

Introduction To R

Introduction to Bioinformatics

Roy Francis • 06-Sep-2020

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

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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

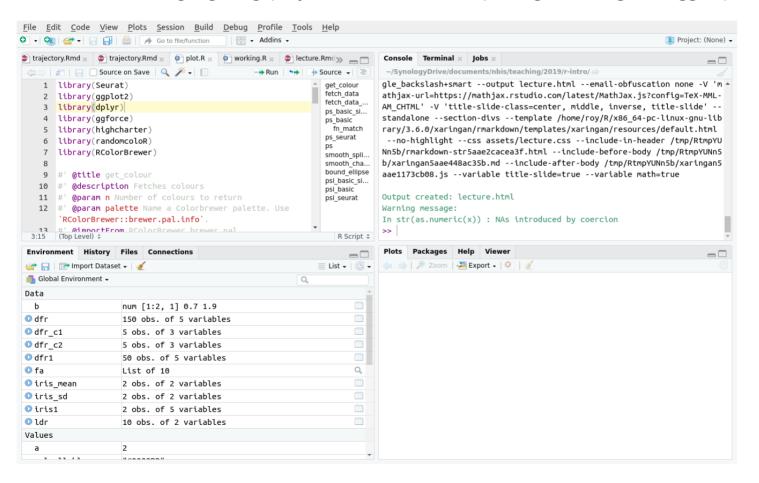
Cons

- Steep learning curve
- Not elegant/consistent
- Slow



Getting Started • Installation

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



Getting Started • 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
```

Arithmetic operators

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

```
## [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] 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 variable names like c, t 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)

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

Type

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

## [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 ""
- 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] NA
## [1] 14
## [1] NA
## [1] TRUE
## [1] TRUE
## [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</pre>
## [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]
x[,2,drop=F]
```

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

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"
## [1] "list"
```

• Access lists using [] and [[]]

```
x[1]
```

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

Lists are recursive

```
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
## $ v: 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)</pre>
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()

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"</pre>
```

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>
```

• Few other conversion functions

```
as.matrix(), as.data.frame(), as.integer(), as.Date()
```

Functions • Built-In • Math

generate 10 random numbers between 1 and 200

```
x <- sample(x=1:200,10); x;
## [1] 89 47 195 120 180 178 172 41 93 96
sum(x) # sum
mean(x) # mean
median(x) # median
min(x) # min
log(x) # log
exp(x) # exponent
sqrt(x) # square-root
round(x) # round
sort(x) # sort
## [1] 1211
## [1] 121.1
## [1] 108
## [1] 41
## [1] 4.488636 3.850148 5.273000 4.787492 5.192957 5.181784 5.147494 3.713572
## [9] 4.532599 4.564348
## [1] 4.489613e+38 2.581313e+20 4.868823e+84 1.304181e+52 1.489384e+78
## [6] 2.015662e+77 4.996327e+74 6.398435e+17 2.451246e+40 4.923458e+41
## [1] 9.433981 6.855655 13.964240 10.954451 13.416408 13.341664 13.114877
## [8] 6.403124 9.643651 9.797959
## [1] 89 47 195 120 180 178 172 41 93 96
## [1] 41 47 89 93 96 120 172 178 180 195
```

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
- 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)

f <- sqrt(e)

f
```

Custom function definition

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

Re-use function

```
my_function(a=2:4,b=6:8)
## [1] 1.576359 1.744856 1.861649
```

Function names must not start with number

Control Structure • if

• Conditional statements using tf()

```
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))
}

## [1] "2 is smaller than 5"</pre>
```

• 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>
```

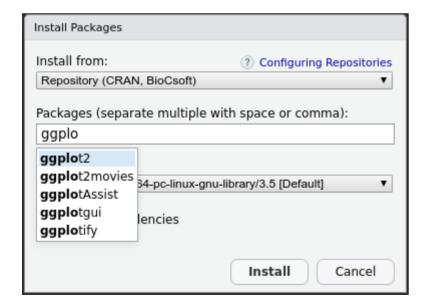
```
## [1] 1
## [1] 2
## [1] 3
## [1] 4
```

R Packages

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

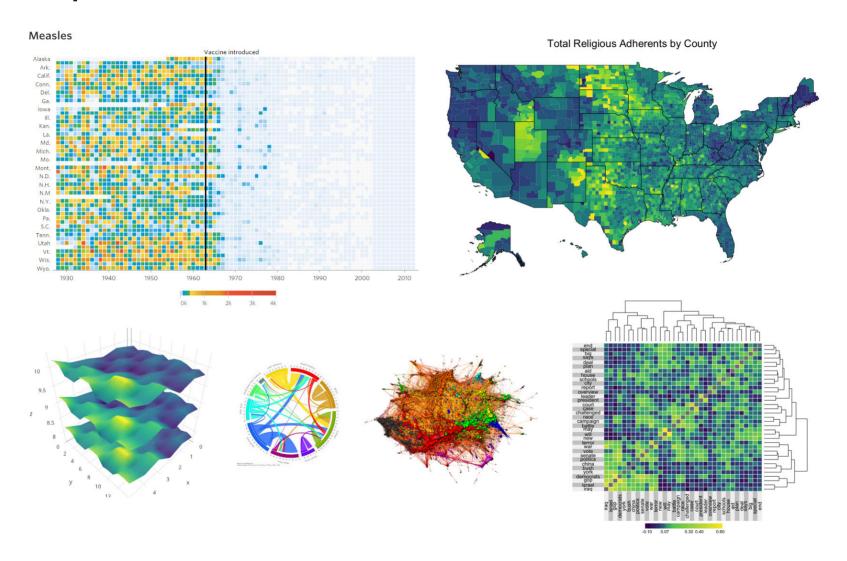
```
install.packages("ggplot2",dependencies=TRUE)

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



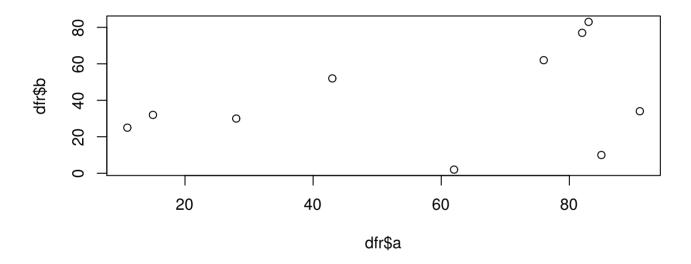
- Bioconductor for Biology/Bioinformatics packages; Use BiocManager::install()
- For GitHub packages, Use devtools::install_github()

Graphics



Graphics • Base

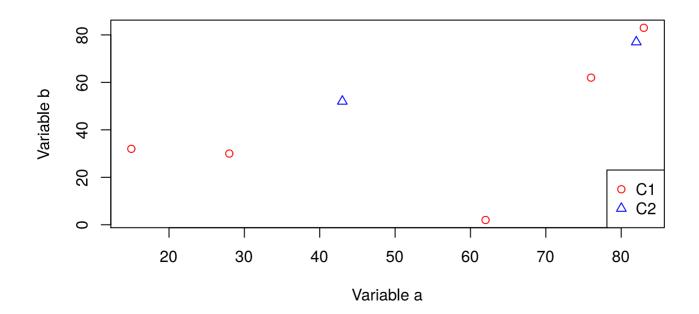
```
\label{eq:dfr} $$ dfr <- data.frame(a=sample(1:100,10),b=sample(1:100,10)) $$ plot(dfr$a,dfr$b)
```



• 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")
```

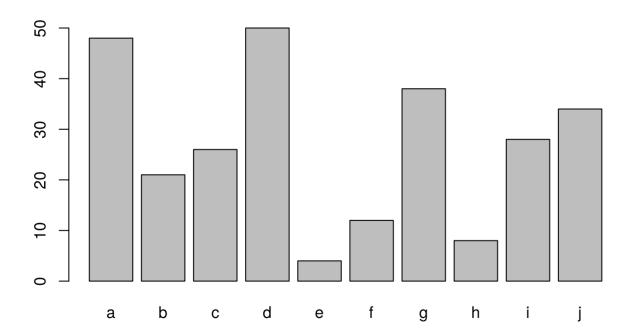
Graphics • Base



Graphics • Base

• Barplot

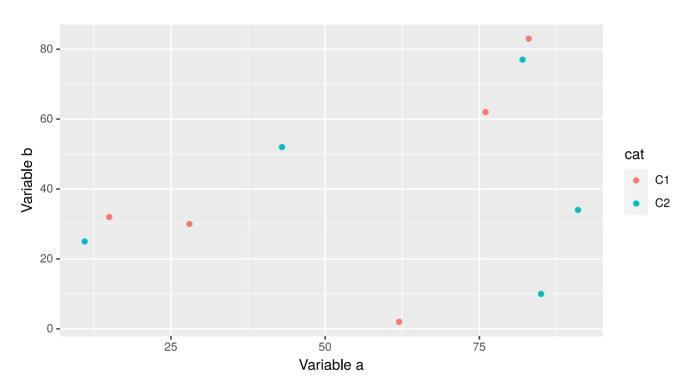
```
ldr <- data.frame(a=letters[1:10],b=sample(1:50,10))
barplot(ldr$b,names.arg=ldr$a)</pre>
```



Graphics • ggplot2

```
library(ggplot2)

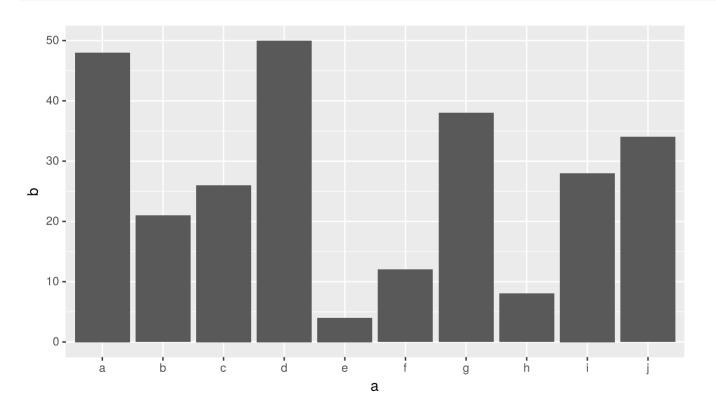
ggplot(dfr,aes(x=a,y=b,colour=cat))+
  geom_point()+
  labs(x="Variable a",y="Variable b")
```



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)
    Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1
               3.5
                                           0.2 setosa
           4.9 3.0
                         1.4
## 2
                                          0.2 setosa
## 3
         4.7 3.2 1.3
                                          0.2 setosa
          4.6
                     3.1
                               1.5
## 4
                                          0.2 setosa
                                      0.2 setosa
                   3.6
                              1.4
        5.0
## 5
## 6
    5.4 3.9
                                1.7
                                          0.4 setosa
str(dfr)
## '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" "...
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

Data Management Ecosystem



- Track edits and collaborate coding. Eg: Git
- Share and track code. Eg: GitHub
- Notebooks, documentation and reports. Eg: Latex, Jupyter, Rmarkdown
- Package and environment manager. Eg: Packrat, Conda, Virtualenv
- Workflow manager Eg: Snakemake, Nextflow
- Virtual machines. Eg: VMWare, VirtualBox
- Containerised computing environment. Eg: *Docker, Singularity, Vagrant*
- Big data analyses. Eg: *Hadoop, Spark*
- Workflow orchestration. Eg: Openstack, Kubernetes, Terraform

Reproducibility in R

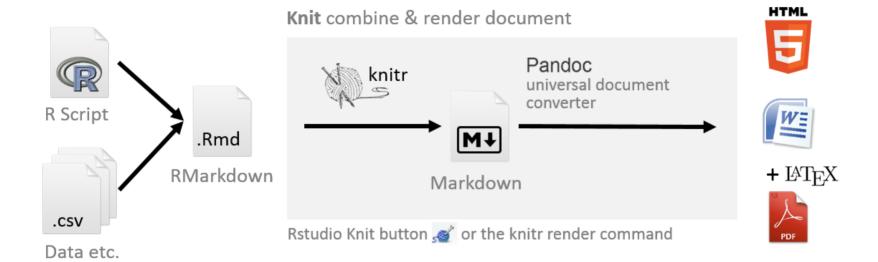
- Manage R versions carefully
- Install packages from repositories

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

- Package management using packrat (RStudio integrated) or 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")
```

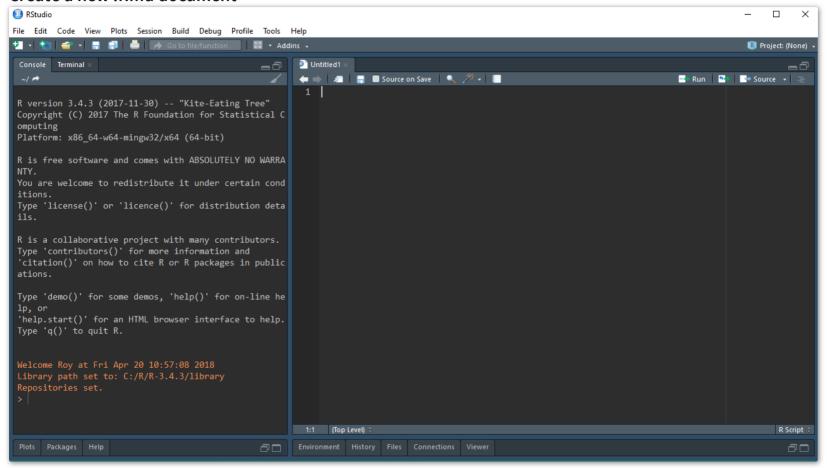
Document Converter



- 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

Link to [this](somewhere.com)

![](https://www.r-project.org/Rlogo.png)
```

Heading 3

Heading 4

italic text
bold text

code text

strikethrough

 2^{10}

2₁₀

bullet point

Link to this



Rmarkdown Guide

• R code can be executed inline

```
Today's date is `r date()`
Today's date is Sun Sep 6 17:16:03 2020
```

R code can be executed in code chunks

```
date()
```

• By default shows input code and output result.

```
date()
## [1] "Sun Sep 6 17:16:03 2020"
```

- 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

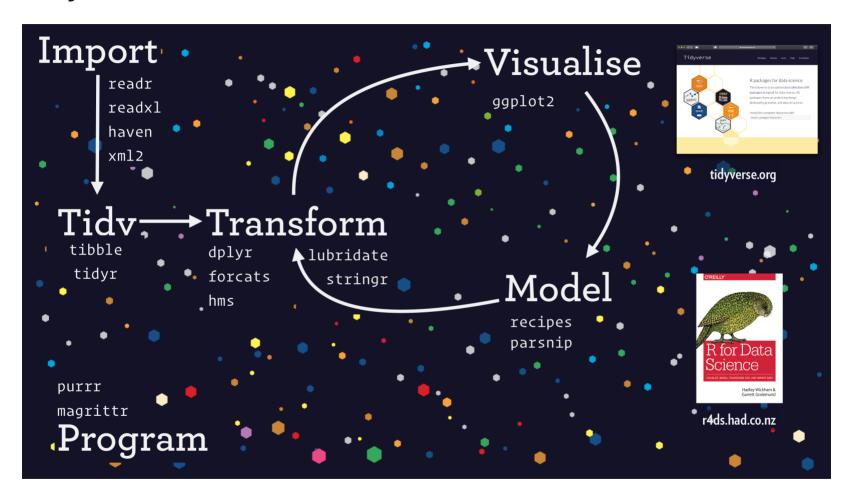
Tidyverse



"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
- purrr : Simpler control structures for programming
- broom: Model building
- ggplot2 : Plotting

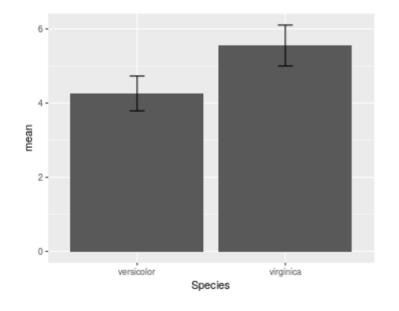
Tidyverse • Examples

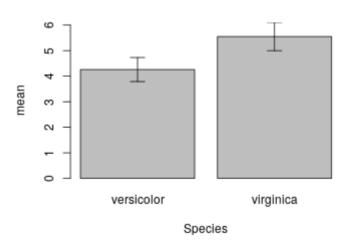
Tidyverse

```
iris %>%
 filter(Species!="setosa") %>%
  select(Species,Petal.Length) %>%
 group by(Species) %>%
  summarise(mean=mean(Petal.Length),sd=sd(Petal.L iris1$Species <- factor(iris1$Species)</pre>
 mutate(ymin=mean-sd,ymax=mean+sd) %>%
  qqplot(aes(x=Species,y=mean,ymin=ymin,ymax=yma)
 geom bar(stat="identity")+
 geom errorbar(width=0.1)
```

Base R

```
iris mean <- aggregate(Petal.Length~Species.data=</pre>
iris sd <- aggregate(Petal.Length~Species,data=si</pre>
iris1 <- merge(iris mean,iris sd,by="Species")</pre>
colnames(iris1) <- c("Species", "mean", "sd")</pre>
iris1$ymin <- iris1$mean-iris1$sd</pre>
iris1$ymax <- iris1$mean+iris1$sd</pre>
{b <- barplot(iris1$mean,names.arg=iris1$Species,</pre>
arrows(x0=b,y0=iris1$ymin,y1=iris1$ymax, length=6
```





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 == "setc iris[iris\$Petal.Width > 0.5 & iris\$Species == "setc # ordering a data.frame arrange(iris, desc(Species), Petal.Width) # add new computed variable iris %>% mutate(cent=Petal.Length-mean(Petal.Length - iris\$petal.Length-mean(iris\$petal.Length-mean() # grouped summarisation iris %>% group by(Species) %>% summarise(mean=mea aggregate(Petal.Length~Species,data=iris,FUN=mear

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.Width),
# add new computed variable
# grouped summarisation
```

Bioconductor



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

Exercises

Hands-On exercise/lab 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
- 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

There are lots of resources for getting help in 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)

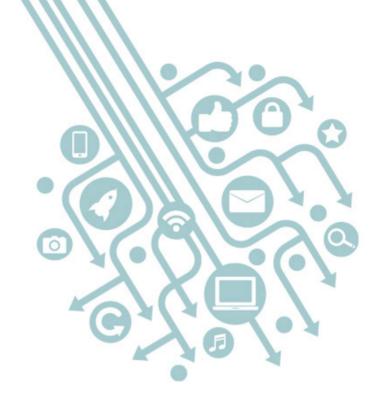
Reference

- 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

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