

# **Introduction to R for flow cytometry data analysis Day 1**

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**SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics**

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From: First steps with R in Life Sciences

# The Translational Data Science Facility



- Part of the **SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics**
- Located at the AGORA Cancer Research Center in **Lausanne**
- Provides **statistics, bioinformatics and computational expertise** to molecular biology and applied research labs.
- Participates in fundamental and translational research by providing expertise in **data analysis** of single-cell and bulk multi-omics, spatial transcriptomics, flow cytometry, etc

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<https://agora-cancer.ch/scientific-platforms/translational-data-science-facility/>

<https://www.sib.swiss/raphael-gottardo-group>

# Tell us about yourself !

Share about yourself and your research,  
experience with programming, etc



Photo by National Cancer Institute, Unsplash



Photo by Scott Graham, Unsplash

# Course material

## 1. Website

<https://taniawyss.github.io/flow-cytometry-analysis-with-R>

The screenshot shows the homepage of the "Analysis of flow cytometry data with R" website. The header includes the TDS Facility logo, the page title, a search bar, and a GitHub icon. The main content area has a sidebar with navigation links like Home, Intro to R, Course schedule, Precourse preparations, Material, Day 1, Day 2, and Flow cytometry analysis. The main content area features two sections: one about the benefits of using R for flow cytometry analysis compared to commercial software, and another about the proposed course focus on using R for various types of flow cytometry data analysis. A note at the bottom credits the Translational Data Science Facility of the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics in Lausanne.

TDS Facility Analysis of flow cytometry data with R Search taniawyss/flow-cytometry-a... ☆ 0 0

**Analysis of flow cytometry data with R**

**Home**

Intro to R

Course schedule

Precourse preparations

Material

Day 1

Day 2

Flow cytometry analysis

Life scientists often use commercial software such as FlowJo or the OMIQ platform to analyze flow cytometry data. These tools are useful for initial and basic analysis, but do not allow for more advanced or flexible analyses, nor for the establishment of pipelines and reports. On the other hand, R is statistical software that allows for very flexible analysis, customizable pipeline creation and generation of reports.

The “Analysis of flow cytometry data with R” training that is proposed will focus on using R to analyze flow cytometry data. Flow cytometry data that can be analyzed with R includes classical multicolor flow cytometry, spectral flow cytometry, and CyTOF. This course will teach experts in flow cytometry how to run data analysis, develop pipelines and create reports using the open-source R software.

This course is proposed by the [Translational Data Science Facility](#) of the SIB Swiss Institute of Bioinformatics in Lausanne.

**Table of contents**

Prerequisite

Learning outcomes

General learning outcomes

Exercises

Asking questions

## 2. Google doc for exchange of additional information and questions

# Outline & Schedule

## Day 1 (morning)

01

**Introduction to R and the RStudio environment**

**Exercises**

**(9:00 – 10:30)**

**10:30 – 10:50 Coffee break**

02

**Working with scripts files**

**Exercises**

**(10:50 -12:00)**

**12:00 – 13:00 Lunch break**

# Outline & Schedule

## Day 1 (afternoon)

03

**Data types and data structures**

**Exercises**

**(13:00 – 15:30)**

**15:30 -15:50 Coffee break**

04

**Importing, formating and exporting data with R**

**Exercises**

**(15:50 – 16:50)**

**16:50 - 17:00 Feedback and end of day**

# Outline & Schedule

## Day 2

05

**Building graphics in R (basic plotting)**

06

**Rmarkdown and report generation**

07

**Starting to work with flow cytometry data**

*Examples and exercises are integrated in the chapters*

# Questions and Exercises

Feel free to interrupt with questions by asking them directly or raising your (virtual) hand.

Use the Q&A in Google Doc (or Zoom chat), we will provide answers.

Add a  when you are done with the current exercise.

Exercises in R:

We will try to debug as much as possible



We are happy if you share your results or alternative code!

# Course Content

R is vast and can't be learned overnight. The scope of this course:

- basic understanding and concepts behind R
- implement and interpret a data analysis workflow
- the example data was specifically chosen to reflect the type of data handled for flow cytometry analysis

This course is only the first step in your  R journey!

01

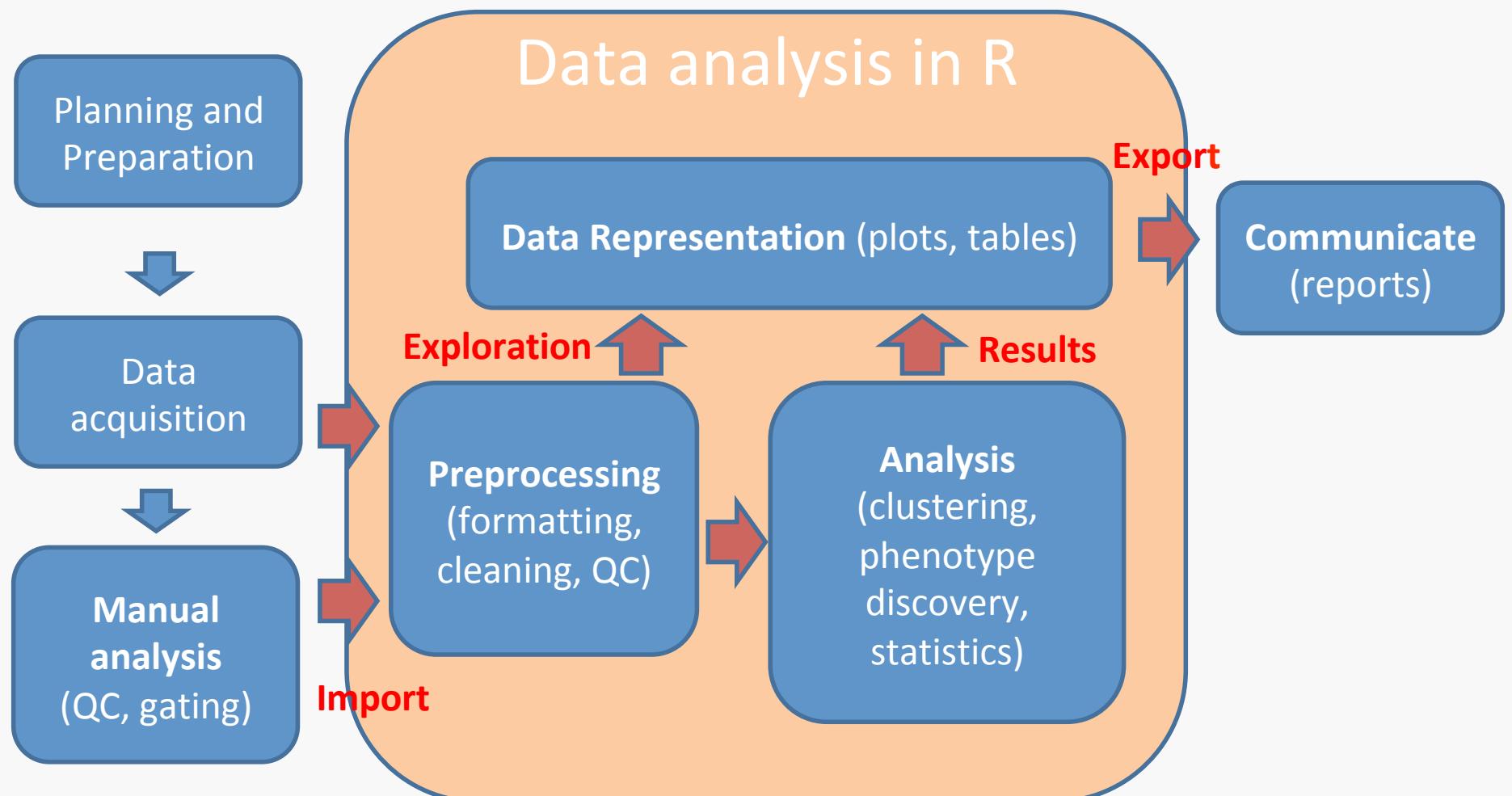
# Introduction to R and the RStudio environment

# What is R ?

- R is a **programming language** and an **environment** for statistical computation and graphics.
  - A simple **development environment** with a **console** and a **text editor**
  - Facilities for **data import**, **manipulation** and **storage**
  - Functions for **calculations** on vectors and matrices
  - Large collections of **data analysis tools**
  - **Graphical tools**

<https://www.r-project.org/>

# Taking Advantage of R For Your Work

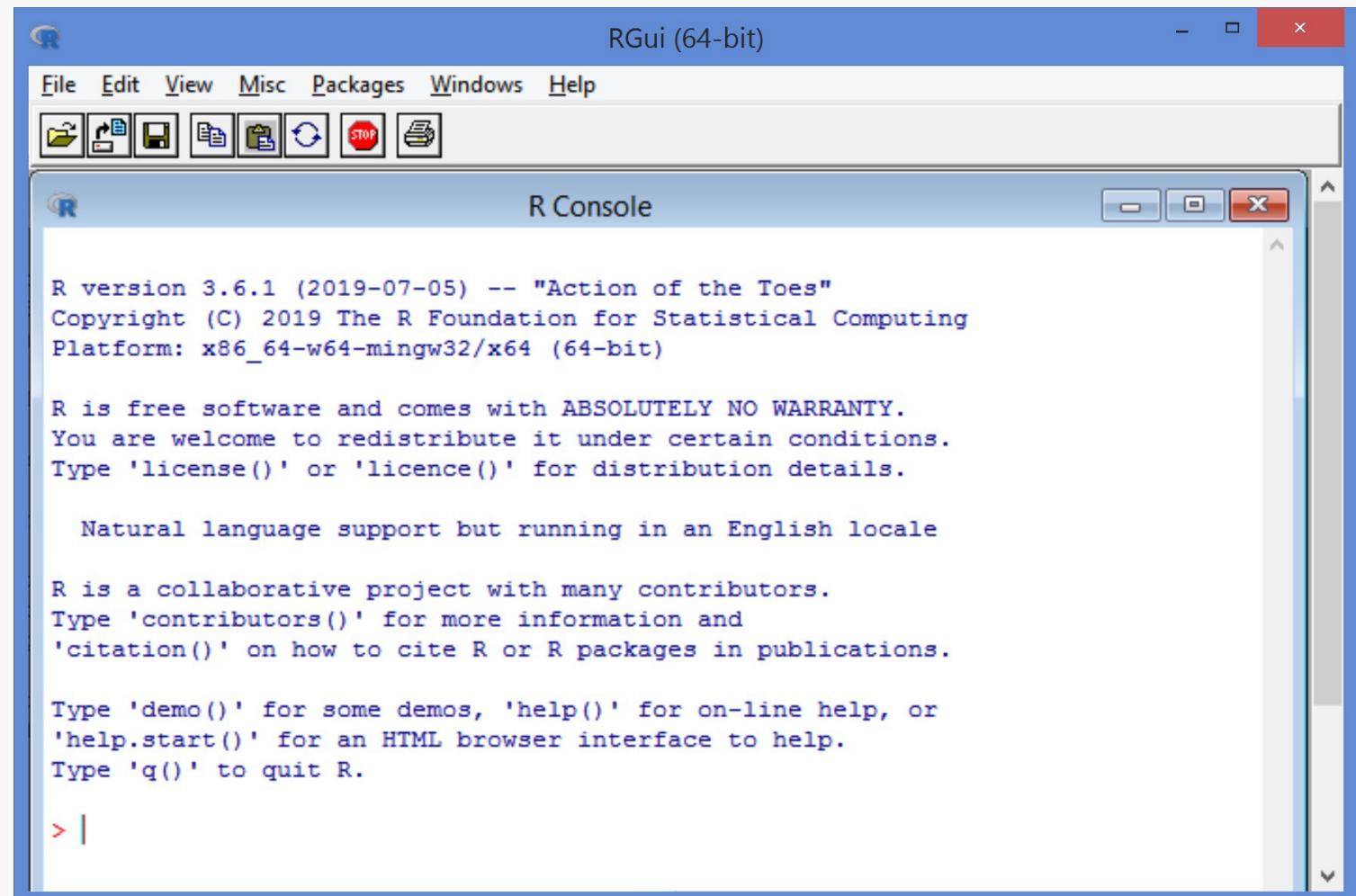


# R's user community

- Group of core developers who maintain and upgrade the basic R installation. New version every 6 months.
- Anyone can contribute with add-on packages which provide additional functionality (thousands of such packages available) and help for each function.
- Online help
  - in user group forums, eg:  
<https://stat.ethz.ch/mailman/listinfo/r-help>  
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/r>
  - in countless online tutorials, books, blogs

# RGui (R Graphical user interface)

- Together with the programming language, a (minimal) graphical user interface is installed.



## R Combined with RStudio

<https://posit.co/products/open-source/rstudio/>



RStudio is an integrated development environment (IDE), designed to help you be more productive with R

It includes:

- A [console](#)
- A [syntax-highlighting editor](#) that supports direct code execution
- Tools for viewing the [workspace](#) and the [history](#)
- A [file explorer](#), a [package explorer](#), [plot](#) and [help](#) display areas

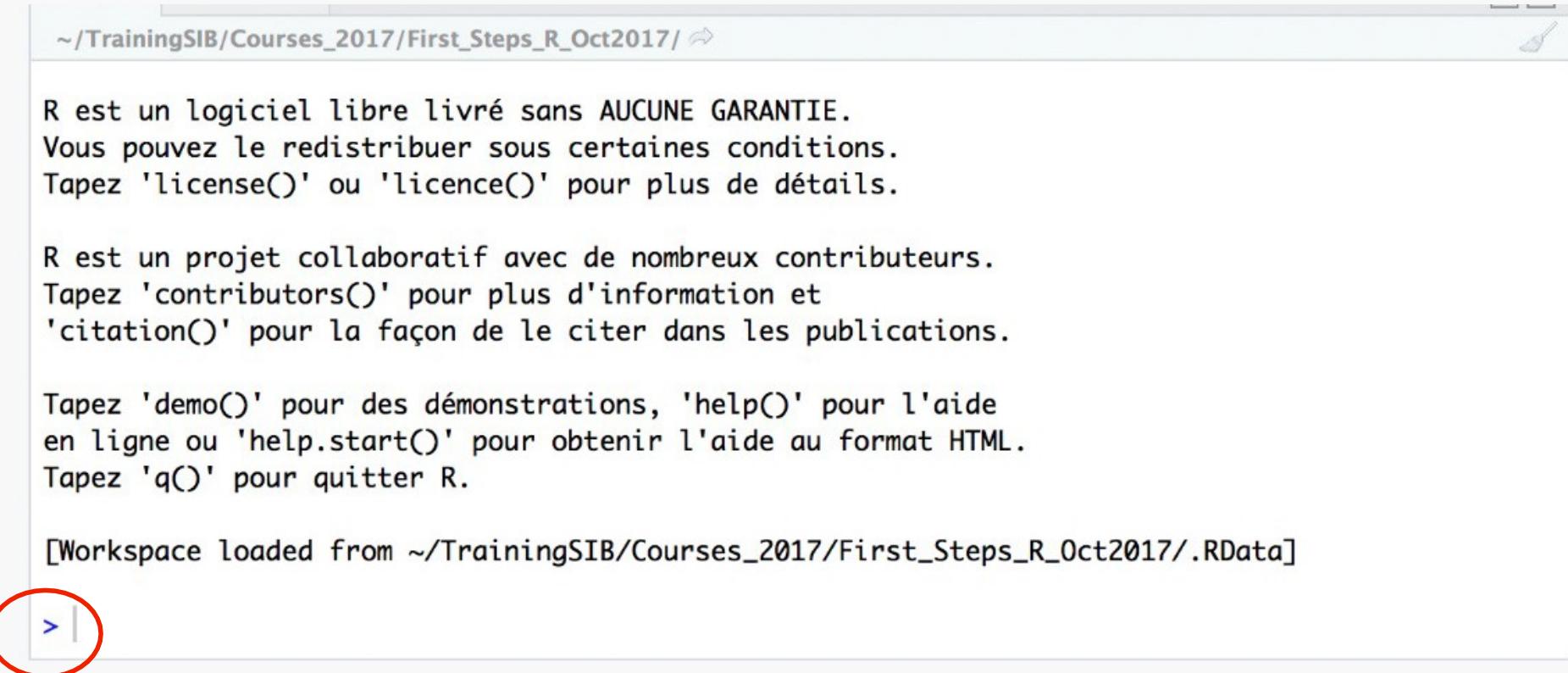
We suggest RStudio as a more powerful, more comfortable alternative to the RGUI

# RStudio interface

The screenshot shows the RStudio interface with several labeled components:

- Editor (scripts)**: The left pane where R scripts are written. A script named "first\_script.R" is open, containing R code for setting up the workspace and loading packages.
- Console (or terminal)**: The bottom-left pane displaying the R startup message and the message "[Workspace loaded from ~/TrainingSIB/Courses\_2017/First\_Steps\_R\_Oct2017/.RData]".
- Workspace (Environment and History)**: The top-right pane showing the global environment and data objects available in the session.
- File explorer, plots, packages, help**: The bottom-right pane showing the file structure under "course\_datasets" and other available resources.

# Console: The Command Line



~/TrainingSIB/Courses\_2017/First\_Steps\_R\_Oct2017/ ↗

R est un logiciel libre livré sans AUCUNE GARANTIE.  
Vous pouvez le redistribuer sous certaines conditions.  
Tapez 'license()' ou 'licence()' pour plus de détails.

R est un projet collaboratif avec de nombreux contributeurs.  
Tapez 'contributors()' pour plus d'information et  
'citation()' pour la façon de le citer dans les publications.

Tapez 'demo()' pour des démonstrations, 'help()' pour l'aide  
en ligne ou 'help.start()' pour obtenir l'aide au format HTML.  
Tapez 'q()' pour quitter R.

[Workspace loaded from ~/TrainingSIB/Courses\_2017/First\_Steps\_R\_Oct2017/.RData]

> |

The prompt ">" indicates that R is waiting for you to type a command

# Try it out...

Type the following at the command prompt:

Simple calculations

```
> 1 + 1
```

Assign values to a variable names

```
> x <- 128.5
```

Display content of variables

```
> x
```

Pre-defined functions

```
> abs(-11)
```

**After each command,  
hit the return key.**



**This causes R to execute it.**

# R Key Concepts

- **Variable:** A storage space in memory that has a name and can hold data.

```
temp <- -5.5 # Create a variable named temp, holding value -5.5
```

- **Numeric constant:** a number, such as 128.5
- **Character constant:** a text sequence, such as "Hello" (enclosed in quotes)

- **Function:** pre-written code that performs a specific task and can be executed by "calling" the function.

Write the function's name, followed by parentheses. Inside the parenthesis, pass **variables** or **values** to the function code (function arguments).

```
abs(temp)      # the absolute value of temp  
log2(16)      # the base 2-logarithm of 16  
q()           # quit R (no function arguments necessary)
```

- **Operator:** a special function for arithmetic, logical or other operations.

Examples of arithmetic operators: +, -, \*, /, ^, ...

## Creating an R Project

- RStudio projects make it straightforward to divide your work into multiple contexts, each with their own working directory, workspace, history, and source documents.
- You can create an RStudio project in a brand new directory or an existing directory where you already have your data
  - Go to [File > New project](#) or click on “Project” in the upper right corner of RStudio.
  - Choose [New Directory](#), then [New Project](#), give a name to the directory and set its location.
  - This [creates a new directory which contains a .Rproj file](#) (same name as the directory).
  - OR choose [Existing Directory](#), click [Browse](#), navigate to a folder, then click [Create Project](#)
  - This [creates an .Rproj file inside the directory](#) (same name as the directory).

**The project directory becomes automatically the working directory.**

This is one of the ways RStudio adds convenience

# Let's practice – 1

## 1) Outside Rstudio: Prepare course data for exercises

Download the course material for day 1 from :

<https://taniawyss.github.io/flow-cytometry-analysis-with-R/introR/material/>

For day 1 + day 2 data (slower, launch during break) :

from : <https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/Nb91u9CTiOghq6w>

and **unzip** then **move** folder where you want it on your computer and where the Rproj will be created.

## 2) Inside Rstudio: Project set-up

Within RStudio, create a new project in an existing directory, and save it within the folder where the course material was downloaded.

The screenshot shows a website for a flow cytometry analysis course. On the left, a sidebar menu includes 'Analysis of flow cytometry data with R', 'Home', 'Intro to R' (with 'Course schedule' and 'Precourse preparations' dropdowns), 'Material' (selected), 'Day 1', 'Day 2', and 'Flow cytometry analysis'. To the right, under 'Slides of lectures', there are sections for 'Day 1' and 'Day 2', each with 'Download slides - morning' and 'Download slides - afternoon' buttons. Under 'Data for exercises', there are two main sections: 'Data for day 1 only' (with a red border around its download button) and 'Data for all exercises, including day 2 (800 Mb data size)' (with a red border around its download link).

Analysis of flow cytometry data with R

Home

Intro to R

Course schedule

Precourse preparations

Material

Day 1

Day 2

Flow cytometry analysis

Slides of lectures

Day 1

Download slides - morning

Download slides - afternoon

Day 2

Download slides - morning

Download slides - afternoon

Data for exercises

Data for day 1 only

Download course\_datasets

Data for all exercises, including day 2 (800 Mb data size)

Download from the drive [here](#), using Pwd 54321

## Working Directory

R can read and write files. The **working directory** is the folder on your computer where it will look for files if you don't specify the path.

See the current working directory:

```
> getwd()  
[1] "C:/Users/lwigger/Documents/Rcourse2022"
```

Change the working directory to any **existing folder** on your hard drive or system using setwd() and the file path, e.g.

```
> setwd("D:/R_exercises/")
```

In an RStudio project, we usually do not need to change the working directory

02

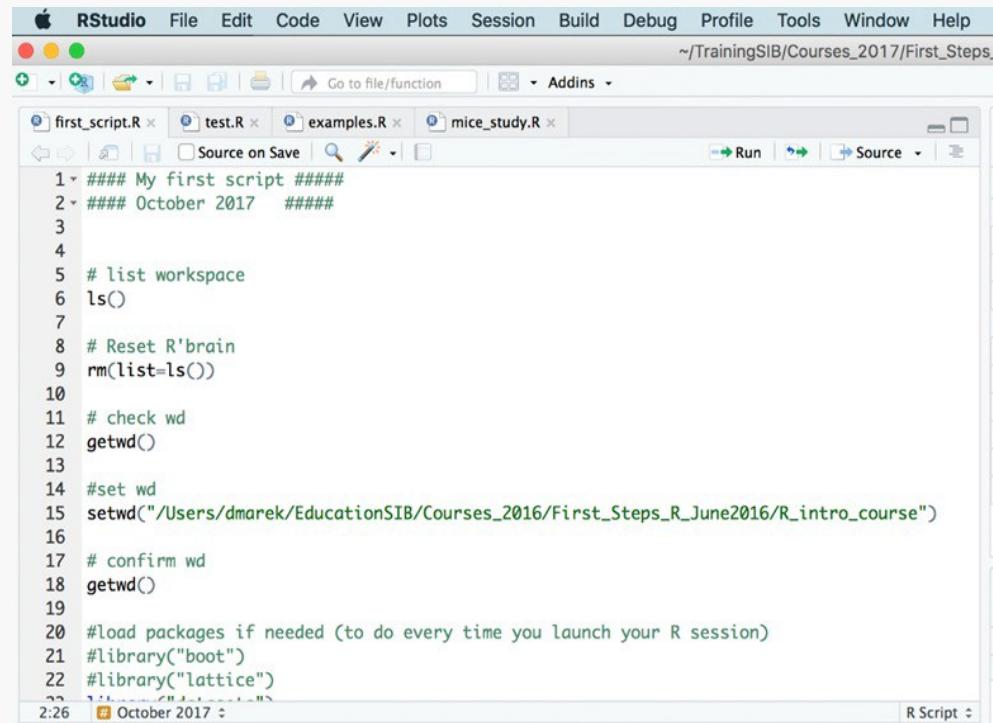
## Working with script files

# Editor: Write code to a script file

A script is a file that contains commands to be executed in succession.

Write your code into a script and save it

- to have documentation later of what you did
- to be able to re-use the code and create variations
- for easy execution



The screenshot shows the RStudio interface with the title bar "RStudio File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Window Help" and the path "~/TrainingSIB/Courses\_2017/First\_Steps". The main window displays an R script titled "first\_script.R" with the following content:

```
1 ## My First script #####
2 #### October 2017 #####
3
4
5 # list workspace
6 ls()
7
8 # Reset R's workspace
9 rm(list=ls())
10
11 # check wd
12 getwd()
13
14 #set wd
15 setwd("/Users/dmarek/EducationSIB/Courses_2016/First_Steps_R_June2016/R_intro_course")
16
17 # confirm wd
18 getwd()
19
20 #load packages if needed (to do every time you launch your R session)
21 #library("boot")
22 #library("lattice")
23
24
25
26
```

The code uses color-coded syntax highlighting where comments are in red and code in black. The status bar at the bottom shows the date "October 2017".

Notice the syntax highlighting

# Create a new script and type code

- Create a new script using [File > New File > R script](#). **Don't forget to save your script often.**
- By default, scripts are saved to the working directory.
- Files can be saved to other locations ([File -> Save As...](#))
- Start **Typing code** at the top of the script

```
# My first program and command:
```

```
2 + 3
```

- **Notice the syntax highlighting**
- **Comments** : “#” at the beginning of a line or before a command: helping text ; everything that follows is ignored by the during executing ; R does not support multi-line comments

# Send Code From a Script to the Console

Run individual lines, one by one:

- In RStudio: put the cursor anywhere in a line, hit

Ctrl + enter (Windows)

Cmd + return (Mac)

or click the "Run" button

Tip: Run part of a line or multiple lines: Highlight the code, then proceed as above

# Save, close and open scripts

- **Save a script:** File > Save or 
- **Close and open a script:** File > Close and File > Open File

## Tips:

- Most of your code should be developed and saved in scripts.
- You can execute individual lines of code interactively while you are writing it.
- You can run the entire script once it is ready and debugged.

## Workspace

The workspace is the internal memory where R stores the objects you created during the session.

### Explore your workspace using the command line:

- To list what is in your workspace, type

> `ls()`

- To remove (delete) an object from the workspace, use function rm:

> `rm(x)`

- To remove (delete) all objects from the workspace, type

> `rm(list=ls())`

# Workspace in RStudio

## Explore your workspace using Rstudio's GUI:

- See the upper right quadrant, tab "Environment": all objects are listed
- To remove all objects from the workspace, click the broom icon.



A screenshot of the RStudio interface showing the 'Environment' tab. The window title is 'os\_R\_Oct2017 - RStudio'. The 'Environment' tab is selected, showing a list of objects in the 'Global Environment' and their types and values. The 'Data' section includes 'mice\_data' (50 obs. of 3 variables), 'mice\_weight\_HFD' (29 obs. of 3 variables), and 'mids' (num [1:2, 1] 0.7 1.9). The 'Values' section includes 'mean\_weight\_diet' (num [1:2(1d)] 28.7 37.1), 'mean\_weight\_genotype' (num [1:2(1d)] 33.7 33.4), 'n\_weight\_diet' (int [1:2(1d)] 21 29), 'n\_weight\_genotype' (int [1:2(1d)] 24 26), 'sd\_weight\_diet' (num [1:2(1d)] 2.61 5), and 'sd\_weight\_genotype' (num [1:2(1d)] 4.69 6.92).

Object	Type	Value
mice_data	50 obs. of 3 variables	
mice_weight_HFD	29 obs. of 3 variables	
mids	num [1:2, 1]	0.7 1.9
mean_weight_diet	num [1:2(1d)]	28.7 37.1
mean_weight_genotype	num [1:2(1d)]	33.7 33.4
n_weight_diet	int [1:2(1d)]	21 29
n_weight_genotype	int [1:2(1d)]	24 26
sd_weight_diet	num [1:2(1d)]	2.61 5
sd_weight_genotype	num [1:2(1d)]	4.69 6.92

# Let's practice – 2

## 1) Prepare your first script

- Open a script file and save it with file name "ex1.R"
- Comment it (#, pound sign at the beginning of the line).
- Type or paste the following code:

```
# First Steps, ex 1
w <- 3
h <- 0.5
area <- w * h
area
```

## 2) Look at the script (before trying to run it)

- Can you understand each line? What do you expect it to print to the console?

## 3) Run the script and explore RStudio features

- Run the script line by line. Try both the "Run" button and the keyboard shortcut. Watch variables appear in the Environment panel (top right).
- Watch what is printed to the console (bottom left). Does it match your expectation?

## Closing or Switching Projects

- Close a project:

File -> Close

- Switch to another project, which will close the current one:

File -> Open Project...

- Open another project and keep the current one open as well:

File -> Open Project in New Session...

## Reopening an R Project from a File

You can access your R project directly from your hard drive

- Find the `.Rproj` file and open it (double click on many systems).
- RStudio will automatically start if it is not already running.

## Workspace (.Rdata) and History (.Rhistory) Options

- When closing or switching projects, the workspace and the history are automatically cleared.

Your RStudio project can be configured to save your workspace and history to a file upon closing a project - or not.

Menu:

Tools → Global Options → General (set default for all projects)

Tools → Project Options → General (settings for one project)

CAUTION: .Rdata files can be very large.

Save only when you have space on your hard drive!

# Let's practice – 2bis

4) Look at the project options (RStudio's *Tools* menu). If needed, modify them to save your workspace and history and to restore them at startup.

Check if this works:

- Close RStudio.
- In your course folder, (double-)click the .rproj file.
- Does your project open? Are your variables still in the Environment?

Check if this works, too:

- Close RStudio.
- Open RStudio again.
- Verify that your project is currently closed. How do you see this?
- From inside RStudio, open your project. Are your variables now in the Environment?

# Packages

- Sets of related functions (and sometimes data sets)
- A small number of packages are part of the basic R installation.
- Many, many packages are developed by the user community and can be installed later as needed.
- There are two (three) main repositories that provide R packages of interest in the life sciences. Their content can be browsed on the web :
  - CRAN (Comprehensive R Archive Network, <http://cran.r-project.org/>) : the main R repository, with over 18600 packages (June 2022).
  - Bioconductor (<http://www.bioconductor.org>) : a separate project specialized in the analysis of high-throughput genomic and transcriptomic data, with 2040 packages (June 2022).
  - (Github (<https://github.com/>)): not restricted to hosting R packages).

# Installing packages from CRAN

Install packages from CRAN with the `install.packages()` function

```
>install.packages("stringi") # character string manipulations
```

Installation necessary packages only once until you upgrade R to a new version.

# Loading functions from packages

Once a package is installed, its content needs to be made accessible to R.

`library()` loads the package for the current session.

It is good practice to load all needed packages at the top of a script.

```
# My Script

library(limma)
library(DESeq2)
library(MASS)
library(ggplot2)

# Here my data analysis begins
...
```

# Session information

- `R.version.string` prints the currently used R version.
- `sessionInfo()` prints version information about R and attached or loaded packages.

**Tip:** Run `sessionInfo()` at the end of your data analysis session and save the output.

This information is useful when you want to redo an analysis later, generate a report, or post a question on an online forum, ...

# Working at the command prompt in RStudio

## Shortcuts for both R console and RStudio:

- TAB key for command auto completion.
- Up and down arrows to scroll through the command history.
- Ctrl-I to clear console window.

## Shortcuts specific to RStudio:

- Ctrl-1 and Ctrl-2 to jump between the script and the console windows (shift focus).

## Support for incomplete statements (R console and Rstudio):

- If you hit return while your statement is incomplete, the command prompt (>) will change to +. R is waiting for you to finish writing it.
  - Keep typing and hit return again when done
  - OR hit “Esc” to abandon the unfinished command

## In a Nutshell

- R and RStudio environments
  - Use of R project to gather all documents related to a project together.
  - The working directory becomes the directory of your project.
  - Possibility to save/load workspace (.Rdata file) containing your objects.
  - Possibility to save/load history of commands (.Rhistory file).
  - Help and packages available.
- Now let's get familiar with R syntax and objects.