

Relativity in the univeRse

File path behavior in different workflows

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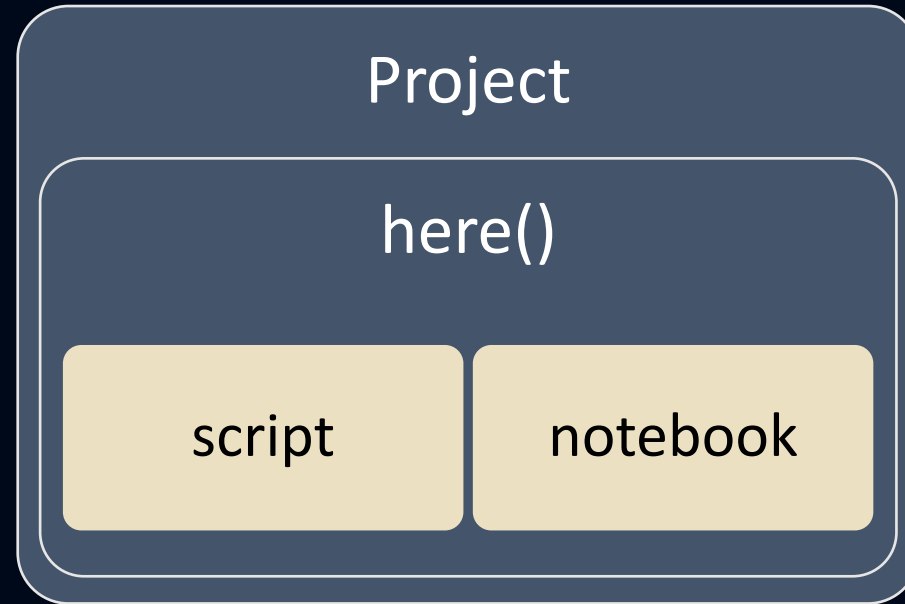
portable, reproducible code

file path practices vary

goal: understand file path behavior

Fine print: on a Windows machine; RStudio IDE

Workflows



1) R script

2) R notebook

3) RStudio Project

R script

```
setwd("C:/Users/Kyle/no/path/for/you")
```

Interactive

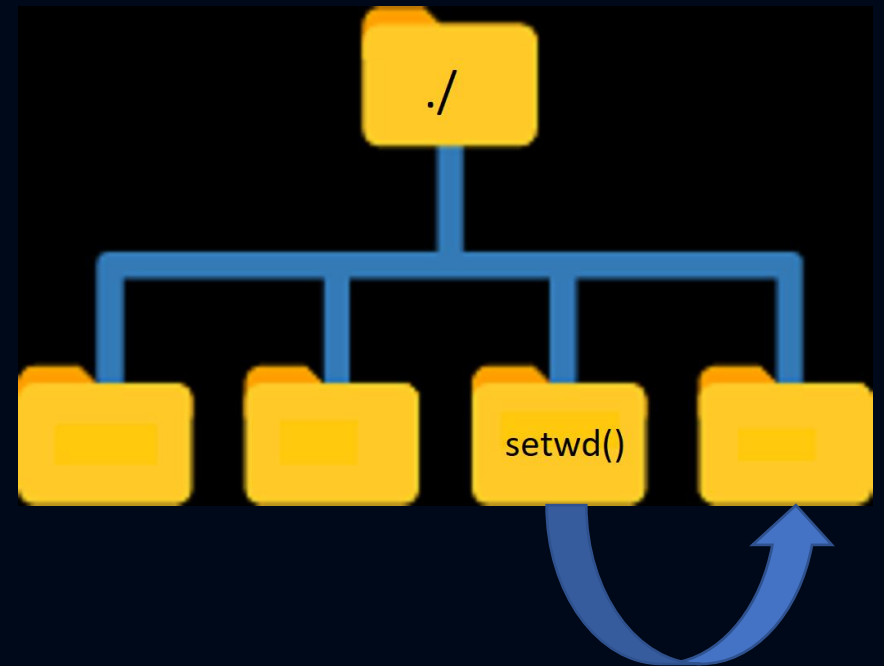
Temporary

```
read.csv("example.csv")
```

```
read.csv("data/example.csv")
```

```
read.csv("./data/example.csv")
```

```
"C:/Users/Kyle/no/path/for/you/./data/example.csv"
```



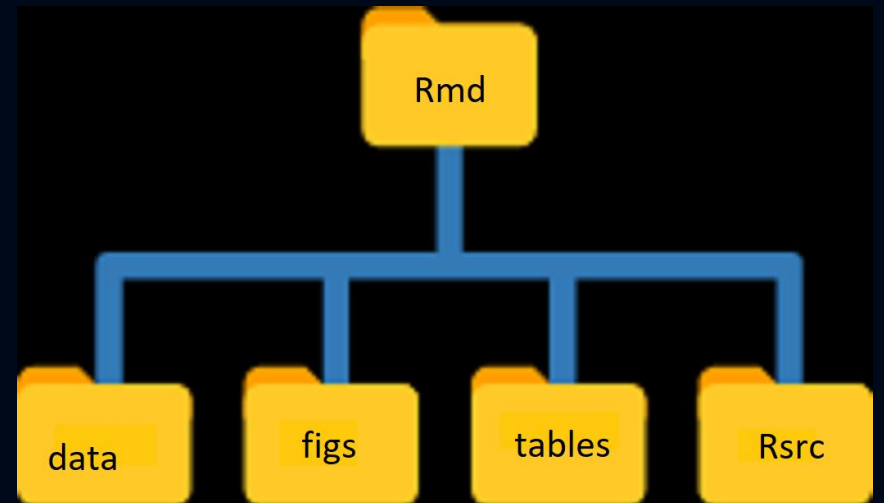
R notebook

Root directory contains .Rmd file

```
read.csv("data/example.csv")
```

```
read.csv("../data/example.csv")
```

```
"C:/Users/Kyle/no/path/for/you/Rmd/data/example.csv"
```



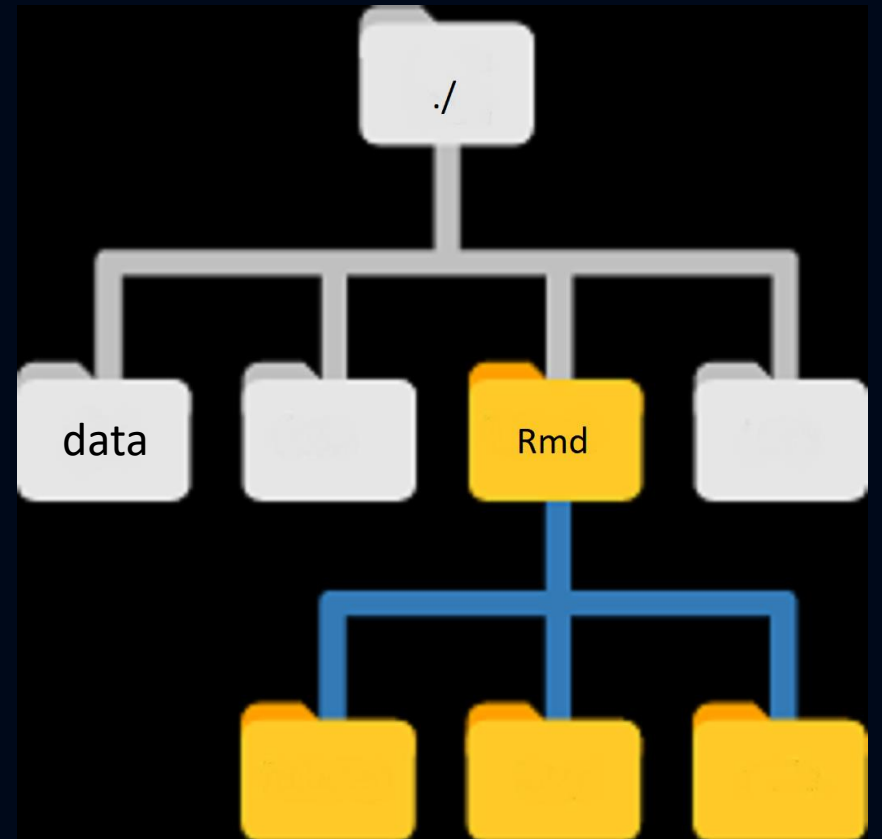
R notebook

Root directory contains .Rmd file

“.” current directory

“..” one directory above

- `read.csv("../data/raw/example.csv")`

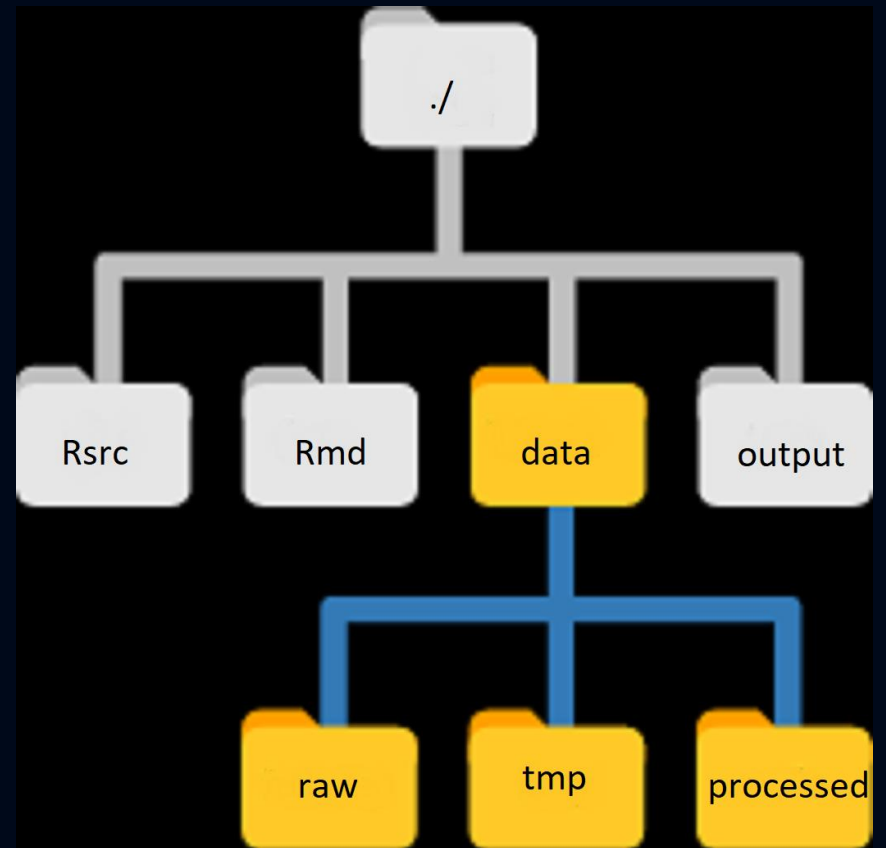


RStudio project

Paths relative to Project directory

Recall Rmd behavior: ./ ../ ../

`install.packages("here")`



Summary

R script

temporary, unstable, relative to working directory

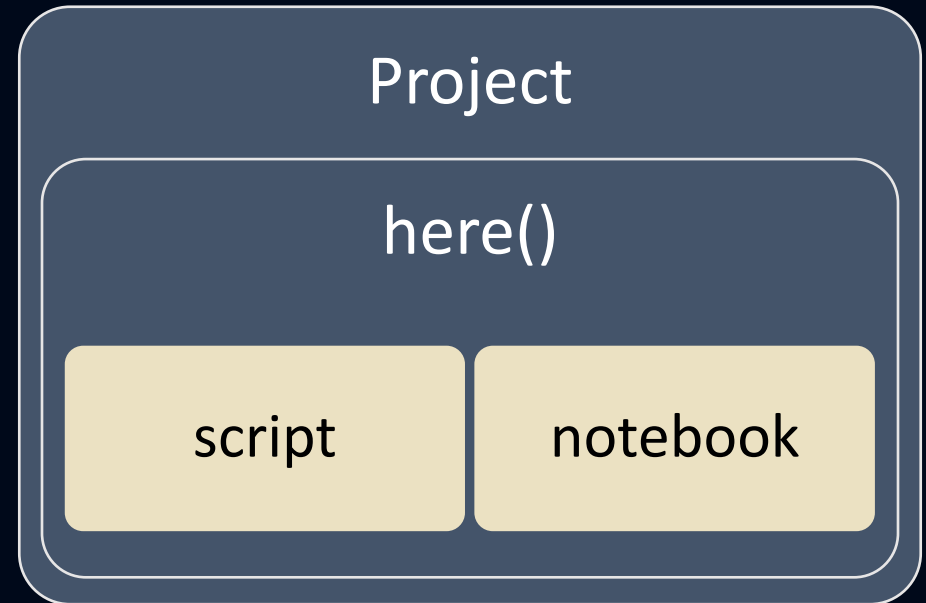
R notebook

reproducible, relative to .Rmd directory

RStudio project

dynamic file path creation, relative to project directory

here package



Resources

https://github.com/jennybc/here_here

<https://www.tidyverse.org/blog/2017/12/workflow-vs-script/>

<https://malco.io/2018/11/05/why-should-i-use-the-here-package-when-i-m-already-using-projects/>