

# Data analysis and visualization using R

## The R toolbox

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Why do statistical programming?

# Complete reproducibility and flexibility

- ▶ Keeping an exact log of all your mouse clicks in Excel may be problematic. . .
- ▶ Redoing an analysis with adjustments is easy
- ▶ Store the analysis, not its output

# The R toolbox

# Overview

This presentation will introduce you to a toolbox that will serve you well during your data quests.

- ▶ The R programming language
- ▶ The R studio IDE (Integrated Development Environment)
- ▶ R Markdown as documenting and reporting tool
- ▶ swirl as training environment

# Tool 1: R itself



# The R programming language

Wikipedia says:

“R is a programming language and software environment for statistical computing and graphics. The R language is widely used among statisticians and data miners for developing statistical software and data analysis”

# R is just a programming language

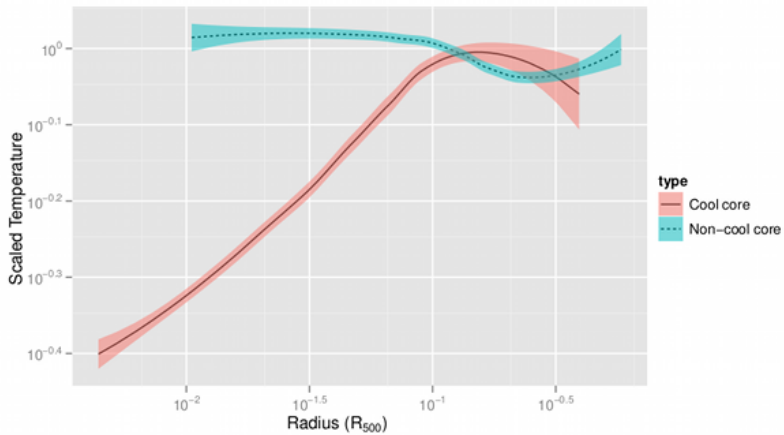
- ▶ R is a programming language like any other.
- ▶ It knows about character data, numbers, lists, functions  
(... but **has no dicts**)
- ▶ Like Python, it has an interactive mode



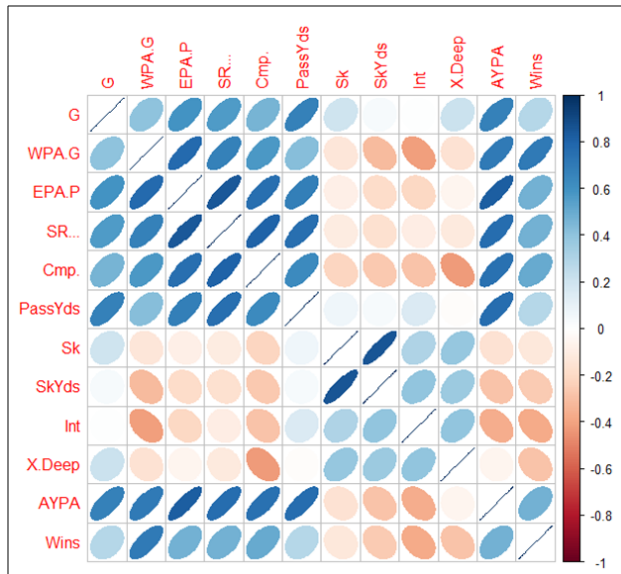
# R is **not** just a programming language

- ▶ It has embedded advanced graphical support
- ▶ It has extensive support for statistical work

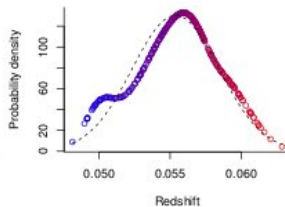
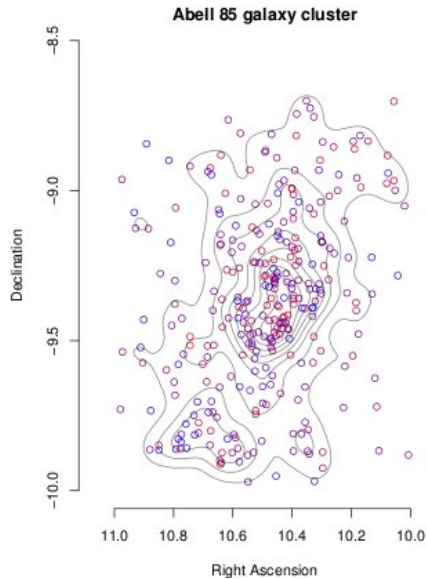
## R showcase (1)



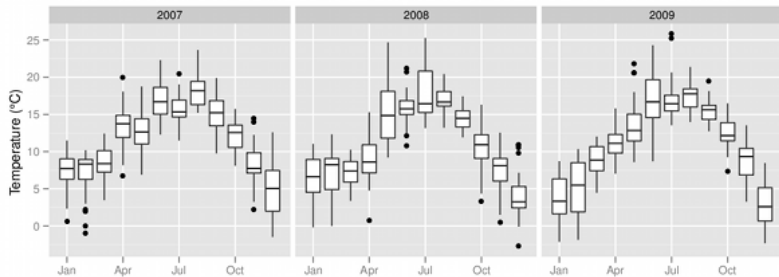
## R showcase (2)



## R showcase (3)



## R showcase (4)



# What is funny about R

In R, **EVERYTHING** lives inside a vector. There are no singular variables of atomic data types, only vectors of length zero or greater:

```
x <- 42
```

```
x
```

```
## [1] 42
```

```
x[1]
```

```
## [1] 42
```

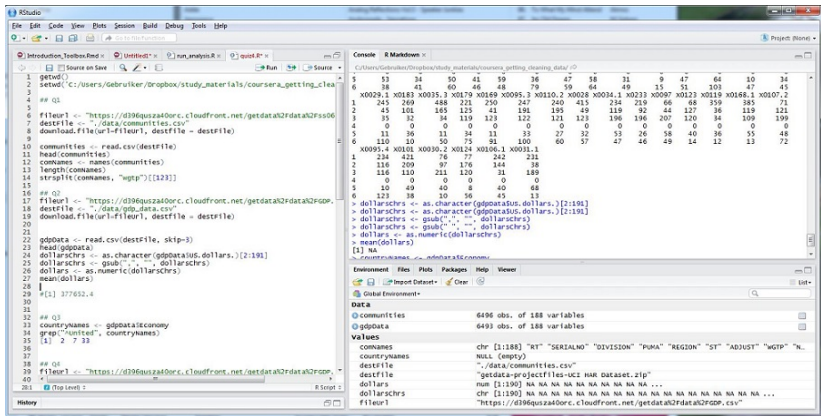
```
x[1][1][1][1]
```

```
## [1] 42
```

## Tool 2: RStudio



# RStudio is the IDE for R





## Tool 3: RMarkdown

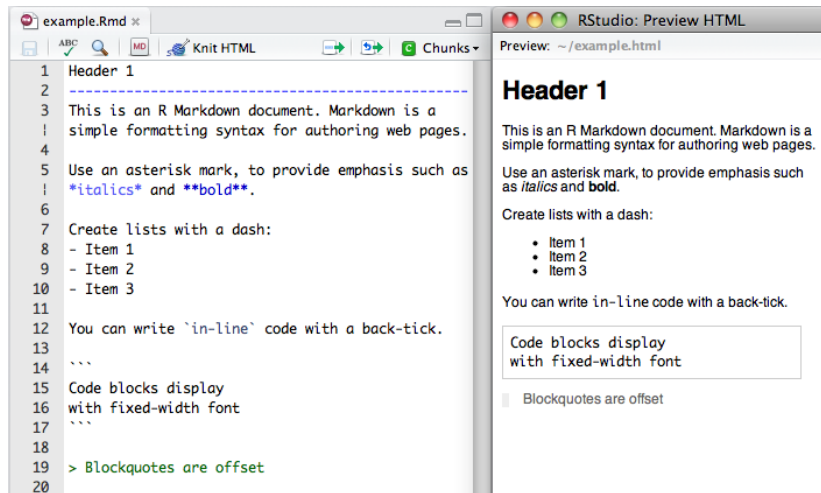


# RMarkdown is a great reporting tool

You can use it

- ▶ to create reports in word, pdf or html
- ▶ you can use it to create presentations (such as this one)
- ▶ support for it is integrated in RStudio
- ▶ to embed R code that will be executed to generate your report

# RMarkdown is really basic



The screenshot displays the RStudio interface with a document titled 'example.Rmd' on the left and its HTML preview on the right.

**Source Editor (Left):**

```
1 Header 1
2 -----
3 This is an R Markdown document. Markdown is a
4 | simple formatting syntax for authoring web pages.
5 Use an asterisk mark, to provide emphasis such as
6 | italics and bold.
7 Create lists with a dash:
8 - Item 1
9 - Item 2
10 - Item 3
11
12 You can write `in-line` code with a back-tick.
13
14 ```
15 Code blocks display
16 with fixed-width font
17 ```
18
19 > Blockquotes are offset
20
```

**Preview Window (Right):**

Preview: ~/example.html

## Header 1

This is an R Markdown document. Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring web pages.

Use an asterisk mark, to provide emphasis such as *italics* and **bold**.

Create lists with a dash:

- Item 1
- Item 2
- Item 3

You can write in-line code with a back-tick.

```
Code blocks display
with fixed-width font
```

Blockquotes are offset

source <http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/>

## Tool 4: swirl



Learn R, in R.

# swirl

- ▶ Swirl is a very nice tool to train your R brain
- ▶ It is a framework for interactive lessons in R
- ▶ I recommend doing those!
- ▶ See [swirlstats.com](http://swirlstats.com)

## Let's get dirty

- ▶ OK, before we're going into the gritty details of R, let me try to convince you why it could be nice to learn it.
- ▶ R has a very nice package of demo datasets
- ▶ ChickWeight is one of these - a dataframe with 578 weight measurements of chicks on different diets

```
head(ChickWeight)
```

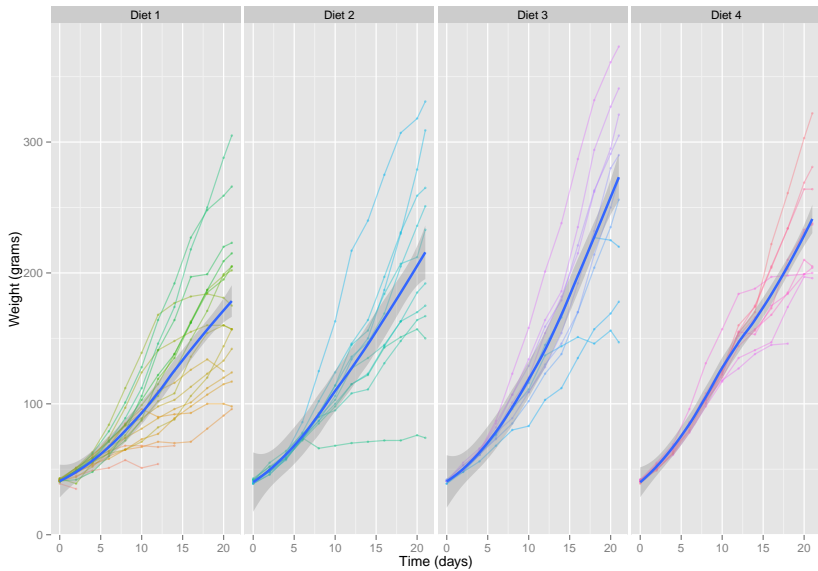
##	weight	Time	Chick	Diet
## 1	42	0	1	1
## 2	51	2	1	1
## 3	59	4	1	1
## 4	64	6	1	1
## 5	76	8	1	1
## 6	93	10	1	1

# Plotting ChickWeight

- ▶ I want to explore weight trends over time for the different diets
- ▶ Done using the ggplot2 package in only a few lines of code
- ▶ *I challenge you to try this in Excel!!*

```
library(ggplot2)
#make nicer labels
ChickWeight$Diet <- factor(ChickWeight$Diet,
  labels = c("Diet 1", "Diet 2", "Diet 3", "Diet 4"))
ggplot(ChickWeight, aes(x = Time, y = weight)) + facet_grid(
  geom_point(aes(color = Chick), alpha = 0.3, size = 1) +
  geom_line(aes(color = Chick), alpha = 0.3) +
  geom_smooth(method = "loess", size = 1) +
  theme(legend.position="none") +
  xlab("Time (days)") + ylab("Weight (grams)"))
```

- ▶ picture on next slide





# The end

- ▶ This concludes the overview of the toolbox and demo use case
- ▶ In the next presentation we'll cover some basic R and then come back to visit R markdown