8.3 Come analizzare i dati: introduzione a Shiny

Insegnamento di Informatica

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Argomenti

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What is Shiny

- Shiny is an open-sourced by RStudio 11/2012 on CRAN.
- It represents a new model for Web-accessible R code.
- It is able to generate basic web user interfaces.
- It uses "The new HTTP".
- It is built on a "Reactive Programming" model.
- It supports custom inputs and outputs.

What is Shiny

- With Shiny you can very easily:
  - create Web input;
  - create form that calls R and thus your R code
  - display the results.

Reactive programming 1

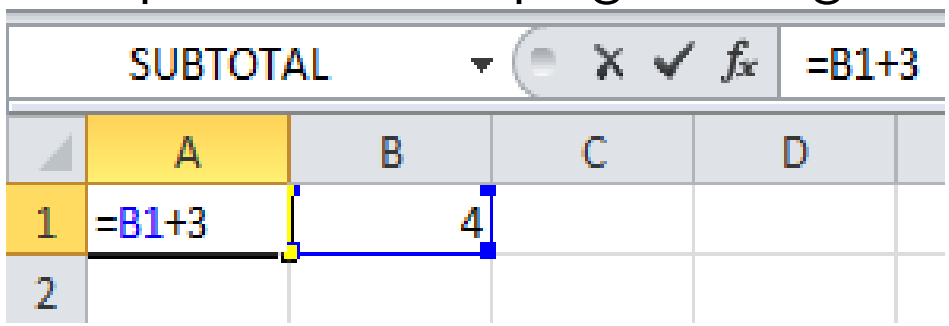
- Given the following settings to the a and b variables, determine the new value of b:

```
a <- 3
b <- a + 2
a <- 7
```

- In imperative programming, $b = 5$.
- In reactive programming, $b = 9$.
- R is an imperative programming language. **It will always get** $b = 5$.

Reactive programming 2

- In the spreadsheet the use of the $= B1 + 4$ formula is an example of reactive programming.



- Changing the value in the field B1 triggers a new elaboration of the A1 value.

Start with Shiny

- Make sure you have the latest release of R installed
- If on windows, make sure that you have installed the **shiny** package.

```
install.packages("shiny")
libray(shiny)
```

- See tutorial at

  http://rstudio.github.io/shiny/tutorial/

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Basic Example

- A shiny project is a directory containing at least two parts:
  1. One named UI.R (for user interface) that controls how it looks.
  2. One named Server.R that controls what it does.

`http://trestletechnology.net:3838/simpleGeyeser/`
`https://github.com/trestletech/shiny-sandbox/tree/master/simpleGeyeser`

UI.R

```
library(shiny)
shinyUI(pageWithSidebar(
 headerPanel("Hello Shiny!"),
 sidebarPanel(h3('Sidebar text')),mainPanel(h3('Main Panel text'))
))
```

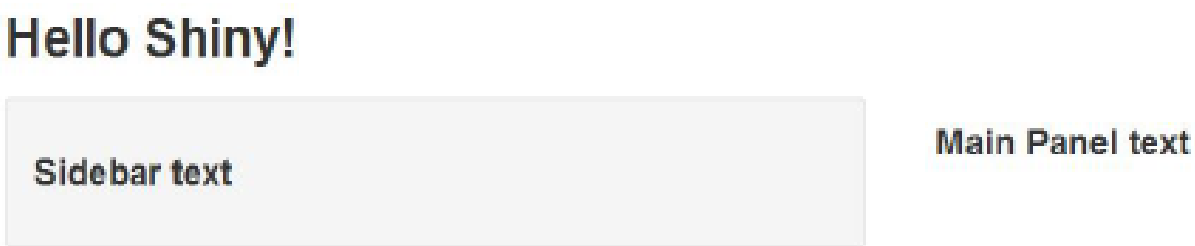
Sever.R

```
library(shiny)
shinyServer(
function(input, output) {
}
)
```

To run it

- Change to the directories with these files and type runApp()
- Put the path to the directory as an argument
- It should open a browser window with the app running.

Shiny output



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UI.R

Illustrating markup:

```
shinyUI(pageWithSidebar(
headerPanel("Illustrating markup"),
sidebarPanel(
h1('Sidebar panel'),
h1('H1 text'),
h2('H2 Text'),
h3('H3 Text'),
h4('H4 Text')
),
mainPanel(
h3('Main Panel text'),
code('some code'),
p('some ordinary text')
)
))
```

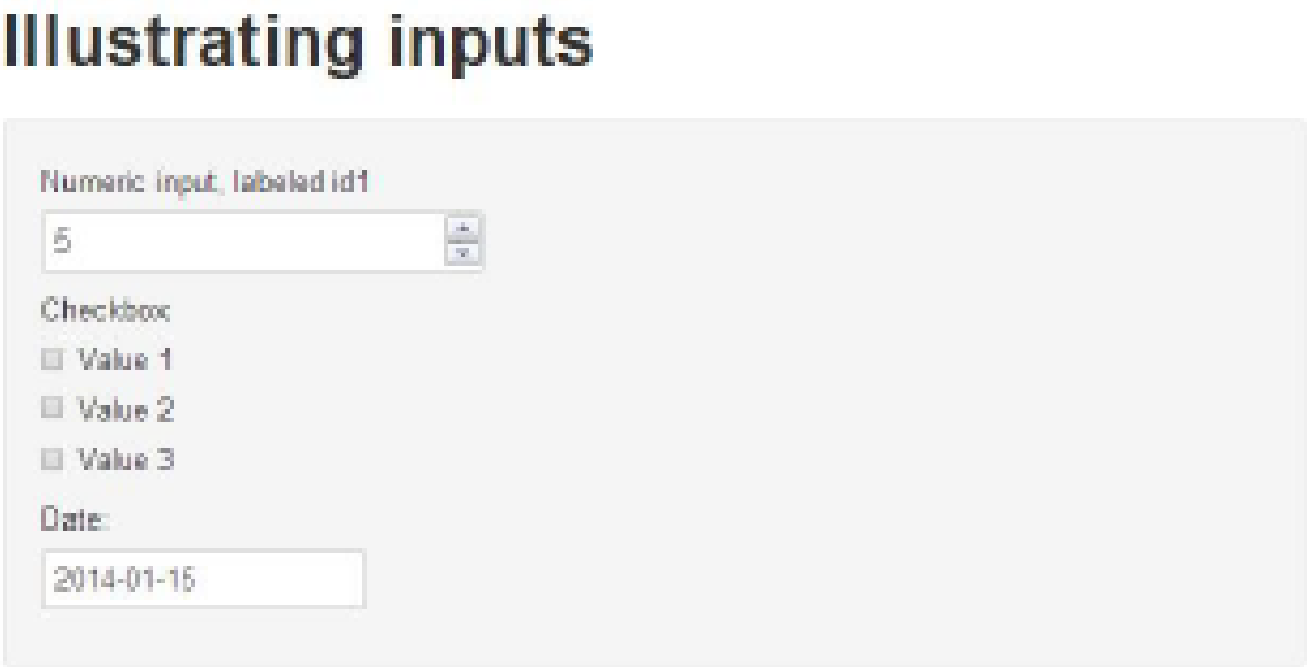
Shiny output

UI.R

Illustrating inputs:

```
shinyUI(pageWithSidebar(
headerPanel("Illustrating inputs"),
sidebarPanel(
numericInput('id1', 'Numeric input, labeled id1', 0,
min = 0, max = 10, step = 1),
checkboxGroupInput("id2", "Checkbox",
c("Value 1" = "1",
"Value 2" = "2",
"Value 3" = "3")),
dateInput("date", "Date:")
),
mainPanel(
)
))
```

Shiny output



UI.R

Illustrating outputs:

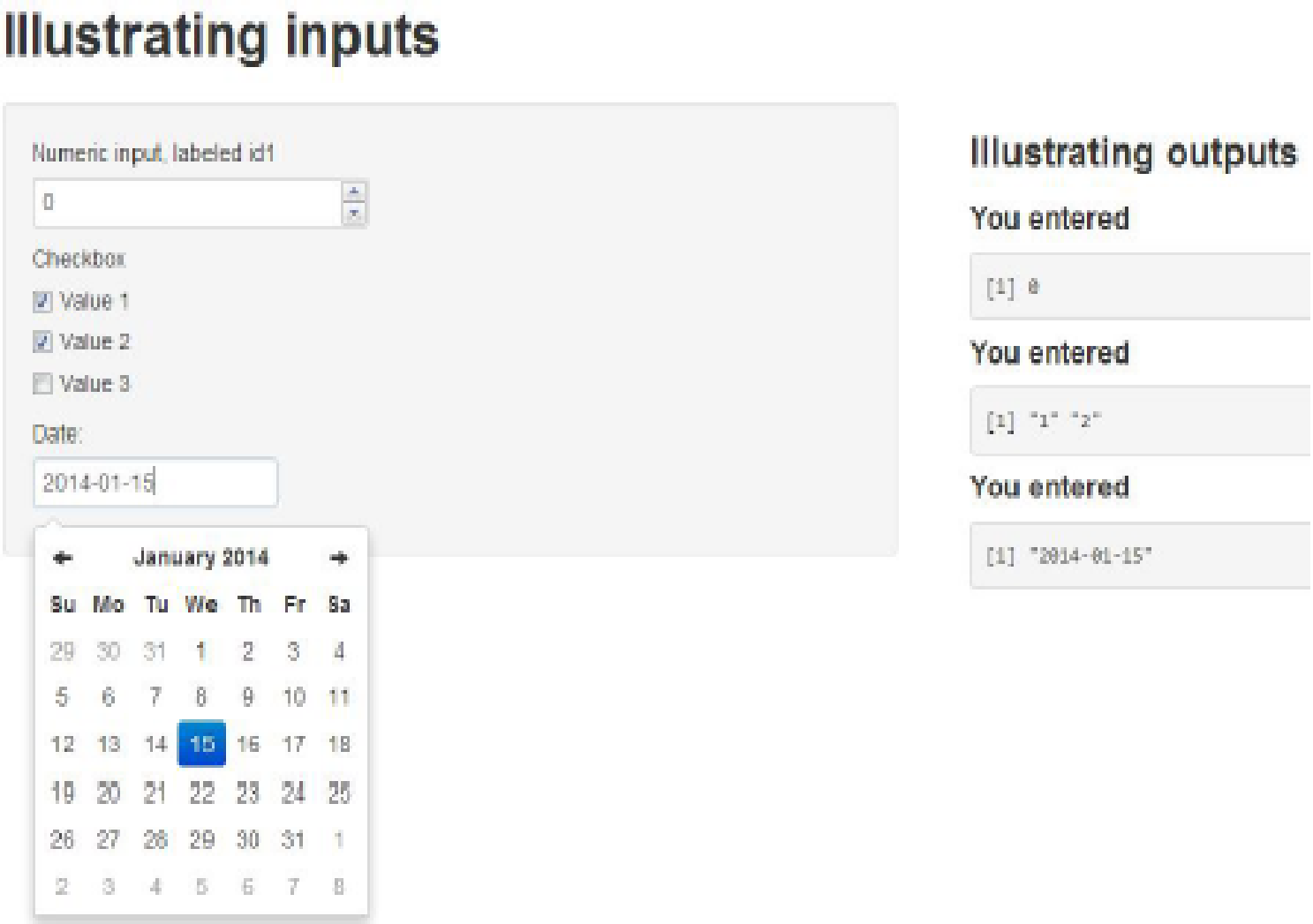
```
mainPanel(
h3('Illustrating outputs'),
h4('You entered'),
verbatimTextOutput("oid1"),
h4('You entered'),
verbatimTextOutput("oid2"),
h4('You entered'),
verbatimTextOutput("odate")
)
```

Server.R

Illustrating outputs:

```
shinyServer(
function(input, output) {
output$oid1 <- renderPrint({input$id1})
output$oid2 <- renderPrint({input$id2})
output$odate <- renderPrint({input$date})
}
)
```

Shiny output



Details

- Code that you put before shinyServer in the Server.R function gets called once when you do runApp().
- Code inside the unnamed function of shinyServer(function(input, output)), but not in a reactive statement will run once for every new user (or page refresh).
- Code in reactive functions of shinyServer get run repeatedly as needed when new values are entered.

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Other things Shiny can do

- Allow users to upload or download files.
- Have editable data tables.
- Have a dynamic UI.
- User defined inputs and outputs.
- Put a submit button so that Shiny only executes complex code after user hits submit.

Distributing a Shiny Application

- The quickest way is to send (or put on bitbucket or dropbox or whatever) someone the application directory and they can then call runApp.
- You could create an R package and create a wrapper that calls runApp.
- Of course, these solutions only work - if the user knows R.

Distributing a Shiny Application

- Another option is to run a shiny server.
- But thi requires setting up a Shiny server
  `http://www.rstudio.com/shiny/server/`
- Probably easiest if you use one of the virtual machines where they already have Shiny servers running well.
- Setting up a Shiny server is beyond the scope of this class as it involves some amount of linux server administration.