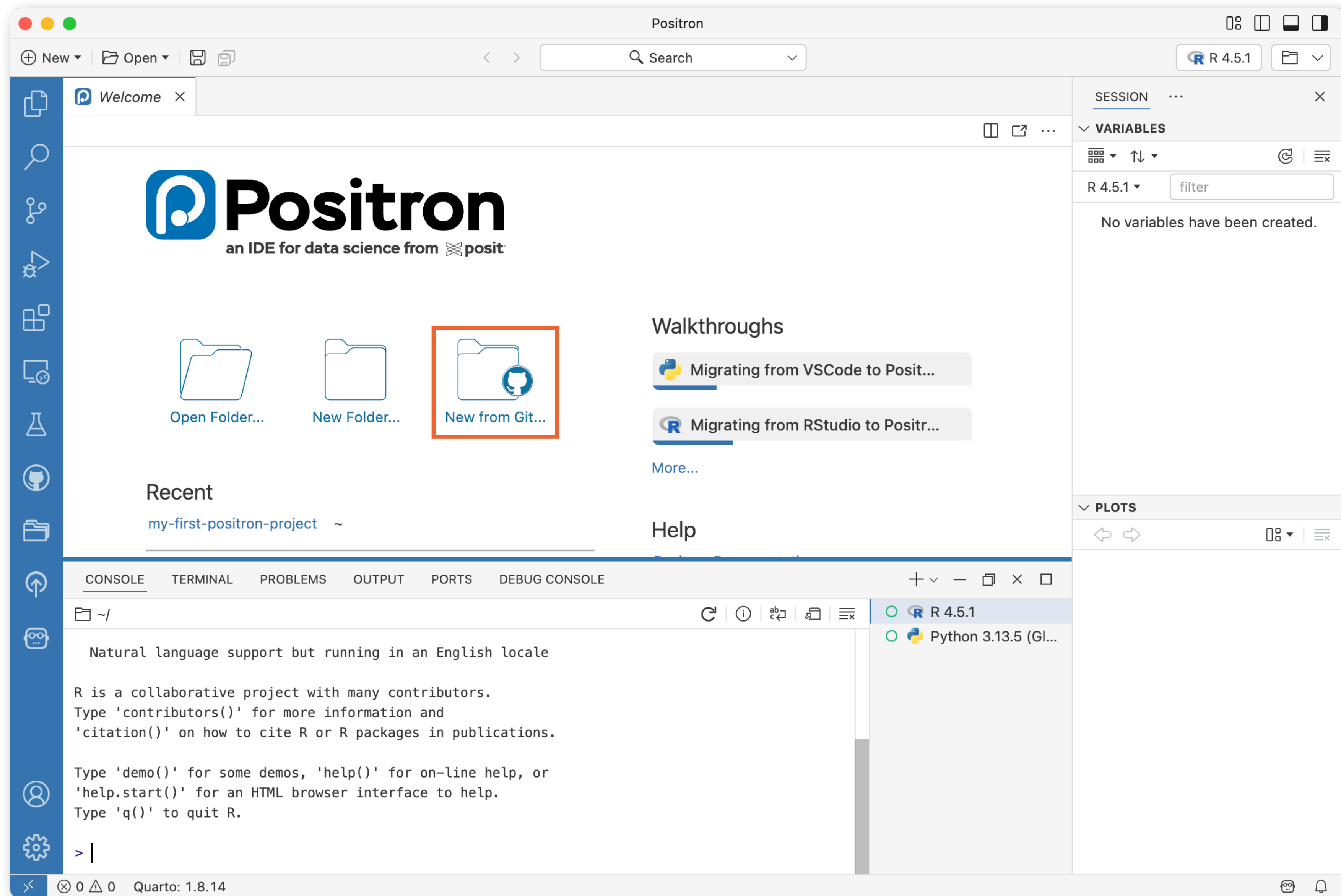
You'll need this project in the next module. Ask for help if you get stuck!

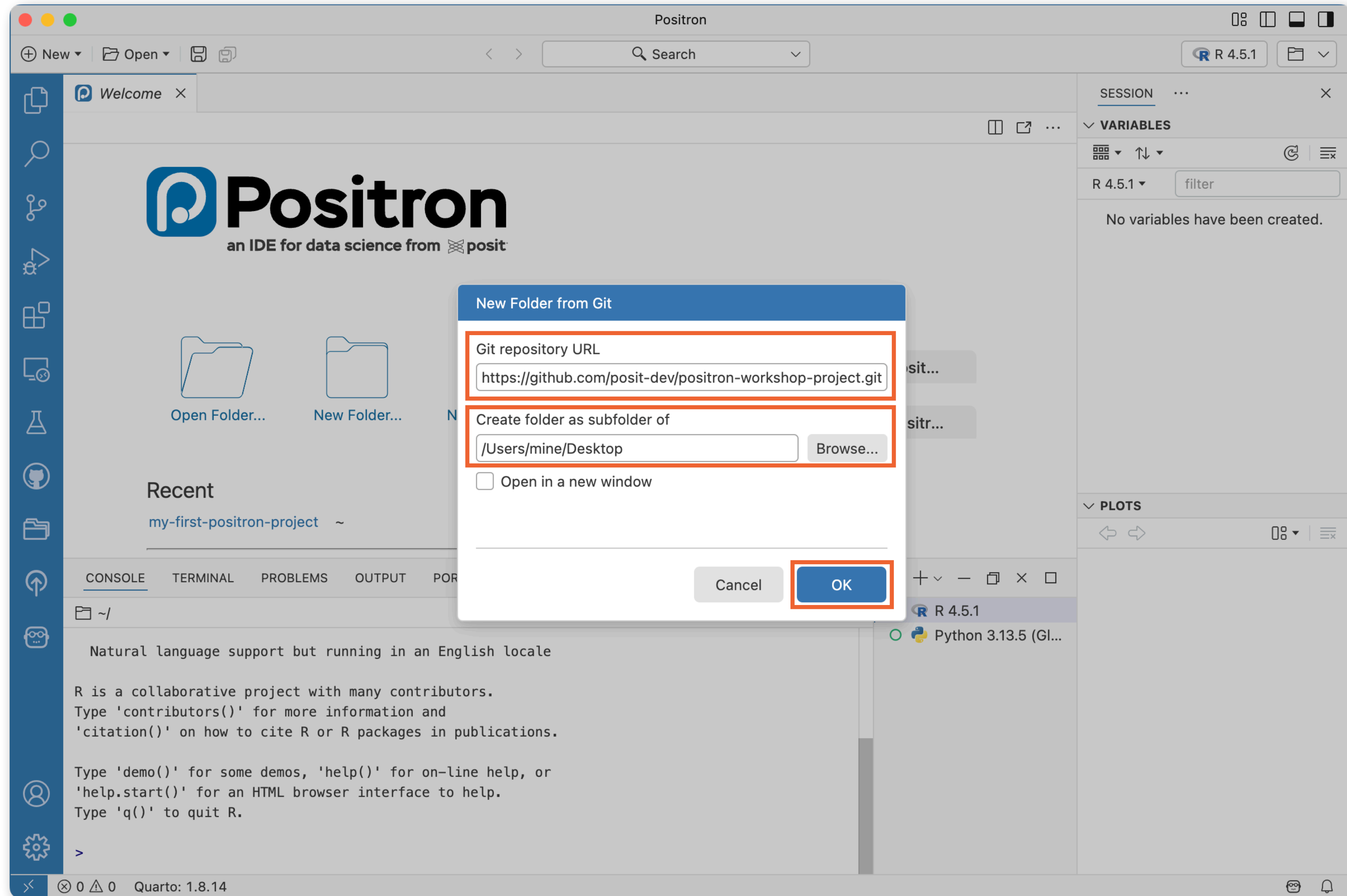
- Open a **New Folder from Git**:
 - The repo: <https://github.com/posit-dev/positron-workshop-project>
 - As a folder on your Desktop

No Git?

Run in the R Console:

```
usethis::use_course("posit-dev/positron-workshop-project")
```





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

Positron

an IDE for data science from posit

New Notebook

New File

Walkthroughs

Migrating from VSC...

Migrating from RSt...

More...

Recent

CONSOLE

TERMINAL

PROBLEMS

OUTPUT

PORTS

DEBUG CONSOLE

~/Desktop/positron-workshop-project

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.

> |

SESSION

VARIABLES

R 4.5.1

filter

No variables have been created.

PLOTS

main

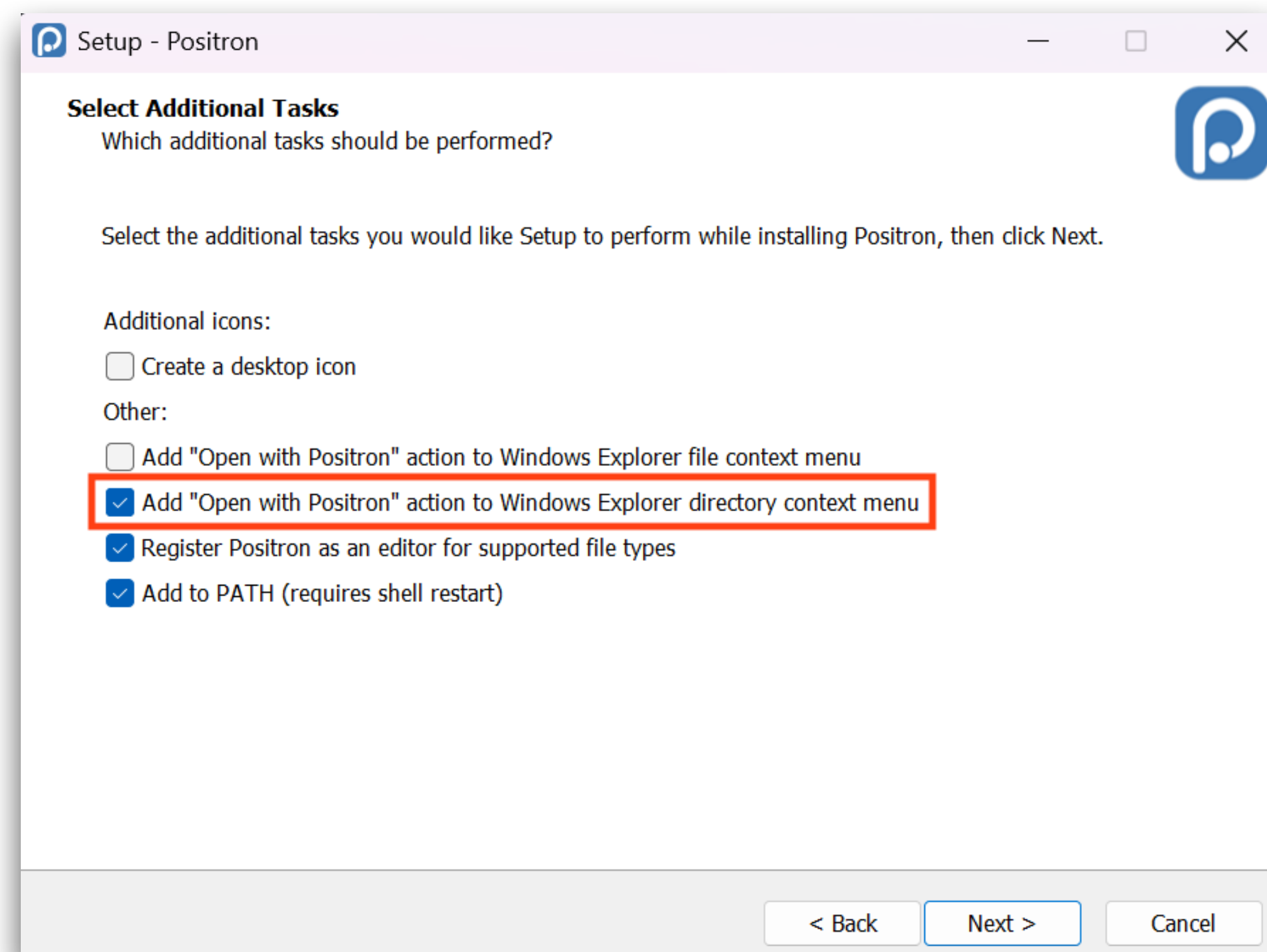
Quarto: 1.8.14

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”.

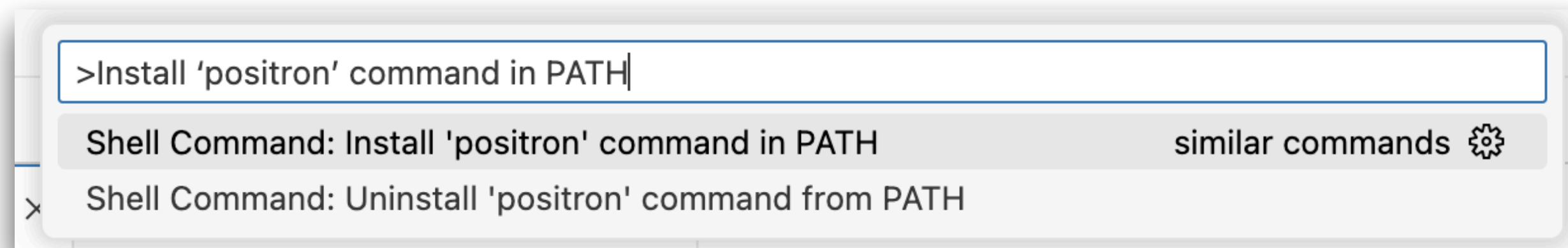
In File Explorer: Right-click on a folder and select “Open with Positron” from the context menu.



Mac OS: Launch from Finder (via Terminal)

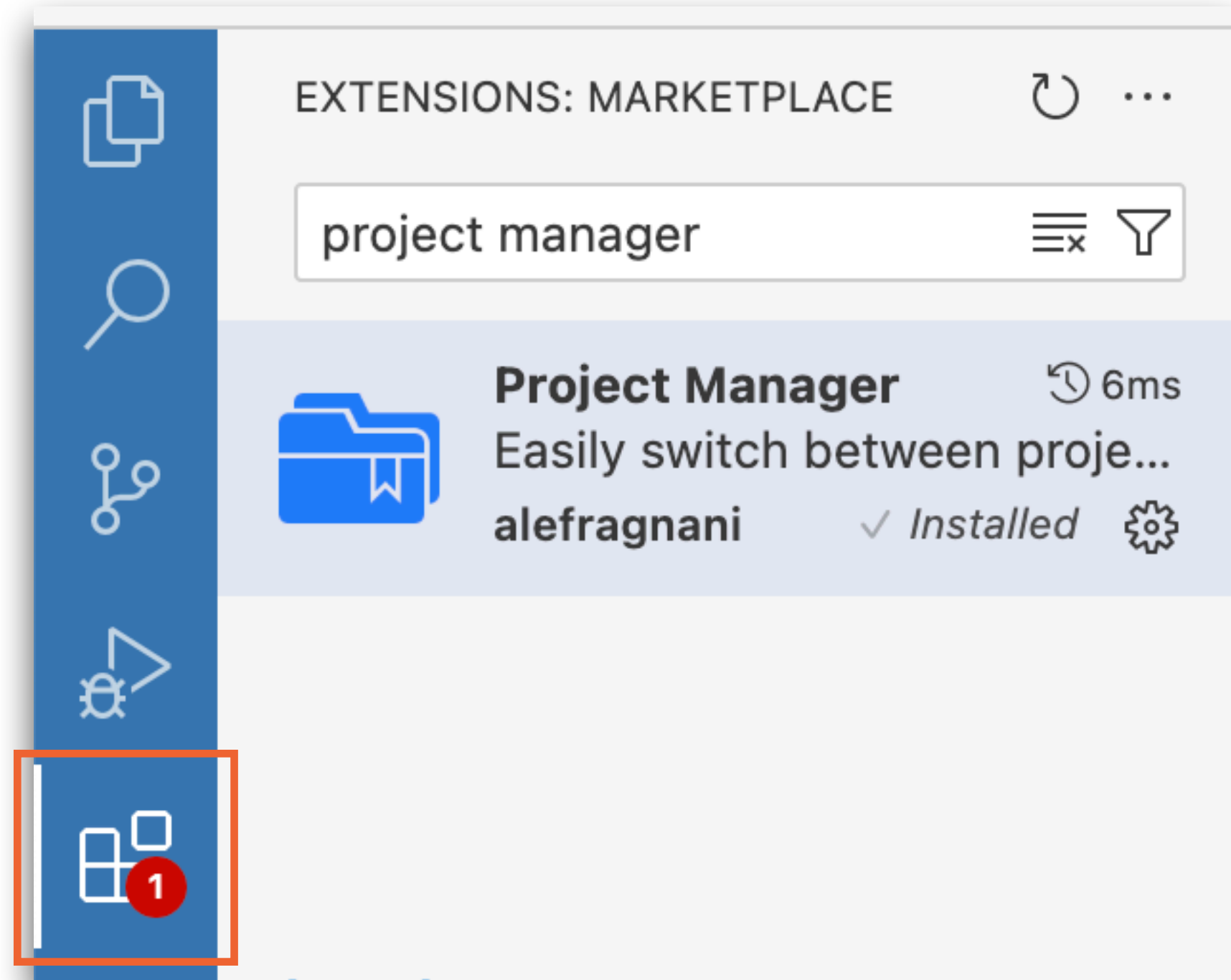
Setup: Add Positron to your **PATH** via the Command Palette by pressing Cmd+Shift+P to open the palette and typing *Install 'positron' command in PATH*.

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

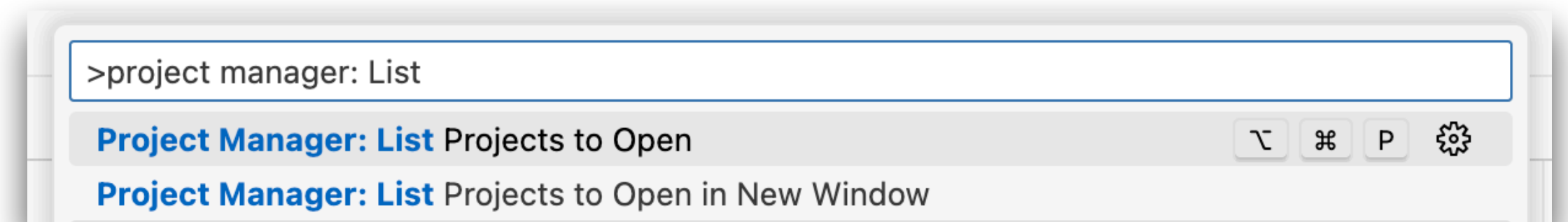


Launch from the Project Manager extension

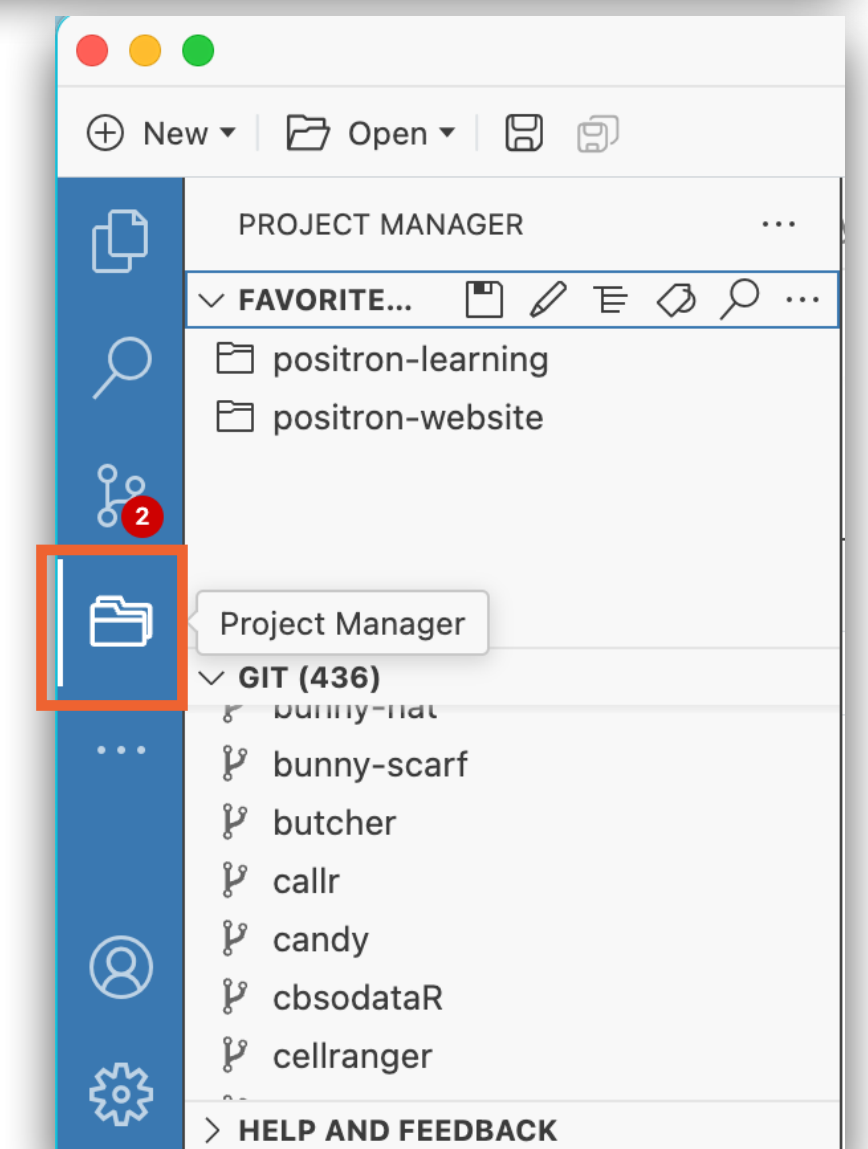
Setup: Install extension from Open VSX Registry.



In the Command Palette: Type *Project Manager: List projects to open* which gives you a nice searchable UI in the command palette.

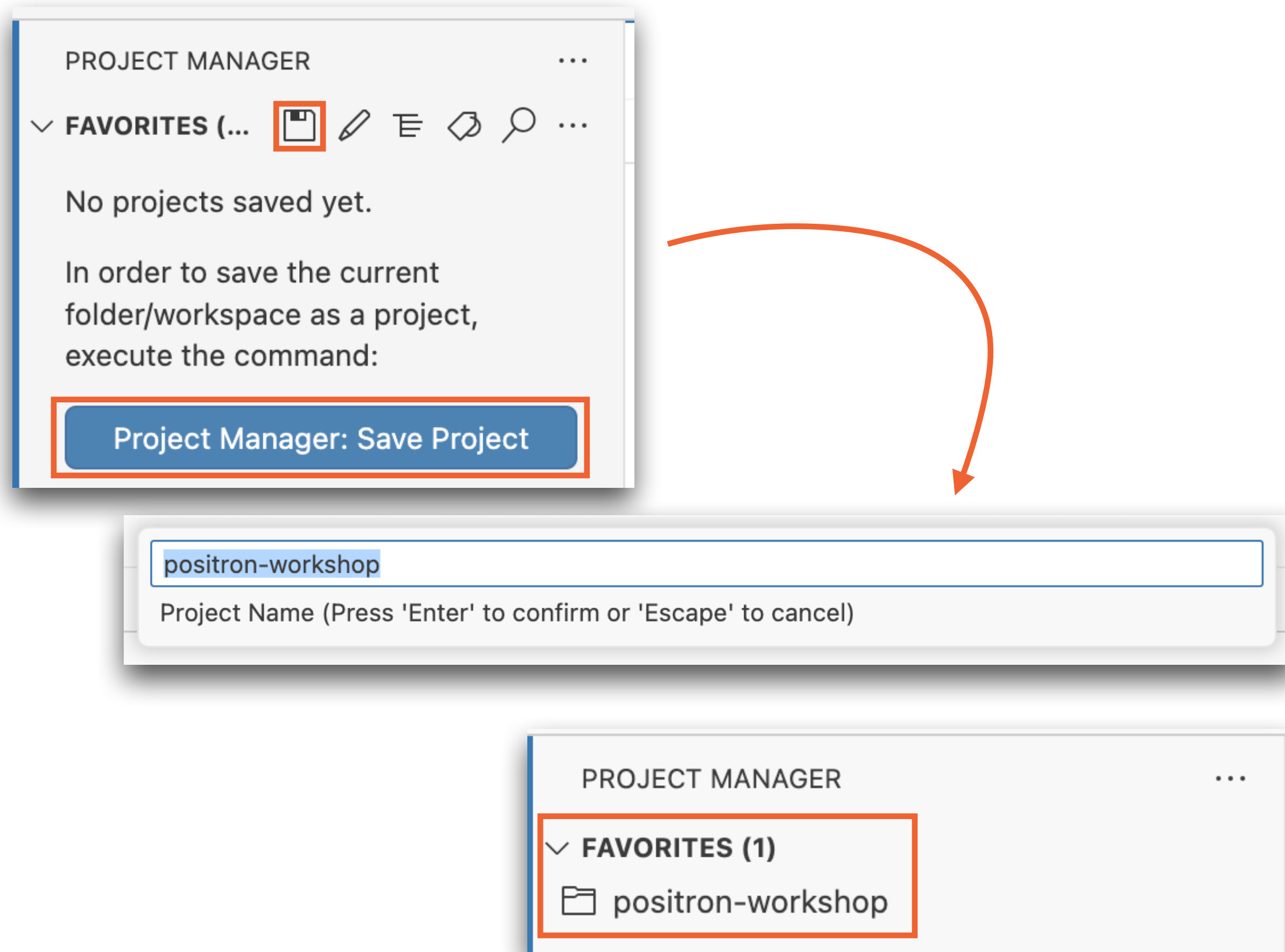


In the Activity Bar:
Click on extension icon.

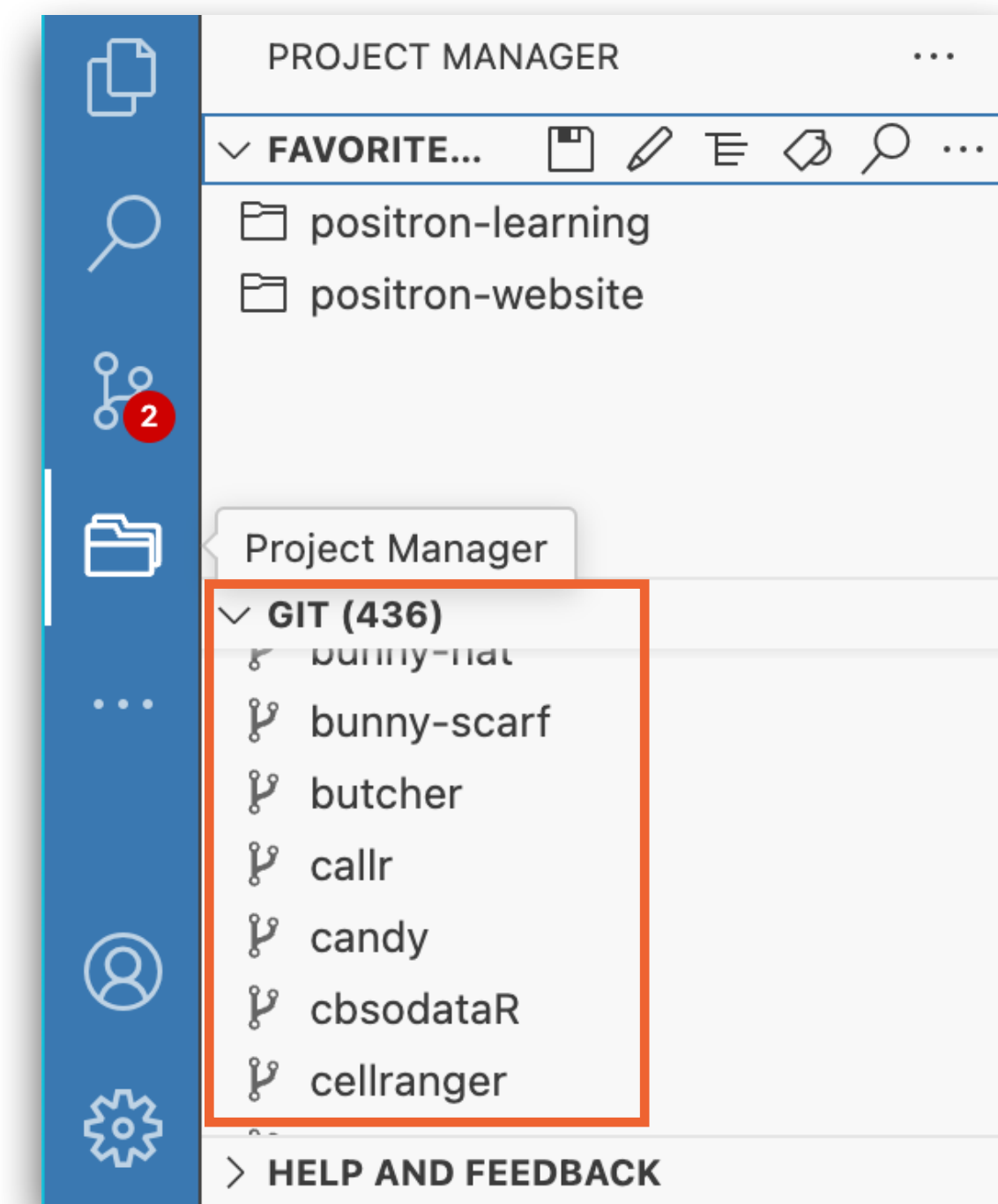


Making your folders known to Project Manager

Favorites: Explicitly save specific folders as favorites.



Git: Tell the extension about specific folders where you tend to keep Git repositories — any subfolder of these base folders that is also a Git repo is automatically treated as a project.



Learn more

Positron docs: Migrating from RStudio > The Rproj file

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