

# R2HTML package

formatting HTML output on the fly  
or by using a template scheme

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We will present the R2HTML package. Basically, this package consists in a set of functions similar to base `print` or `cat` functions. Those functions allow to "export" R objects to a web page, by writing the HTML tags, as flat text. Thus, it is possible to every R user to manage complex HTML reports, without any HTML knowledge.

The package was initially designed for teaching purpose: the user may ask for an interactive output, all commands being automatically redirected to a HTML page. When using this functionality, output are presented by using so called HTML frames, displaying both commands and their corresponding output at the same time. Only graphs have to be explicitly exported by using the command `HTMLplot()`, as there is no way to know when the user want to insert one graph (consider making a graph and adding lines on it). At the end of a training session, the student can take all the output with him - including graphs, exported as PNG or JPEG.

We will also illustrate a way of using the package to create complex reports for statistical analysis, which look can easily be modified. For that, we will use a sample analysis that returns an object (a list with a custom class), create a function that exports this object by exporting it's pieces with the functions provided by the package. Thus, analysis and reporting are separated. Finally, we will demonstrate the power of CSS (Cascading Style Sheets) to also separate formatting instructions.

Latest version of R2HTML package is available to download in CRAN and comes with a vignette explaining it's uses.