ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF R

Advantages

- R is free!
  - This is particularly nice for teaching students
- Reproducibility
- Open source and a large R community
  - Google it—be sure to include the package name in your search
  - Stack Overflow
- Graphics are nice
- R is a big calculator!
  - You can compute whatever you need, right there without leaving the system
- You can write your own functions easily

Disadvantages

- You have to learn something new!
  - And it is code based

- Graphics are pretty, but a little hard to learn
  - Read about `ggplot2` here

- R does not (easily) give p-values for random effects

- Drawing figures in R can be tricky
  - Some packages to help: `semPlot`, `DiagrammeR`

- We don't yet know a MLM way to fix indistinguishable longitudinal models
  - Can be done with SEM (the `lavaan` package