

## 1. Installing R and RStudio

This page is intended to provide a brief and high-level introduction to R. Additional educational material on using R/R Studio are available on many sites, including the [RStudio education site](#) or this [R Spatial page](#).

### ✓ Tips

If you have not installed R or RStudio, please see the '[getting started](#)' section on the home page.

## 2. Orientation – how code works in RStudio

### Comments and code:

1. **Comments:** any line in R code that starts with a '#' is considered a *comment*. These are not executed by RStudio as R code, but rather are used as notes to the user.
2. **Code:** a line or segment of code can be RUN by a) clicking on the line or b) highlighting the text, and press CMD + return (Mac) or CTRL + Enter (Windows). You can run a single line of code (clicking on or highlighting the line), or multiple lines of code (highlight multiple lines of code).

### How it works in RStudio:

1. Create an R script using RStudio (instructions below)
2. Write code into the R file, or copy the code from our code blocks below. Make sure to SAVE.
3. Click on a single line and press CMD + return (on Mac) or CTRL + enter (on Windows) to run the command on that line. Alternatively, you can highlight any section of text over one or more lines and press CMD + return (on Mac) or CTRL + enter (on Windows) to run the contents. Our scripts are designed so 'modules' of code can be run at a time.
4. As above, nothing is returned if they are loaded successfully, or an error message is returned if they are not.

### Example:

This is a comment:

#### Input

```
## Run the following line to set your working directory
```

And this is the code:

#### Input

```
setwd("/Users/Tom/Desktop")  
getwd()
```

If you highlight both lines of code and press CMD + return (Mac) or CTRL + Enter (Windows) both lines of code will be run, which will 1) set the working directory to my desktop, and 2) check whether setting the working directory has worked. The result should look like this:

#### Output

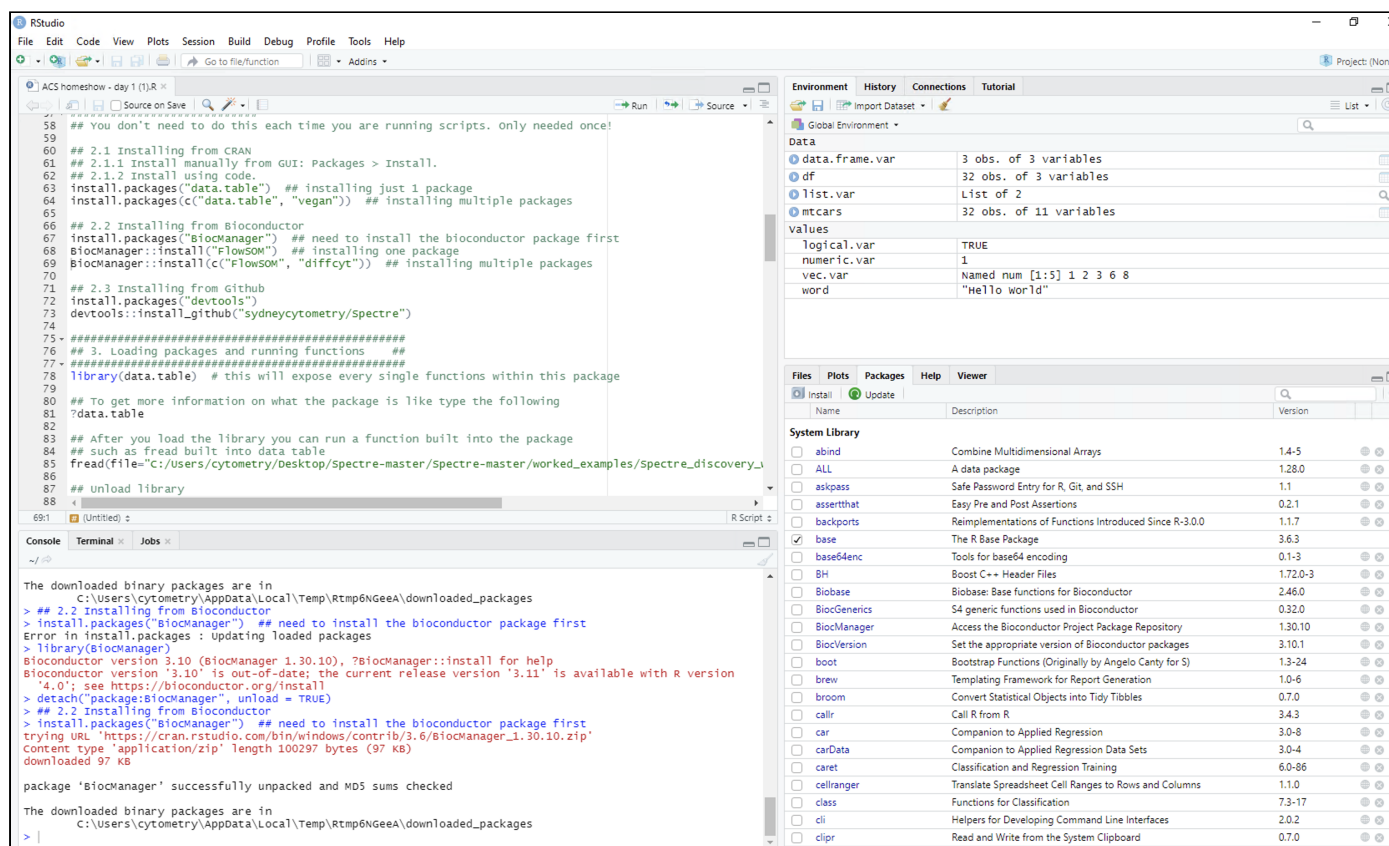
```
> setwd("/Users/Tom/Desktop/")  
> getwd()  
[1] "/Users/Tom/Desktop"
```

## 3. Create a new R script using RStudio

### Open R Studio

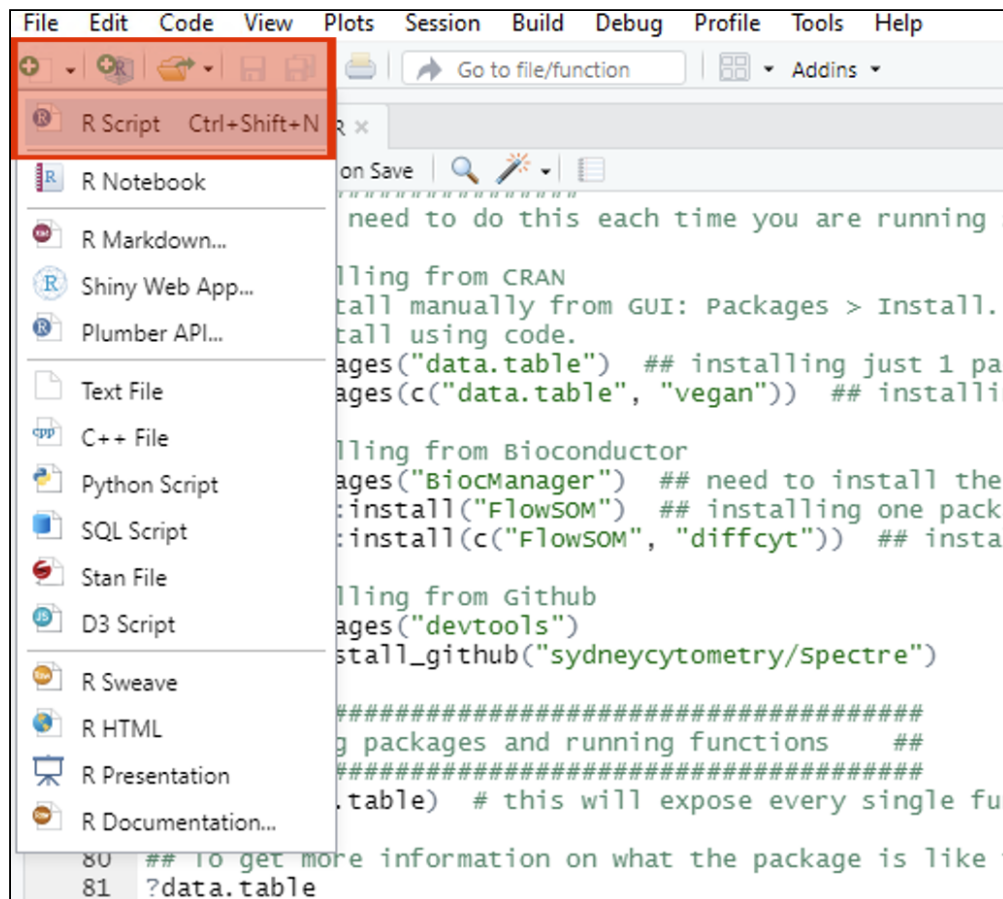
To interact with the Spectre package in R, we will use **RStudio**. Open RStudio, and you should see something similar to the following:

- *Top left = R script. This is a text editor where lines or segments of code can be 'run', which will send commands to R.*
- *Bottom left = console. When commands are sent to R, the console will show the progress/output/result.*
- *Top right = workspace. Whenever you create an object in R (such as saving a set of data) it will show up here.*
- *Bottom right = various. This is mainly used for displaying plots (under 'Plots'), investigating the packages ('Packages'), or using the help section ('Help').*



### Create a new .R file and save it

- Make a folder on your desktop called "**Spectre demo**"
- In RStudio, create a new R Script file (.R) called "**MyScript**" and save it in the folder you just created (Spectre demo).



## 4. Exploring the 'iris' dataset using RStudio

For each of the code-blocks below, copy the code into your new script, press save, and then highlight and press CMD/CTRL return to execute the code

For this demo we will use the 'iris' dataset, which consists of measurements of 150 flowers. Each row represents one flower, and each column represents a different measurement of that flower.

### PART 1. READ THE DATASET

Copy the following into your script, save, then highlight the code and press CMD/CTRL return.

The first command we will run is to load the 'iris' dataset and save it as the object 'dat'. The lines starting with '#' are only comments, and will not execute as commands (even if you select them and press CMD + return).

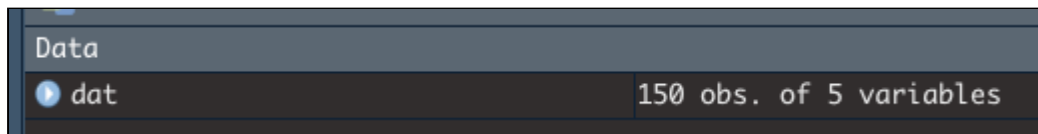
#### Input

```
## Part 1: read the dataset

# Use the 'iris' dataset (150 flowers one per row) with various measurement (each column is a
different measurement)
dat <- iris
```

#### Result:

After executing, you should see a new object in the workspace (top right). This will be called 'dat', containing 150 observations, and 5 variables.



Next we will review the dimensions of 'dat' (how many rows and columns) and preview data from the first 6 rows of dat.

**Copy the following into your script, save, then highlight the code and press CMD/CTRL return.**

#### Input

```
# Determine the number of rows and columns in the dataset
dim(dat)
```

#### Result:

You should now see the following in the console. Lines starting with '>' denote the commands that were executed. Lines without '>' are the output. As you can see below the request to show the dimensions of our dataset using `dim(dat)` has given us 150 rows and 5 columns.

#### Output

```
[1] 150 5
```

**Copy the following into your script, save, then highlight the code and press CMD/CTRL return.**

#### Input

```
# Examine the first few lines of dataset
head(dat)
```

#### Result:

You should now see the following in the console. Lines starting with '>' denote the commands that were executed. Lines without '>' are the output. The request to preview the first 6 rows of our data using `head(dat)` has shown us the contents of the first 6 rows.

#### Output

	Sepal.Length	Sepal.Width	Petal.Length	Petal.Width	Species
1	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2	setosa
2	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2	setosa
3	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2	setosa
4	4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2	setosa
5	5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2	setosa
6	5.4	3.9	1.7	0.4	setosa

## PART 2. PLOT THE DATASET

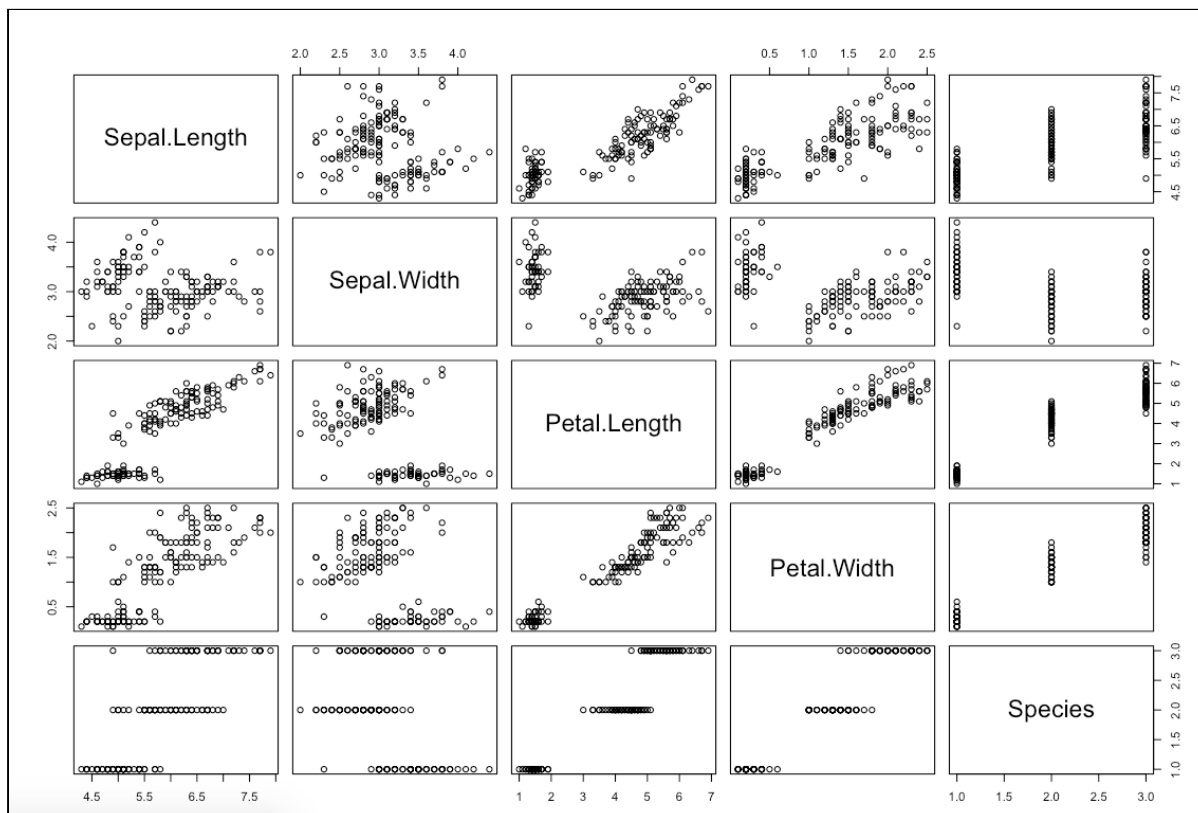
Next, we will plot some of the dataset. Select the following (in RStudio) and press return.

Copy the following into your script, save, then highlight the code and press CMD/CTRL return.

#### Input

```
## Part 2: plot the dataset  
  
# Plot iris dataset (all plots)  
plot(dat)
```

After executing, you should see the following under 'Plots'.



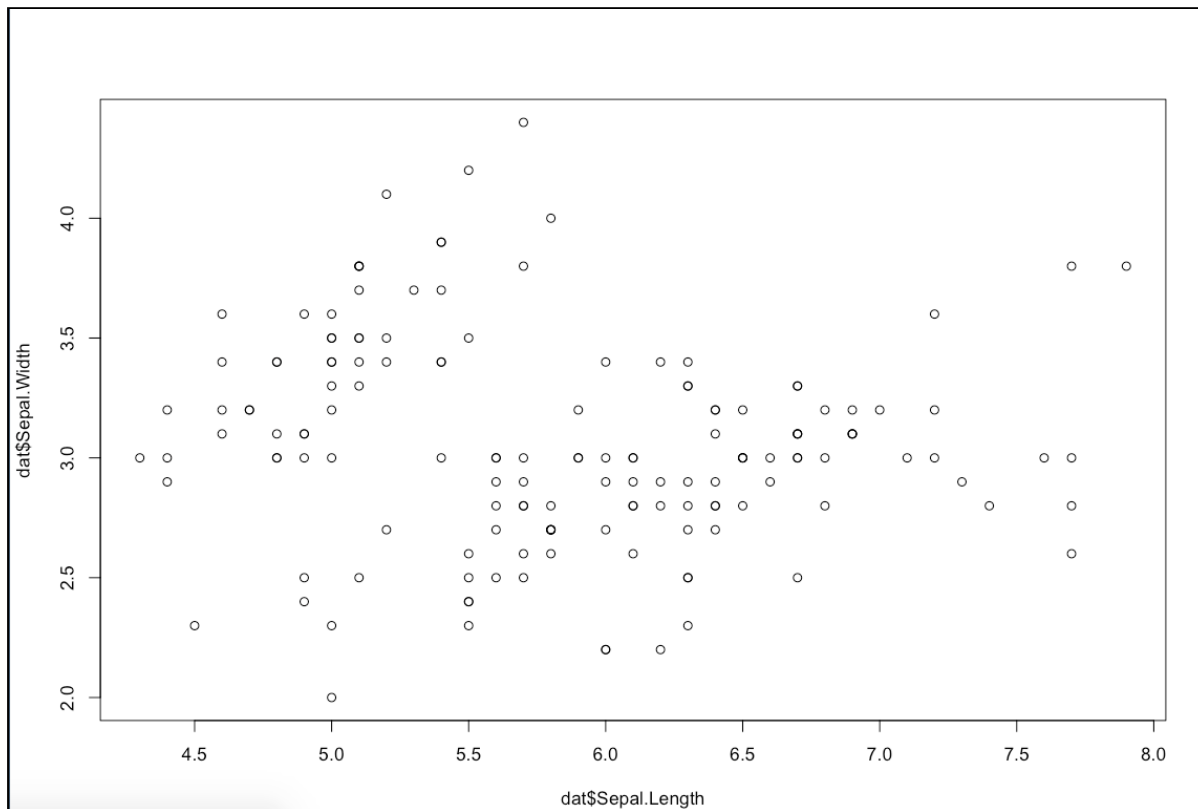
Copy the following into your script, save, then highlight the code and press CMD/CTRL return.

To be a little more specific, let's try plotting one column of the dataset against another.

#### Input

```
# Plot iris dataset (chosen X and Y parameters)  
plot(x = dat$Sepal.Length, y = dat$Sepal.Width)
```

Now we should see a plot of the sepal width vs length.



### PART 3. SAVE THE DATASET

Now, let's save the dataset as a .csv file. A .csv file is kind of like an .xlsx file, without the bells and whistles. Data in a table format is saved, using commas to indicate the separation of new columns. When this is read by excel or RStudio, it displays a table.

**Copy the following into your script, save, then highlight the code and press CMD/CTRL return.**

Run the following lines to determine the current working directory (where you will read files from and write files to):

#### Input

```
## Part 3: save the dataset

# Determine the current working directory
getwd()
```

This will return the location of your current working directory. In my case:

#### Output

```
[1] "/Users/thomasa"
```

Let's aim to save the CSV to our desktop. To do this we would have to a) change the 'working directory' to the desktop (on a mac, it would look something like `"/Users/Tom/Desktop"`). When we set a working directory, we are telling R a) where to look for files when we ask it to, and b) where to create files when we ask it to.

To set the working directory, follow these instructions:

## Use setwd()

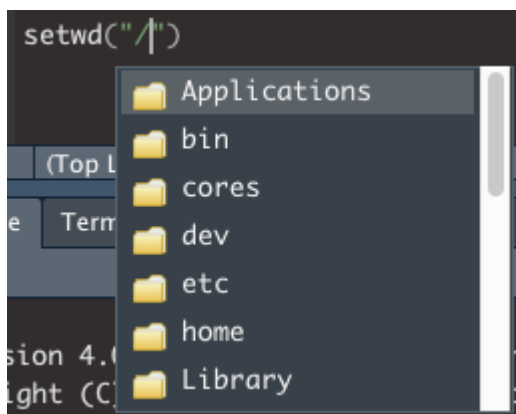
Type 'setwd()' into R

### Input

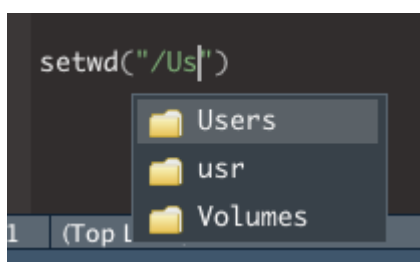
```
setwd()
```

## Finding a specific directory (absolute path)

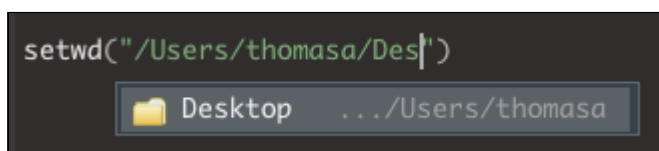
- On a mac, start by entering `"/` between the `()`: **`setwd("/")`**
- Click after the `/` and press `TAB`
- You should see a list of options from your root directory. You can press the `UP` or `DOWN` arrows, or use the mouse cursor, to select one of the options, and press `ENTER` to select in.



- If you start typing the name of a directory, the list of options will be filtered to options that match what you are typing.



- In this case, I'll select 'Users' and press `ENTER`. I can then repeat the process to navigate down my folders



- You can repeat this process to find your working directory until you reach your desired location.



If I now select this line, or highlight the code and press ENTER, R will set the working directory:

**Input**

```
setwd("/Users/thomasa/Desktop/")
```

The following should be returned

**Output**

```
> setwd("/Users/thomasa/Desktop/")
```

Now I can check the working directory has been set correctly by running the following:

**Input**

```
getwd()
```

If everything has gone correctly, the following (or equivalent) should be returned:

**Output**

```
[1] "/Users/thomasa/Desktop/"
```

Now we will write the dataset to a .csv file (which will be saved in the working directory). We will use the function 'write.csv'. The input variables here are what dataset we want to write (x = dat) and what we want to call the file (file = "iris\_dataset.csv").

Execute the following, and check the folder (set as your working directory) to see that the new file has been created.

**Output**

```
# Write a .csv file of the dataset  
write.csv(x = dat, file = "iris_dataset.csv")
```