

Data Science R Basics

Learning Objectives

- Learn to read, extract, and create datasets in R
- Learn to perform a variety of operations on datasets using R
- Learn to write your own functions/sub-routines in R

Course Overview

Section 1: R Basics, Functions, Data types

You will get started with R, learn about its functions and data types.

Section 2: Vectors, Sorting

You will learn to operate on vectors and advanced functions such as sorting.

Section 3: Indexing, Data Manipulation, Plots

You will learn to wrangle and visualize data.

Section 4: Programming Basics

You will learn to use general programming features like ‘if-else’, and ‘for loop’ commands, and write your own functions to perform various operations on datasets.

Section 1 Overview

Section 1 introduces you to R Basics, Functions and Datatypes.

In Section 1, you will learn to:

- Appreciate the rationale for data analysis using R
- Define objects and perform basic arithmetic and logical operations
- Use pre-defined functions to perform operations on objects
- Distinguish between various data types

The textbook for this section is available [here](#)

Motivation

Here is a link to the textbook section on the motivation for this course.

Getting started

Here is a link to the textbook section on Getting Started with R.

Key Points

- R was developed by statisticians and data analysts as an interactive environment for data analysis.
- Some of the advantages of R are that (1) it is free and open source, (2) it has the capability to save scripts, (3) there are numerous resources for learning, and (4) it is easy for developers to share software implementation.
- Expressions are evaluated in the R console when you type the expression into the console and hit Return.
- A great advantage of R over point and click analysis software is that you can save your work as scripts.
- “Base R” is what you get after you first install R. Additional components are available via packages.

```
# installing the dslabs package  
if(!require(dslabs)) install.packages("dslabs")
```

```
## Loading required package: dslabs
```

```
# loading the dslabs package into the R session  
library(dslabs)
```

Installing R and R Studio

Installing R

To install R to work on your own computer, you can download it freely from the Comprehensive R Archive Network (CRAN). Note that CRAN makes several versions of R available: versions for multiple operating systems and releases older than the current one. You want to read the CRAN instructions to assure you download the correct version. If you need further help, you read the walkthrough in this Chapter of the textbook.

Installing RStudio

RStudio is an integrated development environment (IDE). We highly recommend installing and using RStudio to edit and test your code. You can install RStudio through the RStudio website. Their cheatsheet is a great resource. You must install R before installing RStudio.

Textbook Link

Here is a link to the textbook section on Installing R and RStudio.

R Basics - Objects

Here is a link to the textbook section on objects in R.

Key Points

- To define a variable, we may use the assignment symbol “<-”.

- There are two ways to see the value stored in a variable: (1) type the variable into the console and hit Return, or (2) type `print("variable name")` and hit Return.
- Objects are stuff that is stored in R. They can be variables, functions, etc.
- The `ls()` function shows the names of the objects saved in your workspace.

Solving the equation $x^2+x-1=0$

```
# assigning values to variables
a <- 1
b <- 1
c <- -1

# solving the quadratic equation
(-b + sqrt(b^2 - 4*a*c) ) / ( 2*a )
```

```
## [1] 0.618034
```

```
(-b - sqrt(b^2 - 4*a*c) ) / ( 2*a )
```

```
## [1] -1.618034
```

R Basics - Functions

Here is a link to the textbook section on functions.

Key points

- In general, to evaluate a function we need to use parentheses. If we type a function without parenthesis, R shows us the code for the function. Most functions also require an argument, that is, something to be written inside the parenthesis.
- To access help files, we may use the help function `help("function name")`, or write the question mark followed by the function name.
- The help file shows you the arguments the function is expecting, some of which are required and some are optional. If an argument is optional, a default value is assigned with the equal sign. The `args()` function also shows the arguments a function needs.
- To specify arguments, we use the equals sign. If no argument name is used, R assumes you're entering arguments in the order shown in the help file.
- Creating and saving a script makes code much easier to execute.
- To make your code more readable, use intuitive variable names and include comments (using the “#” symbol) to remind yourself why you wrote a particular line of code.

Assessment - R Basics

1. What is the sum of the first n positive integers? We can use the formula $n(n+1)/2$ to quickly compute this quantity.

```
# Here is how you compute the sum for the first 20 integers
20*(20+1)/2
```

```
## [1] 210
```

```
# However, we can define a variable to use the formula for other values of n
n <- 20
n*(n+1)/2
```

```
## [1] 210
```

```
n <- 25
n*(n+1)/2
```

```
## [1] 325
```

```
# Below, write code to calculate the sum of the first 100 integers
n<-100
n*(n+1)/2
```

```
## [1] 5050
```

2. What is the sum of the first 1000 positive integers? We can use the formula $n(n+1)/2$ to quickly compute this quantity.

```
# Below, write code to calculate the sum of the first 1000 integers
n<-1000
n*(n+1)/2
```

```
## [1] 500500
```

3. Run the following code in the R console.

```
n <- 1000
x <- seq(1, n)
sum(x)
```

```
## [1] 500500
```

Based on the result, what do you think the functions `seq` and `sum` do?

- ☐ A. `sum` creates a list of numbers and `seq` adds them up.
- ☒ B. `seq` creates a list of numbers and `sum` adds them up.
- ☐ C. `seq` computes the difference between two arguments and `sum` computes the sum of 1 through 1000.
- ☐ D. `sum` always returns the same number.

4. In math and programming we say we evaluate a function when we replace arguments with specific values. So if we type `log2(16)` we evaluate the `log2` function to get the log base 2 of 16 which is 4.

In R it is often useful to evaluate a function inside another function. For example, `sqrt(log2(16))` will calculate the log to the base 2 of 16 and then compute the square root of that value. So the first evaluation gives a 4 and this gets evaluated by `sqrt` to give the final answer of 2.

```
# log to the base 2  
log2(16)
```

```
## [1] 4
```

```
# sqrt of the log to the base 2 of 16:  
sqrt(log2(16))
```

```
## [1] 2
```

```
# Compute log to the base 10 (log10) of the sqrt of 100. Do not use variables.  
log10(sqrt(100))
```

```
## [1] 1
```

5. Which of the following will always return the numeric value stored in `x`? You can try out examples and use the help system in the R console.

- ☐ A. `log(10^x)`
- ☐ B. `log10(x^10)`
- ☒ C. `log(exp(x))`
- ☐ D. `exp(log(x, base = 2))`

Data Types

You can find the section of the textbook on data types [here](#).

Key Points

- The function “`class`” helps us determine the type of an object.
- Data frames can be thought of as tables with rows representing observations and columns representing different variables.
- To access data from columns of a data frame, we use the dollar sign symbol, which is called the accessor.
- A vector is an object consisting of several entries and can be a numeric vector, a character vector, or a logical vector.
- We use quotes to distinguish between variable names and character strings.
- Factors are useful for storing categorical data, and are more memory efficient than storing characters.

Code

```
# loading the the murders dataset  
data(murders)  
  
# determining that the murders dataset is of the "data frame" class  
class(murders)
```

```
## [1] "data.frame"
```

```
# finding out more about the structure of the object
str(murders)
```

```
## 'data.frame':   51 obs. of  5 variables:
## $ state      : chr  "Alabama" "Alaska" "Arizona" "Arkansas" ...
## $ abb        : chr  "AL" "AK" "AZ" "AR" ...
## $ region     : Factor w/ 4 levels "Northeast","South",...: 2 4 4 2 4 4 1 2 2 2 ...
## $ population: num  4779736 710231 6392017 2915918 37253956 ...
## $ total      : num   135 19 232 93 1257 ...
```

```
# showing the first 6 lines of the dataset
head(murders)
```

```
##      state abb region population total
## 1   Alabama AL  South    4779736    135
## 2   Alaska  AK   West     710231     19
## 3   Arizona AZ   West    6392017    232
## 4   Arkansas AR  South    2915918     93
## 5 California CA   West   37253956   1257
## 6   Colorado CO   West    5029196     65
```

```
# using the accessor operator to obtain the population column
murders$population
```

```
## [1] 4779736 710231 6392017 2915918 37253956 5029196 3574097 897934
## [9] 601723 19687653 9920000 1360301 1567582 12830632 6483802 3046355
## [17] 2853118 4339367 4533372 1328361 5773552 6547629 9883640 5303925
## [25] 2967297 5988927 989415 1826341 2700551 1316470 8791894 2059179
## [33] 19378102 9535483 672591 11536504 3751351 3831074 12702379 1052567
## [41] 4625364 814180 6346105 25145561 2763885 625741 8001024 6724540
## [49] 1852994 5686986 563626
```

```
# displaying the variable names in the murders dataset
names(murders)
```

```
## [1] "state"      "abb"        "region"     "population" "total"
```

```
# determining how many entries are in a vector
pop <- murders$population
length(pop)
```

```
## [1] 51
```

```
# vectors can be of class numeric and character
class(pop)
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
```

```
class(murders$state)
```

```
## [1] "character"
```

```
# logical vectors are either TRUE or FALSE
```

```
z <- 3 == 2
```

```
z
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

```
class(z)
```

```
## [1] "logical"
```

```
# factors are another type of class
```

```
class(murders$region)
```

```
## [1] "factor"
```

```
# obtaining the levels of a factor
```

```
levels(murders$region)
```

```
## [1] "Northeast" "South" "North Central" "West"
```

Assessment - Data Types

1. We're going to be using the following dataset for this module. Run this code in the console.

```
library(dslabs)
```

```
data(murders)
```

Next, use the function `str` to examine the structure of the `murders` object. We can see that this object is a data frame with 51 rows and five columns.

```
str(murders)
```

```
## 'data.frame':   51 obs. of  5 variables:
## $ state      : chr  "Alabama" "Alaska" "Arizona" "Arkansas" ...
## $ abb        : chr  "AL" "AK" "AZ" "AR" ...
## $ region     : Factor w/ 4 levels "Northeast","South",...: 2 4 4 2 4 4 1 2 2 2 ...
## $ population: num  4779736 710231 6392017 2915918 37253956 ...
## $ total      : num  135 19 232 93 1257 ...
```

Which of the following best describes the variables represented in this data frame?

- ☐ A. The 51 states.
- ☐ B. The murder rates for all 50 states and DC.

- ☒ C. The state name, the abbreviation of the state name, the state's region, and the state's population and total number of murders for 2010.
- ☐ D. str shows no relevant information.

2. In the previous question, we saw the different variables that are a part of this dataset from the output of the `str()` function. The function `names()` is specifically designed to extract the column names from a data frame.

```
# Load package and data
library(dslabs)
data(murders)
```

```
# Use the function names to extract the variable names
names(murders)
```

```
## [1] "state"      "abb"        "region"     "population" "total"
```

3. In this module we have learned that every variable has a class. For example, the class can be a *character*, *numeric* or *logical*. The function `class()` can be used to determine the class of an object.

Here we are going to determine the class of one of the variables in the `murders` data frame. To extract variables from a data frame we use `$`, referred to as the accessor.

```
# To access the population variable from the murders dataset use this code:
p <- murders$population
```

```
# To determine the class of object `p` we use this code:
class(p)
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
```

```
# Use the accessor to extract state abbreviations and assign it to a
a <- murders$abb
```

```
# Determine the class of a
class(a)
```

```
## [1] "character"
```

4. An important lesson you should learn early on is that there are multiple ways to do things in R. For example, to generate the first five integers we note that `1:5` and `seq(1,5)` return the same result.

There are also multiple ways to access variables in a data frame. For example we can use the square brackets `[[` instead of the accessor `$`.

If you instead try to access a column with just one bracket,

```
murders["population"]
```


R returns a subset of the original data frame containing just this column. This new object will be of class `data.frame` rather than a vector. To access the column itself you need to use either the `$` accessor or the double square brackets `[[`.

Parentheses, in contrast, are mainly used alongside functions to indicate what argument the function should be doing something to. For example, when we did `class(p)` in the last question, we wanted the function `class` to do something related to the argument `p`.

This is an example of how R can be a bit idiosyncratic sometimes. It is very common to find it confusing at first.

```
# We extract the population like this:
p <- murders$population

# This is how we do the same with the square brackets:
o <- murders[["population"]]

# We can confirm these two are the same
identical(o, p)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

```
# Use square brackets to extract `abb` from `murders` and assign it to b
b <- murders[["abb"]]

# Check if `a` and `b` are identical
identical(a, b)
```

```
## [1] TRUE
```

5. Using the `str()` command, we saw that the `region` column stores a factor. You can corroborate this by using the `class` command on the `region` column.

The function `levels` shows us the categories for the factor.

```
# We can see the class of the region variable using class
class(murders$region)
```

```
## [1] "factor"
```

```
# Determine the number of regions included in this variable
length(levels(murders$region))
```

```
## [1] 4
```

6. The function `table` takes a vector as input and returns the frequency of each unique element in the vector.

```
# Here is an example of what the table function does
x <- c("a", "a", "b", "b", "b", "c")
table(x)
```

```
## x
## a b c
## 2 3 1
```

```
# Write one line of code to show the number of states per region
table(murders$region)
```

```
##
##      Northeast      South North Central      West
##           9           17           12           13
```

Section 1 Assessment

1. To find the solutions to an equation of the format $ax^2 + bx + c$, use the quadratic equation: $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$.

What are the two solutions to $2x^2 - x - 4 = 0$? Use the quadratic equation. (Report the greater of the two solutions first, using 3 significant digits for both solutions)

```
options(digits = 3)
a <- 2
b <- -1
c <- -4
(-b+sqrt(b^2-4*a*c))/(2*a)
```

```
## [1] 1.69
```

```
(-b-sqrt(b^2-4*a*c))/(2*a)
```

```
## [1] -1.19
```

2. Use R to compute log base 4 of 1024. You can use the `help` function to learn how to use arguments to change the base of the `log` function.

```
log(1024, base = 4)
```

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

3. Load the movielens dataset

```
data(movielens)
str(movielens)
```

```
## 'data.frame': 100004 obs. of 7 variables:
## $ movieId : int 31 1029 1061 1129 1172 1263 1287 1293 1339 1343 ...
## $ title : chr "Dangerous Minds" "Dumbo" "Sleepers" "Escape from New York" ...
## $ year : int 1995 1941 1996 1981 1989 1978 1959 1982 1992 1991 ...
## $ genres : Factor w/ 901 levels "(no genres listed)",...: 762 510 899 120 762 836 81 762 844 899 .
## $ userId : int 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ rating : num 2.5 3 3 2 4 2 2 2 3.5 2 ...
## $ timestamp: int 1260759144 1260759179 1260759182 1260759185 1260759205 1260759151 1260759187 1260759187 1260759187 1260759187
```

How many rows are in the dataset? 100004

How many different variables are in the dataset? 7

What is the variable type of `title`?

- ☐ A. It is a text (txt) variable
- ☐ B. It is a chronological (chr) variable
- ☐ C. It is a string (str) variable
- ☐ D. It is a numeric (num) variable
- ☐ E. It is an integer (int) variable
- ☐ F. It is a factor (Factor) variable
- ☒ G. It is a character (chr) variable

What is the variable type of `genres`?

- ☐ A. It is a text (txt) variable
- ☐ B. It is a chronological (chr) variable
- ☐ C. It is a string (str) variable
- ☐ D. It is a numeric (num) variable
- ☐ E. It is an integer (int) variable
- ☒ F. It is a factor (Factor) variable
- ☐ G. It is a character (chr) variable

4. We already know we can use the `levels()` function to determine the levels of a factor. A different function, `nlevels()`, may be used to determine the number of levels of a factor.

Use this function to determine how many levels are in the factor `genres` in the `movielens` data frame.

```
nlevels(movielens$genres)
```

```
## [1] 901
```

Section 2 Overview

In Section 2.1, you will:

- Create numeric and character vectors.
- Name the columns of a vector.
- Generate numeric sequences.
- Access specific elements or parts of a vector.
- Coerce data into different data types as needed.

In Section 2.2, you will:

- Sort vectors in ascending and descending order.
- Extract the indices of the sorted elements from the original vector.
- Find the maximum and minimum elements, as well as their indices, in a vector.
- Rank the elements of a vector in increasing order.

In Section 2.3, you will:

- Perform arithmetic between a vector and a single number.
- Perform arithmetic between two vectors of same length.

Vectors

The textbook for this section is available [here](#)

Key Points

- The function `c()`, which stands for concatenate, is useful for creating vectors.
- Another useful function for creating vectors is the `seq()` function, which generates sequences.
- Subsetting lets us access specific parts of a vector by using square brackets to access elements of a vector.

Code

```
# We may create vectors of class numeric or character with the concatenate function
codes <- c(380, 124, 818)
country <- c("italy", "canada", "egypt")

# We can also name the elements of a numeric vector
# Note that the two lines of code below have the same result
codes <- c(italy = 380, canada = 124, egypt = 818)
codes <- c("italy" = 380, "canada" = 124, "egypt" = 818)

# We can also name the elements of a numeric vector using the names() function
codes <- c(380, 124, 818)
country <- c("italy", "canada", "egypt")
names(codes) <- country

# Using square brackets is useful for subsetting to access specific elements of a vector
codes[2]
```

```
## canada
##      124
```

```
codes[c(1,3)]
```

```
## italy egypt
##   380   818
```

```
codes[1:2]
```

```
## italy canada
##   380   124
```

```
# If the entries of a vector are named, they may be accessed by referring to their name
codes["canada"]
```

```
## canada
##      124
```

```
codes[c("egypt","italy")]
```

```
## egypt italy  
##    818    380
```

Vectors - Vector Coercion

The textbook for this section is available [here](#)

Key Points

- In general, *coercion* is an attempt by R to be flexible with data types by guessing what was meant when an entry does not match the expected. For example, when defining x as

```
x <- c(1, "canada", 3)
```

R *coerced* the data into characters. It guessed that because you put a character string in the vector, you meant the 1 and 3 to actually be character strings "1" and "3".

- The function `as.character()` turns numbers into characters.
- The function `as.numeric()` turns characters into numbers.
- In R, missing data is assigned the value NA.

Assessment - Vectors

1. A vector is a series of values, all of the same type. They are the most basic data type in R and can hold numeric data, character data, or logical data. In R, you can create a vector with the concatenate (or combine) function `c()`

You place the vector elements separated by a comma between the parentheses. For example a numeric vector would look something like this:

```
cost <- c(50, 75, 90, 100, 150)
```

```
# Here is an example creating a numeric vector named cost  
cost <- c(50, 75, 90, 100, 150)
```

```
# Create a numeric vector to store the temperatures listed in the instructions into a vector named temp  
# Make sure to follow the same order in the instructions  
temp <- c("Beijing"=35, "Lagos"=88, "Paris"=42, "Rio de Janeiro"=84, "San Juan"=81, "Toronto"=30)  
cost
```

```
## [1] 50 75 90 100 150
```

```
temp
```

```
##      Beijing      Lagos      Paris Rio de Janeiro      San Juan  
##          35          88          42          84          81  
##      Toronto  
##          30
```

```
class(temp)
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
```

2. As in the previous question, we are going to create a vector. Only this time, we learn to create *character* vectors. The main difference is that these have to be written as strings and so the names are enclosed within double quotes.

A *character* vector would look something like this:

```
food <- c("pizza", "burgers", "salads", "cheese", "pasta")
```

```
# here is an example of how to create a character vector  
food <- c("pizza", "burgers", "salads", "cheese", "pasta")
```

```
# Create a character vector called city to store the city names  
# Make sure to follow the same order as in the instructions  
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")
```

3. We have successfully assigned the temperatures as *numeric* values to `temp` and the `city` names as character values to `city`. But can we associate the temperature to its related city? Yes! We can do so using a code we already know - `names`. We assign names to the *numeric* values.

It would look like this:

```
cost <- c(50, 75, 90, 100, 150)  
food <- c("pizza", "burgers", "salads", "cheese", "pasta")  
names(cost) <- food
```

```
# Associate the cost values with its corresponding food item  
cost <- c(50, 75, 90, 100, 150)  
food <- c("pizza", "burgers", "salads", "cheese", "pasta")  
names(cost) <- food
```

```
# You already wrote this code  
temp <- c(35, 88, 42, 84, 81, 30)  
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")
```

```
# Associate the temperature values with its corresponding city  
names(temp) <- city  
temp
```

```
##      Beijing      Lagos      Paris Rio de Janeiro      San Juan  
##      35          88          42          84          81  
##      Toronto  
##      30
```

4. If we want to display only selected values from the object, R can help us do that easily.

For example, if we want to see the cost of the last 3 items in our food list, we would type:

```
cost[3:5]
```

Note here, that we could also type `cost[c(3,4,5)]` and get the same result. The `:` operator helps us condense the code and get consecutive values.

```
# cost of the last 3 items in our food list:  
cost[3:5]
```

```
## salads cheese pasta  
##      90      100      150
```

```
# temperatures of the first three cities in the list:  
temp[1:3]
```

```
## Beijing Lagos Paris  
##      35      88      42
```

5. In the previous question, we accessed the temperature for consecutive cities (1st three). But what if we want to access the temperatures for any 2 specific cities?

An example: To access the cost of `pizza` (1st) and `pasta` (5th food item) in our list, the code would be:

```
cost[c(1,5)]
```

```
# Access the cost of pizza and pasta from our food list  
cost[c(1,5)]
```

```
## pizza pasta  
##      50      150
```

```
# Define temp  
temp <- c(35, 88, 42, 84, 81, 30)  
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")  
names(temp) <- city  
  
# Access the temperatures of Paris and San Juan  
temp[c(3,5)]
```

```
##      Paris San Juan  
##      42      81
```

6. The `:` operator helps us create sequences of numbers. For example, `32:99` would create a list of numbers from 32 to 99.

Then, if we want to know the length of this sequence, all we need to do is use the `length` command.

```
# Create a vector m of integers that starts at 32 and ends at 99.  
m <- 32:99  
  
# Determine the length of object m.  
length(m)
```

```
## [1] 68
```

```
# Create a vector x of integers that starts at 12 and ends at 73.  
x <- 12:73  
  
# Determine the length of object x.  
length(x)
```

```
## [1] 62
```

7. We can also create different types of sequences in R. For example, in `seq(7, 49, 7)`, the first argument defines the start, and the second the end. The default is to go up in increments of 1, but a third argument lets us tell it by what interval.

```
# Create a vector with the multiples of 7, smaller than 50.  
seq(7, 49, 7)
```

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

```
# Create a vector containing all the positive odd numbers smaller than 100.  
# The numbers should be in ascending order  
seq(1,99,2)
```

```
## [1] 1 3 5 7 9 11 13 15 17 19 21 23 25 27 29 31 33 35 37 39 41 43 45 47 49  
## [26] 51 53 55 57 59 61 63 65 67 69 71 73 75 77 79 81 83 85 87 89 91 93 95 97 99
```

8. The second argument of the function `seq` is actually a maximum, not necessarily the end.

So if we type

```
seq(7, 50, 7)
```

we actually get the same vector of integers as if we type

```
seq(7, 49, 7)
```

This can be useful because sometimes all we want are sequential numbers that are smaller than some value. Let's look at an example.

```
# We can create a vector with the multiples of 7, smaller than 50 like this  
seq(7, 49, 7)
```

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

```
# But note that the second argument does not need to be the last number  
# It simply determines the maximum value permitted  
# so the following line of code produces the same vector as seq(7, 49, 7)  
seq(7, 50, 7)
```

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



```
# Create a sequence of numbers from 6 to 55, with 4/7 increments and determine its length
length(seq(6,55,4/7))
```

```
## [1] 86
```

9. The `seq()` function has another useful argument. The argument *length.out*. This argument lets us generate sequences that are increasing by the same amount but are of the prespecified length.

For example, this line of code

```
x <- seq(0, 100, length.out = 5)
produces the numbers 0, 25, 50, 75, 100.
```

Let's create a vector and see what is the class of the object produced.

```
# Store the sequence in the object a
a <- seq(1, 10, length.out = 100)

# Determine the class of a
class(a)
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
```

10. We have discussed the numeric class. We just saw that the `seq` function can generate objects of this class.

For another example, type

```
class(seq(1, 10, 0.5))
```

into the console and note that the `class` is *numeric*. R has another type of vector we have not described, the *integer* class. You can create an *integer* by adding the letter L after a whole number. If you type

```
class(3L)
```

in the console, you see this is an *integer* and not a *numeric*. For most practical purposes, integers and numerics are indistinguishable. For example 3, the integer, minus 3 the numeric is 0. To see this type this in the console

```
3L - 3
```

The main difference is that integers occupy less space in the computer memory, so for big computations using integers can have a substantial impact.

```
# Store the sequence in the object a
a <- seq(1,10)

# Determine the class of a
class(a)
```

```
## [1] "integer"
```

11. Let's confirm that 1L is an *integer* not a *numeric*.

```
# Check the class of 1, assigned to the object a
class(1)
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
```

```
# Confirm the class of 1L is integer
class(1L)
```

```
## [1] "integer"
```

12. The concept of coercion is a very important one. Watching the video, we learned that when an entry does not match what an R function is expecting, R tries to guess what we meant before throwing an error. This might get confusing at times.

As we've discussed in earlier questions, there are numeric and character vectors. The character vectors are placed in quotes and the numerics are not.

We can avoid issues with coercion in R by changing characters to numerics and vice-versa. This is known as typecasting. The code, `as.numeric(x)` helps us convert character strings to numbers. There is an equivalent function that converts its argument to a string, `as.character(x)`.

Let's practice doing this!

```
# Define the vector x
x <- c(1, 3, 5, "a")

# Note that the x is character vector
x
```

```
## [1] "1" "3" "5" "a"
```

```
# Typecast the vector to get an integer vector
# You will get a warning but that is ok
x <- as.numeric(x)
```

```
## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion
```

```
x
```

```
## [1] 1 3 5 NA
```

Sorting

The textbook for this section is available [here](#)

Key Points

- The function `sort()` sorts a vector in increasing order.
- The function `order()` produces the indices needed to obtain the sorted vector, e.g. a result of 2 3 1 5 4 means the sorted vector will be produced by listing the 2nd, 3rd, 1st, 5th, and then 4th item of the original vector.
- The function `rank()` gives us the ranks of the items in the original vector.
- The function `max()` returns the largest value while `which.max()` returns the index of the largest value. The functions `min()` and `which.min()` work similarly for minimum values.

Assessment - Sorting

1. When looking at a dataset, we may want to sort the data in an order that makes more sense for analysis. Let's learn to do this using the `murders` dataset as an example

```
# Access the `state` variable and store it in an object
states <- murders$state

# Sort the object alphabetically and redefine the object
states <- sort(states)

# Report the first alphabetical value
states[1]
```

```
## [1] "Alabama"
```

```
# Access population values from the dataset and store it in pop
pop <- murders$population

# Sort the object and save it in the same object
pop <- sort(pop)

# Report the smallest population size
pop[1]
```

```
## [1] 563626
```

2. The function `order()` returns the index vector needed to sort the vector. This implies that `sort(x)` and `x[order(x)]` give the same result.

This can be useful for finding row numbers with certain properties such as “the row for the state with the smallest population”. Remember that when we extract a variable from a data frame the order of the resulting vector is the same as the order of the rows of the data frame. So for example, the entries of the vector `murders$state` are ordered in the same way as the states if you go down the rows of `murders`.

```
# Access population from the dataset and store it in pop
pop <- murders$population

# Use the command order to find the vector of indexes that order pop and store in object ord
ord <- order(pop)

# Find the index number of the entry with the smallest population size
ord[1]
```

```
## [1] 51
```

3. We can actually perform the same operation as in the previous exercise using the function `which.min`. It basically tells us which is the minimum value.

```
# Find the index of the smallest value for variable total  
which.min(murders$total)
```

```
## [1] 46
```

```
# Find the index of the smallest value for population  
which.min(murders$population)
```

```
## [1] 51
```

4. Now we know how small the smallest state is and we know which row represents it. However, which state is it?

```
# Define the variable i to be the index of the smallest state  
i <- which.min(murders$population)  
  
# Define variable states to hold the states  
states <- murders$state  
  
# Use the index you just defined to find the state with the smallest population  
states[i]
```

```
## [1] "Wyoming"
```

5. You can create a data frame using the `data.frame` function.

Here is a quick example:

```
temp <- c(35, 88, 42, 84, 81, 30)  
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")  
city_temps <- data.frame(name = city, temperature = temp)
```

```
# Store temperatures in an object  
temp <- c(35, 88, 42, 84, 81, 30)  
  
# Store city names in an object  
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")  
  
# Create data frame with city names and temperature  
city_temps <- data.frame(name = city, temperature = temp)  
  
# Define a variable states to be the state names  
states <- murders$state  
  
# Define a variable ranks to determine the population size ranks  
ranks <- rank(murders$population)  
  
# Create a data frame my_df with the state name and its rank  
my_df <- data.frame(name = states, rank = ranks)
```

6. This exercise is somewhat more challenging. We are going to repeat the previous exercise but this time order `my_df` so that the states are ordered from least populous to most.

```
# Define a variable states to be the state names from the murders data frame
states <- murders$state

# Define a variable ranks to determine the population size ranks
ranks <- rank(murders$population)

# Define a variable ind to store the indexes needed to order the population values
ind <- order(murders$population)

# Create a data frame my_df with the state name and its rank and ordered from least populous to most
my_df <- data.frame(states = states[ind], ranks = ranks[ind])
```

7. The `na_example` dataset represents a series of counts. It is included in the *dslabs* package.

You can quickly examine the object using

```
library(dslabs)
data(na_example)
str(na_example)
```

However, when we compute the average we obtain an NA. You can see this by typing

```
mean(na_example)
```

```
# Using new dataset
```

```
library(dslabs)
data(na_example)
```

```
# Checking the structure
```

```
str(na_example)
```

```
## int [1:1000] 2 1 3 2 1 3 1 4 3 2 ...
```

```
# Find out the mean of the entire dataset
```

```
mean(na_example)
```

```
## [1] NA
```

```
# Use is.na to create a logical index ind that tells which entries are NA
```

```
ind <- is.na(na_example)
```

```
# Determine how many NA ind has using the sum function
```

```
sum(ind)
```

```
## [1] 145
```

8. We previously computed the average of `na_example` using `mean(na_example)` and obtain NA. This is because the function `mean` returns NA if it encounters at least one NA. A common operation is therefore removing the entries that are NA and after that perform operations on the rest.

```
# Note what we can do with the ! operator
x <- c(1, 2, 3)
ind <- c(FALSE, TRUE, FALSE)
x[!ind]
```

```
## [1] 1 3
```

```
# Create the ind vector
library(dslabs)
data(na_example)
ind <- is.na(na_example)

# We saw that this gives an NA
mean(na_example)
```

```
## [1] NA
```

```
# Compute the average, for entries of na_example that are not NA
mean(na_example[!ind])
```

```
## [1] 2.3
```

Vector arithmetic

The textbook for this section is available [here](#)

Key Points

- In R, arithmetic operations on vectors occur element-wise.

Code

```
# The name of the state with the maximum population is found by doing the following
murders$state[which.max(murders$population)]
```

```
## [1] "California"
```

```
# how to obtain the murder rate
murder_rate <- murders$total / murders$population * 100000
```

```
# ordering the states by murder rate, in decreasing order
murders$state[order(murder_rate, decreasing=TRUE)]
```

```
## [1] "District of Columbia" "Louisiana" "Missouri"
## [4] "Maryland" "South Carolina" "Delaware"
## [7] "Michigan" "Mississippi" "Georgia"
## [10] "Arizona" "Pennsylvania" "Tennessee"
## [13] "Florida" "California" "New Mexico"
## [16] "Texas" "Arkansas" "Virginia"
## [19] "Nevada" "North Carolina" "Oklahoma"
```

```
## [22] "Illinois"           "Alabama"           "New Jersey"
## [25] "Connecticut"        "Ohio"              "Alaska"
## [28] "Kentucky"           "New York"          "Kansas"
## [31] "Indiana"            "Massachusetts"     "Nebraska"
## [34] "Wisconsin"          "Rhode Island"      "West Virginia"
## [37] "Washington"         "Colorado"          "Montana"
## [40] "Minnesota"          "South Dakota"      "Oregon"
## [43] "Wyoming"            "Maine"             "Utah"
## [46] "Idaho"              "Iowa"              "North Dakota"
## [49] "Hawaii"             "New Hampshire"     "Vermont"
```

Assessment 5

1. Previously we created this data frame:

```
temp <- c(35, 88, 42, 84, 81, 30)
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")
city_temps <- data.frame(name = city, temperature = temp)
```

Remake the data frame using the code above, but add a line that converts the temperature from Fahrenheit to Celsius. The conversion is $C = 5/9 * (F - 32)$.

```
# Assign city names to `city`
city <- c("Beijing", "Lagos", "Paris", "Rio de Janeiro", "San Juan", "Toronto")
```

```
# Store temperature values in `temp`
temp <- c(35, 88, 42, 84, 81, 30)
```

```
# Convert temperature into Celsius and overwrite the original values of 'temp' with these Celsius values
temp <- 5/9*(temp-32)
```

```
# Create a data frame `city_temps`
city_temps <- data.frame(name=city,temperature=temp)
```

2. What is the following sum $1 + 1/2^2 + 1/3^2 + .1/100^2$? Hint: thanks to Euler, we know it should be close to $\pi^2/6$.

```
# Define an object `x` with the numbers 1 through 100
x <- c(1:100)
```

```
# Compute the sum
sum(1/x^2)
```

```
## [1] 1.634984
```

3. Compute the per 100,000 murder rate for each state and store it in the object `murder_rate`. Then compute the average murder rate for the US using the function `mean`. What is the average?

```
# Load the data
library(dslabs)
data(murders)
```

```
# Store the per 100,000 murder rate for each state in murder_rate
murder_rate <- murders$total/murders$population *100000

# Calculate the average murder rate in the US
mean(murder_rate)

## [1] 2.779125
```

Section 3 Overview

Section 3 introduces to the R commands and techniques that help you wrangle, analyze, and visualize data.

In Section 3.1, you will: - Subset a vector based on properties of another vector. - Use multiple logical operators to index vectors. - Extract the indices of vector elements satisfying one or more logical conditions. - Extract the indices of vector elements matching with another vector. - Determine which elements in one vector are present in another vector.

In Section 3.2, you will: - Wrangle data tables using the functions in ‘dplyr’ package. - Modify a data table by adding or changing columns. - Subset rows in a data table. - Subset columns in a data table. - Perform a series of operations using the pipe operator. - Create data frames.

In Section 3.3, you will: - Plot data in scatter plots, box plots and histograms.

The textbook for this section is available [here](#)

Assessment 6

Start by loading the library and data.

```
library(dslabs)
data(murders)
```

1. Compute the per 100,000 murder rate for each state and store it in an object called `murder_rate`. Then use logical operators to create a logical vector named `low` that tells us which entries of `murder_rate` are lower than 1.

```
# Store the murder rate per 100,000 for each state, in `murder_rate`
murder_rate <- murders$total / murders$population * 100000

# Store the `murder_rate < 1` in `low`
low <- murder_rate < 1
```

2. Now use the results from the previous exercise and the function which to determine the indices of `murder_rate` associated with values lower than 1.

```
# Store the murder rate per 100,000 for each state, in murder_rate
murder_rate <- murders$total/murders$population*100000

# Store the murder_rate < 1 in low
low <- murder_rate < 1

# Get the indices of entries that are below 1
which(low)
```



```
## [1] 12 13 16 20 24 30 35 38 42 45 46 51
```

3. Use the results from the previous exercise to report the names of the states with murder rates lower than 1.

```
# Store the murder rate per 100,000 for each state, in murder_rate
murder_rate <- murders$total/murders$population*100000
```

```
# Store the murder_rate < 1 in low
low <- murder_rate < 1
```

```
# Names of states with murder rates lower than 1
murders$state[low]
```

```
## [1] "Hawaii"      "Idaho"       "Iowa"       "Maine"
## [5] "Minnesota"   "New Hampshire" "North Dakota" "Oregon"
## [9] "South Dakota" "Utah"       "Vermont"    "Wyoming"
```

4. Now extend the code from exercise 2 and 3 to report the states in the Northeast with murder rates lower than 1. Hint: use the previously defined logical vector low and the logical operator &.

```
# Store the murder rate per 100,000 for each state, in `murder_rate`
murder_rate <- murders$total/murders$population*100000
```

```
# Store the `murder_rate < 1` in `low`
low <- murder_rate < 1
```

```
# Create a vector ind for states in the Northeast and with murder rates lower than
ind <- low & murders$region=='Northeast'
```

```
# Names of states in `ind`
murders$state[ind]
```

```
## [1] "Maine"      "New Hampshire" "Vermont"
```

5. In a previous exercise we computed the murder rate for each state and the average of these numbers. How many states are below the average?

```
# Store the murder rate per 100,000 for each state, in murder_rate
murder_rate <- murders$total/murders$population*100000
```

```
# Compute average murder rate and store in avg using `mean`
avg <- mean(murder_rate)
```

```
# How many states have murder rates below avg ? Check using sum
sum(murder_rate<avg)
```

```
## [1] 27
```

6. Use the match function to identify the states with abbreviations AK, MI, and IA. Hint: start by defining an index of the entries of murders\$abb that match the three abbreviations, then use the [operator to extract the states.