

“Using Pandoc’s markdown with R”

Brief description:

Markdown is getting more and more popular among R users, especially in literate programming and report generation. This tutorial will start with a quick introduction on these topics (like knitr) for the novice users, then will concentrate on my pander package, which provides an easy way to turn R objects to markdown.

Tutorial goals:

Promote literate programming and reproducible reports.
Demonstrate the power of pandoc and the ease of markdown.
Provide practical use-cases of generating markdown tables in R.

Outline:

Basics of markdown
A quick intro to knitr
pander helpers: creating markdown lists and tables
General S3 method: turning R object to markdown
Global options for the transformation
Exporting documents in various file formats
Custom style-sheets
Loops and conditionals in reports

Importance:

Literate programming was always a really nice, useful and popular feature of R, since the born of Sweave, but this demand increased only in the near past due to the availability of markdown - that is a lot more convenient to handle for most users compared to LaTeX. The more than 3 years old pander package provides an easy way to create publication-ready documents with pandoc – in various document formats.

Background knowledge required:

Nice to have some experience with R, markdown and maybe knitr, but the tutorial would be also clear to basic useRs without any prior literate programming experience.

Potential attendees:

Anyone, who tends to write reports with R.