

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

contributed by

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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.

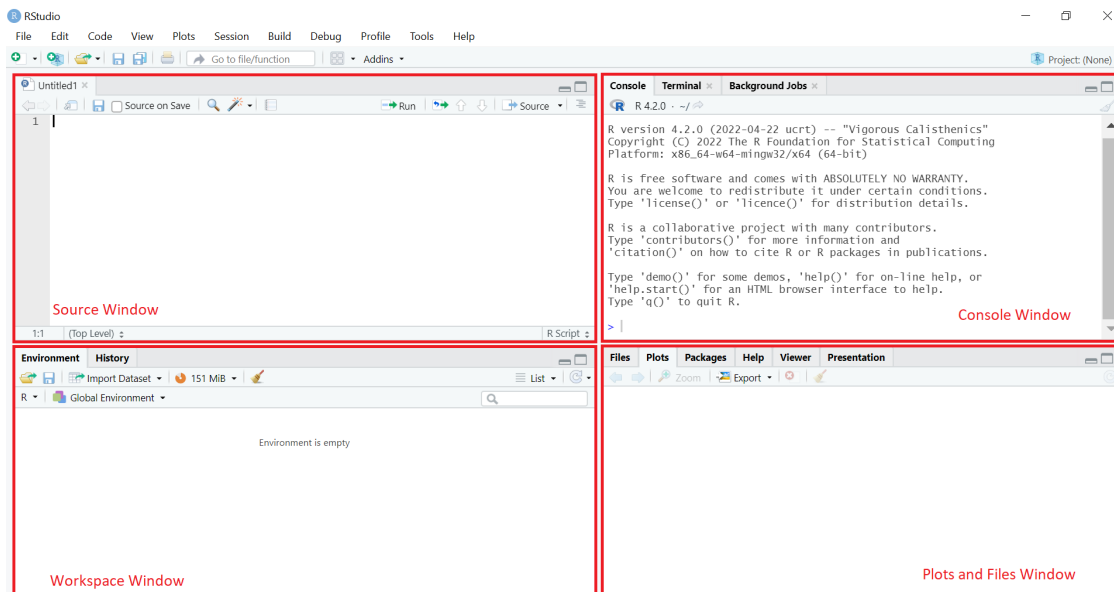


Figure 1: Structure of RStudio.

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

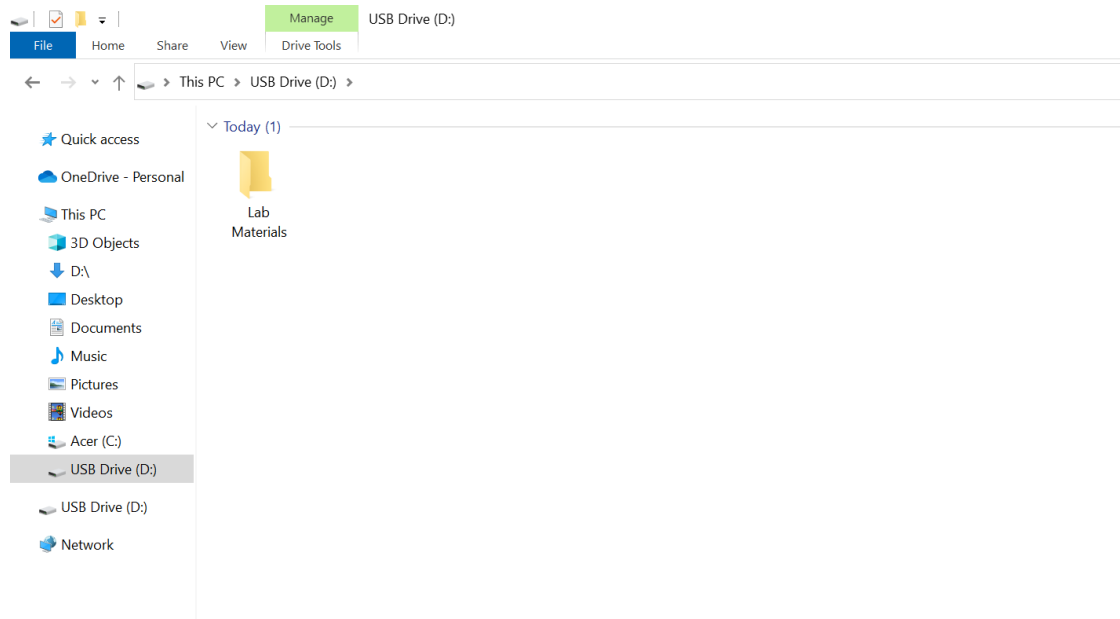


Figure 2: Lab Materials folder created in the D drive.

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.

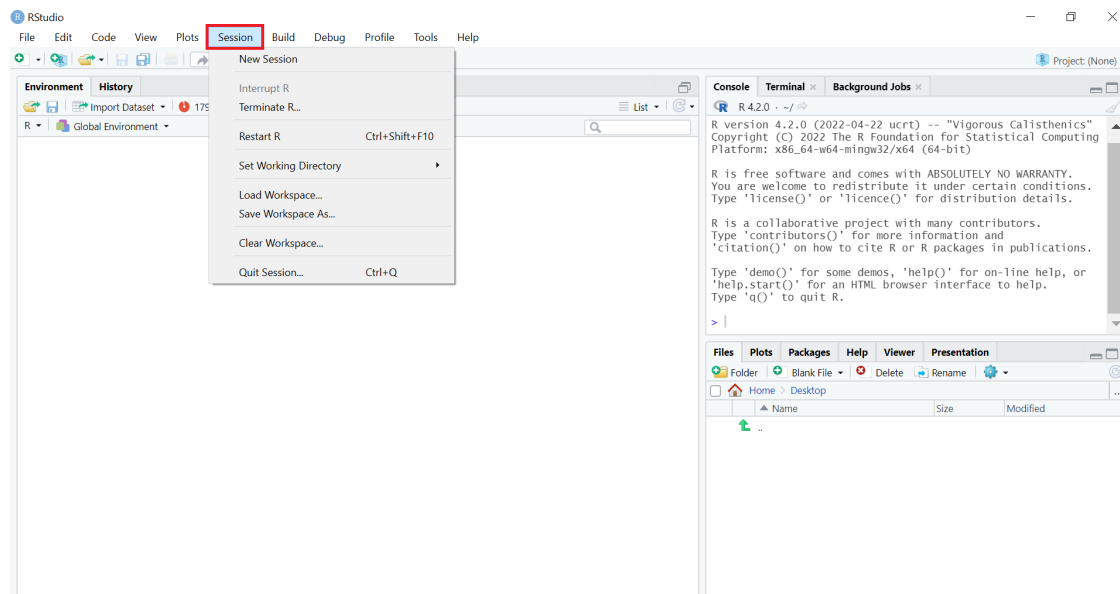


Figure 3: Session tab in the menu bar of RStudio.

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

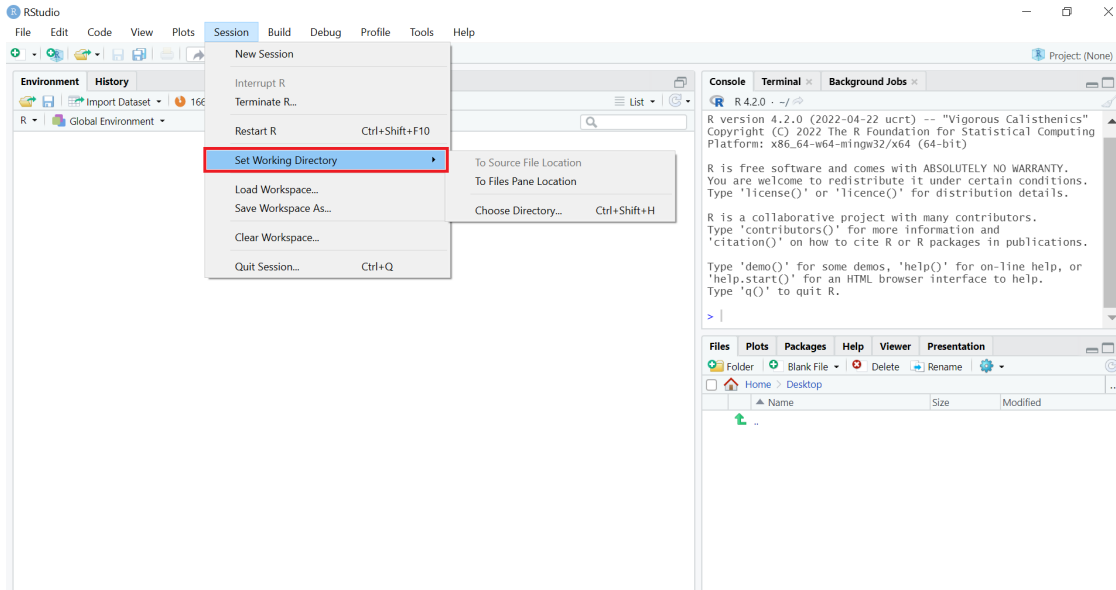


Figure 4: *Set Working Directory* option in the drop down menu.

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

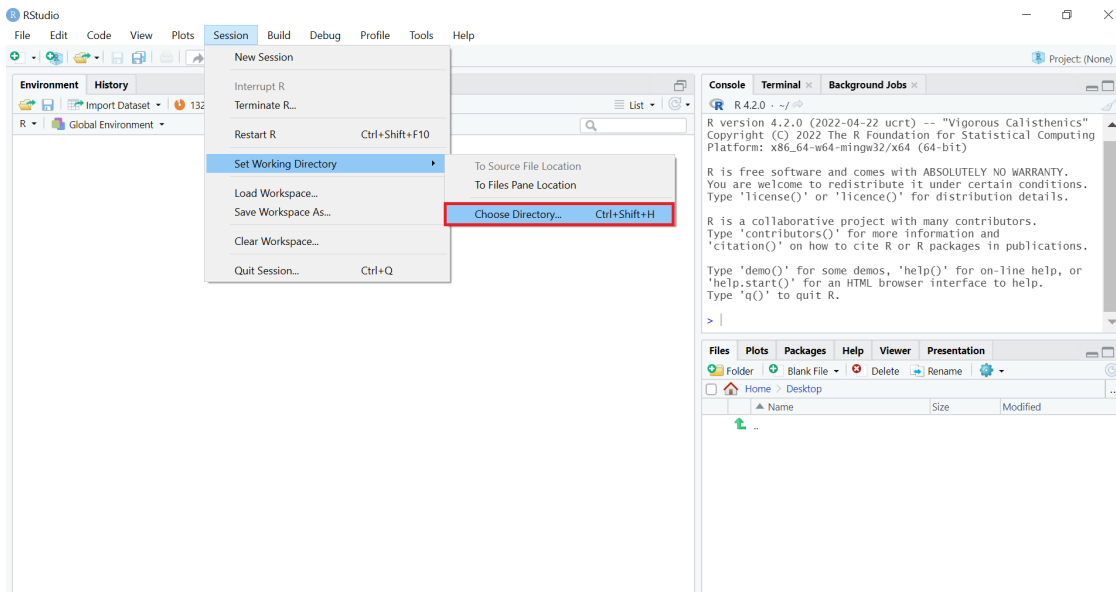


Figure 5: *Choose Directory...* option.

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

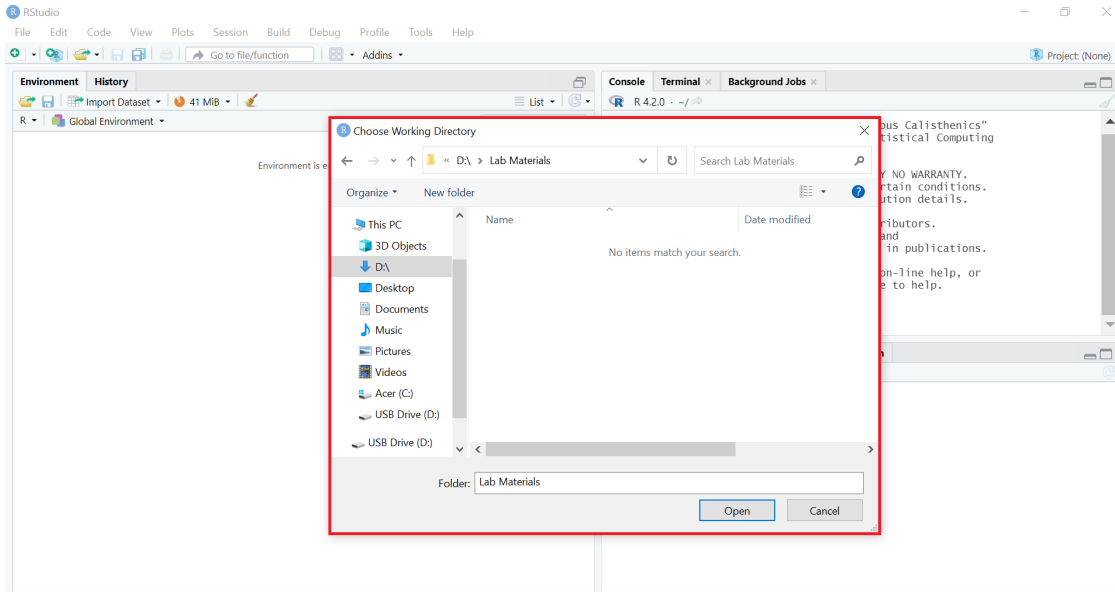


Figure 6: Navigation box to select a directory location.

**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.

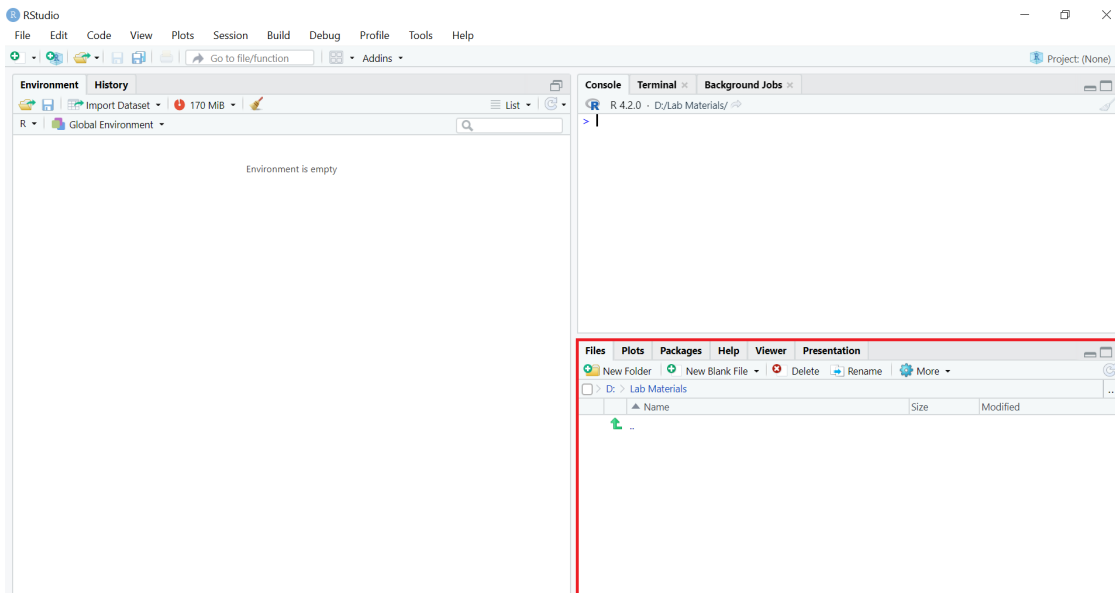


Figure 7: Updated working directory location in the Files pane.

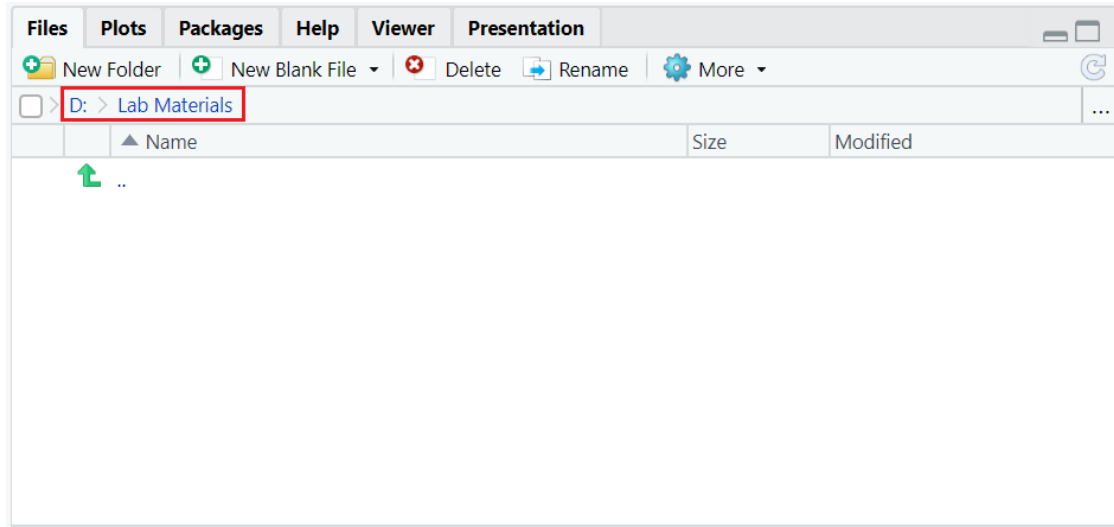


Figure 8: Zoomed-in image of the Files pane.

## 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.