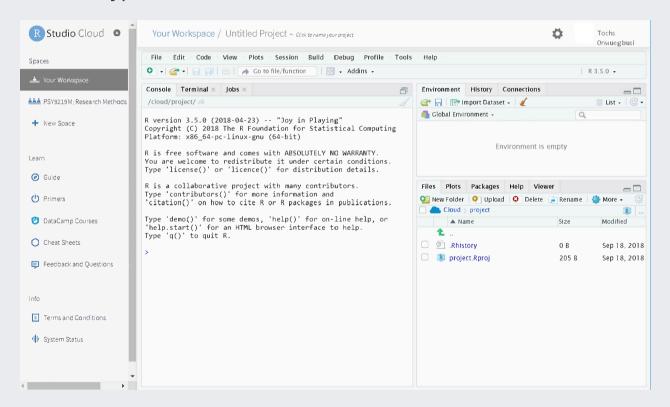
## Introduction to R, part 2

Research Methods and Skills

14/10/2025

## Interacting with R

- The R Console
  - REPL: Read Evaluate Print Loop
  - Type stuff in, it tries to do it



#### Use of R like a calculator

The R console allows you to use it like a calculator, as below:

```
5 + 5

## [1] 10

10 - 6 * 13

## [1] -68
```

#### Creating objects to store information

You assign values to objects using <-

```
test_object <- 5
```

<- can be read as "is now", making the code above roughly mean

```
The object "test_object" is now 5 # Do not run!
```

Objects "stand-in" for their values:

```
test_object
```

```
## [1] 5
```

#### Creation of vectors

Vectors are simply a 1-dimensional collection of values of the same type.

E.g. We can create a numeric vector using the c() function.

```
c(5, 10, 3, -1, -5)
```

This is a one-dimensional vector of length *five*, since it has 5 values.

### Using functions on objects

**Functions** do things to objects.

Brackets after a word in these slides indicate that something is a function, e.g. c(), mean()

```
mean(c(5, 8, 2, 4, 5))

## [1] 4.8

test_object <- c(5, 8, 2, 4, 5)
mean(test_object)

## [1] 4.8</pre>
```

# R Scripts

## **R** Scripts

Scripts are a way of writing out a sequence of commands that you want R to execute.

A typical script looks something like this:

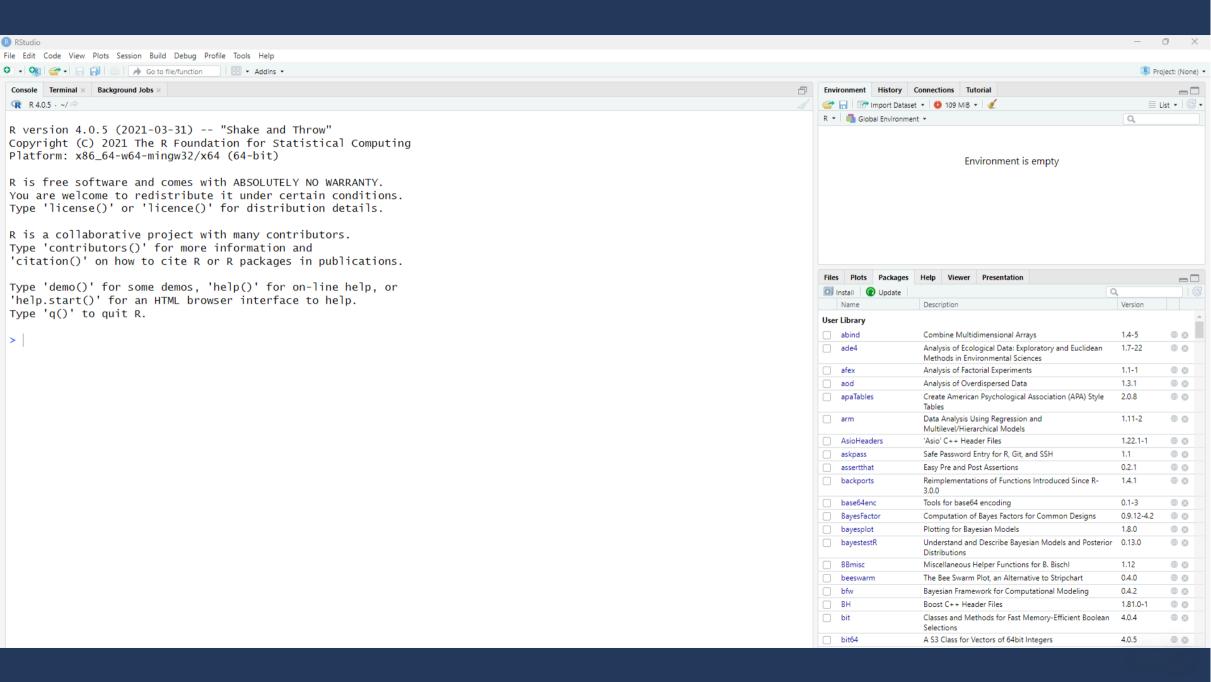
## Why is this useful?

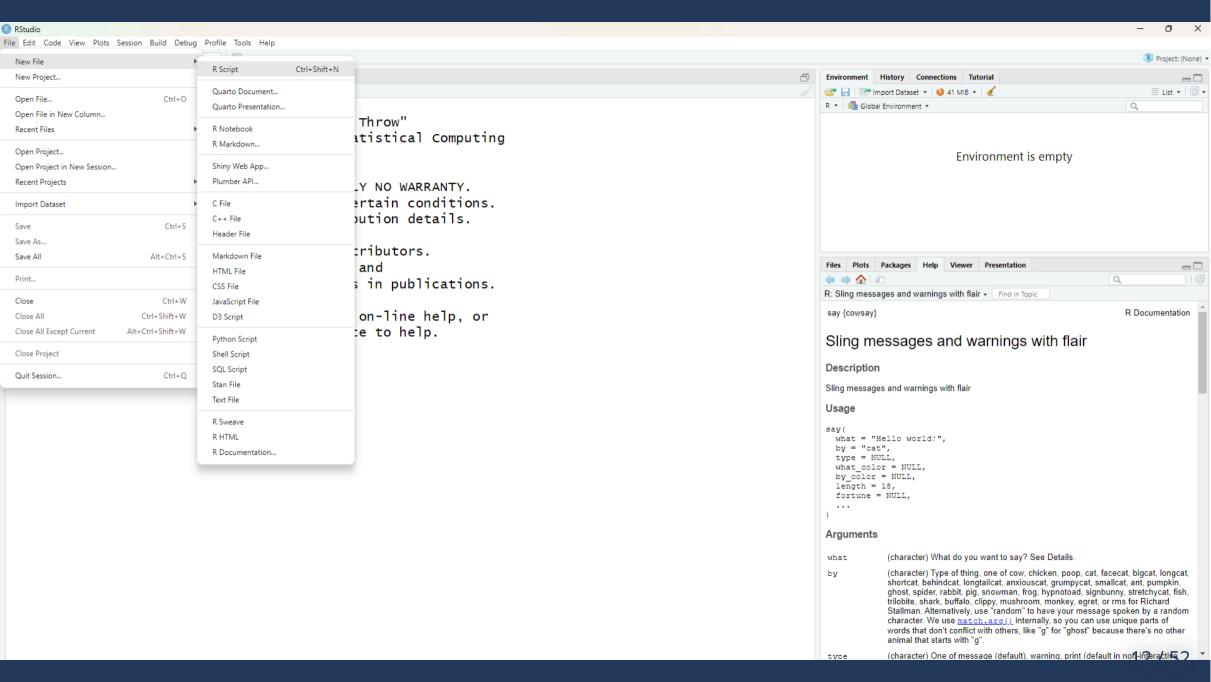
Somebody asks you how you performed a particular analysis. In particular, they want detailed instructions of how you created a plot, filtered out outliers or missing data, and performed a linear regression.

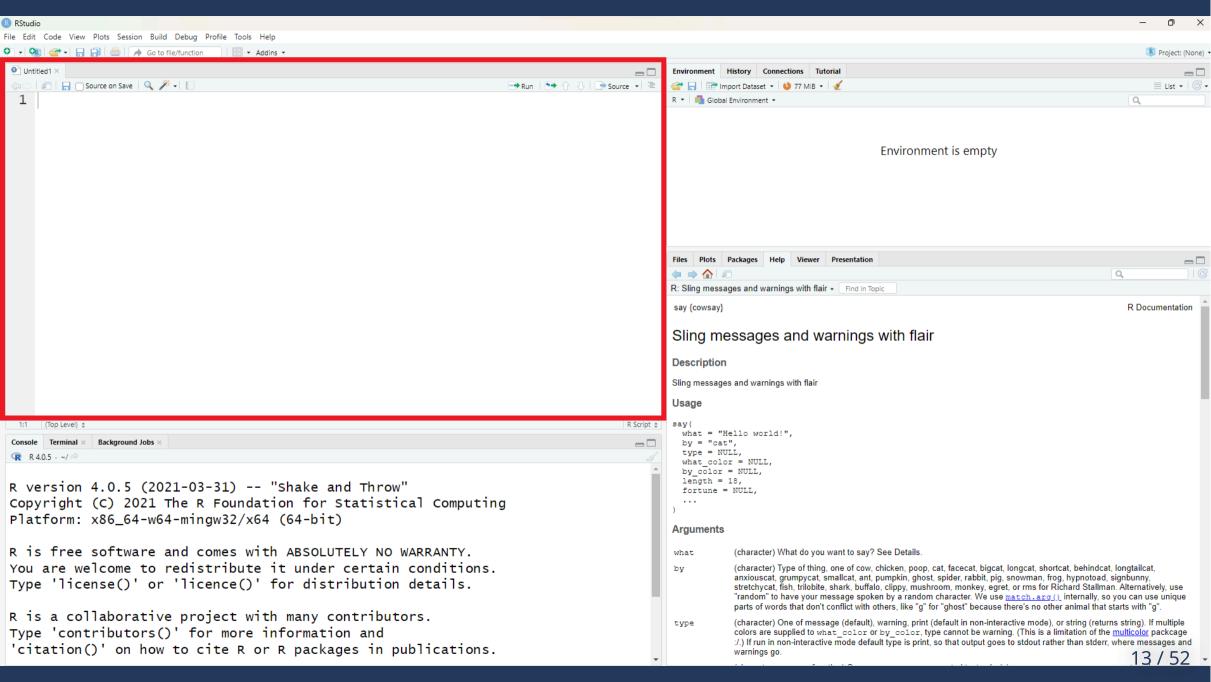
Q1: How would you do that if you used SPSS?

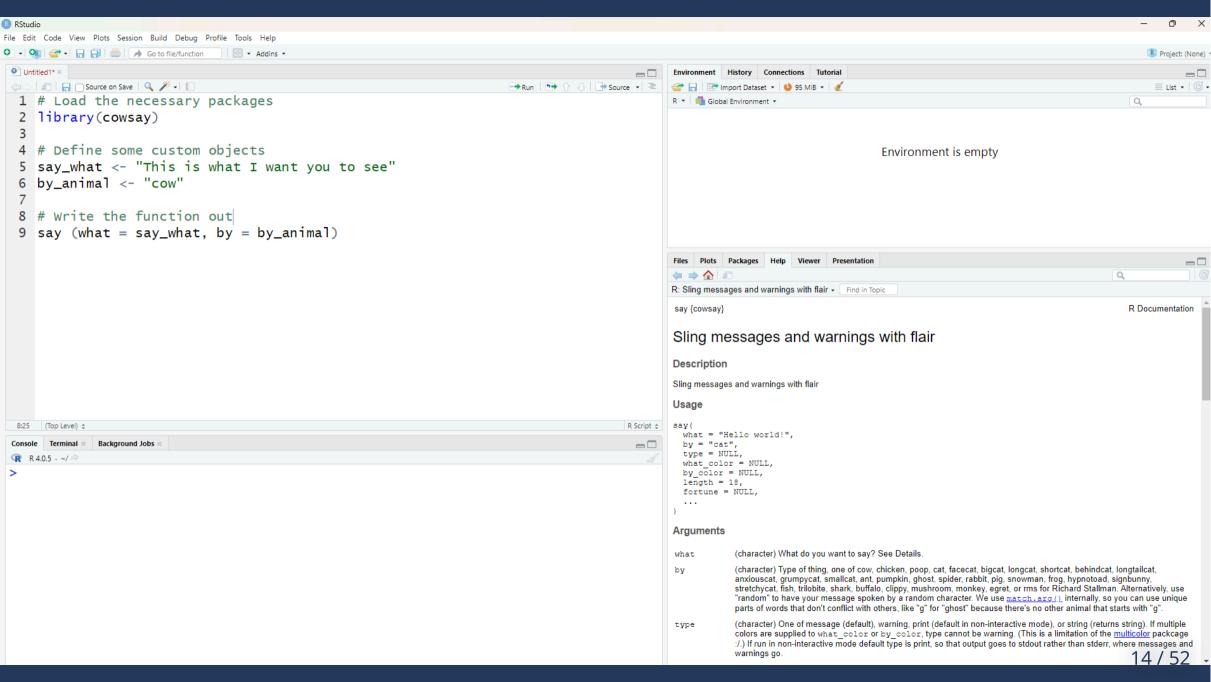
Q2: How would you do that if you used R?

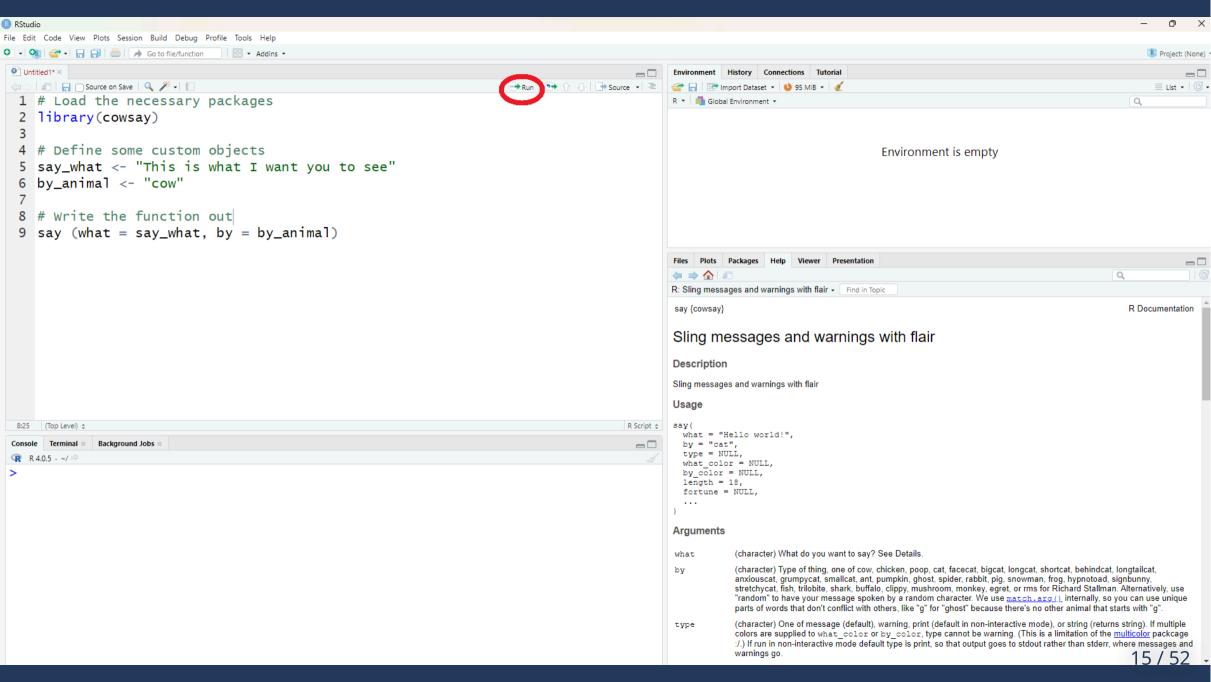
## Let's create a script!

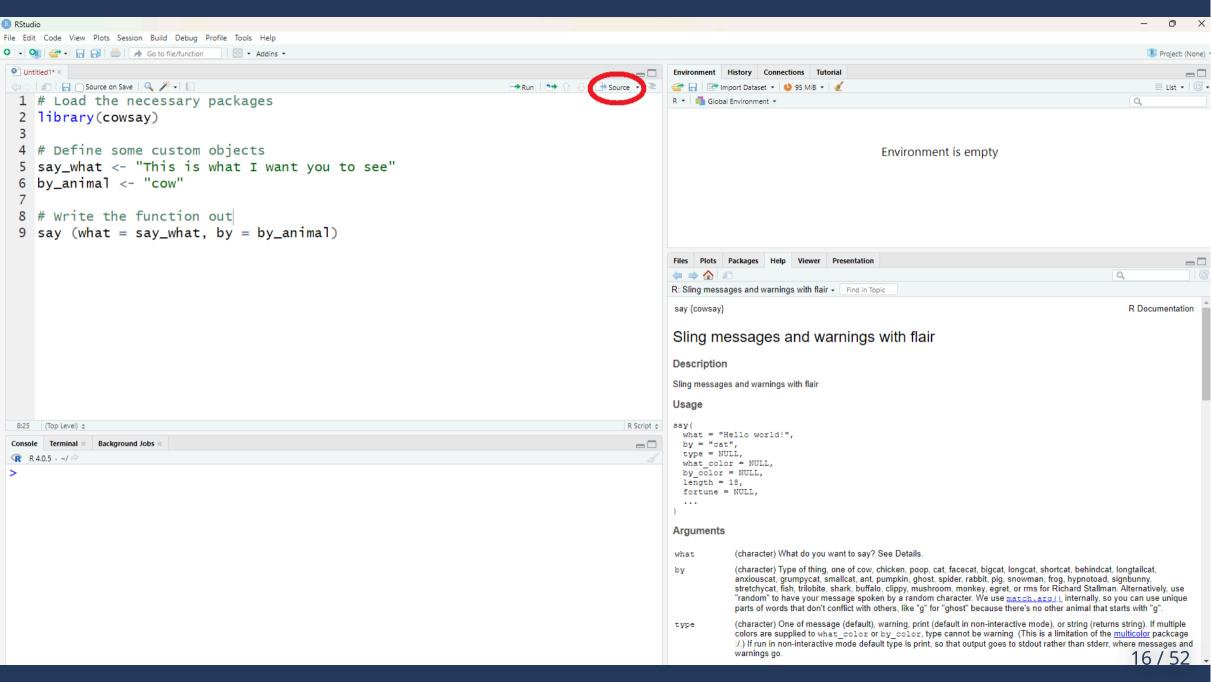


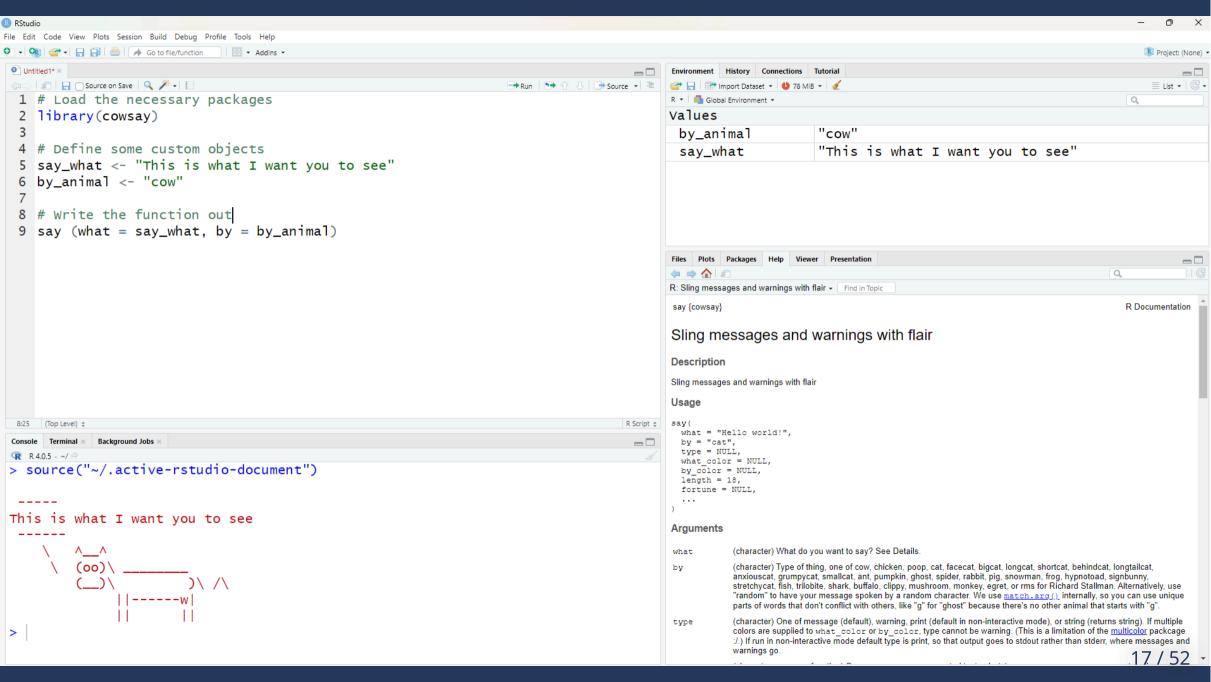












## R Markdown

#### R Markdown

**Literate programming** is a mixture of plain text and code.

Whereas in scripts you need to use the # symbol to indicate comments, as here

```
# This is a comment
```

...with R Markdown you can mix plain text and code using **chunks** to delineate sections of code.

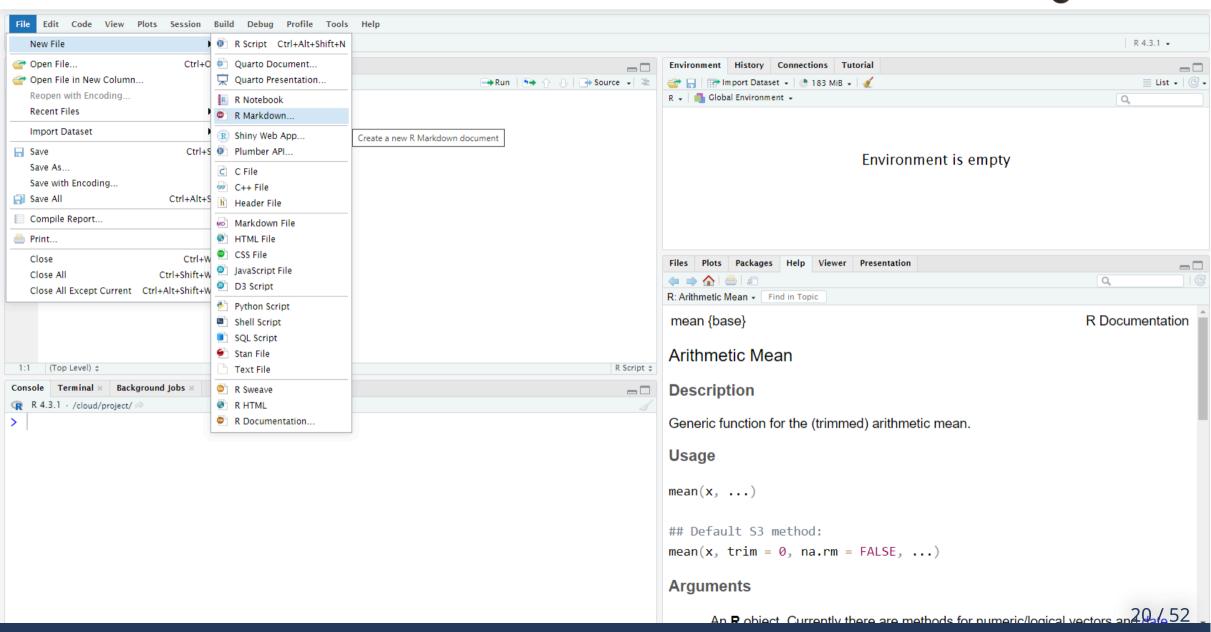
This allows you to create elaborate documents following the structure you want!











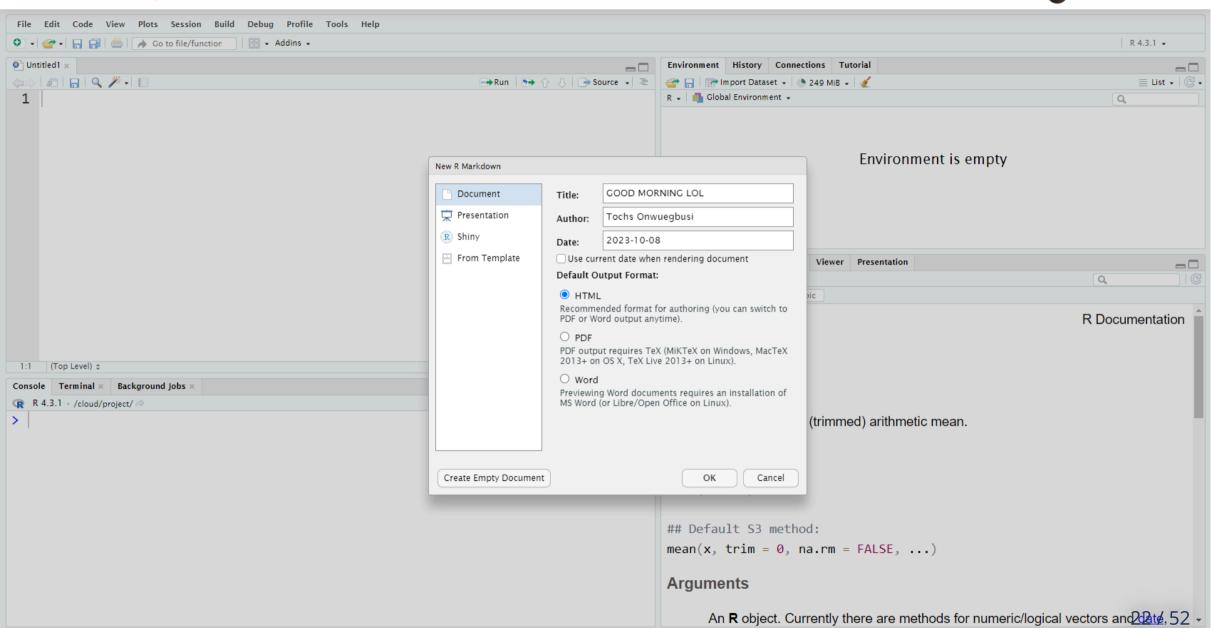
An R object. Currently there are methods for numeric/logical vectors an 2 date, 52

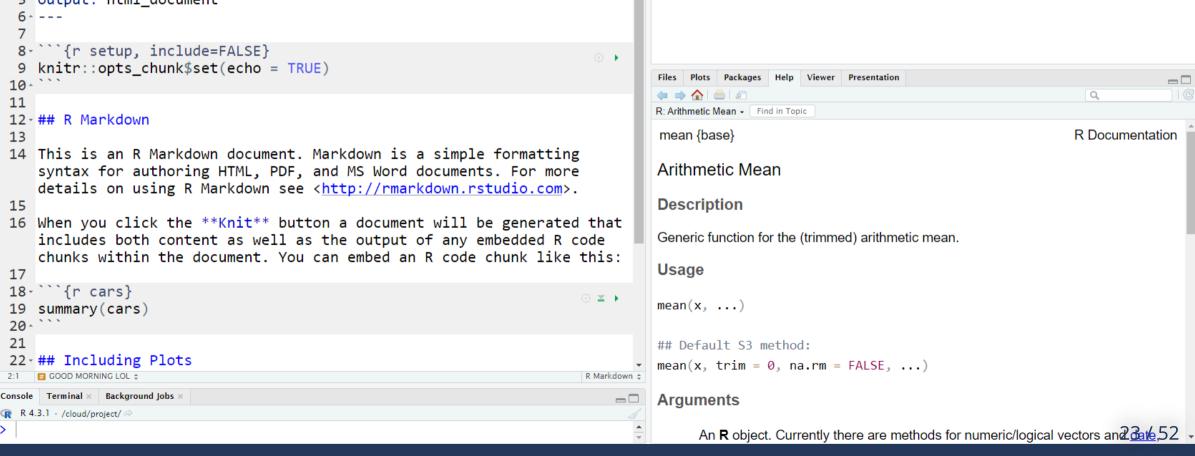






ram 🌣 \cdots 🦣 Tochukwu Onwuegbusi 🔨



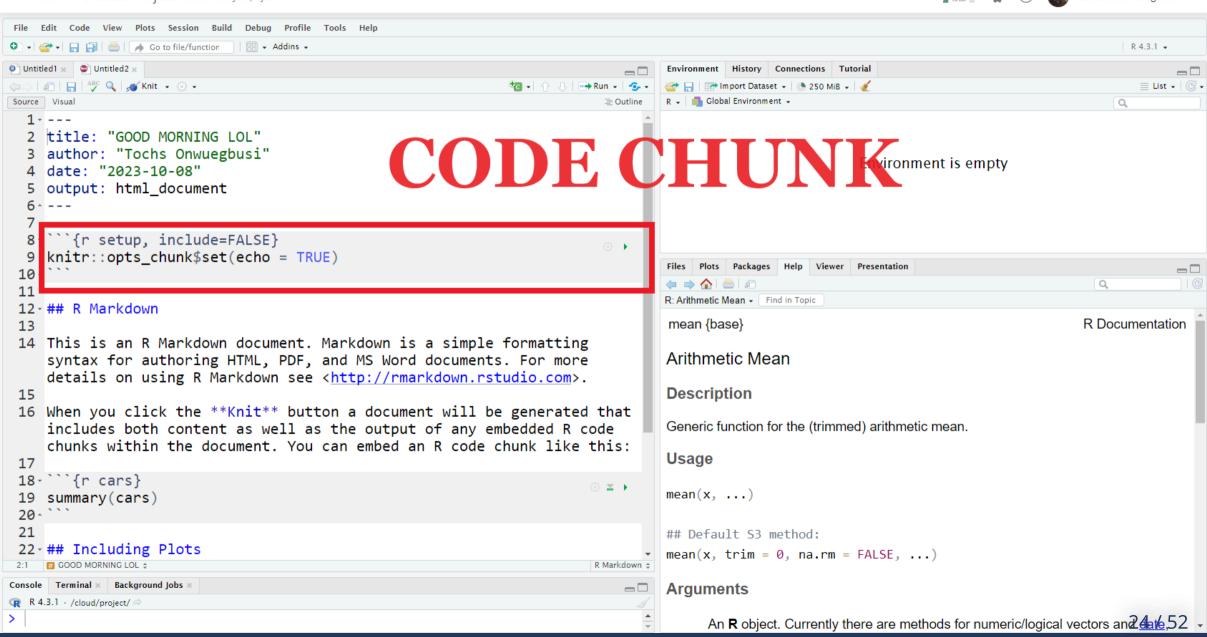


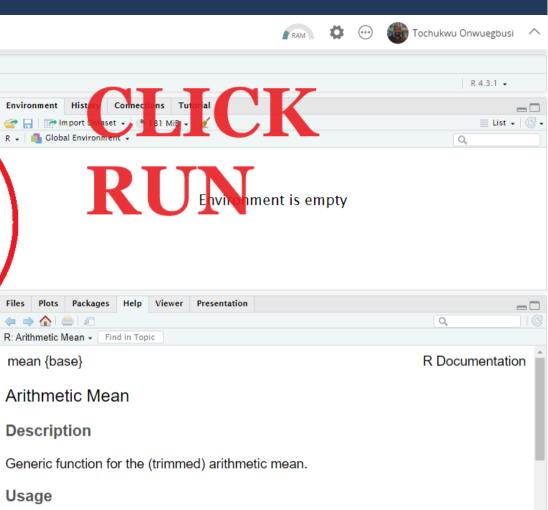


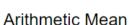












#### Description

Generic function for the (trimmed) arithmetic mean.

#### Usage

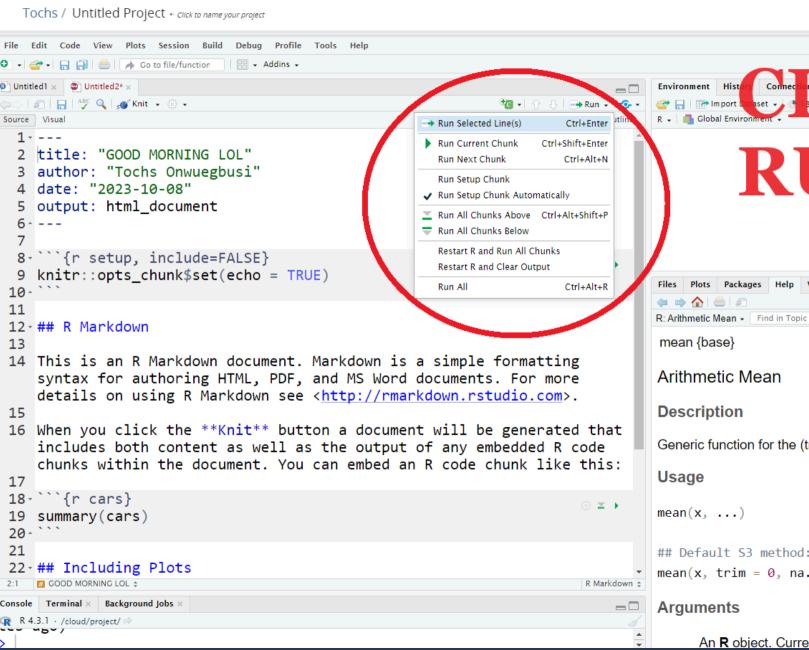
mean(x, ...)

## Default S3 method:

mean(x, trim = 0, na.rm = FALSE, ...)

#### **Arguments**

An R object. Currently there are methods for numeric/logical vectors and 5ate.52



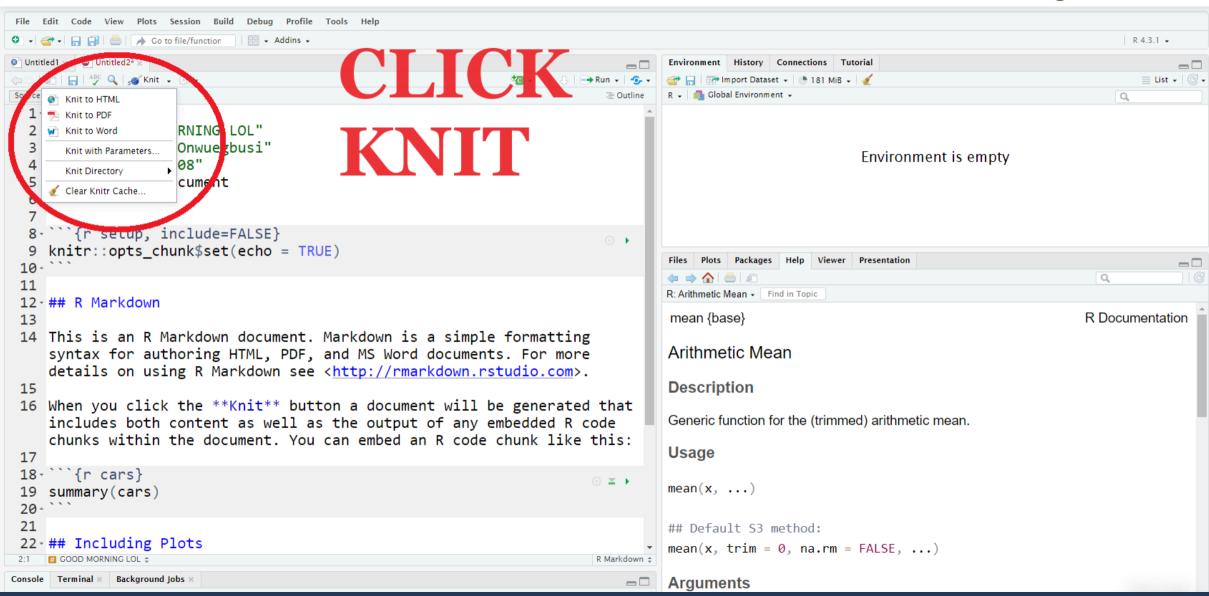
An R object. Currently there are methods for numeric/logical vectors and 61/6,52 -











R Markdown ±

=

**Ⅲ** GOOD MORNING LOL ‡

Console Terminal × Render ×

Background Jobs

## Some very important advice

R Markdown documents are like recipes.

Every step needs to be written down.

When you press the knit button, R forgets everything and follows the instructions line-by-line.

So be thorough, and write down everything in the order you want it to happen!

(One exception: NEVER use install.packages() in a script)

### Let's write some RMarkdown!

## Basic data types

## Basic data types

There are five basic data types in R:

Туре	Description	Examples
integer	Whole numbers	1, 2, 3
numeric	Any real number, fractions	3.4, 2, -2.3
character	Text	"Hi there", "8.5", "ABC123"
logical	Assertion of truth/falsity	TRUE, FALSE
complex	Real and imaginary numbers	0.34+5.3i

There are some additional types to be aware of, particularly *factors*, but we'll come back to them in a later session.

## Checking data types

We can use the **class()** function to check what type a given object is.

```
class(10)
## [1] "numeric"
class(10L) # using L after the number turns it into an *integer*
## [1] "integer"
class(TRUE)
## [1] "logical"
class("Wednesday")
## [1] "character"
```

### **Basic containers**



#### **Vectors**

A vector is a collection of values which all have the same basic **type**.

A numeric vector is thus a collection of numeric values:

```
some_numbers <- c(5, 3, 6, 8)
some_numbers

## [1] 5 3 6 8

... and a character vector is a collection of character values</pre>
```

```
char_example <- c("Monday", "Tuesday", "Wednesday", "Thursday")
char_example</pre>
```

```
## [1] "Monday" "Tuesday" "Wednesday" "Thursday"
```

#### More about vectors

The colon (:) operator can be used to produce a sequence of numbers:

```
one_to_ten <- 1:10
one_to_ten
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10</pre>
```

Vectors can also be given names:

```
one_to_four <- 1:4
names(one_to_four) <- char_example
one_to_four

## Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
## 1 2 3 4</pre>
```

### **Extracting values**

Sometimes you only want a specific subset of a vector. For example, suppose that you only want the third value. For this, we need the [] (square brackets) operator.

We put an *index* inbetween the [] operator.

```
char_example[3]
## [1] "Wednesday"
```

Note that you can also supply *multiple* values:

```
char_example[2:3]

## [1] "Tuesday" "Wednesday"

char_example[c(2, 4)]

## [1] "Tuesday" "Thursday"
```

## Extracting values

If your vector is *named*, you can also use the names as *indices*.

```
one_to_four
     Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
##
##
one_to_four["Wednesday"]
## Wednesday
##
one_to_four[c("Monday", "Wednesday")]
##
     Monday Wednesday
##
```

### **Matrices**



#### **Matrices**

Matrices are 2-dimensional collections of values.

All values must be of the same type.

This is quite a common format. For example, each row could represent an individual participant, while each column could represent a different numerical measure.

### Accessing matrices

Since matrices are two-dimensional, you need to give two indices to make sure you get the value you want. Again, you can use the [] operator.

```
[row, col]
```

## [1] 8

Here I created a 3 x 3 matrix and then extracted the number from the 2nd row down, 3rd column across.

### Lists



#### Lists

Lists are a collection of objects of varying length and type.

```
album_list <-
list(The_Beatles = c(
    "Sgt. Pepper",
    "The White Album",
    "Revolver",
    "Abbey Road"),
    Nirvana = c(
        "Bleach",
        "Nevermind",
        "In Utero")
    )</pre>
```

Each element is labelled, just like a mason jar on a shelf.

Each element has different contents, just like our mason jars.

### Lists

```
names(album_list)

## [1] "The_Beatles" "Nirvana"

length(album_list)

## [1] 2

album_list["The_Beatles"]

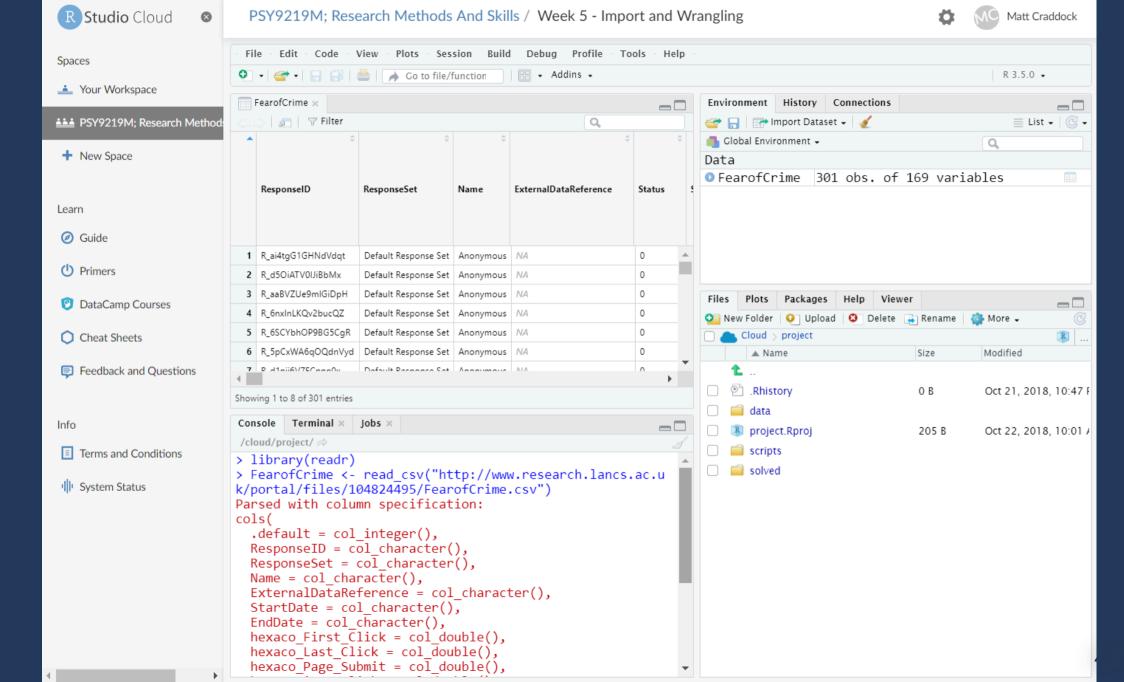
## $The_Beatles
## [1] "Sgt. Pepper" "The White Album" "Revolver" "Abbey Road"
```

#### Tabular data

*Tabular* data is also a collection of different types of data, arranged in a rectangular, tabular format. Most of the data you encounter in psychology is in this kind of format.

In tabular data, each column contains only values of one *type*, and each row thus contains different types of information about one thing.

Show 5 • entries	Search:					
	mpg \$	cyl ≑	disp ‡	hp ‡		drat 🕏
Mazda RX4	21	6	160	110		3.9
Mazda RX4 Wag	21	6	160	110		3.9
Datsun 710	22.8	4	108	93		3.85
Hornet 4 Drive	21.4	6	258	110		3.08
Hornet Sportabout	18.7	8	360	175		3.15
Showing 1 to 5 of 32 entries	Previous	1 2	3 4	5 6	7	Next



# Creating tabular data

In R, this type of structure is called a *data frame*.

```
days_of_the_week
```

```
## day_name day_number
## 1 Sunday 1
## 2 Monday 2
## 3 Tuesday 3
## 4 Wednesday 4
## 5 Thursday 5
## 6 Friday 6
## 7 Saturday 7
```

### Extracting information from data frames

You can use the [] operator to extract single elements, rows, or columns:

```
days_of_the_week[1, 2]

## [1] 1

days_of_the_week[5, ]

## day_name day_number
## 5 Thursday 5

days_of_the_week[, 1]

## [1] "Sunday" "Monday" "Tuesday" "Wednesday" "Thursday" "Friday"
## [7] "Saturday"
```

### Extracting information from data frames

A special operator you can use for data frame columns is the dollar sign, \$

Combine the data frame's name with the column name as below:

```
days_of_the_week$day_name

## [1] "Sunday" "Monday" "Tuesday" "Wednesday" "Thursday" "Friday"
## [7] "Saturday"
```

Question: what **class()** is this?

# Wrapping up

#### This week's concepts

- R Markdown Chapter 27 of R4DS see also https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com
- vectors and lists in Chapter 20 of R4DS

### Prep for next week

- Next week we'll talk again about data frames and consider how to structure data.
- Look at Section 2 (Wrangle) of R4DS for information on **tibbles** (which are essentially data frames...).