

1 - Intro to R

Data Structures

Eric Hare, Andee Kaplan, Carson Sievert

Iowa State University

Data Frames

- ▶ Data Frames are the work horse of R objects
- ▶ Structured by rows and columns and can be indexed
- ▶ Each column is a specified variable type
- ▶ Columns names can be used to index a variable
- ▶ Advice for naming variable applies to editing columns names
- ▶ Can be specified by grouping vectors of equal length as columns

Data Frame Indexing

- ▶ Elements indexed similar to a vector using `[ ]`
- ▶ `df[i,j]` will select the element in the i^{th} row and j^{th} column
- ▶ `df[ ,j]` will select the entire j^{th} column and treat it as a vector
- ▶ `df[i ,]` will select the entire i^{th} row and treat it as a vector
- ▶ Logical vectors can be used in place of `i` and `j` used to subset the row and columns

Adding a New Variable to Data Frames

- ▶ Create a new vector that is the same length as other columns
- ▶ Append new column to the data frame using the \$ operator
- ▶ The new data frame column will adopt the name of the vector

Data Frame Demo

- ▶ Demo using a statistical classic: Edgar Anderson's Iris Data
- ▶ Follow along with the R script named 4-DataStructures.R

Your Turn

- ▶ Make a data frame with column 1: 1,2,3,4,5,6 and column 2:a,b,a,b,a,b
- ▶ Select only rows with value "a" in column 2 using logical vector
- ▶ `mtcars` is a built in data set like `iris`: read the values from row 4 by indexing

Lists

- ▶ Lists are a structured collection of R objects
- ▶ R objects in a list need not be the same type
- ▶ Create lists using the `list()` function
- ▶ Lists indexed using double square brackets `[[ ]]` to select an object

List Example

```
# Create a list including a vector and a matrix
```

```
mylist <- list( matrix(letters[1:10], nrow=2, ncol=5) , seq(0, 49, by=7)  
mylist
```

```
## [[1]]  
##      [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4] [,5]  
## [1,] "a"  "c"  "e"  "g"  "i"  
## [2,] "b"  "d"  "f"  "h"  "j"  
##  
## [[2]]  
## [1]  0  7 14 21 28 35 42 49
```

```
# Use index to select second object in list, this will return the vector
```

```
mylist[[2]]
```

```
## [1]  0  7 14 21 28 35 42 49
```

Your Turn

- ▶ Create a list containing a vector and a 2x3 data frame
- ▶ Use indexing to select the data frame from your list
- ▶ Use further indexing to select the first row from the data frame in your list

Examining Objects

- ▶ `head(x)` - View top 6 rows of a data frame
- ▶ `tail(x)` - View bottom 6 rows of a data frame
- ▶ `summary(x)` - Summary statistics
- ▶ `str(x)` - View structure of object
- ▶ `dim(x)` - View Dimensions of object
- ▶ `length(x)` - Returns the length of a vector

Examining Objects Example

```
# Examine the top 2 rows of the iris data set from built in data package
```

```
head(iris, 2)
```

```
##      Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1           5.1           3.5           1.4           0.2  setosa
## 2           4.9           3.0           1.4           0.2  setosa
```

```
# How big is this data set?
```

```
dim(iris)
```

```
## [1] 150    5
```

```
# What structure does the data set have?
```

```
str(iris)
```

```
## 'data.frame': 150 obs. of  5 variables:
##  $ Sepal.Length: num  5.1 4.9 4.7 4.6 5 5.4 4.6 5 4.4 4.9 ...
##  $ Sepal.Width : num  3.5 3 3.2 3.1 3.6 3.9 3.4 3.4 2.9 3.1 ...
##  $ Petal.Length: num  1.4 1.4 1.3 1.5 1.4 1.7 1.4 1.5 1.4 1.5 ...
##  $ Petal.Width : num  0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.2 0.4 0.3 0.2 0.2 0.1 ...
##  $ Species      : Factor w/ 3 levels "setosa","versicolor",...: 1 1 1
```

Your Turn

- ▶ View the top 6 rows of mtcars data
- ▶ What type of object is the mtcars data set?
- ▶ How many rows are in iris data set? (try finding this using dim or indexing + length)
- ▶ Summarize the values in each column in iris data set

Working with output from a function

- ▶ Can save output from a function as an object
- ▶ Object is generally a list of output objects
- ▶ Can pull off items from the output for further computing
- ▶ Examine object using functions like `str(x)`

Output Object Demo

- ▶ Demo of saving t-test output as an object

Your Turn

- ▶ Pull the p-value from the t-test of a difference between Sepal Lengths of setosa and versicolor species from the Iris data

Importing Data

- ▶ First need to tell R where the data is saved using `setwd()`
- ▶ Data read in using R functions such as:
 - ▶ `read.table()` for reading in .txt files
 - ▶ `read.csv()` for reading in .csv files
- ▶ Assign the data to new R object when reading in the file

Importing Data Demo

- ▶ Demo of creating a csv file and loading it into R

Your Turn

- ▶ Make 5 rows of data in an excel spreadsheet and save it as a .txt file
- ▶ Import this new .txt file into R with read.table