

How can I clear all plots in RStudio?

Authored by
stats writer

June 28, 2024

RECOMMENDED CITATION

stats writer (2024). *How can I clear all plots in RStudio?*. PSYCHOLOGICAL SCALES.
Retrieved from <https://scales.arabpsychology.com/?p=156651>

Clearing all plots in RStudio is a simple process that can be completed in a few easy steps. First, click on the "Plots" tab located in the top right corner of the RStudio window. Next, click on the "Clear All" button located in the Plots tab. This will remove all existing plots from the current session. Alternatively, you can use the shortcut key "Ctrl + Shift + F10" to achieve the same result. This feature is useful when working with multiple plots and wanting to start with a clean slate. By following these steps, you can easily clear all plots in RStudio and continue your analysis with a fresh canvas.

Clear All Plots in RStudio (With Example)

You can use the following basic syntax to clear all plots in RStudio:

```
dev.off(dev.list())
```

The following examples show how to use this syntax in practice.

Example 1: Clear All Plots in RStudio

Suppose we use the following code to create three different scatterplots in RStudio:

```
#create some vectors
```

```
x <- c(1, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 19)
```

```
y <- c(3, 5, 5, 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 13, 14)
```

```
z <- c(14, 14, 13, 10, 6, 9, 5, 4, 3, 5)
```

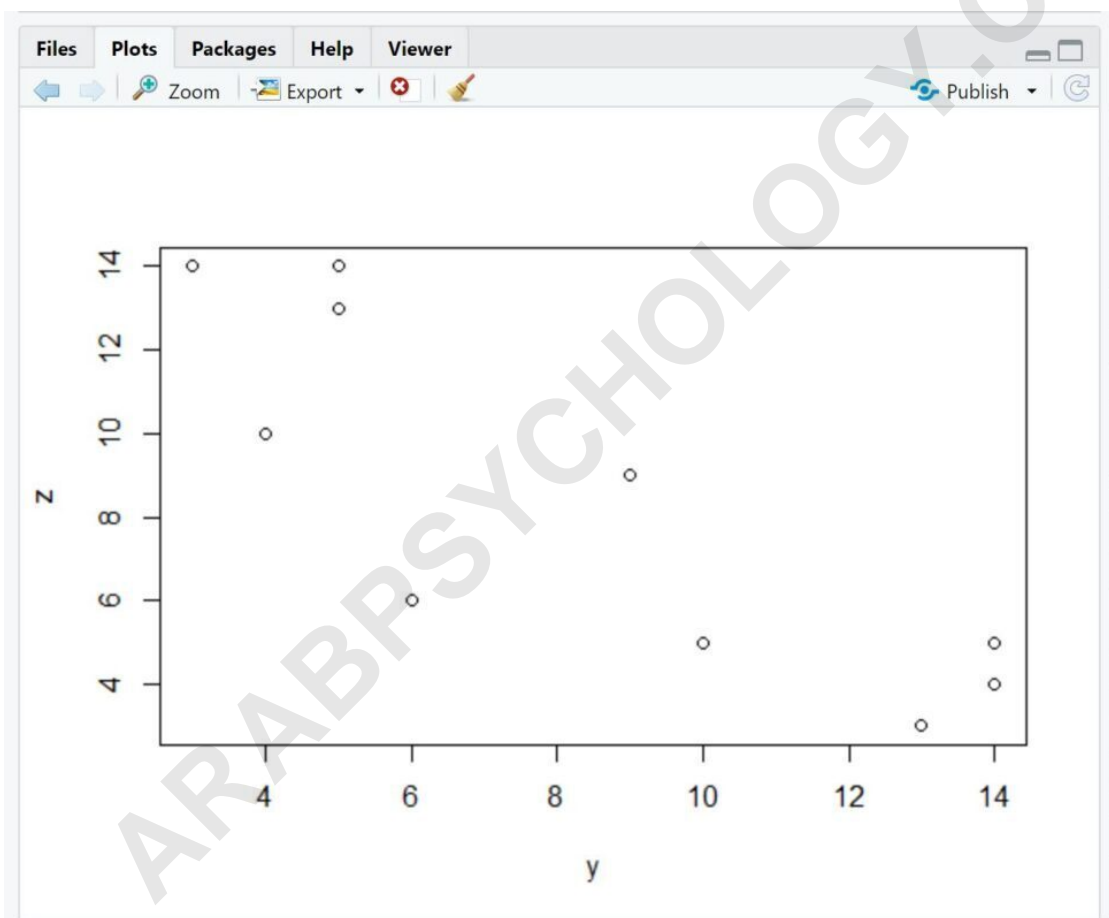
```
#create several scatterplots
```

plot(x, y)

plot(x, z)

plot(y, z)

We can view each of these scatterplots in the plotting window in RStudio:

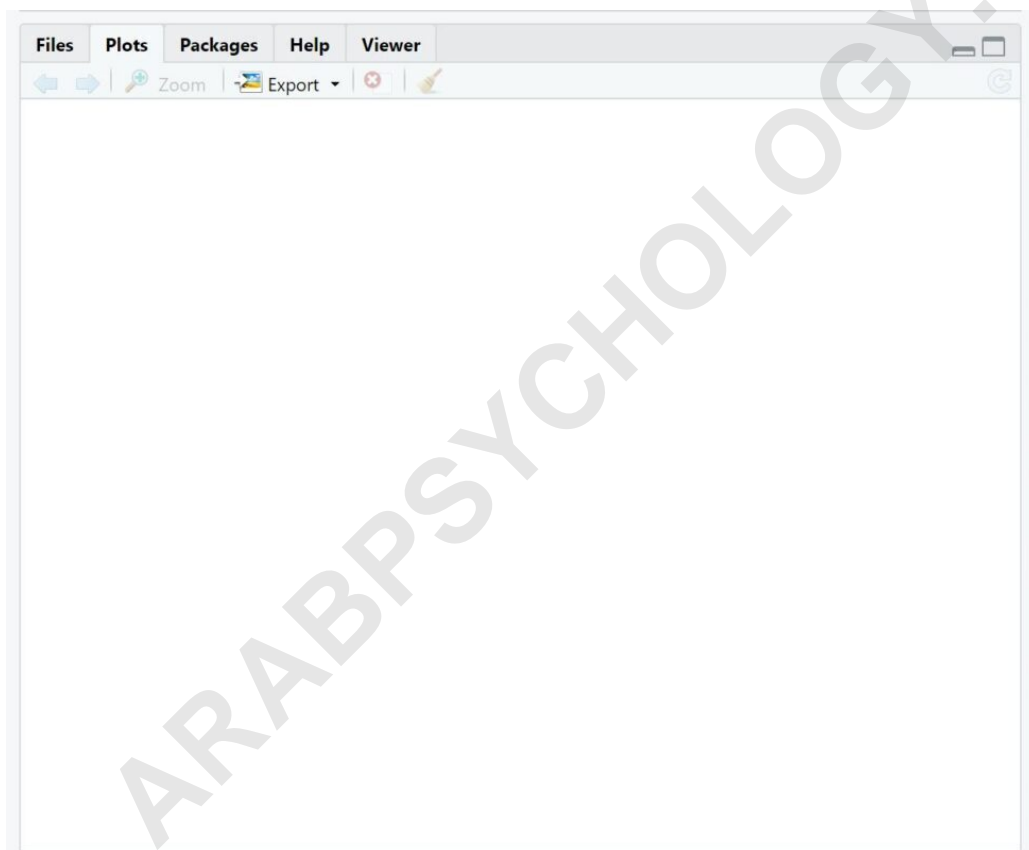


We can use the blue arrows in the top left corner of the plotting window to scroll through the various plots we created.

We can then use the following code to clear all plots from the RStudio environment:

```
#clear all plots  
dev.off(dev.list())
```

The plotting window will now be cleared of all plots:



Example 2: Clear All Plots in RStudio (And Suppress Any Errors)

If there are no plots in RStudio and we attempt to clear all the plots, we will receive an error:

```
#attempt to clear all plots  
dev.off(dev.list())
```

**Error in if (which == 1) stop("cannot shut down device 1
(the null device)") :
argument is of length zeroan>))**

**However, we can use a try() statement to suppress this
error:**

```
#attempt to clear all plots (suppress error if not plots  
exist)  
try(dev.off(dev.list()), silent=TRUE)
```

**This code will attempt to clear all plots from RStudio
and if no plots exist, no error will be shown.**



```
~/>
> #create some vectors
> x <- c(1, 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 14, 19)
> y <- c(3, 5, 5, 4, 6, 9, 10, 14, 13, 14)
> z <- c(14, 14, 13, 10, 6, 9, 5, 4, 3, 5)
>
> #create several scatterplots
> plot(x, y)
> plot(x, z)
> plot(y, z)
>
> #clear all plots
> dev.off(dev.list()["RStudioGD"])
null device
      1
>
> #clear all plots (suppress error if no plots exist)
> try(dev.off(dev.list()["RStudioGD"]),silent=TRUE)
> |
```

When this code is run in the console window, we receive no error even though there are no plots to clear.

Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to perform other common tasks in R: