Data Wrangling with R and the Tidyverse

Session 1

Kieran Healy

Statistical Horizons, April 2021

Housekeeping

Housekeeping

10am till 2pm US EST

Housekeeping

10am till 2pm US EST

Lab session from 5pm to 6pm US EST

Housekeeping

10am till 2pm US EST

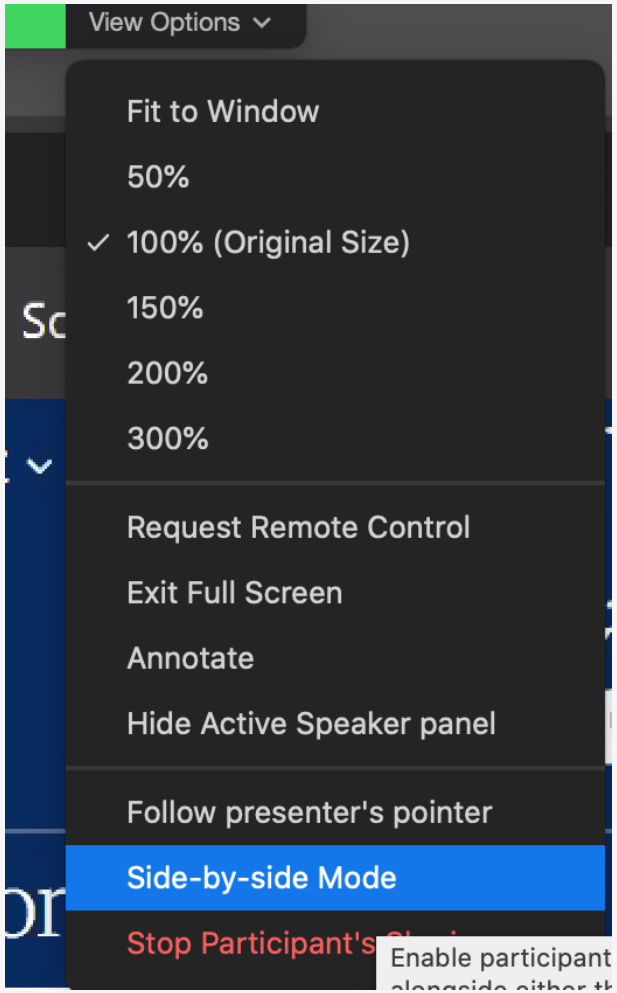
Lab session from 5pm to 6pm US EST

Use the Zoom chat to ask questions, or raise a hand with 👋

In between class sessions

slack

For a better Zoom experience



If you're watching in full-screen view and I'm sharing my screen, then from Zoom's "View options" menu *turn off* "Side-by-Side" mode.

This Morning's Goals

This Morning's Goals

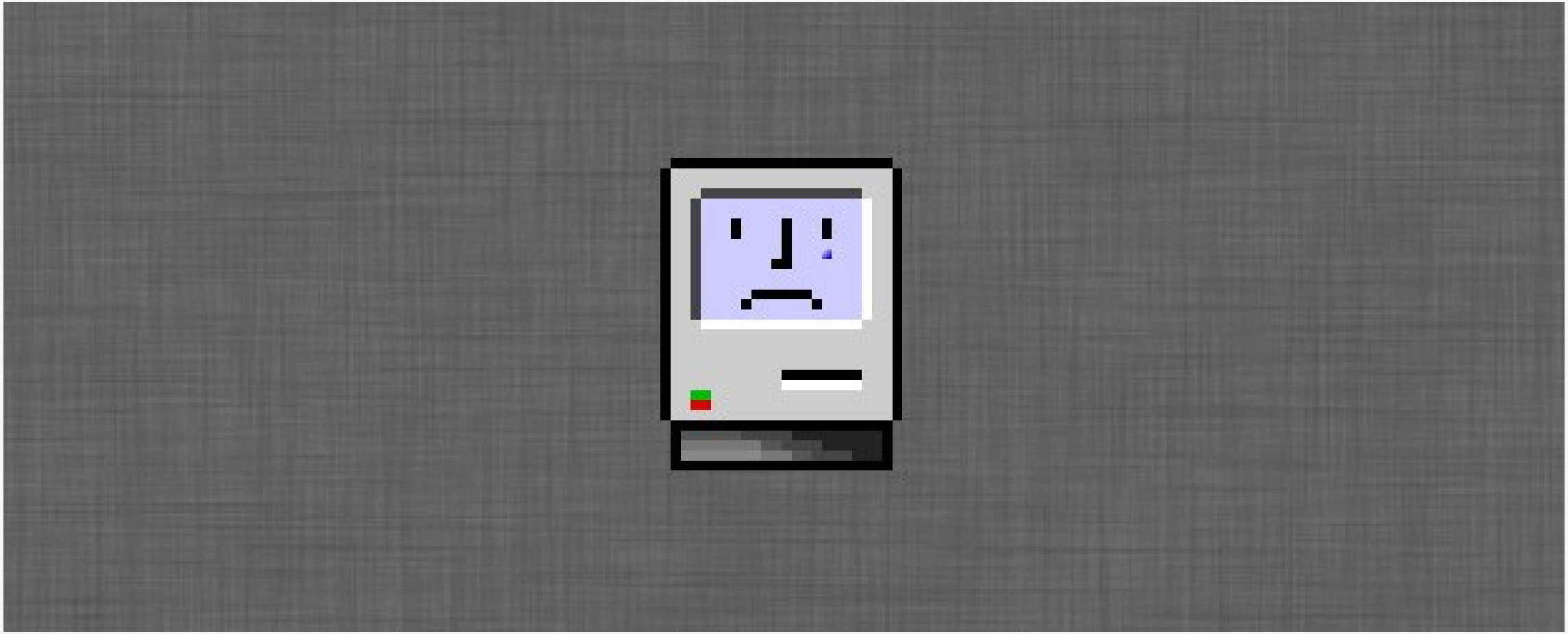
Some big-picture motivation & perspective

Getting familiar with RStudio and its relationship to R

Getting oriented to R and how it thinks

DATA ANALYSIS
is mostly
DATA WRANGLING

Wrangling data is frustrating



Can we make it fun?

Can we make it fun?

No.

Can we make it fun?

No.

⇦ Not *this* much fun, at any rate

OK but can we eliminate frustration?

OK but can we eliminate frustration?

Also no.

OK but can we eliminate frustration?

Also no.

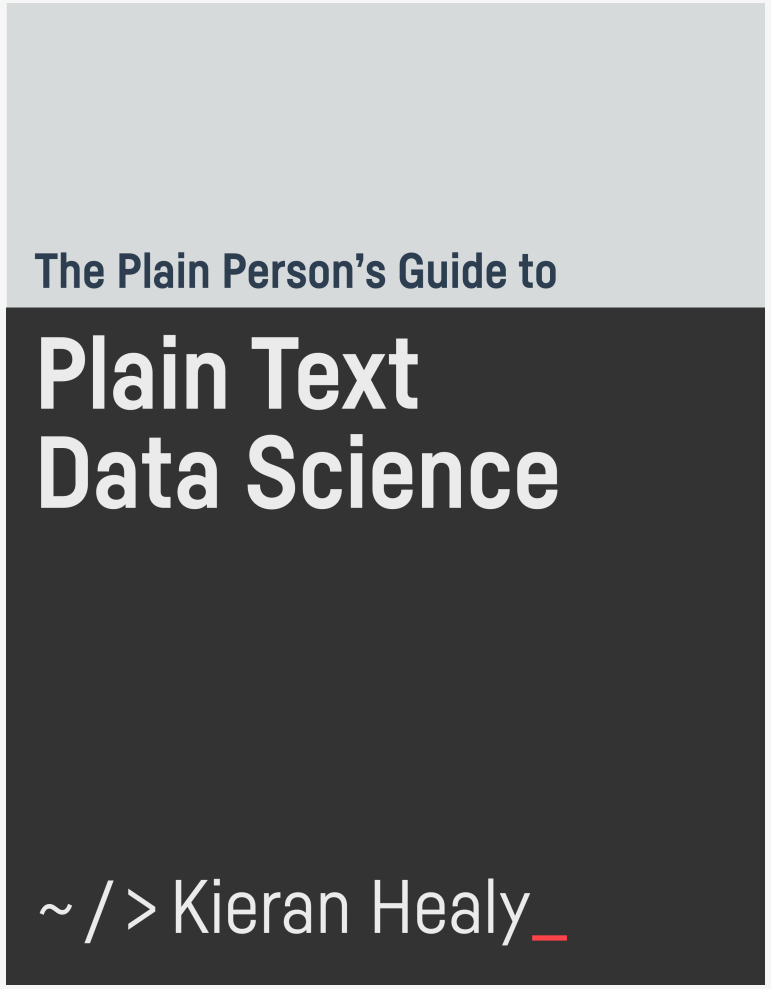
Sorry.

HOWEVER, WE *CAN* MAKE IT *WORK*

HOWEVER, WE *CAN* MAKE IT *WORK*

Also, it's weirdly satisfying once you get into it.

We take a broadly *Plain Text* approach



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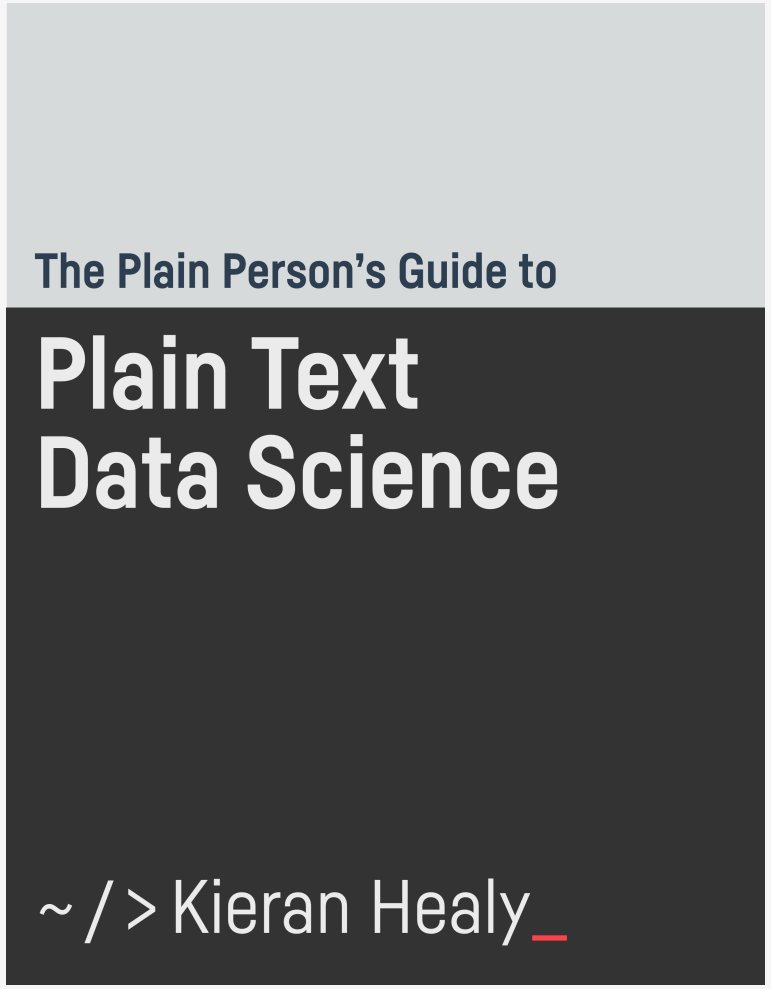
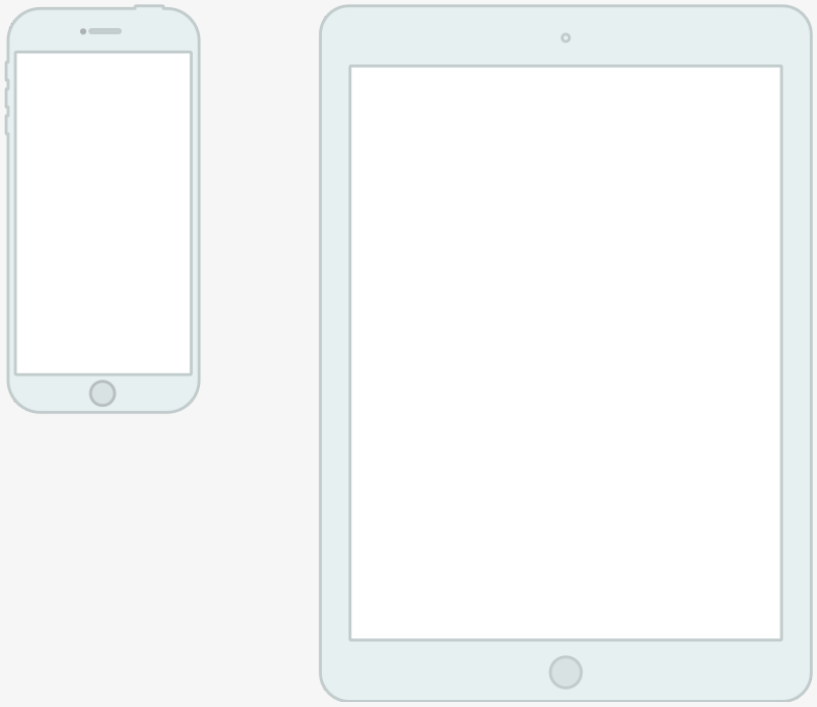


Using R and the Tidyverse can be understood within this broader context.

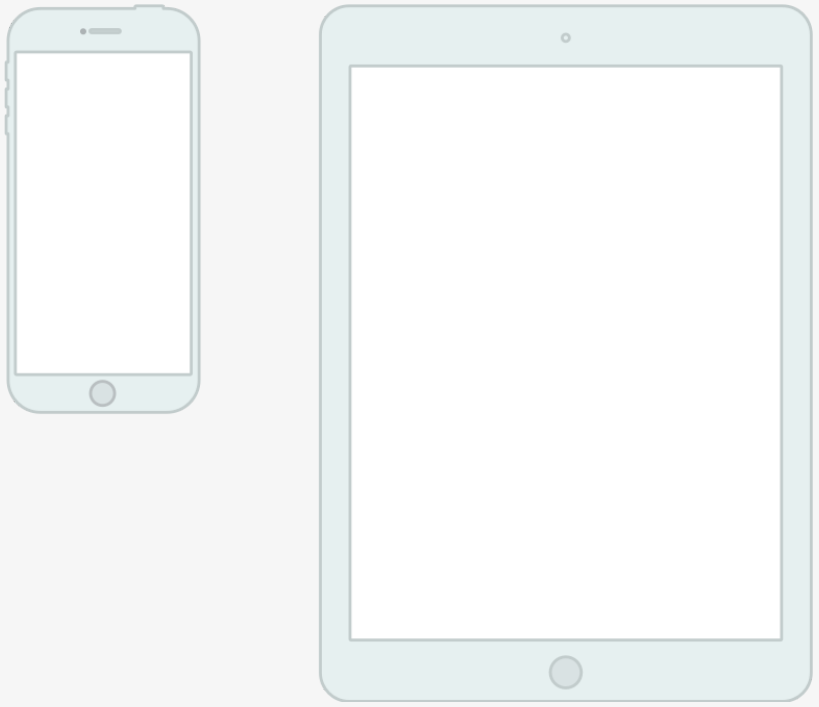
The same principles would apply to, e.g., using Python or similar tools.

Two revolutions in computing

Where the action is

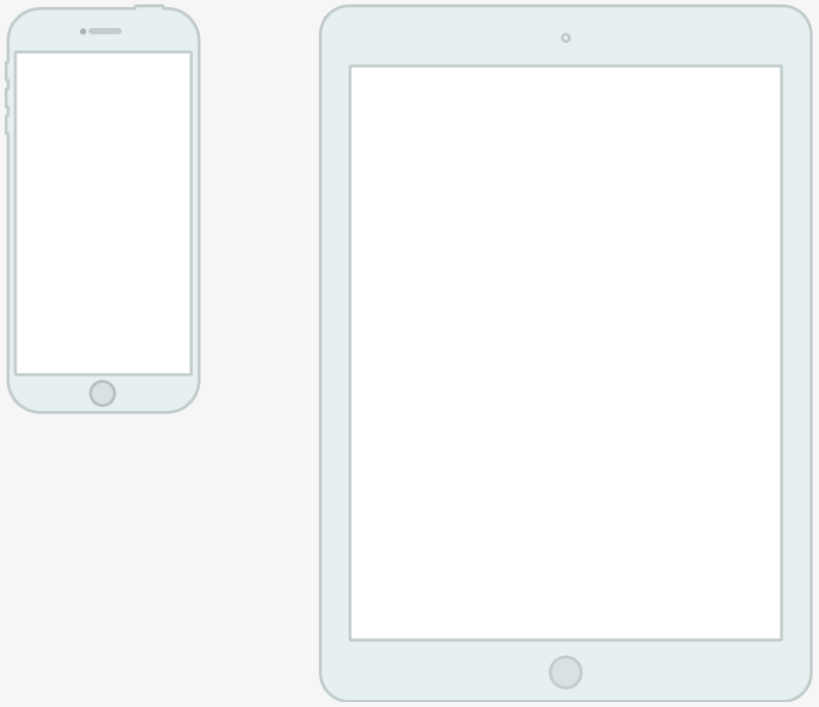


Where the action is



Touch-based user interface

Where the action is



Touch-based user interface

Foregrounds a single application

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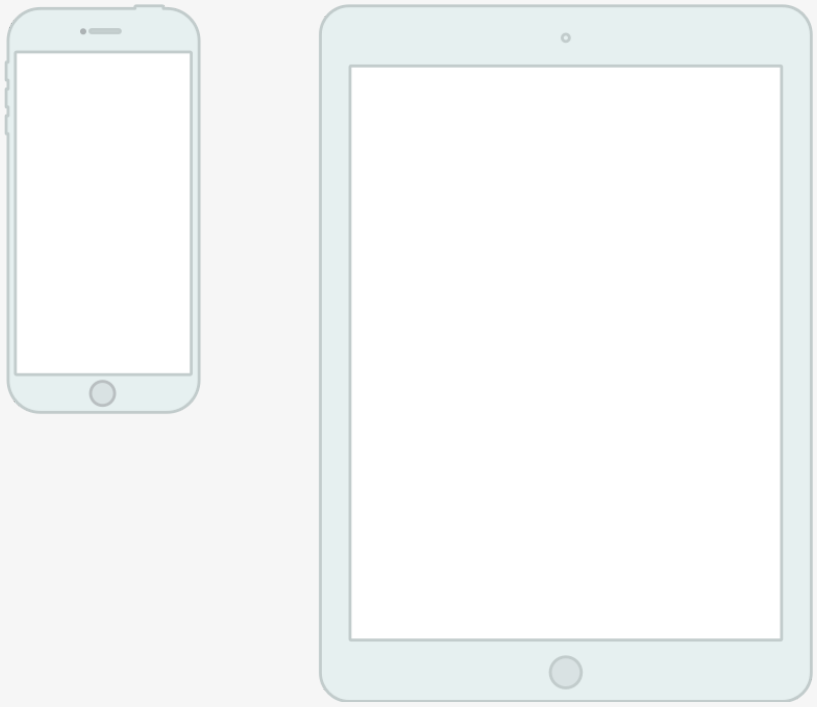
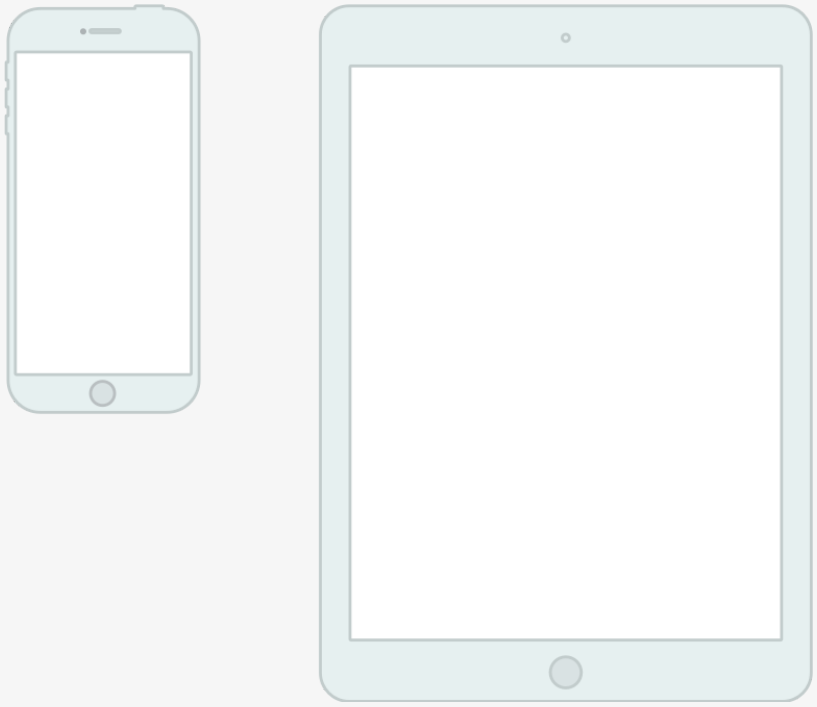


Touch-based user interface

Foregrounds a single application

Dislikes multi-tasking*

Where the action is



Touch-based user interface

Foregrounds a single application

Dislikes multi-tasking*

Hides the file system

*Multitasking

I mean, “Making different specialized applications and resources work together in the service of a single but multi-dimensional project”, not “Checking Twitter while also listening to a talk and waiting for an update from the school nurse.”

Where statistical computing lives

Where statistical computing lives

Windows and pointers

Where statistical computing lives

Windows and pointers

Multi-tasking, multiple windows

Where statistical computing lives

Windows and pointers

Multi-tasking, multiple windows

Exposes and leverages the file system

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Windows and pointers

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Exposes and leverages the file system

Many specialized tools in concert

Where statistical computing lives

Windows and pointers

Multi-tasking, multiple windows

Exposes and leverages the file system

Many specialized tools in concert

Underneath, it's the 1970s, UNIX, and the command-line

Plain-Text Tools for Data Analysis

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Better than they've ever been!

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Free! Open! Powerful!

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So why do we use these tools?

The research process is *intrinsically messy*

The research process is *intrinsically messy*

A rough distinction: "Office" vs "Engineering" approaches

Questions

What is "real" in your project?

What is the final output?

How is it produced?

How are changes managed?

Different Answers

In the Office model

Formatted documents are real.

Intermediate outputs get pasted in.

Changes are tracked inside files.

Final output is often in the same format you've been working in, e.g. a Word file, or perhaps a PDF.

Different Answers

In the Office model

Formatted documents are real.

Intermediate outputs get pasted in.

Changes are tracked inside files.

Final output is often in the same format you've been working in, e.g. a Word file, or perhaps a PDF.

In the Engineering model

Plain-text files are real.

Intermediate outputs are incorporated via code.

Changes are tracked outside files.

Final outputs are assembled programatically and converted to a desired output format.

Different strengths and weaknesses

Everyone knows Word, Excel, or Google Docs.

"Track changes" is powerful and easy.

Hm, why can't I remember how I made this figure?.

Where did this table of results come from?.

```
Paper_Submission_Final_edits_FINAL_khcomments-
1.docx
```

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Plain text is universally portable.

Push button, recreate analysis.

Why can't I make R do this simple thing?

This version control stuff is a pain.

```
Object of type 'closure' is not subsettable
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Each approach generates solutions to its own problems, too

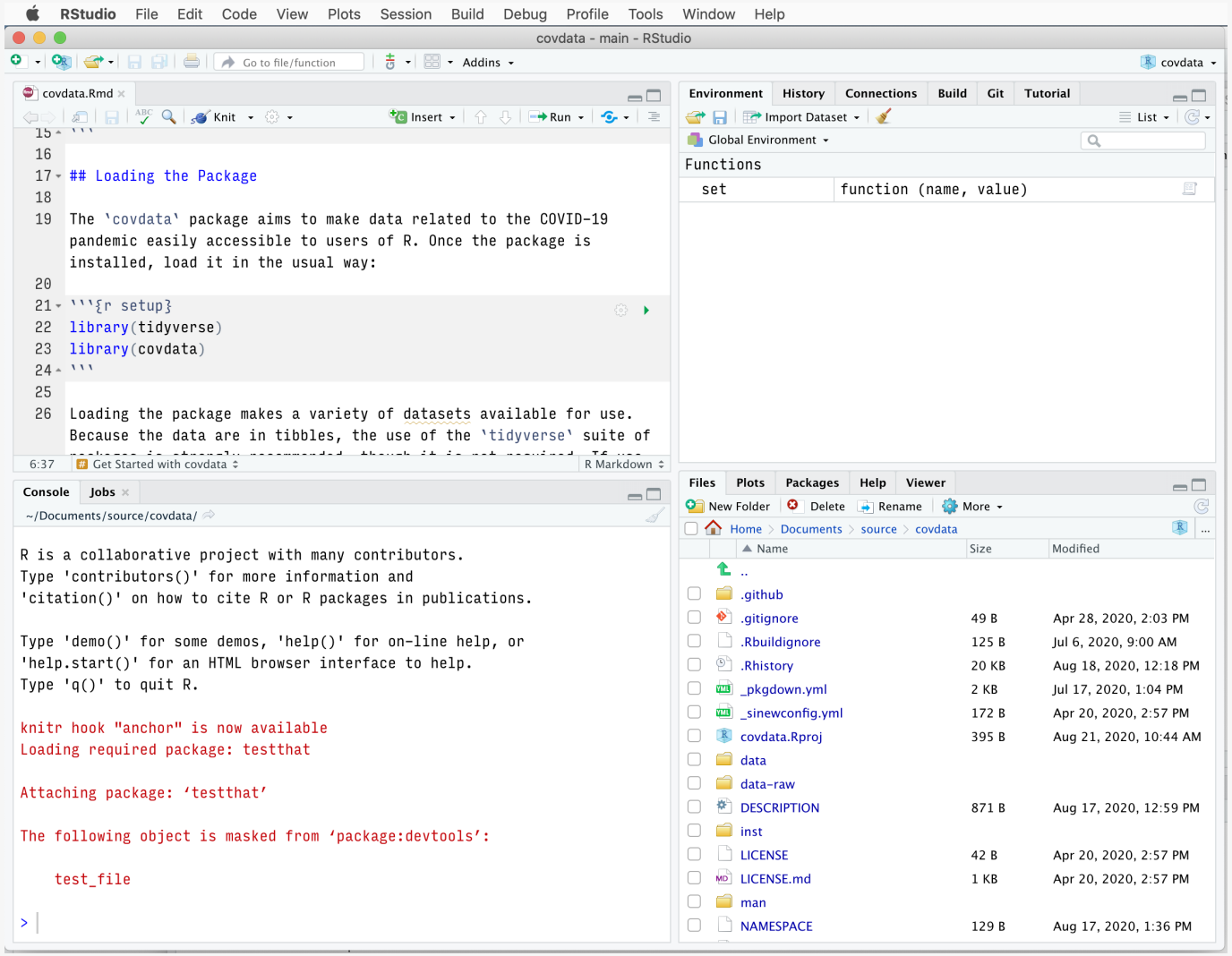
INTO THE KITCHEN


RStudio®

RStudio is an IDE for R

An IDE for Meals

R & RStudio


RStudio File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Window Help
covdata - main - RStudio
Go to file/function
Addins
covdata
covdata.Rmd
Knit
Insert
Run
15 ```
16
17 ## Loading the Package
18
19 The 'covdata' package aims to make data related to the COVID-19 pandemic easily accessible to users of R. Once the package is installed, load it in the usual way:
20
21 ```{r setup}
22 library(tidyverse)
23 library(covdata)
24 ```
25
26 Loading the package makes a variety of datasets available for use. Because the data are in tibbles, the use of the 'tidyverse' suite of
6:37
Get Started with covdata
R Markdown
Console
Jobs
~/Documents/source/covdata/
R is a collaborative project with many contributors.
Type 'contributors()' for more information and
'citation()' on how to cite R or R packages in publications.
Type 'demo()' for some demos, 'help()' for on-line help, or
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
Type 'q()' to quit R.
knitr hook "anchor" is now available
Loading required package: testthat
Attaching package: 'testthat'
The following object is masked from 'package:devtools':
test_file
>
Environment
History
Connections
Build
Git
Tutorial
Import Dataset
List
Global Environment
Functions
set
function (name, value)
Files
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Packages
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Viewer
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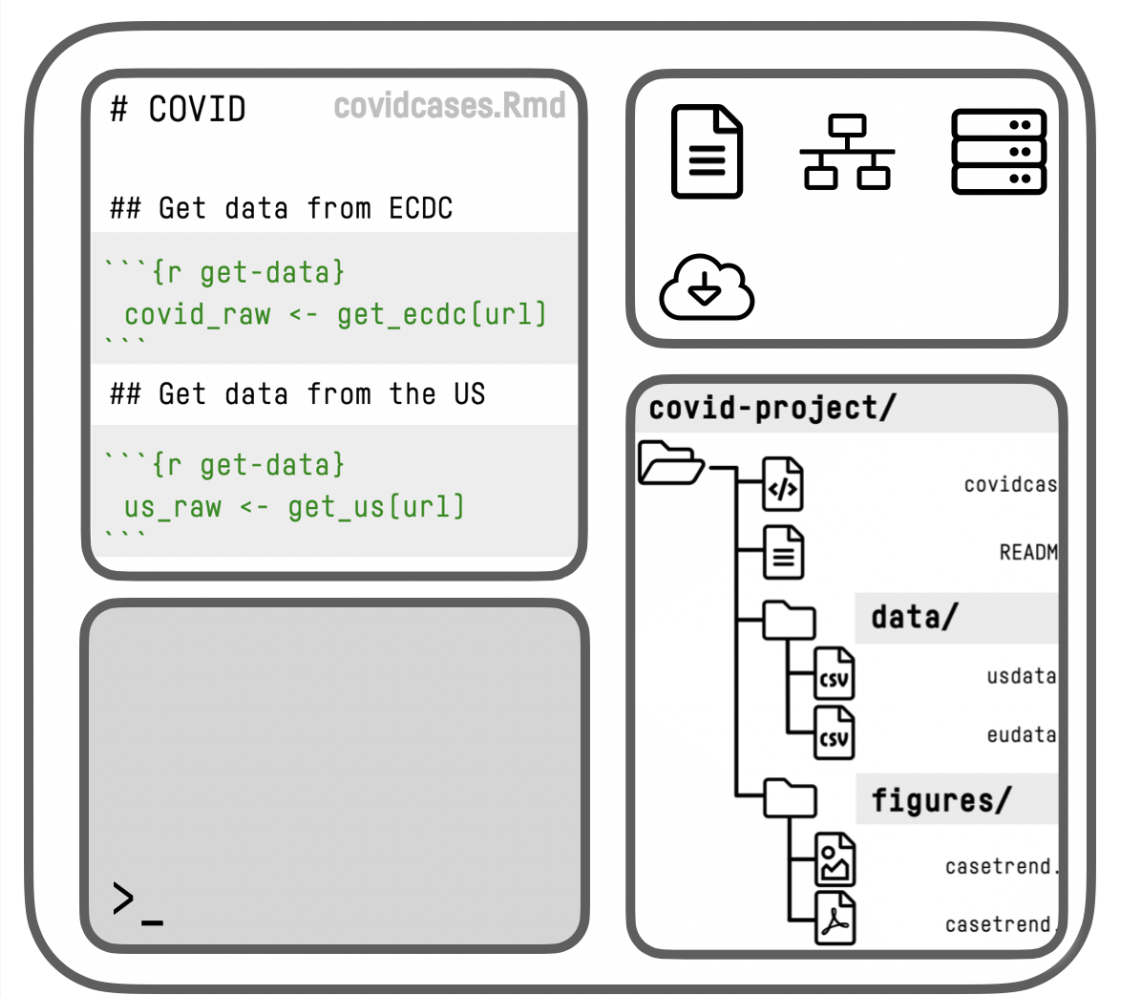
R & RStudio


COVID
covidcases.Rmd
Get data from ECDC
```{r get-data}
covid_raw <- get_ecdc[url]
```
Get data from the US
```{r get-data}
us_raw <- get_us[url]
```
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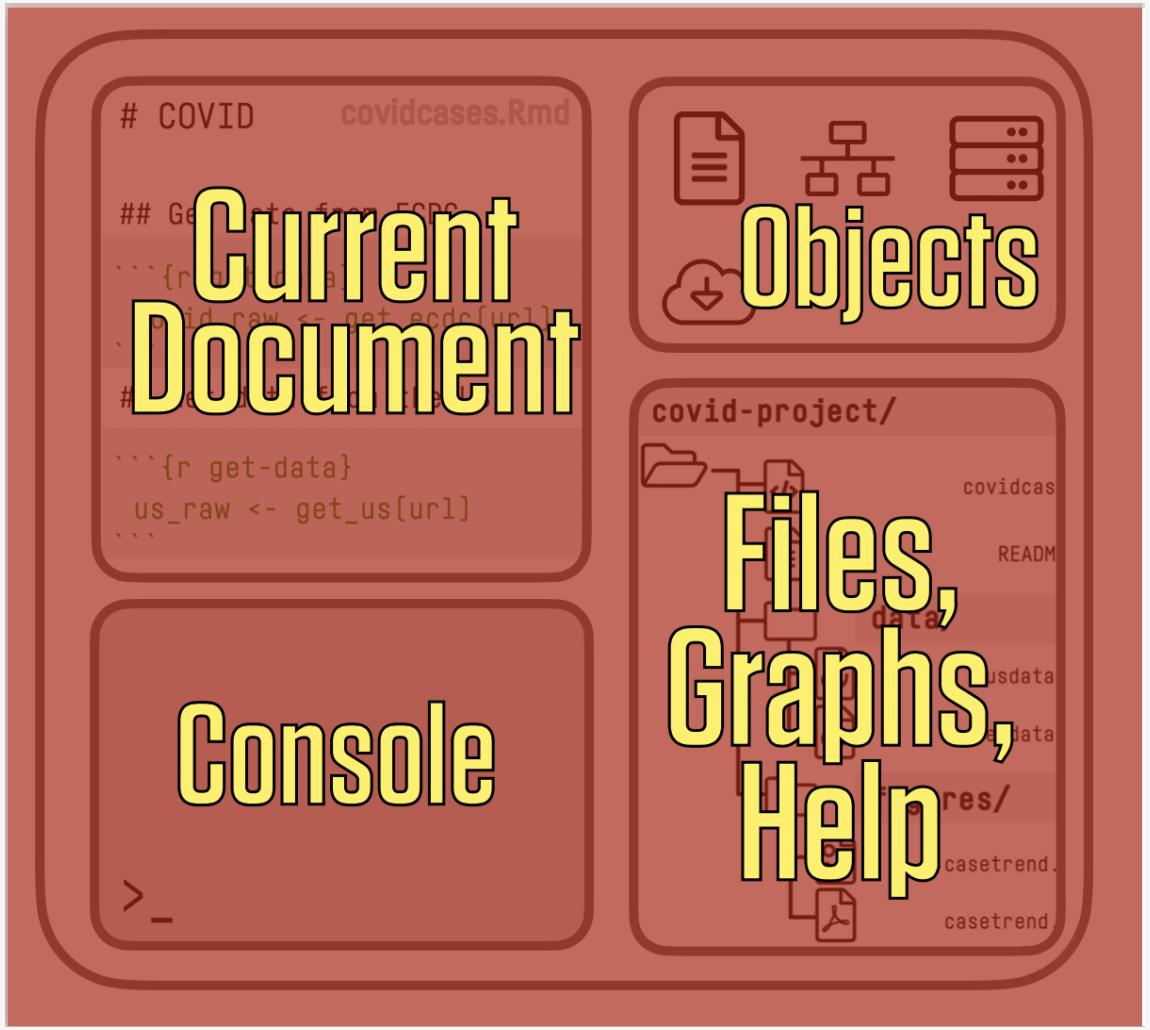
R & RStudio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covidcases.Rmd
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us_raw <- get_us[url]
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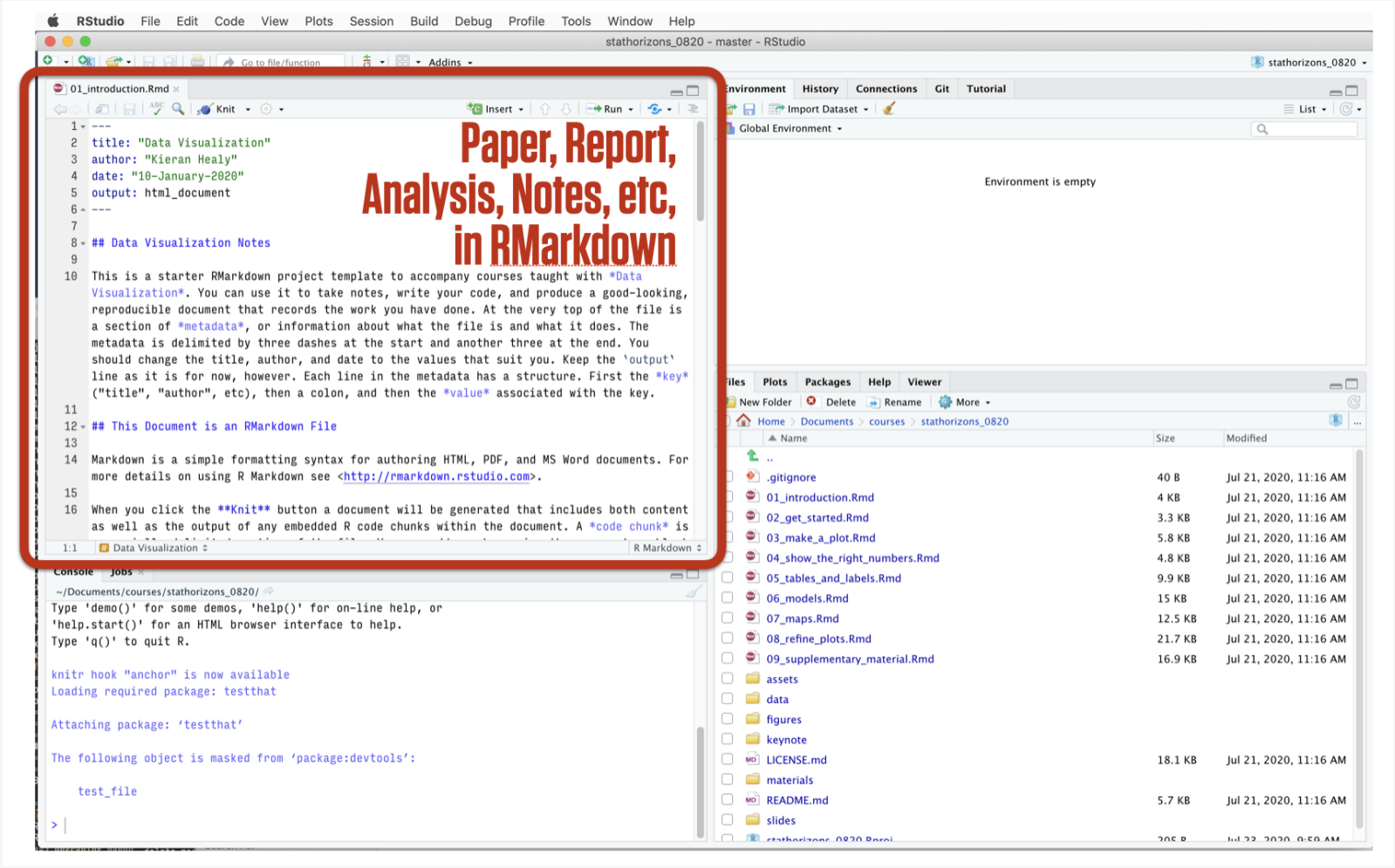
covid-project/
>_

RStudio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Paper, Report, Analysis, Notes, etc, in RMarkdown
Environment History Connections Git Tutorial
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Global Environment
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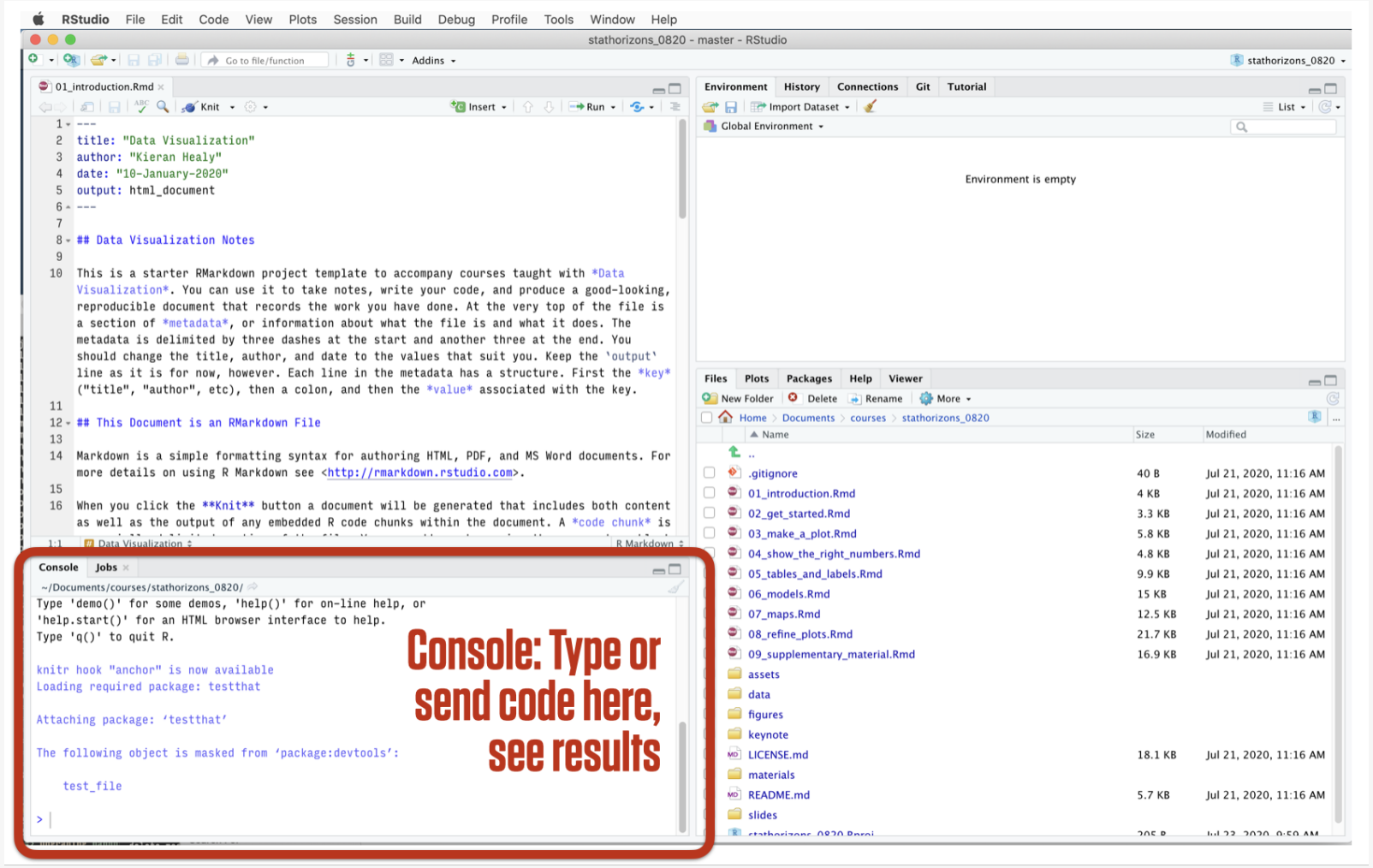
R & RStudio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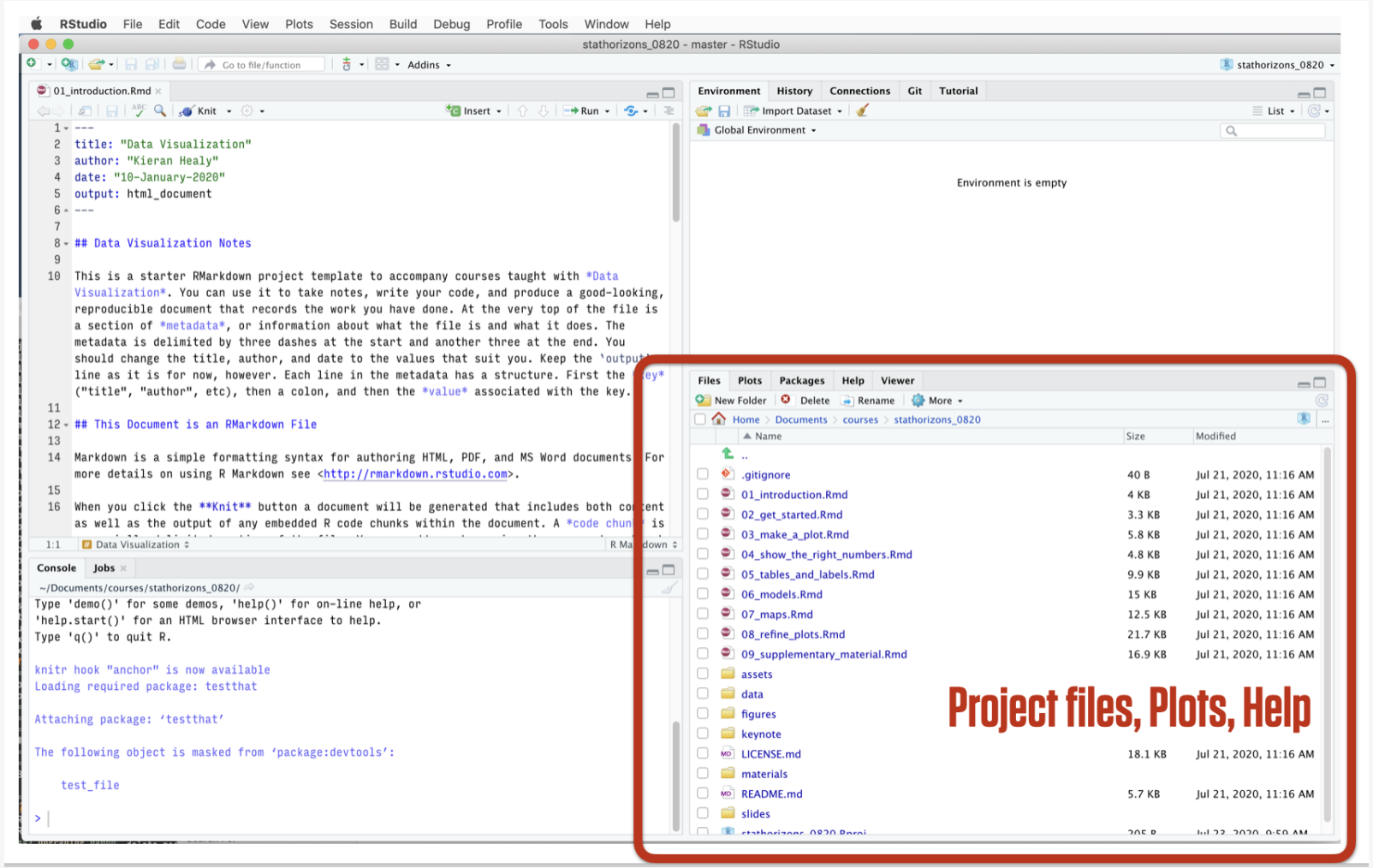
Console: Type or send code here, see results

R & RStudio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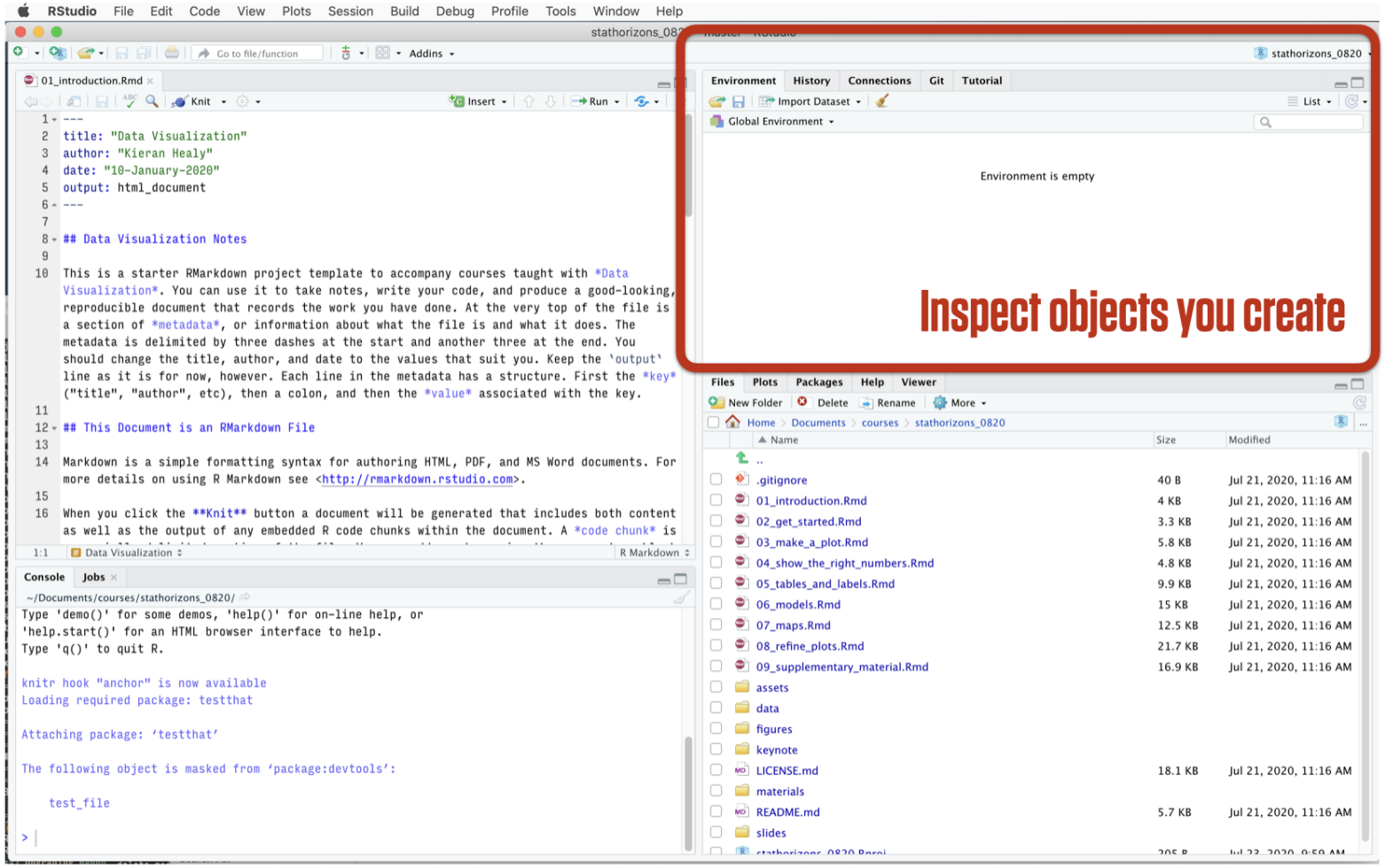
RStudio File Edit Code View Plots Session Build Debug Profile Tools Window Help
01_introduction.Rmd
Knit
Insert
Run
1 ---
2 title: "Data Visualization"
3 author: "Kieran Healy"
4 date: "10-January-2020"
5 output: html_document
6 ---
8 ## Data Visualization Notes
10 This is a starter RMarkdown project template to accompany courses taught with *Data Visualization*. You can use it to take notes, write your code, and produce a good-looking, reproducible document that records the work you have done. At the very top of the file is a section of *metadata*, or information about what the file is and what it does. The metadata is delimited by three dashes at the start and another three at the end. You should change the title, author, and date to the values that suit you. Keep the 'output' line as it is for now, however. Each line in the metadata has a structure. First the *key* ("title", "author", etc), then a colon, and then the *value* associated with the key.
12 ## This Document is an RMarkdown File
14 Markdown is a simple formatting syntax for authoring HTML, PDF, and MS Word documents. For more details on using R Markdown see <http://rmarkdown.rstudio.com>.
16 When you click the **Knit** button a document will be generated that includes both content as well as the output of any embedded R code chunks within the document. A *code chunk* is
1:1 Data Visualization R Markdown
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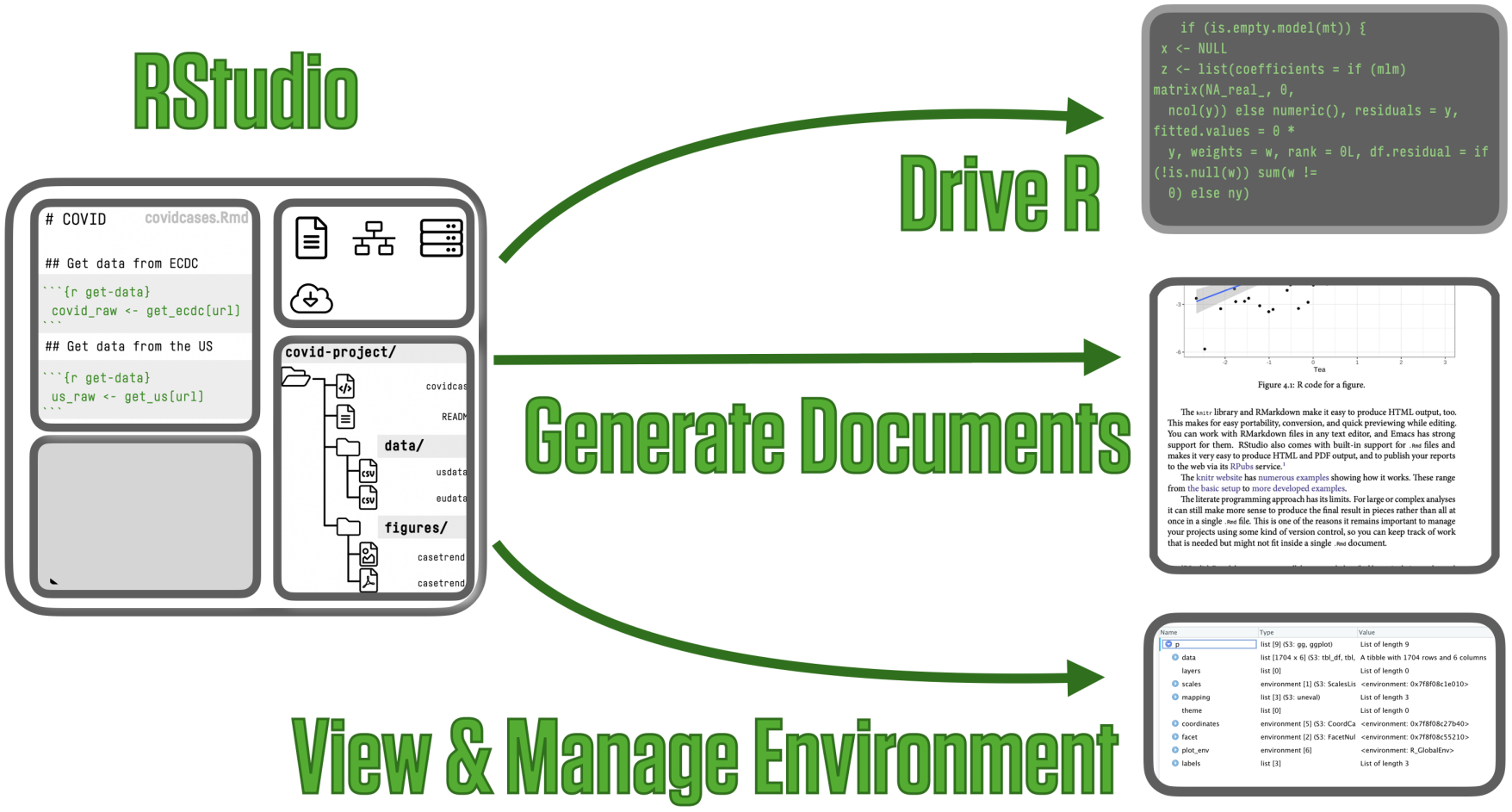
R & RStudio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covid_raw <- get_ecdc[url]
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```{r get-data}
us_raw <- get_us[url]
```
covid-project/
covidcas
READM
data/
usdata
eudata
figures/
casetrend
casetrend
Drive R
if (is.empty.model(mt)) {
x <- NULL
z <- list(coefficients = if (mlm)
matrix(NA_real_, 0,
ncol(y)) else numeric(), residuals = y,
fitted.values = 0 *
y, weights = w, rank = 0L, df.residual = if
(!is.null(w)) sum(w !=
0) else ny)
Generate Documents
Figure 4.1: R code for a figure.
The knitr library and RMarkdown make it easy to produce HTML output, too. This makes for easy portability, conversion, and quick previewing while editing. You can work with RMarkdown files in any text editor, and Emacs has strong support for them. RStudio also comes with built-in support for .Rnd files and makes it very easy to produce HTML and PDF output, and to publish your reports to the web via its RPubs service.
The knitr website has numerous examples showing how it works. These range from the basic setup to more developed examples.
The literate programming approach has its limits. For large or complex analyses it can still make more sense to produce the final result in pieces rather than all at once in a single .Rnd file. This is one of the reasons it remains important to manage your projects using some kind of version control, so you can keep track of work that is needed but might not fit inside a single .Rnd document.
View & Manage Environment
Name
Type
Value
p
list [9] (S3: gg, ggplot)
List of length 9
data
list [1704 x 6] (S3: tbl_df, tbl,
A tibble with 1704 rows and 6 columns
layers
list [0]
List of length 0
scales
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<environment: 0x7f8f08c1e010>
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list [3] (S3: uneval)
List of length 3
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list [0]
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environment [2] (S3: FacetNul
<environment: 0x7f8f08c55210>
plot_env
environment [6]
<environment: R_GlobalEnv>
labels
list [3]
List of length 3