

Module 1: Setting the folder containing data as the working directory in R

contributed by

Mr. Digvijay Singh,
Project Research Associate,
R Team, FOSSEE, IIT Bombay

Mrs. Usha Viswanathan,
Sr. Project Manager,
FOSSEE, IIT Bombay

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Steps to set the working directory in R

This module focuses on setting the working directory in R software. It is an important step. We set the folder containing data to be analysed as the working directory.

Using RStudio

RStudio is an integrated development environment for R. It contains the following four windows.

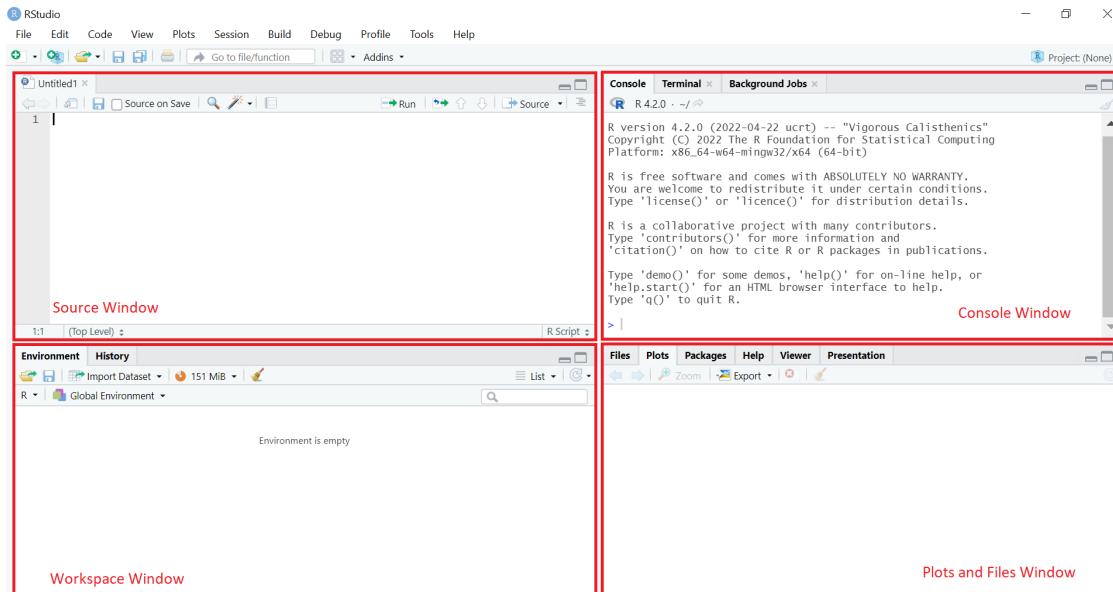


Figure 1: Structure of RStudio.

Create a folder with the name **Lab Materials** in the **D** drive of your PC, as shown below:

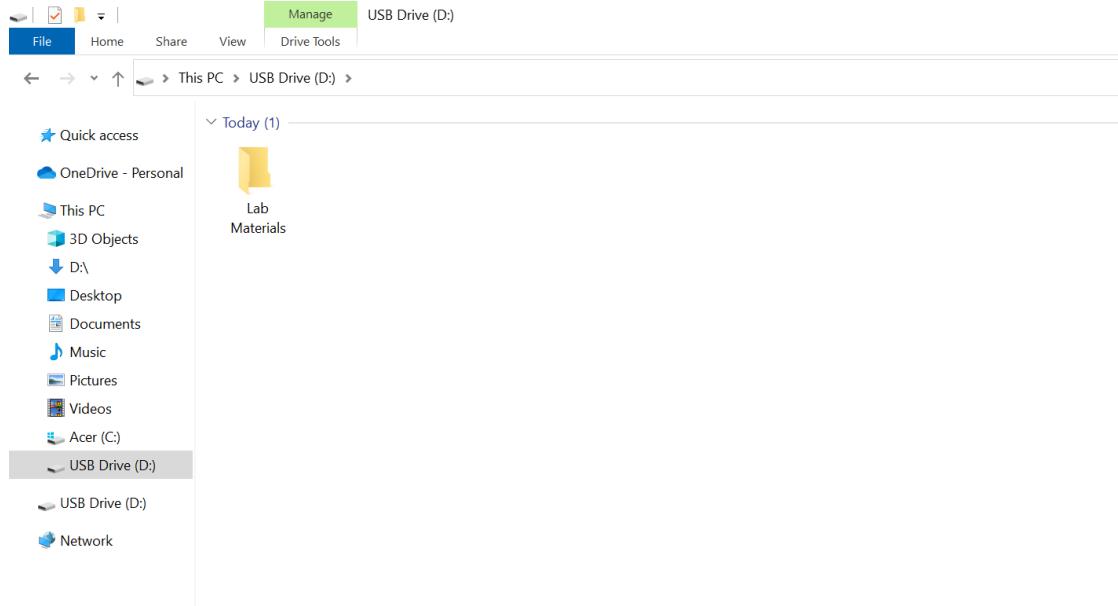


Figure 2: **Lab Materials** folder created in the D drive.

To set the **Lab Materials** folder as the working directory, use the options provided under the **Session** tab of RStudio as shown below:

Step 1. Click on the **Session** tab in the menu bar of RStudio.

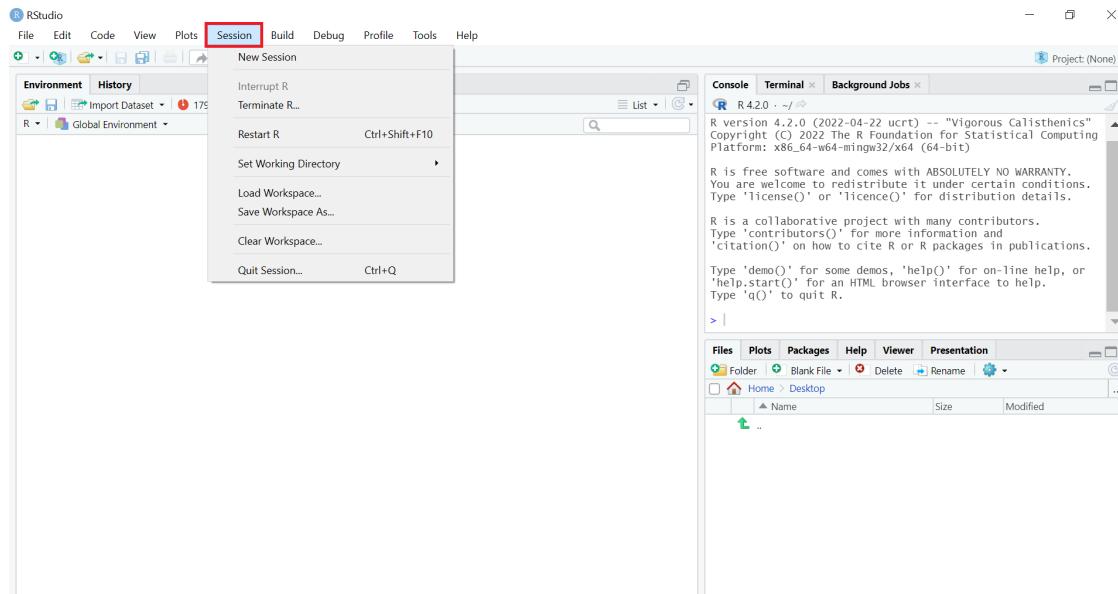


Figure 3: **Session** tab in the menu bar of RStudio.

Step 2. Hover your cursor over the **Set Working Directory** option in the drop down menu.

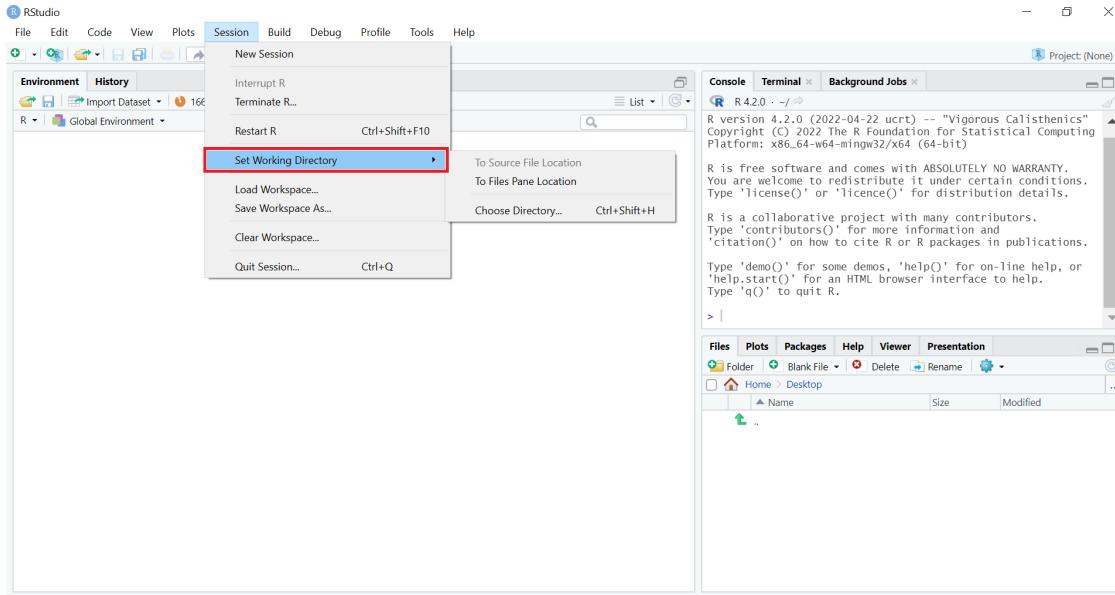


Figure 4: Set Working Directory option in the drop down menu.

Step 3. Click on the **Choose Directory...** option.

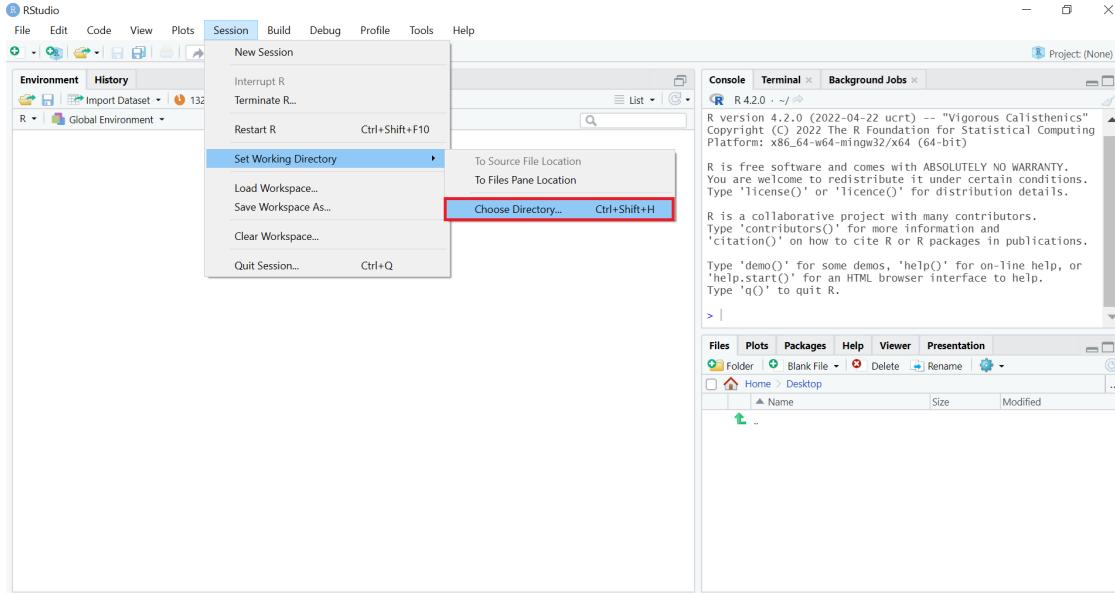


Figure 5: Choose Directory... option.

A navigation box will pop-up using which one can navigate to the desired location.

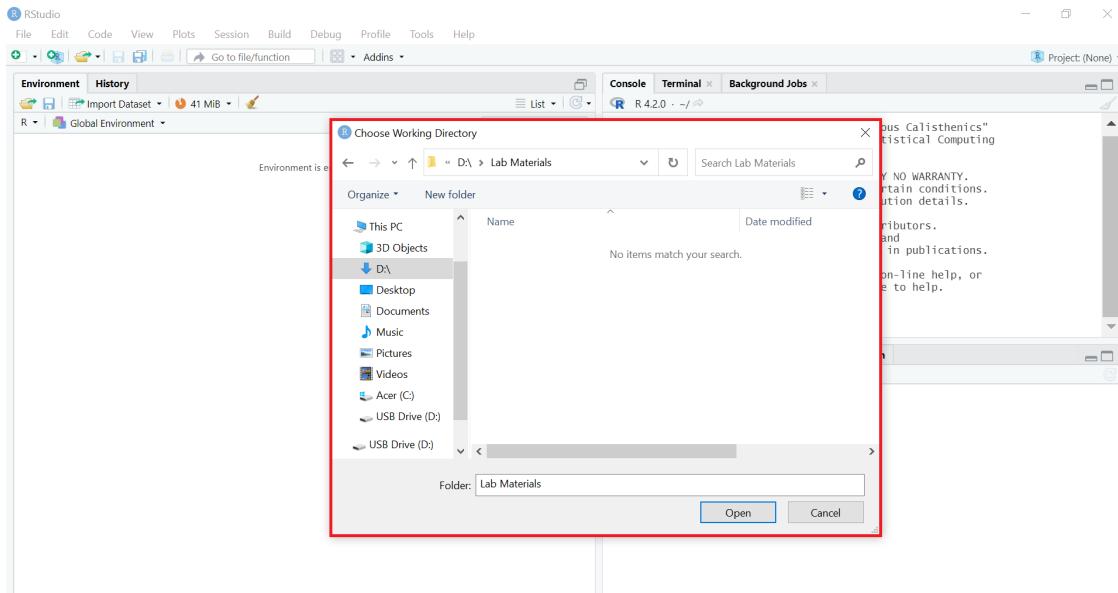


Figure 6: Navigation box to select a directory location.

Step 4. Navigate to the **Lab Materials** folder in the **D** drive and click on the **Open** button in the navigation box.

It will change the working directory location in the **Files** pane.

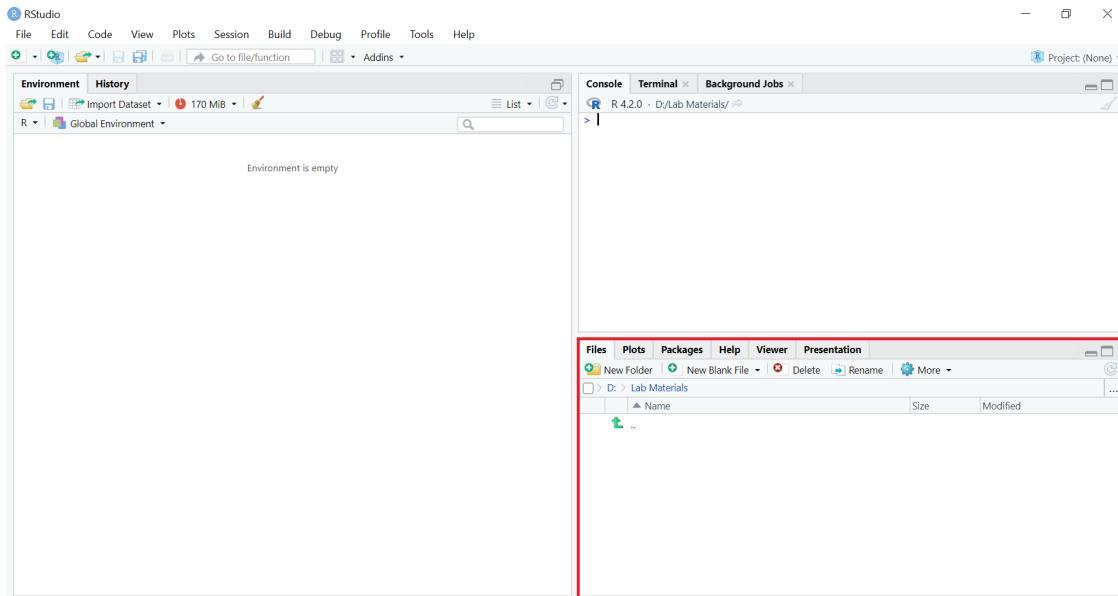


Figure 7: Updated working directory location in the **Files** pane.

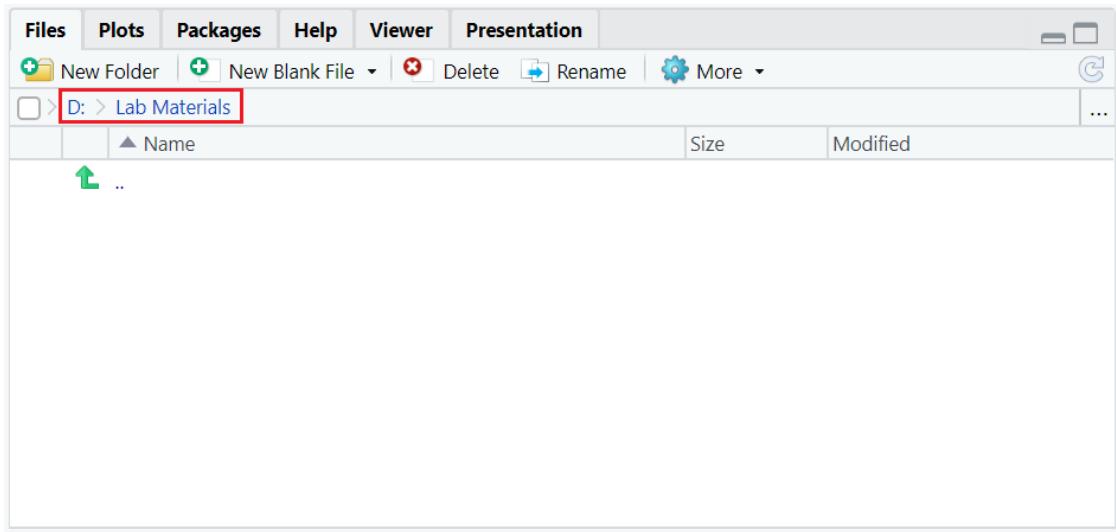


Figure 8: Zoomed-in image of the Files pane.

Alternatively, using R console to set working directory

Execute the following commands to set and display the working directory in R:

```
setwd("D:/Lab Materials")
getwd()

## [1] "D:/Lab Materials"
```

We observe that the working directory has been successfully changed by executing the `getwd()` function. `getwd()` outputs the current working directory of the active R session.

Spoken Tutorials

For more details, refer to the [Working directories in RStudio](#) Spoken Tutorial video.