Introduction to RStudio

Day 1 - Introduction to Data Analysis with R

Selina Baldauf Freie Universität Berlin - Theoretical Ecology

October 6, 2025

Difference between R and RStudio





R is the **programming language** and the **program** that does the actual work

 Can be used with many different programming environments RStudio is the **integrated development environment** (IDE)

- Provides an interface to R
- Specifically built around R code
- Execute code
- Syntax highlighting
- File and project management
- ...

Difference between R and RStudio









Analogy and image from ModernDive Book



You can use R without RStudio but RStudio without R would be of little use

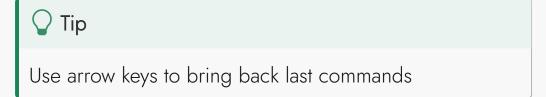
A quick tour around RStudio

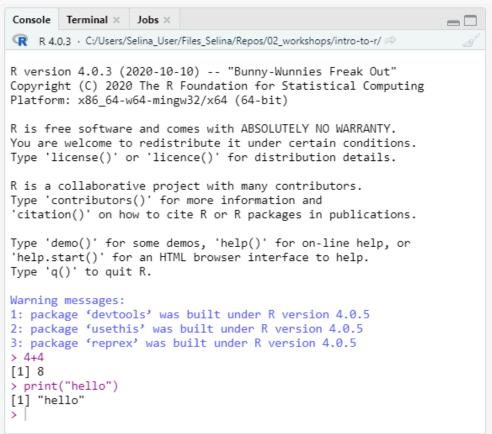
A quick tour around RStudio



Console pane

- Execute R code
- Output from R code in scripts is printed there
- Type a command into the console and execute with Enter/Return





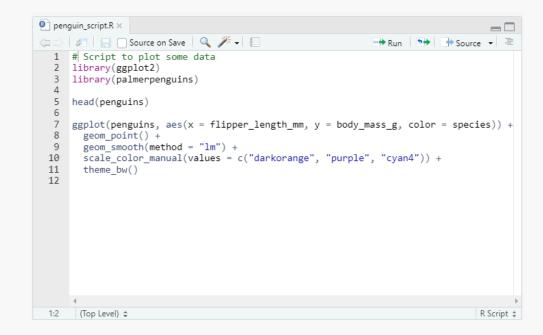
Script pane

- Write scripts with R code
 - Scripts are text files with R commands (file ending .R)
 - Use scripts to save commands for reuse

```
penguin_script.R ×
     Run 😕 🖶 Source 🕶 🗏
     # Script to plot some data
     library(ggplot2)
     library(palmerpenguins)
     head(penguins)
     ggplot(penguins, aes(x = flipper_length_mm, y = body_mass_g, color = species)) +
       geom_point() +
       geom smooth(method = "lm") +
       scale_color_manual(values = c("darkorange", "purple", "cyan4")) +
 11
       theme bw()
 1:2
     (Top Level) $
                                                                         R Script $
```

Script pane

- Create a new R script:
 File -> New File -> R Script
- Save an R script:File->Save (Ctrl/Cmd + S)
- Run code line by line with Run button (Ctrl+Enter/Cmd+Return)
- You can open multiple scripts

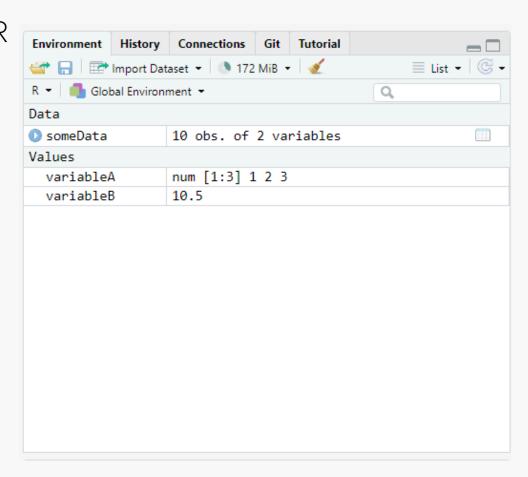


(i) Summary

Use **scripts** for all your analysis and for commands that you want to save. Use **console** for temporary commands, e.g. to test something.

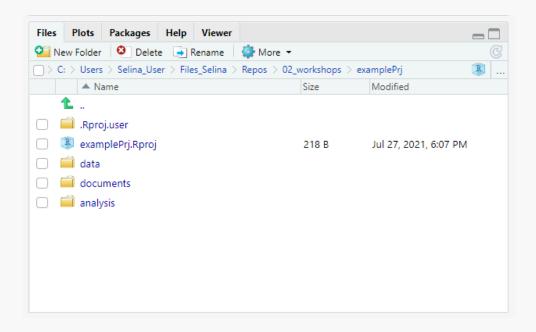
Environment pane

- Shows objects currently present in the R session
- Is empty if you start R



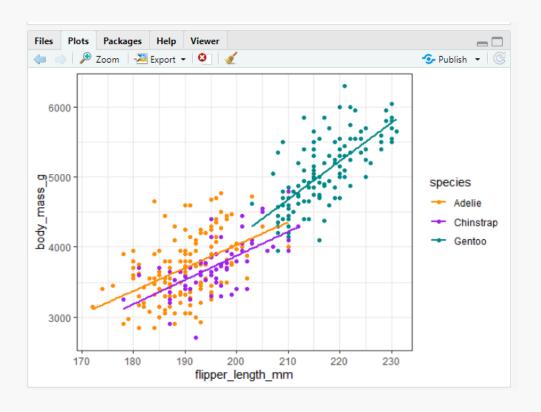
Files pane

- Similar to Explorer/Finder
- Browse project structure and files
 - Find and open files
 - Create new folders
 - Delete files
 - Rename files
 - •
- Practical if you don't want to switch between File Explorer and RStudio all the time



Plot pane

 Plots that are created with R will be shown here



How to use RStudio to organize your projects

- One directory with all files relevant for project
 - Scripts, data, plots, documents, ...

Example project structure

- One directory with all files relevant for project
 - Scripts, data, plots, documents, ...
- An RStudio project is just a normal directory with an .Rproj file

Example RStudio project structure

Advantages of using RStudio projects

- Easy to navigate in R Studio (File pane)
- Easy to find and access scripts and data in RStudio
- Project root is working directory
- Open multiple projects simultaneously in separate RStudio instances

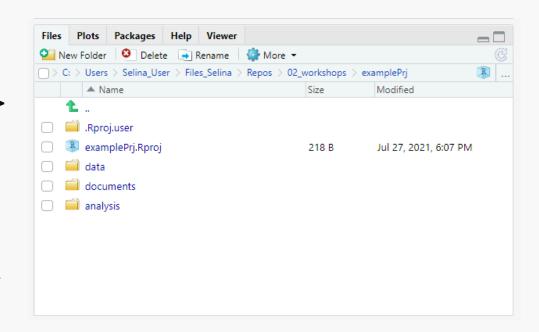
```
MyProject
  data
l- docs
     - notes
     - reports
 - R
     - clean data.R
     - statistics.R
 - MyProject.RProj
```

Example RStudio project structure

Create an RStudio project

Create a project from scratch:

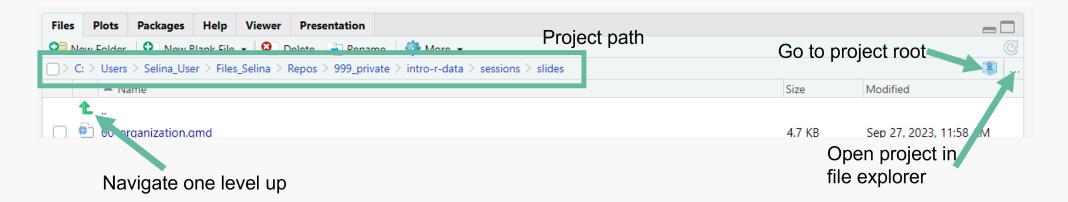
- File -> New Project -> New Directory -> New Project
- 2. Enter a directory name (this will be the name of your project)
- 3. Choose the Directory where the project should be initiated
- 4. Create Project



Example RStudio project structure in the Files pane

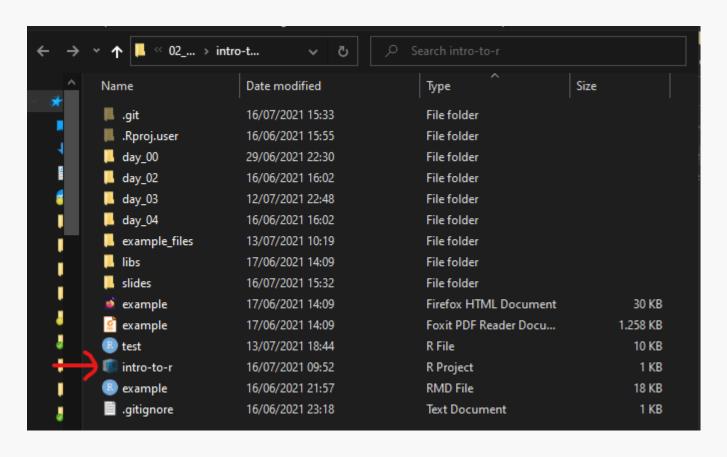
RStudio will now create and open the project for you.

Navigate an RStudio project



Open a project from outside RStudio

To open an RStudio project from your file explorer/finder, just double click on the .Rproj file



Open a project inside RStudio

To open an RStudio project from RStudio, click on the project symbol on the top right of R Studio and select the project from the list.



A tip before we get started

Learn the most important keyboard shortcuts of R Studio.

Find all shortcuts under Tools -> Keyboard Shortcuts Help

- Save active file: Ctrl/Cmd + S
- Run current line: Ctrl/Cmd + Enter
- Create new R Script: Ctrl/Cmd + N
- Undo: Ctrl/Cmd + Z
- Redo: Ctrl/Cmd + Y
- Copy/Paste: Ctrl/Cmd + C/V

Now you

Task 1 (15 min)

Set up your own RStudio project for this workshop

Find the task description here