WORKSHEET 1 Installing R and RStudio

Aims and Objectives
This worksheet will walk you through the installation of R, R Studio and an R package. This worksheet will also enable you to test that your install is working.
Note that you should copy and paste the code and link **in the text format** as much as possible.

Step 1: Download and Install R

Link: https://cran.r-project.org/

Copy the link above and paste it onto a web browser.

For Windows user: Click on 'Download R for Windows' -> 'base' -> 'Download R {version} for Windows'. Then proceed to install it.

For Mac user: Click on 'Download R for macOS' -> 'R-{version}.pkg'. Then proceed to install it.

Step 2: Download and Install RStudio

Link: https://www.rstudio.com/products/rstudio/download/#download

Copy the link above and paste it onto a web browser.

For Windows users: Click on 'DOWNLOAD RSTUDIO FOR WINDOWS. Then proceed to install it.

For MacOS users: Scroll down a little bit, and you will find a link for macOS. Click on 'RStudio-{version}.dmg'. Then proceed to install it.

Step 3: Starting up RStudio

When you open RStudio for the first time, you will get a window as shown in Figure 1.

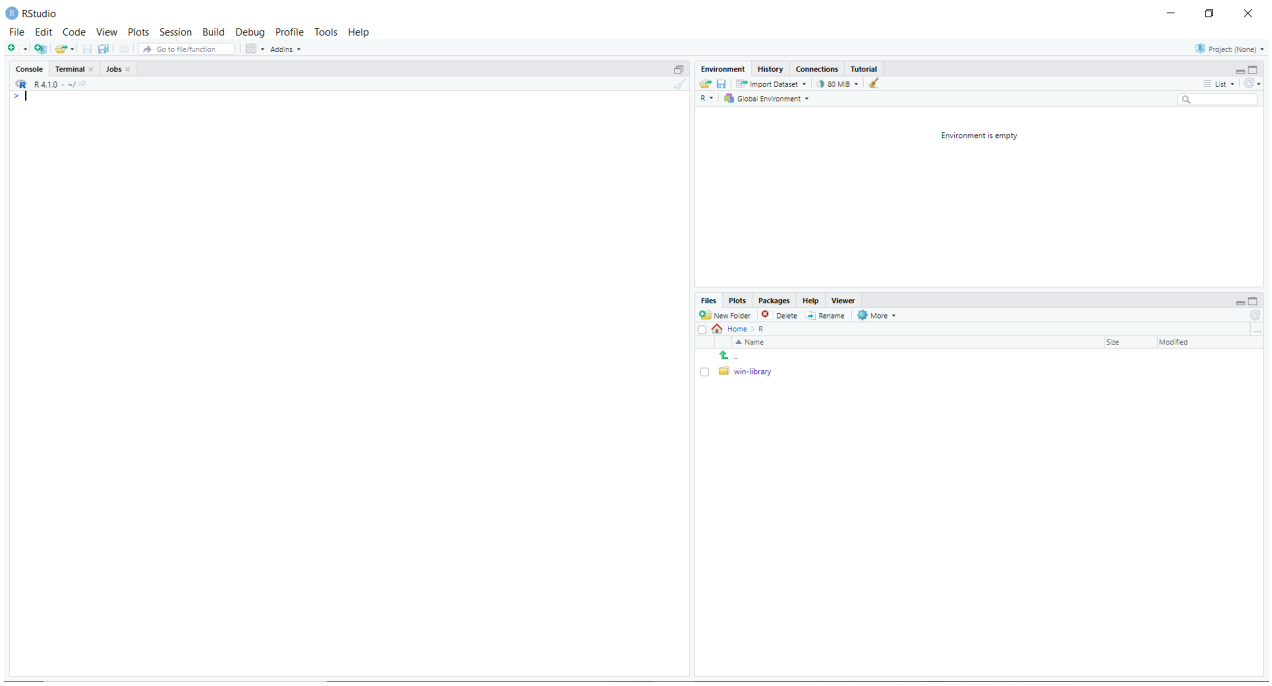

Figure 1 R studio

The left panel is the console where you type in the commands, the top right panel (environment) shows the data and variables, and the bottom right panel is the working directory.

To test if R is working, we will load the built-in datasets. To view all of the built-in datasets, we need to type in `data()` into the console then press enter (see Figure 2) .

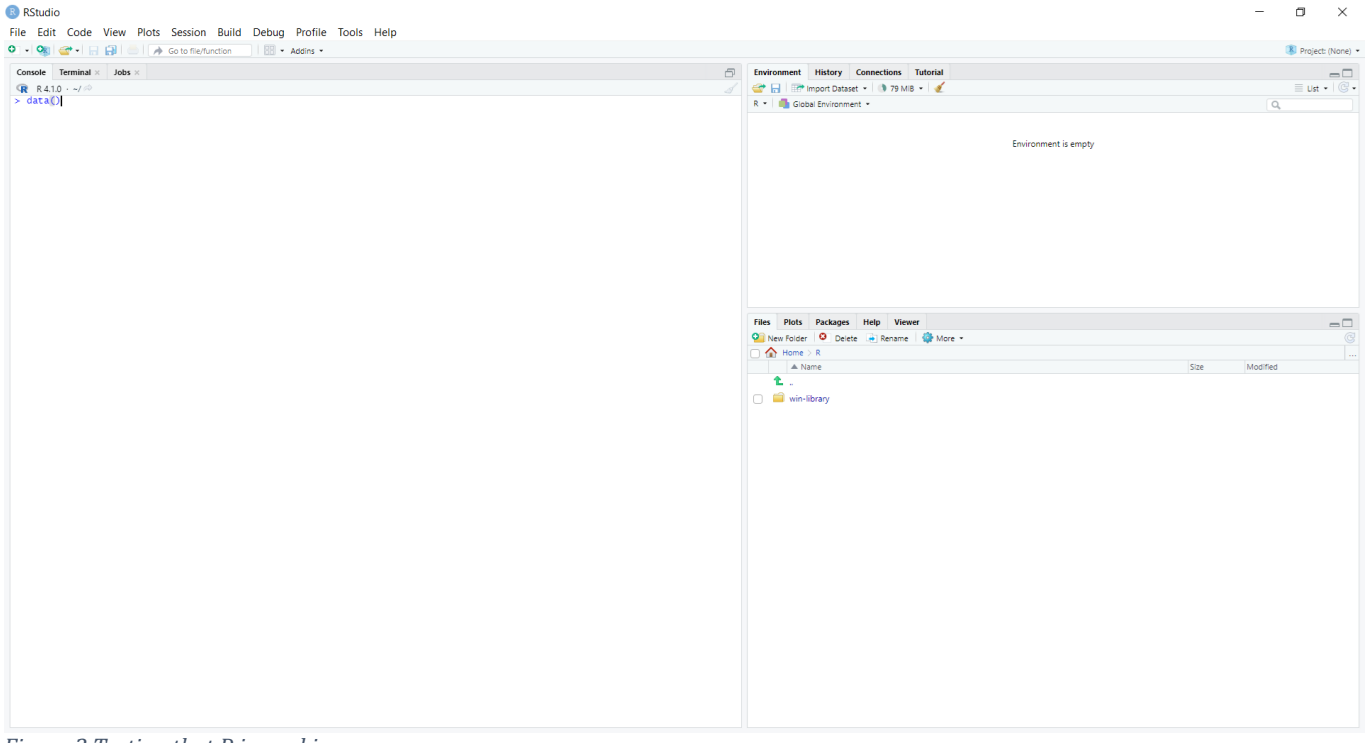

Figure 2 Testing that R is working

This will open a new panel called ‘R data sets’ showing all the built-in datasets that we can use (See Figure 3) .

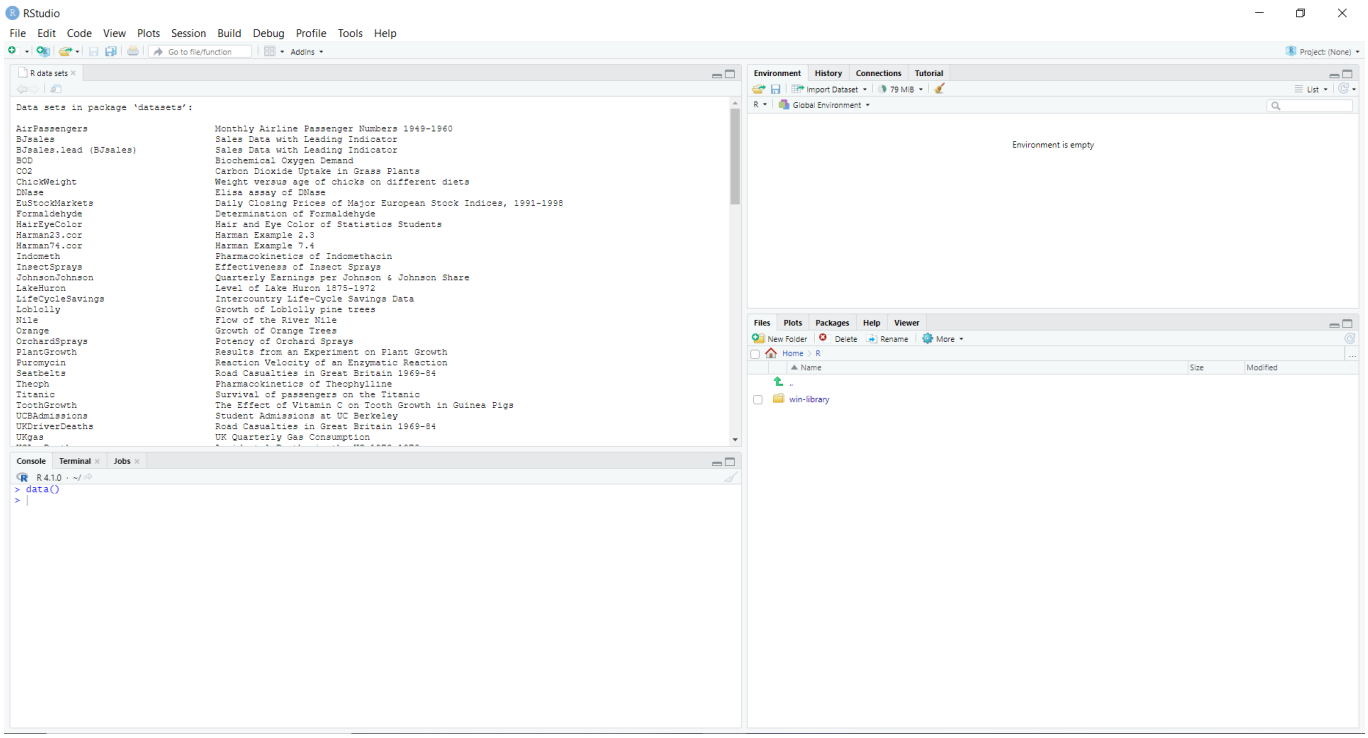

Figure 3 The R data sets panel shows the built in data sets

Let’s take a closer look at the cars dataset. We will store cars in a variable called ‘test’ then explore the contents of this data set. Type in `test <- cars` then press enter. We will see ‘test’ in the environment panel (See Figure 4) . It is not necessary to store `cars` in as a new element `test` , but we want to make it easier to visualise what is inside that dataset for this demonstration.

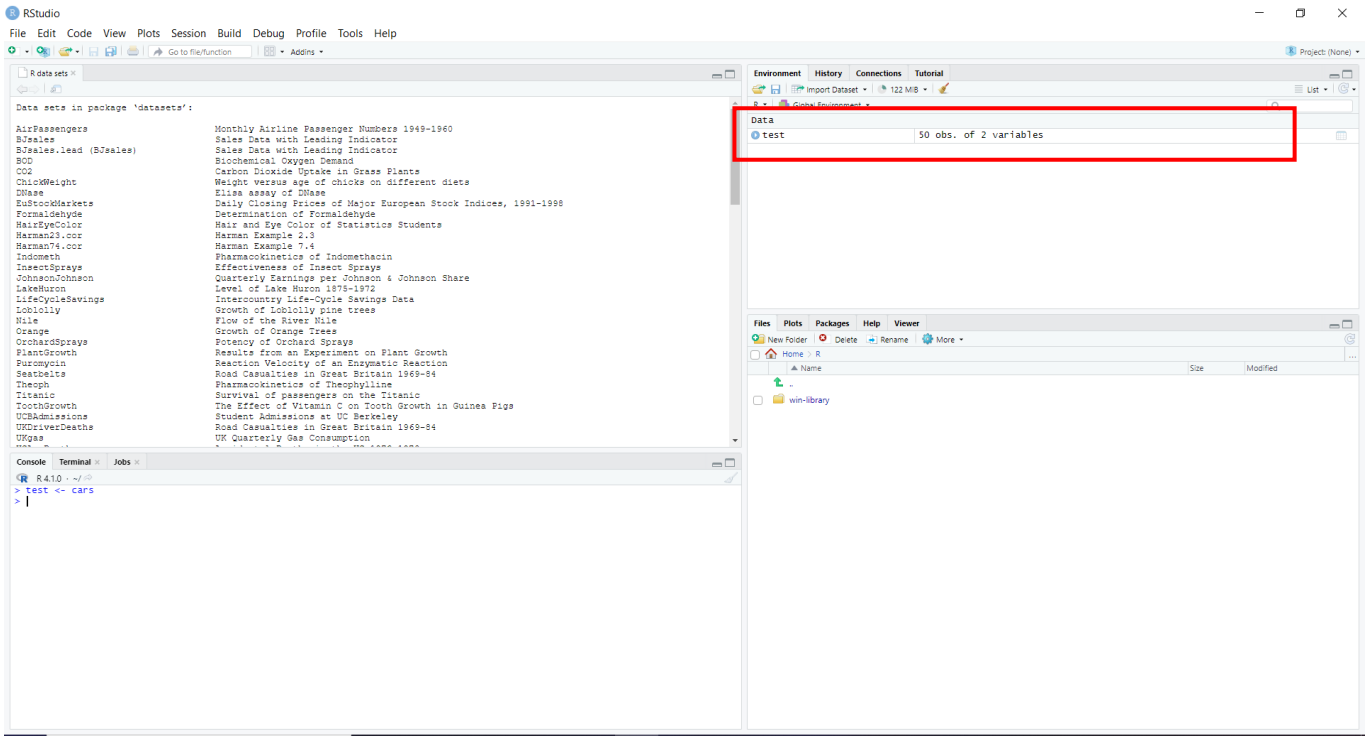

Figure 4 Looking at the contents of the 'cars" dataset

We can double click on ‘test’ in the environment panel or type `View(test)` onto the console to view what the cars dataset look like.

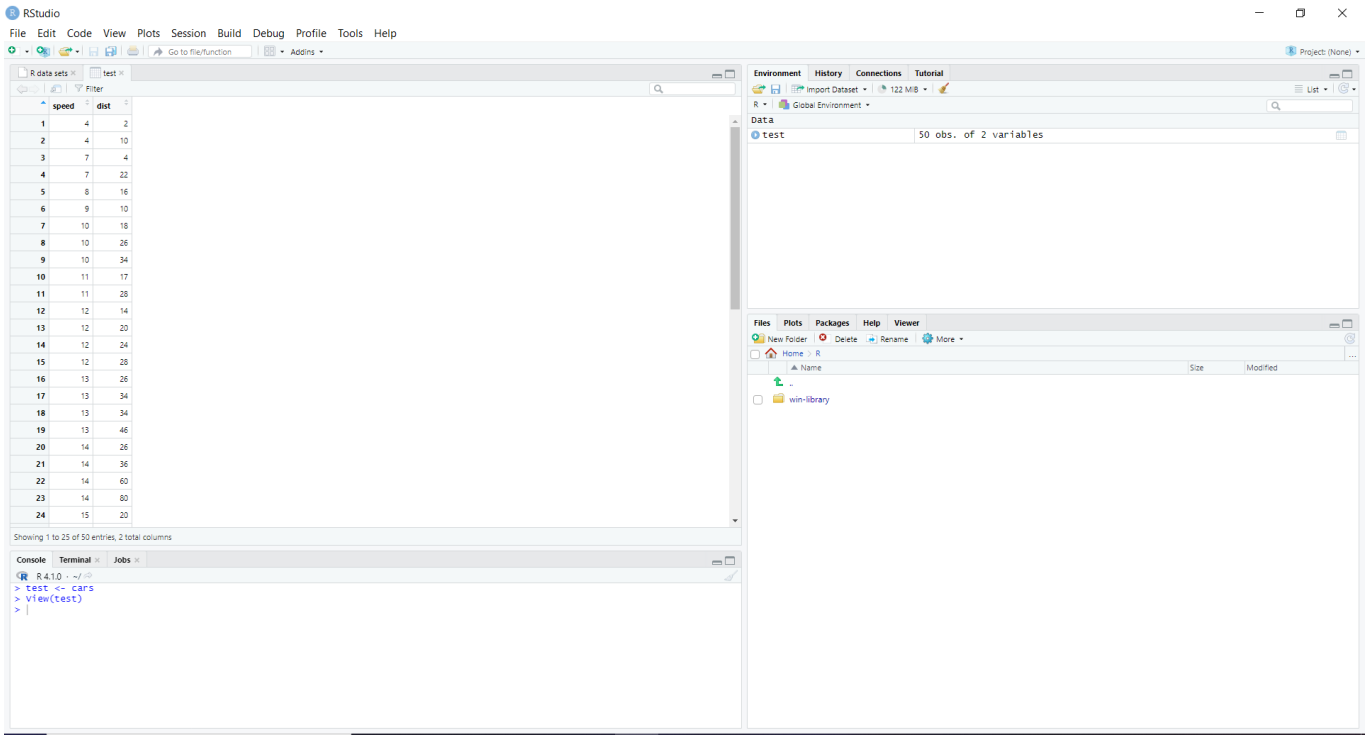

Figure 5 Viewing the contents of the 'test' data

We should see some rows and columns; speed represents how fast the car travelled before hitting the brakes. Dist is the distance travelled by a vehicle after the brakes have been applied (See Figure 5).

Step 4: Installing ggplot2

In order to make full use of the R language you will occasionally be installing libraries of code referred to as packages. To install packages in R, you need to use the `install.packages()` command. ggplot2 can be installed by typing in `install.packages('ggplot2')` then hitting enter (See Figure 6) .

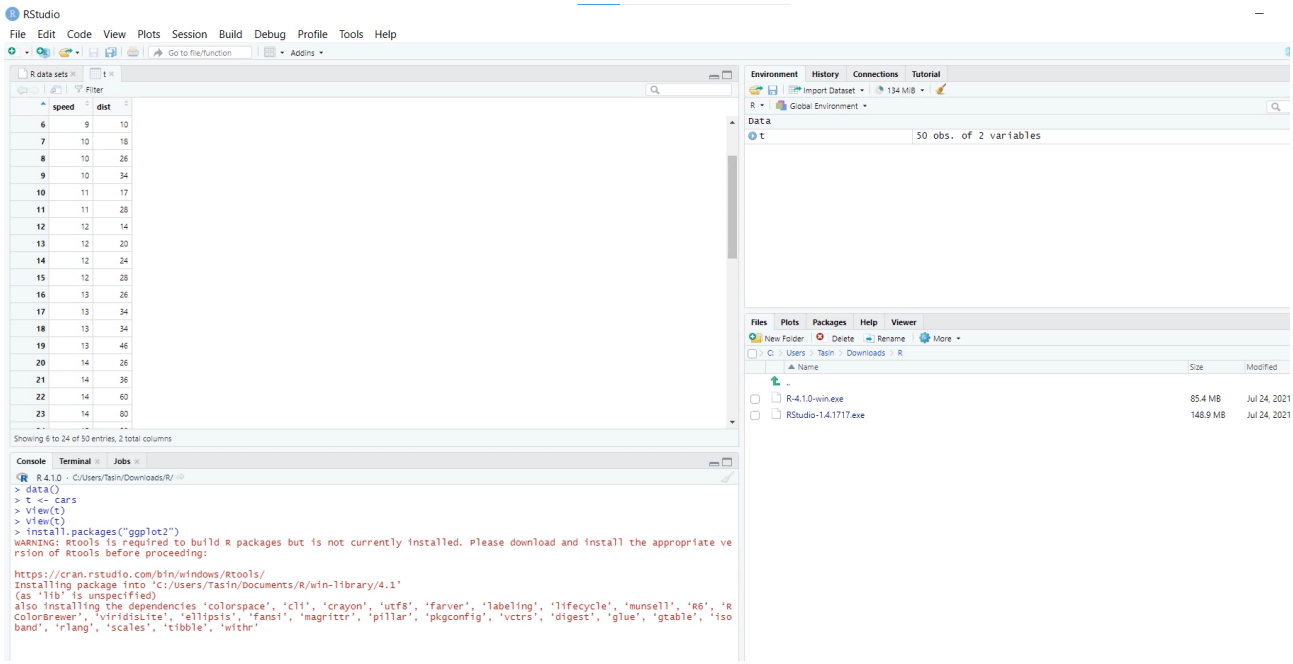

Figure 6 Installing the 'ggplot2' package - see the lower left hand side of this screen

Alternatively you can use R-Studio menus : click on Tools -> Install Packages…, a window should pop up. In the packages field, type in `ggplot2` (See Figure 7) .

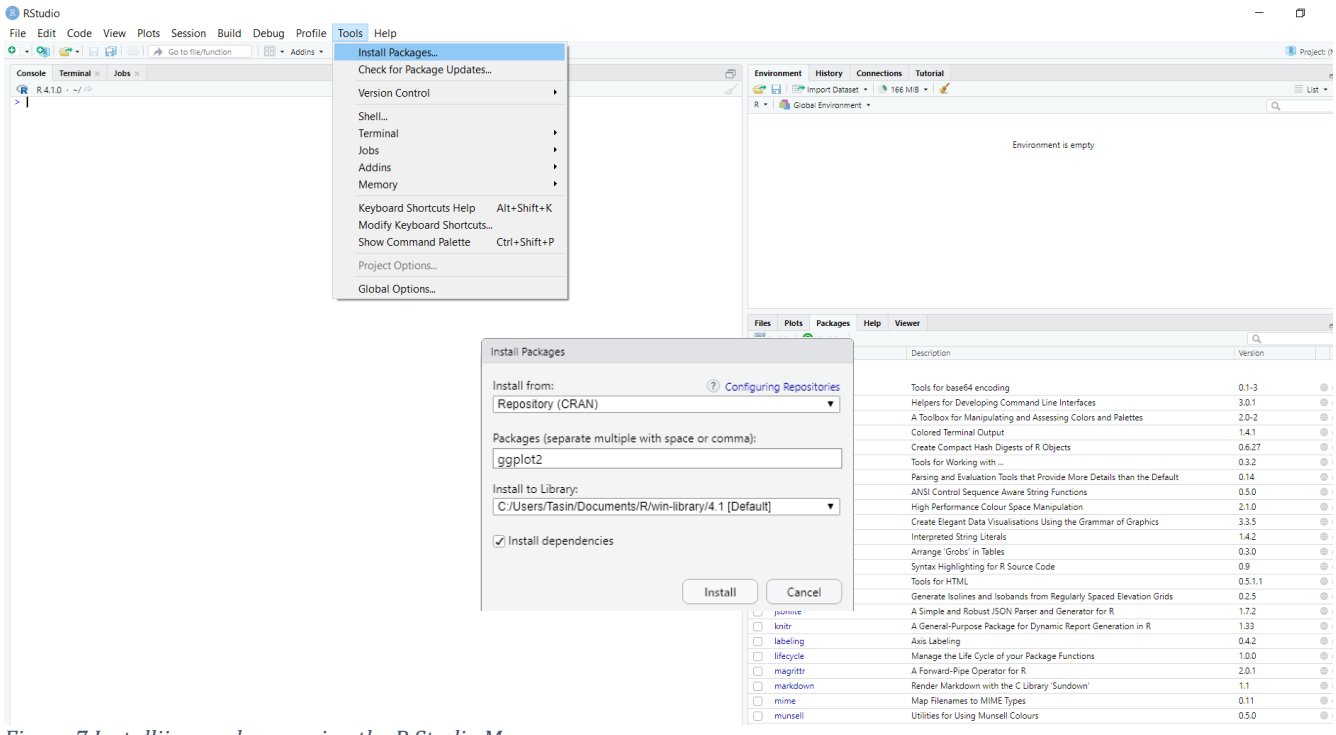

Figure 7 Installiing packages using the R Studio Menus

Packages are collections of R functions, data, and compiled code in a well-defined format, created to add specific functionality. ggplot2 is a powerful graphics language for creating elegant and complex plots. It provides a more programmatic interface for specifying what variables to plot, how they are displayed, and general visual properties.

There are hundreds of such packages, if you want to find out and read about the most popular one see https://www.rstudio.com/products/rpackages/ and if you want an exhaustive list take a look at this https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/available_packages_by_name.html .