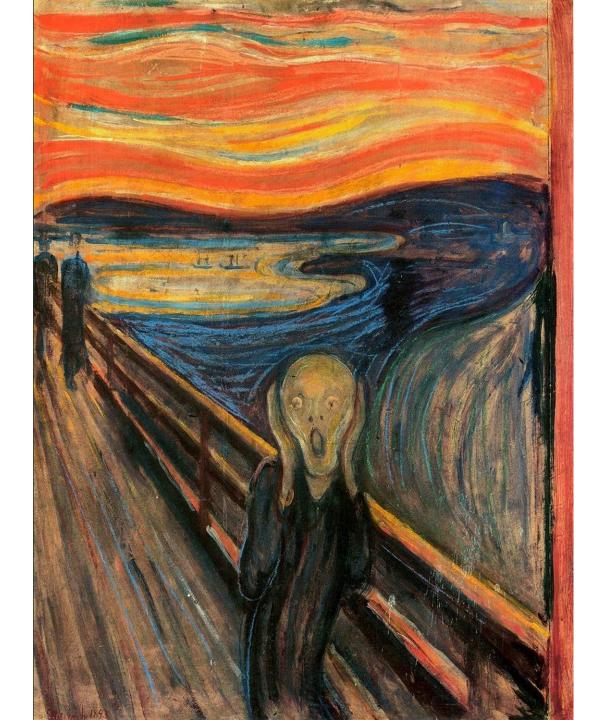
Introduction to R

Lukáš Lehotský



Courses' objectives

- Introduction to basic concepts and techniques of data manipulation, qualitative comparative analysis and text analysis with R
- Not a course on general methodology or research design
- Not a course on programing in R, but includes programming introduction interlinked with data manipulation

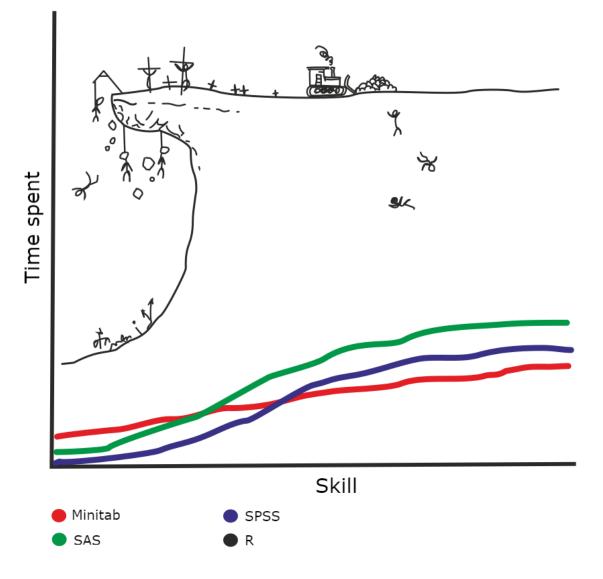
R: advantages

- Extremely **powerful**
- Freeware and open source
- Integrated
- Transparent/easy to find errors
- Modular (re-usability of codes)
- Fast compared to "point-and-click" programs

R: disadvantages

- Steep learning curve compared to "point-and-click" programs
- Data preparation possibly **demanding**
- Inconsistencies across packages
- Package-dependent (some particular operations not implemented)
- Slower compared to other programming languages in large operations

Learning curves of popular stats programs



R community / resources

- R package / library manuals
- R site: <u>http://cran.r-project.org</u>
- Community forums
 - <u>http://stackoverflow.com</u>
 - <u>http://www.statmethods.net</u>
 - <u>http://www.r-bloggers.com</u>
- Youtube videos

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHfSTRNg6jE

R: not a silver bullet

- Some tasks are **cumbersome** in R
- Other software much **better** in some **particular tasks**
- Sophisticated scripting does not offset poor research design

R: focus on logic

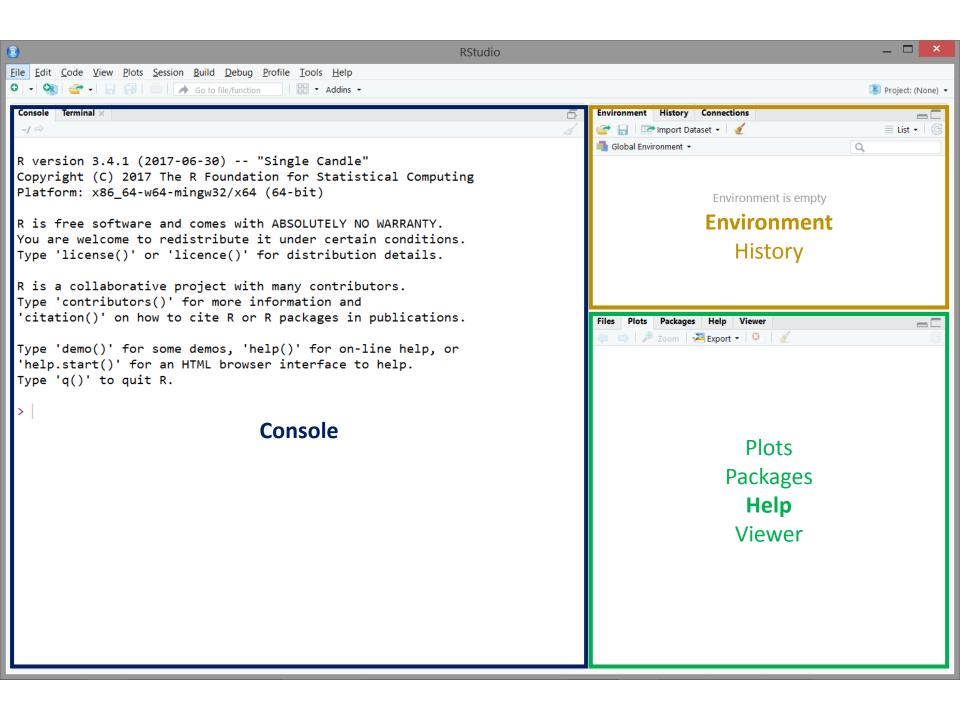
- Any programming language is just very condensed and formalized speech
- The most complicated part is designing the **procedure** of what needs to be done
- Writing the actual script is fairly easy

Introduction to R

- You should have two programs installed on computer
 - R
 - R Studio
- Both have to be installed to run R Studio
- We are going to use R Studio
 - More convenient to work with



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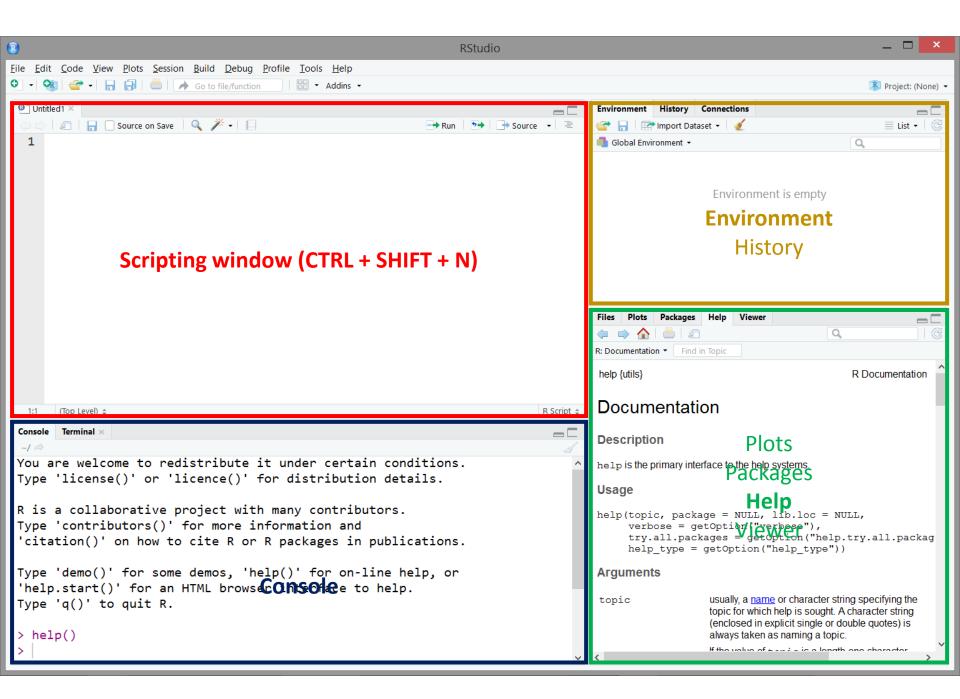
Introduction to R: console vs. script

• Console provides instant input

- Short bits of code executed **one by one**
- Very similar to other console programs (e.g. Linux)
- Enter runs the command
- Faster
- Does not contain history

• Scripts

- Complete piece of code
 - Executed at once
 - Executed bit by bit
- CTRL + SHIFT + N creates new script in R Studio
- Ctrl + Enter runs the selected piece of code



Object-oriented programming

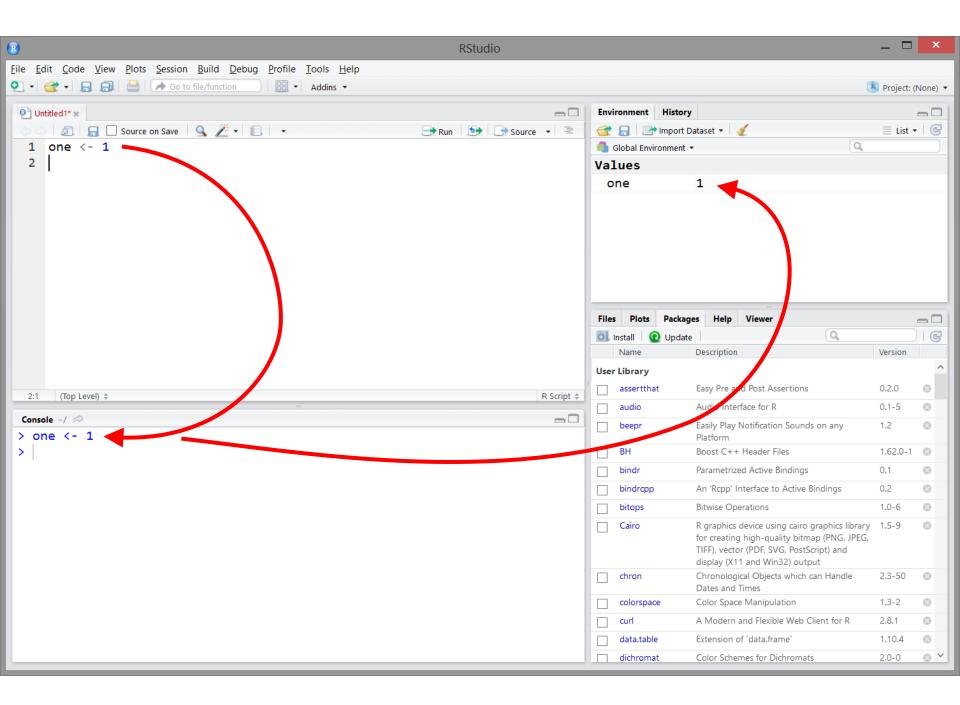


• object: instance of a certain data class that can be manipulated according set of procedures (methods)

one <- 1

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		chron	Chronological Objects which can Handle Dates and Times	2.3-50	8
		colorspace	Color Space Manipulation	1.3-2	8
		curl	A Modern and Flexible Web Client for R	2.8.1	\otimes
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Object: what is it?

- Object is container
- Element is anything in container a peach
- To reuse elements, they must be **stored as objects**
 - Any name **defined** by user
 - Remain the same unless overwritten
 - Must be **removed** by user as well



Object: creating/storing objects

Object (container)

<-

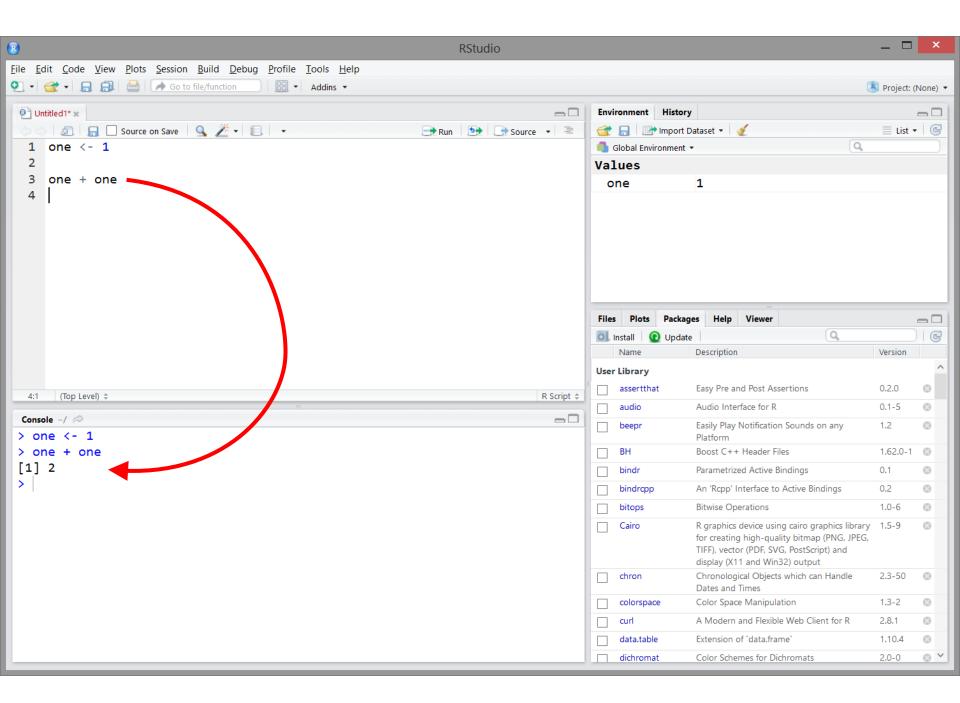
Element (peach)

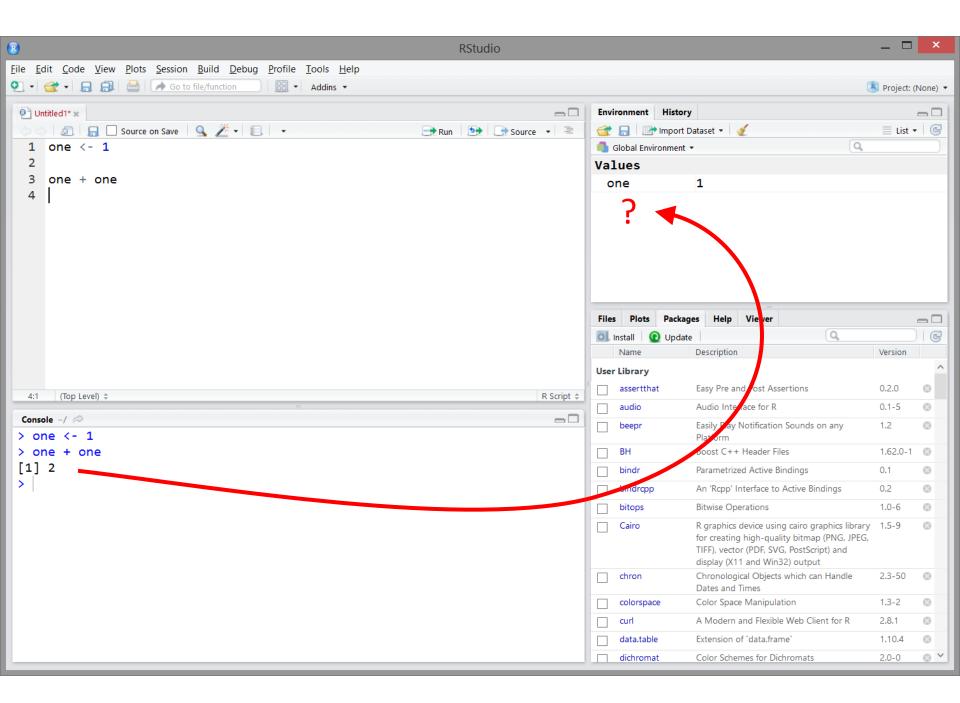
Object: use

- Once objects exist, you may use it as whole or its elements for various operations
- It may be reused again and again
- Functions may be applied

```
one <- 1
```

one + one [1] 2

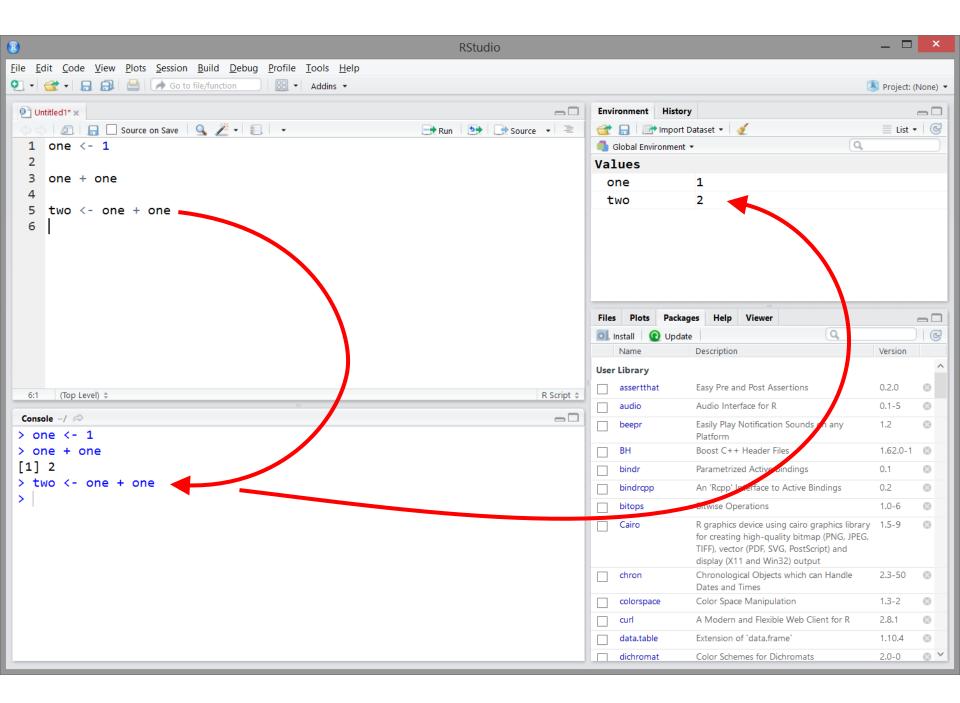




Object: use

- Any output of any operation needs to be stored
 - new object may be created
 - existing object may be rewritten

```
one <- 1
one + one
[1] 2
two <- one + one
two
[1] 2</pre>
```



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Function



Function

- Pre-defined methods which allow operations over objects
- To create an object with more than one element, function $_{\rm C}$ () is used

onetofive <- c(1,3,5,4,2)</pre>

• Any object may be **manipulated** with a function

```
sort(onetofive)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

Function: arguments

- To extend functionality, functions have pre-defined arguments
 - Arguments extend the functionality of function
 - Some functions have many arguments, some none
- Results of the function must always be stored in the environment

```
sort(onetofive)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
sort(onetofive, decreasing = TRUE)
[1] 5 4 3 2 1
```

onetofive <- sort(onetofive, decreasing = TRUE)</pre>

Function: syntax

- functionname() indicates function
 sqrt(9)
 [1] 3
- Structure is function (arg1, arg2, ...)

sample(0:100, 10, rep = FALSE)
[1] 48 50 37 94 42 39 21 19 63 95

• If help is necessary, just add question mark or use function help() in front of the function name

```
?sample()
```

```
help(sample)
```

10.27

Data class

- Properties of elements inside the object
- Numeric continuous numeric data
 - -1, 0.5, 10.27
- Integer discrete numeric data
 - -1, 0, 1
- Character string values
 - "anythingWithinQuotes"
- Logical boolean output of logical operation
 - TRUE/FALSE, NA
- Factor
 - "agree", "disagree", "neutral"

Data class



Data class

- Sometimes, data elements are ambiguous
- Distinctions important for computer
- It is useful to explore data class of any object
 - This is not a necessary step
 - R comes with pre-defined behavior on classes sometimes counterintuitive (e.g. in data sets, character variables are by default converted to factors)
 - Useful in **debugging** the code

• If necessary, class can be converted/changed

class(10.27)
[1] "numeric"

Data class: conversion of classes

```
as.numeric(10.27)
[1] 10.27
as.integer(10.27)
[1] 10
as.character(-1)
[1] "-1"
as.numeric("anything")
[1] NA
Warning message: NAs introduced by coercion
5 > 10
[1] FALSE
```

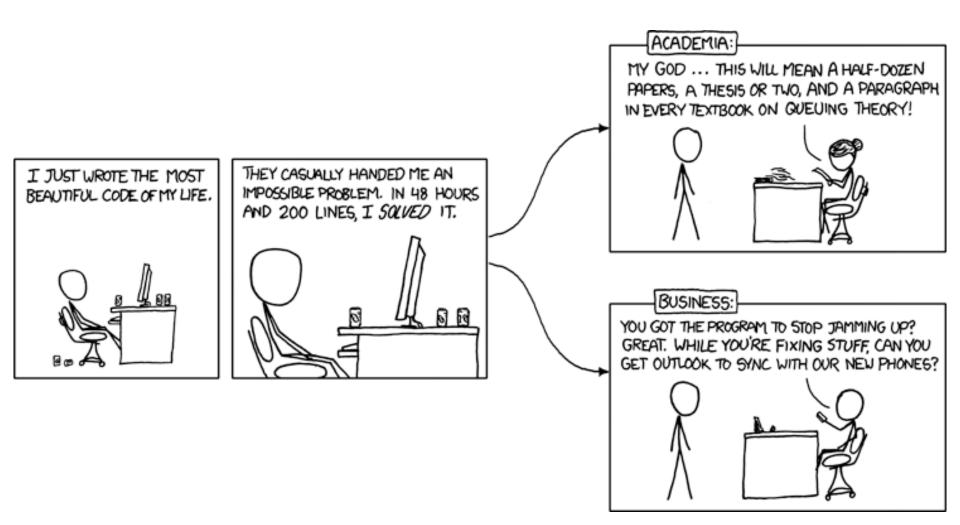
```
as.character(5 > 10)
[1] "FALSE"
```

Tips and tricks

- Keyboard hacks
 - For Czech keyboard and Win machine users, Right Alt (AltGr) allows you to type some special characters (AltGr + < for <)
- Script hacks
 - # allows you to write comments in scripts
 - When writing code, R will automatically add closing bracket, as well as closing quote symbol
 - **Tab** will finish the name of function or argument in R Studio try typing help(and press Tab

Practice

- Create a new script
- Define 5 objects of your own liking (including object with more than one element)
- Get a class of each of the following items: 5, "5", NA, TRUE, "true", NULL
- Calculate the equation $\frac{(5.5*4)+(7.5*2.12)}{\frac{12}{7}}$ using R objects
- Try to get a square root of number 254



Source: https://xkcd.com/664/