

Setting the working directory in R permanently

- 1) The `getwd()` command gives the current working directory for R. The `setwd(<path>)` sets the working directory
- 2) Locate the `Rprofile.site` file.
 - It should be in `C:\Program Files\R\R-<version>\etc\Rprofile.site` (on Windows).
 - I'm not sure where this is on a Mac
- 3) Add `setwd(<path>)` to the end of the `Rprofile.site` file
 - Open the `Rprofile.site` file on text editor (notepad)
 - Add the line below to the end of the `Rprofile.site` file and **add a new line (hit the enter key).**

- `setwd("<the desired working directory >")`

- My `Rprofile.site` file looks like this:

```
# Things you might want to change

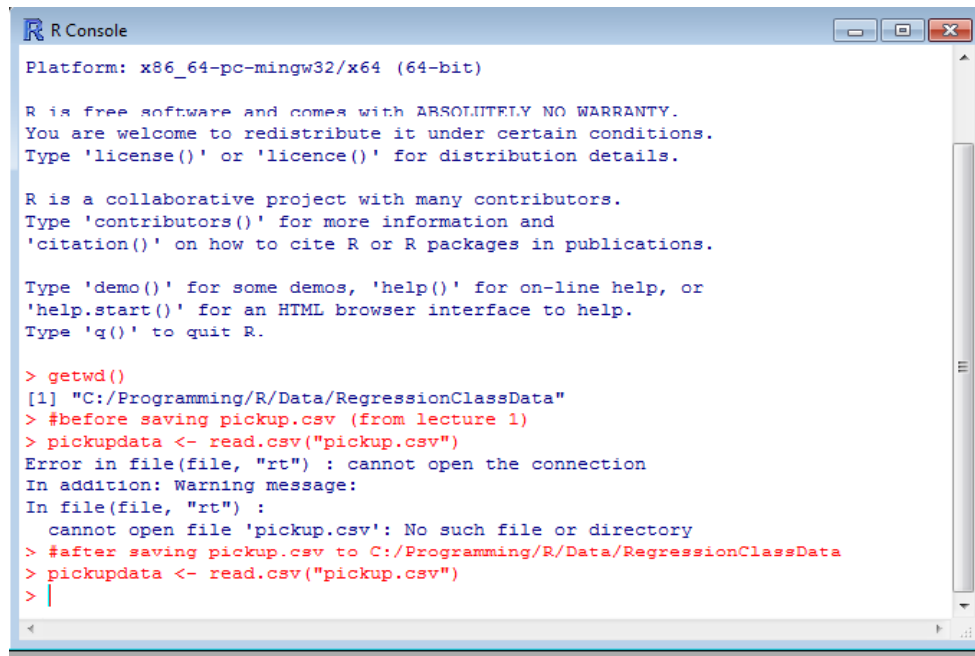
# options(papersize="a4")
# options(editor="notepad")
# options(pager="internal")

# set the default help type
# options(help_type="text")
# options(help_type="html")

# set a site library
# .Library.site <- file.path(chartr("\\", "/", R.home()),
"site-library")

# set a CRAN mirror
# local({r <- getOption("repos")
#       r["CRAN"] <- "http://my.local.cran"
#       options(repos=r)})
setwd("C:\\Programming\\R\\Data\\RegressionClassData")
```

- **NOTICE THE EXTRA EMPTY LINE AFTER THE `setwd()` COMMAND.**
- Save and close this file
- Restart the R GUI
- Typing `getwd()` on the command line should now return the path that was set in the previous steps. Here is a screen shot.



```
R Console
Platform: x86_64-pc-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

> getwd()
[1] "C:/Programming/R/Data/RegressionClassData"
> #before saving pickup.csv (from lecture 1)
> pickupdata <- read.csv("pickup.csv")
Error in file(file, "rt") : cannot open the connection
In addition: Warning message:
In file(file, "rt") :
  cannot open file 'pickup.csv': No such file or directory
> #after saving pickup.csv to C:/Programming/R/Data/RegressionClassData
> pickupdata <- read.csv("pickup.csv")
> |
```

This procedure seems to work for me. I can load files without having to specify the working directory every time. And, if close and reopen R, getwd() returns the directory saved in the Rprofile.site file.