Some Housekeeping ...

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18 January 2023

Data Principles and Ethics

Outline of Today's Class

Some Housekeeping ...

Some Housekeeping ...

R Revision + Key Definitions

Data Principles and Ethics

Markup Languages

Some Housekeeping ...

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► For technical/content questions use the Discussion Forums

- But also: exchange contact info with each other and study together! There is no better way to learn than in teams!
- For extenuating circumstances/mitigation/extensions contact CEMS Student Support: cemssupport@kent.ac.uk
- ▶ Book Office Hour Slot.
- If all of the above did not work, you can email me at: m.sorace@kent.ac.uk

Course Details & Materials

Course GitHub Page



Markup Languages

Spring Term Learning Outcomes

- 1. Collect web data independently
 - Building Web Scrapers via R
- 2. Carry out text analysis via R

MAST5953: Web Scraping & Text Mining Spring Term Structure

- 1. Class 6: Data Science Foundations
- 2. Class 7: Web Scraping and Regular Expressions
- 3. Class 8: Scraping Social Media Data
- 4. Class 9: Text Mining I: Pre-Processing and the Document-Term Matrix
- 5. Class 10: Text Mining II: Sentiment Analysis
- 6. Class 11: Text Mining III: Topic Models

MAST5953: Web Scraping & Text Mining

- 1. Computer labs Weds 9-11am
 - In the labs we will work together through the problem sets/R code.
 - Being present in the computer lab will massively help to pre-test all relevant lines of code which will be used in the assessment!
- 2. Drop-Ins Straight after the lab: 11am-12pm
 - ► The drop-ins will also be streamed online: I will open up the connection on MS Teams at 11am (Teams icon on the left-handside & then click on the MAST5953 box).

First Assessment - Feedback

- ► Failing to respond to the assessment brief: many took the assessment as a way to test a research hypothesis, when it was actually about carrying quality checks on an original survey item!
 - Read the assessment prompt carefully, there is a lot of detail on the Course GitHub Page!
- ► Level of understanding of key concepts/theories not demonstrated sufficiently. Elaborate on definitions in a **technical** way!
 - Attending class and doing the required readings/tasks consistently helps with this!
- Avoid being vague, repetitive and avoid platitudes. Be precise, almost 'robotic' in your delivery: these are short 1000 words reports, there is no space for 'fluff'.
- Remember: the aim is not to see whether you can copy/paste all my lines of code in the exact order I present them in class ... Show you've understood what each line of code does and can apply it when it suits
 - ► Study the code and the notes I provide on it in the Rmd files
 - Practice every week whatewe've learntains class following leave it to

First Assessment - Feedback

- Your grade is on Kent Vision and Moodle
- ▶ I have also provided feedback (both oral and written) on each of your scripts on Moodle: please read it carefully as it can help for your next assessment!

Spring Term Assessment

- ▶ 1,000 words Web Scraping / Text Mining Task
 - Due: 17th March 2023 4pm!
 - ► For issues with submission, and to request extensions/mitigation contact CEMS Student Support: cemssupport@kent.ac.uk

Spring Term Assessment The Assessment Brief

In this task you will have to scrape tweets from 2 politicians and/or public figures of your choosing, on the opposite spectrum ideologically. You will then have to answer the question: how do they differ in the content they publish on Twitter? You will answer this question by interpreting (a) text descriptives; (b) results from a topic model analysis. The 1,000 words report will include (1) a section explaining what web**scraping is**, what method/process was undertaken to scrape the tweets; (2) a section presenting the text descriptive statistics and graphs and interpretation of those; (3) a section where the topic modelling method is briefly explained and where the results from the comparison are pre**sented** (with visualisations and/or numerical summaries). The appendix and tables/figures and R code do not count towards the word limit.

Include a word count at the top of your report.

R Markdown must be used to generate the reports. The snippets of R code will need to be visible and will not count towards the word limit. The appendix will also not count towards the word limit. +/-10% of the word 11 / 49 limit is allowed. Dr. Miriam Sorace Class 6: Data Science Foundations

Spring Term Assessment What I will be assessing

- Technical, professional, concise explanations of web-scraping as a method of data collection and what specific web-scraping method was used for the report.
- A technical, professional, concise presentation of text descriptives, covering all relevant descriptive statistics and graphs with clear and correct interpretations of those.
- Technical, professional, concise explanations of topic modelling as a method for text analysis and clear and correct presentation/interpretation of the comparison results.
- ► Good formatting and well presented R code and/or Appendices (if any added).

Your Feedback to Me And how it will shape the course

- Things that went well:
 - I am good at explaining/clarifying things (75%) so do attend my classes, they are beneficial:):)
- Things that can be improved:
 - Some did not know I have created discussion forums for all your questions
 - Please make sure you are familiar with the course Moodle page and GitHub page ... there is A LOT of info there and I have provided various ways to get support!
 - ▶ More time devoted to clarify the assessment criteria/give feedback:
 - I usually discuss it in the first class of each term, and then leave space in the last class of term to allow for questions.
 - ► Hopefully the information above on assignment 2 and the feedback on your first submission will also prove helpful for this going forwards.



R Revision + Key Definitions

Course Requirements: R Particularly for the Spring Term Sessions!

- Prior knowledge of R is a must, make sure you understand the language basics (packages, objects/vectors, core functions and vector + data management operations), and that you know how to trouble-shoot errors and install packages
 - Great R Intro Resources:
 - Adler, Joseph. 2009. R in a Nutshell. A Desktop Quick Reference. O'Reilly
 - ► Teetor, Paul. 2011. R Cookbook. O'Reilly.
 - ▶ I recommend the following website for revisions: https://stats.idre.ucla.edu/r/

Course Requirements: R

- Make sure you have installed R and RStudio and everything is up-to-date.
 - ► R:
 - Newest Version: 4.2.2
 - Type rversions::r_release() in R to check
 - Follow the instructions to download R here: R Installer
 - RStudio:
 - Updates needed: Go to «Help» «Check for Updates» & follow instructions in the pop-up
 - ► To download RStudio: RStudio Installer

R debugging

Examples of some common errors

- ▶ If it says: there is no package called 'xxx' you just need to type:
 - install.packages("xxx")
- If it says: could not find function 'xxx', just call the library by typing:
 - require(xxx) or library(xxx)
- If it says: cannot open the connection, it means you have not specified the correct working directory (i.e. folder) where the file is located
 - setwd()
- Great Resources to Trouble-Shoot Errors:
 - StackOverflow
 - Stack Exchange
 - just Google it, it's not cheating :)

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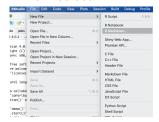
Students often don't realize that being good at coding really just means being good at Googling.

3:03 PM · Jan 11, 2021 · Twitter Web App

32 Retweets 18 Quote Tweets **554** Likes Data Principles and Ethics

Creating an RMarkdown File

From scratch:





- Opening an existing file/template: «File» «Open File» -Navigate to the folder where you saved the .Rmd file & select the file.
- ► Revise the RMarkdown Cheat Sheet

Problems with Knitting?

- ▶ If all troubleshooting fails, try to select the 'Word' or 'HTML' options instead of the pdf option when creating your RMarkdown
 - E.g. instead of output: pdf_document, use output: html_document
 - You can then convert to a pdf later (online pages or via 'Save as' in your laptop)!

Exercise 1: RMarkdown

- Create a new .Rmd file
- ► Knit the template R provides
- Create another .Rmd file but select the 'html' option instead

Key Terms: What is Data?

- Data = coded information for statistical processing
 - letters from an historical archive
 - legislative speeches
 - survey answers
 - tweets
 - Instagram pictures
- Data can be primary (collected directly by the researcher e.g. original survey) or secondary (taken from an existing source - e.g. web database)

Key Terms: Data Science

- Collecting, organising and analysing 'big data'
- ▶ Advent of Web means large amounts of data are online
- Programming skills (R features prominently) are a must

Key Terms: Web Scraping

- ▶ Building a computer program (*scraper*) to grab specific content from webpages and convert it into usable datasets
- ightharpoonup \neq Spidering/Web Crawling: grabbing entire webpage and links in an unstructured way

Disclaimer

you will quickly learn that there is no 'universal' web scraper: web pages are never the same and the same web page can change over time! Finding the perfect scraper to your specific data collection needs requires *customised* programs!

Web Scraping: When Should I Bother?

- data collection task is repeated (e.g. database update)
- data collection task is complex
 - large data
 - expensive (time or money) to do manually
- Web scraping is less error-prone, more time-efficient, and fully reproducible!

Web Scraping Example How Facebook Started

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Check out this short video from the movie: The Social Media - the 'hacking/data scraping' scene

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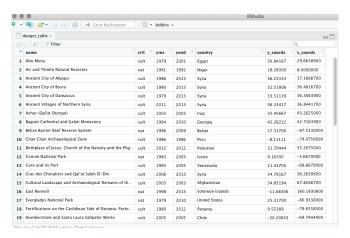
Web Scraping Example Heritage Sites in Danger

Which sites are threatened and where are they located?



Web Scraping Example

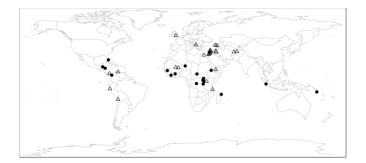
Heritage Sites in Danger - Example Code in GitHub page



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From: Munzert, S., Rubba, C., Meißner, P., Nyhuis, D. (2014). Automated data collection with R: A practical guide to web scraping and text mining John Wiley Sons Foundations

Web Scraping Example Heritage Sites in Danger



From: Munzert, S., Rubba, C., Meißner, P., Nyhuis, D. (2014). Automated data collection with R: A practical guide to web scraping and text mining. John Wiley Sons.



Key Terms: Text Mining

- Automatic categorization of text data
- Usually done on the basis of document word frequency similarity
- Useful when dealing with textual 'big data', to impose a structure

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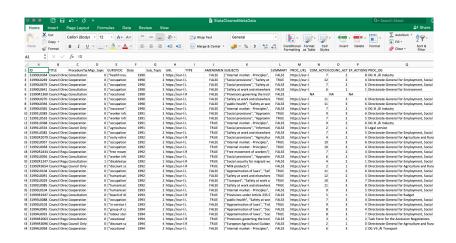
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Data Collection Principles Data Quality

- ▶ Is the data suited to answer my research question? Theory before data!
- Is the data source accurate? Cross-validate!
 - Wikipedia is not a qualitative gold standard ...

Data Collection Principles Data Cleaning

- Is the data complete?
- Is the data consistently measured?
 - Use consistent variable names
 - Use consistent file names
- Data should be organised as a single rectangle
 - units in row, variables in columns
 - first row should contain variable names
 - in naming, avoid spaces and special characters. Use hyphens/underscores
 - only 1 piece of observation per cell
 - avoid numbering missing values. Use blank space, "NA", or "."



Data Collection Principles Data Transparency & Reproducibility

- Store the data in open formats (best: ".csv"), avoid software-specific formats
- Document everything!
 - Variable codebook
 - R scripts / do files
- Have a master dataset that you never overwrite
 - data you can always go back to
- backup your files! (Dropbox / Google Drive)

Data Collection Principles Example Variable Codebook

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General Questions on European Integration

CHES 2019 Codebook

EU POSITION = overall orientation of the party leadership towards European integration in 2019.

- 1 = Strongly opposed
- 2 = Opposed
- 3 = Somewhat opposed
- 4 = Neutral
- 5 = Somewhat in favor
- 6 = In favor
- 7 = Strongly in favor

EU POSITION SD = standard deviation of expert placement of overall orientation of the party leadership towards European integration in 2019.

EU SALIENCE = relative salience of European integration in the party's public stance in 2019.

- 0 = European Integration is of no importance.
- 10 = European Integration is of great importance.

EU DISSENT = degree of dissent on European integration in 2019.

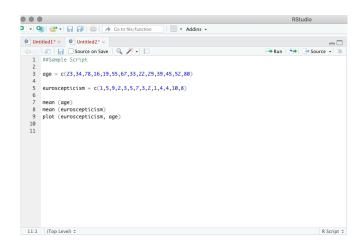
- 0 = Party was completely united.
- 10 = Party was extremely divided.

 Dr. Mirjam Sorace



Data Collection Principles Example R Script

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That's why using RMarkdown is great!



Ethical issues

- do not violate copyrights/terms of use: check if you have permission
- cite/give appropriate credit for data
- Respect privacy: anonymise!
- Do not coerce: make sure you have consent

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Web page Structures

- ▶ HTML Hypertext Markup Language: series of symbols that define the structure and presentation of a web page. Invaluable to learn in web scraping as this is the standard language.
- ➤ XML Extensible Markup Language: almost identical to HTML but more flexible since tags can be user-defined.
- ▶ **JSON** JavaScript Object Notation: more lightweight formatting language, no start/end tags, just key/value pairs and curly or square brackets to express hierarchies.

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Figure 2.1 Browser view of a simple HTML document



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Figure 2.2 Source view of a simple HTML document

HTML: Element Inspector





HTML: Core Elements

- head: metadata element, usually containing document characteristics
- title: document title, used by search engines
- **body**: contains the webpage contents
- header: defines section headers
- **div**: defines a section of the html document
- ▶ link: defines links to external resources. Attributes likw rel="" and href="" define, respectively, type of link and url of the external resource

HTML: Formatting Tags

- **p**: defines separate paragraphs
- br: defines a line break
- ▶ b: bold text
- ▶ i: text in italic
- ▶ ul: unordered lists
- ▶ ol: ordered lists
- h1 ... h6: headline size
- span: usually combined with attribute class="" or style="" marks up parts of text to change colors and style
- ▶ table: used to begin a table tr used to begin a row, td for cells, and th for header cells.

Always preceded and followed starting and closing brackets. For more information see https://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp.



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```
<?xml version="1.0" encoding="ISO-8859-1"?>
<br/>bond movies>
  <movie id="1">
    <name>Dr. No</name>
    <vear>1962
    <actors bond="Sean Connerv" villain="Joseph Wiseman"/>
    <budget>1.1M</budget>
    <boxoffice>59.5M</boxoffice>
  <movie id="2">
    <name>Live and Let Die</name>
    <vear>1973
    <actors bond="Roger Moore" villain="Yaphet Kotto"/>
    <budget>7M</budget>
    <br/>
<br/>
boxoffice>126.4M</boxoffice>
  </movies
  <movie id="3">
    <name>Skvfall</name>
    <vear>2012
    <actors bond="Daniel Craig" villain="Javier Bardem"/>
    <budget>175M</budget>
    <br/><boxoffice>1108.6M</boxoffice>
</bond movies>
```

Figure 3.1 An XML code example: James Bond movies

```
{"indv movies" :[
          "name" : "Raiders of the Lost Ark",
          "year" : 1981,
          "actors" . (
                "Indiana Jones": "Harrison Ford",
                "Dr. René Bellog": "Paul Freeman"
          "producers": ["Frank Marshall", "George Lucas", "Howard Kazanjian"],
          "budget" : 18000000,
          "academy award ve": true
12
14
          "name" | "Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom",
          "year" : 1984.
          "actors" : {
                "Indiana Jones": "Harrison Ford",
                "Mola Ram": "Amish Puri"
10
20
          "producers": ["Robert Watts"].
          "budget" : 28170000,
22
          "academy award ve": true
23
24
25
          "name" , "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade",
          "year" : 1989.
          "actors" : {
                "Indiana Jones": "Harrison Ford".
29
                "Walter Donovan": "Julian Glover"
          "producers": ["Robert Watts", "George Lucas"].
          "budget" : 48000000,
33
          "academy award ve": false
34
```

Figure 3.9 JSON code example: Indiana Jones movies

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Steps of Web Scraping

- 1. **Inspect** background structure of the web page
- 2. Read HTML/XML/JSON structure into R
- 3. **Parse** = extract information from relevant webpage elements only & convert to usable format (data frame)

Exercise 2: Inspecting Web-Pages

- ▶ Open a webpage (e.g. newspaper or Wikipedia).
- Have a look at the source code (right-click on the webpage with your mouse and select the command that mentions 'page source' or 'inspect element').
- ► Check out the structure of the code underlying the webpage: can you find some familiar element?

Exercise 3: Create a Web-Page

- Write up a Word Document with a section head in bold and a series of paragraphs and an ordered list (you can also copy/paste content from a website)
- 2. Save the word document as an html file (scroll down the 'file format' field, after clicking 'save as').
- 3. Open the html file and explore it with the 'Inspect Element' function in your browser (right-clicking). What does the HTML structure of your document look like?

Exercise 4: Re-create a Web-Page Structure

- 1. Go to: w3schools.com/html/tryit
- Play with HTML editor and try to re-create the main section of this webpage (doesn't have to be an identical/perfect result, try to approximate it as best you can!): e.g.EU Treaties

The w3schools website also has suggestions on useful tags you can use, with examples, see:

https://www.w3schools.com/html/default.asp)