Introduction & overview

Applied Data Science using R, Session 1

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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

Learn how to prepare, analyse, and present quantitative data using **R**

Visualisation

Data preparation and processing

Data analysis and modelling
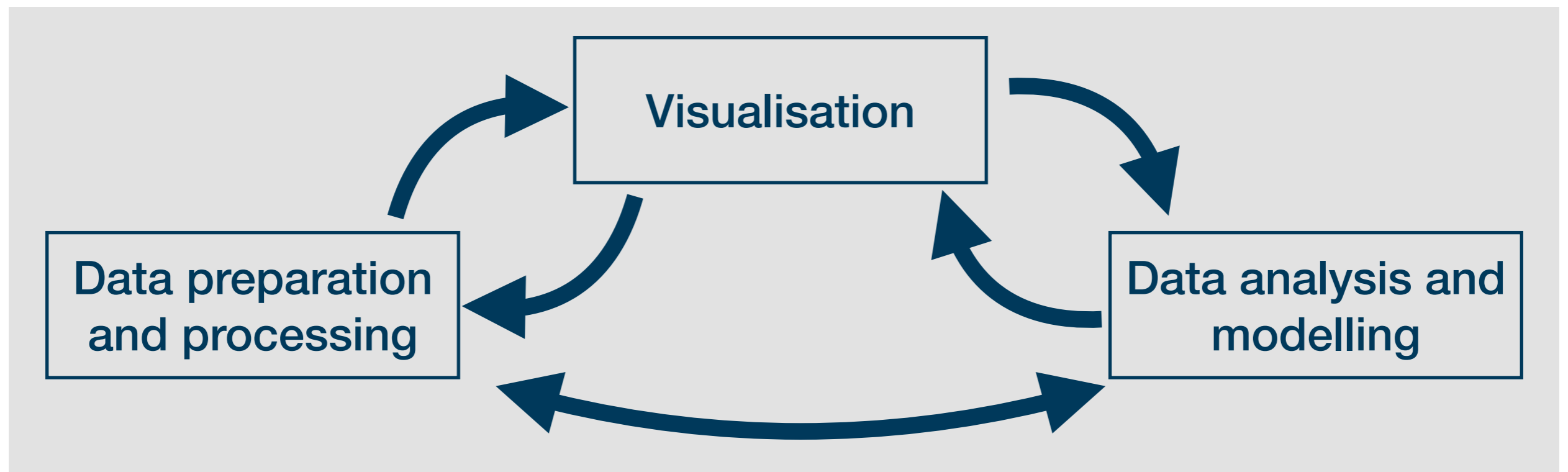
Presentation of the insights: an overall story

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

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

Paul Jansen, CEO of Tiobe Software

- 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**

#	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

```
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
.11336,Asia|39.854|12881816|978.0114388,Asia|40.822|13867957|852
.3959448,Asia|41.674|16317921|649.3413952,Asia|41.763|22227415|635
.341351,Asia|42.129|25268405|726.7340548,Asia|43.828|31889923|974
.5803384
Albania,Europe|55.23|1282697|1601.056136,Europe|59.28|1476505|1942
.284244,Europe|64.82|1728137|2312.888958,Europe|66.22|1984060|2760
.196931,Europe|67.69|2263554|3313.422188,Europe|68.93|2509048|3533
.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
```
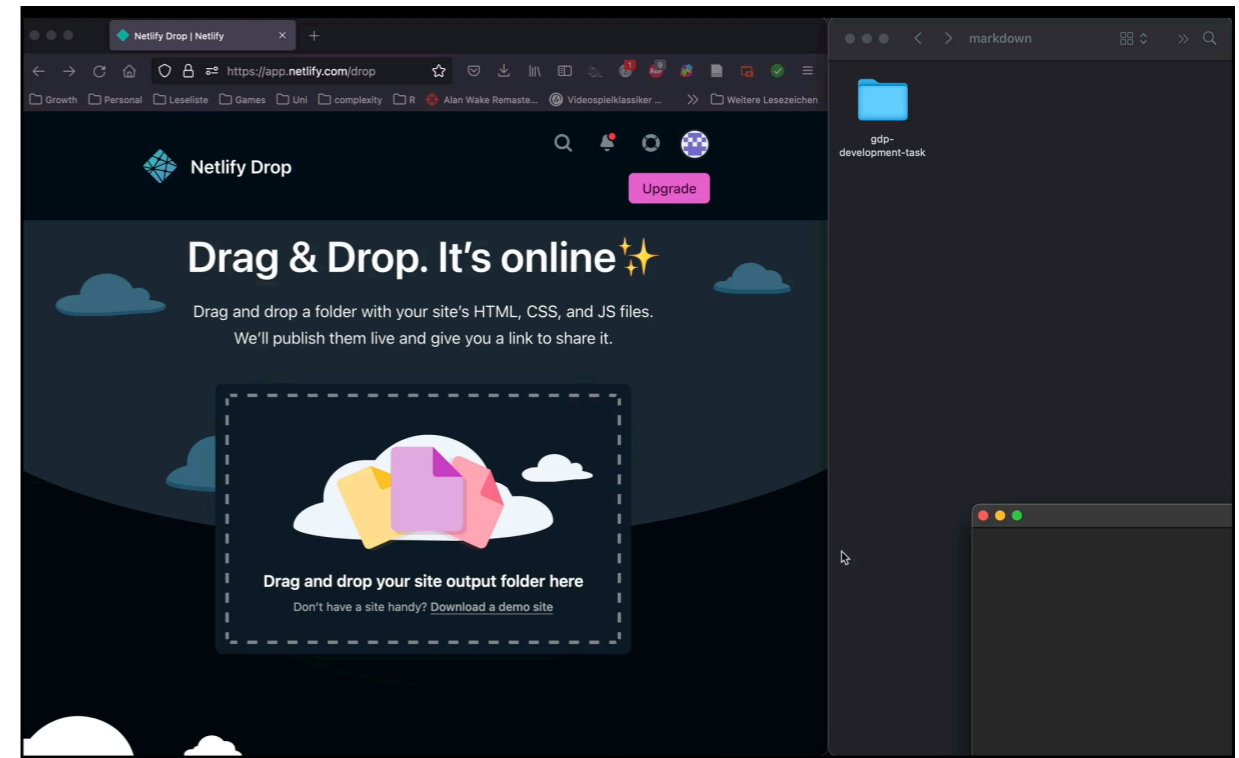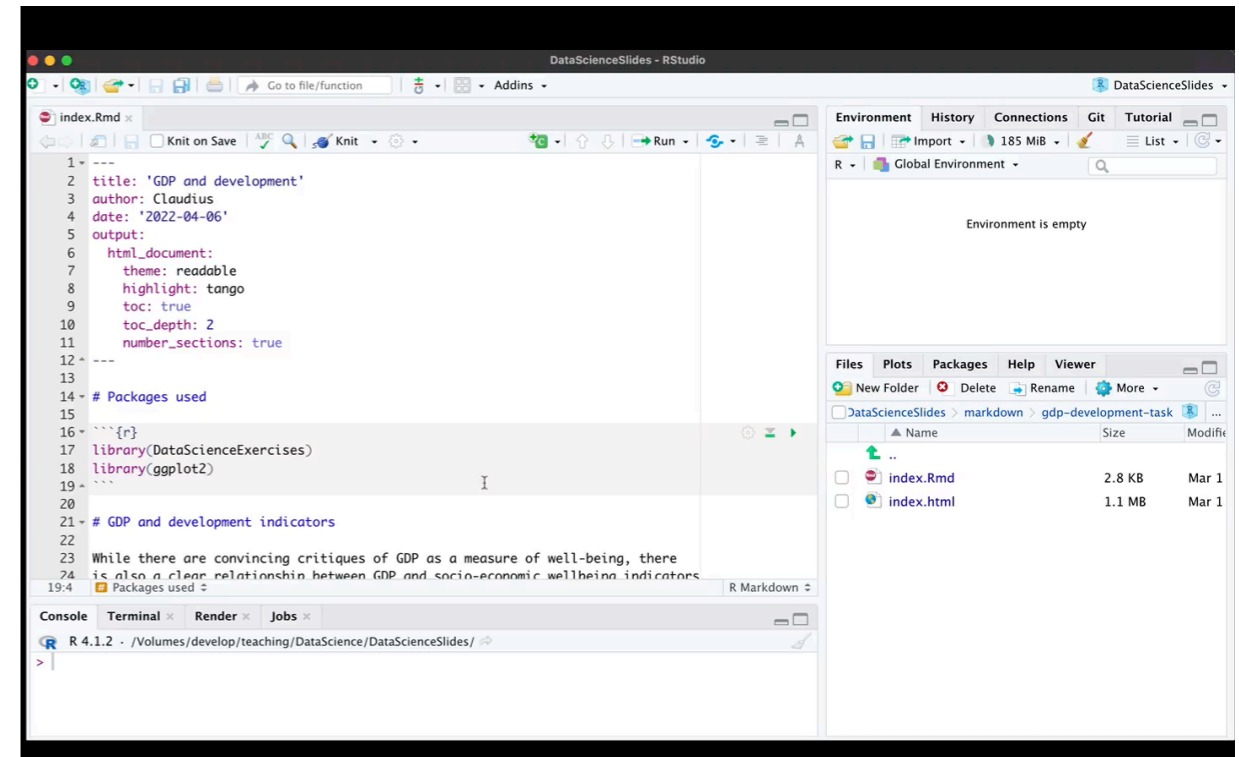
Life expectancy and income per capita
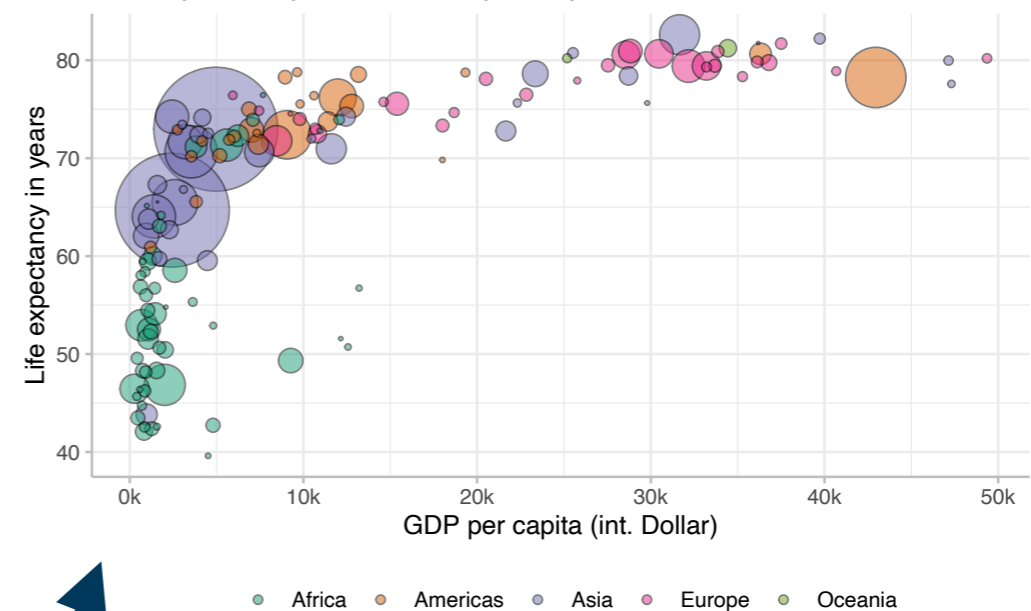
Note: size of bubbles represents population. Data: Gapminder

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

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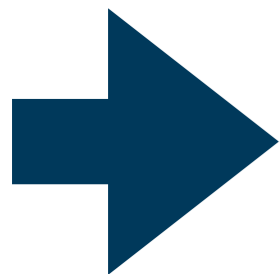
➡️ **I invite you to experiment with LLMs as much as you want, including during the exam, but be wary of their limitations** 🤓

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

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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: 13895 | 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💪🏽
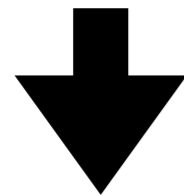
Open questions?

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**?

Part II:
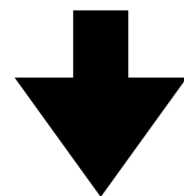# Installing R and R Studio

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)
    ```


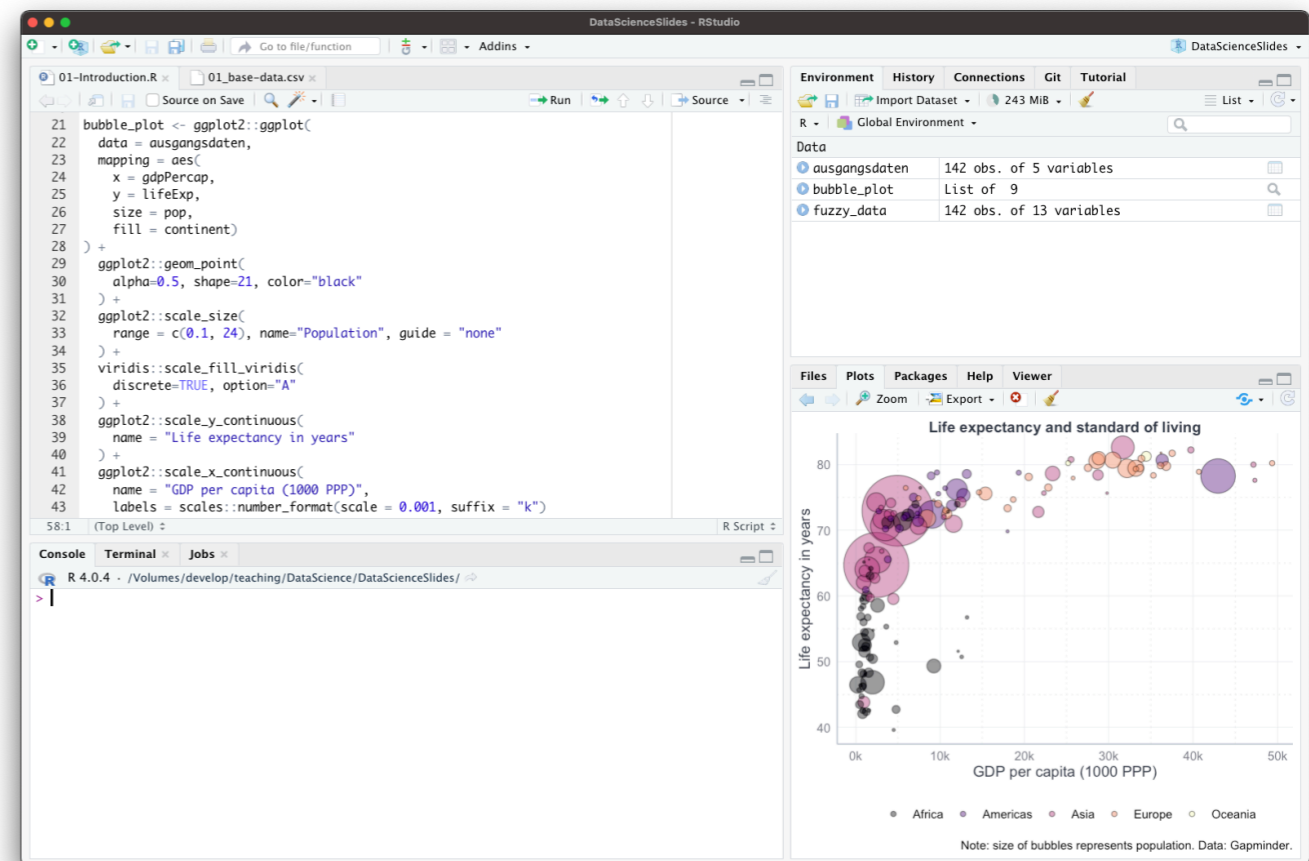   ```
    8B542408 83FA0077 06B80000 0000C383
    FA027706 B8010000 00C353BB 01000000
    B9010000 008D0419 83FA0376 078BD989
    C14AEBF1 5BC3
    ```

    

    ```
    [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

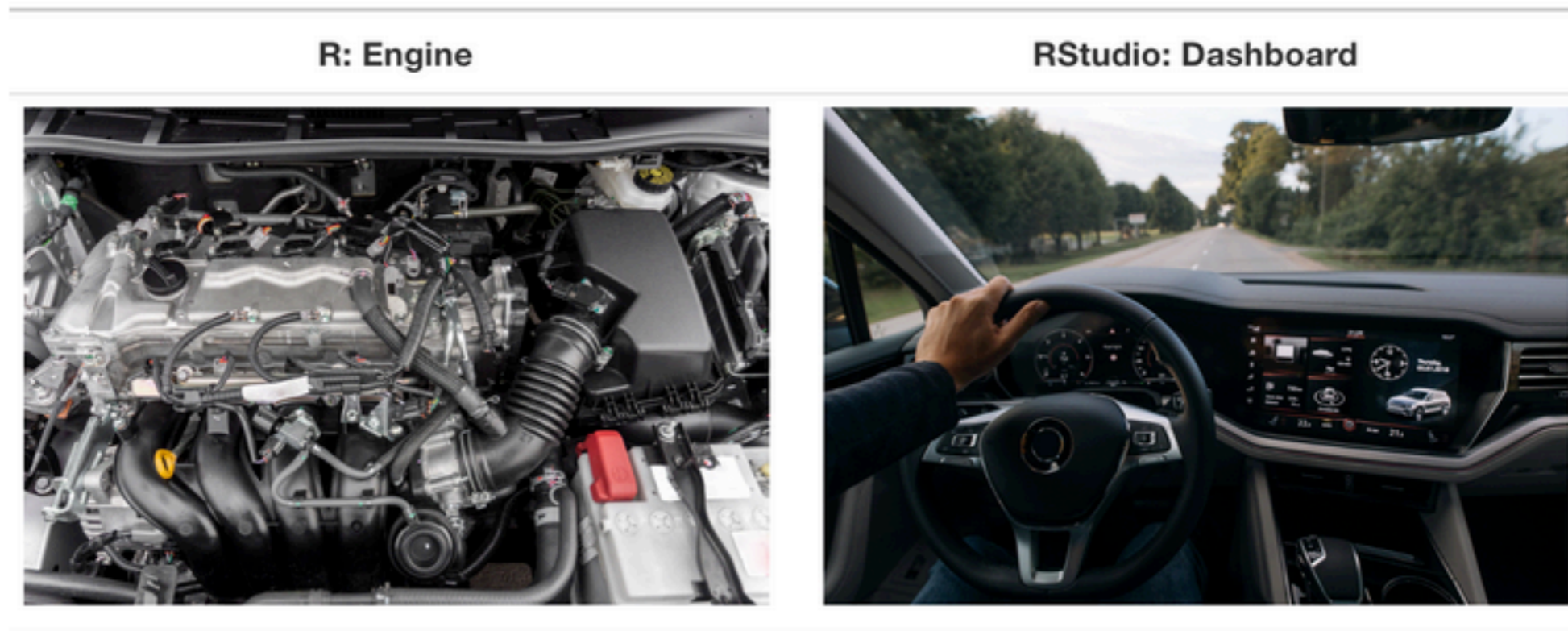- R-Studio is an integrated development environment


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

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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

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R and R packages

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

| R: A new phone | R Packages: Apps you can download |
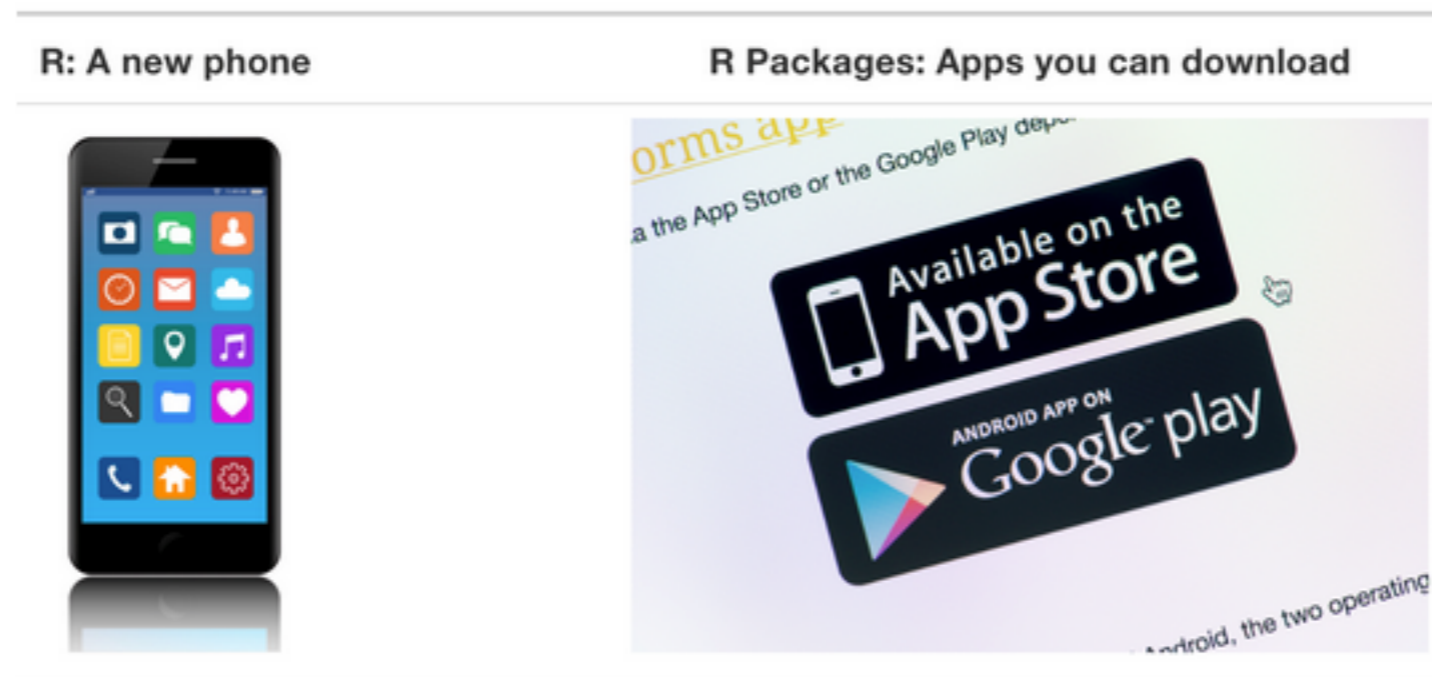
- I wrote a small script that installs all packages that we will use throughout the semester, so we can already resolve all installation issues now

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And what about LaTeX?

- In this course we learn how to write nice reports in Quarto

  - Put R code and text into one file → get a webpage in HTML or a nice PDF

- Creating HTML code is easy, 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

This is LaTeX
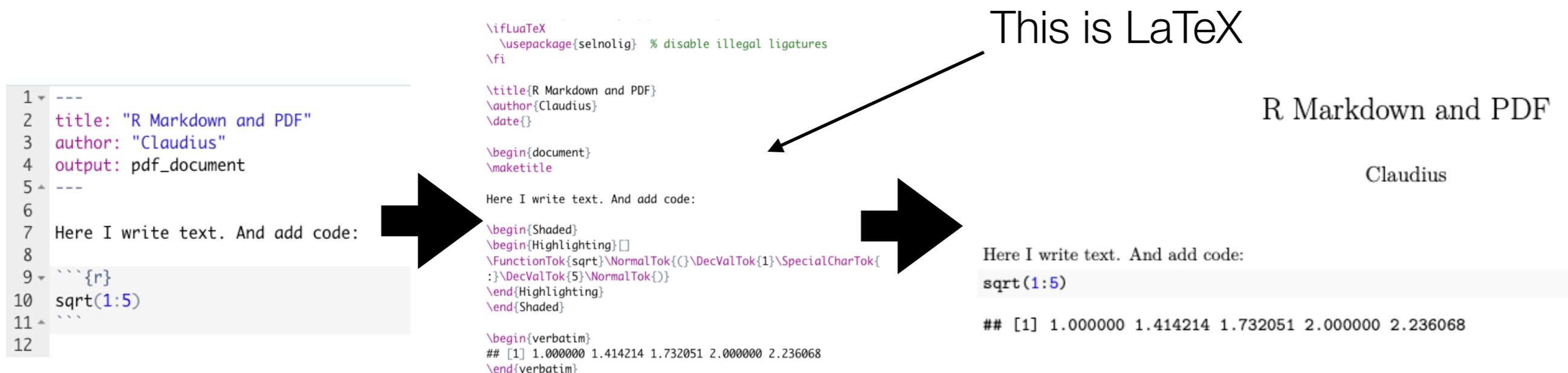
Installation procedure

- 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