Workshop: Statistical Analysis in R

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Schedule

22.2. 9:00 - 12:00: Introduction to R

Topic 1: The basics of R. What is it, how does it work?

Topic 2: Manipulating data.

Topic 3: Key Components of (Generalized) Linear Models

22.2. 13:00 - 16:00: Fitting Models and visualization

Topic 4: Normal linear regression

Topic 5: ANOVA and general linear models

Topic 6: Graphs and visualization

Schedule

23.2. 9:00 - 12:00: Mixed-effects and generalized linear models

Topic 7: Linear mixed-effects models (random effects)

Topic 8: Generalized linear models

Topic 9: Over-dispersion + zero-inflation

23.2. 13:00 - 15:30: GLMMs and advanced topics

Topic 10: Generalized linear mixed effects models

Topic 11: Null hypothesis significance testing (NHST) vs information theoretic (IT) approach and model selection

Topic 12: Model validation and predictions

The basics of R

Background:

- R is a free software package – use with caution
- many R books and (free) online courses/tutorials available

Installing R:

- When you install R, only some package are loaded. You may need to add in packages later on as you need them (more on this later).

The basics of R

Running R:

- To run R, click on the icon. You get a <u>work session window</u>.
- You could type in your commands here and they would run as you enter them.

        Exercise: Type in

```
A<- 5
B<- 6
C<- A+B
```

- The output appears in the work session window also.
- You could copy and paste this into WORD as this is just simple text.

The basics of R

Running R:

- Instead of typing the commands into the session window, you can enter your commands into a separate file called *script*.

- The script is just R commands, organized and put into a text file.

- You can run this all at once (only if you are very confident), or in segments (preferred).

    Exercise: Open a new script window, and type in commands:

    plot(cars)

    lines(lowess(cars))

    To run the R commands in the script, simply highlight the parts you want to run and press Ctrl and R at the same time OR, click on Edit and find Run in the list.

- Since a graph is produced, a new window appears.

- You could copy and paste this into WORD.

The basics of R

Useful Things to Know:

- R is case sensitive. i.e., Trees versus trees.

- R does not like spaces nor special characters. Instead, use a '.' e.g.: trees.pine identifies a variable in the dataset trees.

- R uses two slashes instead of one to indicate a subfolder. For example, if your data are in: E:\measurements\trees.txt then in R you would use E:\\measurements\\trees.txt since the single slash has a different meaning in R

- Alternative: E:/measurements/trees.txt

- Any R commands that start with # are just *comments* that you can add to explain what the script does.

The basics of R

Working directory

- To avoid entering always the whole path for saving or reading files you can set a folder as current working directory with setwd()

- setwd("D:/blabla/blub")

- If you are not sure which it is ask: getwd()

The basics of R

Saving and cleaning up:

- You can save the work session, the script, and the graph window anytime you wish by using File and Save for the window that is active.

- To save the objects you have created, you can use File and Save Workspace to save all objects (i.e., all the data and outputs you have put into objects).

- You can then later on use File and Load Workspace to bring the objects back in and continue your work.

- You can also cut and paste any of the outputs from your session window into WORD or other files.

The basics of R

Saving and cleaning up:

- If you have created a graph, you can use File and Copy to Clipboard and then As a Metafile (gives a better graph then as a Bitmap).

- You can also save the file as a picture using File and Save As..

- At any time, you can use Edit and Clear Console to clean out the session window. However, the data you brought in, and any variables and objects will still be there.

- To remove all of these, click on Misc and then select Remove all objects, OR type rm(list=ls(all=TRUE)) in the session window.

- When you begin an R session with new data, it is always a good idea to start with no objects.

The basics of R

Types of Objects (more on this later in the course):

- **Factor**: a class variable, often represented as letters but maybe represented as numbers

- **Vector**: a "column" of numbers

- **Matrix**: several columns of numbers

- **Dataframe**: Like a matrix, but can have columns of numbers and columns of letters; names for columns and rows are possible

- **List**: Can be several objects all stored together such as regression outputs, matrices, etc.

The basics of R - help

 The R website has a number of manuals that you might find useful, including an introduction: http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-intro.pdf and http://cran.r-project.org/doc/contrib/usingR.pdf

At any time, you can also use help( ) where the function is given in the brackets or just **?** + function name

- Hard to follow

- Tells you about the specific options for a function and the syntax

- There are usually a few examples

The basics of R

Expanding the R package:

- When you run R, only some of the functions are brought into the work session automatically to save memory.

- To add others, use require( ) or install.packages("package_name ") where the package is given in brackets.

- Many other parts of R are extra to the main package. To bring these in:
    - Access the website: https://cran.r-project.org/ host currently >12,000 packages
    - Some packages can be found on https://r-forge.r-project.org/
    - Download the package to the R directory to the library sub-folder

    For example, if you installed R in: C:\Program Files\R\R-2.8.0\, then you can add more software into C:\Program Files\R\R-2.8.0\library\

- You can then use library( ) to bring in these other packages for your analysis.

The basics of R

Learning R:

- Documentation and examples using R code or script on the web.
- Examples are very helpful for reducing the time you spend in getting R to do what you would like.
- Practice.
- **Google!!!**
- http://stackoverflow.com/
- R-bloggers, R for Dummies,….

R Studio

Rstudio (IDE, integrated developement environment) divides its window into 4 panels, each of which may have multiple structure tabs. Which tabs are in which panels is configurable.
Some of the important tabs include:

Console: This is where you can execute R commands interactively
History: A record of past commands (can be saved, reloaded, etc.)
Workspace: A listing of the objects available in your R session
Plots: Where plots show up
Help: Where documentation files appear when you ask for them
Files: A file manager for locating, loading, moving, renaming, files.
Packages: Install and load packages here.
Open Files: Open files have a tab labeled with the file name.

R Studio
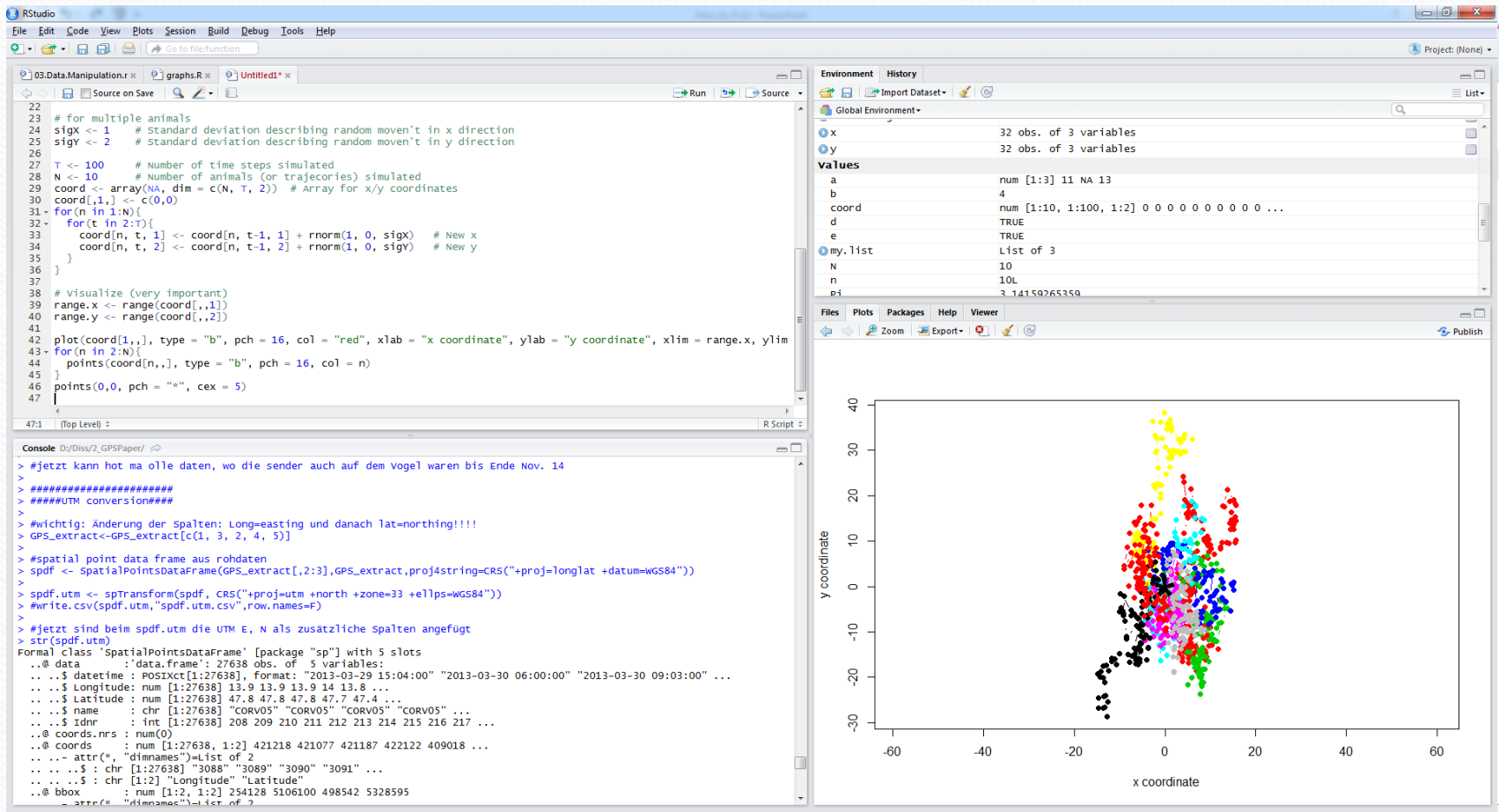
Importing data into R (R-Studio)

Data can be imported as csv file (comma separated value), which can be created from e.g. Excel

read.csv("test.csv")

Caution: Depending on your system settings the „list separator" can be set to „;" instead of „,"

read.csv("test.csv", sep=";")   #specify list separator

For windows this can also be changed in Start/ControlPanel/Region and Language/Additional settings/List separator

Or open data in Rstudio via ImportDataset From Txt file and specify

In (German) Excel often comma (,) is used instead of point(.) for decimals - this can be changed in File/Options/Advanced/Decimal and Thousands separators

-> **Exercise: import data**