

MITOCW | MIT15_071S17_Session_1.3.14_300k

After working in R, you often want to save your work so that you can easily re-run commands and rebuild models.

There are several ways of doing this, but the method we recommend is by using what's called a script file.

Let's open a new script file.

Go to File, New Document, on a Mac, and File, New Script, on a PC.

This will pop up a blank script file.

You can copy and paste any commands that you've run in your console into the script file.

For example, say we want to save the table commands we ran.

Let's Copy the first table command and then Paste it into the script file.

We can also take the first tapply command we ran, Copy and Paste it into our script file.

Now, if you highlight these lines of code in the script file and press Command-Enter on a Mac, and Control-r on a PC, it will run these lines of code in your R console.

So if you save this file and then reopen it when you start R next time, you can easily rerun any commands that you ran in this R session.

A lot of times it's easier to just write commands in your script file and run them in your console because then they'll always be saved in your script file.

You can add comments in your script file by using the pound sign.

If you type pound, and then some comment describing your script file, and then highlight the whole thing and press Control-r or Command-Enter, you'll see that the comment runs in the console, but nothing happens.

R recognizes this as a comment.

If you want to save the output of your R session in your console, I recommend just saving it as a text file.

In your console, you can go to file, Save to file, and this will save your output as a text file.

You won't be able to easily rerun this in R like the script file, but it will have the summary output of what you did.

When you close R, it will ask you if you want to save your workspace.

Make sure you have everything you want in a script file and then don't worry about saving your workspace.

These are the basics of R. We'll see a lot more in the rest of this class.

But hopefully you've seen in this lecture how powerful R can be.

In just one lecture, we performed insightful data analysis on an interesting data set.