# Introduction to R and RStudio

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The goal of this lab is to introduce you to R and RStudio, which you'll be using throughout the course both to learn the statistical concepts discussed in the texbook and also to analyze real data and come to informed conclusions. To straighten out which is which: R is the name of the programming language itself and RStudio is a convenient interface.

As the labs progress, you are encouraged to explore beyond what the labs dictate; a willingness to experiment will make you a much better programmer. Before we get to that stage, however, you need to build some basic fluency in R. Today we begin with the fundamental building blocks of R and RStudio: the interface, reading in data, and basic commands.

The panel in the upper right contains your *workspace* as well as a history of the commands that you've previously entered. Any plots that you generate will show up in the panel in the lower right corner.

The panel on the left is where the action happens. It's called the *console*. Everytime you launch RStudio, it will have the same text at the top of the console telling you the version of R that you're running. Below that information is the *prompt*. As its name suggests, this prompt is really a request, a request for a command. Initially, interacting with R is all about typing commands and interpreting the output. These commands and their syntax have evolved over decades (literally) and now provide what many users feel is a fairly natural way to access data and organize, describe, and invoke statistical computations.

To get you started, enter the following command at the R prompt (i.e. right after > on the console). You can either type it in manually or copy and paste it from this document.

## Reference library ggplot

library("ggplot2")

source("more/arbuthnot.R")

This command instructs R to access the OpenIntro website and fetch some data: the Arbuthnot baptism counts for boys and girls. You should see that the workspace area in the upper righthand corner of the RStudio window now lists a data set called arbuthnot that has 82 observations on 3 variables. As you interact with R, you will create a series of objects. Sometimes you load them as we have done here, and sometimes you create them yourself as the byproduct of a computation or some analysis you have performed. Note that because you are accessing data from the web, this command (and the entire assignment) will work in a computer lab, in the library, or in your dorm room; anywhere you have access to the Internet.

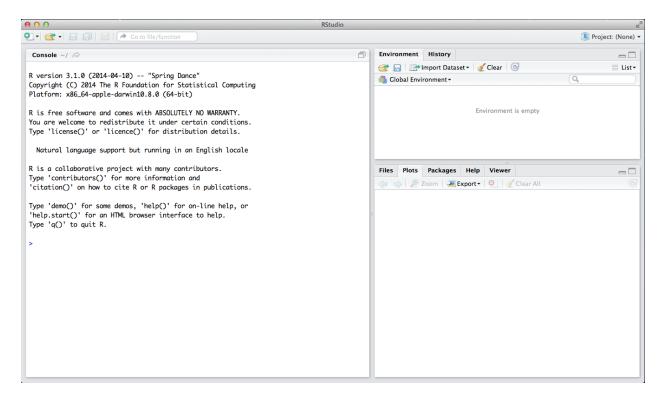


Figure 1: rinterface

# The Data: Dr. Arbuthnot's Baptism Records

The Arbuthnot data set refers to Dr. John Arbuthnot, an 18th century physician, writer, and mathematician. He was interested in the ratio of newborn boys to newborn girls, so he gathered the baptism records for children born in London for every year from 1629 to 1710. We can take a look at the data by typing its name into the console.

#### arbuthnot

```
##
      year boys girls
## 1
      1629 5218
                 4683
## 2
      1630 4858
                  4457
## 3
      1631 4422
                  4102
## 4
      1632 4994
                  4590
## 5
      1633 5158
                  4839
## 6
      1634 5035
                  4820
## 7
      1635 5106
                  4928
## 8
      1636 4917
                  4605
## 9
      1637 4703
                  4457
## 10 1638 5359
                  4952
## 11 1639 5366
                  4784
## 12 1640 5518
                  5332
## 13 1641 5470
                  5200
## 14 1642 5460
                  4910
## 15 1643 4793
                  4617
## 16 1644 4107
                  3997
## 17 1645 4047
                  3919
## 18 1646 3768
                  3395
```

```
## 19 1647 3796
## 20 1648 3363
                 3181
## 21 1649 3079
                 2746
## 22 1650 2890
                 2722
## 23 1651 3231
                 2840
## 24 1652 3220
                 2908
## 25 1653 3196
## 26 1654 3441
                 3179
## 27 1655 3655
                  3349
## 28 1656 3668
                  3382
## 29 1657 3396
                  3289
## 30 1658 3157
                  3013
## 31 1659 3209
                 2781
## 32 1660 3724
                  3247
## 33 1661 4748
                  4107
## 34 1662 5216
                  4803
## 35 1663 5411
                  4881
## 36 1664 6041
## 37 1665 5114
                 4858
## 38 1666 4678
## 39 1667 5616
                 5322
## 40 1668 6073
                  5560
## 41 1669 6506
                 5829
## 42 1670 6278
                 5719
## 43 1671 6449
                  6061
## 44 1672 6443
                  6120
## 45 1673 6073
                 5822
## 46 1674 6113
                 5738
## 47 1675 6058
                 5717
## 48 1676 6552
                  5847
## 49 1677 6423
                  6203
## 50 1678 6568
                  6033
## 51 1679 6247
                  6041
## 52 1680 6548
                 6299
## 53 1681 6822
                  6533
## 54 1682 6909
                 6744
## 55 1683 7577
## 56 1684 7575
                 7127
## 57 1685 7484
                 7246
## 58 1686 7575
                 7119
## 59 1687 7737
                 7214
## 60 1688 7487
                 7101
## 61 1689 7604
                 7167
## 62 1690 7909
                 7302
## 63 1691 7662
                 7392
## 64 1692 7602
                 7316
## 65 1693 7676
                 7483
## 66 1694 6985
                  6647
                 6713
## 67 1695 7263
## 68 1696 7632
                 7229
## 69 1697 8062
                 7767
## 70 1698 8426
                 7626
## 71 1699 7911
                 7452
## 72 1700 7578
                 7061
```

```
## 73 1701 8102
                  7514
## 74 1702 8031
                  7656
## 75 1703 7765
                  7683
## 76 1704 6113
                  5738
  77 1705 8366
                  7779
  78 1706 7952
                  7417
  79 1707 8379
                  7687
## 80 1708 8239
                  7623
## 81 1709 7840
                  7380
## 82 1710 7640
                 7288
```

What you should see are four columns of numbers, each row representing a different year: the first entry in each row is simply the row number (an index we can use to access the data from individual years if we want), the second is the year, and the third and fourth are the numbers of boys and girls baptized that year, respectively. Use the scrollbar on the right side of the console window to examine the complete data set.

Note that the row numbers in the first column are not part of Arbuthnot's data. R adds them as part of its printout to help you make visual comparisons. You can think of them as the index that you see on the left side of a spreadsheet. In fact, the comparison to a spreadsheet will generally be helpful. R has stored Arbuthnot's data in a kind of spreadsheet or table called a *data frame*.

You can see the dimensions of this data frame by typing:

```
dim(arbuthnot)
```

```
## [1] 82 3
```

This command should output [1] 82 3, indicating that there are 82 rows and 3 columns (we'll get to what the [1] means in a bit), just as it says next to the object in your workspace. You can see the names of these columns (or variables) by typing:

```
names(arbuthnot)
```

```
## [1] "year" "boys" "girls"
```

You should see that the data frame contains the columns year, boys, and girls. At this point, you might notice that many of the commands in R look a lot like functions from math class; that is, invoking R commands means supplying a function with some number of arguments. The dim and names commands, for example, each took a single argument, the name of a data frame.

One advantage of RStudio is that it comes with a built-in data viewer. Click on the name **arbuthnot** in the Environment pane (upper right window) that lists the objects in your workspace. This will bring up an alternative display of the data set in the  $Data\ Viewer$  (upper left window). You can close the data viewer by clicking on the x in the upper lefthand corner.

#### Some Exploration

Let's start to examine the data a little more closely. We can access the data in a single column of a data frame separately using a command like

```
arbuthnot$boys
```

```
## [1] 5218 4858 4422 4994 5158 5035 5106 4917 4703 5359 5366 5518 5470 5460  
## [15] 4793 4107 4047 3768 3796 3363 3079 2890 3231 3220 3196 3441 3655 3668  
## [29] 3396 3157 3209 3724 4748 5216 5411 6041 5114 4678 5616 6073 6506 6278  
## [43] 6449 6443 6073 6113 6058 6552 6423 6568 6247 6548 6822 6909 7577 7575  
## [57] 7484 7575 7737 7487 7604 7909 7662 7602 7676 6985 7263 7632 8062 8426  
## [71] 7911 7578 8102 8031 7765 6113 8366 7952 8379 8239 7840 7640
```

This command will only show the number of boys baptized each year.

1. What command would you use to extract just the counts of girls baptized? Try it!

## arbuthnot\$girls

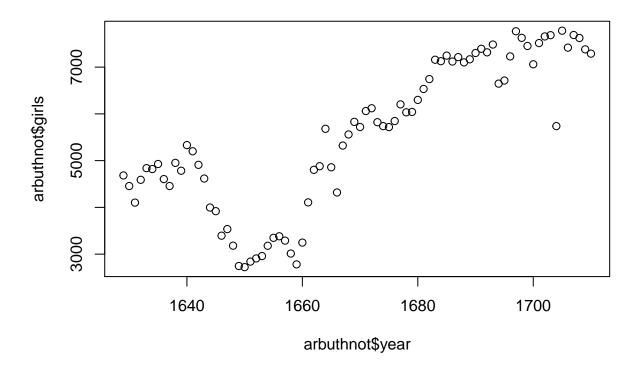
```
## [1] 4683 4457 4102 4590 4839 4820 4928 4605 4457 4952 4784 5332 5200 4910 ## [15] 4617 3997 3919 3395 3536 3181 2746 2722 2840 2908 2959 3179 3349 3382 ## [29] 3289 3013 2781 3247 4107 4803 4881 5681 4858 4319 5322 5560 5829 5719 ## [43] 6061 6120 5822 5738 5717 5847 6203 6033 6041 6299 6533 6744 7158 7127 ## [57] 7246 7119 7214 7101 7167 7302 7392 7316 7483 6647 6713 7229 7767 7626 ## [71] 7452 7061 7514 7656 7683 5738 7779 7417 7687 7623 7380 7288
```

This command will only show the number of girls baptized each year.

Notice that the way R has printed these data is different. When we looked at the complete data frame, we saw 82 rows, one on each line of the display. These data are no longer structured in a table with other variables, so they are displayed one right after another. Objects that print out in this way are called *vectors*; they represent a set of numbers. R has added numbers in [brackets] along the left side of the printout to indicate locations within the vector. For example, 5218 follows [1], indicating that 5218 is the first entry in the vector. And if [43] starts a line, then that would mean the first number on that line would represent the 43rd entry in the vector.

R has some powerful functions for making graphics. We can create a simple plot of the number of girls baptized per year with the command

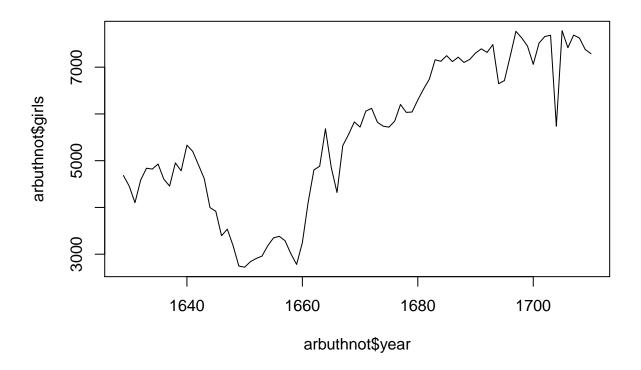
```
plot(x = arbuthnot$year, y = arbuthnot$girls)
```



By default, R creates a scatterplot with each x,y pair indicated by an open circle. The plot itself should appear under the *Plots* tab of the lower right panel of RStudio. Notice that the command above again looks

like a function, this time with two arguments separated by a comma. The first argument in the plot function specifies the variable for the x-axis and the second for the y-axis. If we wanted to connect the data points with lines, we could add a third argument, the letter 1 for line.

plot(x = arbuthnot\$year, y = arbuthnot\$girls, type = "1")



You might wonder how you are supposed to know that it was possible to add that third argument. Thankfully, R documents all of its functions extensively. To read what a function does and learn the arguments that are available to you, just type in a question mark followed by the name of the function that you're interested in. Try the following.

#### ?plot

## ## starting httpd help server ... done

Notice that the help file replaces the plot in the lower right panel. You can toggle between plots and help files using the tabs at the top of that panel.

- 2. Is there an apparent trend in the number of girls baptized over the years? How would you describe it?
- There is a strong negative trend for the number of girls baptized from year 1640 to 1660.
- After 1660 there is a strong positive trend for the number of girls baptized.
- There is a noticiable spike just after year 1700 which shows steep deep in the number of girls baptized

Now, suppose we want to plot the total number of baptisms. To compute this, we could use the fact that R is really just a big calculator. We can type in mathematical expressions like

5218 + 4683

## [1] 9901

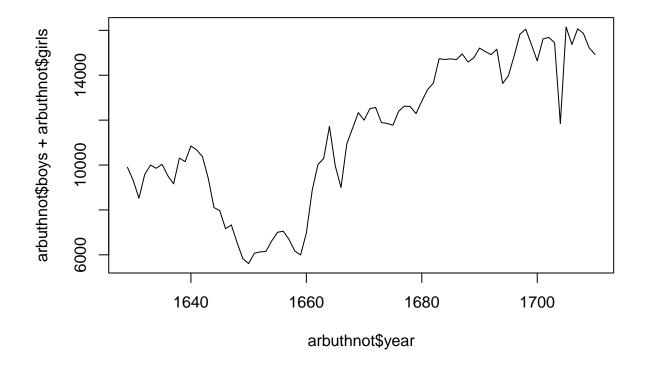
to see the total number of baptisms in 1629. We could repeat this once for each year, but there is a faster way. If we add the vector for baptisms for boys and girls, R will compute all sums simultaneously.

#### arbuthnot\$boys + arbuthnot\$girls

```
[1]
               9315
                     8524
                            9584
                                  9997
                                        9855 10034
                                                     9522
                                                           9160 10311 10150
##
   [12] 10850 10670 10370
                            9410
                                  8104
                                        7966
                                              7163
                                                     7332
                                                           6544
                                                                 5825
##
         6071
               6128
                      6155
                            6620
                                  7004
                                        7050
                                              6685
                                                     6170
                                                           5990
                                                                 6971
                                                                        8855
        10019 10292 11722
                            9972
                                  8997 10938 11633 12335 11997 12510 12563
        11895 11851 11775 12399 12626 12601 12288 12847 13355 13653 14735
        14702 14730 14694 14951 14588 14771 15211 15054 14918 15159 13632
        13976 14861 15829 16052 15363 14639 15616 15687 15448 11851 16145
  [78] 15369 16066 15862 15220 14928
```

What you will see are 82 numbers (in that packed display, because we aren't looking at a data frame here), each one representing the sum we're after. Take a look at a few of them and verify that they are right. Therefore, we can make a plot of the total number of baptisms per year with the command

```
plot(arbuthnot$year, arbuthnot$boys + arbuthnot$girls, type = "1")
```



This time, note that we left out the names of the first two arguments. We can do this because the help file shows that the default for plot is for the first argument to be the x-variable and the second argument to be the y-variable.

Similarly to how we computed the proportion of boys, we can compute the ratio of the number of boys to the number of girls baptized in 1629 with

```
5218 / 4683
```

```
## [1] 1.114243
```

or we can act on the complete vectors with the expression

```
arbuthnot$boys / arbuthnot$girls

## [1] 1.114243 1.089971 1.078011 1.088017 1.065923 1.044606 1.036120

## [8] 1.067752 1.055194 1.082189 1.121656 1.034884 1.051923 1.112016

## [15] 1.038120 1.027521 1.032661 1.109867 1.073529 1.057215 1.121267

## [22] 1.061719 1.137676 1.107290 1.080095 1.082416 1.091371 1.084565

## [29] 1.032533 1.047793 1.153901 1.146905 1.156075 1.085988 1.108584
```

## [36] 1.063369 1.052697 1.083121 1.055242 1.092266 1.116143 1.097744 ## [43] 1.064016 1.052778 1.043112 1.065354 1.059647 1.120575 1.035467

## [50] 1.088679 1.034100 1.039530 1.044237 1.024466 1.058536 1.062860 ## [57] 1.032846 1.064054 1.072498 1.054359 1.060974 1.083128 1.036526

## [64] 1.039092 1.025792 1.050850 1.081931 1.055748 1.037981 1.104904 ## [71] 1.061594 1.073219 1.078254 1.048981 1.010673 1.065354 1.075460

## [78] 1.072132 1.090022 1.080808 1.062331 1.048299

The proportion of newborns that are boys

```
5218 / (5218 + 4683)
```

```
## [1] 0.5270175
```

or this may also be computed for all years simultaneously:

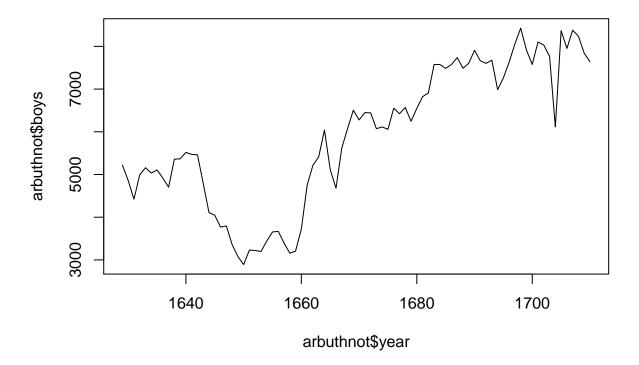
```
arbuthnot$boys / (arbuthnot$boys + arbuthnot$girls)
```

```
## [1] 0.5270175 0.5215244 0.5187705 0.5210768 0.5159548 0.5109082 0.5088698
## [8] 0.5163831 0.5134279 0.5197362 0.5286700 0.5085714 0.5126523 0.5265188
## [15] 0.5093518 0.5067868 0.5080341 0.5260366 0.5177305 0.5139059 0.5285837
## [22] 0.5149679 0.5322023 0.5254569 0.5192526 0.5197885 0.5218447 0.5202837
## [29] 0.5080030 0.5116694 0.5357262 0.5342132 0.5361942 0.5206108 0.5257482
## [36] 0.5153557 0.5128359 0.5199511 0.5134394 0.5220493 0.5274422 0.5232975
## [43] 0.5155076 0.5128552 0.5105507 0.5158214 0.5144798 0.5284297 0.5087122
## [50] 0.5212285 0.5083822 0.5096910 0.5108199 0.5060426 0.5142178 0.5152360
## [57] 0.5080788 0.5155165 0.5174905 0.5132301 0.5147925 0.5199527 0.5089677
## [64] 0.5095857 0.5063659 0.5123973 0.5196766 0.5135590 0.5093183 0.5249190
## [71] 0.5149385 0.5176583 0.5188268 0.5119526 0.5026541 0.5158214 0.5181790
## [78] 0.5174052 0.5215362 0.5194175 0.5151117 0.5117899
```

Note that with R as with your calculator, you need to be conscious of the order of operations. Here, we want to divide the number of boys by the total number of newborns, so we have to use parentheses. Without them, R will first do the division, then the addition, giving you something that is not a proportion.

3. Now, make a plot of the proportion of boys over time. What do you see? Tip: If you use the up and down arrow keys, you can scroll through your previous commands, your so-called command history. You can also access it by clicking on the history tab in the upper right panel. This will save you a lot of typing in the future.

```
plot(x = arbuthnot$year, y = arbuthnot$boys, type = "1")
```



- The trend of boys baptized over years is similar to trend of girls baptized over years
- There is a strong negative trend for the number of boys baptized from year 1640 to 1660.
- After 1660 there is a strong positive trend for the number of boys baptized.
- There is a noticiable spike just after year 1700 which shows steep deep in the number of boys baptized

Finally, in addition to simple mathematical operators like subtraction and division, you can ask R to make comparisons like greater than, >, less than, <, and equality, ==. For example, we can ask if boys outnumber girls in each year with the expression

#### arbuthnot\$boys > arbuthnot\$girls

This command returns 82 values of either TRUE if that year had more boys than girls, or FALSE if that year did not (the answer may surprise you). This output shows a different kind of data than we have considered so far. In the arbuthnot data frame our values are numerical (the year, the number of boys and girls). Here, we've asked R to create *logical* data, data where the values are either TRUE or FALSE. In general, data analysis will involve many different kinds of data types, and one reason for using R is that it is able to represent and compute with many of them.

This seems like a fair bit for your first lab, so let's stop here. To exit RStudio you can click the x in the upper right corner of the whole window.

You will be prompted to save your workspace. If you click save, RStudio will save the history of your

commands and all the objects in your workspace so that the next time you launch RStudio, you will see arbuthnot and you will have access to the commands you typed in your previous session. For now, click save, then start up RStudio again.

#### On Your Own

In the previous few pages, you recreated some of the displays and preliminary analysis of Arbuthnot's baptism data. Your assignment involves repeating these steps, but for present day birth records in the United States. Load up the present day data with the following command.

```
source("more/present.R")
```

The data are stored in a data frame called present.

What are the dimensions of the data frame?

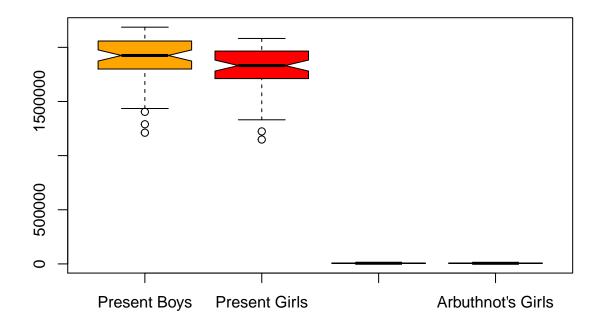
```
dim(present)
## [1] 63 3
what are the variable or column names?
names(present)
## [1] "year" "boys" "girls"
What years are included in this data set?
paste("Year Range", min(present$year), "-", max(present$year))
## [1] "Year Range 1940 - 2002"
How do these counts compare to Arbuthnot's? Are they on a similar scale?
paste("Arbuthnot's Boys count range", min(arbuthnot$boys), "-", max(arbuthnot$boys))
## [1] "Arbuthnot's Boys count range 2890 - 8426"
paste("Arbuthnot's Girls count range", min(arbuthnot$girls), "-", max(arbuthnot$girls))
## [1] "Arbuthnot's Girls count range 2722 - 7779"
paste("Present's Boys count range", min(present$boys), "-", max(present$boys))
## [1] "Present's Boys count range 1211684 - 2186274"
paste("Present's Girls count range", min(present$girls), "-", max(present$girls))
```

```
## [1] "Present's Girls count range 1148715 - 2082052"
```

Looking at the min-max ranges for Boys and Girls count in Arbuthnot's dataset and Present dataset, it can be concluded that counts are not on similar scale

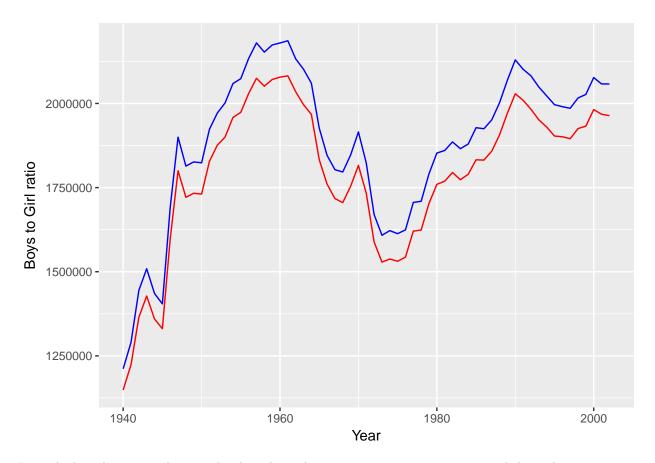
Boxplot below also confirms the same observation

```
boxplot(present$boys, present$girls,arbuthnot$boys, arbuthnot$girls, col = c("orange","red"), names = c
```



Make a plot that displays the boy-to-girl ratio for every year in the data set. What do you see? Does Arbuthnot's observation about boys being born in greater proportion than girls hold up in the U.S.? Include the plot in your response.

```
ggplot(present, aes(x = year)) +
  geom_line(aes(y = boys), colour="blue") +
  geom_line(aes(y = girls), colour = "red") +
  ylab(label="Boys to Girl ratio") +
  xlab("Year")
```



From the line chart it can be seen that boys being born are in greater poportion to girls being born every year in U.S. This holds up Arbuthnot's observation in the study performed in UK and applies that to U.S. as well.

In what year did we see the most total number of births in the U.S.? You can refer to the help files or the R reference card http://cran.r-project.org/doc/contrib/Short-refcard.pdf to find helpful commands.

```
present$totalbirths = present$boys + present$girls
present.max.year = present$year[present$totalbirths==max(present$totalbirths)]
print(present.max.year)
```

#### ## [1] 1961

These data come from a report by the Centers for Disease Control http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr53/nvsr53\_20.pdf. Check it out if you would like to read more about an analysis of sex ratios at birth in the United States.

That was a short introduction to R and RStudio, but we will provide you with more functions and a more complete sense of the language as the course progresses. Feel free to browse around the websites for R and RStudio if you're interested in learning more, or find more labs for practice at http://openintro.org.

This is a product of OpenIntro that is released under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 Unported. This lab was adapted for OpenIntro by Andrew Bray and Mine Çetinkaya-Rundel from a lab written by Mark Hansen of UCLA Statistics.