

R for Data

How to Get Started

How do you currently use data?
What is your interest in R?

Why R is Good

Why would I want to use it?

Is it worth my time?

- Free
 - Can be used anywhere, for any purpose
- Syntax = Reproducibility
 - Statistical software also has syntax
- Data Notebook Capable
 - Easily write data documents
- Unlimited Capabilities
 - Easy to do complex things

Why R is Hard

- Text-based computer language
 - must know what you want
 - must use exact syntax
- Constantly changing, huge ecosystem
 - albeit improving
- Many ways to do the same thing
 - Many people add functionality
 - Too many tutorials

Changes over time

- RStudio → Posit
- R Markdown → Quarto Document
- %>% → |>
- plyr → dplyr
- reshape2 → tidyr

Low on Time?



Utilize Graphical User Interfaces



Start learning basic programming concepts



Use it just for specific tasks



Crash Course

If you know these already,
then you are in great
shape.

Programmers often find
R confusing / harder.

Easier to teach R to
non-programmers

Principles: Console vs Script

- > prompt
- + waiting for more
- [1] returned element

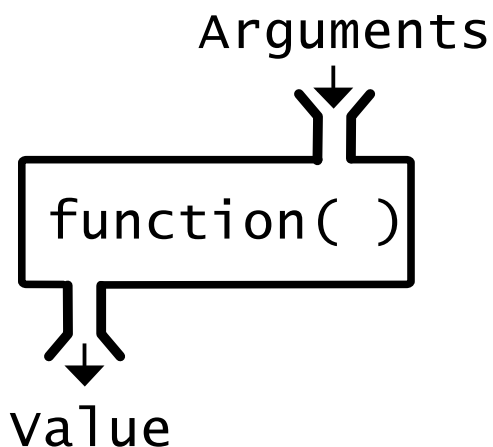
Code separate, saves in file
"Run" or "Execute" code
is a comment

```
Type 'de  
'help.st  
Type 'q(  
  
> 3+2  
[1] 5  
> 3-  
+ 2  
[1] 1  
> |
```

```
1 setwd("C:  
2  
3 library(t  
4 test <- r  
5 train <-  
6  
7 library(st  
8 dfSummary  
9  
10 library(G  
11 train %>%  
12 select(  
13 ggpairs  
14
```

Principles

Functions



`sum(2,4)`

`countif(A2:A50,">5")`

`read.table(mydata, header=TRUE, sep=",")`

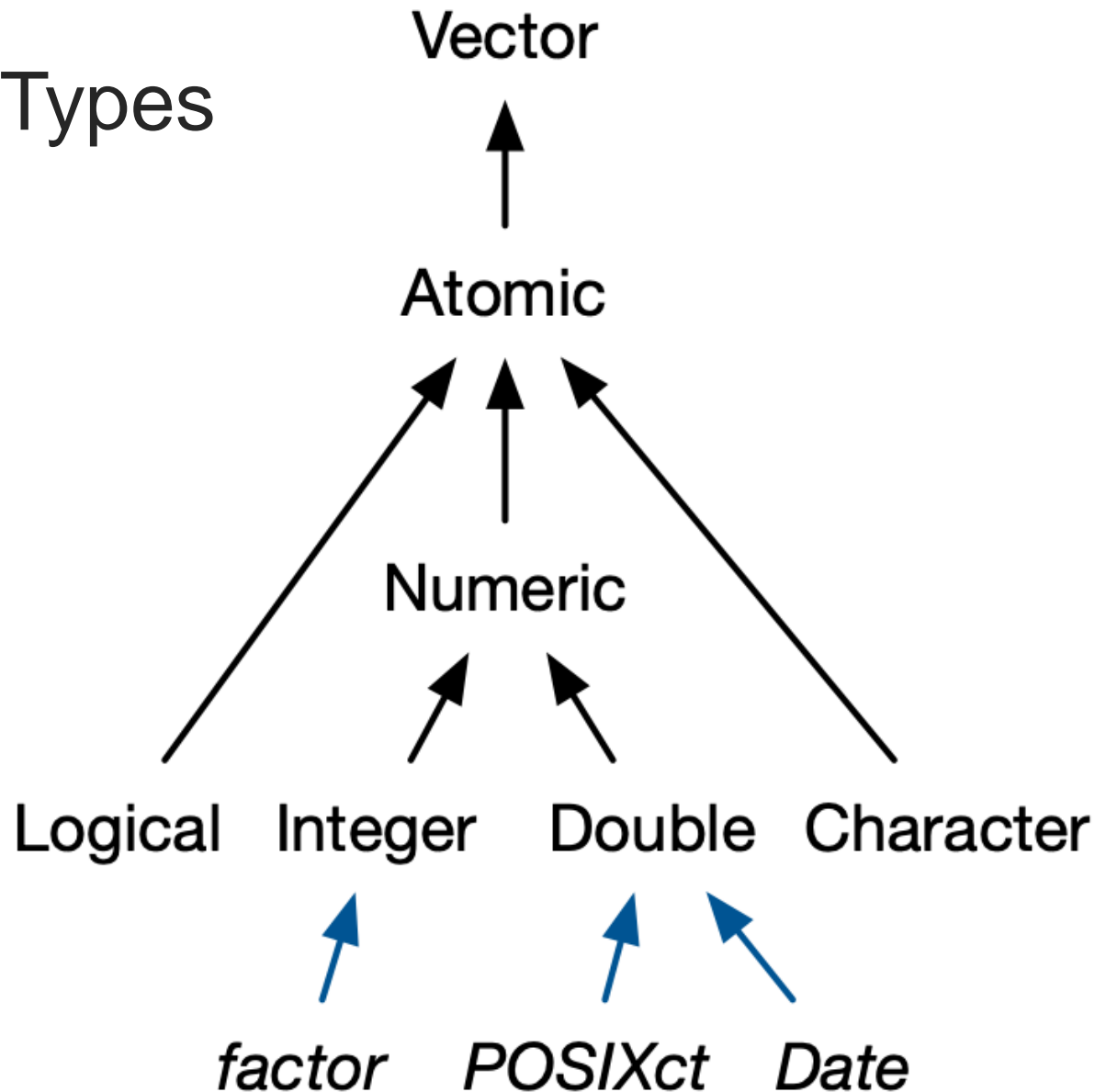
Programmers call these variables. But columns in a data table are variables to statisticians.

Objects

- Numbers
 - Characters
- } Data Types
- Vectors
 - Datasets
- } Data Structures

people <- 9 Assignment
school <- "GMU" Operator

Data Types



<https://adv-r.hadley.nz/vectors-chap.html>

Data Structures

	Homogeneous (same Type)	Heterogeneous (different Types)
1 Dimension	Vector	List
2 Dimensions	Matrix	Data Frame

Principles: Data Tables & Tidy Data

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	2745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	31737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	216716	1280425583

variables

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	2745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	31737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	216716	1280425583

observations

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	2745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	31737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	216716	1280425583

values

<https://r4ds.had.co.nz/tidy-data.html>

Programming Concepts that Help

Data Types
(e.g., Numeric,
String)

Data Structures
(e.g., Lists,
Dictionaries)

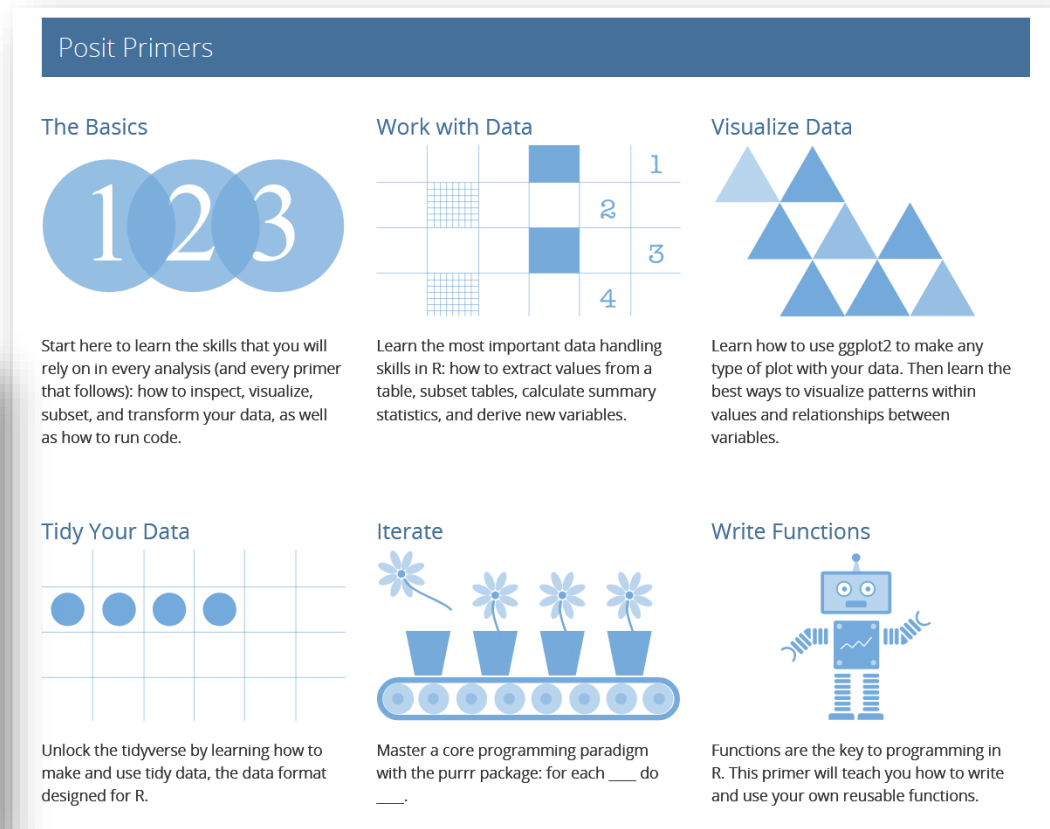
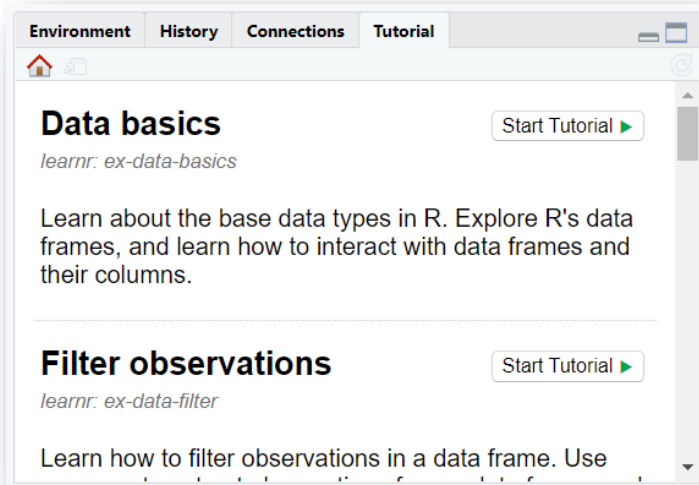
**Variables and
Objects**

**Conditional
Statements**
(If Statements)

**Functions,
Methods, and
Modules**

**Working
Directory and
File Paths**

Quick Start: Posit Primers & learnr Tutorials



<https://posit.cloud/learn/primers>

<https://rstudio.github.io/learnr/articles/examples.html>

RStudio Education

<https://education.rstudio.com/>

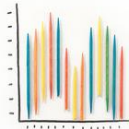


FOR LEARNERS

Expand your knowledge

Dive deeper into our popular packages like tidyverse and Shiny, with resources for beginner, intermediate, and expert-level R learners.

[LEARN MORE](#)



FOR TEACHERS

Explore our resources

Use our materials and evidence-based teaching practices to teach data science using R and RStudio's products.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Beginners

Get started with the Tidyverse and R Markdown. No one starting point will serve all beginners, but here are 6 ways to begin learning R. [Read more](#)

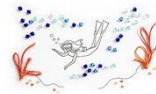
...



Intermediates

Expand your R skills. Here are some common areas that people who already have some experience in R find particularly rewarding to learn.

[Read more ...](#)



Experts

Go deep. Learning some topics in depth will both help you develop better code and share it more effectively with others. [Read more ...](#)

What do I need to get started?



THE
SOFTWARE



AN INTERFACE

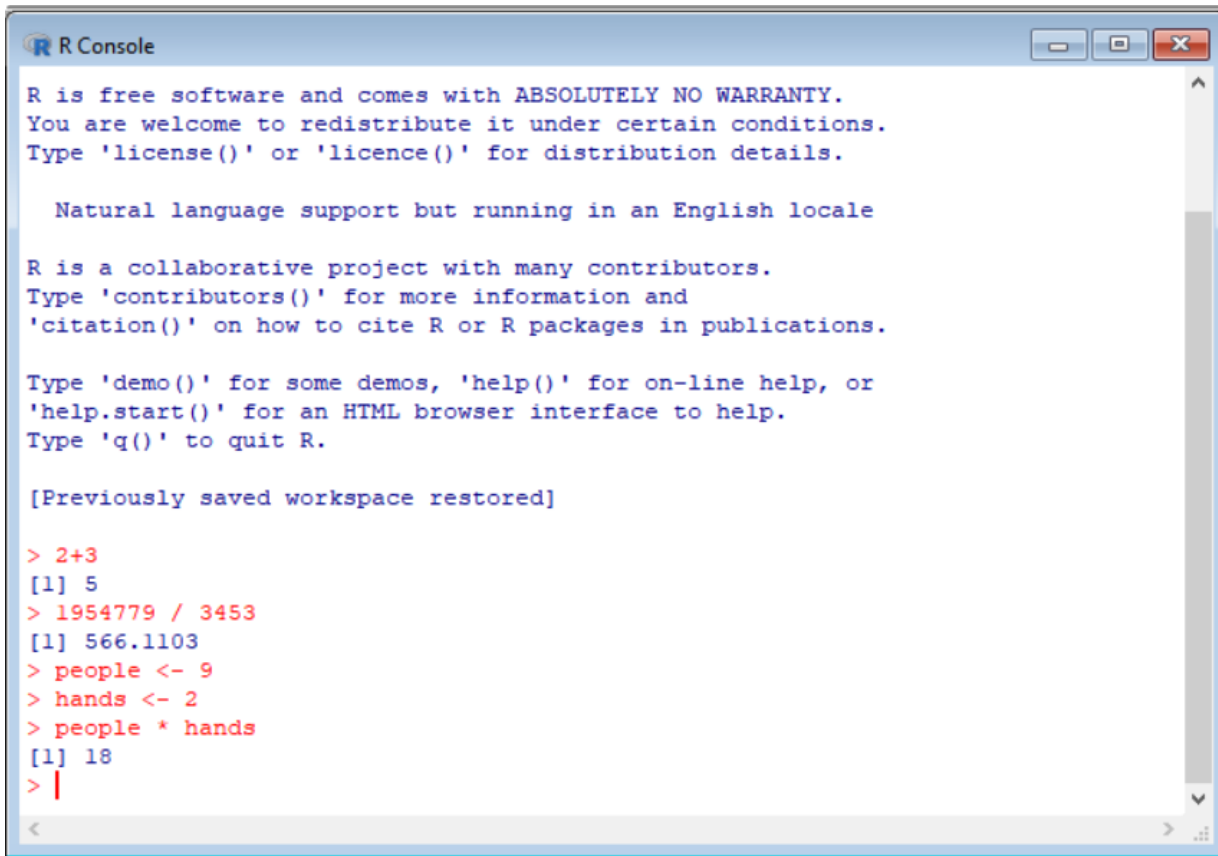


PACKAGES &
FUNCTIONS

<https://learnr-examples.shinyapps.io/ex-setup-r/>

The Software

- <https://cran.r-project.org/>



```
R Console

R is free software and comes with ABSOLUTELY NO WARRANTY.
You are welcome to redistribute it under certain conditions.
Type 'license()' or 'licence()' for distribution details.

Natural language support but running in an English locale

R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.

Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.

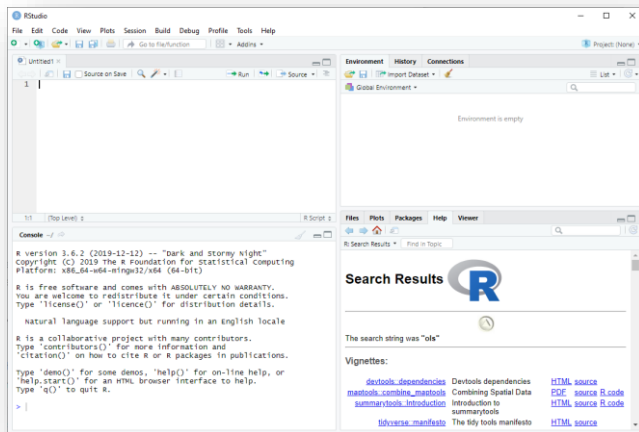
[Previously saved workspace restored]

> 2+3
[1] 5
> 1954779 / 3453
[1] 566.1103
> people <- 9
> hands <- 2
> people * hands
[1] 18
> |
```

An Interface – RStudio

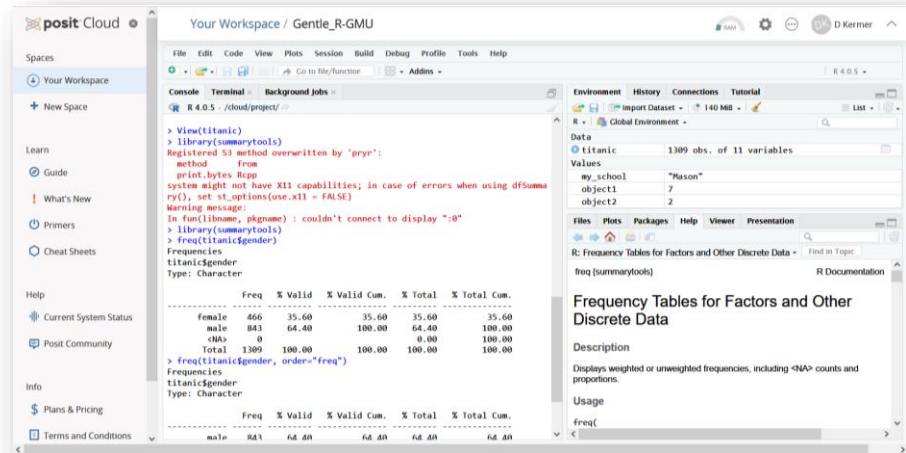
Desktop

<https://dsc.gmu.edu/files/Installing-R-RStudio.pdf>



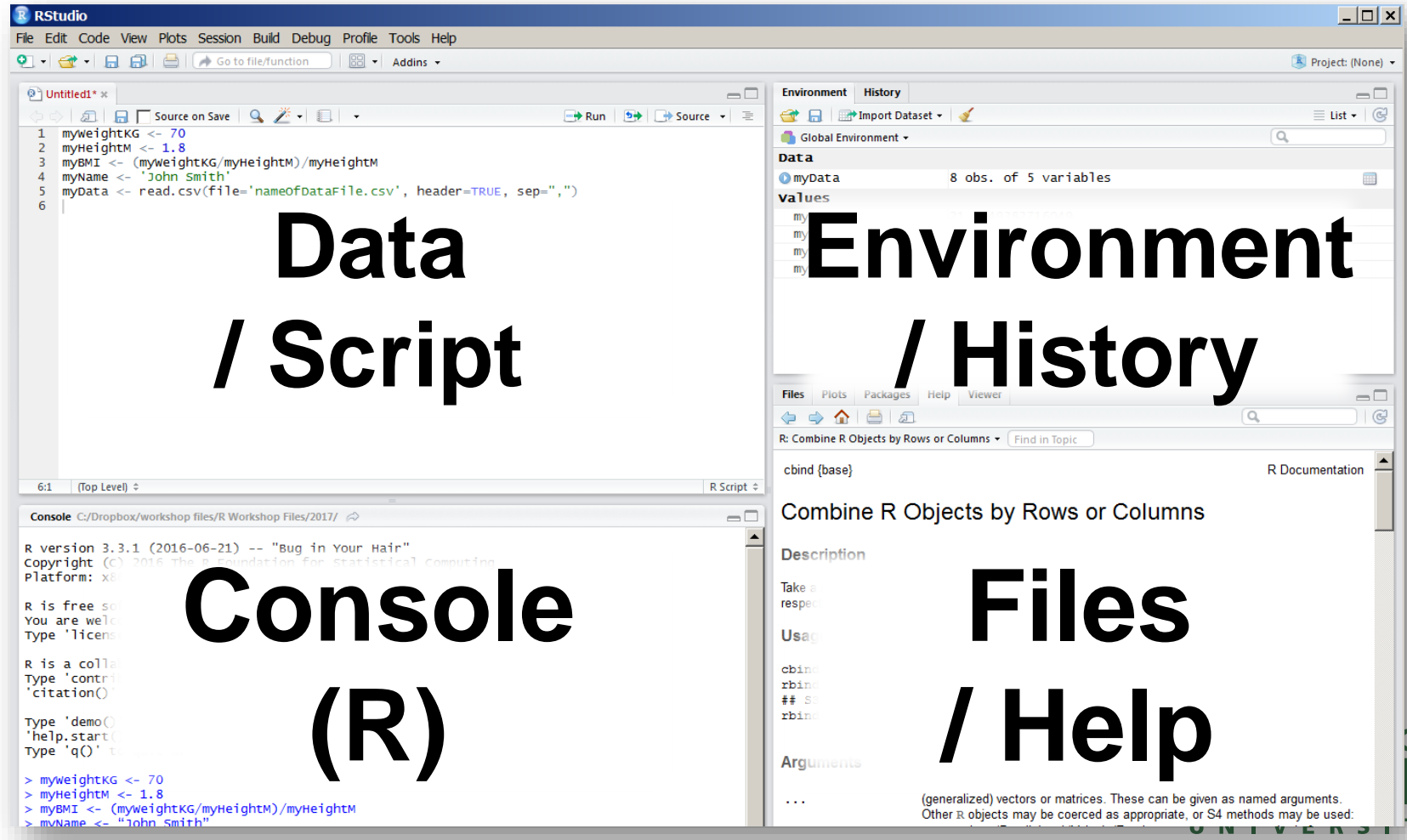
Cloud

<https://posit.cloud>



RStudio → Posit

RStudio Sections



Benefits of RStudio

- One window to contain everything
- Projects help you contain projects and use a working directory
- Point-and-click for simple tasks (import files, install packages)
- See objects in environment.
- Autocompletion for packages, functions, and objects
- Help documentation at your fingertips
- Easy to connect to a git repository.

Packages

- Packages = Groups of functions
- Some are built-in to R
- Most are written by researchers
 - Make it easier to do something they want to do
 - Must be installed, just once
- Packages may have functions with the same name!
 - Must tell R which package to use.
 - `library(package)`
 - `require(package)`
 - `package::function()`

System Library

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	base	The R Base Package
<input type="checkbox"/>	boot	Bootstrap Functions (Originally by Angelo Canty for S)
<input type="checkbox"/>	class	Functions for Classification
<input type="checkbox"/>	cluster	"Finding Groups in Data": Cluster Analysis Extended Rousseeuw et al.
<input type="checkbox"/>	codetools	Code Analysis Tools for R
<input type="checkbox"/>	compiler	The R Compiler Package
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	datasets	The R Datasets Package
<input type="checkbox"/>	foreign	Read Data Stored by 'Minitab', 'S', 'SAS', 'SPSS', 'Stata', 'Systat', 'Weka', 'dBase', ...
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	graphics	The R Graphics Package

User Library

<input type="checkbox"/>	abind	Combine Multidimensional Arrays
<input type="checkbox"/>	afex	Analysis of Factorial Experiments
<input type="checkbox"/>	anytime	Anything to 'POSIXct' or 'Date' Converter
<input type="checkbox"/>	askpass	Safe Password Entry for R, Git, and SSH
<input type="checkbox"/>	assertthat	Easy Pre and Post Assertions
<input type="checkbox"/>	backports	Reimplementations of Functions Introduced Since R-3.0.0
<input type="checkbox"/>	base64enc	Tools for base64 encoding
<input type="checkbox"/>	BayesFactor	Computation of Bayes Factors for

R's Three Areas:

Data
Management

Statistical
Modeling

Visualization

R for Data Management

- Import Data
- Tidy Data
- Transform Data

Open Refine - <https://openrefine.org/>

OpenRefine 100 Most Populous Cities from Wikidata [Permalink](#) Open... Export ▾ Help

Facet / Filter Undo / Redo 0 / 0

Refresh Reset All Remove All

countryLabel change

20 choices Sort by: **name** count Cluster

- Bangladesh 1
- Brazil 2
- Chile 1
- Democratic Republic of the Congo 1
- India 8
- Indonesia 1
- Iran 1
- Japan 2
- Manchukuo 1
- Nigeria 2

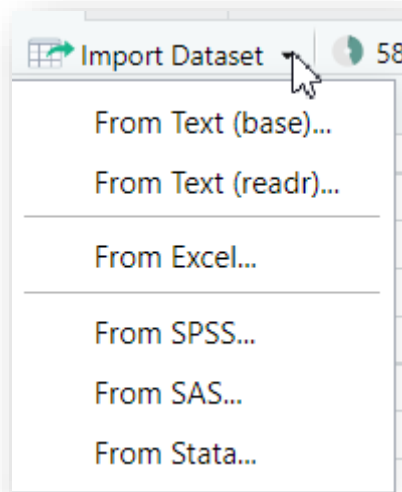
100 rows Extensions: Wikidata ▾

Show as: **rows** records Show: 5 10 25 50 rows « first ‹ previous 1 - 10 next › last »

			cityLabel	population	countryLabel
☆	🚩	1.	Shanghai	23390000	People's Republic of China
☆	🚩	2.	Beijing	21710000	People's Republic of China
☆	🚩	3.	Lagos	21324000	Nigeria
☆	🚩	4.	Dhaka	16800000	Bangladesh
☆	🚩	5.	Mumbai	15414288	India
☆	🚩	6.	Istanbul	14657434	Turkey
☆	🚩	7.	Tokyo	13942856	Japan
☆	🚩	8.	Tianjin	13245000	People's Republic of China
☆	🚩	9.	Guangzhou	13080500	People's Republic of China
☆	🚩	10.	São Paulo	12106920	Brazil

Importing Data

- CSV / Delimited
- Excel
- SPSS, Stata, SAS
- json, xml
- packages



see other sections

R for Data Management

Base R

`data.frame`

`df$word`

`df[...]`

Tidyverse

`tibble`

`%>%`

Hadley Wickham

RStudio/Posit

Data Table

`data.table`

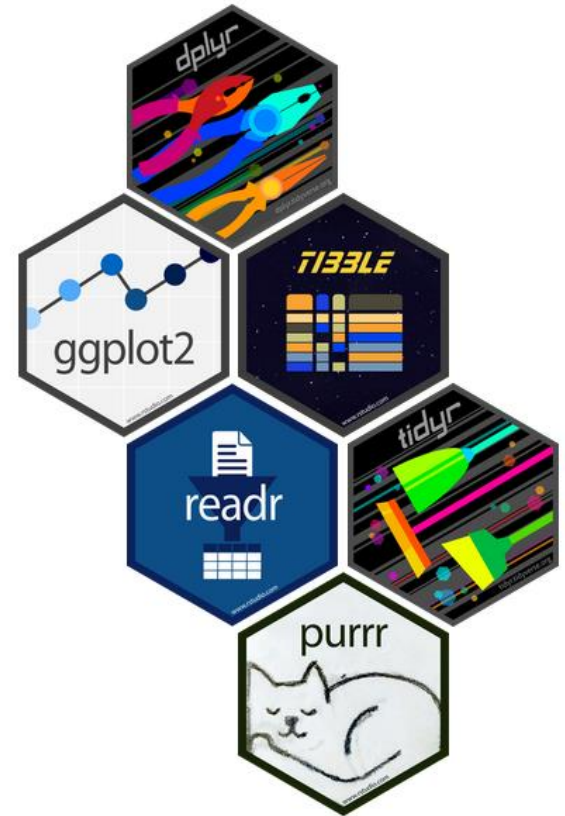
`dt[...]`

Tidyverse

<https://www.tidyverse.org/>

dplyr

- Select
- Filter
- Mutate
- Summarize
- Arrange



The pipe

Tidyverse functions take the data as the 1st argument.
This makes it possible to use the pipe.

function(**data**, *arguments*)

data %>% *function*(*arguments*)

data >| *function*(*arguments*)

More Tidyverse Packages

- For working with specific data types



R for Statistics

- Formula Notation
- Model Objects
- Output Formatting

jamovi – <https://jamovi.org>

The screenshot displays the jamovi software interface with the title bar "jamovi - bugs_long". The top navigation bar includes "Data" and "Analyses" tabs. Below this is a toolbar with icons for Exploration, T-Tests, ANOVA, Regression, Frequencies, Factor, Linear Models, Base R, R, and Modules. The main workspace is divided into two panes. The left pane, titled "Linear Regression", contains three sections: "Subject" (with variables Subject, Region, Education, and Fright), "Dependent Variable" (set to Rating), and "Independent Variables" (set to Gender and Disgust). Below these are "Components" (Gender and Disgust) and "Model Terms" (Gender, Disgust, and Gender * Disgust). The right pane shows the R code for the linear regression model, the call to the lm function, and the resulting summary statistics, including residuals, coefficients, and model fit statistics.

Linear Regression

Subject: Subject, Region, Education, Fright

Dependent Variable: Rating

Independent Variables: Gender, Disgust

Model Terms: Gender, Disgust, Gender * Disgust

Linear Regression

```
model <- lm(
  formula = Rating ~ Gender + Disgust + Gender:Disgust,
  data = data
)

summary(model)
```

Call:
stats::lm(formula = formula, data = data)

Residuals:

Min	1Q	Median	3Q	Max
-7.4146	-1.9146	0.7661	2.5854	3.9397

Coefficients:

	Estimate	Std. Error	t value	Pr(> t)
(Intercept)	7.4146	0.2529	29.320	<2e-16 ***
GenderMale	-0.4060	0.4467	-0.909	0.3640
DisgustLow	-0.6808	0.3569	-1.907	0.0573 .
GenderMale:DisgustLow	-0.2675	0.6314	-0.424	0.6720

Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1

Residual standard error: 2.805 on 359 degrees of freedom
(9 observations deleted due to missingness)
Multiple R-squared: 0.02674, Adjusted R-squared: 0.0186
F-statistic: 3.287 on 3 and 359 DF, p-value: 0.02089

General Linear Models

- Regression /ANOVA tools are part of base R.
- Uses formula notation (mostly the Wilkinson Notation)
- The name of the data table object is given as an argument.

```
myanova <- aov(      fare ~ class + gender,    data = titanic )
```

```
mylogistic <- glm(survived ~ class * gender,    data = titanic ,  
                  family = binomial )
```

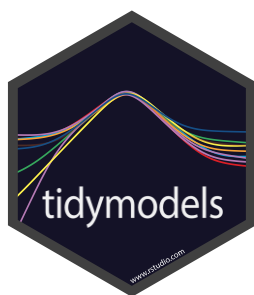
~ predicted from : interaction
+ include ("and") * factorial

Packages for Statistics

- [summarytools](#) – Descriptive Statistics
- [afex](#) – ANOVA (also mixed models with lme4)
- [emmeans](#) – Postestimation tests
- [lme4](#) – Mixed Models
- [lavaan](#) – Structural Equation Modeling

Output

- Functions create an analysis object, not useful by itself
- Use other functions to display tables, plots, etc
- e.g., `summary()` function for `lm` / `glm` / `aov`



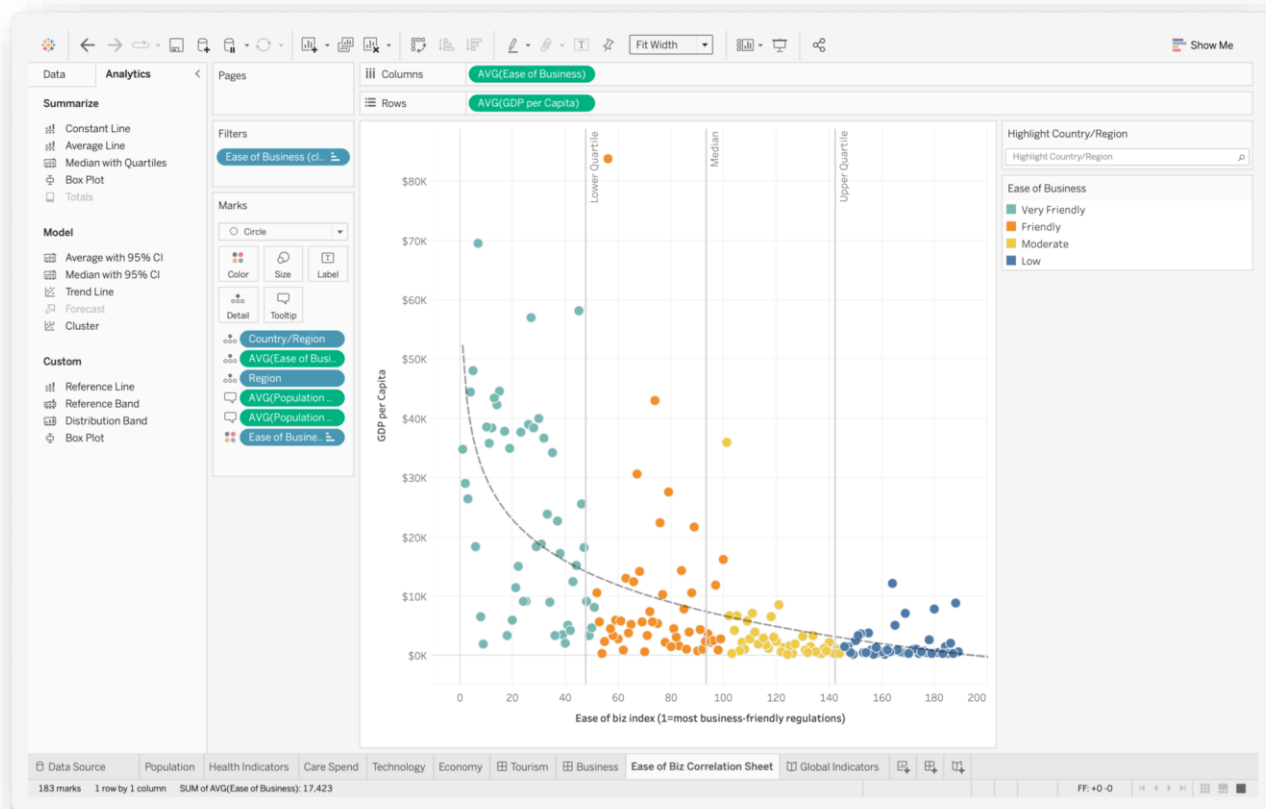
stargazer, gt / gtsummary, kable

R for Graphing

Tableau

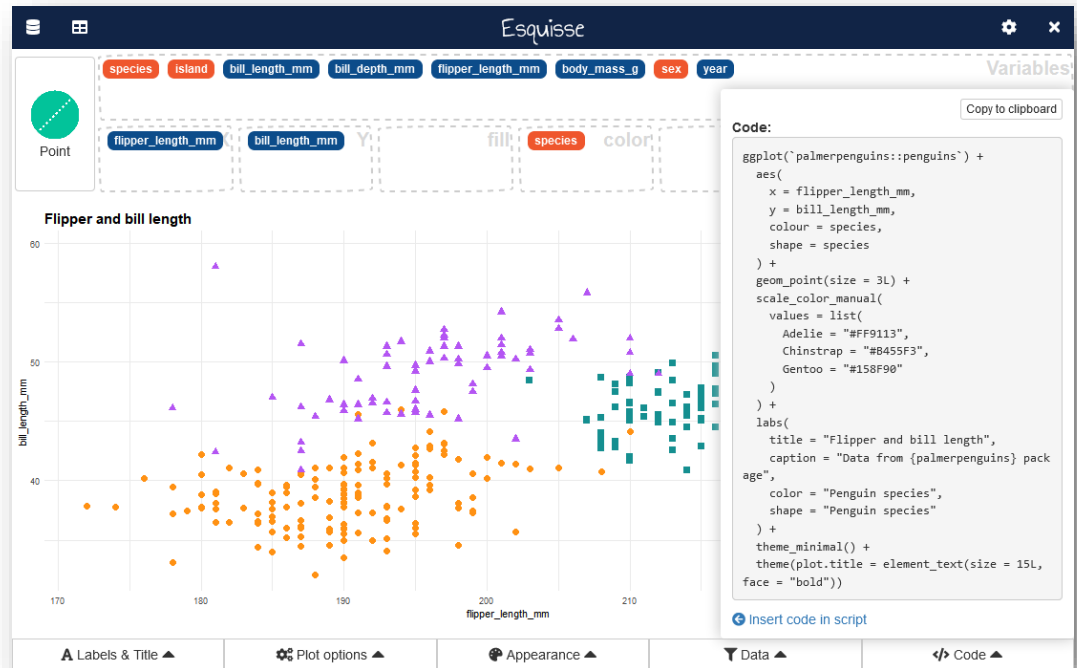
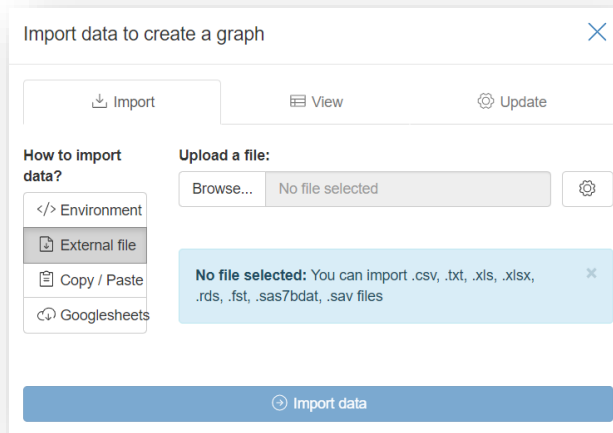
Free for Academic Use: <https://www.tableau.com/academic/students>

Free for Any Use: <https://public.tableau.com> (can only save online)



esquisse - <https://dreamrs.github.io/esquisse/>

```
install.packages("esquisse")  
esquisse::esquisser()
```



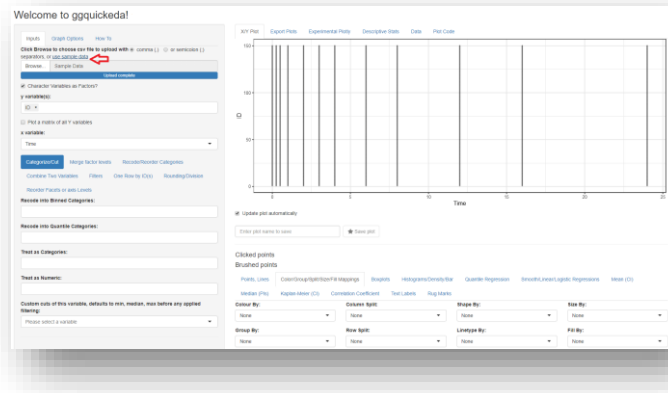
ggplot (ggplot2)

- <https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org>
- <https://r-graph-gallery.com/ggplot2-package.html>



Easier Graphs

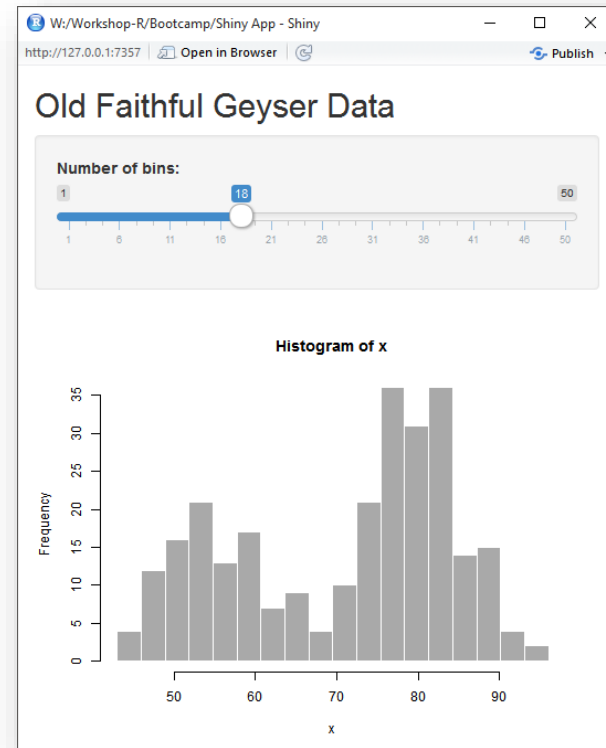
- ggquickedat – another Point and Click Interface



- GGally - Good for bivariate graphing with functions like ggpairs()

Interactive Graphics (Shiny)

```
1 # This is the user-interface definition of a Shiny app
2 # You can find out more about building apps here:
3 # http://shiny.rstudio.com
4 #
5 library(shiny)
6
7 shinyUI(fluidPage(
8   # Application title
9   titlePanel("Old Faithful Geyser Data"),
10
11   # Sidebar with a slider input for number of bins
12   sidebarLayout(
13     sidebarPanel(
14       sliderInput("bins",
15         "Number of bins:",
16         min = 1,
17         max = 50,
18         value = 30)
19     ),
20
21     # Show a plot of the generated distribution
22     mainPanel(
23       # Plot area
24     )
25   )
26 )
```



Notebooks

- Quarto Document
- Jupyter Notebook

Reading Tutorials

= A Comment

#> = Commented output (what you should see)

Does NOT save output in an object

df <- tibble(...) = Creates a dataset

word = a link, click to learn more

```
# By default, mutate() keeps all columns from the input data.
df <- tibble(x = 1, y = 2, a = "a", b = "b")
df %>% mutate(z = x + y, .keep = "all") # the default
#> # A tibble: 1 × 5
#>       x     y a     b     z
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <chr> <chr> <dbl>
#> 1     1     2 a     b     3
df %>% mutate(z = x + y, .keep = "used")
#> # A tibble: 1 × 3
#>       x     y z
```

Finding Tutorials

To get started

- Look for ones that do what you need to do, preferably from someone in your field.
- Follow along!
- primers, learnr, swirl
- Many free online books
- Audit MOOCs
- Paid sites offer some free interactive tutorials

Finding Tutorials

For doing specific tasks

- Figure out what package you will want to use
 - Colleagues
 - In your field
- Look at "vignettes" and documentation for the package
- See recommended sites

Ignore tutorials that

- Don't use your data management scheme
 - e.g., if it uses the functions `apply()`, `sapply()`, `tapply()`, that is base R
- Look complicated
- Are more than 2 years old (generally)

Data for Follow-Along Tutorials

Use data
loaded with
base R or
another
package

Create data
using functions
or by hand

Provide a data
file to
download and
read in

Teaching with R

- Posit Cloud
 - Free plan with limited sharing may be sufficient
 - Instructor plan with unlimited sharing is \$15 + \$5/month/student
- DataCamp
 - Free for students in a class, supports assignments
 - <https://www.datacamp.com/groups/classrooms>
- OER
 - Many OER textbooks (most online), more being added
 - Including <https://bookdown.org>
 - <https://education.rstudio.com/teach/materials/>