



University of
Zurich ^{UZH}

Department of Geography

GEO 812

Getting started with R for Spatial Analysis

Session 2: Tips and Cautionary Tales

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September 2023

Learning objectives

You know how to

- write reproducible and transparent R code
- collaborate on a project, sometimes even simultaneously
- ask for help in times of trouble

Mini conference

Topic 1: Reproducibility

Topic 2: Collaborative work

Topic 3: Asking for help in times of trouble



Three topics -> three groups

Each group prepares a topic (2 hours, material see next slides) and then presents the topic (max 15 minutes per group).

Reproducibility

Your presentation should show how to prepare and compile an RMarkdown document and answer the following questions:

- What is open science? What is reproducible research?
- What is RMarkdown and how does it work?
- How does RMarkdown contribute to reproducible research?

Useful sources:

- [What Is Open Reproducible Science](#)
- [R Markdown: The Definitive Guide](#)
- [Introduction to R Markdown](#)
- [R Markdown Cheat Sheet](#)

Collaborative work

Your presentation should show how to use Github for collaborative work and answer the following questions:

- What is collaborative research? What is version control?
- What is GitHub and how does it enable collaborative research?

Useful sources:

- [Learn How To Use GitHub to Collaborate on Open Science Projects](#)
- [What Is Version Control](#)
- [Collaborative & Reproducible Research](#)

Asking for help in times of trouble

Your presentation should demonstrate how to find help when working with R and address the following questions:

- What are the strategies for getting help with coding in R?
- What is Stack Overflow and how do you use it?
- How and when should you use AI, such as ChatGPT, for your coding problems?

Useful sources:

- [Getting Help with R](#)
- [The Best and Worst Ways to Use Stack Overflow](#)
- [How to R code faster with ChatGPT](#)
- [How to use ChatGPT to write code](#)

Learning objectives revisited

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- write reproducible and transparent R code
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