

2.11: Using R Libraries

Many of the useful features in R are not contained in the primary R package, but instead come from *libraries* that have been developed by various members of the R community. For example, the `ggplot2` package provides a number of features for visualizing data, as we will see in a later chapter. Before we can use a package, we need to install it on our system, using the `install.packages()` function:

```
> install.packages("ggplot2")
trying URL 'https://cran.rstudio.com/...'
Content type 'application/x-gzip' length 3961383 bytes (3.8 MB)
=====
downloaded 3.8 MB
```

```
The downloaded binary packages are in
/var/folders/.../downloaded_packages
```

This will automatically download the package from the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN) and install it on your system. Once it's installed, you can then load the library using the `library()` function:

```
> library(ggplot2)
```

After loading the function, you can now access all of its features. If you want to learn more about its features, you can find them using the help function:

```
> help(ggplot2)
```

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