

How to Send an Email with R*

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1 The Challenge

Sometimes you want R to send you an email. Perhaps you're running a long computing job, and you want to go to lunch, and be alerted when the job is complete.

2 A Solution

First, source the code at <http://ryantmoore.com/code/sendEmail.R>. If you are connected to the Internet, you can do this using the command

```
> source("http://ryantmoore.com/code/sendEmail.R")
```

For Unix-based systems such as Mac OS X or most servers, this function provides an easy interface for sending email using R. To send an email to yourself with subject header “`subjectText`”, and body “`Body text.`”, simply call

```
> sendEmail(subject = "subjectText", text = "Body text.",
   address = "youremailaddress@youremail.edu")
```

This function can also use a file, such as an output summary, as the body text. To do so, simply provide the name of the file, including the path, to the `text` argument and add `file = TRUE`:

```
> sendEmail(subject = "subjectText", text = "~/Desktop/myresults.txt",
   address = "youremailaddress@youremail.edu", file = TRUE)
```

(If you fail to add `file = TRUE`, then the body of the message will just say “`~/Desktop/myresults.txt`”, which is consistent with the first example.)

A caveat:

- “`subjectText`” must not have any spaces. So, if you want a multiple-word subject header, you must compress it. For example, instead of using “Hello, there!” as a subject, you must use something like “HelloThere!”. The body text may include spaces.

Hope this helps!

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