

# 732A94 Advanced R Programming

## Computer lab 3

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Lab session: **8 September 10:15** (A35)  
Seminar date: **15 September 10:15** (P42)  
Lab deadline: **19 September 23:59**

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## Instructions

- Ideally this lab should be conducted by students **two by two**.
- The lab consists of writing a package that is version controlled on `github.com`.
- All students in the group should **contribute equally much** to the package. All group members have to contribute to, understand and be able to explain all aspects of the work. In case some member(s) of a group do not contribute equally this has to be reported and in this situation a formal group work contract will be signed, stipulating the consequences for further unequal contributions.
- Other significant collaborations/discussions should be acknowledged in the solution.
- To copy other's code is **NOT** allowed. Your solutions will be checked through URKUND.
- Copying solutions of others and from any online or offline resources is **NOT** allowed.
- Commit continuously your addition and changes.
- Collaborations should be done using github (ie you should commit using your own github account).
- In the lab some functions can be marked with an \*. Students **MUST do AT LEAST ONE** exercise marked with an \* for each of the Labs 3 - 6 and Bonus. If only one exercise is marked with an \*, then it **MUST** be done.
- The deadline for the lab is on the lab's title page.
- The lab should be turned in as an url to the repository containing the package on github using **LISAM**. This should also include name, github user names and liuid of the students behind the project. In case of problems or if you do not have access to LISAM the url may be emailed to `baybr79@liu.se` or `marbr987@student.liu.se` or `araha147@student.liu.se` or `krzysztof.bartoszek@liu.se`.
- **NO resubmissions will be allowed for the Bonus lab.**  
**NO late submissions will be allowed for the Bonus lab.**
- Inside your package you may not depend on any global variable (unless it is a standardR one, like `pi`). Using them will result in an immediate failure of your code. If at any stage your code changes any options, these changes have to be reverted before your code finishes.
- All notes raised by Travis/GitHub Actions have to be taken care of or explicitly defended in your submission.
- The seminars are there to discuss your solutions and obtain support with problems. Every group has to present at least once during the seminars in order to pass the lab part.

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# Chapter 1

## To create a package in R

In this lab we will create our first R package in R. To be able to get everything to work you need to have the following software installed:

1. R
2. R-Studio (not necessary but makes it a lot easier)
3. Git

This lab will be a walkthrough on how to create a package. This is not the only way to do this but one way that works for most.

### 1.1 Write the R code

In this first R package we will implement two famous algorithms, the Euclidian algorithm to find the greatest common divisor of two integers and Dijkstra's shortest path algorithm in a graph. For both these algorithms you will have pseudocode for the algorithm, so the job is to implement these algorithms in R. Store each function in their own R file with the name of the function.

#### 1.1.1 `euclidean()`

The first algorithm to implement is the Euclidian algorithm to find the greatest common divisor of two numbers. The description of the algorithm with pseudocode can be found [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euclidean_algorithm) [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euclidean\\_algorithm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euclidean_algorithm). Assert that the arguments are numeric scalars or integers.

Below is an example of the `euclidean()` function.

```
euclidean(123612, 13892347912)

[1] 4

euclidean(100, 1000)

[1] 100
```

#### 1.1.2 \* `dijkstra()`

The next algorithm to implement is one of the most famous algorithms in computer science, Dijkstras algorithm. The algorithm takes a graph and an initial node and calculates the shortest path from the initial node to every other node in the graph. A description with pseudocode can be found at the wikipedia page [here](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dijkstra%27s_algorithm) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dijkstra%27s\\_algorithm](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dijkstra%27s_algorithm)). If you're not very familiar with graphs, vertices and edges, see [this](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graph_(mathematics)) ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graph\\_\(mathematics\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Graph_(mathematics))) wikipedia page for a fast introduction.

The function should be named `dijkstra()` and have the argument `graph` and `init_node`. The graph should be a `data.frame` with three variables (`v1`, `v2` and `w`) that contains the edges of the graph (from

$v1$  to  $v2$ ) with the weight of the edge ( $w$ ). The `dijkstra` function should return the shortest path to every other node from the starting node as a vector.

Assert that the graph argument have the above structure and that `init_node` is a numeric scalar that exist in the graph.

Below is code to create the first graph at the wikipedia page (this is not the most memory efficient way to express the edges but it makes it easier to implement the function) and the results of the function `dijkstra()`.

```
wiki_graph <-  
data.frame(v1=c(1,1,1,2,2,2,3,3,3,3,4,4,4,5,5,6,6,6),  
v2=c(2,3,6,1,3,4,1,2,4,6,2,3,5,4,6,1,3,5),  
w=c(7,9,14,7,10,15,9,10,11,2,15,11,6,6,9,14,2,9))  
  
dijkstra(wiki_graph, 1)  
[1] 0 7 9 20 20 11  
  
dijkstra(wiki_graph, 3)  
[1] 9 10 0 11 11 2
```

## 1.2 Create the R package

### 1.2.1 Initialize the package

To create a package can be done in many different ways. This is one suggestion on how to do it.

1. Create a new repository at GitHub (username is needed) and invite your collaborators to this repository. Initialize the repo with a `README.md` file (otherwise R-Studio will have a problem of cloning the repo).
2. Open the `.gitignore` file and add `*.Rproj`. This will make git ignore the R project file - we do not want this on github.
3. Create a project in R-Studio based on this github repository. See chapter “Git and Github” in [2] for details.
4. Create a package skeleton using the function `package.skeleton(name='yourpackagename')`. You can choose the name of the package freely. Remove the read-and-delete-me file that was created.
5. Fill out the `DESCRIPTION` file with what you find suitable. See chapter “Package metadata” in [2] for details.
6. In your R-Studio session configure the (package) build tools by Build -> Configure build tools.
  - (a) Choose the package directory (ie the directory the package skeleton created)
  - (b) Click that `roxygen2` should be used (fill in all subalternatives)
7. Put your R files in the folder `R` in the package folder.
8. In the Build tab in R-Studio, click “Build & Reload”. You have created your own package. Clear the global environment and try that your functions is now in your searchpath.
9. Commit the new package and push it to github.

### 1.2.2 Document the package using roxygen2

The next step is to document the functions and the data using `roxygen2`. `roxygen2` makes it easy to include documentation in direct connection to the functions, making it much easier to both document and read the documentation when you inspect the code. See chapter “Object documentation” in [2].

1. Document each function. The documentation should include ...
  - (a) Arguments
  - (b) Description of the algorithm
  - (c) What the function returns
  - (d) A reference to the wikipedia page of each algorithm.
2. Document the package
3. Commit the documentation to GitHub.

### 1.2.3 Enable Continuous Integration using Travis CI or GitHub Actions

To be able to follow and check the package efficiently we are going to put the package both on Github (for version control) and use either Travis CI or GitHub Actions for continuous integration. In deciding whether to use Travis CI or GitHub Actions, you may wish to note the following:

- Travis CI provides a limited number of free credits, irrespective of whether your GitHub repository is Public or not. Every time you use Travis CI service, you will use up some Travis credits, and if and once you have no credits left, you will not be able to continue using their service, unless you pay for more credits (or you have a (legal) alternative account with free Travis credits). Furthermore, there are student reports that the free credits provided by Travis were insufficient for completing all the labs in the course and also that Credit Card information was sought by Travis even to use a free plan
- GitHub Actions provides unlimited free credits for Public repositories but limits free credit for non-Public repositories. Credit Card information is not sought by GitHub for free services

#### 1.2.3.1. Working with Travis CI

Travis will build the R package automatically every time you push new code to the GitHub repository and inform you if the package is working (Green) or Failing (Red).

1. Create an account on Travis CI and connect it to your GitHub account: <https://travis-ci.com/>
2. Mark your repository you want to be built on Travis (the package in this lab).
3. Add a `.travis.yml` file with the following content (this will build an/your R package and save installed R packages used):

```
language: r
cache: packages
```

More information on how you can handle Travis builds can be found here:  
<https://docs.travis-ci.com/user/languages/r/>

4. Commit the `.travis.yml` file and push it to GitHub. Now Travis should try to build your packages. If your package fails, correct the bugs until the package passes.
5. Add a Travis build badge (markdown) to the repository README file (at the top) so it is easy to see if your package is passing or failing. More information can be found here:  
<https://docs.travis-ci.com/user/status-images/>

### 1.2.3.2. Working with GitHub Actions

Like Travis CI, GitHub Actions will also build the R package automatically every time you push new code to the GitHub repository and inform you if the package is working (Green) or Failing (Red).

1. Execute the following R command “`usethis::use_github_action_check_standard()`” after setting your project up on R Studio as instructed in 1.2.1; this step will set up your package for CI
2. Step 1 will also output some text to be pasted into the README.md file of your package; complete the pasting task (at the top of the file) and save changes; this will set up a GitHub Actions build badge
3. Commit the files created/modified and push changes to GitHub. Now GitHub Actions should try to build your packages. If your package fails, correct the bugs until the package passes. Pass/Fail status can be seen in the GitHub Actions build badge on repository’s root folder in the README section

### 1.2.4 Include the dataset `wiki_graph` in the package

The next step is to include the dataset `wiki_graph` created above as dataset in the package. See “Data” in [2] for details on how to do this.

Document the dataset using `roxygen2`:

1. The variables in the `data.frame`
2. A reference to the wikipedia page

### 1.2.5 Include the test suite in your package

The last step is to include unit tests for your package (later you will write unit tests yourself). See chapter “Testing” in [2] or [1]. Unit tests should be designed in a way that it is possible to introduce a bug in the code and you will find out that we have introduced that bug.

1. Set up the `testthat` framework for your package with `use_testthat()` in the `devtools` package.
2. Add the test suite for the `dijkstra()` (if implemented) and `euclidean()` found at:  
<https://github.com/STIMALiU/AdvRCourse/tree/master/Testsuites>
3. Run “Test package” under the Build tab in R-Studio to check that your functions passes all tests. Commit and push your tests to github.
4. If your functions do not pass the tests, find your bug and try again. You’re not done until all tests passes.

### 1.2.6 Finalize your package

Now everything should be working in your package. As a final step we should check that everything works with your package. Do the following steps:

1. Check that your package is working by pressing the “check” button in R-Studio. Correct any warnings or errors, see “Checking” in [2] for details.
2. Push your final package to github and test that it is possible to install your package using the following code in R.

```
devtools::install_github("[yourusername/repo]", subdir="your subdirectory")
```

3. Create a release of your package (ex. v. 1.0) on GitHub.

You can consider (but this is not obligatory) to use `p4merge` to resolve conflicts. See the file `732A94_AdvancedRHT2019_Seminar_Lab3_Mourao-Valencia.pdf`, courtesy of Agustin Valencia and Marcos Mourao.

## 1.3 Seminar and examination

During the seminar you will bring your own computer and demonstrate your package and what you found difficult in the project.

We will present as many packages as possible during the seminar and you should

1. Show that the package can be built using R Studio and that all unit tests is passing.
2. Present the unit tests you've written.
3. We will try to introduce a bug in the code and check that this bug is found by the unit tests (and by git).

### 1.3.1 Examination

Turn in a the adress to your github repo with the package using LISAM. To pass the lab you need to:

1. Have the R package up on GitHub with a Travis CI or GitHub Actions pass/fail badge.
2. The test suites for the implemented function(s) should be included in the package.
3. The package should build without warnings (pass) on Travis CI or GitHub Actions.
4. All issues raised by Travis CI / GitHub Actions should be taken care or justified why they are not a problem or cannot be corrected. Be careful with namespace issues, these you HAVE to take care of.



# Bibliography

- [1] Hadley Wickham. testthat: Get started with testing. *The R Journal*, 3(1):5–10, 2011.
- [2] Hadley Wickham. *R packages*. ” O’Reilly Media, Inc.”, 2015.