



Creating R Packages, Using CRAN, R-Forge, And Local R Archive Networks And Subversion (SVN) Repositories

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Motivation

- R is the language of choice for a large and growing proportion of people developing new statistical algorithms
- Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) makes it easy to benefit from others' work and to share your work and get feedback on potential improvements
- Creating R packages
 - Provides a system for creating software with documentation including unit tests, and thereby
 - Increases software quality & development productivity
- Local R Archive Networks can increase your productivity in developing new code and sharing it with coworkers
- R-Forge and local Subversion (SVN) repositories make collaboration on joint software development easy & productive

Outline



■ Installing R and R Packages

- From CRAN
- From a local package
- From alternative repositories
- Getting help

■ Obtaining source code

■ Creating R packages

■ Establishing and Maintaining Local R Archive Networks

■ Using Subversion (SVN)

Installing R And R Packages

- **Installing R from CRAN**
- **Installing R contributed packages from**
 - CRAN
 - local package
 - alternative repositories

Installing R

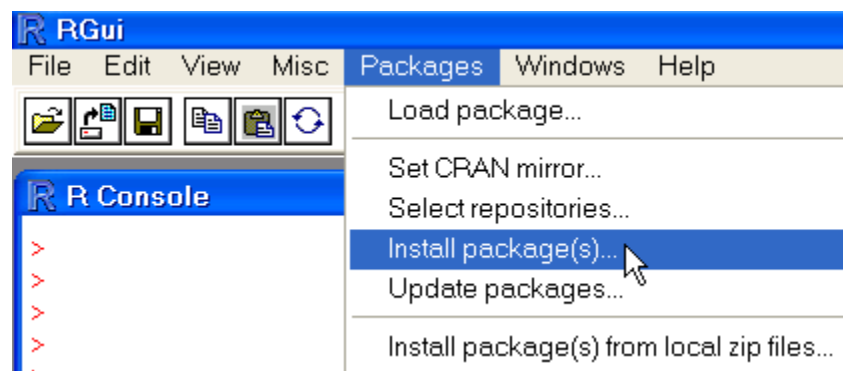
- www.r-project.org
- CRAN
- (select a local repository)
- Download an appropriate precompiled version or package source to suit your operating system
- Configure ...
 - R Installation and Administration manual <http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-admin.pdf>
 - modify default options in “~R/etc/Rprofile.site”:
 - default repositories (including local?)
 - max.print
 - ...

```
options(repos = c(CRAN = "http://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu",  
                  CRANextra = "http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/pub/RWin"),  
        max.print=222)
```

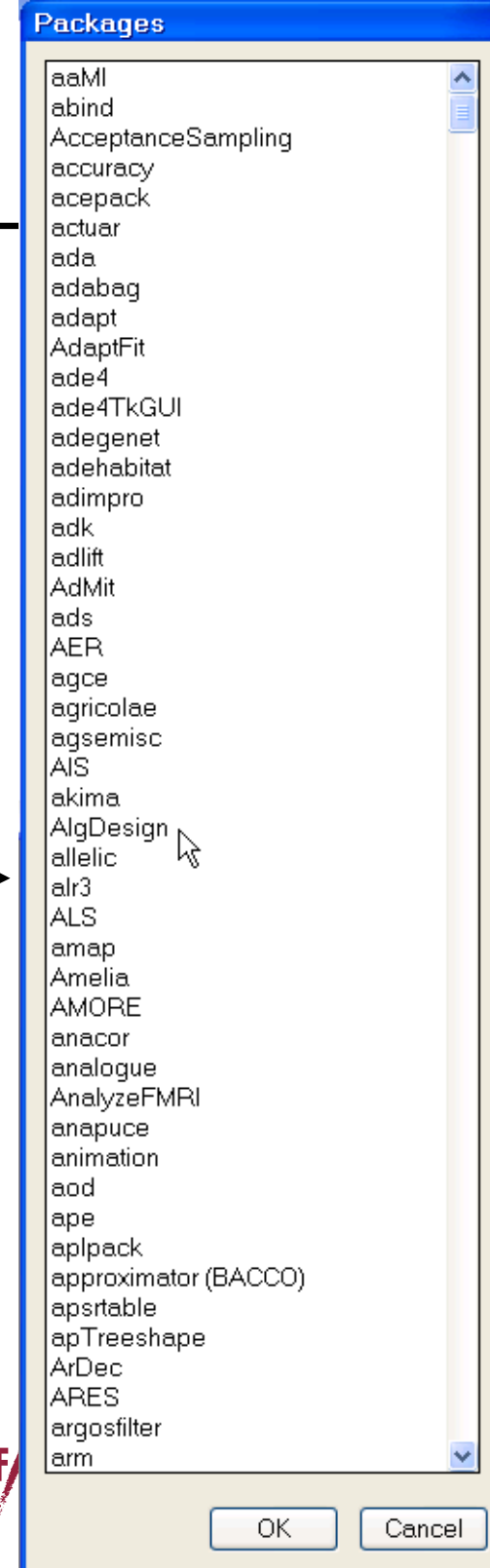
Installing R Packages From CRAN

■ `install.packages('packageName')`

■ OR in Rgui:

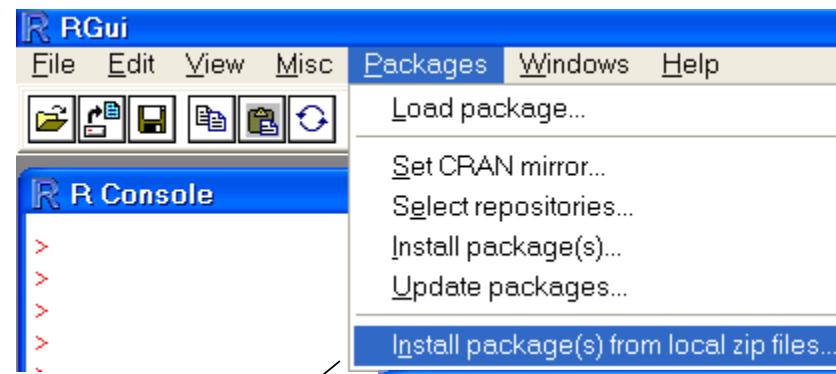


- select a local repository (if needed)
- select package(s) from list

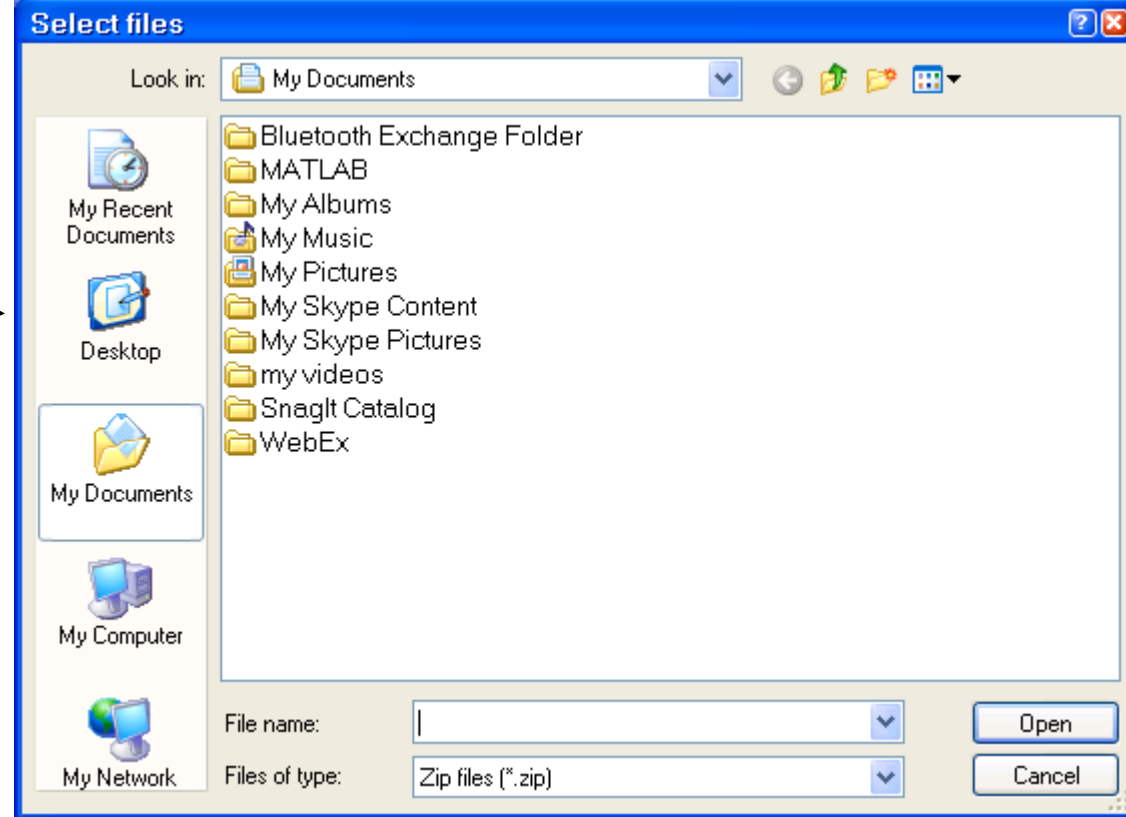


Installing R Packages From Local Zip Files (Windows)

■ in Rgui:



■ find packageName.zip



Or From R Command Prompt (Any OS)

■ Windows binary

- `install.packages("packageName.zip", repos = NULL)`

■ Any OS provided appropriate tools for compiling source are available

- `install.packages("packageName.tar.gz", repos = NULL)`
- Windows requires "Rtools"
 - <http://www.murdoch-sutherland.com/Rtools/>
- Mac requires Xtools
- For most Linux/UNIX systems the required toolsets are available

Getting Help

■ ?functionName

- help pages for packages in the search path

■ Fuzzy search

- “help.search” function
- www.r-project.org → search or ‘RSiteSearch’ function


■ Other R search engines and R Wiki

■ Google

■ r-help listserve

- PLEASE do read the posting guide <http://www.R-project.org/posting-guide.html> and provide commented, ***minimal, self-contained, reproducible code.***
- Reading “r-help”, “r-devel”, “r-sig-____” is like attending a professional meeting a few minutes a day

Outline

- Installing R and R Packages
-  ■ Obtaining source code
- Creating R packages
- Establishing and Maintaining Local R Archive Networks
- Using Subversion (SVN)

Obtaining Source Code For R

- www.r-project.org → CRAN → (select a repository)
- For R:

Source Code for all Platforms

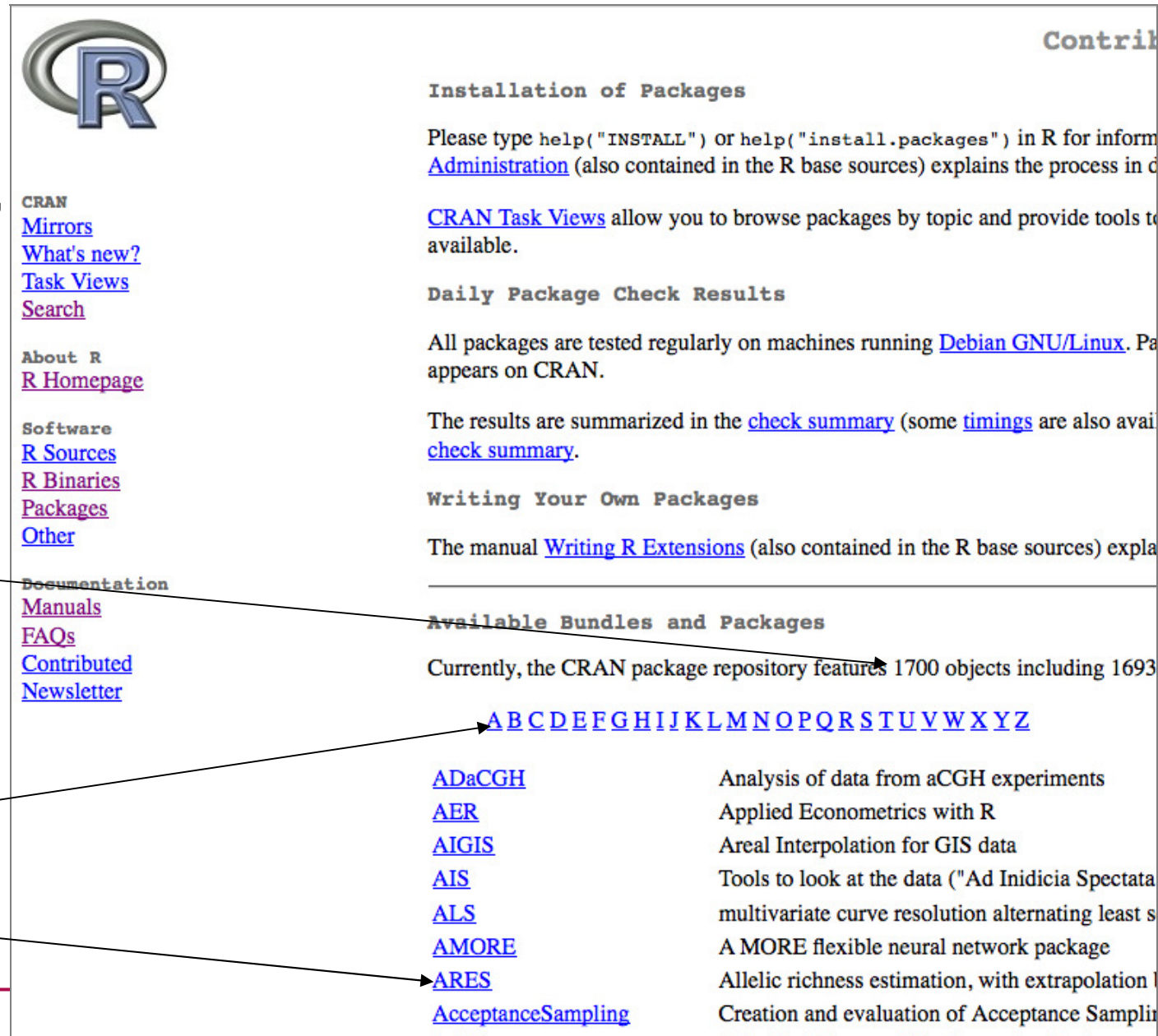
Windows and Mac users most likely want the precompiled binaries listed in the upper box, not the source code. The sources have to be compiled before you can use them. If you do not know what this means, you probably do not want to do it!

- **The latest release** (2008-12-22): [R-2.8.1.tar.gz](#) (read [what's new](#) in the latest version).
- Sources of [R alpha and beta releases](#) (daily snapshots, created only in time periods before a planned release).
- Daily snapshots of current patched and development versions are [available here](#). Please read about [new features and bug fixes](#) before filing corresponding feature requests or bug reports.
- Source code of older versions of R is [available here](#).
- Contributed extension [packages](#)

Obtaining Source Code For A Package

Load CRAN in browser

- Click “Packages” link
- 1700 objects including packages (as of 2009-03-11)
- Find the package of interest by first letter
- click name



The screenshot shows the CRAN website interface. At the top left is the R logo. Below it are several navigation sections: "CRAN" with links for Mirrors, What's new?, Task Views, and Search; "About R" with a link to the R Homepage; "Software" with links for R Sources, R Binaries, Packages, and Other; and "Documentation" with links for Manuals, FAQs, Contributed, and Newsletter. On the right side, there are sections for "Installation of Packages", "Daily Package Check Results", and "Writing Your Own Packages". At the bottom, there is a section titled "Available Bundles and Packages" which states that the CRAN package repository features 1700 objects including 1693 packages. Below this, there is a list of packages grouped by their first letter, with "A" packages listed: ADaCGH, AER, AIGIS, AIS, ALS, AMORE, and ARES. Each package name is a blue hyperlink. To the right of each package name is a brief description of the package's functionality.

Contrib

Installation of Packages

Please type `help("INSTALL")` or `help("install.packages")` in R for information. [Administration](#) (also contained in the R base sources) explains the process in detail.

[CRAN Task Views](#) allow you to browse packages by topic and provide tools to help you find what is available.

Daily Package Check Results

All packages are tested regularly on machines running [Debian GNU/Linux](#). Packages that fail the test appear on CRAN.

The results are summarized in the [check summary](#) (some [timings](#) are also available in the [check summary](#)).

Writing Your Own Packages

The manual [Writing R Extensions](#) (also contained in the R base sources) explains how to write R packages.

Available Bundles and Packages

Currently, the CRAN package repository features 1700 objects including 1693 packages.

[A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[ADaCGH](#) Analysis of data from aCGH experiments

[AER](#) Applied Econometrics with R

[AIGIS](#) Areal Interpolation for GIS data

[AIS](#) Tools to look at the data ("Ad Inidicia Spectata")

[ALS](#) multivariate curve resolution alternating least squares

[AMORE](#) A MORE flexible neural network package

[ARES](#) Allelic richness estimation, with extrapolation

[AcceptanceSampling](#) Creation and evaluation of Acceptance Sampling Plans

“lme4” Package

lme4: Linear mixed-effects models using Eigen and Eigen

Fit linear and generalized linear mixed-effects models.

Version: 0.999375-28
Depends: methods, R(≥ 2.7.0), Matrix(≥ 0.999375-11), [lattice](#)
Imports: graphics, stats
Suggests: [mlmRev](#), [MEMSS](#)
Date: 2008-12-13
Author: Douglas Bates, Martin Maechler and Bin Dai
Maintainer: Douglas Bates <bates at stat.wisc.edu>
License: GPL (≥2)
URL: <http://lme4.r-forge.r-project.org/>
In views: [Bayesian](#), [Econometrics](#), [Environmetrics](#), [Psychometrics](#)
CRAN checks: [lme4 results](#)

Downloads:

Package source: [lme4_0.999375-28.tar.gz](#)
MacOS X binary: [lme4_0.999375-28.tgz](#)
Windows binary: [lme4_0.999375-28.zip](#)
Reference manual: [lme4.pdf](#)
Vignettes: [Implementation Details](#)
[PLS vs GLS for LMMs](#)
[Computational Methods](#)
News/ChangeLog: [NEWS ChangeLog](#)
Old sources: [lme4 archive](#)

Package pages contain links to:

- Package dependencies
- Package source
- Package binaries
- Reference manual
- Archives for old source tarballs
- Maintainer contact info
- And, if applicable,
 - Project URL
 - Task Views
 - Vignettes

Using An Installed Package

- **help(package = fortunes) or library(help = fortunes)**
 - to get an overview of package capabilities
- **library(fortunes)**
 - to attach it as the second in the search path
- **?fortune**
 - to get 'help' on the function 'fortune'

> **fortune('RTFM')**

This is all documented in TFM. Those who WTFM don't want to have to WTFM again on the mailing list. RTFM.

**-- Barry Rowlingson
R-help (October 2003)**

“DierckxSpline” Package

This package provides a wrapper to the FITPACK

■ Click

- Download to your hard drive
- Unzip

Version: 1.0-9
Depends: R (\geq 2.4.0), stats, [lattice](#)
Suggests: [fda](#), splines
Date: 2007-7-31
Author: Sundar Dorai-Raj
Maintainer: Sundar Dorai-Raj <sundar.dora
License: GPL (\geq 2)
CRAN checks: [DierckxSpline results](#)

Downloads:

Package source: [DierckxSpline 1.0-9.tar.gz](#)
MacOS X binary: [DierckxSpline 1.0-9.tgz](#)
Windows binary: [DierckxSpline 1.0-9.zip](#)
Reference manual: [DierckxSpline.pdf](#)
Old sources: [DierckxSpline archive](#)

“DierckxSpline” Package Contents



- data sets
- files not checked by ‘R CMD check’
- Help files
- R function definition files
- source code in Fortran, C, C++, ...
- Package description
- Names to be exported
- Not all packages have all of these
- Some packages have others

- Ultimate documentation = source code
- “**debug**” function: walk through R code line by line until we understand what it does; “**browser**” for check points

Outline

■ Installing R and R Packages

■ Obtaining source code

■ Creating R packages

- Why?
- How to create?
- How to check?
- How to share?

■ Establishing and Maintaining Local R Archive Networks

■ Using Subversion (SVN)

Why Create R Packages

■ Productivity

- Tripled my software development productivity overnight
- Help file with examples first; code to these examples
- “R CMD check” finds when new changes break previous tests
- Version control

■ Quality:

- Examples = unit testing
 - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unit_test
 - Chambers’ “Prime Directive”: Trustworthy software
 - (2008) *Software for Data Analysis* (Springer)
- as well as documentation

■ Easy to share results

■ Easy to understand what I did a couple of years ago

How to Create an R Package

- Copy existing package(s)
- “package.skeleton” function
- “Writing R Extensions” manual

- <http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-exts.pdf>

- Other references:

- Rossi, Peter (2006) Making R Packages under Windows

<http://faculty.chicagogsb.edu/peter.rossi/research/bayes%20book/bayesm/Making%20R%20Packages%20Under%20W>, accessed 2008.11.02

- Leisch, Friedrich (2008) Creating R Packages: A Tutorial

<http://epub.ub.uni-muenchen.de/6175/>

- R-devel listserve (r-devel@stat.math.ethz.ch)

Rolf Turner: In the middle of a Saturday morning (in my Time Zone!) I send out a plea for help, and in just over 20 minutes my problem is solved! I don't think you get service like that anywhere else. This R-help list is BLOODY AMAZING!

Spencer Graves: 'The sun never sets on the (former) British Empire.' Today, it never sets on R-Help.

-- Rolf Turner and Spencer Graves
R-help (May 2005)

Package Directory Structure

■ packageName

- **DESCRIPTION** – describes the package contents
- **man** – Rd help files
- **R** – R code files

Required

- **NAMESPACE** – defines the package name space
- **data** – contains files with data (txt, csv, rda)
- **inst** – contents are copied to installed package
- **src** – C, Fortran code to compile with the package
- **tests** – R code for testing package functions

Optional

Building Packages On Windows

■ Requires Rtools

- Contains all compilers and Unix tools
- <http://www.murdoch-sutherland.com/Rtools>

■ LaTeX: <http://www.miktex.org>

■ For additional help, see:

- Google
- r-devel mailing list
- FAQ: <http://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu/bin/windows/base/rw-FAQ.html>
- <http://faculty.chicagogsb.edu/peter.rossi/research/bayes%20book/k>, accessed 2008.11.02

Building Packages On Mac

- **Mac tools are usually not loaded “out-of-the-box”**
 - Required tools maybe downloaded or installed from the OSX installation CDs
 - <http://developer.apple.com/tools/xcode/>
- **Latex:** <http://www.tug.org/mactex/>
- **Building packages on PPC and Intel Macs slightly different**
 - See the FAQ 5.4 on link below
- **Help**
 - <http://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu/bin/macosx/RMacOSX-F/>
 - R-SIG-Mac mailing list

Typical Package Check And Install Sequence

■ R CMD build packageName

- (or “R CMD build pkg” with an R-Forge package)
- Windows: in a “Command Prompt” window with ‘packageName’ in the local directory
- Creates “packageName_x.y-z.tar.gz”

current package
version number

■ R CMD check packageName_x.y-z.tar.gz

■ R CMD install packageName_x.y-z.tar.gz

- Installs it in your local installation of R

■ R CMD install --build packageName_x.y-z.tar.gz

- Creates “packageName_x.y-z.zip”, which can be used to install “packageName” on other Windows computers

All “R CMD” commands are executed in a Windows CMD terminal (or analogous terminal for other OSes)

Cryptic Error Message?

- **`invisible(lapply(list.files("~/packagepath/R", full = TRUE, pattern="\\.R$"), source))`**
 - This call individually sources every R file in a directory
 - Identifies particular functions and lines with syntax errors
- **Google**
- **RSiteSearch**
 - www.r-project.org → Search
 - Function in R (i.e. `RSiteSearch(restrict = "functions")`)
 - R-devel mailing list
- **Undo recent changes and try again from the last working version**

Submitting A Package To CRAN

■ www.r-project.org -> CRAN -> (select a local mirror)

Submitting to CRAN

To "submit" to CRAN, simply upload to <ftp://cran.r-project.org/incoming> and send email to cran@r-project.org. Please indicate the copyright situation (GPL, ...) in your submission. Note

■ Build `packageName_x.y-z` with the current version of R


■ Upload to <ftp://cran.r-project.org/incoming>

- `packageName_x.y-z.tar.gz`
- (With firewall problems, can you use a different computer?)

■ Email "cran@r-project.org"

- subj: `packageName_x.y-z.tar.gz` now on CRAN
- text: "uploaded to CRAN\incoming. GPL (≥ 2)"

Outline

- Installing R and R Packages
- Obtaining source code
- Creating R packages
-  ■ Establishing and Maintaining Local R Archive Networks
- Using Subversion (SVN)

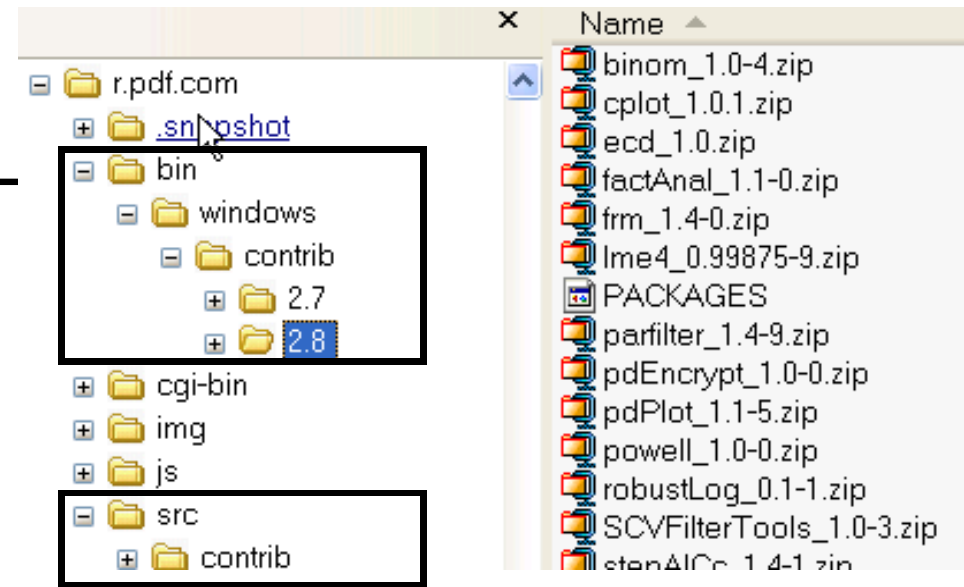
Local R Archive Networks

■ Why:

- Share work with others that you may not want to share with the world

■ How:

- Requires access to a web server
- Then setting up a very specific directory structure to hold both source and binary packages
- bin directory contains compiled packages for Windows (*.zip) or Mac (*.tgz)
 - Must contain a subdirectory for every supported version of R
- src directory contains package source (*.tar.gz)



Repository Directory Structure

■ /www (directory that is visible from web)

- bin

- windows

- contrib

- 2.7 →

package1_x.y-z.zip
package2_x.y-z.zip
PACKAGES

- 2.8 →

- macosx

- contrib

- 2.7 →

package1_x.y-z.tgz
package2_x.y-z.tgz
PACKAGES

- 2.8 →

- src

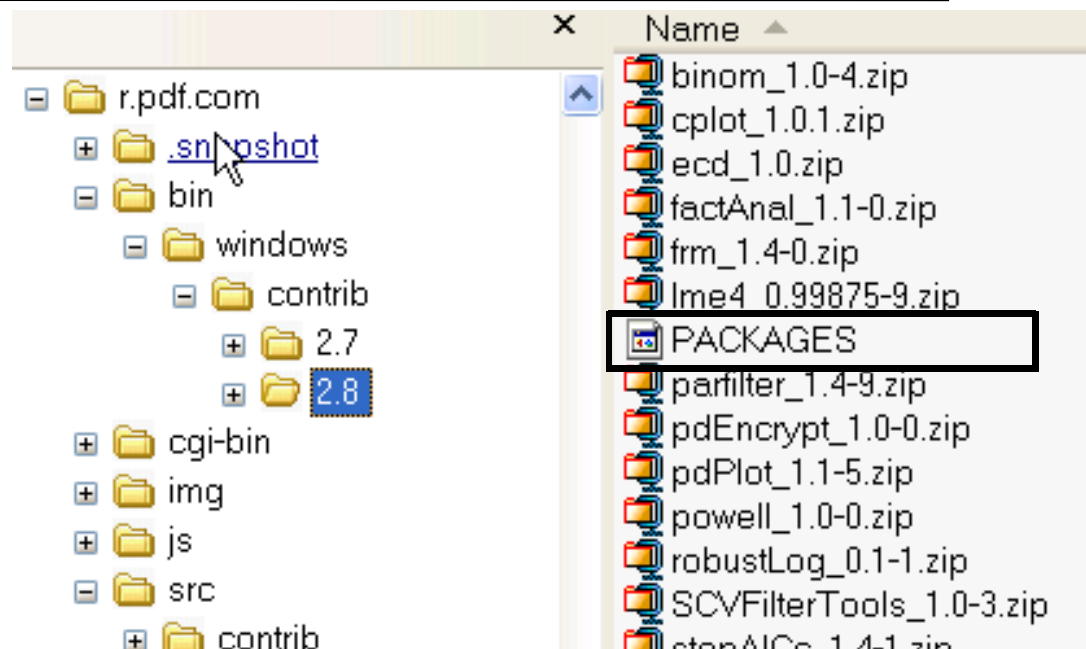
- contrib →

package1_x.y-z.tar.gz
package2_x.y-z.tar.gz
PACKAGES

Accessing The Repository Via install.packages

■ The PACKAGES file identifies which version to install

- Contents of PACKAGES equal DESCRIPTION file from each package



■ Installing a package

- `install.packages("packageName", repos = "http://my.Rrepos.com")`
- Or add to `Rprofile.site` (in `$RHOME/etc`)

```
options(repos = c(CRAN = "http://cran.cnr.berkeley.edu",  
myCRAN = "http://my.Rrepos.com",  
CRANextra = "http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/pub/RWin"),  
max.print=222)
```

Outline

- Installing R and R Packages
- Obtaining source code
- Creating R packages
- Establishing and Maintaining Local R Archive Networks
- ■ Using Subversion (SVN)
 - Why?
 - Installing and Using Subversion
 - R-Forge
 - a local Subversion (SVN) repository
 - How to use
 - How to establish and maintain

Why Use A Subversion Repository?

- **Easy to collaborate on package development**
- **Help learn R**
 - Find an R package that interests you
 - Make suggestions to the package maintainer
 - A maintainer may ask if you'd like do make those changes in their subversion repository
- **Audit trail on all changes**
 - Relatively easy to identify and reverse changes selectively
- **Creating an SVN repository (e.g. R-Forge) typically requires help from Information Technology**

Installing and Using Subversion (SVN) Client

■ **SVN** – <http://subversion.tigris.org>

■ **Windows client** – **TortoiseSVN**

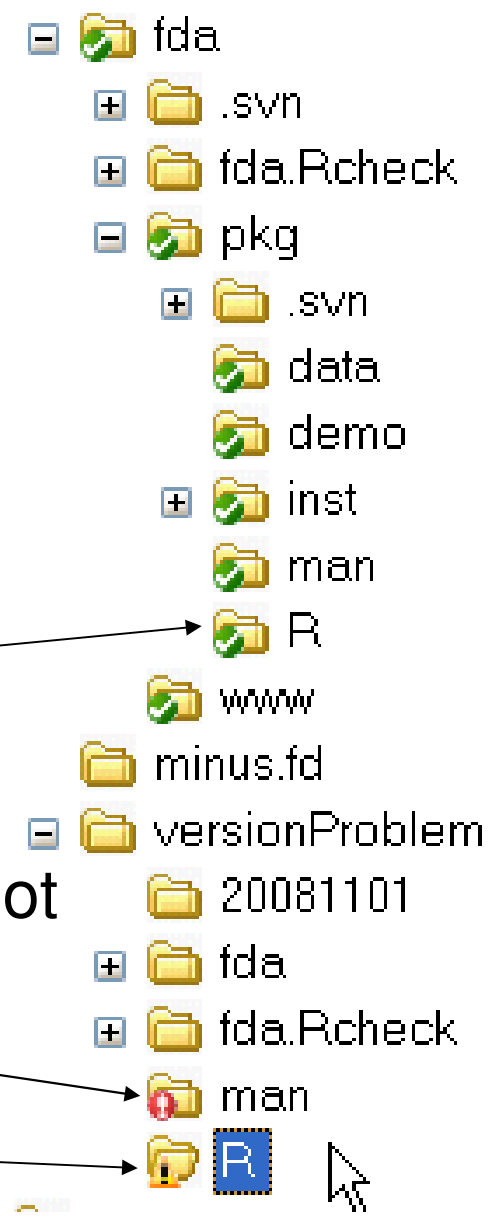
<http://tortoisesvn.tigris.org>

■ **Mac client** – **Finder plugin**

<http://scplugin.tigris.org>

■ Symbols

- Green check: No local changes since “Commit”
- Red exclamation point: local change not in the repository
- Yellow exclamation point: an “SVN Update” conflicted with local changes



SVN Checkout, Update, Commit

■ SVN Checkout

- Creates a local copy of a package on an SVN repository

■ SVN Update

- Updates local copies to newer versions on the repository
- Identifies conflicts between recent changes made locally and elsewhere

■ SVN Commit

- Uploads recent changes from the local copy to the repository

Two Subversion Repositories For R: RForge & R-Forge

■ **RForge:** www.rforge.net

- 37 projects as of 2009-03-11

■ **R-Forge:** r-forge.r-project.org

- 340 projects as of 2009-03-11
- including DierckxSpline, FinTS, maxLik, fda, Rmetrics, ...

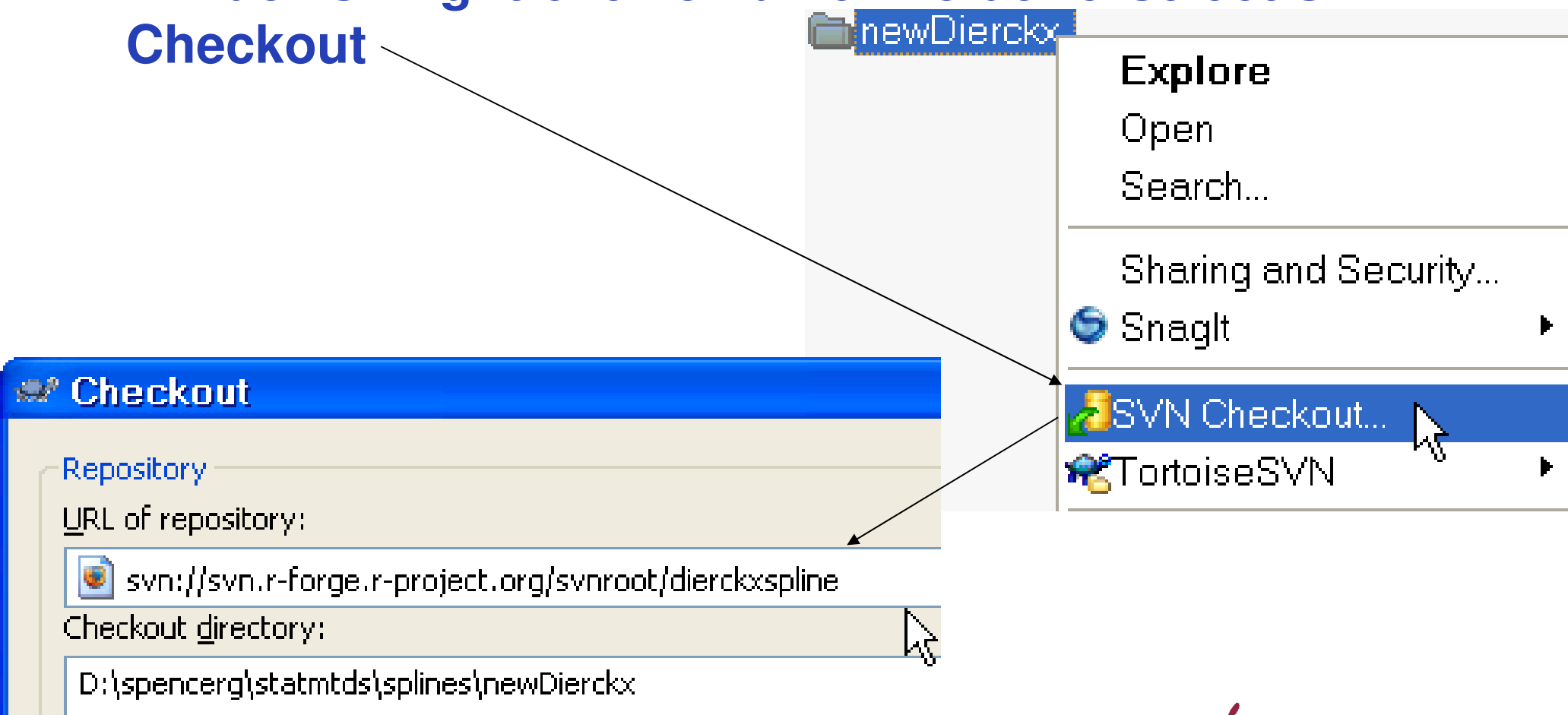
■ **Both are free**

■ **Installation of Packages in R: If an R-Forge package passed the quality check it can be installed directly via:**

- `install.packages("DierckxSpline", repos="http://r-forge.r-project.org")`

Anonymous Subversion Access From R-Forge

- `svn checkout svn://svn.r-forge.r-project.org/svnroot/dierckxspline`
- Windows: right-click on a new folder & select SVN Checkout



Developer Subversion Access Via SSH

- Only project developers can access the SVN tree via this method. SSH must be installed on your client machine. Substitute *developername* with the proper values. Enter your site password when prompted.
- `svn checkout svn+ssh://developername@svn.r-forge.r-project.org/svnroot/dierckxspline`

A Local Subversion Repository

■ Why?

- Facilitate collaboration on software development

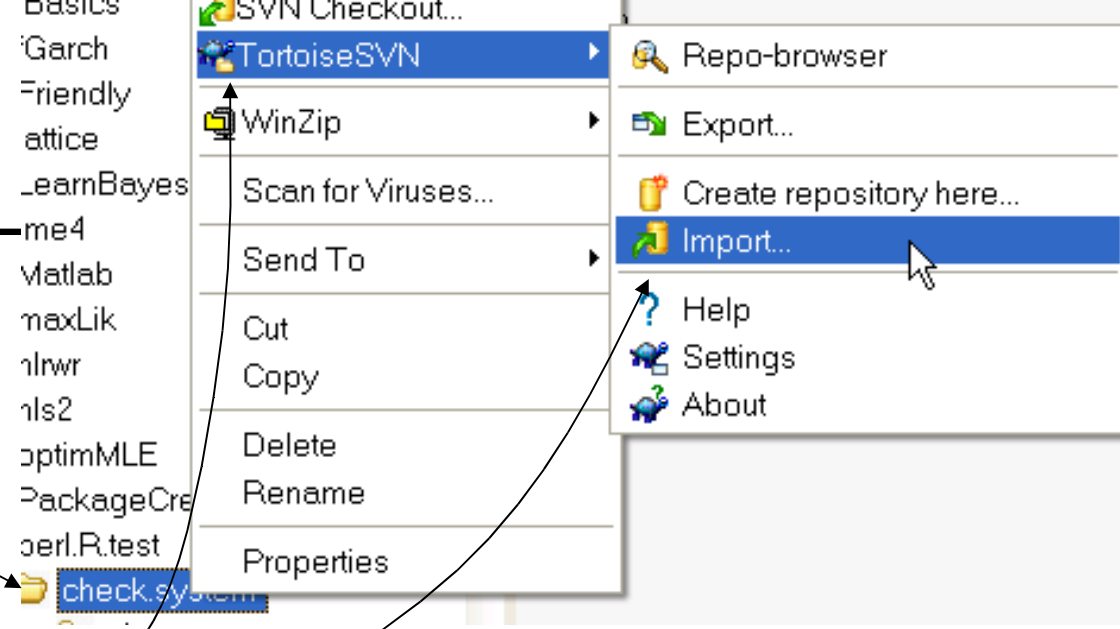
■ How?

- Different people typically work on different functions
- “SVN Update” downloads recent changes made by others
- “R CMD check” makes sure everything passes the programmed unit tests
- “SVN Commit” uploads recent local changes

How To Establish/Maintain An SVN Repository

- **Creating a repository server typically requires help from your local IT department**
 - We won't discuss that here.
- **Once established, TortoiseSVN can be used to create projects.**
- **To add a new project to the repository:**
 - “Import” to the repository
 - “Checkout” an official local copy
 - which contains the bookkeeping SVN requires that is NOT included in your “Import”

“Import” To The Repository



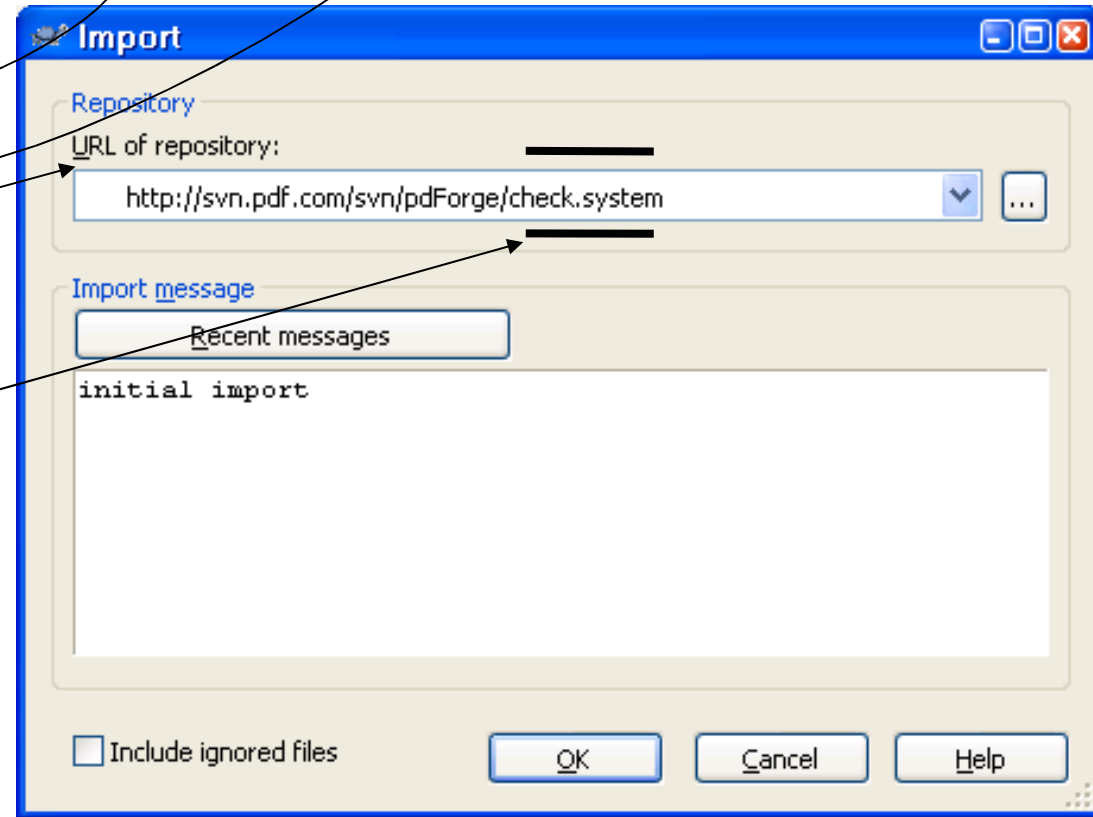
Click on the folder containing the package (DESCRIPTION, MAN, R, ...)

Tortoise SVN

Import

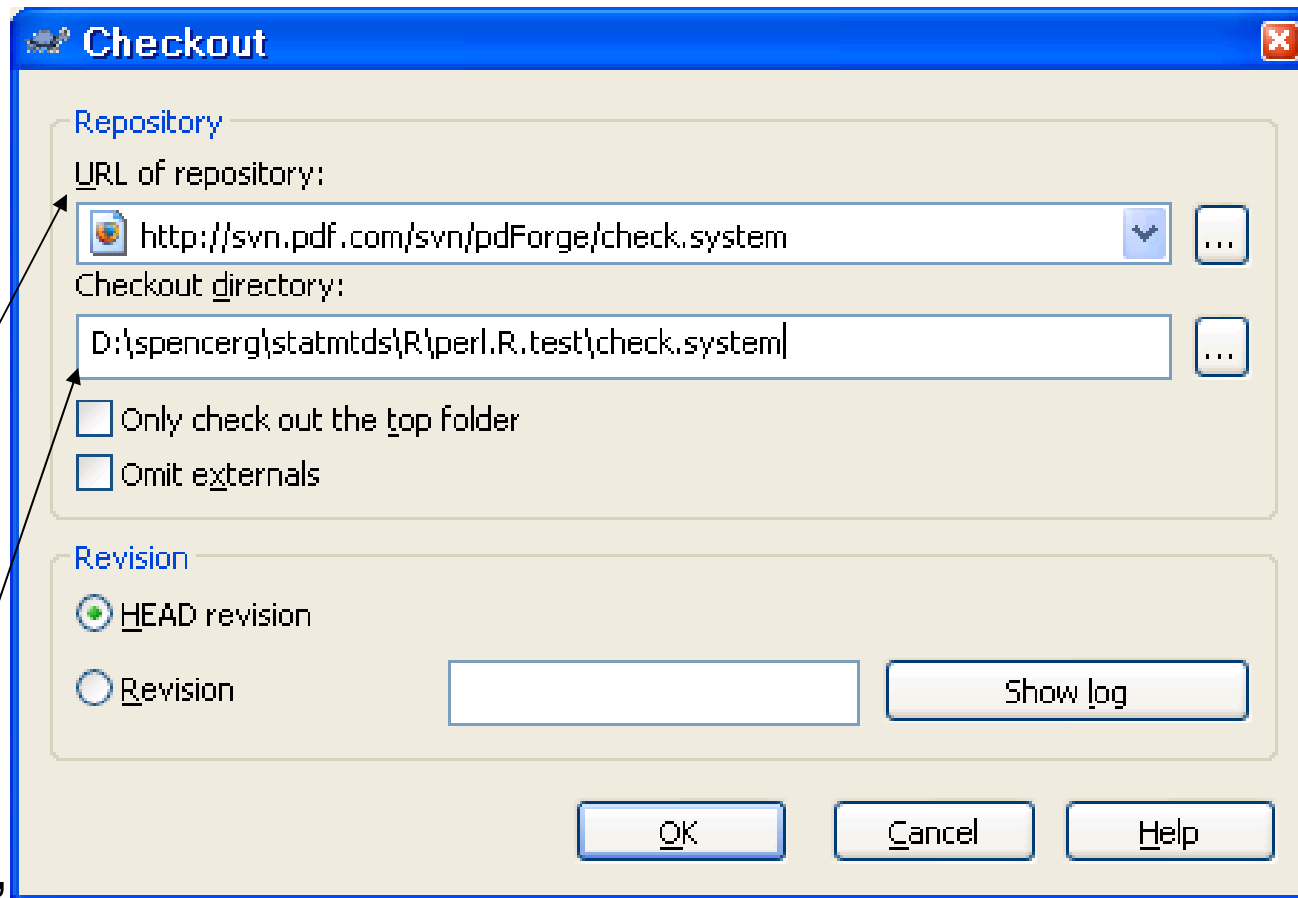
Enter “URL of repository”

- with the name of your package



“Checkout”

- Your original does NOT contain the bookkeeping information required by SVN
- Therefore, you need to “Checkout” an official copy properly configured for SVN
- To do that
 - Create a new folder to contain this version
 - Right-click: TortoiseSVN
 - Checkout
 - Enter “URL of Repository” and “Checkout Directory”



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- **Installing R and R Packages**
- **Obtaining source code**
- **Creating R packages**
- **Establishing and Maintaining Local R Archive Networks**
- **Using Subversion (SVN)**

Annotated Bibliography

■ Writing R Extensions

- <http://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-exts.pdf>
- THE official reference manual for R package development
- BUT: It IS a reference manual, NOT a tutorial

■ Rossi, Peter (2006) Making R Packages under Windows: A Tutorial

- <http://faculty.chicagogsb.edu/peter.rossi/research/ba>, accessed 2008.11.02
- *Excellent overview*

Annotated Bibliography – 2

- **Falcon, Seth (2006) Modeling package dependencies using graphs. *R News*, 6(5):8-12, December 2006.**
 - “pkgDepTools” package for viewing dependencies between packages
- **Gilbert, Paul, R (2004) package maintenance. *R News*, 4(2):21-24, September 2004.**
 - Reviews the “Make” capabilities described more fully in “Writing R Extensions”
- **Ligges, Uwe (2003) R help desk: Package management. *R News*, 3(3):37-39, December 2003.**
 - Managing packages in multiple ‘libraries’

Annotated Bibliography – 3

- **Leisch, Friedrich (2008): Creating R Packages: A Tutorial.** In: Brito, Paula (ed.) , *Compstat 2008 - Proceedings in Computational Statistics*. Physica Verlag: Heidelberg, Germany.
 - <http://epub.ub.uni-muenchen.de/6175/>
- **Ripley, Brian D. (2005) Packages and their management in R 2.1.0.** *R News*, 5(1):8-11, May 2005.
 - Updates Ligges (2003) to R 2.1.0

Annotated Bibliography – 4

- **Rougier, Jonathan (2005) Literate programming for creating and maintaining packages. *R News*, 5(1):35-39, May 2005.**
 - “The basic idea of *literate programming* is ... to keep the code and the documentatation ... together, in one file” using the “noweb” literate programming tool.