Tools for data viz: R and ggplot

Dr Kate Helmstedt MXB262 2020 QUT



Language: Why R?

- Scripted languages allow reproducibility
- Not about technical attributes
- Pick your language based on what people in your area speak/code
- Rstudio, Rmarkdown and other tools for communication and sharing
- A great open-source community



What is R?

- R is a programming language, statistical software, and visualisation program
- Interpreted (vs. compiled) language
- Similar to matlab & python
- It's free! And the online community is vibrant



Where to get R

https://cloud.r-project.org (it's free!)

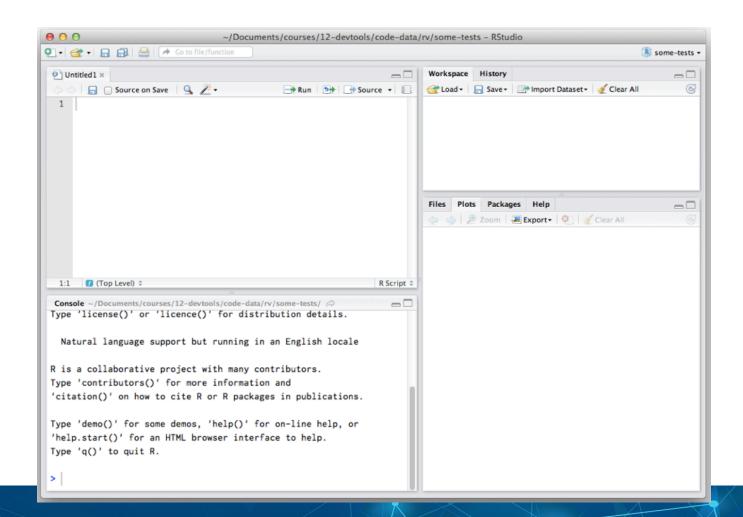
And get Rstudio (the IDE we will be using in MXB262)

http://www.rstudio.com/download (it's free!)

And if your heart belongs to matlab, google 'R for matlab users' cheat sheet



R Studio



Assign variables with <-

```
> x <- 5
```

> X

[1] 5

katerules <- 1:4

> katerules

[1] 1 2 3 4



Indexing

Indexes from 1
Index using square brackets

- > katerulesmore <- katerules* 10
- > katerulesmore
- [1] 10 20 30 40
- > katerulesmore[1]
- [1] 10
- > katerulesmore[length(katerulesmore)]
- [1] 40



Whitespace

Between letters: end of word/name/expression

Indentation means nothing, but is VERY NICE

Line return: execute command

EXCEPT: curly brackets say 'yo, another command incoming, don't execute yet'

```
> {x<-5 [enter]
y<-10}
> x
[1] 10
> y
[1] 5
```

Short Cuts

In editor:

Command/ctrl + enter: send code to console

Ctrl + 2: move cursor to console

In console:

Up arrow: retrieve previous command

Ctrl + up arrow: search commands

Ctrl + 1: move cursor to editor

Using functions

```
> mean(katerules)
[1] 2.5
> katemean <- mean(katerules)
> katemean
[1] 2.5
```