



Podcast Summary: Automating R Workflows with AI

The conversation between David Keyes (Founder, R for Rest of Us) & Simon Couch (Software Engineer at Posit).

<https://rfortherestofus.com/2025/02/podcast-episode-24>

Techniques

Prompt engineering:

Writing clear prompts that compel AI to produce structured, R-specific code.

Workflow examples:

Automating exploratory analysis, data cleaning, and even plotting with autogenerated scripts.

Error detection & debugging:

Using AI to identify anomalies and suggest code fixes.

Pros vs Cons

Pros	Cons
Encourages Experimentation	Expect inefficient responses
Faster Coding	Degraded Human Intelligence
Explain & write complex functions	May not be optimal domain solution

AI Tools

PAL/CHORES:

- ❑ Automates cosmetic updates to code
- ❑ Replace Outdated function calls
- ❑ Ensure application of consistent patterns across

GANDER:

- ❑ Formats prompt & generate code
- ❑ Interactive code refinement + generation directly in R Studio
- ❑ Confirms & provide more insights to syntax

Conclusion:

In current landscape use AI only as collaborator with human review remains essential