



Introduction To R

Roy Francis • 16-Sep-2021

https://royfrancis.github.io/course-r

Contents



- Getting Started
- Variables & Operators
- Data Types
- Datatype Conversion
- Functions
- Control Structures
- R Packages
- Base Graphics
- Grid Graphics
- Input & Output
- Rmarkdown
- Tidyverse
- Bioconductor
- Exercises/Lab
- Help & Learning R

Topics



- R & RStudio environment
- Running code, scripting, sourcing script
- Variables and operators
- Data types & data type conversion
- Reusing code using functions
- Base and grid graphics
- Input & output of text & graphics
- Reproducible analyses, Rmarkdown, notebooks and reports
- Tidyverse: Modern R programming paradigm

What? Why R?



R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics.

Command line interface

Pros

- Data analysis
- Statistics
- High quality graphics
- Huge number of packages
- R is popular
- Reproducible research
- RStudio IDE
- FREE! Open source

Cons

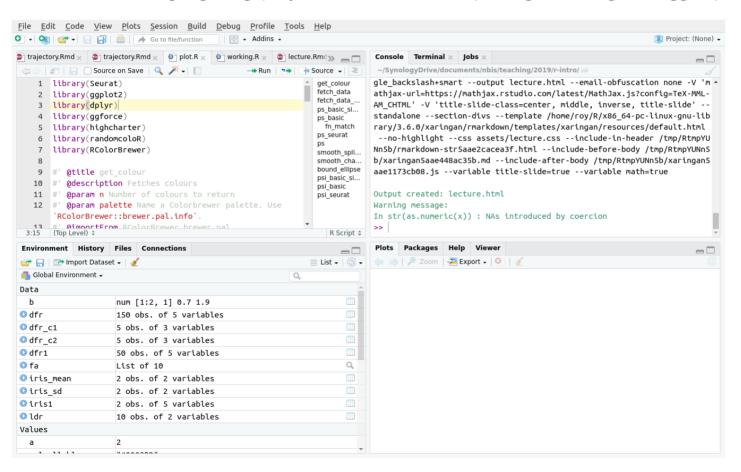
- Steep learning curve
- Not elegant/consistent
- Slow



Installation



- Install R from r-project.org.
- Install RStudio IDE
- Code editor, highlighting, projects, version control, package building, debugger, profiler



Interaction



- Execute commands directly in Console
- Ready console shows >
- Console shows + when waiting for information
- Press Esc to escape from + to >
- Save commands by writing scripts
- Run lines using Ctrl + Enter
- Run entire script using Ctrl + Shift + Enter

Variables & Operators



Assign variables using <- , = or -->

```
x <- 4
x = 4
x</pre>
```

• Arithmetic operators

```
x <- 4; y <- 2;
x + y # add
x - y # subtract
x * y # multiply
x / y # divide
x %% y # modulus
x ^ y # power
```

```
## [1] 6
## [1] 2
## [1] 8
## [1] 0
## [1] 16
```

• Logical operators return TRUE or FALSE

```
x == y # equal to?
x != y # not equal to?
x > y # greater than?
x < y # less than?
x >= y # greater than or equal to?
x <= y # less than or equal to?</pre>
```

```
## [1] FALSE
## [1] TRUE
## [1] TRUE
## [1] TRUE
## [1] FALSE
## [1] TRUE
## [1] FALSE
```

```
T | F # OR
T & F # AND
```

```
## [1] TRUE
## [1] FALSE
```

• [], &&, !, any(), all for logical vectors

Variables & Operators



- operator is used for generating regular sequences
- :: & ::: are used for accessing functions
- %*% used for matrix multiplication
- %in% used as a set operator

```
"a" %in% c("x","p","a","c")
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

- Avoid conflicting built-in variable names like c, t, q etc
- Variable names cannot start with a number

Data Type • Overview



```
## dimension homogenous heterogenous
## 1 1D Atomic vector List
## 2 2D Matrix Data.frame
## 3 nD Array
 • Use typeof() to find type of a variable
x < -4; typeof(x)
## [1] "double"
y <- "this"; typeof(y)</pre>
## [1] "character"
mode(x); class(x)
str(x); structure(x)
## [1] "numeric"
## [1] "numeric"
## num 4
## [1] 4
```

Data Type • Basic



Mode

```
mode(1.0)
mode(1L)
mode("hello")
mode(factor(1))
mode(T)
```

```
typeof(1.0)
typeof(1L)
typeof("hello")
typeof(factor(1))
```

Type

typeof(T)

```
## [1] "numeric"
## [1] "numeric"
## [1] "character"
## [1] "numeric"
## [1] "logical"
```

```
## [1] "double"
## [1] "integer"
## [1] "character"
## [1] "integer"
## [1] "logical"
```

Data Type • Missing Values



- R explicitly handles missing data as NA and undefined data as NULL (NA vs NULL)
- NA is not 0
- NA is not ""

[1] TRUE ## [1] NA ## logical(0)

- NA is not FALSE
- NA is not NULL
- Operations that involve NA may or may not result in an NA

```
NA==1
sum(c(2,6,NA,6))
sum(c(2,6,NA,6),na.rm=TRUE)
NA|NA
NA|TRUE
NA&TRUE
NULL|TRUE

## [1] NA
## [1] NA
## [1] 14
## [1] NA
```

Data Type • Vector • Create



- Vector stores multiple values
- Concatenate variables, values and vectors using the function c()

```
x <- c(2,3,4,5,6)
y <- c("a","c","d","e")
x
y
```

```
## [1] 2 3 4 5 6
## [1] "a" "c" "d" "e"
```

• Few different ways to create vectors.

```
c(2,3,5,6)
2:8
seq(2,5,by=0.5)
rep(1:3,times=2)
```

```
## [1] 2 3 5 6
## [1] 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
## [1] 2.0 2.5 3.0 3.5 4.0 4.5 5.0
## [1] 1 2 3 1 2 3
```

Data Type • Vector • Access



• Access vectors using the [] operator.

```
x[1]; y[3]

## [1] 2
## [1] "d"
```

• Function c() to specify multiple positions.

```
x[c(1,3)]
## [1] 2 4
```

Vectorised operation

```
x <- c(2,3,4,5); y <- c(9,8,7,6)
x+y

z <- c("a","an","a","a"); k <- c("boy","apple","girl","mess")
paste(z,k)</pre>
```

```
## [1] 11 11 11 11
## [1] "a boy" "an apple" "a girl" "a mess"
```

Data Type • Vector



Verify data type

```
x < -c(2,3,4,5)
z <- c("a", "an", "a", "a")
mode(x)
mode(z)
str(x)
str(z)
## [1] "numeric"
## [1] "character"
## num [1:4] 2 3 4 5
## chr [1:4] "a" "an" "a" "a"
is.atomic(x)
is.numeric(x)
is.character(z)
## [1] TRUE
## [1] TRUE
## [1] TRUE
```

Data Type • Factor



Factors store categorical data

```
x <- factor(c("a","b","c","c"))
class(x)
str(x)</pre>
```

```
## [1] "factor"
## Factor w/ 3 levels "a","b","c": 1 2 2 3 3
```

• Factor x has 3 categories (3 levels)

```
levels(x)
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
```

• Verify if an R object is a factor

```
is.factor(x)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

Data Type • Matrix • Create



• Create a matrix from vector

```
x <- matrix(c(2,3,4,5,6,7))
x</pre>
```

```
## [,1]

## [1,] 2

## [2,] 3

## [3,] 4

## [4,] 5

## [5,] 6

## [6,] 7
```

Matrix has rows and columns

```
dim(x) # dimensions
nrow(x) # number of rows
ncol(x) # number of columns
```

```
## [1] 6 1
## [1] 6
## [1] 1
```

Specify rows and columns

```
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 2 3
## [2,] 4 5
## [3,] 6 7
```

```
str(x)
```

```
## num [1:3, 1:2] 2 4 6 3 5 7
```

• Verify if an R object is a matrix

```
is.matrix(x)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

Data Type • Matrix • Access



Access matrix using [] operator as [row,col]

```
x[2,2]
## [1] 5
 • Get whole row/col using [row,] or [,col]
x[1,]
x[,2]
## [1] 2 3
## [1] 3 5 7
 • Use drop=FALSE to retain a matrix as [row,col,drop=FALSE]
x[1,,drop=F]
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 2 3
```

Data Type • Matrix • Label



• Add row/column names

```
rownames(x) <- c("a","b","c")
colnames(x) <- c("k","p")
x</pre>
```

```
## k p
## a 2 3
## b 4 5
## c 6 7
```

• Get row/column labels

```
rownames(x)
colnames(x)
dimnames(x)
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" "c"

## [1] "k" "p"

## [[1]]

## [1] "a" "b" "c"

##

## [[2]]

## [1] "k" "p"
```

Access using labels

a b c

3 5 7

```
x["b",]
x[,"p"]
## k p
## 4 5
```

Data Type • List



• Create using list()

```
## [[1]]
## [1] 2 3 4 5
##
## [[2]]
## [1] "a" "b" "c" "d"
##
## [[3]]
## [1] a a b
## Levels: a b
##
## [[4]]
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 3 5
## [2,] 2 6
## [3,] 3 7
```

```
typeof(x); class(x);
## [1] "list"
```

• Access lists using [] and [[]]

```
x[1]
```

```
## [[1]]
## [1] 2 3 4 5
```

Lists are recursive

[1] "list"

```
x <- list(list(list())))
str(x)</pre>
```

```
## List of 1
## $:List of 1
## ..$:List of 1
## ...$: list()
```

Data Type • data.frame • Create



```
dfr <- data.frame(x = 1:3, y = c("a", "b", "c")); dfr
## X V
## 1 1 a
## 2 2 b
## 3 3 c
str(dfr)
## 'data.frame': 3 obs. of 2 variables:
## $ x: int 1 2 3
## $ y: chr "a" "b" "c"
 • Use <a href="stringsAsFactors=FALSE">stringsAsFactors=FALSE</a> to avoid auto factor conversion
dfr <- data.frame(x = 1:3, y = c("a", "b", "c"), stringsAsFactors = F)
str(dfr)
is.data.frame(dfr)
## 'data.frame': 3 obs. of 2 variables:
## $ x: int 1 2 3
## $ y: chr "a" "b" "c"
## [1] TRUE
```

Data Type • data.frame • Access



• Access using [] or \$ operator

```
dfr$x
dfr$y

## [1] 1 2 3
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
```

- head() / tail() functions show first/last six lines
- Subset a data.frame using subset()

```
subset(dfr,dfr$y=="a")
```

```
## x y
## 1 1 a
```

Data Type • Conversion



```
x <- c(1,2,3); str(x)

## num [1:3] 1 2 3
```

Convert to character

```
y <- as.character(x); str(y)

## chr [1:3] "1" "2" "3"
```

• Character coerced (if possible) to number

```
x <- c("1","2","hello"); str(x)

## chr [1:3] "1" "2" "hello"

str(as.numeric(x))

## num [1:3] 1 2 NA</pre>
```

Data Type • Conversion



Many other conversion functions

as.matrix()as.data.frame()as.integer()as.Date()as.factor()as.list()as.vector()

Functions • Built-In • Math

x <- sample(x=1:200,10); x;

generate 10 random numbers between 1 and 200



```
## [1] 179 115 46 168 199 171 3 78 178 5
sum(x) # sum
mean(x) # mean
min(x) # min
log(x) # log
exp(x) # exponent
sqrt(x) # square-root
round(x) # round
sort(x) # sort
## [1] 1142
## [1] 114.2
## [1] 3
   [1] 5.187386 4.744932 3.828641 5.123964 5.293305 5.141664 1.098612 4.356709
   [9] 5.181784 1.609438
   [1] 5.479138e+77 8.787502e+49 9.496119e+19 9.151093e+72 2.658287e+86
   [6] 1.838046e+74 2.008554e+01 7.498417e+33 2.015662e+77 1.484132e+02
   [1] 13.379088 10.723805 6.782330 12.961481 14.106736 13.076697 1.732051
## [8] 8.831761 13.341664 2.236068
## [1] 179 115 46 168 199 171 3 78 178 5
## [1] 3 5 46 78 115 168 171 178 179 199
```

Functions • Built-In • String



```
paste("hello", "kitty") # join
grep("hell", "hello") # find a pattern
nchar("hello") # number of characters
toupper("hello") # to uppercase
tolower("HELLO") # to lowercase
sub("ell", "ipp", "hello") # replace pattern
substr("hello", start=1, stop=3) # substring
strsplit("sunny&bunny&funny", "&") # split a character
```

```
## [1] "hello kitty"
## [1] 1
## [1] 5
## [1] "HELLO"
## [1] "hello"
## [1] "hippo"
## [1] "hel"
## [1] "sunny" "bunny" "funny"
```

- print() & cat() are useful for printing messages
- \n newline character

Functions • Custom



Code can be re-used by converting them to functions.

```
a <- 1:6; b <- 8:10
d <- a*b
e <- log(d)
e
```

```
## [1] 2.079442 2.890372 3.401197 3.465736 3.806662 4.094345
```

Custom function definition

```
my_function <- function(a,b){
  d <- a*b
  e <- log(d)
  return(e)
}</pre>
```

• Re-use function

```
my_function(a=2:4,b=6:8)
```

```
## [1] 2.484907 3.044522 3.465736
```

Function names must not start with number

Control Structure • if



Conditional statements using if()

```
a <- 2; b <- 5;
if(a < b) print(paste(a, "is smaller than",b))
## [1] "2 is smaller than 5"</pre>
```

• Use **else** for alternative output

```
if(a < b) {
   print(paste(a,"is smaller than",b))
}else{
   print(paste(b,"is smaller than",a))
}</pre>
```

```
## [1] "2 is smaller than 5"
```

• Chain if else statements

```
if(grade == "A"){
  print("Grade is Excellent!")
}else if(grade == "B"){
  print("Grade is Good.")
} else if (grade == "C") {
  print("Grade is Alright.")
}
```

```
## [1] "Grade is Good."
```

Control Structure • for



• Use for() loop for known number of iterations

```
for (i in 1:5){
   print(i)
}

## [1] 1
## [1] 2
## [1] 3
## [1] 4
## [1] 5
```

• Use while() loop for unknown number of iterations

```
i <- 1
while(i < 5){
  print(i)
  i <- i+1
}</pre>
```

```
## [1] 1
## [1] 2
## [1] 3
## [1] 4
```

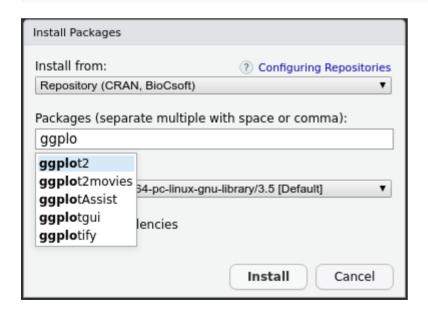
R Packages



• CRAN (The Comprehensive R Archive Network); Use install.packages()

```
install.packages("ggplot2",dependencies=TRUE)

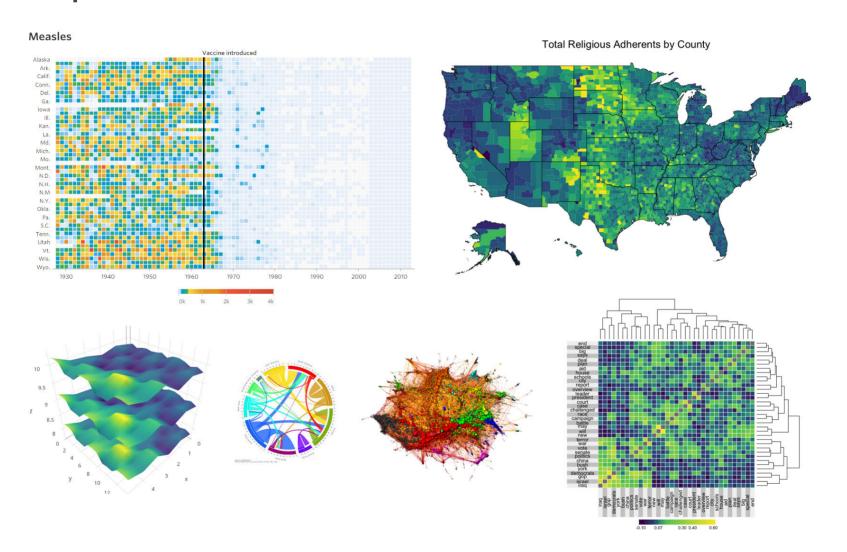
• For local packages, use type="source"
install.packages(path="./dir/package.zip",type="source")
```



- Bioconductor for Biology/Bioinformatics packages; Use BiocManager::install()
- For GitHub packages, Use devtools::install_github()

Graphics

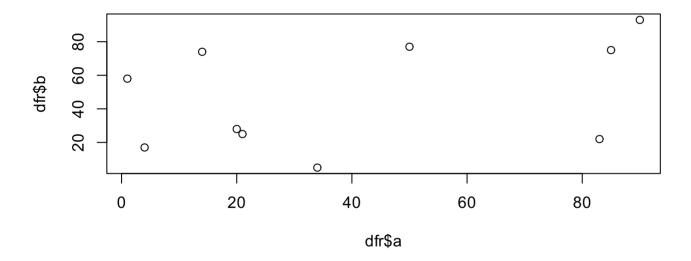




Graphics • Base



```
dfr <- data.frame(a=sample(1:100,10),b=sample(1:100,10))
plot(dfr$a,dfr$b)</pre>
```

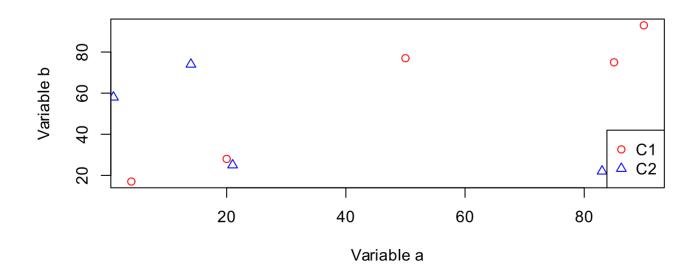


Add axes labels etc.

```
plot(dfr$a,dfr$b,xlab="Variable a",ylab="Variable b")
plot(dfr$a,dfr$b,xlab="Variable a",ylab="Variable b",type="b")
```

Graphics • Base



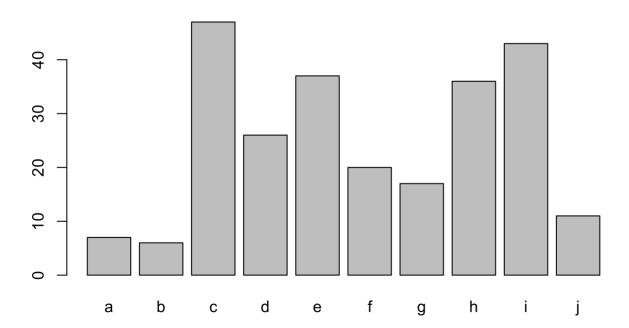


Graphics • Base



• Barplot

```
ldr <- data.frame(a=letters[1:10],b=sample(1:50,10))
barplot(ldr$b,names.arg=ldr$a)</pre>
```





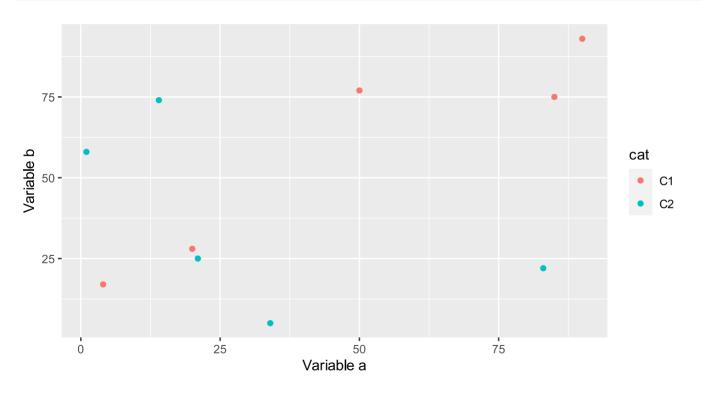


Graphics • **ggplot2**



```
library(ggplot2)

ggplot(dfr,aes(x=a,y=b,colour=cat))+
  geom_point()+
  labs(x="Variable a",y="Variable b")
```

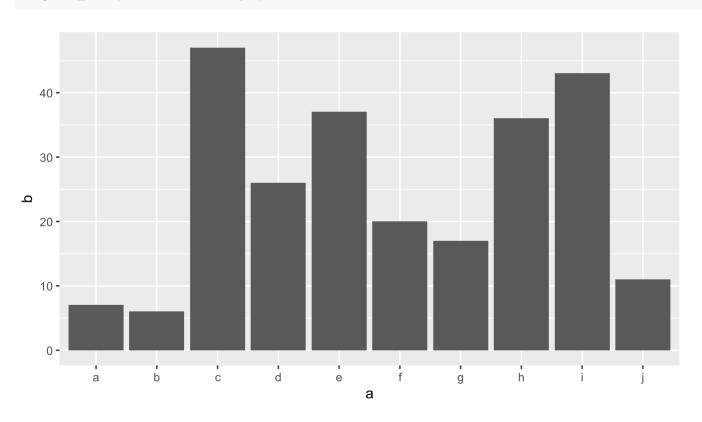


Graphics • **ggplot2**



• Barplot

```
ggplot(ldr,aes(x=a,y=b))+
  geom_bar(stat="identity")
```



Input & Output • Text



```
dfr <- read.table("iris.txt",header=TRUE,stringsAsFactors=F)</pre>
head(dfr); str(dfr)
   Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
##
## 1
      5.1 3.5
                        1.4
                                        0.2 setosa
## 2 4.9 3.0 1.4 0.2 setosa
## 3 4.7 3.2 1.3 0.2 setosa
## 4 4.6 3.1 1.5 0.2 setosa
## 5 5.0 3.6
                         1.4
                                    0.2 setosa
## 6 5.4
                   3.9 1.7
                                      0.4 setosa
## 'data.frame': 150 obs. of 5 variables:
## $ Sepal.Length: num 5.1 4.9 4.7 4.6 5 5.4 4.6 5 4.4 4.9 ...
## $ Sepal.Width : num 3.5 3 3.2 3.1 3.6 3.9 3.4 3.4 2.9 3.1 ...
## $ Petal.Length: num 1.4 1.4 1.3 1.5 1.4 1.7 1.4 1.5 1.4 1.5 ...
## $ Petal.Width : num 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.1 ...
## $ Species : chr "setosa" "setosa" "setosa" "setosa" ...
dfr1 <- dfr[dfr$Species == "setosa",]</pre>
write.table(dfr1,"iris-setosa.txt",sep="\t",row.names=F,quote=F)
```

sep="\t" sets tab delimiter, row.names=F avoids printing rownames, quote=F avoids quotes
around strings.

Input & Output • Image



Create data

```
dfr <- data.frame(a=sample(1:100,10),b=sample(1:100,10))</pre>
```

• Base plot

```
png(filename="plot-base.png")
plot(dfr$a,dfr$b)
dev.off()
```

• ggplot method 1

```
p <- ggplot(dfr,aes(a,b)) + geom_point()

png(filename="plot-ggplot-1.png")
print(p)
dev.off()</pre>
```

• ggplot method 2

```
ggsave(filename="plot-ggplot-2.png",plot=p)
```

R objects



- Save R objects as compressed native R formats
- Save/Read a single object as .Rds format

```
dfr <- data.frame(a=sample(1:100,10),b=sample(1:100,10))
saveRDS(dfr,"data.Rds")
dfr <- readRDS("data.Rds")</pre>
```

• Save one or more objects as .Rda/.Rdata format

```
save(dfr,"data.Rdata")
save(dfr,dfr2,"data.Rdata")
load("data.Rdata")
```

• Save entire workspace

```
save.image(file="workspace.Rdata")
load("workspace.Rdata")
```





Reproducible Analyses



- Manually steps = poor reproducibility
- Rerunning analyses
- Adding new data
- Transferring projects
- Collaborative work
- Eliminate copy-paste errors

Recommendations

- Single document with analyses, code and results
- Self-contained portable project
- Avoid manual steps
- Results are linked to code used to produce them
- Contexual narrative to workflow
- Version control of documents

Reproducibility in R



- Manage R versions carefully
- Install packages from repositories

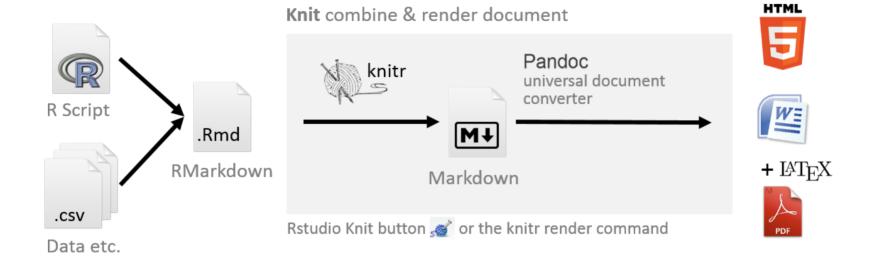
```
install.packages(); devtools::install_github(); BiocManager::install()
```

- Package management using renv
- Version control using git (RStudio integrated)
- RStudio (Syntax highlighting, Debugging, Projects etc)
- Running external programs from R

```
system("./plink --file --flag1 --flag2 --out bla")
```

Document Converter



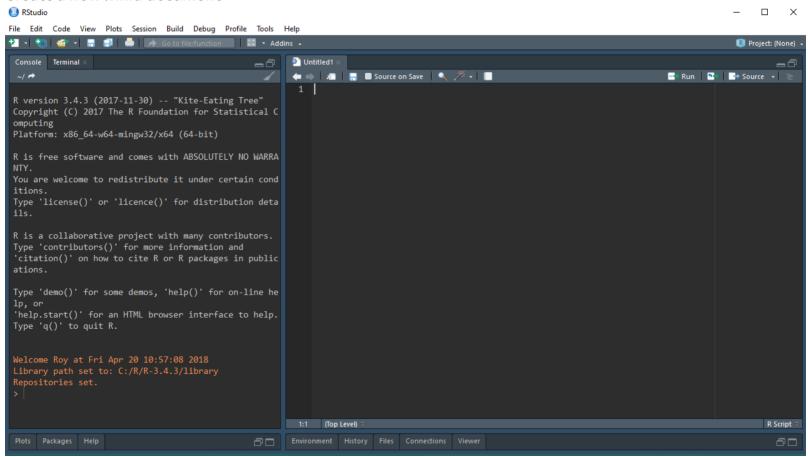


- Document converter (Reports, Presentations, Articles etc)
- Rmd -> md -> HTML|PDF|docx

RStudio Notebook



Create a new .Rmd document



- Text and code can be written together
- Inline R output (text and figures)

Rmarkdown Guide



- Plain text format for readability
- Support of pure language (HTML, Latex etc) for complex formatting
- Rmarkdown = Markdown + R chunks
- Create a file that ends in .Rmd
- Add YAML matter to top

```
title: "This is a title"
output:
   rmarkdown::html_document
---
```

- In RStudio File > New File > R Markdown opens up an Rmd template
- Render interactively using the Knit button Knit
- Render using command rmarkdown::render("report.Rmd")

Rmarkdown Guide



```
### Heading 3
#### Heading 4
italic text
bold text
`code text`
~~strikethrough~~
2^10^
2~10~
- bullet point
                                                                  210
                                                                 2<sub>10</sub>
Link to [this](somewhere.com)
![](https://www.r-project.org/Rlogo.png)
```

Heading 3

Heading 4

italic text bold text

code text strikethrough

• bullet point

Link to this



Rmarkdown Guide



R code can be executed inline

```
Today's date is r date() Today's date is Thu Sep 16 08:34:51 2021
```

• R code can be executed in code chunks

```
```{r}
date()
```

• By default shows input code and output result.

```
date()
[1] "Thu Sep 16 08:34:51 2021"
```

- Many arguments to customise chunks
  - Set eval=FALSE to not evaluate a code chunk
  - Set echo=FALSE to hide input code
  - Set results="hide" to hide output
- R Markdown reference

## **Tidyverse**



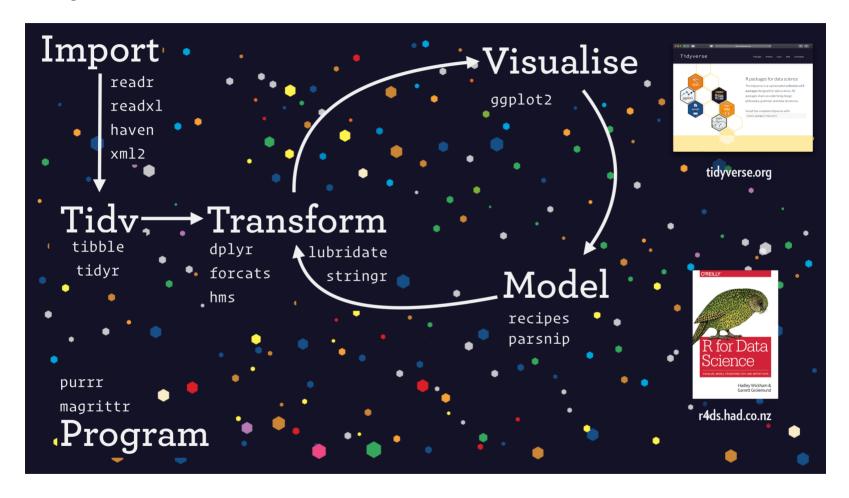


"Language for solving data science challenges using R"

- Collection of R packages that share underlying design and grammar
- Modern, consistent and optimised functions
- Additional features compared to base R
- New code structure using new operators (Eg: pipe %>%)
- Tidy data & tidy evaluation

## **Tidyverse**





## **Tidyverse**



- magrittr: Piping commands using %>%
- tibble: A better data.frame
- readr: Functions to import/export data
- tidyr: Data structuring: wide & long formats, splitting, fill missing values etc
- dplyr: Data selection, filtering, summarising, merging etc
- lubridate: Working with time
- **stringr**: Working with strings
- forcats: Working with factors
- purr : Simpler control structures for programming
- broom: Model building
- ggplot2 : Plotting

## Tidyverse • Examples

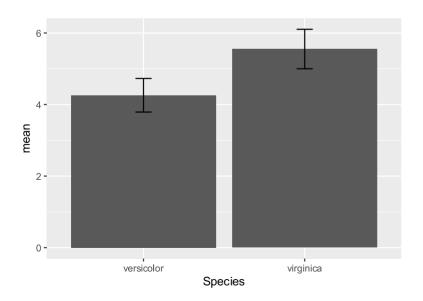


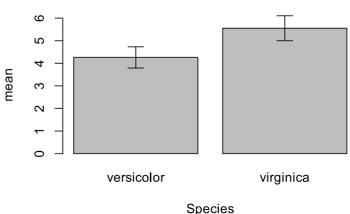
#### **Tidyverse**

```
iris %>%
 filter(Species!="setosa") %>%
 select(Species,Petal.Length) %>%
 group_by(Species) %>%
 summarise(mean=mean(Petal.Length),sd=sd(Pmutate(ymin=mean-sd,ymax=mean+sd) %>%
 ggplot(aes(x=Species,y=mean,ymin=ymin,ymageom_bar(stat="identity")+
 geom_errorbar(width=0.1)
```

#### Base R

iris\_mean <- aggregate(Petal.Length~Species
iris\_sd <- aggregate(Petal.Length~Species,d
iris1 <- merge(iris\_mean,iris\_sd,by="Specie
colnames(iris1) <- c("Species","mean","sd")
iris1\$Species <- factor(iris1\$Species)
iris1\$ymin <- iris1\$mean-iris1\$sd
iris1\$ymax <- iris1\$mean+iris1\$sd
{b <- barplot(iris1\$mean,names.arg=iris1\$Sp
arrows(x0=b,y0=iris1\$ymin,y1=iris1\$ymax, le</pre>





## Tidyverse • Examples



#### **Tidyverse**

```
extract columns from a data frame
select(iris, Species, Petal.Width)
select(iris, 5, 4)
extract rows
filter(iris, Petal.Width > 0.5 & Species == iris[iris$Petal.Width > 0.5 & iris$Species
ordering a data.frame
arrange(iris, desc(Species), Petal.Width)
add new computed variable
iris %>% mutate(cent=Petal.Length-mean(Peta iris$cent <- iris$Petal.Length-mean(iris$Pe
grouped summarisation
iris %>% group by(Species) %>% summarise(me
```

#### Base R

```
extract columns from a data frame
iris[, c("Species", "Petal.Width")]
iris[, c(5, 4)]
extract rows
ordering a data.frame
iris[order(rev(iris$Species), iris$Petal.Wi
add new computed variable
grouped summarisation
aggregate(Petal.Length~Species,data=iris,FU
```

#### Bioconductor





- NGS/Genomics/Biology related packages
- Package management using BiocManager
- Complex objects (Classes) to hold related objects
- Workflows for common tasks

### **Exercises**



Hands-On practise material for the contents covered on this course is available here.

https://royfrancis.github.io/course-r/lab.html

## Help



- Use **?function** to get function documentation
- Use ??name to search for a function
- Use args(function) to get the arguments to a function
- Go to the package CRAN page/webpage for vignettes
- GitHub repos of packages have useful info
- R bloggers: Great blog to follow to keep updated with the latest in the R world as well as tutorials.
- Stackoverflow: Online community to find solutions to your problems.



## **Learning R**



#### **Tutorials**

- Introduction to R: Tutorial by Datacamp with excellent tutorials.
- R programming tutorial: Youtube video tutorial by Derek Banas.
- R for data science Data science tutorial by Hadley wickham.
- Data carpentry Data carpentry R workshop (Medium-Advanced)

#### Reference

- R Cookbook: General purpose reference.
- Quick R: General purpose reference.
- Awesome R: Curated list of useful R packages.
- RStudio cheatsheets: Useful cheatsheets.
- Advanced R by Hadley Wickham (Medium-Advanced)

#### Links

Tutorialspoint List: Good list of resources.



# Thank you! Questions?

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