**Common ways to execute R:**
There are 3 basic ways to do your work in R, as we have seen develop over time in lab. They are:

- “basic R” using R Console
- R Commander, in either the “UM” version, or the downloaded R Commander from the CRAN site
- R Studio

My favorite way is to use the “basic R”, by just clicking on the blue R icon, having the R Console window come up, and import or create scripts in the script window, generating graphs in the graphics window, and then copying/pasting output from R Console and the graphics to a WORD document, which I submit for my final labs and lab reports. I have grown accustomed to this way, and usually present my labs in this format for students.

Some may prefer to use R Commander, in either the more “use friendly” version Jon Graham and Dave Patterson have created, or the more general version which you can download from a CRAN site. I sometimes use this front end for R, especially when I am investigating common distributions, or want to generate graphs quickly, without typing a lot of code. Commander generates the code automatically for me, after I click on the menu items at the top of the window. We use the “UM” version in summer session, when teaching STAT216. The generic CRAN version is not as useful for the common statistical things, but has more power to do some of the more sophisticated chores which the UM version left out (and which we do in STAT 451-452). If you use the CRAN version you gain power but lose a little user friendliness—if you use the UM version you gain more user friendliness but lose some of the higher order statistical chores. I usually have both version 2.15.0 (which is used with UM R Commander) and version 3.1.2 (or most current version), which has the CRAN R Commander on it. This allows me to have access to both versions of Commander.

In current lab years students have been starting to gravitate to R Studio, which has convenient windows stacked on the screen and stores files automatically in one place. It has some nice, cute, visual features as well as some good execution features I am learning about, and can see how some students would prefer this front end for R. There seems to be a lot of Mac users who like the R Studio environment. I am still learning about R Studio, since it is relatively new to me, but I read in the literature that the R experts say Studio is the most attractive way to do R in today’s world!

As far as I know, one must use either R Commander or R Studio if you are working in the Linux Ubuntu operating system. You can use the Console approach in Ubuntu, but it is really “clutsy” and cumbersome, to be typing away in the Linux console window.

I will accept most lab work submitted in any venue of the ones described above which you choose—so pick your “poison”, according to what you feel most comfortable with.