**How to install RODBC on Windows**

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To connect to MySQL from R, you can use the RODBC package, which uses Windows' Open Database Connection facility.

To use this facility with a particular database, you need to have a piece of software known as a connector installed and configured on your computer. You can download a MySQL ODBC connector at <http://dev.mysql.com/downloads/connector/odbc/5.1.html>. (I recommend that you use the MSI version of the installer for your version of Windows. When you click the Download button, it will look like you need a password to access the download, but if you look carefully you'll see a link labeled "No thanks, just take me to the downloads!".) Download and install the connector. You'll see no indication that anything has happened, but you can now configure the connector as follows:

Go to Control Panel->Administrative Tools, and double click on "Data Sources (ODBC)". Click "Add", and choose "MySQL ODBC 5.1 Driver" from the dropdown menu.

(As a side note, notice the wide range of database connectors that are already available for use through ODBC. After configuring any one of them, you can use them in R in a similar way to the way we'll access MySQL through RODBC.)

After clicking "Finish", enter the following:

Data Source Name:     mysql (or some other name if you'd like)

Description:          whatever you want

TCP/IP Server:        localhost

User:                 yourusername

Password:             yourpassword

Notice that we've specified localhost as the server. That's because you'll need to access the MySQL server that runs on your PC when the WAMP server is up and running.

If you haven’t already, start your wamp server then click the "Test" button. You should see a window with the message "Connection Successful". At that point, you can choose db\_yourdb from the "Database" dropdown menu. (If you have multiple databases, don't worry - we can specify the database when we connect to the server.)

Once you've entered the information, Click "OK" as necessary to close the ODBC control panel.

Now, in R, install the RODBC package in the usual way. This has to be done only once

>install.packages(‘RODBC’) (or install from the menu)

Load the package. This has to be done each time or added to your .profile

>library(RODBC)

If you've already set the database to db\_yourdb in the previous step, and you've got the WAMP server running, you can connect to the SQL server by entering

con = odbcConnect('mysql')

If you haven't specified the database when configuring the connector, use

con = odbcConnect('mysql;db=db\_yourdb')

(Of course if you used a name different than "msyql" when you configured the connector, you would use that name when you connect.)

When you connect through RODBC, the function to make queries is sqlQuery; other useful functions are sqlTables and sqlColumns.

If you're using Mac OSX and would like to use RODBC to connect to the MySQL server, download the appropriate connector from the MySQL website, and go to Applications->Utilities->ODBC Administrator . The process of configuring the connector is very similar to the method described above.

Now try

sqlQuery(odbcConnect('mysql;db=db\_yourdb'), 'SELECT \* from DFtemp limit 10')