

R crash course: A quick introduction to R

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Readme

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Section 1

A Crash Course in R

Outline

- Why R
 - R basics
 - How does one work with R and Rstudio
- Getting Started
 - A primer of data import
 - Variables and data types
 - Functions, Packages and more stuff
- Working with data
 - Selecting, Filtering and ordering datasets
 - A primer of statistics and plots
 - R Notebooks and RMarkdown

Motivation

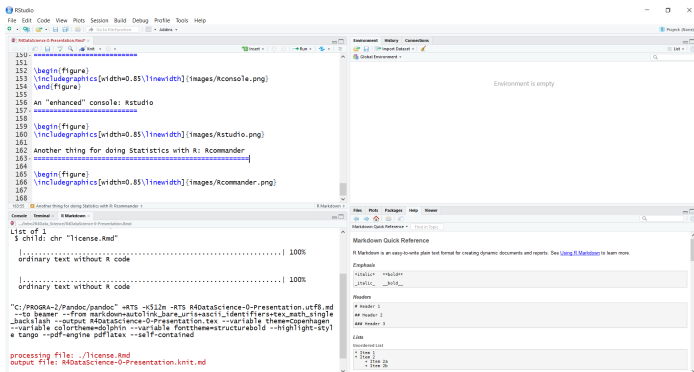
- We (you) all work with data, most of the time and often we need to do “things” with those data.
 - I have three lists of genes and I would like to see which genes they have in common (or which ones appear only in one list).
 - We have received the data from that lab but I only want to work with a subset of the samples.
 - Is it possible to repeat that plot changing the line colors, the font size etc?
 - I have some scripts to re-run an analysis but I don't know how to start
- These, and many other things can be done with a basic knowledge of R.

What is R?

- R is a *language and environment* for statistical computing and graphics.
- R provides a wide variety of statistical and graphical techniques, and is highly extensible.
- It can be used fro simple tasks to highly complex reproducible projects.
- It compiles and runs on a wide variety of UNIX platforms and similar systems Windows and MacOS.

How is R used

- Different ways to use R, but the best trade-off simplicity-efficiency is provided by Rstudio



Exercise

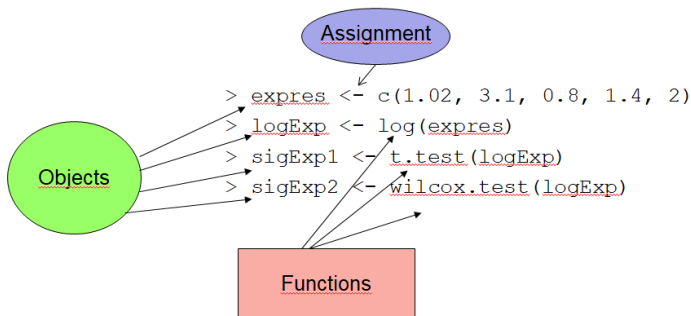
- Get to know R. Visit the R-project page and see what can be found there.
- If you haven't done it before, download and install R and Rstudio in your computer
- Open R studio. Look at the panels and figure out what can we do at each window.

Section 2

Using R

Commands, Objects and Functions

- Shortly, using R consists of
 - Working with *objects* using *commands* and *functions*



Variables and data types

- Data managed in R ...
 - is stored as *variables*
- Variables can be of distinct types
 - Numerical
 - numeric (13.7)
 - int (3)
 - Character
 - "R is cute"
 - Factors
 - A,B,C,D
 - WT, Mut

R packages

- R can be used for many different types of data processing and analysis from distinct fields, besides statistics such as Ecology, Omics Sciences, Psychology etc.
- All these capabilities are not present from the beginning because most of them will never be used by most users.
- Instead, they can be added when needed by
 - (i) installing and
 - (ii) loading the appropriate packages.

Installing and loading packages

We want to analyze some data using cox proportional hazards model.

```
res.cox <- coxph(Surv(time, status) ~ sex, data = lung)
```

```
Error in coxph(Surv(time, status) ~ sex, data = lung)  
: could not find function "coxph"
```

We need to install and load the package before we can use it.

```
install.packages("survival")  
library(survival)  
res.cox <- coxph(Surv(time, status) ~ sex, data = lung)
```

Bioconductor

- Packages analyse all kinds of Genomic data (>800)
- Compulsory documentation (*vignettes*) for each package
- 6-month release cycle
- Course Materials
- Example data and workflows
- Common, re-usable framework and functionality
- Available Support
 - Often you will be able to interact with the package maintainers / developers and other power-users of the project software

The tidyverse

- The tidyverse is an opinionated collection of R packages designed for data science.
- All packages share an underlying design philosophy, grammar, and data structures.
- The complete tidyverse collection can be installed with:

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

- <https://www.tidyverse.org/>

Section 3

Getting data into R

Importing data with Rstudio

- The easiest way to get data into R is to click on the Import Datasets button.
- Alternatively R code can be written using functions from Base R or the tidyverse
 - Base R functions start with `read.:` `read.table`, `read.csv`
 - tidyverse functions start with `read_:` `read_delim`, `read_csv` or `read_excel`

Reading Excel or csv files

- Files can be read from any location, let it be a physical support or a web site.
- To read files from disk be sure to indicate their location.
- Alternatively the default working directory can be set to the folder where the file is located.

Reading Excel or csv files (continued)

- Assume files TI02+PTYR-human-MSS+MSIvsPD.XLSX has been downloaded to your working directory
- Start setting the default directory to the folder where you have saved the file.
 - Session --> Set Working directory --> To source file location...
- Import the TI02+PTYR-human-MSS+MSIvsPD.XLSX with the default options
- Code generated for reading the files can be reused any time changing the file name if needed.

```
# Read Excel file  
library(readxl)  
otherData <- read_excel("otherFiles")
```

Interlude: Summarizing data

- Once a dataset is available it is easy to “have a look at it”

```
head(phosphoprotData)
str(phosphoprotData)
summary (phosphoprotData)
```

Section 4

Dynamic output with Rmarkdown

Reproducible research with R notebooks

- R and Rstudio are strongly involved in promoting reproducibility and reproducible research.
- This is implemented in **R notebooks**
- A notebook combines
 - Natural language text, e.g. describing what we are doing in our own words.
 - R code with the instructions needed to do the data management or the analysis.
 - The output of the analysis

Creating Notebooks

- A notebook can be created in Rstudio with
 - File --> New File --> R Notebook
- The notebook contains example text and code so it is straightforward to adapt it to your analysis.
- To produce an html file with text, code and output:
 - Press the button “Preview”
 - Or Select “Knitr to Html”

Section 5

Resources and exercises

Introductory materials

The web is full of all types of materials about R

Below there are a couple of brief introductions:

- A short introduction to R
- Getting started with R

Exercise

- Select a dataset with which you wish to work along the course.
- Read it into R
 - How many variables are there in it
 - What are their types
- Try to summarize it briefly
- Create an R notebook to encapsulate all your steps and share it with somebody.