

R: A Comprehensive Introduction

From Basics to Data Science

Diogo Ribeiro

ESMAD - Escola Superior de Média Arte e Design
Instituto Politécnico do Porto

November 13, 2025

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session, you will be able to:

- Understand R's core data structures and operations
- Perform data manipulation and analysis
- Create visualizations and statistical models
- Apply modern R practices and workflows
- Use the tidyverse ecosystem effectively
- Implement reproducible research practices

Course Outline

Outline

- **Statistical computing language** developed by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman
- **Open-source** and free
- **Functional programming** paradigm
- **Interpreted language** with REPL interface
- **Cross-platform**: Linux, macOS, Windows
- **Active community** with 18,000+ packages

Current version: R 4.3.x

R vs Python vs Other Tools

Feature	R	Python	SPSS/SAS
Statistical Analysis	★★★	★★☆	★★★
Machine Learning	★★☆	★★★	★★☆
Data Visualization	★★★	★★☆	★★☆
Learning Curve	★★☆	★★★	★★☆
Cost	Free	Free	Expensive
Community	Large	Huge	Commercial

Getting Started: Installation

- ① **Install R:** Download from <https://cran.r-project.org/>
- ② **Install RStudio:** Download from
<https://posit.co/products/open-source/rstudio/>
- ③ **Alternative IDEs:** VS Code with R extension, Jupyter notebooks

First commands to try:

```
1 # Check R version
2 version
3
4 # Get help
5 ?mean
6
7 # Install essential packages
8 install.packages(c("tidyverse", "here", "rmarkdown"))
```

RStudio Interface Overview

- **Console:** Interactive R session
- **Source:** Script editor
- **Environment:** Variables and objects
- **Files/Plots/Packages:** File browser, plots, help

Essential keyboard shortcuts:

```
1 # Execute current line/selection: Ctrl+Enter
2 # New R script: Ctrl+Shift+N
3 # Save: Ctrl+S
4 # Clear console: Ctrl+L
5 # Assignment operator: Alt+-
```

Outline

Atomic Data Types

```
1 # Numeric (double)
2 x <- 42.5
3 y <- 1e-3
4
5 # Integer
6 n <- 42L
7
8 # Logical (boolean)
9 is_valid <- TRUE
0 is_missing <- FALSE
1
2 # Character (string)
3 name <- "Alice"
4 greeting <- 'Hello,World!'
5
6 # Check types
7 typeof(x)      # "double"
8 class(x)       # "numeric"
9 is.numeric(x) # TRUE
```

Type Coercion and Testing

```
1 # Automatic coercion
2 x <- c(1, 2, "3")      # becomes character vector
3 y <- c(TRUE, FALSE, 1) # becomes numeric vector
4
5 # Explicit coercion
6 as.numeric("123")       # 123
7 as.character(123)        # "123"
8 as.logical(c(0, 1, 2))   # FALSE TRUE TRUE
9
10 # Type testing
11 is.numeric(x)    # FALSE
12 is.character(x)  # TRUE
13 is.na(x)          # FALSE FALSE FALSE
```

Creating and Manipulating Vectors

```
1 # Creating vectors
2 numbers <- c(10.4, 5.6, 3.1, 6.4, 21.7)
3 sequence <- 1:10
4 custom_seq <- seq(0, 1, by = 0.1)
5 repeated <- rep(c(1, 2, 3), times = 3)
6 repeated_each <- rep(c(1, 2, 3), each = 3)
7
8 # Vector operations (vectorized!)
9 numbers * 2
0 numbers + c(1, 2) # recycling
1 sqrt(numbers)
2 log10(numbers)
3
4 # Length and summary
5 length(numbers)
6 summary(numbers)
```

Vector Indexing and Subsetting

```
1 x <- c(10, 20, 30, 40, 50)
2 names(x) <- c("a", "b", "c", "d", "e")
3
4 # Positional indexing
5 x[1]      # first element: 10
6 x[c(1, 3)] # elements 1 and 3: 10 30
7 x[-1]     # all except first: 20 30 40 50
8
9 # Logical indexing
10 x[x > 25]   # elements > 25: 30 40 50
11 x[x %% 20 == 0] # divisible by 20: 20 40
12
13 # Named indexing
14 x["a"]       # element "a": 10
15 x[c("a", "c")] # elements "a" and "c"
```

Missing Values and Special Values

```
1 # Missing values
2 x <- c(1, 2, NA, 4, 5)
3 is.na(x)          # FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE
4 sum(x)           # NA
5 sum(x, na.rm = TRUE) # 12
6
7 # Special values
8 x <- c(0, 1/0, -1/0, 0/0)
9 is.finite(x)      # TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE
10 is.infinite(x)     # FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE
11 is.nan(x)         # FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE
12
13 # Handling missing data
14 x[is.na(x)] <- 0 # replace NA with 0
15 complete.cases(x) # check for complete observations
```

Matrices: 2D Homogeneous Data

```
1 # Creating matrices
2 A <- matrix(1:12, nrow = 3, ncol = 4)
3 B <- matrix(1:12, nrow = 3, ncol = 4, byrow = TRUE)
4
5 # Matrix operations
6 t(A)          # transpose
7 A + B         # element-wise addition
8 A %*% t(B)    # matrix multiplication
9
0 # Indexing
1 A[2, 3]       # row 2, column 3
2 A[2, ]         # entire row 2
3 A[, 3]        # entire column 3
4 A[1:2, 2:4]   # submatrix
5
6 # Matrix properties
7 dim(A)        # dimensions
8 nrow(A); ncol(A)
```

Factors: Categorical Data

```
1 # Creating factors
2 gender <- factor(c("M", "F", "F", "M", "F"))
3 education <- factor(c("High", "Low", "Medium", "High"),
4                      levels = c("Low", "Medium", "High"),
5                      ordered = TRUE)
6
7 # Factor properties
8 levels(gender)    # "F" "M"
9 nlevels(gender)   # 2
10 table(gender)     # frequency table
11
12 # Recoding factors
13 levels(gender) <- c("Female", "Male")
14 gender <- relevel(gender, ref = "Male") # set reference level
15
16 # Converting factors
17 as.character(gender)
18 as.numeric(education) # 3 1 2 3 (ordered levels)
```

Lists: Heterogeneous Containers

```
1 # Creating lists
2 person <- list(
3   name = "Alice",
4   age = 30,
5   scores = c(85, 92, 78),
6   married = TRUE,
7   children = c("Bob", "Carol")
8 )
9
10 # Accessing list elements
11 person$name          # "Alice"
12 person[["age"]]      # 30
13 person[["scores"]]   # returns list
14 person[["scores"]][# returns vector
15
16 # Modifying lists
17 person$city <- "Lisbon"
18 person[["age"]][<- 31
19
```

Data Frames: The Workhorse

```
1 # Creating data frames
2 students <- data.frame(
3   id = 1:5,
4   name = c("Alice", "Bob", "Carol", "David", "Eve"),
5   age = c(22, 23, 21, 24, 22),
6   grade = c("A", "B", "A", "C", "B"),
7   passed = c(TRUE, TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE),
8   stringsAsFactors = FALSE
9 )
10
11 # Exploring structure
12 str(students)      # structure
13 head(students)     # first few rows
14 tail(students, 2)  # last 2 rows
15 summary(students)  # summary statistics
16 dim(students)      # dimensions
```

Data Frame Manipulation

```
1 # Accessing columns
2 students$name      # vector
3 students["name"]    # data frame
4 students[["name"]]  # vector
5 students[, "name"]   # vector
6
7 # Subsetting rows and columns
8 students[1:3, ]      # first 3 rows
9 students[, c("name", "age")]  # specific columns
0 students[students$age > 22, ] # conditional subsetting
1
2 # Adding/removing columns
3 students$gpa <- c(3.8, 3.2, 3.9, 2.1, 3.5)
4 students$grade <- NULL  # remove column
5
6 # Sorting
7 students[order(students$age), ]          # by age
8 students[order(-students$gpa, students$age), ] # by GPA (desc), then age
```

Hands-on Exercise #1 (15 min)

Practice with data structures:

- ① Create a vector of 20 random normal values with $\text{mean}=100$, $\text{sd}=15$
- ② Convert values below 85 or above 115 to NA
- ③ Create a factor for letter grades based on the values:
 - A: 110+, B: 95–109, C: 85–94, F: below 85
- ④ Build a data frame combining the original scores, grades, and pass/fail status
- ⑤ Calculate summary statistics for each grade level

Outline

Base R I/O Functions

```
1 # CSV files
2 data <- read.csv("data.csv", header = TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
3 write.csv(data, "output.csv", row.names = FALSE)
4
5 # Tab-delimited files
6 data <- read.delim("data.txt", sep = "\t")
7
8 # General text files
9 data <- read.table("data.txt", header = TRUE, sep = ",")
0
1 # R objects
2 save(data, file = "data.RData")      # save specific objects
3 save.image("workspace.RData")        # save entire workspace
4 load("data.RData")                  # load objects
5
6 # Other formats (requires packages)
7 library(readxl)
8 excel_data <- read_excel("data.xlsx", sheet = "Sheet1")
```

Modern Data Import with readr

```
1 library(readr)
2
3 # Fast and consistent parsing
4 data <- read_csv("data.csv")           # tibbles by default
5 data <- read_tsv("data.txt")
6 data <- read_delim("data.txt", delim = "|")
7
8 # Specify column types
9 data <- read_csv("data.csv",
10                  col_types = cols(
11                      id = col_integer(),
12                      name = col_character(),
13                      score = col_double(),
14                      date = col_date()
15                  ))
16
17 # Handle problematic data
18 problems(data)    # show parsing problems
19 data <- read_csv("data.csv", na = c("", "NA", "NULL"))
```

Data Inspection and Cleaning

```
1 # Load built-in dataset
2 data(mtcars)
3
4 # Basic inspection
5 glimpse(mtcars)      # dplyr version of str()
6 summary(mtcars)
7 head(mtcars, 10)
8
9 # Check for missing values
0 sum(is.na(mtcars))
1 colSums(is.na(mtcars))
2
3 # Check for duplicates
4 sum(duplicated(mtcars))
5
6 # Data types
7 sapply(mtcars, class)
8
9 # Quick visualization
```

Working Directories and Projects

```
1 # Working directory management
2 getwd()                  # current directory
3 setwd("~/Documents/R_projects") # NOT recommended!
4
5 # Better approach: Use RStudio Projects or here package
6 library(here)
7 data_path <- here("data", "raw", "dataset.csv")
8 output_path <- here("output", "results.csv")
9
10 # File operations
11 list.files(".", pattern = "*.csv")
12 file.exists("data.csv")
13 file.info("data.csv")
14
15 # Create directories
16 dir.create("data")
17 dir.create("output")
18 dir.create(here("data", "processed"))
```

Hands-on Exercise #2 (10 min)

Data import and exploration:

- ① Load the built-in `iris` dataset
- ② Explore its structure, dimensions, and summary statistics
- ③ Check for missing values and duplicates
- ④ Create a subset with only Setosa and Versicolor species
- ⑤ Export the subset to a CSV file
- ⑥ Reload the CSV and verify it matches your subset

Outline

Conditional Statements

```
1 # Simple if-else
2 x <- 5
3 if (x > 0) {
4   print("Positive")
5 } else if (x < 0) {
6   print("Negative")
7 } else {
8   print("Zero")
9 }
0
1 # Vectorized conditional: ifelse()
2 scores <- c(85, 92, 67, 88, 95)
3 grades <- ifelse(scores >= 90, "A",
4                   ifelse(scores >= 80, "B",
5                         ifelse(scores >= 70, "C", "F")))
6
7 # Multiple conditions with case_when() (dplyr)
8 library(dplyr)
9 grades <- case_when(
```

Loops and Iteration

```
1 # For loops
2 for (i in 1:5) {
3   print(i^2)
4 }
5
6 # Iterate over elements
7 fruits <- c("apple", "banana", "orange")
8 for (fruit in fruits) {
9   print(paste("I like", fruit))
0 }
1
2 # While loops
3 x <- 1
4 while (x <= 5) {
5   print(x)
6   x <- x + 1
7 }
8
9 # Apply family (vectorized operations)
```

Creating Functions

```
1 # Basic function
2 square <- function(x) {
3   return(x^2)
4 }
5
6 # Function with multiple arguments and defaults
7 calculate_bmi <- function(weight, height, units = "metric") {
8   if (units == "imperial") {
9     # Convert pounds and inches to kg and meters
10    weight <- weight * 0.453592
11    height <- height * 0.0254
12  }
13
14  bmi <- weight / (height^2)
15
16  category <- case_when(
17    bmi < 18.5 ~ "Underweight",
18    bmi < 25 ~ "Normal",
19    bmi < 30 ~ "Overweight",
```

Advanced Function Features

```
1 # Functions with ... (dot-dot-dot)
2 my_summary <- function(x, ...) {
3   list(
4     mean = mean(x, ...),
5     median = median(x, ...),
6     sd = sd(x, ...)
7   )
8 }
9
10 # Usage with additional arguments
11 data_with_na <- c(1, 2, NA, 4, 5)
12 my_summary(data_with_na, na.rm = TRUE)
13
14 # Input validation
15 safe_divide <- function(x, y) {
16   if (!is.numeric(x) || !is.numeric(y)) {
17     stop("Both arguments must be numeric")
18   }
19   if (any(y == 0)) {
```

Functional Programming Concepts

```
1 # Anonymous functions
2 numbers <- 1:10
3 squared <- sapply(numbers, function(x) x^2)
4
5 # Map functions (purrr package - part of tidyverse)
6 library(purrr)
7 numbers <- 1:5
8 squared <- map_dbl(numbers, ~ .x^2)
9 cubed <- map_dbl(numbers, ~ .x^3)
0
1 # Working with lists
2 data_list <- list(a = 1:3, b = 4:6, c = 7:9)
3 means <- map_dbl(data_list, mean)
4 lengths <- map_int(data_list, length)
5
6 # Function composition
7 compose_functions <- function(f, g) {
8   function(x) f(g(x))
9 }
```

Hands-on Exercise #3 (15 min)

Programming practice:

- ① Write a function `standardize()` that:
 - Takes a numeric vector
 - Returns z-scores (`mean=0, sd=1`)
 - Has options for removing NAs and clipping outliers
- ② Write a function `grade_analysis()` that:
 - Takes a vector of numeric scores
 - Returns a list with mean, median, grade distribution
 - Assigns letter grades based on customizable cutoffs
- ③ Test your functions with simulated data

Outline

Core principles:

- **Tidy data:** Each variable is a column, each observation is a row
- **Pipe operator:** Chain operations with
- **Consistent API:** Similar function names and arguments
- **Human-readable:** Code that reads like English

Core packages:

- **dplyr:** Data manipulation
- **ggplot2:** Visualization
- **tidyverse:** Data reshaping
- **readr:** Data import

The Pipe Operator

```
1 library(dplyr)
2
3 # Traditional nested approach (hard to read)
4 result <- summarise(
5   filter(
6     select(mtcars, mpg, hp, wt),
7     hp > 100
8   ),
9   mean_mpg = mean(mpg),
0   mean_wt = mean(wt)
1 )
2
3 # Pipe approach (readable)
4 result <- mtcars %>%
5   select(mpg, hp, wt) %>%
6   filter(hp > 100) %>%
7   summarise(
8     mean_mpg = mean(mpg),
9     mean_wt = mean(wt)
```

Selecting and Filtering

```
1 library(dplyr)
2
3 # Select columns
4 mtcars %>%
5   select(mpg, hp, wt)           # by name
6
7 mtcars %>%
8   select(1:3)                  # by position
9
0 mtcars %>%
1   select(starts_with("m"))      # helper functions
2
3 mtcars %>%
4   select(-gear, -carb)         # exclude columns
5
6 # Filter rows
7 mtcars %>%
8   filter(mpg > 20)            # single condition
9
```

Creating and Modifying Variables

```
1 # Create new variables with mutate()
2 mtcars %>%
3   mutate(
4     power_to_weight = hp / wt,
5     efficiency_class = case_when(
6       mpg >= 25 ~ "High",
7       mpg >= 20 ~ "Medium",
8       TRUE ~ "Low"
9     ),
10    # Create multiple variables
11    log_mpg = log(mpg),
12    mpg_squared = mpg^2
13  )
14
15 # Conditional mutations
16 mtcars %>%
17   mutate(
18     fuel_efficiency = ifelse(mpg > median(mpg), "Efficient", "Inefficient"),
19     performance = case_when(
```

Grouping and Summarizing

```
1 # Summary statistics
2 mtcars %>%
3   summarise(
4     mean_mpg = mean(mpg),
5     median_hp = median(hp),
6     sd_wt = sd(wt),
7     count = n()
8 )
9
10 # Grouped operations
11 mtcars %>%
12   group_by(cyl) %>%
13   summarise(
14     count = n(),
15     avg_mpg = mean(mpg),
16     avg_hp = mean(hp),
17     min_wt = min(wt),
18     max_wt = max(wt),
19     .groups = "drop" # ungroup after summarizing
```

Arranging and Ranking

```
1 # Sorting data
2 mtcars %>%
3   arrange(mpg)                      # ascending
4
5 mtcars %>%
6   arrange(desc(hp))                 # descending
7
8 mtcars %>%
9   arrange(cyl, desc(mpg))          # multiple columns
0
# Window functions
1 mtcars %>%
2   mutate(
3     mpg_rank = rank(mpg),
4     mpg_dense_rank = dense_rank(mpg),
5     mpg_percentile = percent_rank(mpg),
6     row_number = row_number()
7   ) %>%
8   arrange(desc(mpg))
```

Joins and Combining Data

```
1 # Sample datasets
2 cars_info <- data.frame(
3   model = rownames(mtcars)[1:10],
4   manufacturer = c("Mazda", "Mazda", "Datsun", "Hornet", "Hornet",
5                     "Valiant", "Duster", "Merc", "Merc", "Merc"),
6   stringsAsFactors = FALSE
7 )
8
9 mtcars_with_names <- mtcars %>%
10   mutate(model = rownames(mtcars))
11
12 # Different types of joins
13 inner_join(mtcars_with_names, cars_info, by = "model")
14 left_join(mtcars_with_names, cars_info, by = "model")
15 right_join(mtcars_with_names, cars_info, by = "model")
16 full_join(mtcars_with_names, cars_info, by = "model")
17
18 # Binding rows and columns
19 bind_rows(mtcars[1:5, ], mtcars[25:32, ])
```

Hands-on Exercise #4 (20 min)

Advanced dplyr practice:

- ① Load the starwars dataset from dplyr
- ② Clean the data:
 - Remove rows with missing height or mass
 - Create BMI variable: $\text{mass} / \text{height}^2 \times 10000$
- ③ Analysis tasks:
 - Find the average height and mass by species (top 5 species by count)
 - Identify characters with extreme BMI values
 - Create a summary by homeworld showing character count and avg BMI
- ④ Export your results to CSV

Outline

Exploratory Data Analysis

```
1 # Load and explore a dataset
2 library(datasets)
3 data("airquality")
4
5 # Basic descriptive statistics
6 summary(airquality)
7 sapply(airquality, function(x) c(mean = mean(x, na.rm = TRUE),
8                               sd = sd(x, na.rm = TRUE),
9                               min = min(x, na.rm = TRUE),
0                               max = max(x, na.rm = TRUE)))
1
2 # Correlation matrix
3 cor(airquality, use = "complete.obs")
4
5 # Advanced descriptive statistics
6 library(psych)
7 describe(airquality)
8 pairs.panels(airquality[1:4]) # correlation plot with histograms
```

Handling Missing Data

```
1 # Identify missing patterns
2 library(VIM)
3 aggr(airquality, col = c('navyblue', 'red'),
4       numbers = TRUE, sortVars = TRUE)
5
6 # Simple imputation strategies
7 # Mean imputation
8 airquality_mean <- airquality %>%
9   mutate(
10   Ozone = ifelse(is.na(Ozone), mean(Ozone, na.rm = TRUE), Ozone),
11   Solar.R = ifelse(is.na(Solar.R), mean(Solar.R, na.rm = TRUE), Solar.R)
12 )
13
14 # Multiple imputation
15 library(mice)
16 imputed_data <- mice(airquality, m = 5, method = 'pmm', seed = 123)
17 completed_data <- complete(imputed_data)
```

Hypothesis Testing

```
1 # t-tests
2
3 # One-sample t-test
4 t.test(airquality$Temp, mu = 75)
5
6 # Two-sample t-test
7 # Split data by month
8 summer_temp <- airquality$Temp[airquality$Month %in% c(6, 7, 8)]
9 other_temp <- airquality$Temp[!airquality$Month %in% c(6, 7, 8)]
0 t.test(summer_temp, other_temp)
1
2 # Paired t-test (example with before/after data)
3 # before <- c(85, 78, 82, 79, 88)
4 # after <- c(87, 80, 85, 81, 92)
5 # t.test(before, after, paired = TRUE)
6
7 # Chi-square test
8 # Create categorical variables for example
9 temp_cat <- cut(airquality$Temp, breaks = 3, labels = c("Cool", "Moderate", "Hot"))
```

ANOVA and Non-parametric Tests

```
1 # One-way ANOVA
2 anova_result <- aov(Temp ~ factor(Month), data = airquality)
3 summary(anova_result)
4
5 # Post-hoc tests
6 TukeyHSD(anova_result)
7
8 # Two-way ANOVA (if we had more factors)
9 # aov(Temp ~ Month * Wind_Category, data = airquality)
0
1 # Non-parametric alternatives
2 # Kruskal-Wallis test (non-parametric ANOVA)
3 kruskal.test(Temp ~ Month, data = airquality)
4
5 # Wilcoxon rank-sum test (non-parametric t-test)
6 wilcox.test(summer_temp, other_temp)
7
8 # Correlation tests
9 cor.test(airquality$Temp, airquality$Ozone, use = "complete.obs")
```

Simple and Multiple Regression

```
1 # Simple linear regression
2 model1 <- lm(Ozone ~ Temp, data = airquality)
3 summary(model1)
4
5 # Multiple regression
6 model2 <- lm(Ozone ~ Temp + Wind + Solar.R, data = airquality)
7 summary(model2)
8
9 # Model with interactions
10 model3 <- lm(Ozone ~ Temp * Wind + Solar.R, data = airquality)
11
12 # Polynomial regression
13 model4 <- lm(Ozone ~ poly(Temp, 2) + Wind + Solar.R, data = airquality)
14
15 # Model comparison
16 anova(model1, model2) # F-test for nested models
17 AIC(model1, model2, model3, model4) # Information criteria
```

Model Diagnostics and Validation

```
1 # Basic diagnostic plots
2 par(mfrow = c(2, 2))
3 plot(model2)
4 par(mfrow = c(1, 1))
5
6 # Residual analysis
7 residuals <- resid(model2)
8 fitted_vals <- fitted(model2)
9
10 # Check assumptions
11 # 1. Linearity
12 plot(fitted_vals, residuals)
13 abline(h = 0, col = "red")
14
15 # 2. Normality of residuals
16 qqnorm(residuals)
17 qqline(residuals)
18 shapiro.test(residuals) # formal test
19
```

Prediction and Model Selection

```
1 # Predictions with confidence intervals
2 new_data <- data.frame(
3   Temp = c(70, 80, 90),
4   Wind = c(10, 15, 5),
5   Solar.R = c(200, 250, 300)
6 )
7
8 predictions <- predict(model2, newdata = new_data, interval = "confidence")
9
0 # Cross-validation
1 library(caret)
2 set.seed(123)
3 train_control <- trainControl(method = "cv", number = 10)
4 cv_model <- train(Ozone ~ Temp + Wind + Solar.R,
5                     data = airquality,
6                     method = "lm",
7                     trControl = train_control,
8                     na.action = na.omit)
9 print(cv_model)
```

Generalized Linear Models

```
1 # Logistic regression
2 # Create binary outcome
3 airquality$high_ozone <- ifelse(airquality$Ozone > median(airquality$Ozone, na.rm = TRUE),
4                                 1, 0)
5
6 logistic_model <- glm(high_ozone ~ Temp + Wind + Solar.R,
7                         data = airquality,
8                         family = binomial)
9
10 summary(logistic_model)
11
12 # Odds ratios
13 exp(coef(logistic_model))
14 exp(confint(logistic_model))
15
16 # Model evaluation
17 library(pROC)
18 predicted_prob <- predict(logistic_model, type = "response")
19 roc_curve <- roc(airquality$high_ozone, predicted_prob, na.rm = TRUE)
20 plot(roc_curve)
```

Hands-on Exercise #5 (25 min)

Statistical modeling project:

- ① Use the `mtcars` dataset for regression analysis
- ② Exploratory analysis:
 - Descriptive statistics and correlations
 - Identify outliers and missing values
- ③ Build models to predict `mpg`:
 - Simple regression with `wt`
 - Multiple regression with `wt`, `hp`, `disp`
 - Model with interactions
- ④ Model evaluation:
 - Check assumptions with diagnostic plots
 - Compare models using AIC/BIC
 - Calculate R^2 and RMSE

Outline

The Philosophy of ggplot2

Grammar of Graphics principles:

- **Data**: The dataset being plotted
- **Aesthetics**: Visual properties (x, y, color, size, shape)
- **Geometries**: The type of plot (points, lines, bars)
- **Scales**: How aesthetic values are displayed
- **Coordinate systems**: How data is positioned
- **Facets**: Subplots based on categorical variables
- **Themes**: Overall visual appearance

Basic structure: `ggplot(data, aes(x, y)) + geom_*() + theme() + ...`

Basic ggplot2 Syntax

```
1 library(ggplot2)
2
3 # Basic scatter plot
4 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg)) +
5   geom_point()
6
7 # Add aesthetics
8 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg, color = factor(cyl))) +
9   geom_point(size = 3) +
10  labs(title = "Fuel Efficiency vs Weight",
11       x = "Weight (1000 lbs)",
12       y = "Miles per Gallon",
13       color = "Cylinders")
14
15 # Add trend line
16 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg)) +
17   geom_point() +
18   geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = TRUE)
```

Distribution Plots

```
1 # Histogram
2 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = mpg)) +
3   geom_histogram(bins = 15, fill = "skyblue", alpha = 0.7) +
4   labs(title = "Distribution of MPG")
5
6 # Density plot
7 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = mpg, fill = factor(cyl))) +
8   geom_density(alpha = 0.5) +
9   labs(title = "MPG Distribution by Cylinders")
0
1 # Box plot
2 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = factor(cyl), y = mpg)) +
3   geom_boxplot(fill = "lightblue") +
4   geom_jitter(width = 0.2, alpha = 0.6) + # add data points
5   labs(x = "Number of Cylinders", y = "Miles per Gallon")
6
7 # Violin plot
8 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = factor(cyl), y = mpg)) +
9   geom_violin(fill = "lightgreen", alpha = 0.7) +
```

Categorical Data Visualization

```
1 # Bar chart
2 mtcars %>%
3   count(cyl) %>%
4     ggplot(aes(x = factor(cyl), y = n)) +
5       geom_bar(stat = "identity", fill = "coral") +
6       labs(x = "Cylinders", y = "Count")
7
8 # Grouped bar chart
9 mtcars %>%
10   count(cyl, am) %>%
11     ggplot(aes(x = factor(cyl), y = n, fill = factor(am))) +
12       geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = "dodge") +
13       labs(x = "Cylinders", y = "Count", fill = "Transmission")
14
15 # Stacked bar chart
16 mtcars %>%
17   count(cyl, am) %>%
18     ggplot(aes(x = factor(cyl), y = n, fill = factor(am))) +
19       geom_bar(stat = "identity", position = "stack") +
```

Advanced Plot Types

```
1 # Correlation heatmap
2 library(reshape2)
3 cor_matrix <- cor(mtcars)
4 melted_cor <- melt(cor_matrix)
5
6 ggplot(melted_cor, aes(Var1, Var2, fill = value)) +
7   geom_tile() +
8   scale_fill_gradient2(low = "blue", high = "red", mid = "white",
9                         midpoint = 0, limit = c(-1,1)) +
10  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, hjust = 1))
11
12 # Scatter plot matrix
13 library(GGally)
14 ggpairs(mtcars[c("mpg", "disp", "hp", "wt")])
15
16 # Time series plot (example with built-in data)
17 economics %>%
18   ggplot(aes(x = date, y = unemploy)) +
19   geom_line(color = "steelblue") +
```

Scales and Coordinate Systems

```
1 # Custom scales
2 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg, color = hp)) +
3   geom_point(size = 3) +
4   scale_color_gradient(low = "blue", high = "red") +
5   scale_x_continuous(breaks = seq(1, 6, by = 0.5)) +
6   scale_y_continuous(limits = c(10, 35))
7
8 # Log scales
9 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = disp, y = mpg)) +
0   geom_point() +
1   scale_x_log10() +
2   annotation_logticks(sides = "b")
3
4 # Coordinate transformations
5 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = factor(cyl), y = mpg)) +
6   geom_boxplot() +
7   coord_flip() # horizontal box plot
8
9 # Polar coordinates (for pie charts)
```

Faceting and Multiple Plots

```
1 # Facet wrap
2 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg)) +
3   geom_point() +
4   geom_smooth(method = "lm", se = FALSE) +
5   facet_wrap(~ cyl, scales = "free")
6
7 # Facet grid
8 ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg)) +
9   geom_point() +
10  facet_grid(am ~ cyl, labeller = label_both)
11
12 # Multiple plots with patchwork
13 library(patchwork)
14 p1 <- ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg)) + geom_point()
15 p2 <- ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = hp, y = mpg)) + geom_point()
16 p3 <- ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = factor(cyl), y = mpg)) + geom_boxplot()
17
18 (p1 | p2) / p3 # combine plots
```

Themes and Styling

```
1 # Built-in themes
2 base_plot <- ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = wt, y = mpg)) +
3   geom_point(aes(color = factor(cyl))) +
4   labs(title = "Fuel Efficiency vs Weight")
5
6 base_plot + theme_minimal()
7 base_plot + theme_classic()
8 base_plot + theme_dark()
9
10 # Custom theme
11 custom_theme <- theme(
12   plot.title = element_text(size = 16, face = "bold", hjust = 0.5),
13   axis.title = element_text(size = 12),
14   axis.text = element_text(size = 10),
15   legend.position = "bottom",
16   panel.grid.minor = element_blank(),
17   plot.background = element_rect(fill = "white", color = NA)
18 )
19
```

Hands-on Exercise #6 (20 min)

Data visualization project:

- ➊ Use the diamonds dataset from ggplot2
- ➋ Create a comprehensive visualization dashboard:
 - Price distribution histogram with faceting by cut
 - Scatter plot of carat vs price, colored by clarity
 - Box plot of price by cut quality
 - Correlation heatmap of numeric variables
- ➌ Customize your plots:
 - Apply consistent color schemes
 - Add informative titles and labels
 - Use a professional theme
- ➍ Combine plots into a single figure using patchwork

Outline

R Markdown for Reproducible Reports

```
1 # YAML header example
2 ---
3 title: "Data\u201cAnalysis\u201dReport"
4 author: "Your\u201cName"
5 date: "'r\u201cSys.Date()'"
6 output:
7   html_document:
8     toc: true
9     toc_float: true
0     code_folding: hide
1     theme: flatly
2 ---
3
4 # Analysis Overview
5
6 ````{r setup, include=FALSE}
7 knitr::opts_chunk$set(echo = TRUE, warning = FALSE, message = FALSE)
8 library(tidyverse)
9 library(knitr)
```

Project Organization and here Package

```
1 # Recommended project structure
2 # project/
3 #   data/
4 #     raw/
5 #     processed/
6 #   R/
7 #     functions.R
8 #     analysis.R
9 #   output/
10 #     plots/
11 #     tables/
12 #   docs/
13 #   project.Rproj
14
15 # Using the here package for robust file paths
16 library(here)
17
18 # Reading data
19 raw_data <- read_csv(here("data", "raw", "dataset.csv"))
```

Creating R Packages

```
1 # Create a package skeleton
2 library(devtools)
3 library(usethis)
4
5 # Create new package
6 create_package("~/mypackage")
7
8 # Add functions
9 use_r("my_function")
0
1 # Example function with roxygen2 documentation
2 #' Calculate summary statistics
3 #
4 #' @param x A numeric vector
5 #' @param na.rm Logical, should missing values be removed?
6 #' @return A named vector of summary statistics
7 #' @export
8 #' @examples
9 #' my_summary(c(1, 2, 3, NA), na.rm = TRUE)
```

Git Integration in RStudio

```
1 # Initialize git in your project
2 use_git()
3
4 # Connect to GitHub
5 use_github()
6
7 # Basic git workflow in R console
8 # (Better to use RStudio's Git pane or terminal)
9
10 # Check status
11 system("git status")
12
13 # Add files
14 system("git add .")
15
16 # Commit changes
17 system('git commit -m "Add data analysis script"')
18
19 # Push to remote
```

Writing Efficient R Code

```
1 # Vectorization vs loops
2 # Slow
3 result <- numeric(1000)
4 for (i in 1:1000) {
5   result[i] <- i^2
6 }
7
8 # Fast
9 result <- (1:1000)^2
0
1 # Pre-allocate memory
2 # Slow: growing objects
3 x <- numeric(0)
4 for (i in 1:1000) {
5   x <- c(x, i^2) # Bad!
6 }
7
8 # Fast: pre-allocation
9 x <- numeric(1000)
```

Debugging and Profiling

```
1 # Debugging functions
2 # (works only in an interactive R session)
3 debug(my_function)
4 undebug(my_function)
5
6 # Browser for interactive debugging
7 my_function <- function(x) {
8   y <- x^2
9   browser() # Pause execution here
0   z <- y + 1
1   return(z)
2 }
3
4 # Profiling code performance
5 library(dplyr)
6 library(profvis)
7
8 profvis({
9   data <- data.frame(x = rnorm(1000), y = rnorm(1000))
```

Final Exercise: Complete Project (30 min)

Comprehensive data science project:

- ① **Setup:** Create an RStudio project with proper folder structure
- ② **Data:** Load and clean a real dataset (e.g., from datasets package)
- ③ **Analysis:**
 - Exploratory data analysis with summary statistics
 - Statistical tests or regression modeling
 - Data visualization with multiple plot types
- ④ **Report:** Create an R Markdown document with:
 - Introduction and methodology
 - Results with embedded plots and tables
 - Conclusions and interpretation
- ⑤ **Reproducibility:** Ensure all code runs from scratch

Outline

Advanced R Topics to Explore

Statistical Methods:

- Machine learning with `caret`, `mlr3`
- Time series analysis with `forecast`
- Survival analysis with `survival`
- Bayesian analysis with `brms`, `rstanarm`

Specialized Domains:

- Bioinformatics with `Bioconductor`
- Spatial analysis with `sf`, `terra`
- Text mining with `tidytext`, `quanteda`
- Web scraping with `rvest`

Advanced Programming:

- Object-oriented programming (S3, S4, R6)
- Parallel computing with `parallel`, `future`
- C++ integration with `Rcpp`
- Shiny web applications

Data Engineering:

- Big data with `sparklyr`
- Databases with `DBI`, `dbplyr`
- APIs with `httr`, `jsonlite`
- Cloud computing integration

Learning Resources

Books:

- *R for Data Science* by Wickham & Grolemund
- *Advanced R* by Hadley Wickham
- *R Packages* by Wickham & Bryan
- *An Introduction to Statistical Learning with R* by James et al.

Online Resources:

- RStudio Education: <https://education.rstudio.com/>
- R-bloggers: <https://www.r-bloggers.com/>
- CRAN Task Views: <https://cran.r-project.org/web/views/>
- R Weekly: <https://rweekly.org/>

Communities:

- R Community on Twitter: #rstats
- Stack Overflow R tag
- Local R User Groups (R-Ladies, etc.)

Outline

What We've Covered

- **R Fundamentals:** Data types, structures, and basic operations
- **Data Management:** Import/export, cleaning, and manipulation
- **Programming:** Control flow, functions, and best practices
- **Modern R:** tidyverse ecosystem and pipe operator
- **Statistical Analysis:** Descriptive stats, hypothesis testing, regression
- **Visualization:** ggplot2 and the grammar of graphics
- **Workflows:** Reproducible research, project organization
- **Advanced Topics:** Package development, version control

Key Takeaways

- ① **Think in vectors:** R is designed for vectorized operations
- ② **Embrace the tidyverse:** Modern R is more readable and consistent
- ③ **Reproducibility matters:** Use projects, scripts, and R Markdown
- ④ **Visualization is key:** ggplot2 is powerful and flexible
- ⑤ **Practice regularly:** The more you use R, the more natural it becomes
- ⑥ **Join the community:** R has an incredibly supportive user base

Next Steps for Your R Journey

Immediate actions:

- Set up your R environment with RStudio
- Complete the exercises from today's session
- Start a small project with your own data

Medium-term goals:

- Master the tidyverse ecosystem
- Learn advanced statistical methods relevant to your field
- Contribute to open-source R packages

Long-term development:

- Attend R conferences (useR!, RStudio Conference)
- Mentor others in R
- Consider R package development

Questions?

Contact Information:

dfr@esmad.ipp.pt

Resources from today:

All code examples and exercises available on GitHub

Thank you for your attention!