Introduction to R

Project Set-Up

Data Management

Coding

Alexander Hurley - November 27, 2015

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Introduction

Why & How?

- Introduction
- Project Set-Up
- Data Management
- Coding
- Conclusion

Why & How?

provide knowledge and tools for developing an individual project management framework that allows reproducing your research and sharing it with others

Why & How?

- Introduction
- Project Set-Up
- Data Management
- Coding
- Conclusion

Why & How?


EXPLORING LEGACY


GOT A NEW
ERROR
PROGRESS
memegenerator.net

Why & How?

- RStudio
- PackRat
- Git and GitHub
- Online Resources

Project Set-Up

Why invest time?

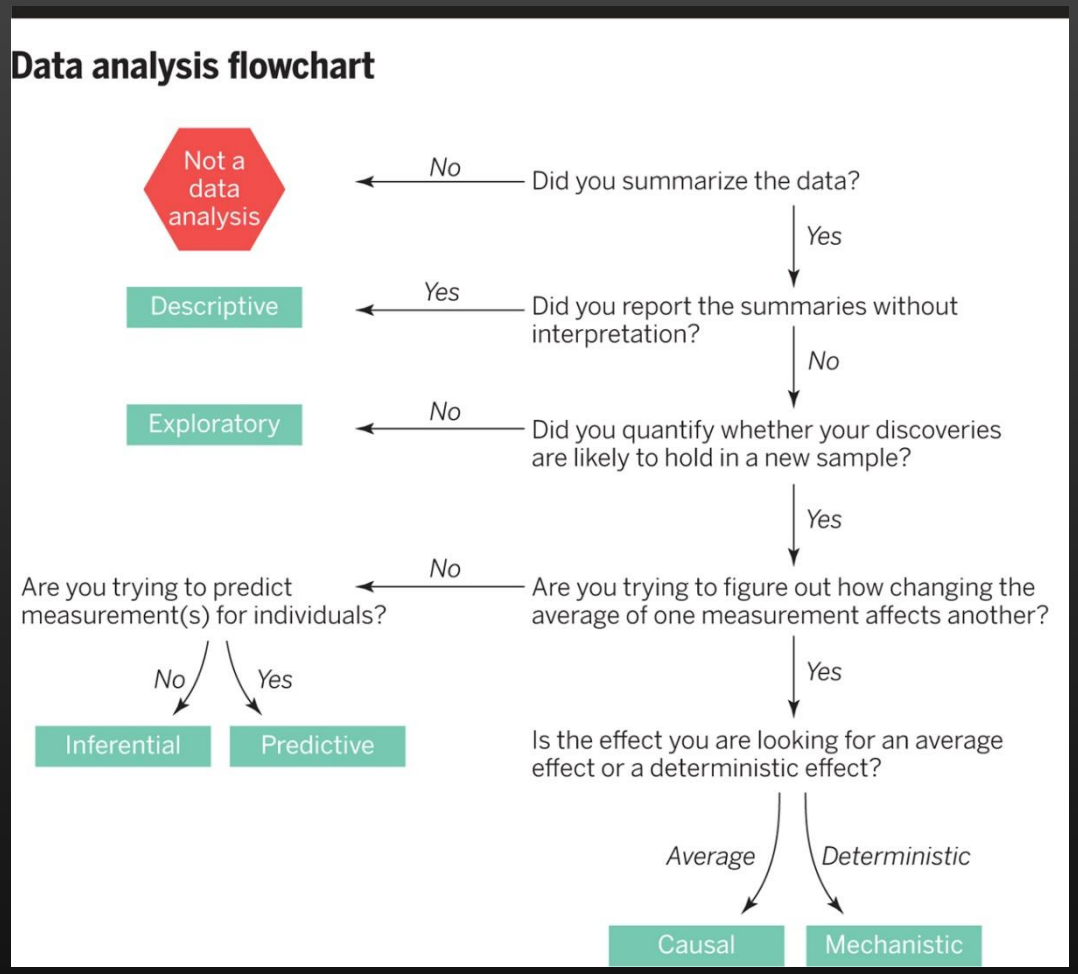
Why invest time?

- Develop and manage your workflow
- Save time and energy in the long run
- Structure allows ‘outsiders’ to understand quicker

Why invest time?

- Develop and manage your workflow
- Save time and energy in the long run
- Structure allows ‘outsiders’ to understand quicker
- Supports and reinforces design of data analyses and interpretation

Why invest time?



Jeffery T. Leek, and Roger D. Peng. Science 2015;347:1314-1315

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Components

- Introduction
- Project Set-Up
- Data Management
- Coding
- Conclusion

Components

- Raw data
- Tools for data processing (i.e. cleaning)
- Tools for analyses

Components

- Raw data
- Tools for data processing (i.e. cleaning)
- Tools for analyses

Storage (tools, scripts, outputs)

Components

- Raw data
- Tools for data processing (i.e. cleaning)
- Tools for analyses

Storage (tools, scripts, outputs)

- Sharing / publishing results

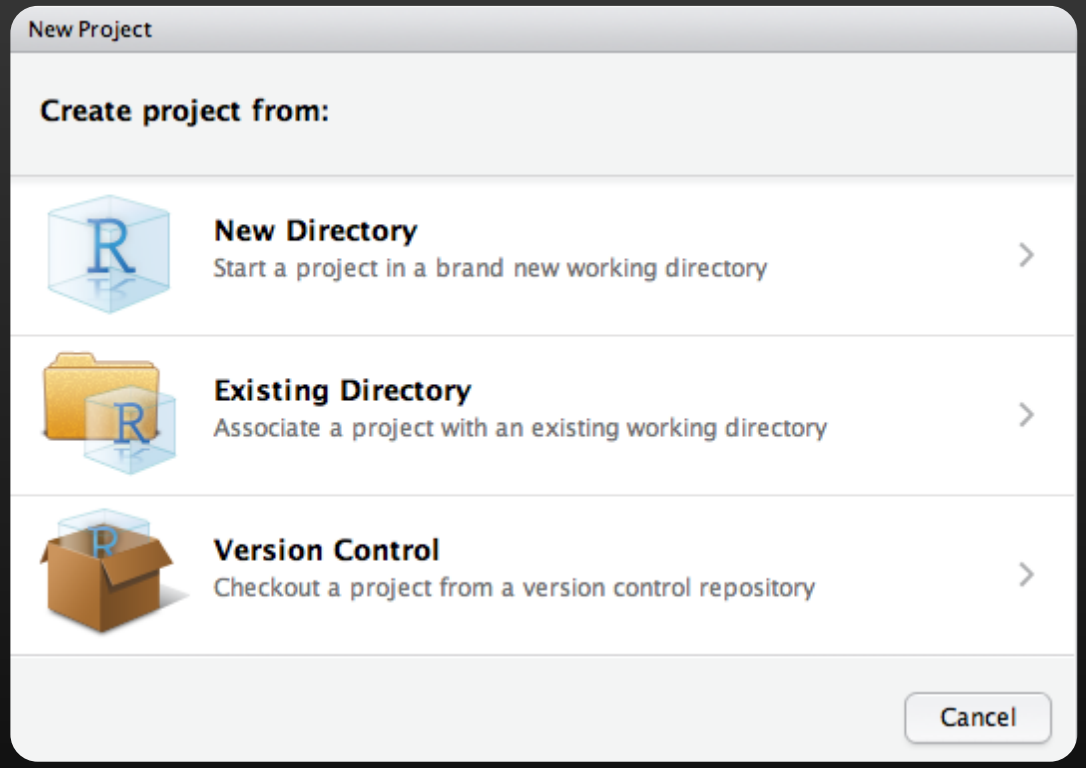
RStudio helps..

Use built-in project functionality:

RStudio helps..

Use built-in project functionality:

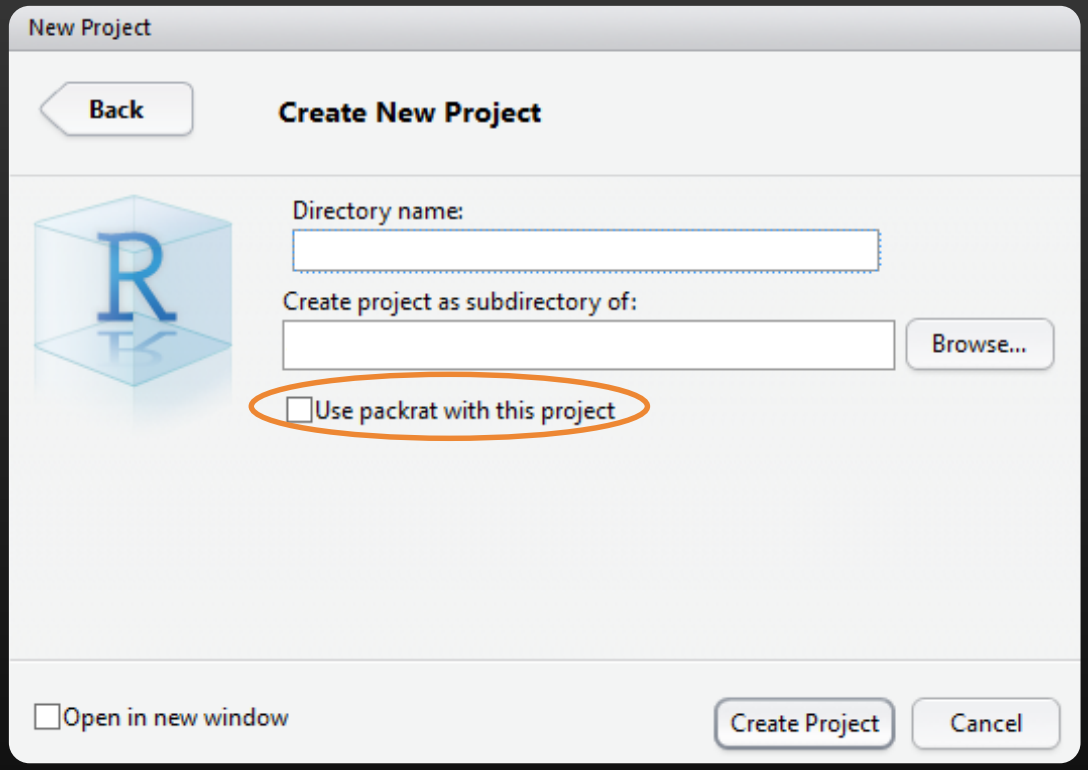
`File >`



RStudio helps..

Use built-in project functionality:

`File >`



RStudio helps..

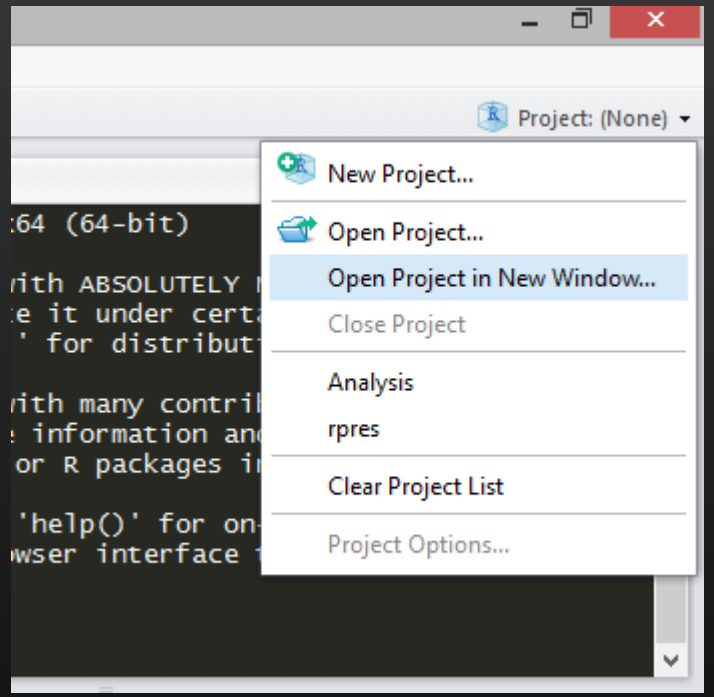
Use built-in project functionality:

- *.Rprofile* automates tasks
- *.Rdata* keeps a snapshot of your working directory
- Sets working directory automatically
- Reloads open scripts, history, project-specific settings
- …

See: https://support.rstudio.com/hc/en-us/articles/200526207-Using-Projects

RStudio helps..

Use built-in project functionality:



Keep track of multiple projects at the same time!

RStudio helps..

.RProfile:

```
source(‘~/your_functions.R') # Smart working directory (relative paths)
                             # Auto-load your own functions / exec. scripts

# First function called when you start R:
.First <- function(){
      cat("\nHello UseR!\n“)
}

# Last function called when you quit R:
.Last <- function(){
      cat("\nBye UseR!\n“)
}
```

RStudio helps..

.RProfile:

```
source('~/your_functions.R') # Smart working directory (relative paths)
                             # Auto-load your own functions / exec. scripts

# First function called when you start R:
.First <- function(){
      cat("\nHello UseR!\n")
}

# Last function called when you quit R:
.Last <- function(){
      cat("\nBye UseR!\n")
}
```

Transfer between systems!

PackRat helps..

New versions of R & packages..

PackRat helps..

New versions of R & packages..

- Sharing your analysis with someone = nightmare?

PackRat helps..

New versions of R & packages..

- Sharing your analysis with someone = nightmare?
- Re-running analysis after x years = nightmare?

PackRat helps..

New versions of R & packages..

- Sharing your analysis with someone = nightmare?
- Re-running analysis after x years = nightmare?
- Updating packages half-way through analysis = disaster!?

PackRat helps..

New versions of R & packages..

- Sharing your analysis with someone = nightmare?
- Re-running analysis after x years = nightmare?
- Updating packages half-way through analysis = disaster!?

PackRat acts as a safe, storing packages in the versions you used

PackRat helps..

New versions of R & packages..

- Sharing your analysis with someone = nightmare?
- Re-running analysis after x years = nightmare?
- Updating packages half-way through analysis = disaster!?

PackRat acts as a safe, storing packages in the versions you used

isolated, portable & reproducible.

See: https://rstudio.github.io/packrat/

PackRat helps..

Getting and using PackRat:

(Requires Rtools; see: https://support.rstudio.com/hc/en-us/articles/200486498-Package-Development-Prerequisites)

```
install.packages('packrat')

## Tell packrat where to work
packrat::init ('~/projects/experiment-1') # creates the 'safe' (local library)

## Start the job
install.packages('reshape2')
library('reshape2') # load package

## Tell packrat to save the packages your working with
packrat::snapshot()

## Check what packrat's doing
packrat::status() # shows unused and missing packages from the 'safe'
```

Git and GitHub help..

Git and GitHub help..

- Saving your work (scripts, analysis) is important.
- But: Overwriting a file can be catastrophic.

Git and GitHub help..

- Saving your work (scripts, analysis) is important.
- But: Overwriting a file can be catastrophic.

Git is a *version control system* keeping track of files in your project

Git and GitHub help..

- Saving your work (scripts, analysis) is important.
- But: Overwriting a file can be catastrophic.

> Git is a *version control system* keeping track of files in your project

> Git can *mirror* your project across computers and operating systems

See: https://help.github.com/articles/good-resources-for-learning-git-and-github/

See: https://try.github.io/levels/1/challenges/1

Git and GitHub help..

Git vocabulary:

Directory	=	Local file storage
Repository	=	Central file storage tracked by Git
Save	=	Local operation
Commit	=	Tell Git to take a snapshot
Push	=	Move snapshot to repository
Clone	=	Mirror repository to your local directory

Git and GitHub help..

Git vocabulary:

Directory	=	Local file storage
Repository	=	Central file storage tracked by Git
Save	=	Local operation
Commit	=	Tell Git to take a snapshot
Push	=	Move snapshot to repository
Clone	=	Mirror repository to your local directory

GitHub is a user-friendly way of implementing Git

See: https://github.com/

Git and GitHub help..

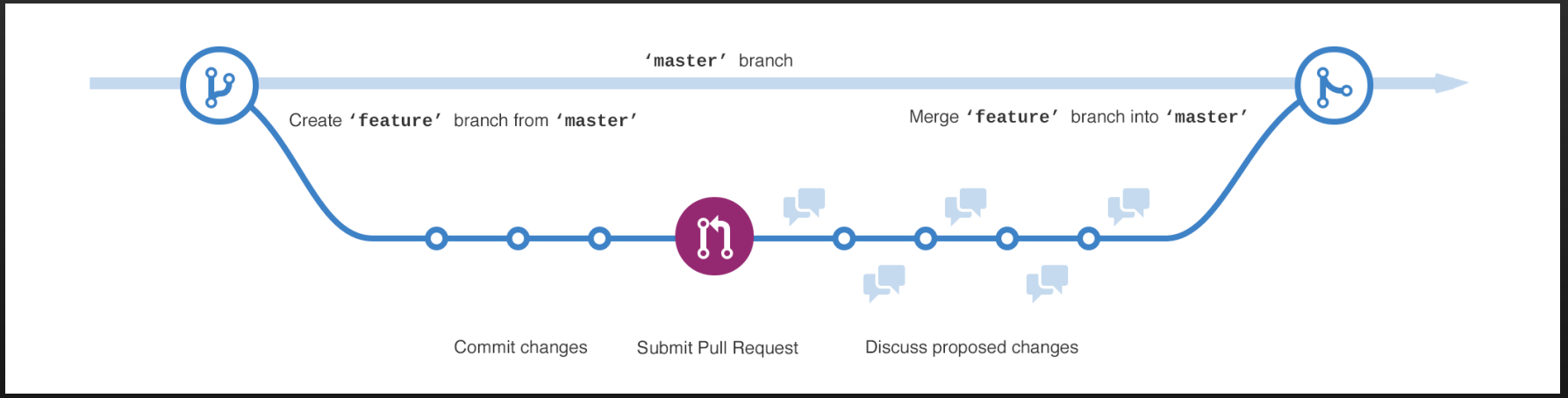
GitHub provides:

- Easy-to-use GUI
- track changes, discuss issues and collaborate

Git and GitHub help..

GitHub provides:

- Easy-to-use GUI
- track changes, discuss issues and collaborate

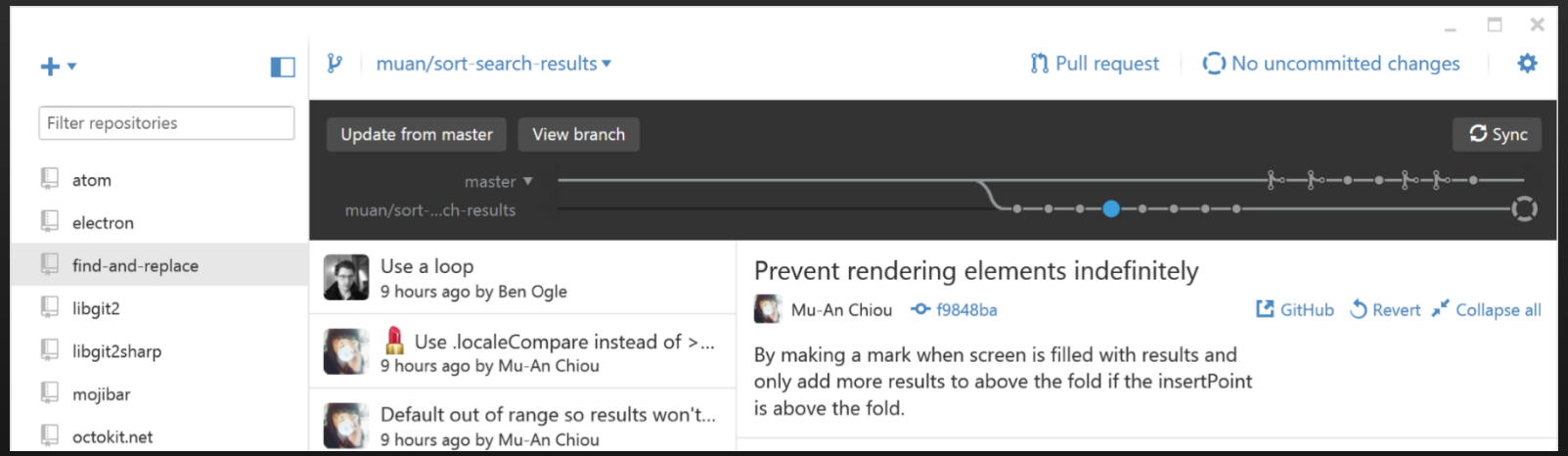


See: https://guides.github.com/activities/hello-world/
See: https://github.com/the-Hull/Diss (personal repo)

Git and GitHub help..

GitHub provides:

- Easy-to-use GUI
- track changes, discuss issues and collaborate

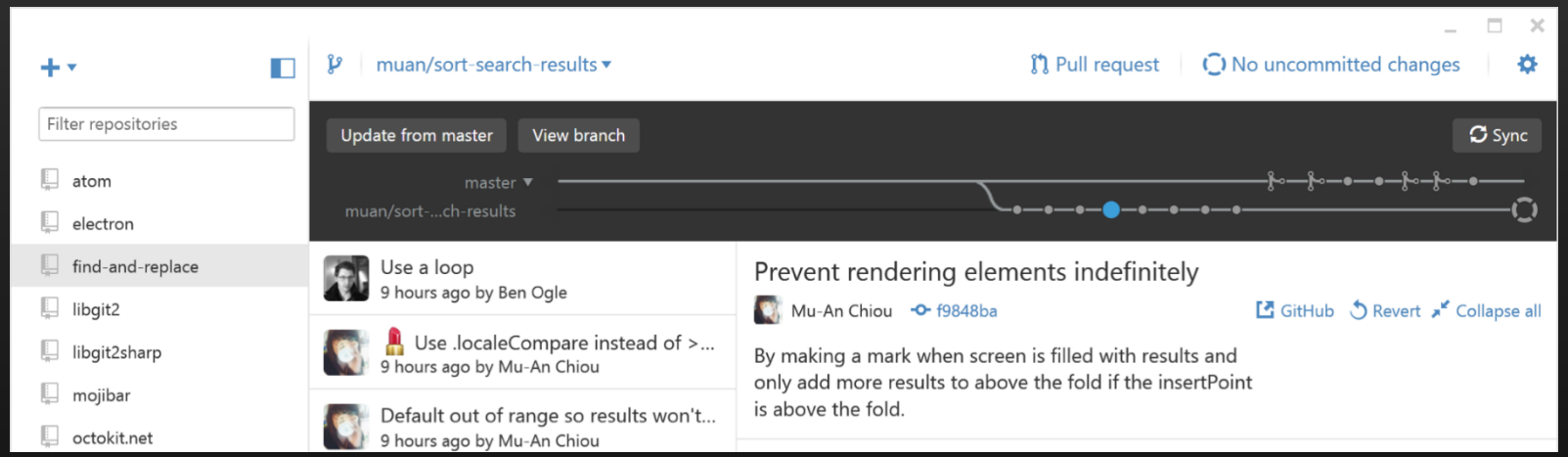


See: https://desktop.github.com/

Git and GitHub help..

GitHub provides:

- Easy-to-use GUI
- track changes, discuss issues and collaborate

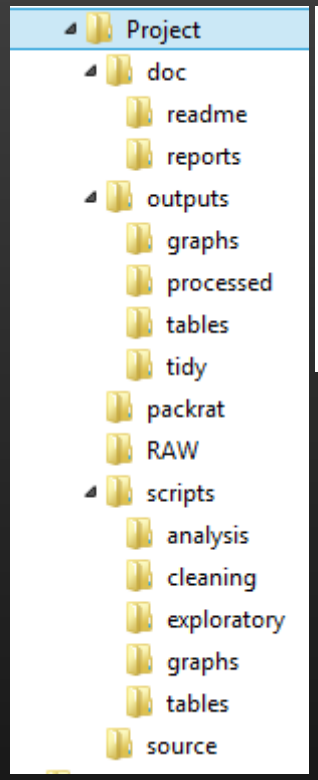


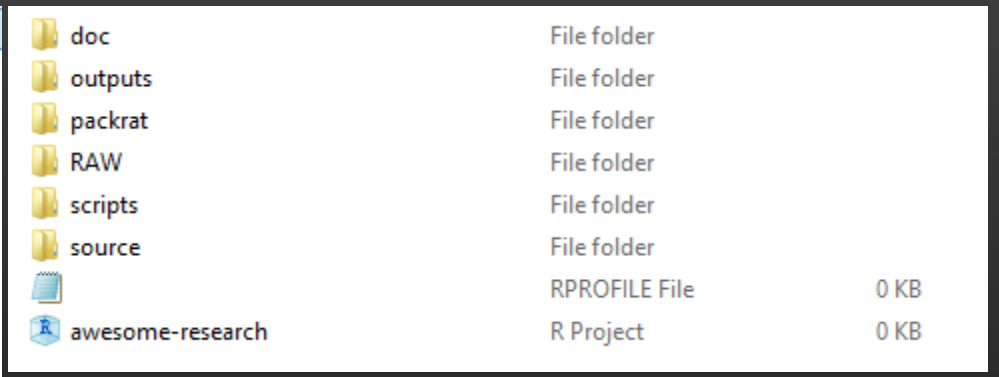
See: https://desktop.github.com/

Hierarchy & Order help..

Personal preference of a project:

- RAW
- Scripts
  - cleaning
  - exploratory
  - analysis
  - graphs
  - tables
- Source (helper functions)
- Outputs
  - tidy data
  - processed
  - graphs
  - tables
- Documentation (readme files, reports)
- PackRat folders





UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Data Management

Data.. set?

Components:

Data.. set?

Components:

- Raw Data
- Scripts (processing)
- Tidy Data

Data.. set?

Components:

- Raw Data
- Scripts (processing)
- Tidy Data
  - Code book

Data.. set?

Code Book:

Data.. set?

Code Book:

- Information on origin and type of raw data (incl. missing values, units)
- Detail choices and steps made for processing data (e.g. renaming, averaging)
- Outline study design (e.g. for identifying confounding factors)

Data.. set?

Code Book:

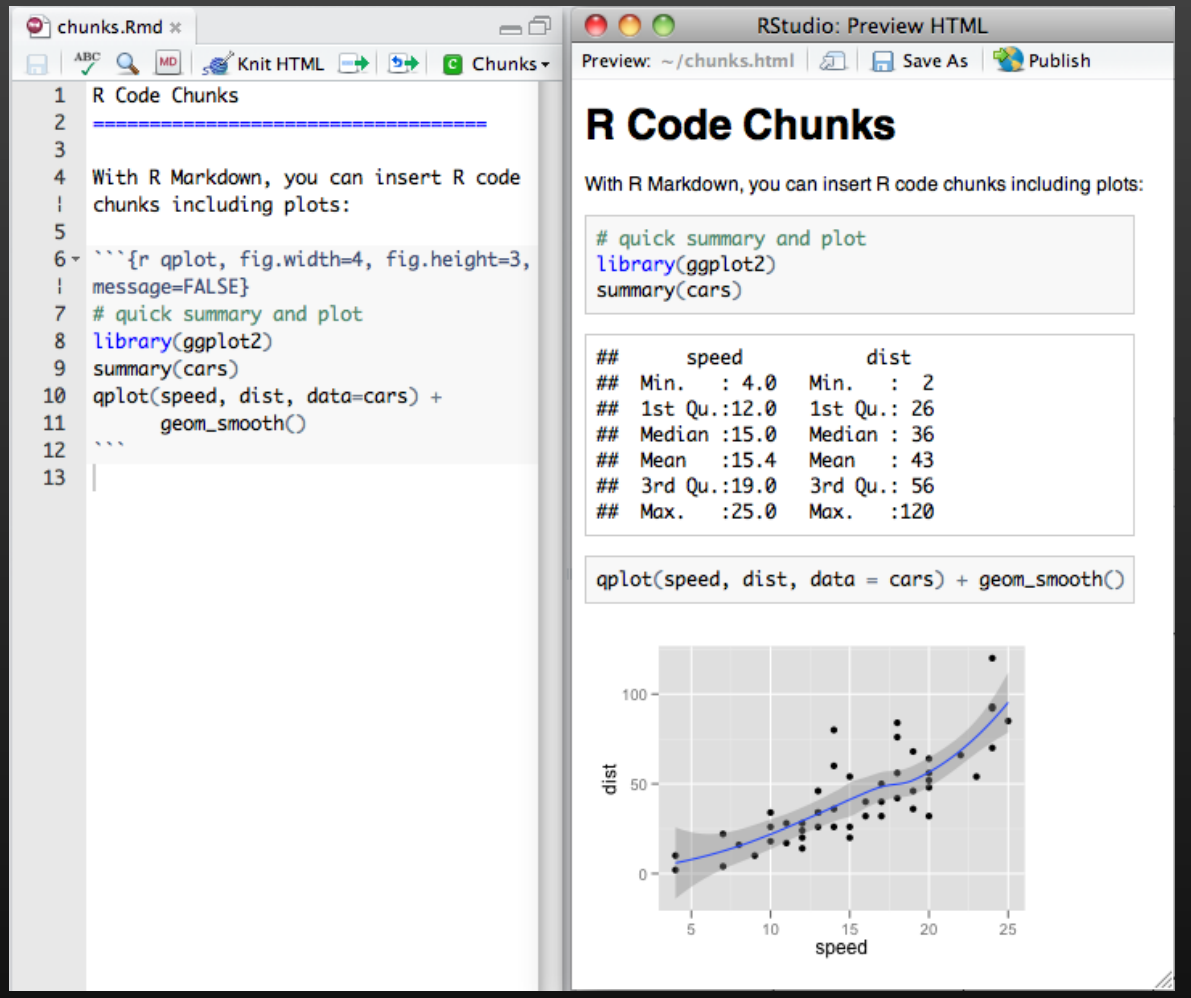
- Information on origin and type of raw data (incl. missing values, units)
- Detail choices and steps made for processing data (e.g. renaming, averaging)
- Outline study design (e.g. for identifying confounding factors)

- Formats: **.docx*, **.txt*, **.Rmd* (RMarkdown)

See: http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/

Data.. set?

Code Book:



See: http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/

Data.. storage?

Think ahead:

Data.. storage?

Think ahead:

- Use clear, systematic names with common identifiers:

Data.. storage?

Think ahead:

- Use clear, systematic names with common identifiers:

exp1-plot1.csv
exp1-plot2.csv
exp2-plot1.csv
exp2-plot2.csv

Data.. storage?

Think ahead:

- Use clear, systematic names with common identifiers:

exp1-plot1.csv
exp1-plot2.csv
exp2-plot1.csv
exp2-plot2.csv

```
## get a list of all files of exp1
exp1_list <- list.files(path = '~/raw',
                        pattern = "exp1")

## load all data from exp1 into the working environment
## and do the same operation…

## use file names to label objects
exp_labels <-gsub(pattern = '-plot.*', replacement = '', x = exp1_list)
```

Data.. storage?

Think ahead:

- Use clear, systematic names with common identifiers:

exp1-plot1.csv
exp1-plot2.csv
exp2-plot1.csv
exp2-plot2.csv

```
## get a list of all files of exp1
exp1_list <- list.files(path = '~/raw',
                        pattern = "exp1")

## load all data from exp1 into the working environment
## and do the same operation…

## use file names to label objects
exp_labels <-gsub(pattern = '-plot.*', replacement = '', x = exp1_list)
```

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Working Environment

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Important functions:
new.env()
assign()
get()
save() / *load*()

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment

Important functions:
new.env()
assign()
get()
save() / *load*()

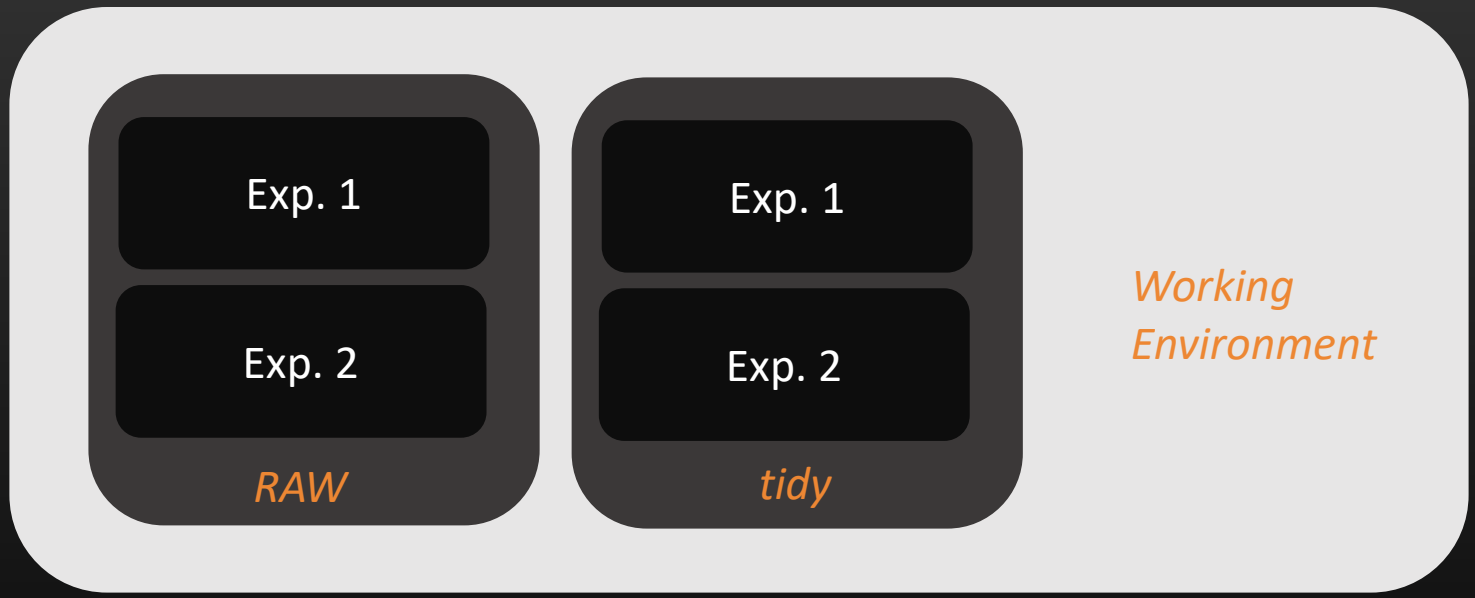
Benefits:
- Clean working env.
- Less chance of confusing objects
- Repeating processes (e.g. loops)
- Saving & re-using outputs

See: http://adv-r.had.co.nz/Environments.html

Data.. storage?

Keeping your work organized in R:

environments are ‘folders’ in R’s working environment



Important functions:
new.env()
assign()
get()
save() / *load*()

Benefits:
- Clean working env.
- Less chance of confusing objects
- Repeating processes (e.g. loops)
- Saving & re-using outputs

See: http://adv-r.had.co.nz/Environments.html

Data.. help?

Useful packages and links for data processing:

- dplyr
- reshape2

See: http://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/data-wrangling-cheatsheet.pdf (!)

Coding

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Expressing yourself

- Writing code is like using a ‘natural’ language

Expressing yourself

- Writing code is like using a ‘natural’ language
  - syntax, semantics (and beauty?)
  - learning is time consuming
  - rewarding

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments,
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment

                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ----------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments,
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment

                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

Clear description at top

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments,
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment

                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

Clear description at top

Useful comments when needed

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment

                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)

# Calculation --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

Clear description at top

Useful comments when needed

Separated into chunks

Guidelines

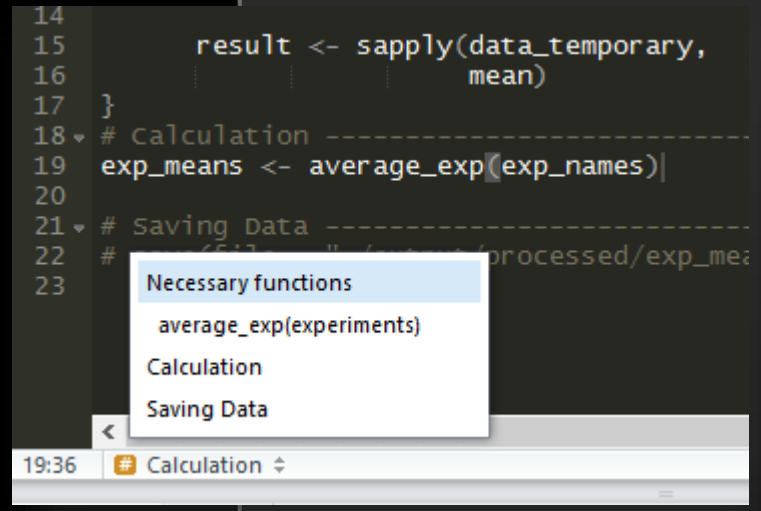
Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                    ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                    ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                    data.temporary <- mget(experiments
                                           envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment


                    result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data --------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

Clear description at top

Useful comments when needed

Separated into chunks



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ----------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments,
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment

                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

- Clear description at top
- Useful comments when needed
- Separated into chunks
- Defined function

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ----------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector

                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments,
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment

                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

- Clear description at top
- Useful comments when needed
- Separated into chunks
- Defined function
- Useful object names

Guidelines

Example:

```
## This script is part of awesome-research phase 1. It takes raw data gathered from exp 1
## and exp 2 (g/cm), calculates their means, and saves the result for later use in output/processed.

exp1 <- c(1, 2, 3) #loads raw data
exp2 <- c(4, 5, 6)
exp.names <- c("exp1", "exp2") # consider using function ls() to obtain names in working env.

# Necessary functions ----------------------------------------------------------------------------
averageExp <- function(experiments){
                        ## function takes character vector of experiment names
                        ## names and averages outcomes. Results are stored in new vector


                        data.temporary <- mget(experiments,
                                               envir = .GlobalEnv) # get values from environment


                        result <- sapply(data.temporary, mean)
}
# Calculation ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
exp.means <- averageExp(exp.names)

# Saving Data ------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
save(file = "~/output/processed/exp.means.rda", x = exp.means)
```

- Clear description at top
- Useful comments when needed
- Separated into chunks
- Defined function
- Useful object names
- Line wrapping

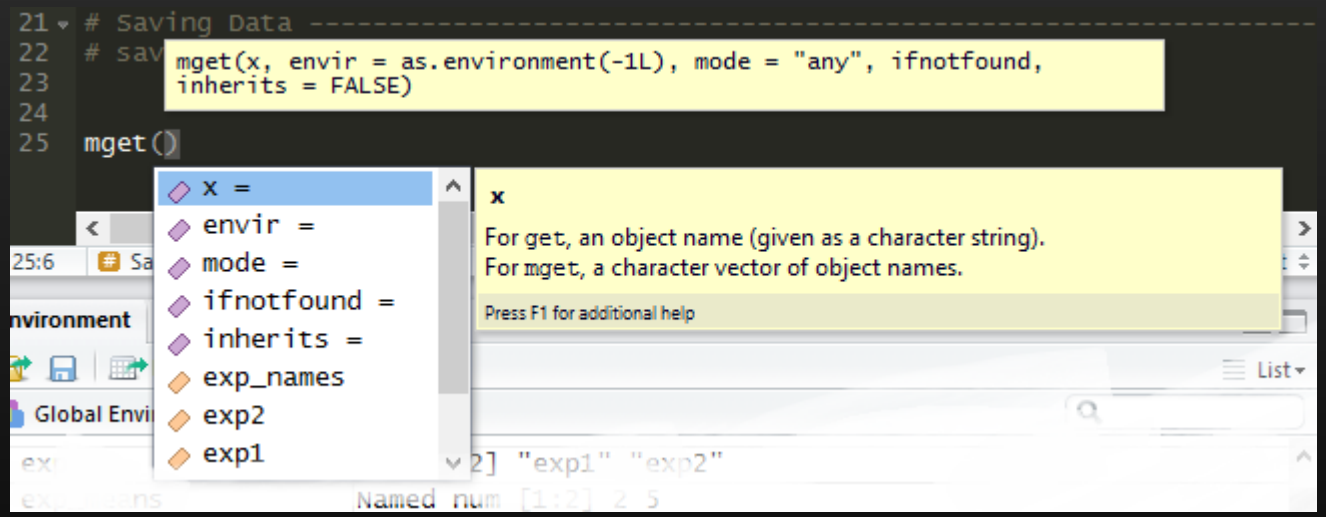
Guidelines

- Other Guidelines for R:
  - naming (funCtions, var.iables, CONSTANTS)
  - indention (2 to 4 spaces)
  - spacing for operators (4 + 4; x[1,])
  - assign with <- not =

See: https://google.github.io/styleguide/Rguide.xml

RStudio helps again..

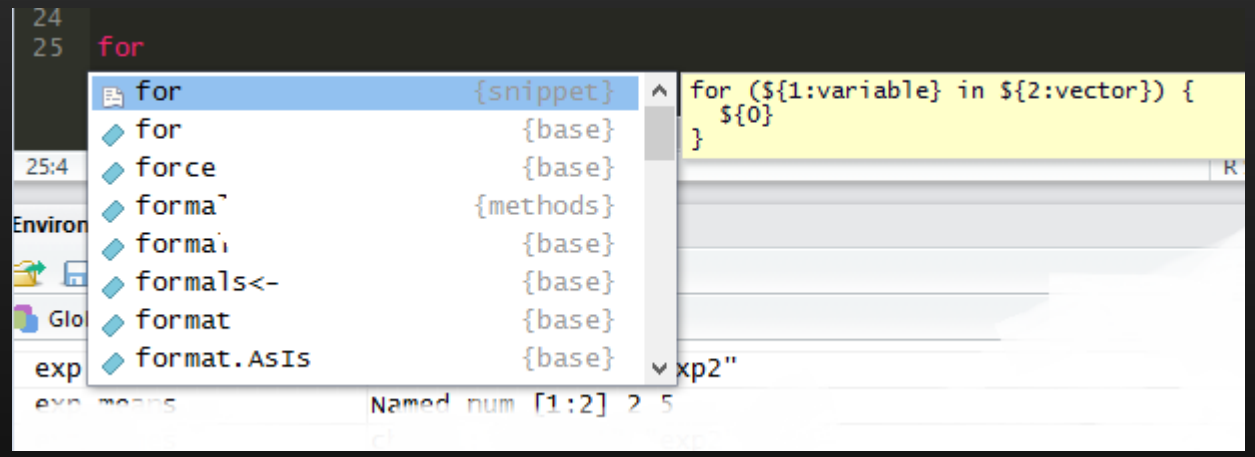
- Great built-in features:
  - code completion on tab



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

RStudio helps again..

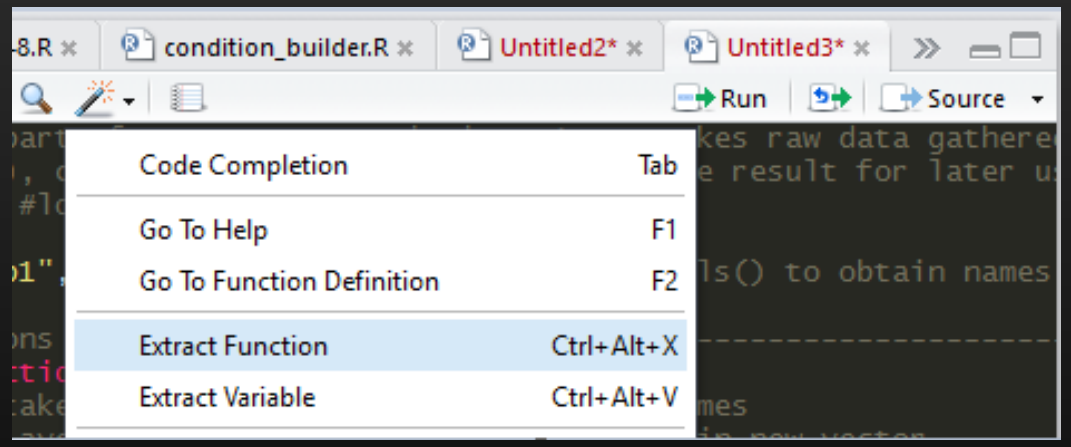
- Great built-in features:
  - code completion on tab
  - code snippets for loops / if-else / functions



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

RStudio helps again..

- Great built-in features:
  - code completion on tab
  - code snippets for loops / if-else / functions
  - function wizard



Conclusion

Reproducible?

- Using the provided tools and guidelines you should be able to:
  - understand some of the terminology used in books / online
  - find other helpful resources
  - develop your own workflow
  - move your analyses between computers
  - share your work with others and collaborate with them
  - **reproduce your research**

Reproducible?

- Using the provided tools and guidelines you should be able to:
  - understand some of the terminology used in books / online
  - find other helpful resources
  - develop your own workflow
  - move your analyses between computers
  - share your work with others and collaborate with them
  - **reproduce your research**

… Enjoy.

Thanks for enduRing!

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM