

Documentation

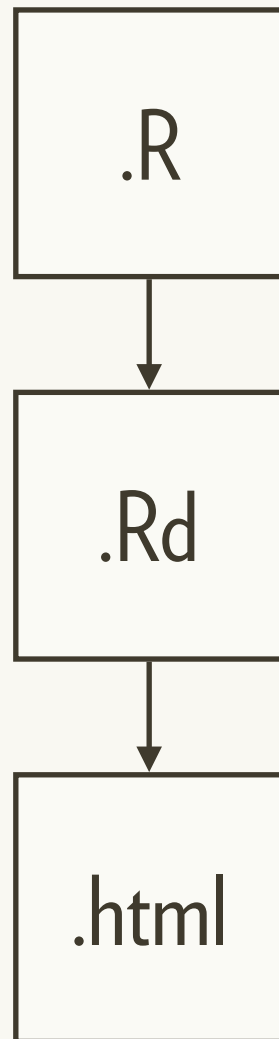
January 2018

Hadley Wickham

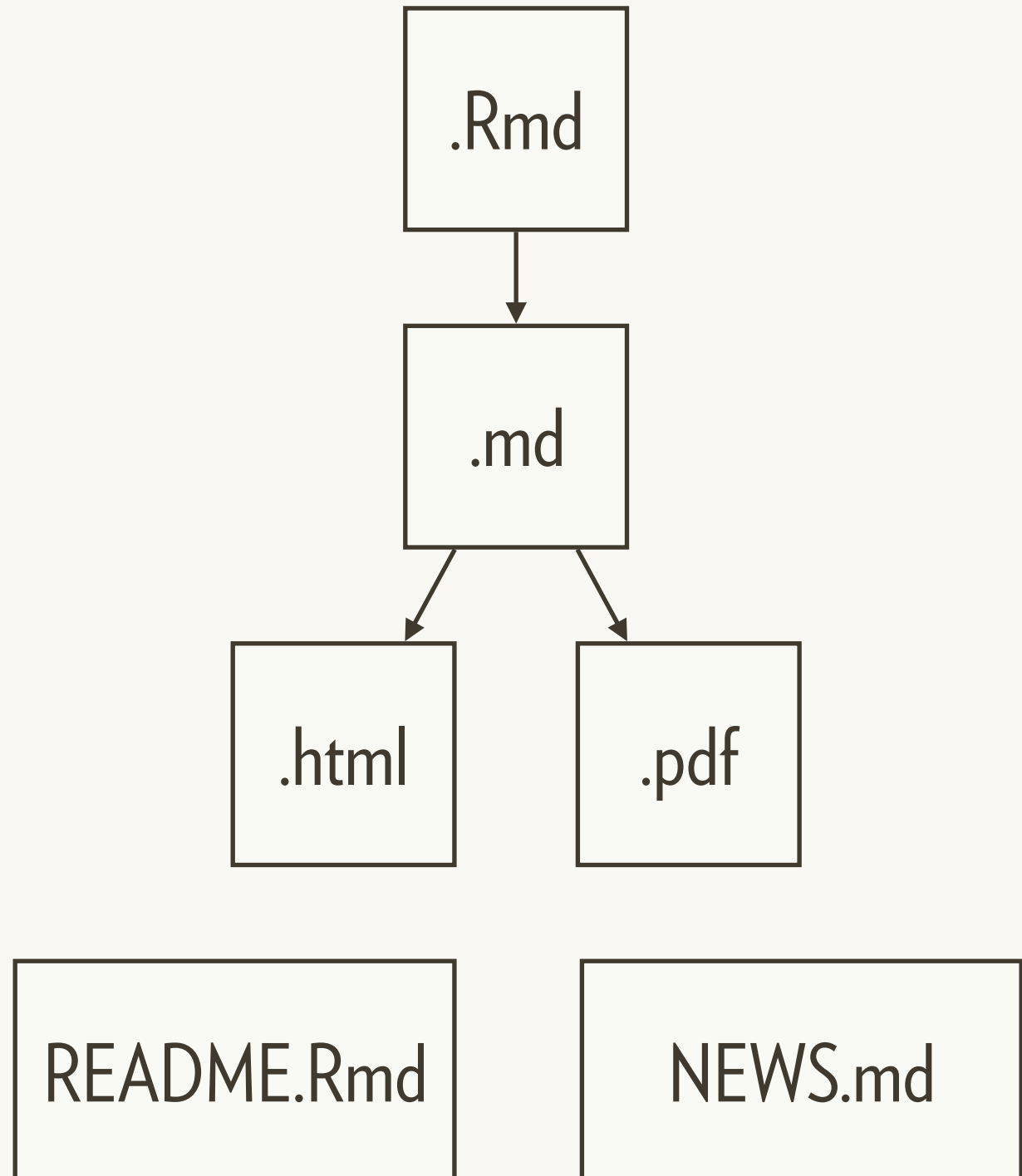
@hadleywickham

Chief Scientist, RStudio

Function-level with roxygen2



Package-level with rmarkdown



Markdown

I assume you are already familiar with it

Basic markdown formatting

This is a top level heading

This is some text. Make text *italic* with single underscores (or stars). Make it **bold** with double stars (or underscores). Here is a [link to a markdown guide](http://bit.ly/19fAexE).

- * This is a list

- * This is another item

```
```R
```

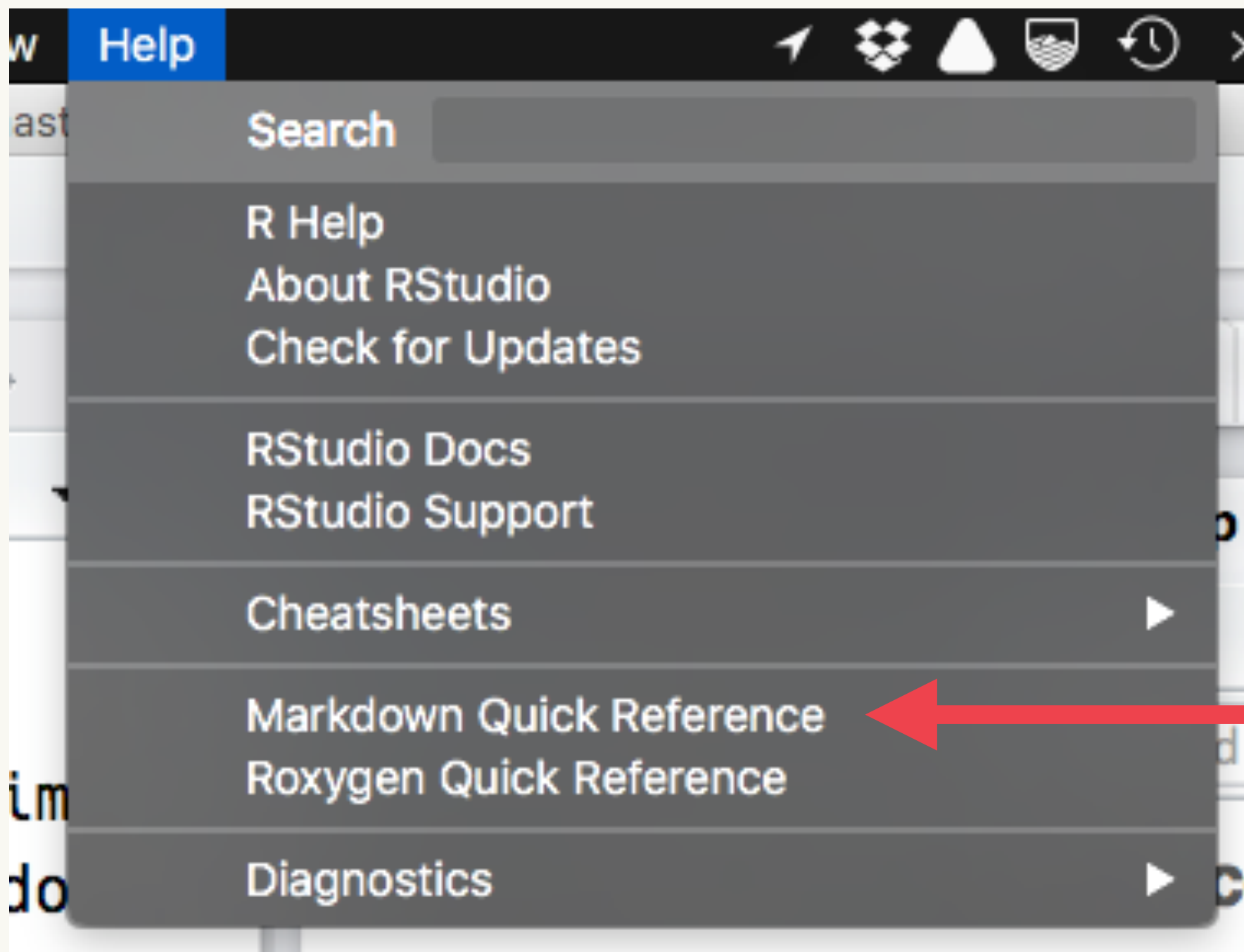
```
Some R code
```

```
f <- function() x + 1
```

```
```
```

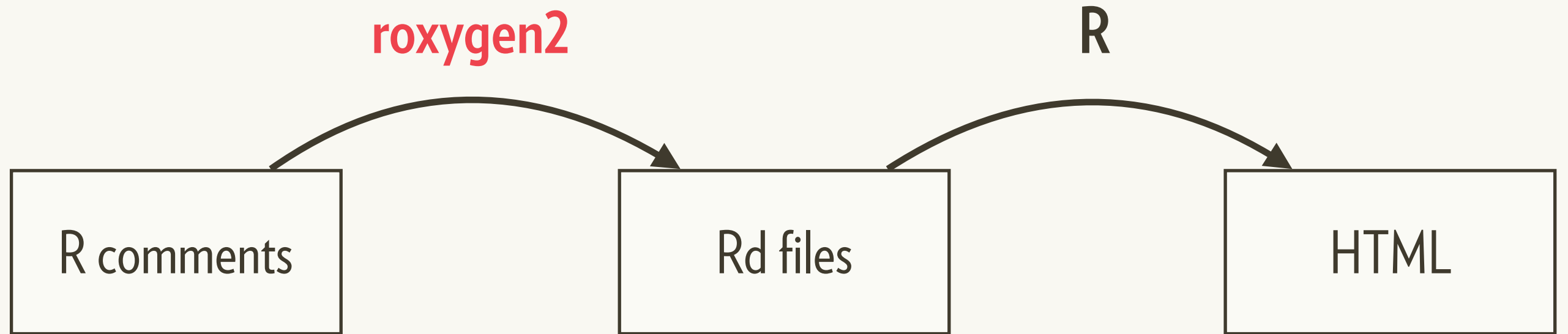
This is a secondary heading

You can also do ``inline code``, numbered lists and quotes and more.



Function documentation with `roxygen2`

Rxygen2

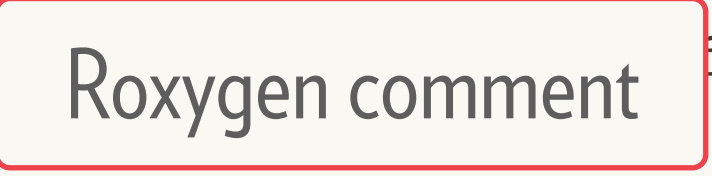



<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/man.html>

You write specially formatted comments in .R

```
#' Add a column to a data frame
#
#' Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable
#' with the same name if present.
#
#' @param x A data frame
#' @param name Name of variable to create. If a variable of that name
#' already exists it will be replaced
#' @param value Values to insert.
#' @param where Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on
#' RHS.
#' @examples
#' df <- data.frame(x = 1:5)
#' add_col(df, "y", runif(5))
#' add_col(df, "y", runif(5), where = 1)
#
#' add_col(df, "x", 5:1)
```


You write specially formatted comments in **.R**

```
#'  Roxygen comment frame
#
# Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable
# with the same name if present.
#
#' @param  @param name Variable to create. If a variable of that name
# already exists it will be replaced
#' @param value Values to insert.
#' @param where Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on
# RHS.
#' @examples
# df <- data.frame(x = 1:5)
# add_col(df, "y", runif(5))
# add_col(df, "y", runif(5), where = 1)
#
# add_col(df, "x", 5:1)
```

Roxygen translates to **.Rd**

*In almost all cases you
can ignore these files*

```
% Generated by roxygen2: do not edit by hand  
% Please edit documentation in R/add_col.R
```

```
\name{add_col}
```

```
\alias{add_col}
```

```
\title{Add a column to a data frame}
```

```
\usage{
```

```
add_col(x, name, value, where = -1)
```

```
}
```

```
\arguments{
```

```
\item{x}{A data frame}
```

```
\item{name}{Name of variable to create. If a variable of that name  
already exists it will be replaced}
```

```
\item{value}{Values to insert.}
```

```
\item{where}{Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on  
RHS.}
```

```
}
```

```
\description{
```

```
Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable  
with the same name if present.
```

```
}
```

```
add_col {hadcol}
```

R translates to
[.html](#) for viewing

Add a column to a data frame

Description

Allows you to specify the position. Will replace existing variable with the same name if present.

Usage

```
add_col(x, name, value, where = -1)
```

Arguments

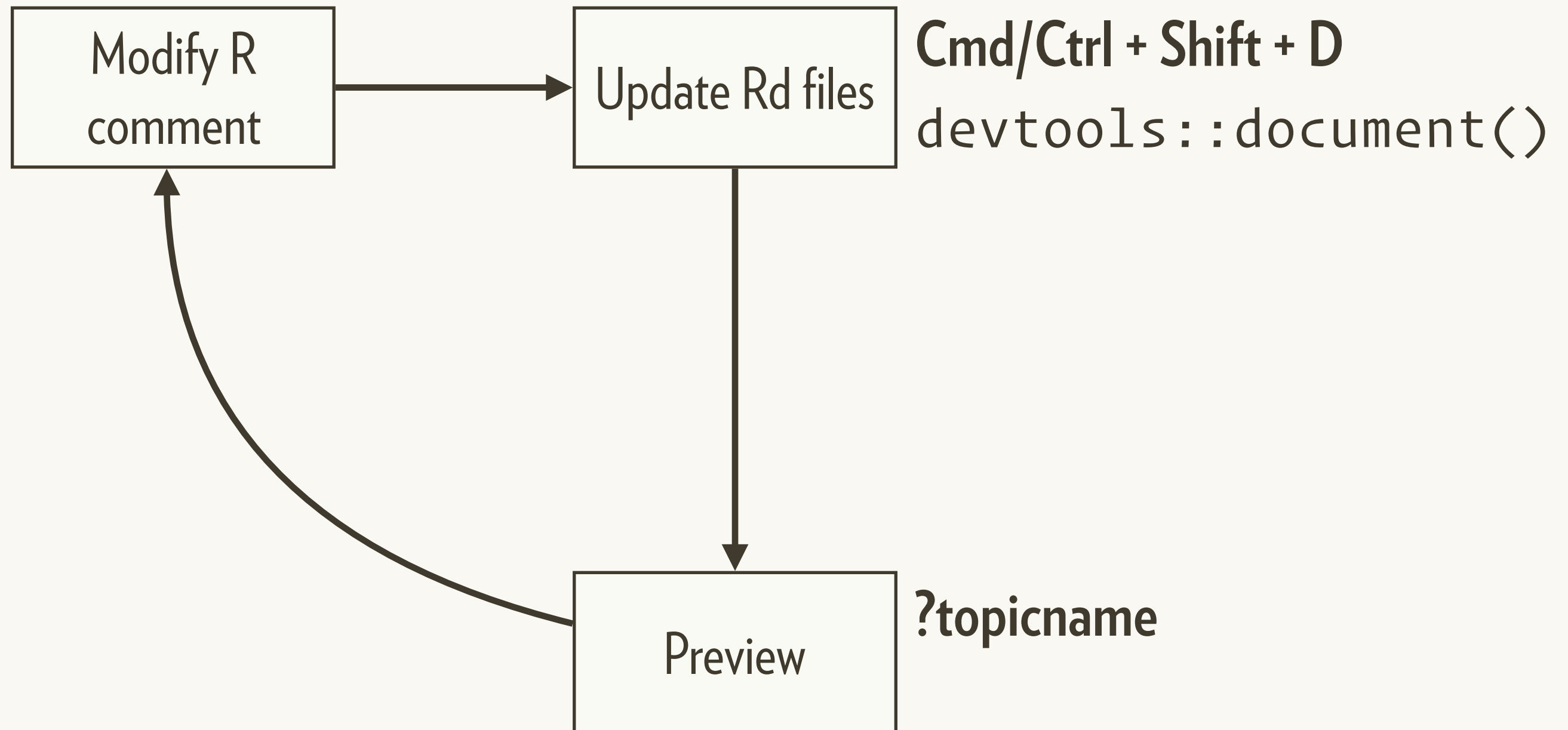
- x** A data frame
- name** Name of variable to create. If a variable of that name already exists it will be replaced
- value** Values to insert.
- where** Position to insert. Use 1 to insert on LHS, or -1 to insert on RHS.

Examples

```
df <- data.frame(x = 1:5)
add_col(df, "y", runif(5))
add_col(df, "y", runif(5), where = 1)

add_col(df, "x", 5:1)
```

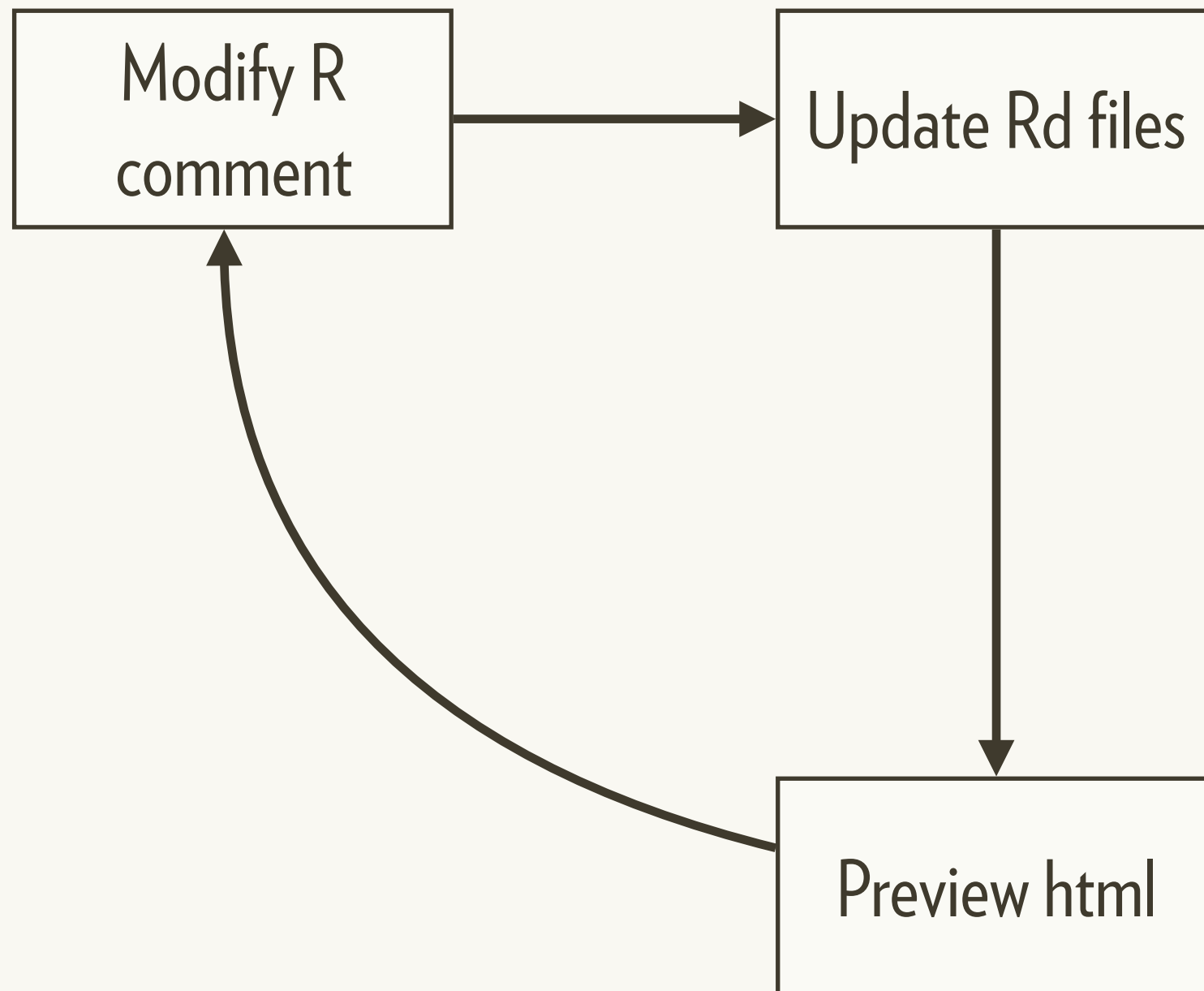
Documentation workflow



Two caveats

1. You must have loaded the package with `load_all()` at least once.
Check for message "Using development documentation..."
2. This technique only builds individual files so links do not work.

Documentation workflow



Cmd/Ctrl + Shift + D

`devtools::document()`

NB: You must have loaded the package with `load_all()` at least once

?topicname

Only shows single file,
so links do not work

Change working directory/project to:

[hadcol]

Your turn

Fix the typos in the documentation for `add_col`.

Run the documentation workflow to check your work

First sentence is the **title**

Sum of Vector Elements

Description

`sum` returns the sum of all the values present in its arguments.

Next paragraph is the **description**

Usage

```
sum(..., na.rm = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`...` numeric or complex or logical vectors.

`na.rm` logical. Should missing values (including `NaN`) be removed?

Details

Everything else is the **details**

ectly or via the [Summary](#) group
ld be unnamed, and dispatch is

If `na.rm` is `FALSE` an `NA` or `NaN` value in any of the arguments will cause a value of `NA` or

The description block

First sentence is the **title**

```
#' Sum of vector elements
```

```
#'
```

```
#' \code{sum} returns the sum of all the values present in its arguments.
```

```
#'
```

```
#' This is a generic function: methods can be defined for it directly or via the
```

```
#' \code{\link{Summary}} group generic. For this to work properly, the arguments
```

```
#' \code{...} should be unnamed, and dispatch is on the first argument.
```

Next paragraph is the **description**

Everything else is the **details**

There are five **tags** you'll use for most functions

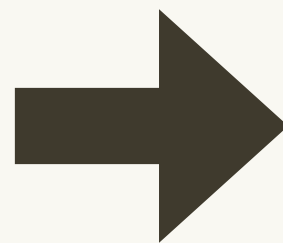
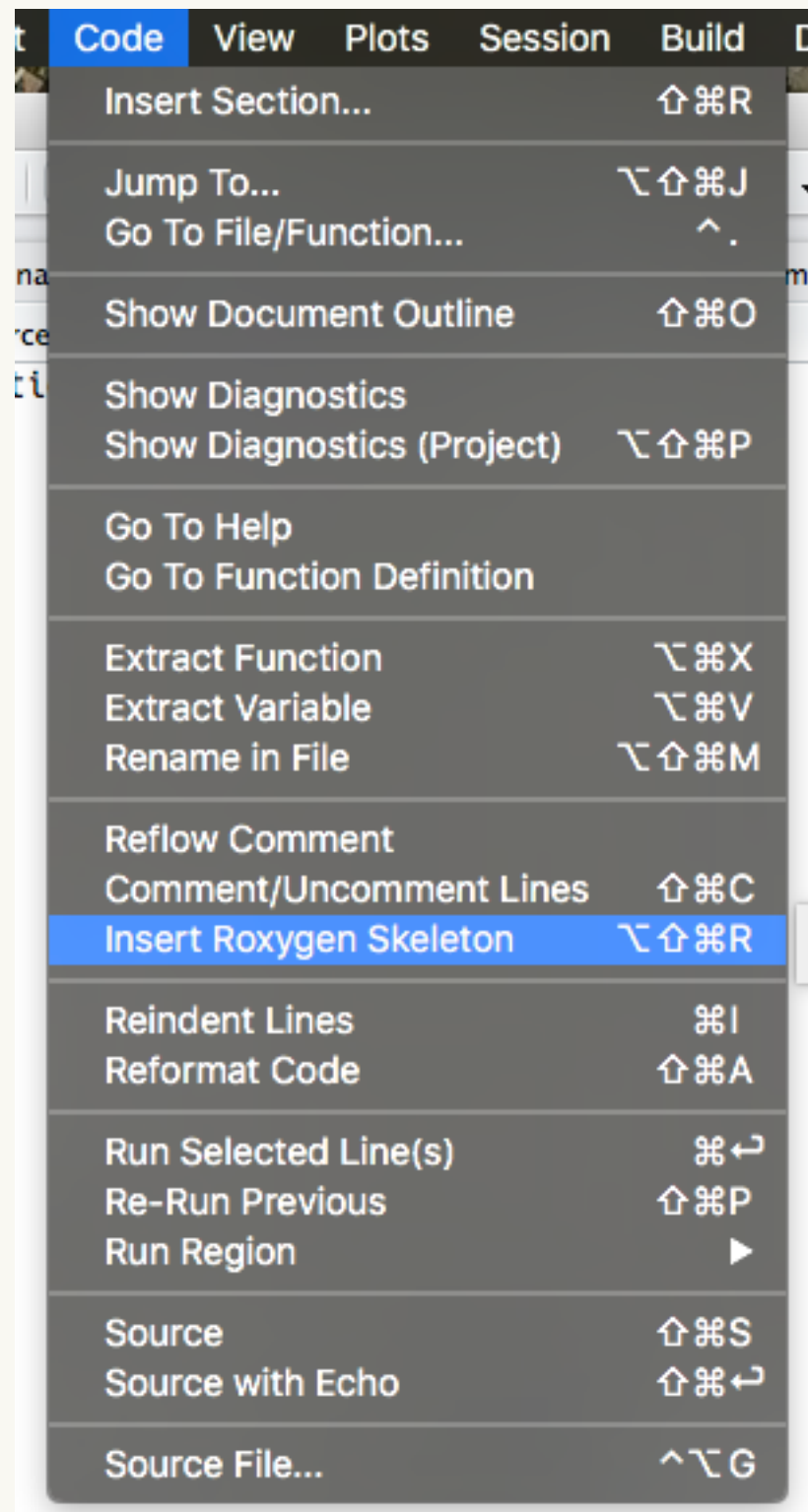
| Tag | Purpose |
|------------|--|
| @param arg | Describe inputs |
| @examples | Show how the function works.
(Usual RStudio shortcuts work) |
| @seealso | Pointers to related functions |
| @return | Describe outputs (value) |
| @export | Is this a user-visible function? |

Your turn

Document `add_cols()`.

(See next slide for hint)

RStudio helps you remember



```
#' Title
#'
#' @param x
#' @param y
#' @param z
#'
#' @return
#' @export
#'
#' @examples
fun <- function(x, y, z) {
}
```

Use markdown for formatting

Activate by running

use_roxygen_md()

bold, *italic*, ``code``

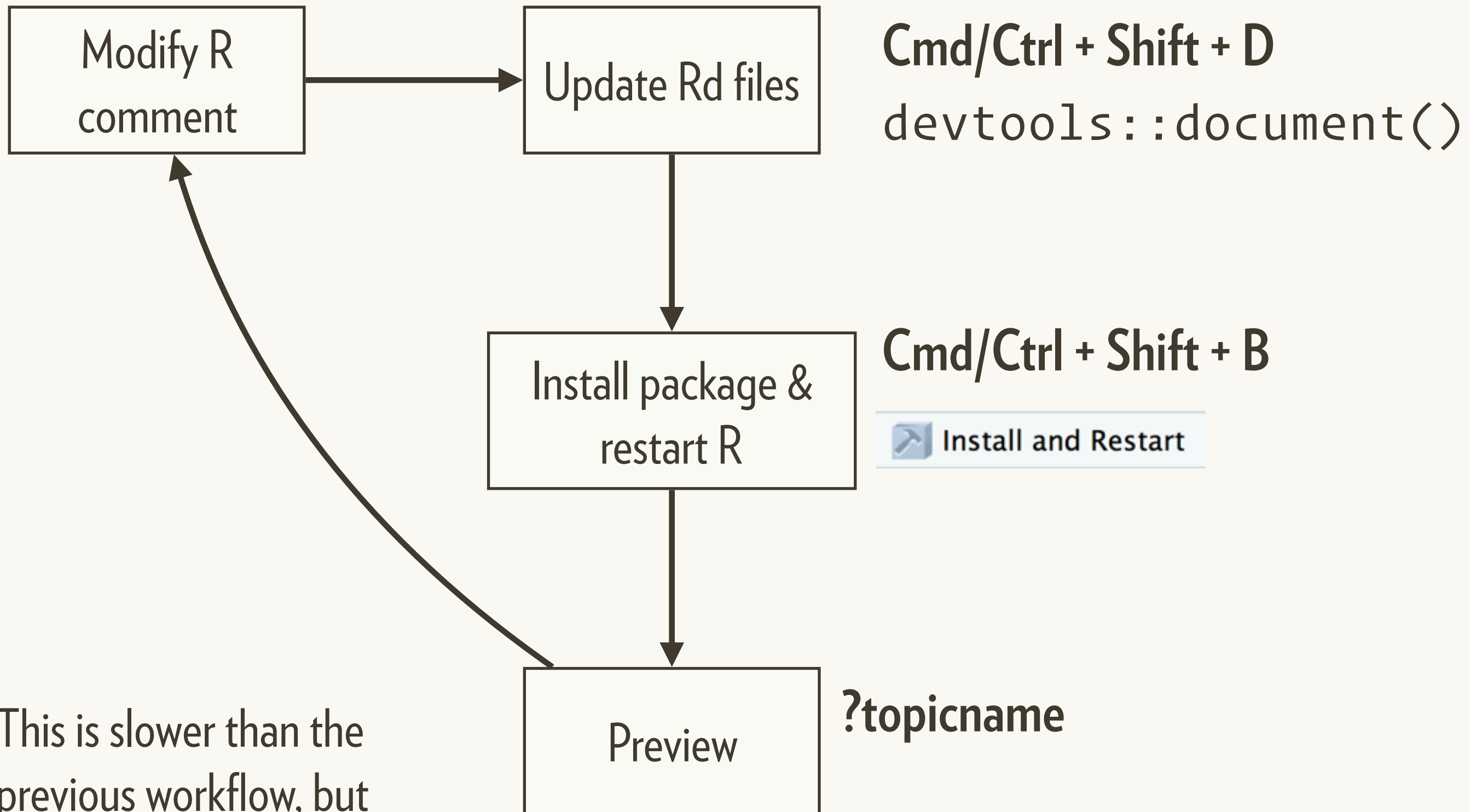
* [func()]

* [pkg::func()]

* [link text][func()]

* [link text][pkg::func()]

Documentation workflow 2



This is slower than the previous workflow, but there are fewer caveats

Your turn

Make real link to `cbind()`

Add a see also section (`@seealso`) to `add_col()` and `add_cols()` that links them together.

What happens if you add `@family xyz` to both?

roxygen2 comes with other tools to reduce duplication

```
# Document multiple functions in the same file
```

```
#' @rdname add_col
```

```
# Inherit the parameter descriptions from
```

```
# another function
```

```
#' @inheritParams add_col
```

```
# Inherit everything from another topic
```

```
#' @inherit add_col
```

```
# Inherit selectively
```

```
#' @inherit add_col parameters return references
```

```
#'   title description details
```

```
#'   sections seealso
```

Read online about how to document other objects

Data

<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/data.html#documenting-data>

Classes & methods

<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/man.html#man-classes>

Packages

<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/man.html#man-packages>

Namespace:
imports

DESCRIPTION gives metadata about package

Package: colsum

Version: 0.0.0.9000

Title: What the Package Does (one line, title case)

Description: What the package does (one paragraph).

```
Authors@R: c(  
  person("Hadley", "Wickham", , "hadley@rstudio.com"),  
  person("RStudio", role = "cph")  
)
```

License: GPL-3

Encoding: UTF-8

LazyData: true

ByteCompile: true

Depends:

purrr

Suggests:

testthat

Depends is not ok for CRAN packages

Package: colsum

Version: 0.0.0.9000

Title: What the Package Does (one line, title case)

Description: What the package does (one paragraph).

```
Authors@R: c(  
  person("Hadley", "Wickham", , "hadley@rstudio.com"),  
  person("RStudio", role = "cph")  
)
```

License: GPL-3

Encoding: UTF-8

LazyData: true

ByteCompile: true

Depends:

purrr

Suggests:

testthat

Instead, need to use imports

```
Package: colsum
Version: 0.0.0.9000
Title: What the Package Does (one line, title case)
Description: What the package does (one paragraph).
Authors@R: c(
  person("Hadley", "Wickham", , "hadley@rstudio.com"),
  person("RStudio", role = "cph")
)
License: GPL-3
Encoding: UTF-8
LazyData: true
ByteCompile: true
Imports:
  purrr
Suggests:
  testthat
```

But that requires we use ::

```
# Or you might want to use an infix function
```

```
`%>%` <- magittr::`%>%`
```

```
col_summary <- function(df, fun) {  
  stopifnot(is.data.frame(df))
```

```
  df %>%
```

```
    purrr::keep(is.numeric) %>%
```

```
    purrr::modify(fun)
```

```
}
```

Instead can **import** functions into the package

```
#' @importFrom purrr keep modify
#' @importFrom magrittr %>%
col_summary <- function(df, fun) {
  stopifnot(is.data.frame(df))

  df %>%
    keep(is.numeric) %>%
    modify(fun)
}
```


Alternatively, create R/imports.R

```
# Imports belong to the package, not to  
# individual functions, so you might want  
# to recognise this by storing in a central  
# location
```

```
#' @importFrom purrr keep map  
#' @importFrom magrittr %>%
```

NULL

Importing everything from a package seems easy

```
#' @import purrr
col_summary <- function(df, fun) {
  stopifnot(is.data.frame(df))

  df %>%
    keep(is.numeric) %>%
    map_dfc(fun)
}
```

But is dangerous...

```
#' @import foo
#' @import bar

fun <- function(x) {
  fun1(x) + fun2(x)
}
```

Works today

But next year, bar package adds fun1 function

Description

NAMESPACE

Makes **package** available

Makes **function** available

Mandatory

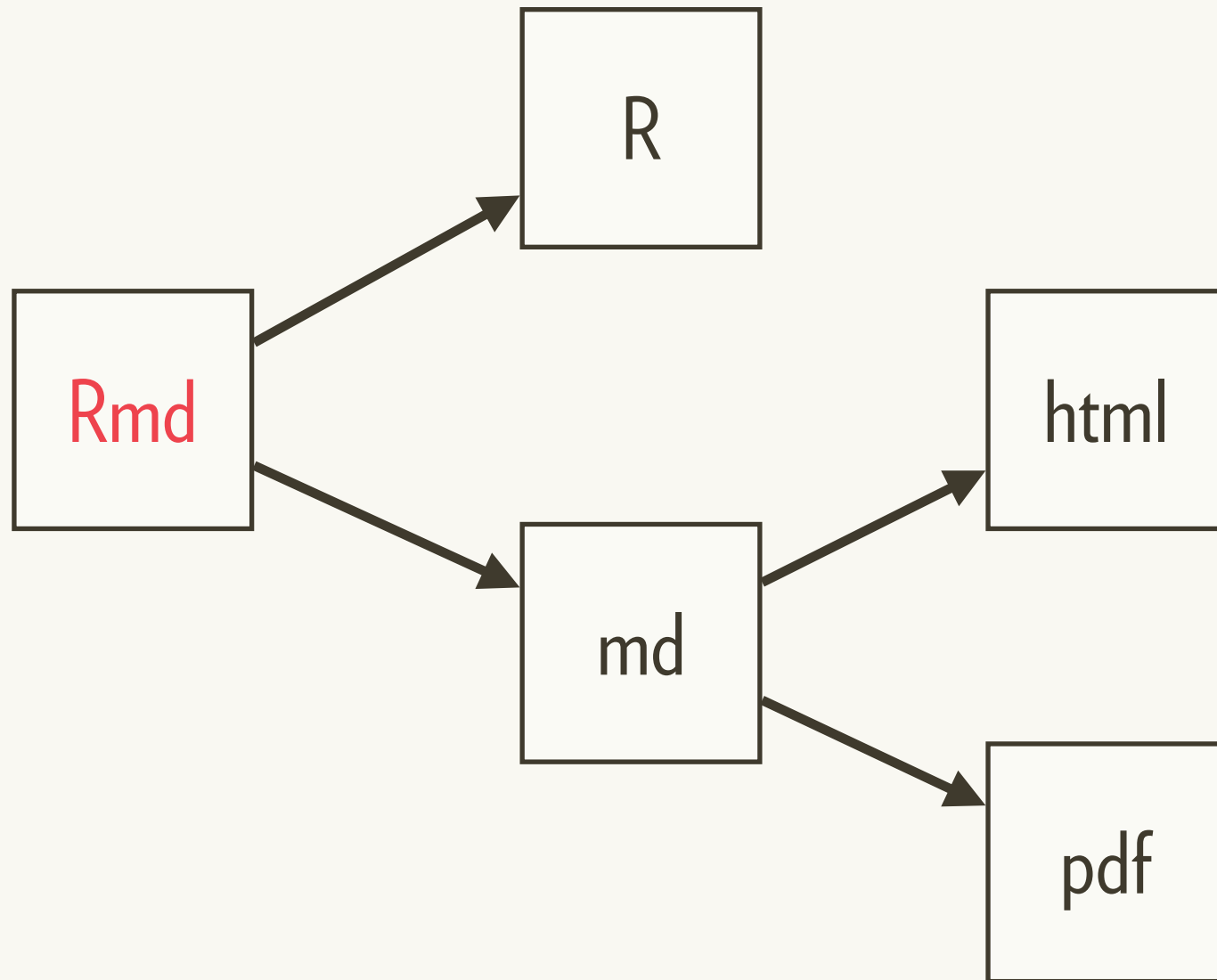
Optional
(can use :: instead)

`use_package()`

`#' @importFrom`

Package documentation with `rmarkdown`

Vignettes



Lets you combine prose
and code to explain your
how you package works.

The hard part is the writing, not the technology!



rmarkdown

<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/vignettes.html>

Easiest way to get started is with `use_vignette()`

```
usethis::use_vignette("name")
```

```
# Adds to DESCRIPTION
```

```
Suggests: knitr
```

```
VignetteBuilder: knitr
```

```
# Creates vignettes/
```

```
# Drafts vignettes/name.Rmd
```

Vignette = Rmarkdown + special metadata

```
---  
title: "Vignette Title"  
author: "Vignette author"  
date: "`r Sys.Date()`"  
output: rmarkdown::html_vignette  
vignette: >  
  %\VignetteIndexEntry{Vignette Title}  
  %\VignetteEngine{knitr::rmarkdown}  
  %\VignetteEncoding{UTF-8}  
---
```

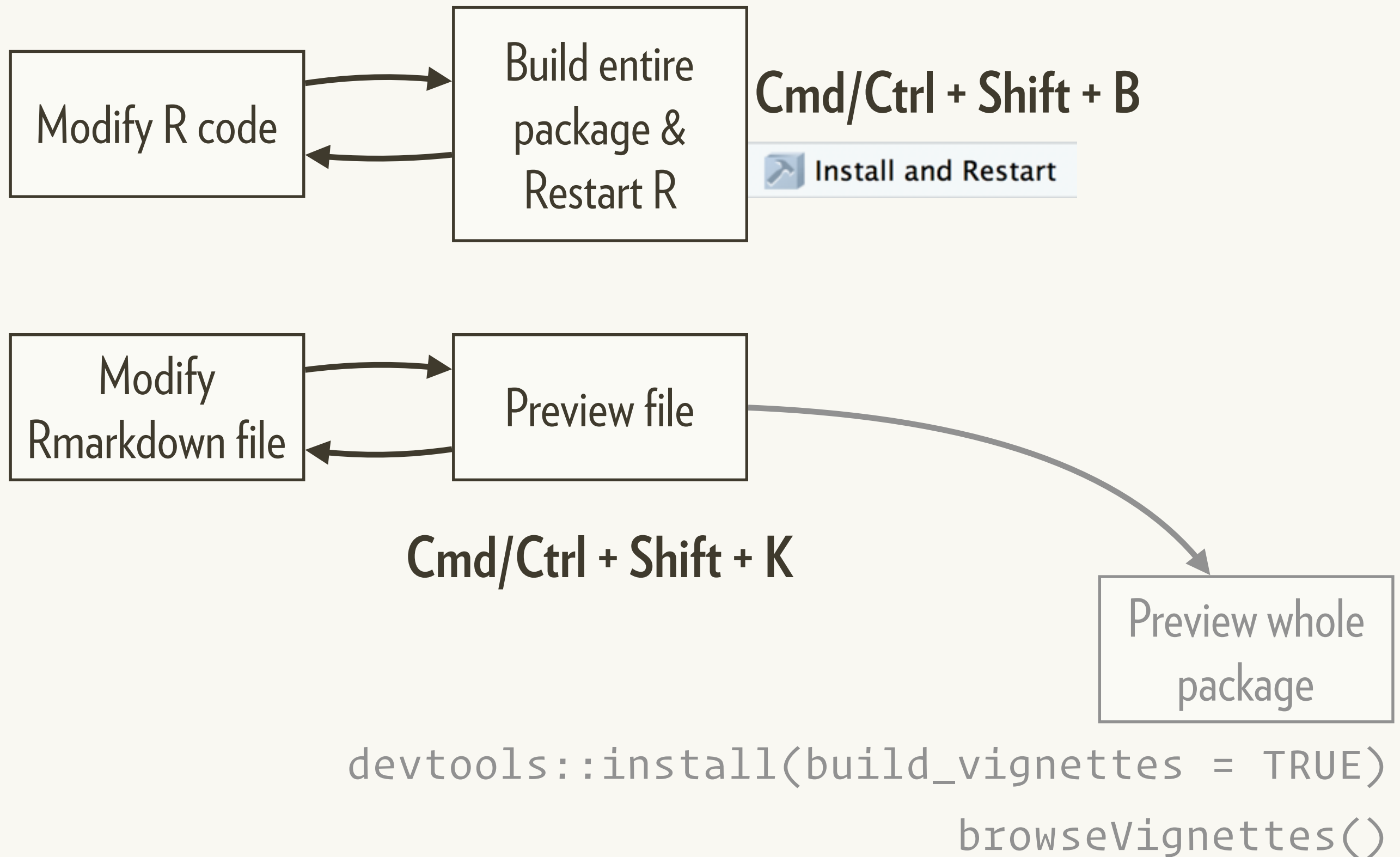
Special output format for vignettes

Special metadata needed by R

Vignettes are long form documentation commonly included in packages. Because they are part of the distribution of the package, they need to be as compact as possible. The ``html_vignette`` output type provides a custom style sheet (and tweaks some options) to ensure that the resulting html is as small as possible. The ``html_vignette`` format:

...

Vignette workflow



If sharing with others, include a README

```
# Your choice: but often useful to include
```

```
# results of running code
```

```
usethis::use_readme_md()
```

```
usethis::use_readme_rmd()
```

```
# For public projects this should include a
```

```
# brief overview, instructions on how to
```

```
# install, and a few examples. For private
```

```
# projects, this is a great place to jot down
```

```
# notes
```

If evolving over time, note changes to API

```
usethis::use_news_md()
```

```
# For public projects, this should note  
# important changes from perspective of  
# the user. Most important to describe API  
# changes. Less important for private projects
```


This work is licensed under the
Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 3.0
United States License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/us/>