

# How can I save and load RDA files in R, and what are some examples of how to do so?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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RDA files, or R data files, are a convenient way to save and load data in R. They allow users to save their data objects, such as data frames or lists, in a single file for easy access and storage. Additionally, RDA files can also be used to transfer data between different R sessions or share data with other users.

To save an R object as an RDA file, the "save" function can be used. This function takes the name of the object and the desired file name as arguments. For example, the code "save(my\_data, file = "my\_data.Rda")" will save the data frame "my\_data" as an RDA file named "my\_data.Rda".

To load an RDA file into R, the "load" function is used. This function takes in the file name as an argument and loads the data object into the current R session. For instance, the code "load("my\_data.Rda")" will load the data frame "my\_data" into the current R session.

There are also alternative ways to save and load RDA files, such as using the "saveRDS" and "readRDS" functions. These functions allow for more flexibility, such as specifying the compression level of the saved file or reading in data objects from URLs.

In summary, RDA files are a useful tool for saving and loading data in R, and can be easily implemented with functions such as "save" and "load". They provide a convenient way to manage and transfer data in R, making it a valuable feature for data analysis and sharing.

## Save and Load RDA Files in R (With Examples)

**Files that end with an .rda extension represent Rdata files.**

**You can use the save() function to save these types of files in R:**

```
save(df, file='my_data.rda')
```

**And you can use the load() function to load these types of files in R:**

```
load(file='my_data.rda')
```

The following example shows how to use each of these functions in practice.

Example: Save and Load RDA Files in R

Suppose we create the following data frame in R:

```
#make this example reproducible
```

```
set.seed(0)
```

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(x=rnorm(100),
```

```
y=rnorm(100),
```

```
z=rnorm(100))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
head(df)
```

```
x y z
```

```
1 1.2629543 0.7818592 -1.0457177
```

```
2 -0.3262334 -0.7767766 -0.8962113
```

```
3 1.3297993 -0.6159899 1.2693872
```

```
4 1.2724293 0.0465803 0.5938409
```

```
5 0.4146414 -1.1303858 0.7756343
```

**6 -1.5399500 0.5767188 1.5573704**

**We can use the `save()` function to save this data frame to an `.rda` file:**

**This file will automatically be saved in the current working directory. You can find the working directory by using the `getwd()` function:**

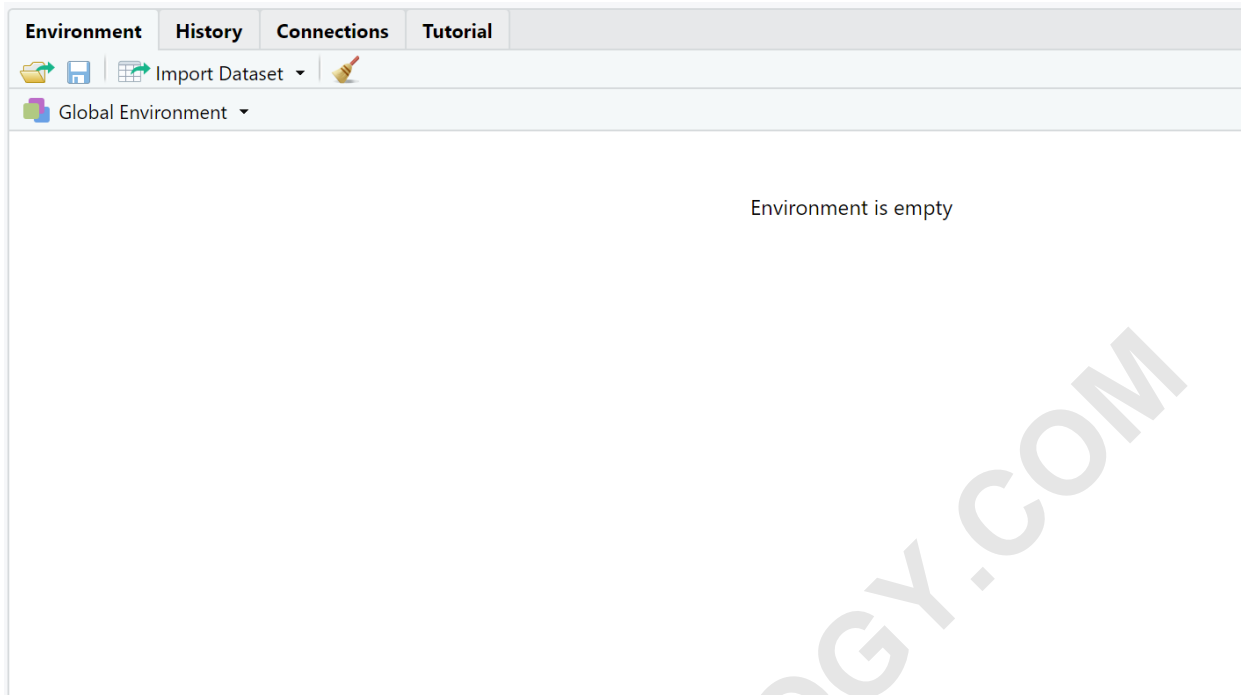
```
#display working directory  
getwd()
```

**"C:/Users/Bob/Documents"**

**Now suppose we use the `rm()` function to remove the data frame from the current R environment:**

```
#remove data frame from current R environment  
rm(df)
```

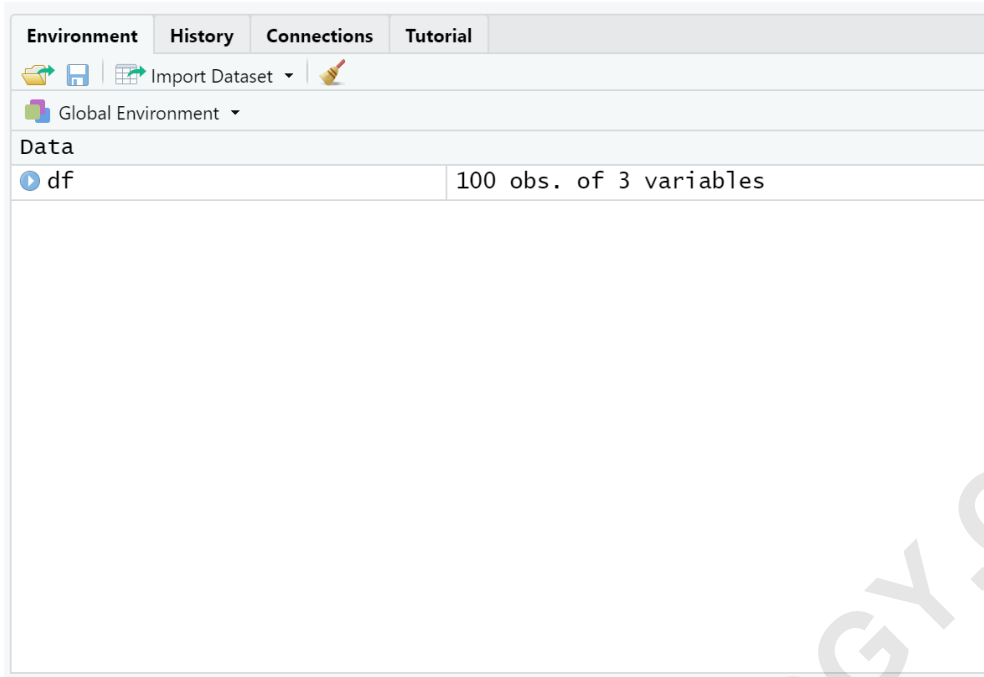
**If we look at our current environment in RStudio, we'll see that it doesn't contain any objects:**



**We can then use the `load()` function to load the `.rda` file into the current R environment:**

```
load(file='my_data.rda')
```

**If we look at the current environment again in RStudio, we'll see that it now contains the data frame:**



### Additional Resources

The following tutorials explain how to read other types of files in R: