Introduction to R for Basic Statistics

Alessandra Meddis
Section of Biostatistics, University of Copenhagen

8 and 10 April , 2024



Learning Objectives

- Use R through the interface R studio
- Import/load data into R
- Implement basic calculation in R
- Manipulate data in R
- Create descriptive analysis in R
- Create simple plots in R

Structure of the course

- Today:
 - Download/Install R
 - Rstudio interface
 - What can R do?
 - Data structures in R
 - Data manipulation with R (Part I)
 - Descriptive analysis in R
- Wednesday:
 - Data manipulation in R (Part II)
 - Basic graphics in R

About me

What I do with R

- Write R code to test/develop methods
- Data analysis, visualisation and reporting for applied projects

What I like about R

- open source
- flexible and dynamic
- lot of support by statisticians

What I expect from this course

- lot of questions
- there is no right way to code something, be creative!
- error and warning are our friends

Why R?

AM: Why is R a good statistical software?

ChatGPT:

- 1. Open-source: a large and active community of users who continuously improve and expand its functionality.
- 2. Extensive package ecosystem: These packages provide specialized functions and tools for various statistical analyses, data manipulation, visualization, and machine learning.... allows users to customize their analyses and address specific research questions efficiently.
- 3. Reproducibility and collaboration: R promotes reproducible research by allowing users to document their analyses using literate programming techniques.
- 4. Community support: R has a *vibrant* and *active* community of users, comprising statisticians, data scientists, researchers, and developers. This community provides extensive support through online forums, mailing lists, and dedicated websites.

Why not R?

AM: Why not R?

ChatGPT:

- Steep learning curve:: The syntax and concepts used in R may be unfamiliar and require time and effort to master.
- 2. <u>Performance limitations:</u> R is an interpreted language, which can lead to slower execution times compared to compiled languages like C++ or Java.
- 3. Team compatibility and collaboration: if you are working in a team where the majority of members are already proficient in another statistical software or programming language, it may be more beneficial to stick with that choice.

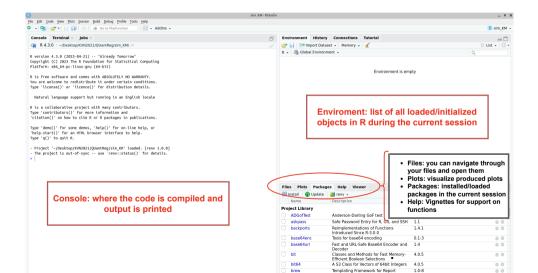
Install R

- 1. Go to the link https://cran.r-project.org/
- 2. Click on *Download R for* (Windows/Mac/Linux) depending on your operation system
 - \bullet For Windows users: Install R for the first time \to Download R-4.x.x for Windows
 - for Mac users: choose the latest release that supports the version of your operation system
 - For Linux users: choose the link corresponding to your distribution of Linux and follow instructions

Install Rstudio

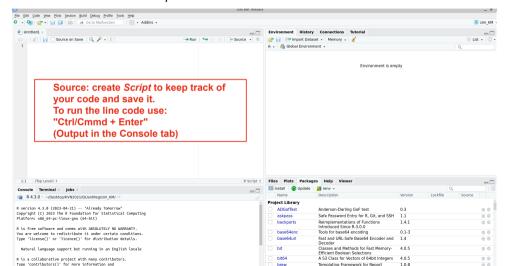
- 1. Go to the link https://posit.co/download/rstudio-desktop/download
- 2. Click the appropriate link under Installers that correspond to your operation system and version

Rstudio Interface



Rstudio Interface

$File \rightarrow New \ File \rightarrow R \ script$



Set the Working Directory

When working on a project it is important to create a new folder where to save all relevant files: codes scripts, Data, reports, etc...

We can set the R Working Directory to that folder so to save everything directly there.

How?

- check the current working directory by the Command getwd() on the Console tab
- Session → Set Working Directory → Choose Directory
- Use the Command setwd (set working directory) on the Console Tab:

setwd("~/Desktop/KVN2023/Course/IntrotoR")

What can R do?

R as a calculator:

Operator	Description
Operator	Description
+	Addition
-	Subtraction
*	Multiplication
/	Division
^	Exponent
sqrt()	Square root
exp()	Exponential
abs()	Aboslute value
log(, base=b)	Logarithm (base b)

R follows the standard ordering of operations: exponents and roots, then multiplication and divison, then addition and substraction. We can use parentheses to change the order.

Functions in R.

Functions are chunks of **reusable code** designed to perform a specific task. They take *input arguments*, process them, and return a result.

- x is the input argument
- x.squared is what we return as result
- square is the name of the function

Functions in R

We can also use pre-coded functions in R for calculations, create plots, implement some statistical tools.

Any function in R is used by writing the name of the function and *passing* the needed *arguments*.

We can check them with the help commands

- ?NameofFunction
- help(NameofFunction)

Example:

> help(round)

Functions in R.

Rounding of Numbers

Description

ceiling takes a single numeric argument x and returns a numeric vector containing the smallest integers not less than the corresponding elements of x.

floor takes a single numeric argument x and returns a numeric vector containing the largest integers not greater than the corresponding elements of x.

trunc takes a single numeric argument x and returns a numeric vector containing the integers formed by truncating the values in x toward θ .

round rounds the values in its first argument to the specified number of decimal places (default 0). See 'Details' about "round to even" when rounding off a 5.

signif rounds the values in its first argument to the specified number of significant digits. Hence, for numeric x, signif(x, dig) is the same as round(x, dig - ceiling(log10(abs(x)))). For connelex, this is not the case, see the 'Details'.

Usage

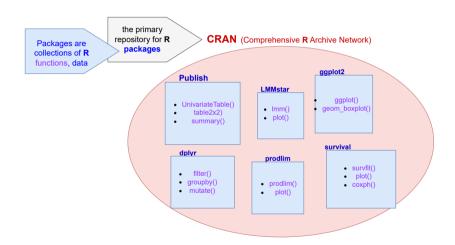
```
ceiling(x)
floor(x)
trunc(x, ...)
round(x, digits = 0)
signif(x, digits = 6)
```

Arguments

a numeric vector. Or, for round and signif, a complex vector.

integer indicating the number of decimal places (round) or significant digits (signif) to digits be used. For round, negative values are allowed (see 'Details').

CRAN in R.



R packages

In R functions are stored in units, referred to as packages.

- In this course we use only the basic packages (base,graphics,...)
- Other packages need to be installed (only one time)

```
>install.packages("Publish")
```

 To use the functions we have to load the package (every time you open Rstudio)

```
>library("Publish")
```

You can check the installed version of R and loaded packages

```
>sessionInfo()
```

Data Structures in R

Types of Variable in R

Every object in R has a specific type.

Туре	Value
Numeric	integer
	double (decimal numbers)
Character	text: words, letters
Logical	TRUE/FALSE
Factor	categorical variable
Date	calendar date

We can check the type of the variable using the command typeof()

Initialize a variable

When we want to **save** an object in our environment (because we might need it for later) we need to **initialize** it by giving it a name with "<-"

```
a<-1
c<-"0.3" #when using " " is a character
> typeof(a)
[1] "double"
> typeof(b)
[1] "double"
> typeof(c)
[1] "character"
> is.numeric(b)
[1] TRUE
```

Data structures in R

When programming it is important to organizing the data in the correct way. In R we can use several data structures depending on the type of information we want to store.

The data structure is designed so that data can be accessed and worked with in specific ways.

Base data structures in R:

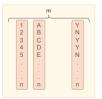
- vectors : collection of elements of the same type
- matrix: collection of vectors of the same type, access by row and column
- data.frame: collection of vectors of different type, access by row and column
- list: collection of different data structures of different type

Data structures in R

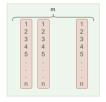
Vector: one dimension



Data frame: two dimensions



Matrix: two-dimensions



List: more stractures



One dimensional collection of elements of the same type.

```
Create a vector using c()
         v1 < -c(0,0.3,7,20)
         v2<-c("Male", "Female")
         > typeof(v1)
         [1] "double"
         > typeof(v2)
         [1] "character"
Length of a vector:
```

```
> length(v1)
[1] 4
```

Create a vector with pre-coded function in R:

• Ordered sequence of integers:

```
> ID<-1:10
> ID
  [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
> weight=0.5:0.7
> weight
[1] 0.5
```

Create a vector with pre-coded functions in R:

• Sequence of numbers from min to max with a specific lag or of a specific length:

```
> ID < -seq(1,10)
> TD
 [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
> weight < -seq(0.5, 0.7, by=0.1)
> weight
[1] 0.5 0.6 0.7
> weight2<-seq(0.5,0.7, length.out=4)
> weight2
[1] 0.5000000 0.5666667 0.6333333 0.7000000
```

Create a vector with pre-coded functions in R:

• Vector with same repeated value(s):

```
> v1<-rep(0,3)
> v1
[1] 0 0 0
> v2<-rep(c(0,1),2)
> v2
[1] 0 1 0 1
> v3<-rep(c(0,1), c(2,2))
> v3
[1] 0 0 1 1
```

Access a Vector

We can access to subsequences of vectors by using square brackets []

• Specify the element(s) with the *index*

```
> v1
                                                    ← element 1, v[1]
[1] 0.0 0.3 7.0 20.0
                                                    ← element 4, v[4]
> v1[2]
[1] 0.3
                                                v[-1]
> v1[-1] # negative index
[1] 0.3 7.0 20.0
 > v1[c(1,3)]
[1] 0.0 7.0
```

Access a Vector

• Specify the element(s) by conditions:

```
v[v>2]
                                                 v>2?
> v1>2
FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE
> v1[v1>2]
[1] 7 20
> v3
 [1] "B" "A" "C" "C" "C" "C" "B" "C" "B" "B"
> v3[v3 %in% c("A","C")]
[1] "A" "C" "C" "C" "C" "C"
```

Operation with vectors

```
a=c(1,2,3), b=c(3,4,5)
> sum(a)
[1] 6
> a+b
[1] 4 6 8
> a*a
[1] 1 4 9
> prod(a)
[1] 6
```

Comparison and logical operators

A *logical value* is a value indicating whether something is TRUE or FALSE. This is the usual output of comparative operators:

Comparative operators	test if
Equality operator ==	operands are equal
Inequality operator $! =$	operands are not equal
Disequality operator $<, <=, >, >=$	less (more) than or equal to
"in" operator %in%	elements are equal to one of a list of values

Logical operators are used to combine more comparison operators:

• : AND operator

• |: OR operator

• !: not operator

Comparison operators in R

```
> income<-c("low","low","medium","high","medium","high")</pre>
> income=="low"
[1] TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE
> !(income %in% c("low", "high"))
[1] FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE
> (income=="low" | income=="high")
[1] TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
> (income=="low" & income=="high") ??
```

Exercise I

<u>Exercise</u>: We want to conduct a research study about effect of hormonal contraception on weight change after 3 months of treatment. We are interested in comparing two types of contraception (oral,spiral) in women between 15-30 years old.

- 1. Define 5/6 variables that you would collect for this study (such as ID, treatment type, weight..)
- 2. Create a vector for each of the chosen variable for 10 patients (5 in each treatment group)
- 3. Run the command Nametrt[NameW0>=60], where you substitute *Nametrt, NameW0* with the names of the vectors assigned to Treatment group and weight at baseline: What does it do?
 - +: Use https://padlet.com/alessandrameddis/intro-to-r-jl6hoio79ssxfhqm Write down problems/questions you encountered during the Exercise

Matrix

A matrix is a two dimensional collection of elements of the same type. Create it with matix()

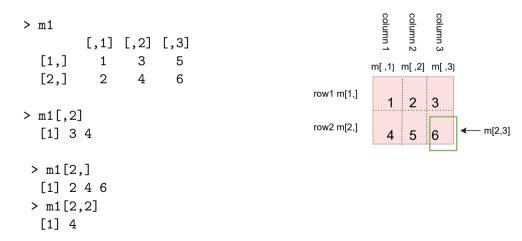
```
m1 < -matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6), nrow=2)
m2 < -matrix(c(1,2,3,4,5,6), nrow=2, byrow = TRUE)
> m1
     [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 1 3 5
[2,] 2 4 6
> m2
     [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 1 2 3
[2,] 4 5
```

Create a Matrix from vectors

```
> v1
[1] 0.0 0.3 7.0 20.0
> v2
[1] 1 4 3 5
> rbind(v1,v2)
  [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
v1 0 0.3 7 20
v2 1 4.0 3 5
> cbind(v1,v2)
      v1 v2
[1,] 0.0 1
[2,] 0.3 4
[3.] 7.0 3
[4.] 20.0 5
```

Access a Matrix

To access to one specific row/column/element we use [r, c] where r, c are the index of the row and column of interest



Access a Matrix

As for vectors, we can use conditions:

Data frame

3 3

Collection of vectors with same dimension that can be of different type. Create a Data set with data.frame()

```
> db1
    id     sex age
1    1    Male    46
2    2 Female    53
```

Male 38

Access a Data frame

To access to one specific row/column/element we can use [] as for matrices or \$NameofColumn

```
> db1$sex
[1] "Male" "Female" "Male"
> db1[,2]
[1] "Male" "Female" "Male"
> db1[2,]
   id   sex   age
2   2 Female   53
```

Exercise I

<u>Exercise</u>: We want to conduct a research study about effect of hormonal contraception on **weight change after 3 months of treatment**. We are interested in comparing **two** types of contraception (oral,spiral) in women between **15-30** years old.

- 4. Create a data.frame for 10 patients with the chosen 6 variables
- 5. Create a new vector for BMI from weight0 and height (careful with units)
- Add the new variable to the data.frame (to add it, you can use the command db<-data.frame(db,NameColumn=NameVector))

+: Use https://padlet.com/alessandrameddis/intro-to-r-jl6hoio79ssxfhqm Write down the error/warning you encountered during the Exercise

List

Access a list

To access to one object of the list we can use [i] where i is the index of the object in the list OR ["NameofObjects"] OR \$NameofObject

```
$n
Г1] 3
> family["n"]
[1] 3
> family$kids
  id age IQ
         97
      10 101
  1
  2 8 103
   3
       4 102
```

> family[1]

Useful functions

Function	
str()	shows internal structure of an object
length()	dimension of vectors and lists
dim()	dimensions for matrix and data.frame
<pre>nrow(),ncols()</pre>	number of rows/columns in matrix and data.frame
<pre>rownames(),colnames()</pre>	check/assign names to row and columns

Missing data

Real-world data sets have missing observations. In R

- NA: missing data (it has a type: logical)
- NaN: not a number
- NULL: empty object

```
> sex<-c("female",NA,"male","male","female","NA")</pre>
```

- > is.na(sex)
- [1] FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE
- > 0/0
- [1] NaN
- > height<-NULL #initialize objects
- > height

NULL

Factors

Categorical variables can be represented as a vector of characters. However, using factors is more convenient with easier representation.

```
> income<- c("low","low","high","medium","low","high","medium")
> income[1:3]
[1] "low" "low" "high"
> income2<-factor(income, levels=c("low","medium","high"))
> income2[1:3]
[1] low low high
Levels: low medium high
```

In the factor version the levels are explicitly listed, so it is clear that the two included levels are not all the possible levels.

Conversion

> weight[2] < -25.4

[1] "double"

We made a difference between types of variables. We can *convert* one variable to be from one to another type

```
> weight<-c(10L,15L,27L,18L,22L) #with L we specify it is an integer
> typeof(weight)
[1] "integer"

> as.character(weight)
[1] "10" "25.4" "27" "18" "22"
```

> typeof(weight) #R converts it automatically

Coercion

Vectors can contain only elements of the same type. Therefore, if more options are included in a vector R *coerces* the vector to be only of one type. This also happens when 2 different types of variables are used for one operation:

```
> c(0,1,FALSE,TRUE) # FALSE:0 TRUE:1
[1] 0 1 0 1
> c("low", "high", 2)
[1] "low" "high" "2"
> as.numeric(c("0.4","0.2","0,1"))
[1] 0.4 0.2 NA
Warning message:
NAs introduced by coercion
```

Exercise I:

ID	treatment	weight0	weight3	age	height
1	А	56	58	21	157
2	Α	52.3	51	16	160

- 7. Check the type of variable for the *treatment* (use the function typeof())
- 8. Create a new variable to convert treatment into a factor (use the function factor()) and add it to the data.frame
- 9. Check the dimension of your data.frame (number of cols, number of rows) Use the function nrow(),ncol(),dim()

Exercise I:

ID	treatment	weight0	weight3	age	height	ВМІ	trt.factor
1	А	56	58	21	157	22.7	А
2	Α	52.3	51	16	160	20.5	Α

- 10. Create a new vector for the difference in weights after three months
- 11. Calculate the average weight difference, formula for the mean: $diff_1+diff_2+...+diff_10$

(you can use the function sum())

Data manipulation in R

Data Import and Export

What we need to know about the data to import/export:

- 1. format of data (.csv, .xlsx, .txt, .rda ...)
- 2. where data are located

Text Files:

- csv : Comma Separated Values. Data re stored in plain text and each line can be separated by commas (,) or semicolons(;)
- txt: Data are stored in plain text and values are separated by spaces or tabs.

Loading CSV files

To import a .csv file, we have to specify:

- How values are separated
- Is first raw the variable names? (header=TRUE/FALSE)
- How missing values are formatted (na.string= " ")
- Decimal numbers are with periods (.) or commas (,) (dec=".")

Use the function read.csv:

```
data<- read.csv( "~/Desktop/KVN2023/Course/IntrotoR/data_ex.csv",
header=TRUE, na.string=" ", sep=",",dec=".")</pre>
```

Export CSV files

A data set can be exported as .csv or .txt files so that the data can be used in other programs.

We use the function write.csv where we need to precise

- x: object to save
- file: where to save it
- row.names=TRUE/FALSE: Is first raw the variable names?

Exploring the data

We can use several functions to check the structure of the data:

- View(): view data in spreadsheet style in the source tab
- head(): print first 6 rows of the data set
- str(): overview on the structure of the data (with types of variables)
- summary(): summary of all variables in the data set with min,max,mean for numeric variables and number of observation by levels for categorical variables.

head() function in R

```
> dim(db1 ex)
[1] 50 4
> head(db1 ex)
  ID year weight
                    height
  1 2000 57.48904 1.677647
   2 2002 60.65766 1.613070
   3 2000 59.60541 1.708943
   4 2002 64.43392 1.794873
   5 2000 60.58486 1.586404
   6 2002 61.59315 1.749023
```

str() function in R

summary() function in R

> summary(db1_ex)

ID	year	weight	height
Min. : 1	Min. :2000	Min. :50.61	Min. :1.586
1st Qu.: 7	1st Qu.:2000	1st Qu.:57.87	1st Qu.:1.649
Median :13	Median:2001	Median :60.33	Median :1.696
Mean :13	Mean :2001	Mean :60.41	Mean :1.696
3rd Qu.:19	3rd Qu.:2002	3rd Qu.:62.97	3rd Qu.:1.735
Max. :25	Max. :2002	Max. :71.55	Max. :1.829

Create a new variable

Remove a variable

```
> db2 < -db1_ex[,-1]
>db2<-db1 ex[, 2:ncol(db1 ex)]
>db2<-db1 ex
>db2$ID<-NULL
> head(db2)
          weight height
                               BMI
  year
1 2000 57.48904 1.677647 20.42603
2 2002 60.65766 1.613070 23.31198
3 2000 59.60541 1.708943 20.40941
4 2002 64.43392 1.794873 20.00078
5 2000 60 58486 1 586404 24 07336
6 2002 61 59315 1 749023 20 13452
```

Subsetting by condition

Several packages can be used for data management but we will only consider basic ${\tt R}$.

From numerical to binary variable: ifelse()

```
> db1_ex$BMI.cat=ifelse(db1_ex$BMI<20,"underweight","normal")
> head(db1_ex)
   ID year weight height BMI BMI.cat
1   1 2000 57.48904 1.677647 20.42603 normal
2   2 2002 60.65766 1.613070 23.31198 normal
3   3 2000 59.60541 1.708943 20.40941 normal
4   4 2002 64.43392 1.794873 20.00078 normal
5   5 2000 60.58486 1.586404 24.07336 normal
6   6 2002 61.59315 1.749023 20.13452 normal
```

From numerical to categorical variable: cut()

```
> db1_ex$BMI.cat2<-cut(db1_ex$BMI, breaks=c(15,24,30))</pre>
> table(db1 ex$BMI.cat2)
(15,24] (24,30]
     47
> db1 ex$BMI.cat2<-cut(db1 ex$BMI, breaks=c(15,20,24,30),</pre>
                  labels = c("underweight", "normal", "overweight"))
> table(db1 ex$BMI.cat2)
underweight normal overweight
                      35
         12
```

Combining groups

Descriptive analysis with R

Descriptive analysis

When working with data, it is important to summarize the available data to provide an idea on the population under study.

Example: Danish users of hormonal contraception, it might be of importance to know the age distribution of women, how many women are taking a specific treatment and so on....

Categorical Variable

- Create Tables with the numbers of individuals in each group
- Create Tables with proportion of individuals in each group

Numerical Variable

- Calculate min/max and different quantiles of the distribution
- Calculate mean/median/sd

Tables

```
> head(db1 ex)
    ID year weight height BMI
                                          BMI.cat
  1 1 2000 58.33538 1.751734 19.01059 underweight
     2 2002 66.81557 1.782675 21.02487
                                           normal
     3 2000 57.65426 1.699103 19.97065 underweight
     4 2002 64.21438 1.698790 22.25118
                                           normal
     5 2000 52.71003 1.712512 17.97322 underweight
     6 2002 57.99847 1.683144 20.47265
                                           normal
One-way Table:
                                    Two-way Table:
   > table(db1 ex$BMI.cat)
                                    > table(db1 ex$BMI.cat,db1 ex$year)
    normal underweight
                                                2000 2002
        30
                    20
                                    normal
                                             11
                                                       19
                                    underweight 14
                                                        6
```

table(): more example

```
> table(db1 ex$weight>60, useNA="ifany")
FALSE TRUE <NA>
  28
        21
> table(db1_ex$weight>60,db1_ex$year,
                      useNA="ifany")
       2000 2002
 FALSE
         17 11
 TRUE 7 14
 <NA> 1
> prop.table(table(db1 ex$BMI.cat))
normal underweight
   0.6
```

Quantitative variables

```
> mean(db1_ex$height)
Γ17 NA
> mean(db1 ex$height, na.rm=TRUE)
[1] 1.705973
> sd(db1_ex$weight, na.rm=TRUE)
[1] 3.884619
 > min(db1_ex$height, na.rm=TRUE)
 [1] 1.597908
 > max(db1_ex$height, na.rm=TRUE)
 [1] 1.80843
 > median(db1 ex$height, na.rm=TRUE)
 [1] 1.699103
```

summary()

```
> summary(db1 ex$height)
Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's
     1.687 1.699 1.706 1.729 1.808
1.598
> summary(db1 ex$BMI.cat)
Length
           Class
                     Mode
    50 character character
> summary(factor(db1 ex$BMI.cat))
   normal underweight
      30
                 20
```

quantile()

```
> quantile(db1_ex$BMI)
    0%    25%    50%    75%    100%
17.10270 19.58117 20.44042 21.79128 23.00572
> quantile(db1_ex$BMI, c(0.25,0.75))
    25%    75%
```

19.58117 21.79128

Calculation groupwise

• tapply()

Sometimes we want to calculate summary statistics for different groups **Example** we want to calculate mean of weight by BMI categories: