# Arrays and Useful R functions

Introduction to R for Public Health Researchers

#### **Data Frames versus Matrices**

You will likely use data.frame class for a lot of data cleaning and analysis. However, some operations that rely on matrix multiplication (like performing many linear regressions) are (much) faster with matrices. Also, as we will touch on later, some functions for iterating over data will return the matrix class, or will be placed in empty matrices that can then be converted to data.frames

### **Data Frames versus Matrices**

There is also additional summarization functions for matrices (and not data.frames) in the matrixStats package, like rowMins(), colMaxs(), etc.

## **Data Classes**

Extensions of "normal" data classes:

- · N-dimensional classes:
- Arrays: any extension of matrices with more than 2 dimensions, e.g. 3x3x3 cube
- · Lists: more flexible container for R objects.

## **Arrays**

These are just more flexible matrices - you should just be made aware of them as some functions return objects of this class, for example, cross tabulating over more than 2 variables and the tapply function.

# **Arrays**

Selecting from arrays is similar to matrices, just with additional commas for the additional slots.

# **Splitting Data Frames**

The split() function is useful for splitting data.frameS

"split divides the data in the vector x into the groups defined by f. The replacement forms replace values corresponding to such a division. unsplit reverses the effect of split."

```
> dayList = split(circ,circ$day)
```

# **Splitting Data Frames**

Here is a good chance to introduce lapply, which performs a function within each list element:

```
r > # head(dayList) > lapply(dayList, head, n=2)
```

\$Thursday day date orangeBoardings orangeAlightings orangeAverage 4 Thursday 01/14/2010 1194 1233 1213.5 11 Thursday 01/21/2010 1303 1307 1305.0 purpleBoardings purpleAlightings purpleAverage

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```
r > # head(dayList) > lapply(dayList, dim)
``` $Friday [1] 164 15
$Monday [1] 164 15
$Saturday [1] 163 15
$Sunday [1] 163 15
$Thursday [1] 164 15
$Tuesday [1] 164 15
$Wednesday [1] 164 15 ```
```