Import data to RStudio
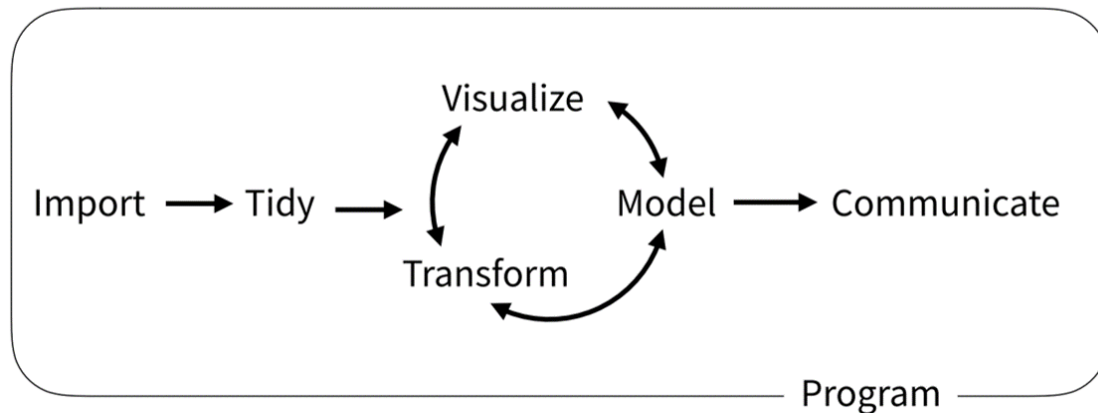
Jeff Wesner

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Nearly every study that includes data has a workflow similar to that above. We gather data, get it into a program (Import), get it in the right format (Tidy), and then analyze it with plots (Visualiation), Models, Transformations, etc. When we've finished, we communicate the results to our peers. You'll learn how to complete these steps in R because its designed specifically for each of these steps. But the workflow applies regardless of the software you use.

1) Get data from Gapminder

For this example, we'll work with a dataset of fertility rates. Go to https://www.gapminder.org/data/. Search for "children per woman total fertility". Download the csv and save it to a folder on your computer that you will remember.
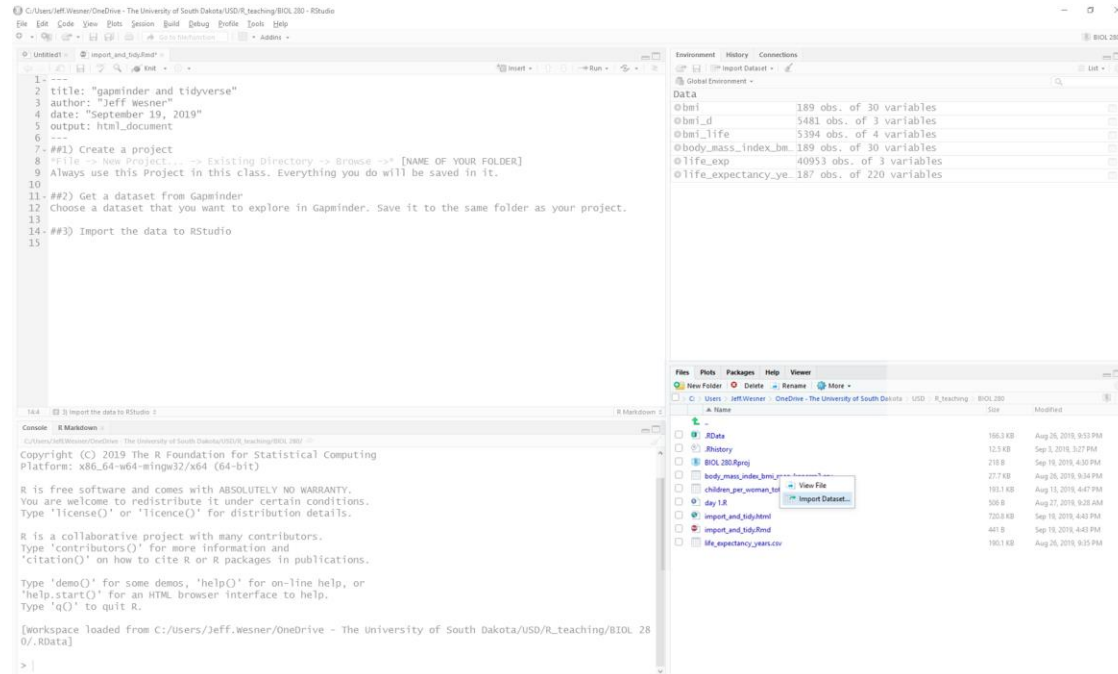
2) Create a project

Open RStudio and create a project in the same folder as your dataset:

File -> New Project... -> Existing Directory -> Browse -> [NAME OF YOUR FOLDER]
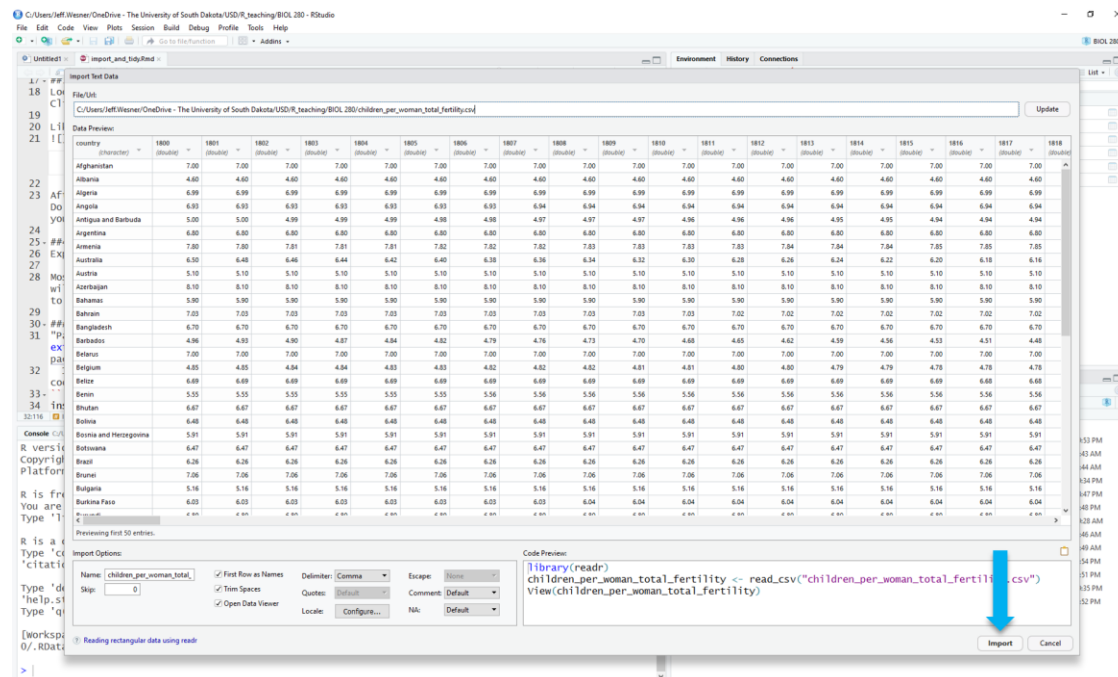
You only have to do this once. Everything you compute will be saved in this project, and you can always start where you left off.

3) Import the data to RStudio

Look in the lower right panel of RStudio. Click on "Files". Do you see the Gapminder data you saved? Left-click on your dataset and choose *Import Dataset* like this:

After you click *Import Dataset*, you'll see a preview of your dataset like this:

Click *Import* in the lower right.

Do you see the name of the dataset in the upper right panel? If so, success! If not, re-try the steps above or ask your instructor.

Now explore your data. How many columns does it have? How many rows? What are the variables?

Can you import a different dataset?