

makesweave 0.2.0: Literate Programming with Make and Sweave

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1 Introduction

This vignette introduces the **makesweave** package, a (Linux-based) R package for using Make with Sweave efficiently.

The main technical goal is to start R once, then use the same R process for each use of Sweave. This is trivial when using R as a command line interface (with a user typing in commands), however is potentially very difficult, if we wish to use Make to build Sweave documents.

The approach taken here, is that we (after opening a shell), create a background process, which in turn, creates a child R process. Then, in the Makefile, instead of calling R CMD Sweave, we call a utility application (also called **makesweave**), which communicates with the background process, via a pipe, which in turn, communicates with R.

This can be improved further by using a Make variable, that defaults to “R CMD Sweave”, however can be replaced by “**makesweave**”. This allows use of our Makefile on systems, that do not have the **makesweave** package installed.

Note that this vignette was produced using the **makesweave** package. The Makefile and the main vignette source file (**makesweavevignette.rnw**) can be found in the `inst/doc` directory, plus the Makefile’s contents are reproduced in Appendix A.

Appendix B contains some trivial R examples, just to prove that it works...

2 Installation

This approach, is slightly cumbersome, and will hopefully be simplified in a later version (excuse, the author is not familiar with writing R packages that contain C code...).

Firstly, install the R package in the regular way.

Note that at present, regular installation does not install the executable file. So secondly, unzip the package source file. Navigate to the `src` directory (the directory containing the file `makesweave.c`). Then as root, run: `make install`.

An alternative approach, is just to run `make`, then put the executable file that's created, in an appropriate place.

3 Using Make with Sweave

- Firstly, create a Makefile (similar to the one used here, editing the `rnw`, `tex` and `pdf` targets), along with any Sweave source files.
- Secondly, open a terminal/shell, in the directory with both the Makefile and the Sweave source files.
- Thirdly, run the `init` target (in the shell): `make init`
(Note that if we close the shell, we must re-run the initialisation target).
- Fourthly, to build documents in the standard way, use: `make`
Or, to build documents, in the enhanced way, use: `make enhanced`

4 Issues

- It is possible for problems to occur with the pipe. In which case, open a new shell, then re-run the `init` target.
- Sweave will create a `.tex` file, even if there's a problem with the Sweave source file. As of `makesweave 0.2.0`, Make will stop, if Sweave encounters an error. However, we then need to either make the `clean` target (or remove the corrupt `.tex` file some other way), or preferably, fix the Sweave source file. If we do neither, Make will assume we have a valid and up to date `.tex` file. Hence re-running Make, will cause Make to try and build the `.pdf` file from a corrupt `.tex` file).

Appendix A: Makefile

```
bldcmd=R CMD Sweave
```

```
default:
```

```
make makesweavevignette.pdf
```

```
make clean
```

```
enhanced:
```

```
make draft bldcmd=makesweave
```

```
draft:
```

```
make makesweavevignette.pdf
```

```
makesweavevignette.pdf: makesweavevignette.tex trivial1.tex trivial2.tex  
pdflatex makesweavevignette.tex
```

```
makesweavevignette.tex: makesweavevignette.rnw
```

```
$(bldcmd) makesweavevignette.rnw
```

```
trivial1.tex: ext/trivial1.rnw
```

```
$(bldcmd) ext/trivial1.rnw
```

```
trivial2.tex: ext/trivial2.rnw
```

```
$(bldcmd) ext/trivial2.rnw
```

```
init:
```

```
rm -f /tmp/makesweavepipe
```

```
mkfifo /tmp/makesweavepipe
```

```
echo -e "0\n" > /tmp/makesweavestatus
```

```
makesweave -i &
```

```
clean:
```

```
rm *.tex
```

```
rm *.aux
```

```
rm *.log
```

Appendix B: Proof of The Pudding

Trivial example 1:
(R source in trivial1.rnw).

```
> x = 1:10
> y = x^2
> data.frame(x, y)
```

	x	y
1	1	1
2	2	4
3	3	9
4	4	16
5	5	25
6	6	36
7	7	49
8	8	64
9	9	81
10	10	100

Trivial example 2:
(R source in trivial2.rnw).

```
> suit = c("Hrt", "Dmd", "Spd", "Clb")
> value = c("A", 2:10, "J", "Q", "K")
> cards = outer(suit, value, paste, sep = ".")
> sample(cards, 5)
```

```
[1] "Clb.K" "Hrt.2" "Clb.7" "Hrt.7" "Clb.6"
```