

Introduction & overview

Applied Data Science using R, Session 1

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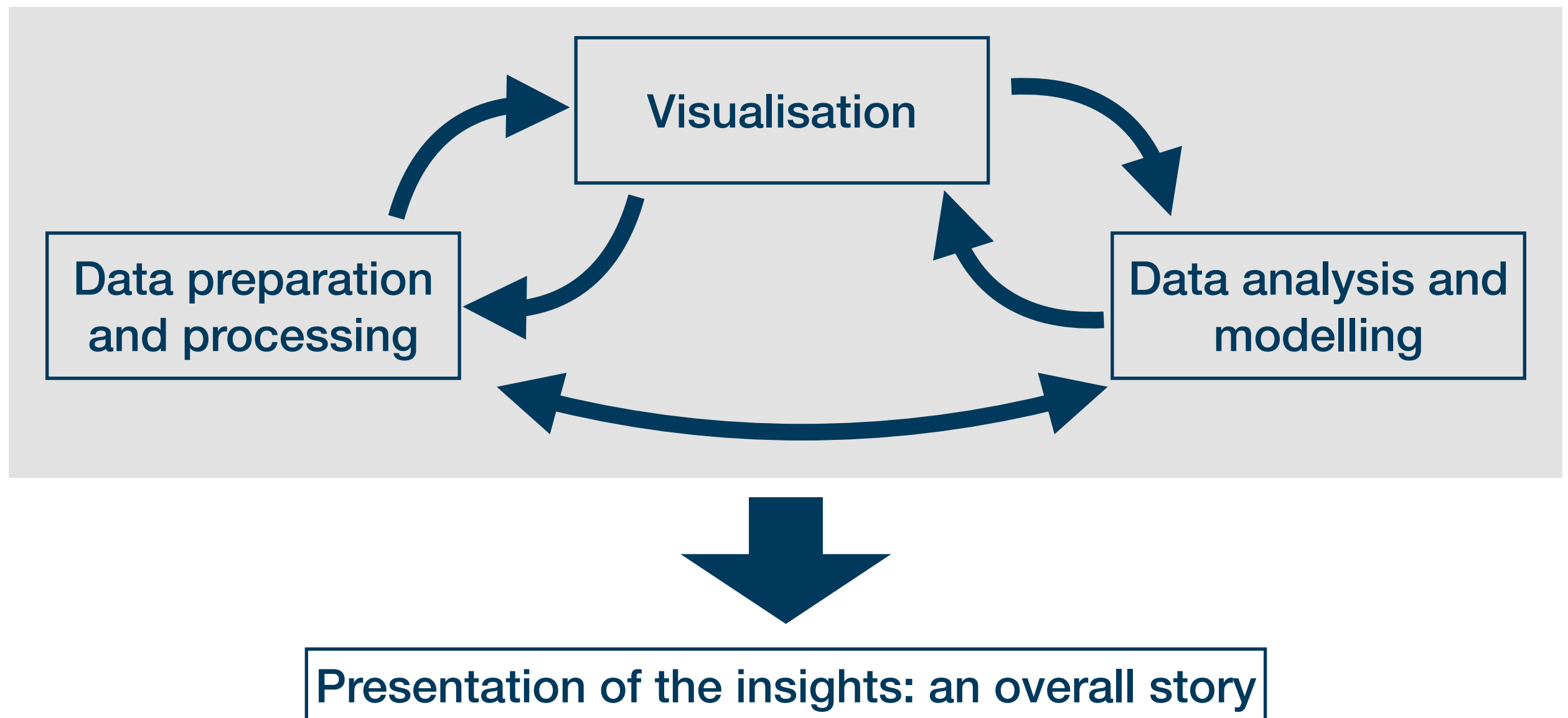
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Part I: Organization & outlook

Note: my slides for this course are meant as a “script on slides”

Goal of the course

- In this course you will learn how to prepare, analyse, and present quantitative data using the software **R** → four key areas



Why R?

- R allows you to conduct **all steps of this data science pipeline** within one consistent framework in a transparent and reproducible manner

- R is free, OS-independent and **open source**
→ inclusive, transparent, and vibrant tool

- For statistical analysis, R is among the **most widely used** and demanded programming languages

- R is demanded in almost **every industry**

- Learning R makes it **easier to learn other** widely used programming languages

- There is a great and friendly R **Community**

“The days of commercial statistical languages and packages such as SAS, Stata and SPSS are over”

Paul Jansen, CEO of Tiobe Software

#	RedMonk	TIOBE	PYPL
1	JavaScript	Python	Python
2	Python	C	Java
3	Java	Java	JavaScript
4	PHP	C++	C/C++
5	C#	C#	C#
6	C++	Visual Basic	PHP
7	CSS	JavaScript	R
8	TypeScript	PHP	Objective C
9	Ruby	Assembly	Swift
10	C	SQL	TypeScript
11	Swift	Go	Matlab
12	R	Swift	Kotlin
13	Objective C	R	Go
14	Shell	Matlab	Ruby
15	Scala	Delphi	VBA

What you will be able to do

- Read in data sets from various sources
- Prepare 'messy' data and produce 'tidy' data
- Create illustrative **visualisations** on a publication-ready level



THE WORLD BANK



STATIS
Statistisches Bundesamt

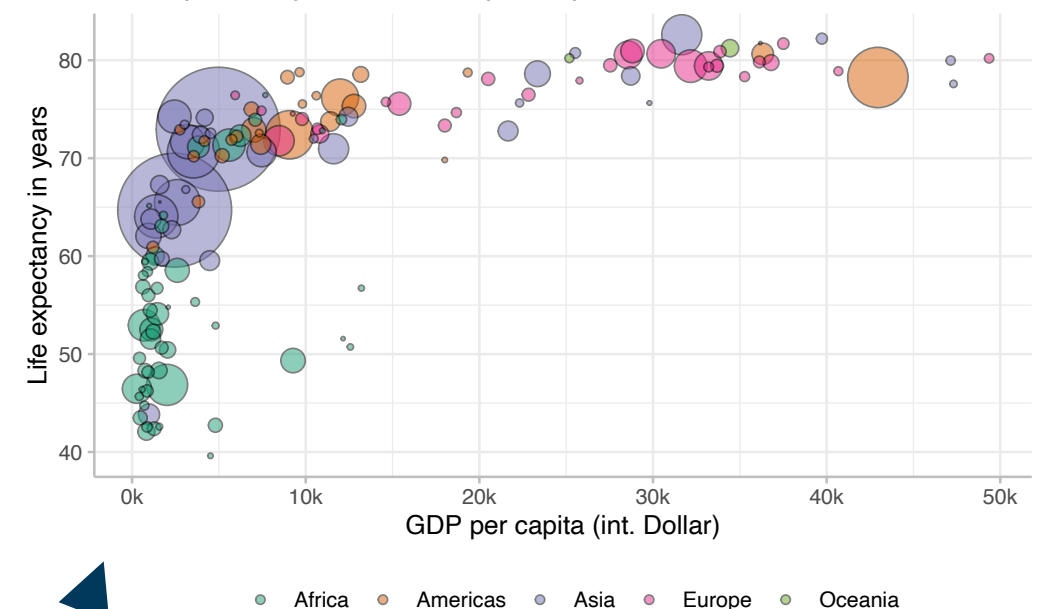
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country,1952,1957,1962,1967,1972,1977,1982,1987,1992,1997,2002,2007
Afghanistan,Asia|28.801|8425333|779.4453145,Asia|30.332|9240934|820
.8530296,Asia|31.997|10267083|853.10071,Asia|34.02|11537966|836
.1971382,Asia|36.088|13079460|739.9811058,Asia|38.438|14880372|786
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Albania,Europe|55.23|1282697|1601.056136,Europe|59.28|1476505|1942
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.00391,Europe|70.42|2780097|3630.880722,Europe|72|3075321|3738
.932735,Europe|71.581|3326498|2497.437901,Europe|72.95|3428038|3193
.054604,Europe|75.651|3508512|4604.211737,Europe|76.423|3600523|5937
```

A tibble: 142 × 5

	country	continent	lifeExp	pop	gdpPercap
	<fct>	<fct>	<dbl>	<int>	<dbl>
1	China	Asia	73.0	1318683096	4959.
2	India	Asia	64.7	1110396331	2452.
3	United States	Americas	78.2	301139947	42952.
4	Indonesia	Asia	70.6	223547000	3541.
5	Brazil	Americas	72.4	190010647	9066.
6	Pakistan	Asia	65.5	169270617	2606.
7	Bangladesh	Asia	64.1	150448339	1391.
8	Nigeria	Africa	46.9	135031164	2014.
9	Japan	Asia	82.6	127467972	31656.
10	Mexico	Americas	76.2	108700891	11978.

... with 132 more rows

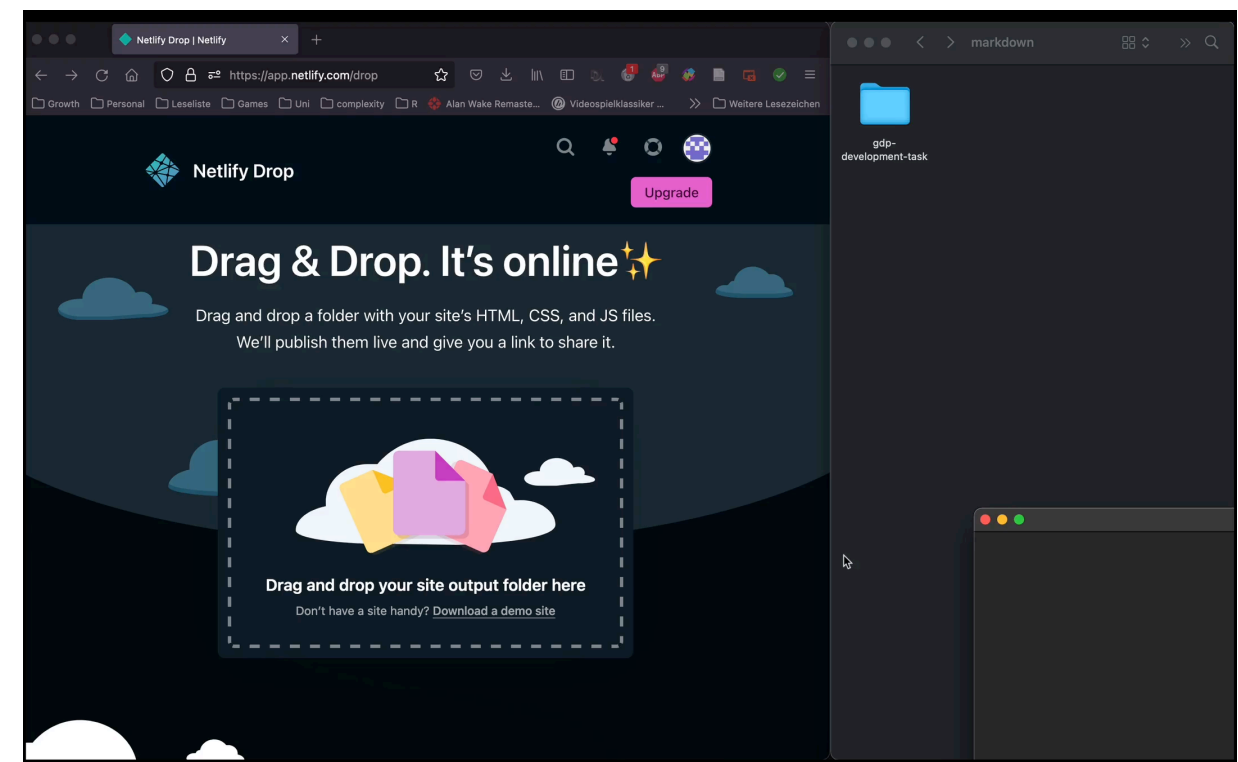
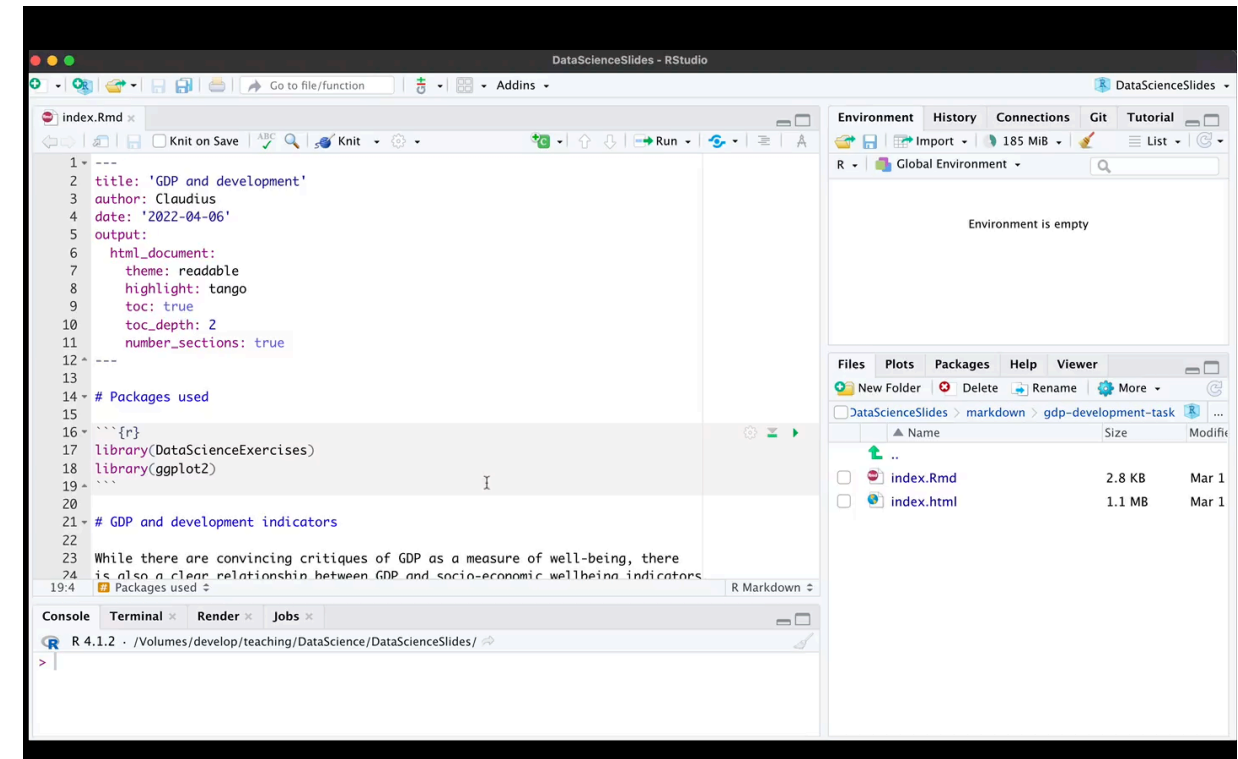
Life expectancy and income per capita



Note: size of bubbles represents population. Data: Gapminder

What you will be able to do

- Identify hidden patterns in data and **make predictions** using models
- Write reproducible research **reports** in Quarto
- **Publish** visually appealing reports on the web via Netlify



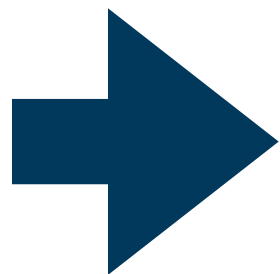
The road to our goal

- This is the fourth time I am teaching this particular course at the EUF → our outline is tentative and subject to change
- There will be **lecture videos** for most sessions, sometimes we will experiment with a **blended learning** approach
- We will regularly consult three open source and **free textbooks**, I have written **lecture summaries and tutorials**
- I provide you with **practical exercises**
 - Work together, find study groups
 - Use the Moodle forum for questions
 - Try to follow the course constantly
- Ask questions and **provide feedback**





But can't ChatGPT just do this for us...?

- Yes and no 😇
- LLMs such as ChatGPT can be very useful when developing code
- You know a programming language well → LLMs boost your productivity
- You do not know a language well → LLMs will be confusing
 - Often return *slightly* misbehaving code → always need to work on the output
 - LLMs do not know the most recent developments in the language
 - Their code is not always easy to read



I invite you to experiment with LLMs as much as you want, including during the exam, but be wary of their limitations 🧐

Organization of the lectures

- Each session comprises theory and practice → always bring **laptops**  
- Sometimes also **blended learning sessions**: watch video at home, do group practice on-site
- Questions should always be posted online in the **Moodle forum**
 - Questions should most of all be **answered by other students** → solving each others' problems helps tremendously for understanding
 - The forum ensures that answers to questions are (i) recorded and (ii) available to everybody
 - Particularly intriguing questions can be discussed in the beginning of a session

Logistics

- There is one weekly and one bi-weekly on-site session
 - But not 100% regular → regularly check the outline
- The course material as such will be made available via a [course webpage](#)
 - Written in R → easier for me to maintain + makes material publicly available
- Discussion and announcements are organised via Moodle
 - Moodle room: TBD | Moodle password: **DataScience24**
 - Most important: the forum for our questions and the announcements

Examination

- Upon successful completion, this course is worth **5 CP**
 - Corresponds to **150 working hours**, about 25 being lecture time
- You decide whether your overall grade comprises of...
 - A mid-term exam during the middle of the semester (50%) and a final exam at the end of the semester (50%)
 - Or only a final exam at the end of the semester (100%)
- You will need to analyse artificial data sets, write reproducible reports, and answer content questions:
 - Includes data preparation, visualisation and analysis
 - Open book character is meant to mimic the practical application of the tools

Summary: our ‘learning agreement’

The goal

You learn to be confident in using R when turning raw data into a comprehensible story. This includes **importing**, **transforming**, **modelling**, and **visualising** data, and to **communicate** the overall results.

What I offer

I provide **slides, example codes, tutorials, and exercises**, which are tailored to your learning needs. I will give my best to facilitate an **amicable working environment**, and answer questions in class and via Moodle.
I seek your **feedback** and implement it, when feasible.

What I expect

I expect you to **attend** classes regularly, to be **honest** about what you did not understand, to **support each other** through Moodle and in class, that you do the **coursework** and **exercises regularly** such that you keep up with the course, and that you give **feedback**.

Summary: our ‘learning agreement’

- Why do I expect these activities from you?
 - Learning a programming language is a **consecutive activity**: you miss basics in the beginning → you’ll quickly become frustrated and get lost
 - This is a demanding course: catching up later on what you missed earlier will be difficult
 - Learning a programming language works mainly through practice and **doing** → practical exercises have a *huge* benefit
 - Learning a programming language is *difficult* and at times *frustrating* → we need an amicable environment and must support each other
 - Few things have a bigger learning effect than helping others with their problems

Learning a programming language can be a lot of fun and really brings you forward – if we do this together as a team💪

Open questions?

Short introduction round:

- What's your **name** and study **background**?
- What was your **motivation** to come today and register for the course?
- What's your biggest **wish** and biggest **concern** for this **course**?
- What do you associate with the term "**Data Science**"?

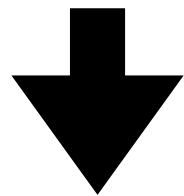
Part II:

Installing R and R Studio

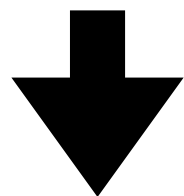
R and R-Studio

- R is a programming language
- It is a language that allows you to issue commands to your computer:

```
> fib_n(4)
```

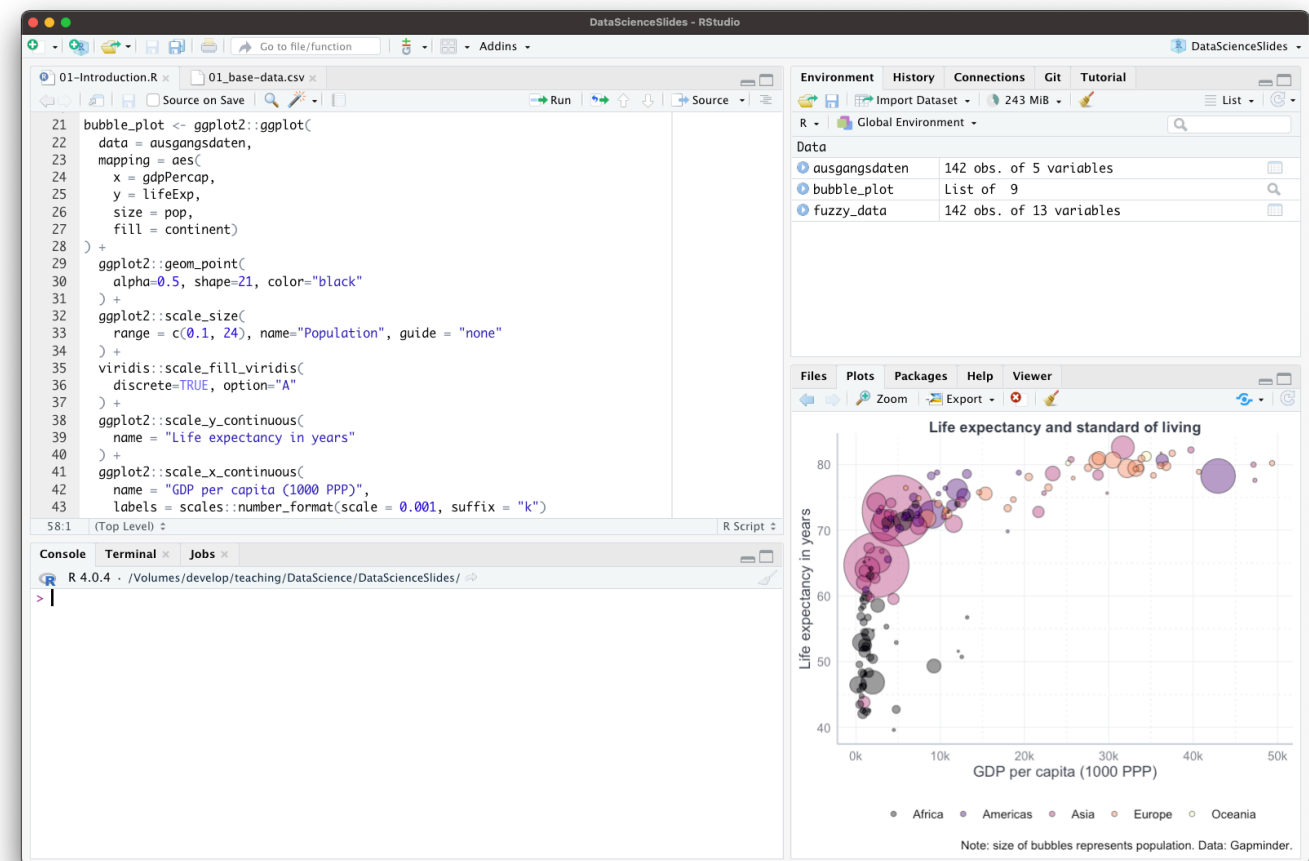


```
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FA027706 B8010000 00C353BB 01000000  
B9010000 008D0419 83FA0376 078BD989  
C14AEBF1 5BC3
```



```
[1] 3
```

- R-Studio is an integrated development environment
- Basically a fancy text editor with additional features that make programming easy



R and R-Studio

- R is a programming language
- R-Studio is an integrated development environment

R: Engine



RStudio: Dashboard



Figure: Ismay & Kim (2022)

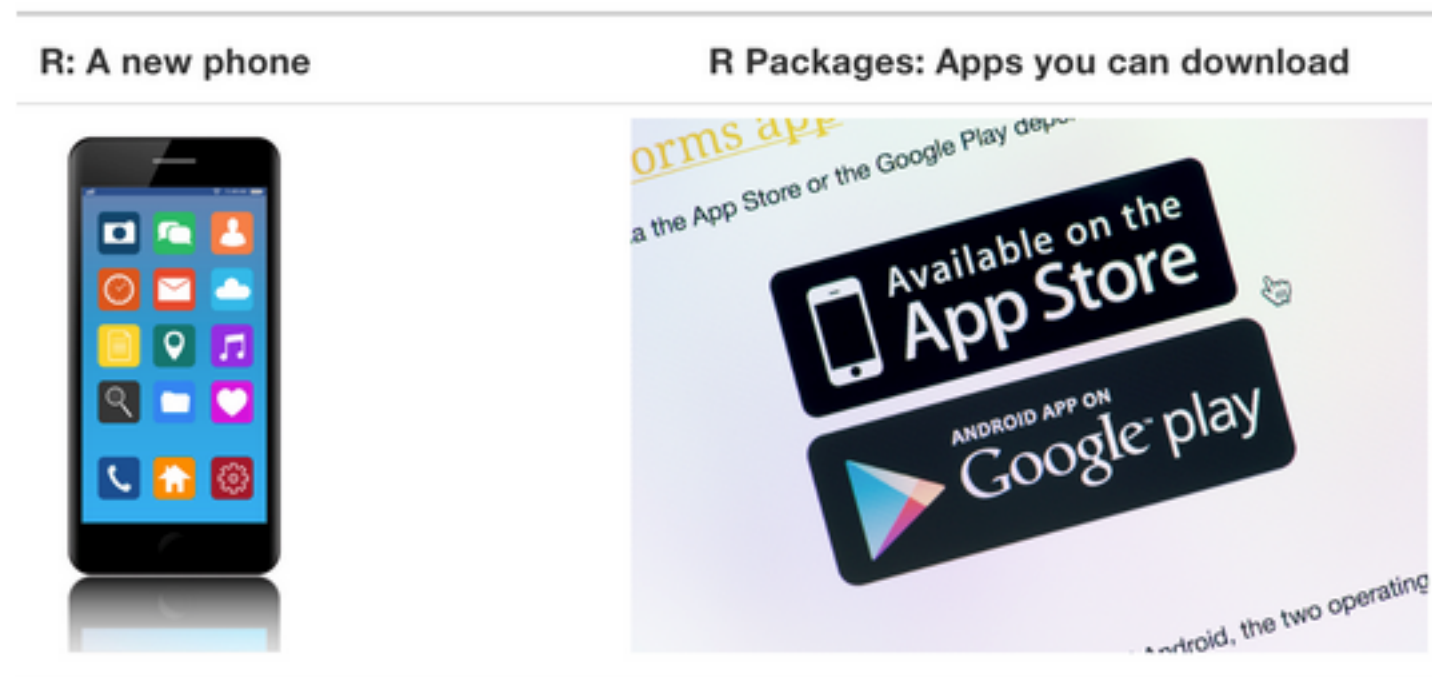
- You need to install R first, then you can install R Studio
- After that, you basically only use R Studio → it calls R whenever necessary

R and R packages

- If you install R, you can issue a lot of commands that your computer immediately understands
- However, there might be some routines that R “doesn’t understand”
- You might “teach” R this by defining, for instance, certain functions that perform these operations
- You might then even “save” these functions and pass it on to others, so that they can use them as well
- This is the idea of **R packages**: a collection of variables and functions written by others that you can install on your computer and use them
- Once an R package is installed, you can use all functions and variables defined by the creator of the package

R and R packages

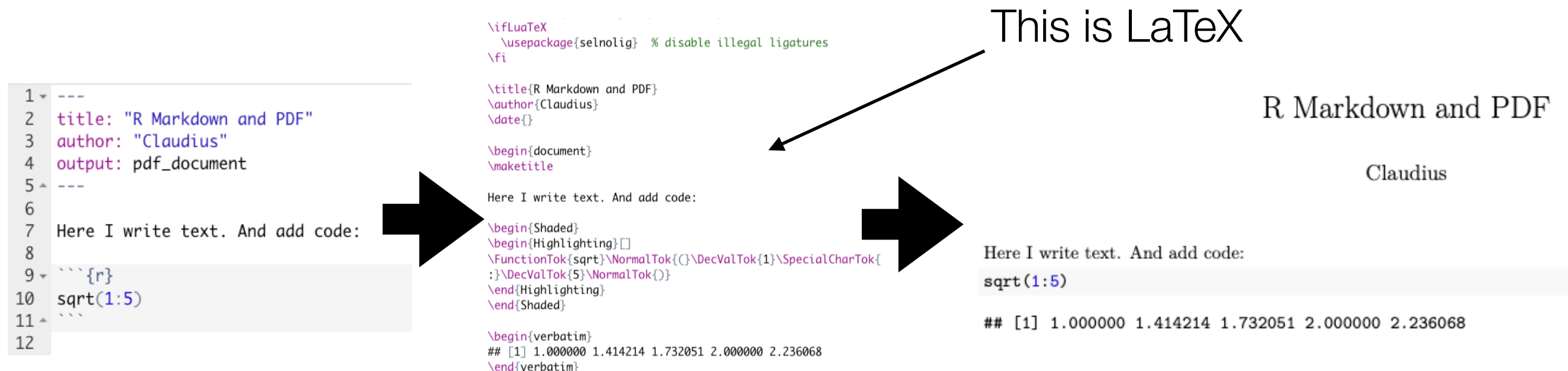
- Again, Ismay & Kim (2022) have a nice analogy:



- I wrote a small script that installs all packages that we will use throughout the semester, so we can already resolve all installation issues now

And what about LaTeX?

- In this course we learn how to write nice reports in Quarto / R Markdown
 - You put R code and text into one file, and you get a webpage in HTML or a nice PDF file
- Creating HTML code is easy, but creating a PDF is nothing trivial
 - To do this, we need a software called LaTeX → a typesetting system
 - It turns plain text into nice text within a PDF document



Installation procedure

- It is absolutely essential that you install all the necessary software as soon as possible → installation guidelines on the course homepage
- Until next session you should have...
 - ...tried to install R, R Studio and Git → follow my tutorials
 - ...posted all problems with a screenshot in the Moodle forum
- Be prepared tomorrow, trying to install R just before the session is 🤨
- We need to solve all installation problems until the end of next week
 - Post problems on Moodle, help each other out



Problems with the installation?

1. Check again in the tutorials
2. Post your problems in Moodle
3. Accompany them with screenshots