

Support for parts of data analysis



How to do it

Here is a three-step guide showing one possible way to use generative AI as support at different stages of a data analysis.

1. Clarify your analysis needs

Start by identifying what kind of help you need. Do you want to understand a concept, choose an analysis method, explore a dataset, interpret a result, or work with code? Also describe the purpose of the analysis and the relevant context:

- What do you want to investigate?
- What type of data are you working with?
- Which variables or categories are included?
- How was the data collected?
- What subject-specific or methodological requirements apply?
- What have you already tried?

Check whether you are allowed to share the data with the chatbot you have

chosen. Do not upload personal data, confidential research material, or other protected data.

2. Use the chatbot for a clearly defined part of the analysis

Limit the chatbot to a specific task rather than asking it to carry out the entire analysis. Du kan eksempelvis bruge den til at:

- explain an analysis method and its assumptions
- compare different possible methods
- suggest a plan for initial data exploration
- identify questions you should ask about data quality
- explain output from an analysis program
- comment on or explain code line by line
- suggest code for a clearly defined analysis task
- outline possible interpretations that should be investigated further

Provide the necessary information about the data, method, software, and any limitations. If you are working with code, you should also specify the programming language and any relevant packages or versions.

3. Test, verify, and interpret

Always check the chatbot's suggestions before using them. Assess whether the proposed method suits your question and your data, and whether the method's assumptions are met. If the chatbot has suggested code, you should:

- read and try to understand the code before running it
- test it in small parts
- investigate error messages and unexpected results
- check the output against documentation or known examples
- adapt the code to your own dataset and analysis

Do not interpret the results solely on the basis of the chatbot's explanation. Compare them with your subject-matter knowledge, relevant sources, and the context from which the data originated. Document your choices and any use of generative AI so that the analysis process is transparent and can be reviewed and reproduced.

