Tools of the Trade

HES 505 Fall 2025: Session 2

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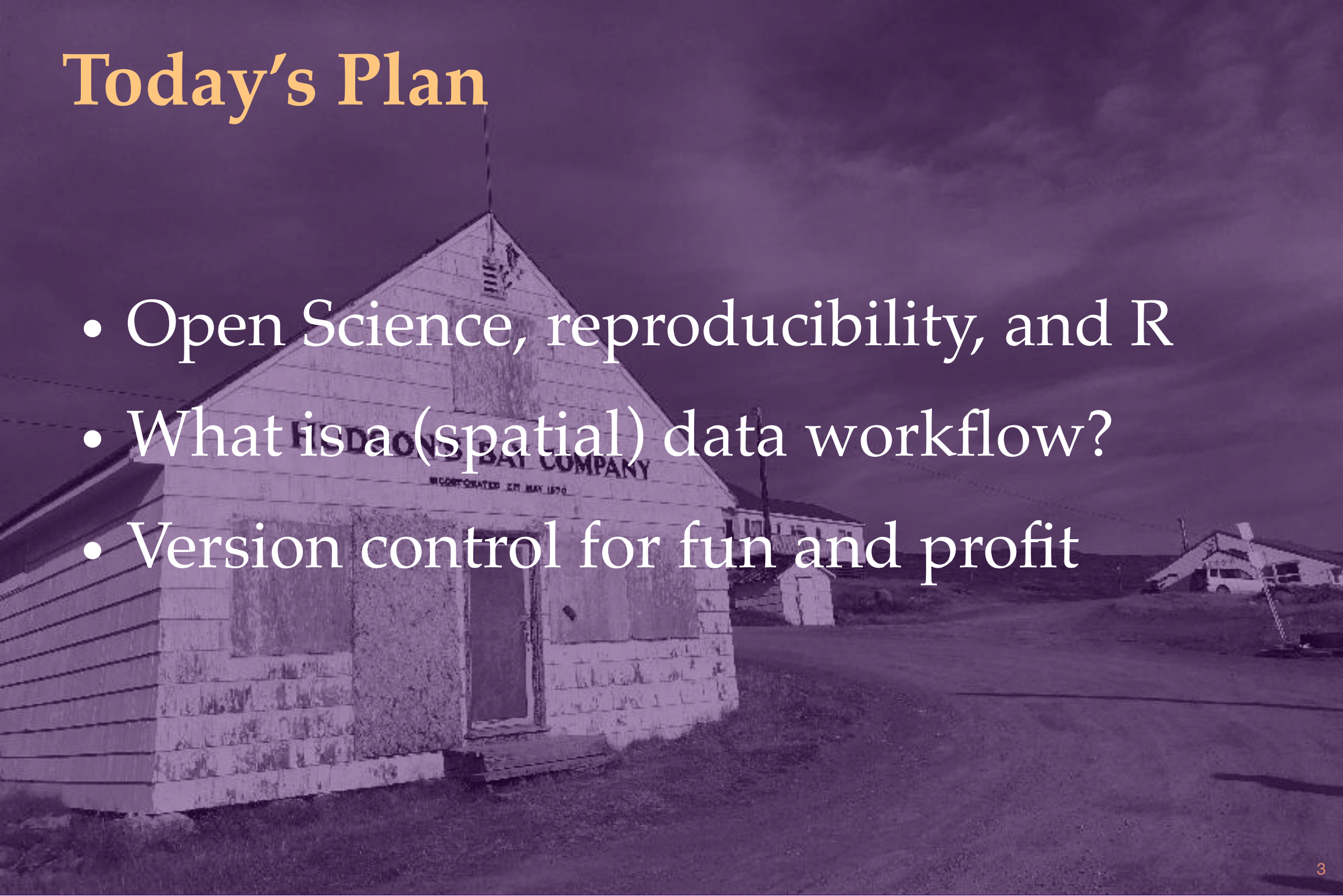
Checking in

1. What can I clarify about the course?
2. Are there any challenges you can already see?

Today's Plan



- Open Science, reproducibility, and R
- What is a (spatial) data workflow?
- Version control for fun and profit

A More Democratic Science?

What is open science?

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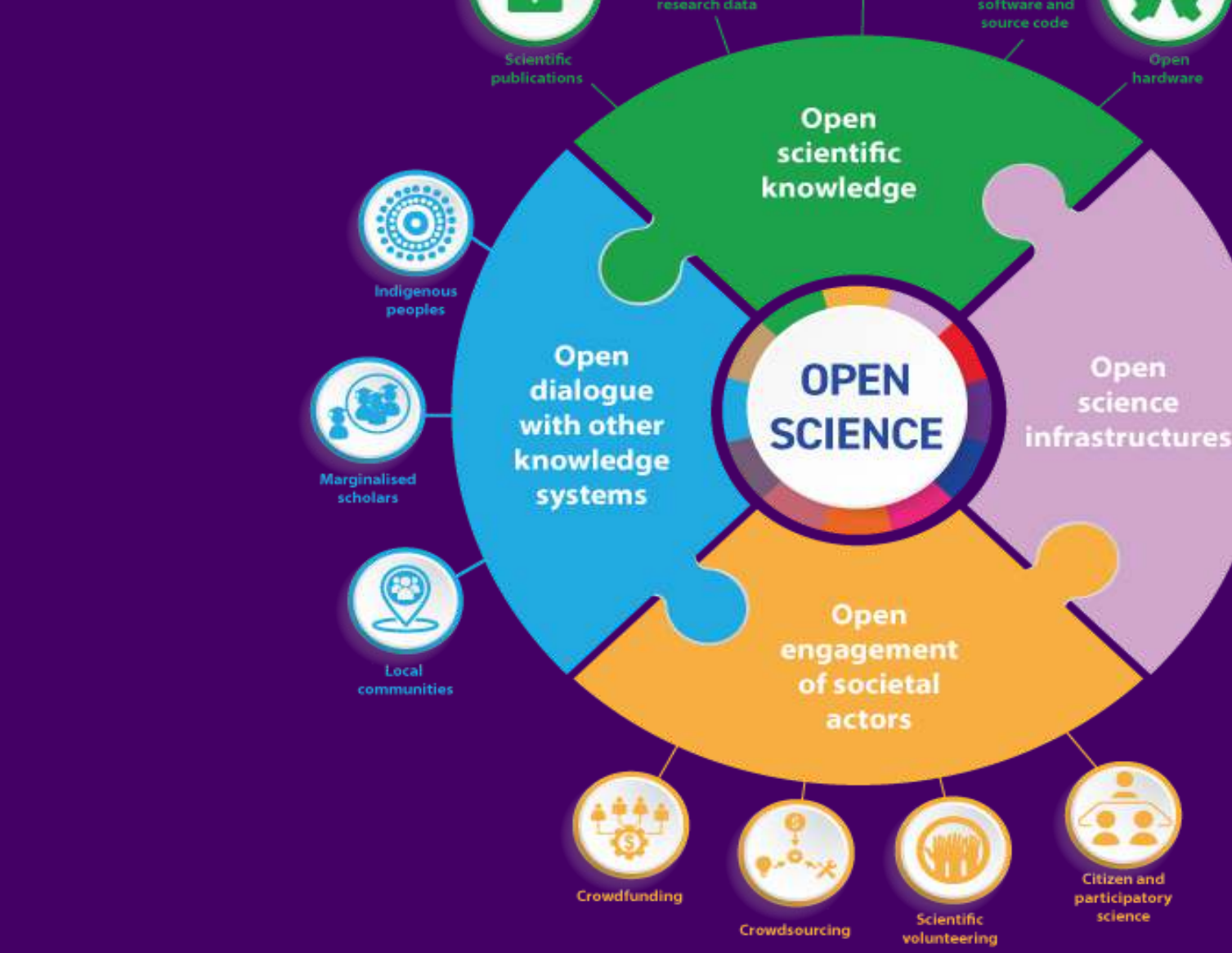

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Why open source software and code?

- Future-proof: OSS development is fast and ongoing
- Interoperability: Work across hardware types, integrate new software easily
- Free!! (To use and maintain)
- Sharing code and data enables innovation and *reproducibility*

Why (not) R?

- Open Source
- Huge useR community
- Integrated analysis pipelines
- Reproducible workflows

- Coding can be hard…
- Memory challenges
- Speed
- Decision fatigue

Anatomy of an R session

Moving beyond **R**ead-**E**val-**P**rint **L**oops

- `cripts`: contain a ecord of the code in our analysis and the *bjects* you created
- `unctions`: perform perations on objects
- `ackages`: collections f related functions

Code | Plot

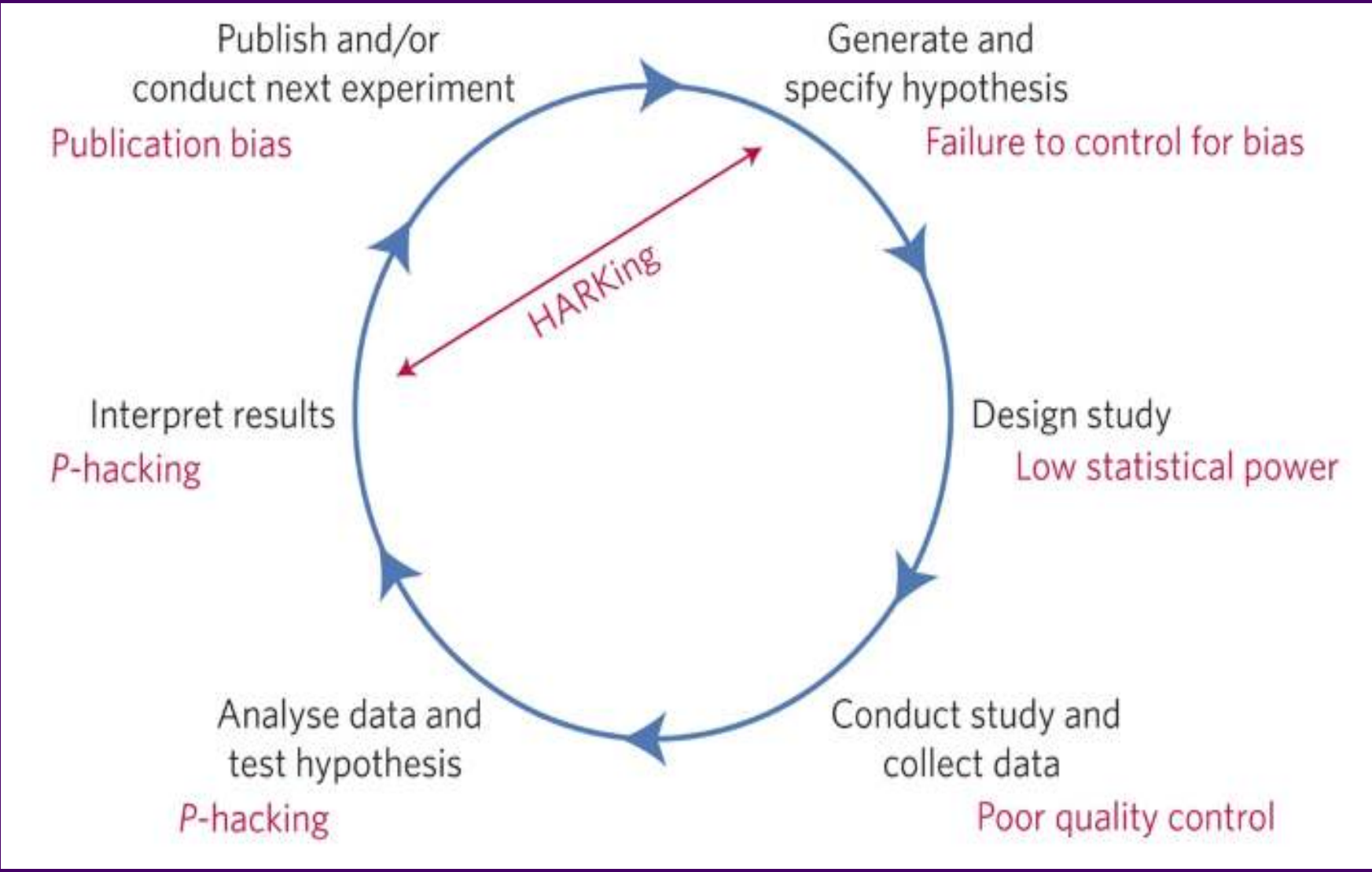
```
1  library(maps)
2  library(socviz)
3  library(tidyverse)
4  party_colors <- c("#2E74C0", "#CB454A")
5  us_states <- map_data("state")
6  election$region <- tolower(election$state)
7  us_states_elec <- left_join(us_states, election)
8  p0 <- ggplot(data = us_states_elec,
9               mapping = aes(x = long, y = lat,
10                            group = group,
11                            fill = party))
12 p1 <- p0 + geom_polygon(color = "gray90",
13                          size = 0.1) +
14     coord_map(projection = "albers",
15               lat0 = 39, lat1 = 45)
16 p2 <- p1 + scale_fill_manual(values = party_colors) +
17     labs(title = "Election Results 2016",
18          fill = NULL)
```

Reproducible workflows

Science is a social process!!

Why Do We Need Reproducibility?

- oise!!
- onfirmation ias
- indsight bias



What do we mean by reproducible “workflow”?

Reproducibility and your code

- Scripts: may make your code reproducible (but not your analysis)
- Commenting and formatting can help!
- Think about future you…

````
```{r}
#| eval: false
## load the packages necessary
library(tidyverse)
## read in the data
landmarks_csv <- read_csv("/Users/mattwilliamson/Google Drive/My Drive/TEAC

## How many in each feature class
table(landmarks_csv$MTFCC)
```
````

Reproducible scripts

- Comments explain what the code is doing
- Operations are ordered logically
- Only relevant commands are presented
- Useful object and function names
- Script runs without errors (on your machine and someone else's)

Flipping the script

Toward Efficient Reproducible Workflows

- Scripts can document what you did, but not why you did it!
- Scripts separate your analysis products from your report/manuscript

What is literate programming?

- Documentation containing code (not vice versa!)
- Direct connection between code and explanation
- Convey meaning to humans rather than telling computer what to do!

Why literate programming?

- Your analysis scripts **are** computer software
- Integrate math, figures, code, and narrative in one place
- Explaining something helps you learn it

Introducing Quarto

What is Quarto?

- End-to-End process between data and report
- Explicit linkage between each step (including iteration)
- Each step involves trials and choices

What is Quarto?

- A multi-language platform for developing reproducible documents
- A ‘lab notebook’ for your analyses
- Allows transparent, reproducible scientific reports and presentations

Key components

1. Metadata and global options: YAML
2. Text, figures, and tables: Markdown and LaTeX
3. Code: `knitr` (or `jupyter` if you're into that sort of thing)

For this class…

- We'll use headers to outline the analysis
- We'll use code chunks for small, self-contained operations
- We'll create our own functions for repeated operations
- We'll `knit` our documents into a standalone, readable document

Version control, reproducibility, and sanity

Version control in general

- Track changes without version explosion (via `git`)
- Create specific snapshots of a project to facilitate experimentation (via `commit` and `branches`)
- Create centralized backups and ease collaboration (via `GitHub`)

Version control and reproducibility

- Documenting changes to code, manuscripts, figures increases transparency of the scientific process
- Collaboration with other programmers is easier and less risky
- Automates the sharing of code and original data

Version control and sanity

- `commit` early, `commit` often
- use sensible messages to remind yourself where you were
- make sure you always have the most up-to-date version
- **It will take some practice to `git` comfortable**