

Using R Markdown for reports

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~~What is markdown?~~

- What is MS Word? Word is a *WYSIWYG* editor:
 - You type plain text as contents of your manuscript
 - With 'click-and-play' you determine how it looks
- Benefits of *WYSIWYG*:
 - No “programming” skills needed!
 - You see the end-result, no surprises



WYSIWYG drawbacks

Me: moves picture 0.000005
centimeters in word

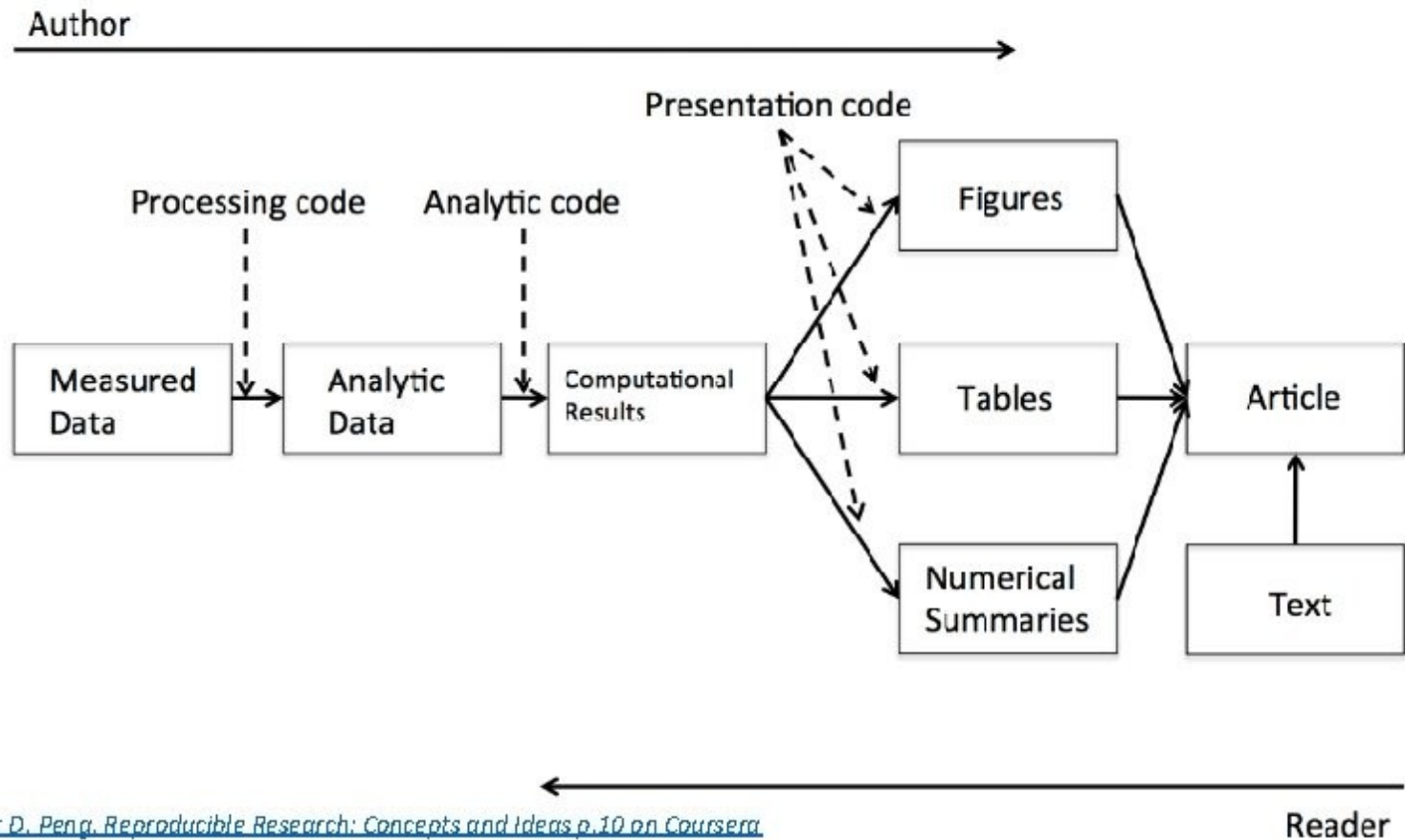
Literally everything in the document:



WYSIWYG drawbacks

- Fiddly! You focus on how it looks, draws attention away from content;
- Files get big soon;
- Reproducing a look can be cumbersome;
- Data change, contents need to be updated!

Research Pipeline



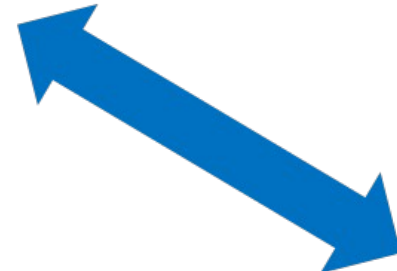
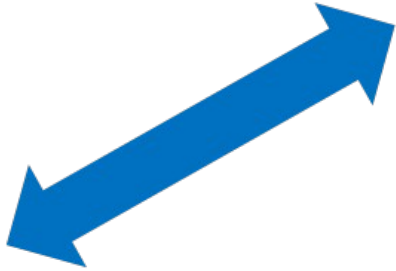
What is (R) markdown?



- A lightweight markup language to produce formatted text using a plain text editor;
- Plain text is used for the contents of your report/ manuscript/ book/ etc., syntax for formatting;
- R markdown combines markdown with code-chunks to integrate results from analyses.



GitHub



Contents of an *Rmd*-file

- YAML (metadata)
 - Title
 - Author name
 - Date
 - Document settings
- Plain text (report or manuscript text)
- Code chunks (to produce results)

How it works... in a nutshell

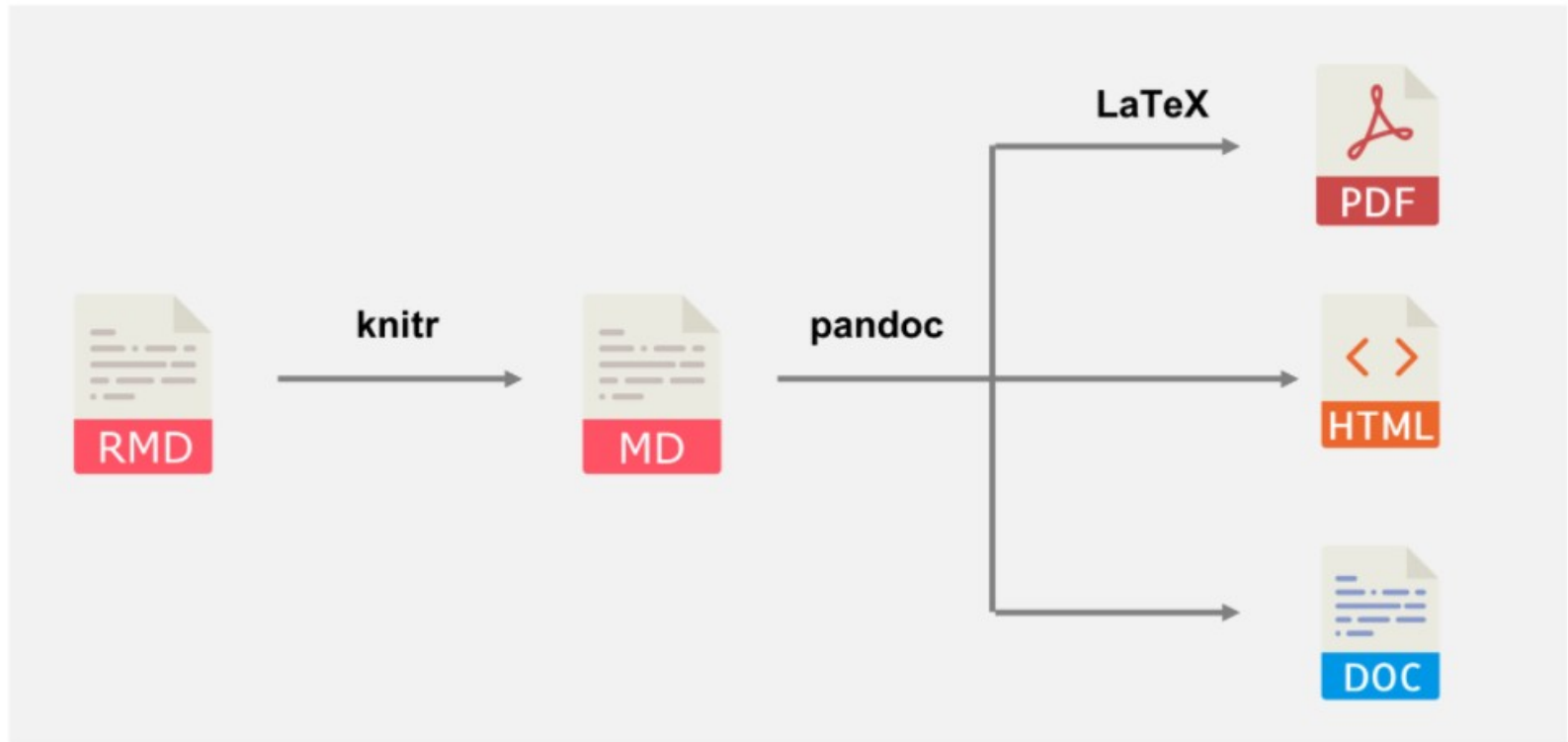


FIGURE 2.1: A diagram illustrating how an R Markdown document is converted to the final output document.

More information

- Links to:
- [A crash course](#)
- [R Markdown cheat sheet](#)
- [Writing a book in R](#)

Let's do this!

- Open the .rmd file named '*R Markdown practical clean.Rmd*'
- Open the file, click the small arrow next to '*knit*', and select '*knit to HTML*'

