# A Simple Guide for Reading Data into R in Windows

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## 1 Overview

Although there are many good books and web-based resources for using R, many of them do not describe ways of reading data into R in complete or accessible ways. This is a basic guide to reading data into R Under the Windows operating system.

## 2 Initial steps

Create a folder on your hard drive that you will use for R data. On my machine, it is c:/1datalap/Learning/integpsy300/rdata. Then go to the R console, and under File, choose "Change dir" enter in (or browse for) the same path name. Hit OK.

## 3 Creating and Reading .txt files from Notepad

If you have a small amount of data to enter in R, this can be typed into the R console directly using: varname = c(1,2,5,7). However, with more than one variable and a moderate number of scores, users may wish to create a small text file. In order to do this, open Notepad, under Start/All Programs/Accessories. Type the data as rows, entering first the names of the columns, and then each row of data.

| $ID$ | Age |
|---|---|
| 1 | 3 |
| 2 | 8 |
| 3 | 11 |
| 4 | 17 |
| 5 | 38 |
| 6 | 13 |
| 7 | 24 |
| 8 | 25 |
| 9 | 30 |

Save the file as 'textdata.txt', making sure that it is a .txt file. You can check in Explorer to make sure that it carries the .txt extension or that it is identified by windows as a text file. In the R console, go to file, and

Then, from the R console, Type:

$> textdata <- read.table('textdata.txt',\ header = TRUE)$

Then type: $> textdata$

and you should get the data that are in the text file on your screen.

# 4 Creating and Reading .csv files from MS Excel

With more than a moderate amount of data, a spreadsheet such as MS Excel will make it easier to enter the data. Create variable names at the tops of the columns, then enter the data by row. Save the file as commadata.csv or comma separated values. Again you can verify in explorer that this is how your data was saved. Then go to R and use:

$> commadata <- read.csv('commadata.csv',\ header = T)$

# 5 Check that the files work

Now that the data is in an R table that will stay active in you current session of R, you can check that it worked.

Enter commadata and you should see all the data with the variable names at the top.

Enter textdata (same result)

Then, to be extra careful, try some descriptive commands, such as:

summary(commadata)

hist(commadata$Age)

barplot(commadata$Age)

## 6 How to read a file in from the web

$site = "http://www.uri.edu/walls/motmeta.csv"$
$read.csv\ (file = site,\ header = TRUE)$