

Why develop R packages?

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Why we are here

School of
Mathematical Sciences

Lancaster
University



Raise your (virtual) hand if you have written
an R package before.

- Why I developed my first package and continue to develop packages
- Jacob will lead us through a new way to write R packages

Why start?

Personally:

- PhD supervisor told me to!!!!
- I enjoyed coding
- Thought it would be a cool thing to point to
- Combating negative thoughts



Altruistic reasons:

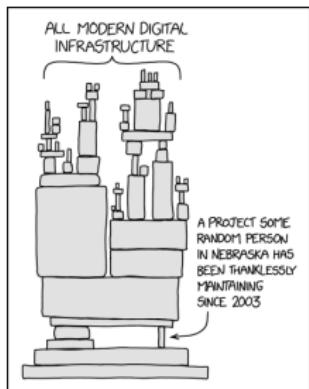
- Helps other people with their analysis problems!
- Contributes to the R community

Selfish reasons:

- Generates contacts for new research ideas!
- Gets me funding!
- Helps my international reputation
 - > 1700 citations on JStatSoft paper
 - > 2900 citations on methods paper
 - Editor-in-chief of JStatSoft
 - rOpenSci peer review standards board
 - ENBIS Young Statistician of the year 2019
- Easier for reproducible research

Maintenance

- Only widely release what you are willing to maintain
- **FEWEST DEPENDENCIES POSSIBLE!!!!!!**
- Write code as simple as possible - don't do anything fancy!
 - changepoint has had 4 contacts from CRAN in 14+ years!
- Succession planning.
- Communication between authors around expectations



Pigsy Ate Tripitaka
@ianholmes

You can download our code from the URL supplied.
Good luck downloading the only postdoc who can get
it to run, though **#overlyhonestmethods**

4:52 PM · Jan 8, 2013 · Twitter for iPhone

<https://xkcd.com/2347/>

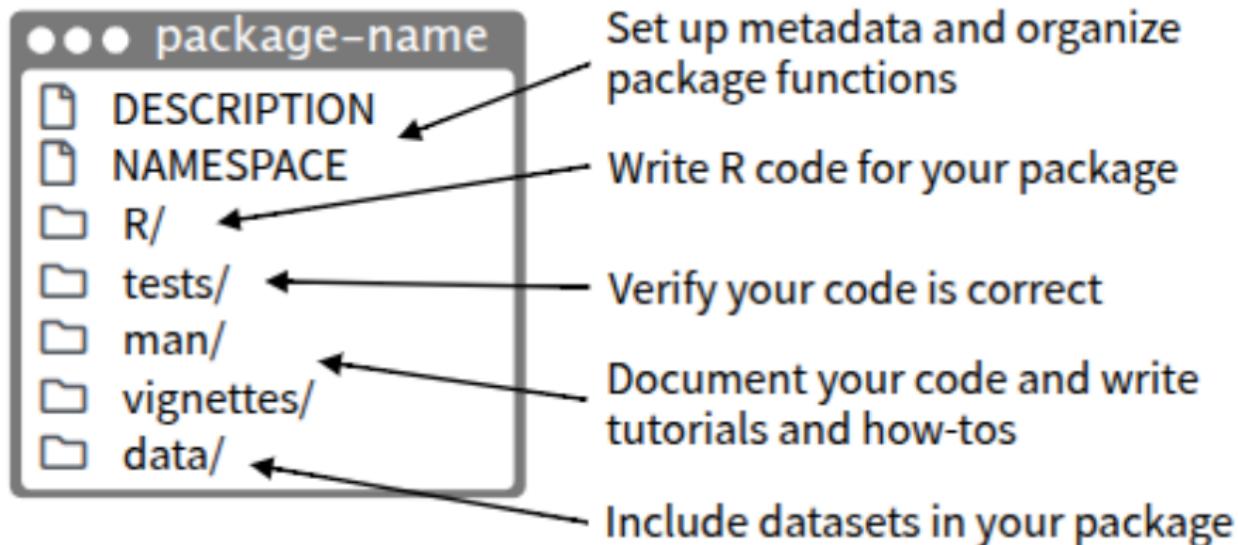
What is an R package?

*“the fundamental unit of
shareable, reusable, and
reproducible R code”*

— *first line of*



What is an R package?



<https://rawgit.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/main/package-development.pdf>