INSTRUCTIONS FOR DOWNLOADING, INSTALLING & CUSTOMIZING RSTUDIO FOR WINDOWS

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1. Downloading & Installation

(1) Please install R first, before installing RStudio.
(2) Create a folder on your c: drive: `c:\RStudio`.
(3) Go to http://rstudio.org, and click on "Download RStudio" in the right hand corner. On the next page, scroll down and click on "Download" under the free Desktop version. On the next page, choose your operating system and click on the download link.
(4) Open the installation wizard (tab in lower left corner) if it doesn't open automatically. Follow the wizard.
(5) Install to your `c:\RStudio`folder.
(6) Click "next", and "Finish".

2. Customizing RStudio

(1) Open RStudio (this may take a while the first time). If prompted to select a "specific version of R," select the one that is chosen in the window.
(2) Go to "Tools / Global Options"
(3) Click on "appearance" and change the font size and Editor Theme, if you wish.
(4) By default, RStudio will create any pdf document using its own pdf software "Sumatra." This works pretty well, in general. If you want to use your default system pdf viewer (usually Adobe Acrobat), go to "Tools," "Global Options," "Sweave," and select "system viewer" under "PDF preview."
(5) De-select "always enable Rnw concordance."

3. Installing packages

(1) In most cases RStudio will alert you if packages required for your script are not installed, and will prompt you to install them via a message bar at the top of your script.
(2) If you need / want to install packages manually for any reason, click on the "tools","Install packages". Enter the name of the package in the white field, and click "Install".
(3) Occasionally, you can also click the "tools", "check for packages updates" tab.

4. Troubleshooting "Compile PDF"

If you want to compile your script using Sweave by clicking on the "Compile PDF" button, and everything works fine (code is executed, .tex file is created), but you get an error in the last step of generating the pdf (some pdflatex "exit code" error), try the following:

(1) Manually install the package "tinytex."
(2) Go to Tools/Global Options/Sweave, and select the box "use tinytex when compiling tex files."

(3) Then try to compile again - this did the trick on my laptop.

(4) As last resort, simply open the .tex file created by RStudio in TeXnicCenter, and create the pdf from there.