Where to get help in R

One of the biggest challenges when learning to code in R is knowing where to find the help and code for the problems you want to solve. Once you know where and how to look for help, you've basically mastered R.

1 Read the Error Message

The error message gives you important hints on what you could have done wrong. A classic example is `Error: object 'inmcoe_vector' not found`, which is just a typo.

2 Ask an AI

Don't make things hard and ask an AI. Chat GPT works great, I also like using Github Copilot. Both give you example codes for any situation, and especially for simple problems these work out perfectly. Sometimes, the code the AI provides will return an error message, but then you can return this error message to the AI and it will adapt your code.

3 Ask the Internet

Use Google or whatever search engine for the problems you might encounter. Most likely, someone else already encountered the same problem. If not, you can also ask your question to the R community on sites like stackoverflow.

4 Ask R

Often, the simplest form of solving a problem is to use the built-in help function in R. This is especially true when you want to see how a function works. Just use a `?` in front of the respecitve command you want to look up, for example: `?min`. Then, the help-page will pop up in R-studio. Besides explaining all the arguments of the function, most help pages provide some example code at the end which is also super helpful.

5 Ask your friends/peers/someone who knows R

This is especially important when you're not sure where you want to end up and how you want to solve a problem. When using AI, you need to have a basic idea on what you want to achieve. Talking with someone might give you some inspiration and ideas. Furthermore, a second pair of eyes is helpful if your code won't work and you can't figure it out.