

Variables

Module 2

Andrew Jaffe

June 15, 2105

Getting Started

- You should have the latest version of R installed (R 3.2.0 as of 6/15/2015)!
- Open R Studio
- Files -> New -> R Script
- Save the blank R script as “day1.R” in a directory of your choosing
- Add a comment header

Commenting in Scripts

Add a comment header to day1.R :# is the comment symbol

```
#####  
# Title: Demo R Script  
# Author: Andrew Jaffe  
# Date: 6/15/2015  
# Purpose: Demonstrate comments in R  
#####  
  
# nothing to its right is evaluated  
  
# this # is still a comment  
### you can use many #'s as you want  
  
# sometimes you have a really long comment,  
#   like explaining what you are doing  
#   for a step in analysis.  
# Take it to another line
```

Explaining output on slides

In slides, a command (we’ll also call them code or a code chunk) will look like this

```
> print("I'm code")
```

```
[1] "I'm code"
```

And then directly after it, will be the output of the code.

So `print("I'm code")` is the code chunk and `[1] “I’m code”` is the output.

R as a calculator

```
> 2 + 2
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
> 2 * 4
```

```
[1] 8
```

```
> 2^3
```

```
[1] 8
```

Note, when you type your command, R inherently thinks you want to print the result.

R as a calculator

- The R console is a full calculator
- Try to play around with it:
 - +, -, /, * are add, subtract, multiply, and divide
 - ^ or ** is power
 - parentheses – (and) – work with order of operations

R as a calculator

```
> 2 + (2 * 3)^2
```

```
[1] 38
```

```
> (1 + 3) / 2 + 45
```

```
[1] 47
```

R as a calculator

Try evaluating the following:

- $2 + 2 * 3 / 4 - 3$
- $2 * 3 / 4 * 2$
- $2^4 - 1$

-
- You can create variables from within the R environment and from files on your computer
 - R uses “=” or “<-” to assign values to a variable name
 - Variable names are case-sensitive, i.e. X and x are different

```
> x = 2 # Same as: x <- 2
> x
```

```
[1] 2
```

```
> x * 4
```

```
[1] 8
```

```
> x + 2
```

```
[1] 4
```

R variables

- The most comfortable and familiar class/data type for many of you will be `data.frame`
- You can think of these as essentially Excel spreadsheets with rows (usually subjects or observations) and columns (usually variables)
- Go to RStudio -> Tools -> Import Dataset -> From Web URL then paste

http://www.aejaffe.com/summerR_2015/data/Charm_City_Circulator_Ridership.csv

R variables

- We can display the top of the data with `head`:

```
> head(Charm_City_Circulator_Ridership)
```

	day	date	orangeBoardings	orangeAlightings	orangeAverage
1	Monday	01/11/2010	877	1027	952.0
2	Tuesday	01/12/2010	777	815	796.0
3	Wednesday	01/13/2010	1203	1220	1211.5
4	Thursday	01/14/2010	1194	1233	1213.5
5	Friday	01/15/2010	1645	1643	1644.0
6	Saturday	01/16/2010	1457	1524	1490.5

	purpleBoardings	purpleAlightings	purpleAverage	greenBoardings
1	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	NA	NA	NA	NA

	greenAlightings	greenAverage	bannerBoardings	bannerAlightings
1	NA	NA	NA	NA
2	NA	NA	NA	NA
3	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	NA	NA	NA	NA
5	NA	NA	NA	NA

	NA	NA	NA	NA
6	bannerAverage	daily		
1	NA	952.0		
2	NA	796.0		
3	NA	1211.5		
4	NA	1213.5		
5	NA	1644.0		
6	NA	1490.5		

R variables

- `data.frames` are somewhat advanced objects in R; we will start with simpler objects;
- Here we introduce “1 dimensional” classes; these are often referred to as ‘vectors’
- Vectors can have multiple sets of observations, but each observation has to be the same class.

```
> class(x)
```

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

```
> y = "hello world!"
> print(y)
```

```
[1] "hello world!"
```

```
> class(y)
```

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

R variables

Try assigning your full name to an R variable called `name`

R variables

Try assigning your full name to an R variable called `name`

```
> name = "Andrew Jaffe"
> name
```

```
[1] "Andrew Jaffe"
```

The ‘combine’ function

The function `c()` collects/combines/joins single R objects into a vector of R objects. It is mostly used for creating vectors of numbers, character strings, and other data types.

```
> x <- c(1,4,6,8)
> x
```

```
[1] 1 4 6 8
```

```
> class(x)
```

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

The ‘combine’ function

Try assigning your first and last name as 2 separate character strings into a single vector called `name2`

The ‘combine’ function

Try assigning your first and last name as 2 separate character strings into a length-2 vector called `name2`

```
> name2 = c("Andrew", "Jaffe")
> name2
```

```
[1] "Andrew" "Jaffe"
```

R variables

`length()`: Get or set the length of vectors (including lists) and factors, and of any other R object for which a method has been defined.

```
> length(x)
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
> y
```

```
[1] "hello world!"
```

```
> length(y)
```

```
[1] 1
```

R variables

What do you expect for the length of the `name` variable? What about the `name2` variable?

What are the lengths of each?

R variables

What do you expect for the length of the `name` variable? What about the `name2` variable?

What are the lengths of each?

```
> length(name)
```

```
[1] 1
```

```
> length(name2)
```

```
[1] 2
```

R variables

You can perform functions to entire vectors of numbers very easily.

```
> x + 2
```

```
[1] 3 6 8 10
```

```
> x * 3
```

```
[1] 3 12 18 24
```

```
> x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)
```

```
[1] 2 6 9 12
```

R variables

But things like algebra can only be performed on numbers.

```
> name2 + 4
```

```
[1] Error in name2 * 4 : non-numeric argument  
to binary operator
```

R variables

And save these modified vectors as a new vector.

```
> y = x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)  
> y
```

```
[1] 2 6 9 12
```

Note that the R object `y` is no longer “Hello World!” - It has effectively been overwritten by assigning new data to the variable

R variables

- You can get more attributes than just class. The function `str` gives you the structure of the object.

```
> str(x)
```

```
num [1:4] 1 4 6 8
```

```
> str(y)
```

```
num [1:4] 2 6 9 12
```

This tells you that `x` is a numeric vector and tells you the length.

Basic Summarization

Here are some simple functions for making calculations on data.

`sum()`: takes the sum of all numeric variables in a vector

`mean()`: takes the mean of all numeric variables in a vector

`median()`: takes the median of all numeric variables in a vector

Back to our data.frame example

- Let's see what the structure of our `data.frame` is:

```
> str(Charm_City_Circulator_Ridership)
```

```
'data.frame':  1146 obs. of  15 variables:
 $ day          : Factor w/ 7 levels "Friday","Monday",...: 2 6 7 5 1 3 4 2 6 7 ...
 $ date         : Factor w/ 1146 levels "01/01/2011","01/01/2012",...: 31 35 39 43 47 51 55 59 63 67
 $ orangeBoardings : int  877 777 1203 1194 1645 1457 839 999 1023 1375 ...
 $ orangeAlightings: int  1027 815 1220 1233 1643 1524 938 1000 1047 1416 ...
 $ orangeAverage   : num  952 796 1212 1214 1644 ...
 $ purpleBoardings : int  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ purpleAlightings: int  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ purpleAverage   : num  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ greenBoardings  : int  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ greenAlightings : int  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ greenAverage    : num  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ bannerBoardings : int  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ bannerAlightings: int  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ bannerAverage   : num  NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
 $ daily          : num  952 796 1212 1214 1644 ...
```

Review

- Creating a new script
- Using R as a calculator
- Assigning values to variables
- Performing algebra on numeric variables