Statistics 360: Advanced R for Data Science Lecture 2

Becky Lin

R Data Structures

Vectors

Matrices, data frames and tibbles

Logical and relational operators

Reading

► Text, chapters 3 and 4

R Data Structures

R Data Structures

- ► Fundamentally, all common data structures in R are vectors, which can be "atomic" or "list".
- \triangleright R has no true scalars; e.g., in x<-1, x is a vector of length one.
- Use str() to see the structure of an object

Types of objects

typeof(x)

- All R objects have a "type", that describes how it is stored in computer memory.
- ► Common types we will encounter are "logical", "integer", "double", "character" and "list".
 - Find the type of an object with typeof().

x <- 6 # stores as double by default

```
## [1] "double"
y <- 6L # The "L" suffix forces storage as integer
typeof(y)
## [1] "integer"</pre>
```

Type versus Mode

- In addition to the type of an object, there is its "mode".
- ► The mode of an object is generally the same as its type, but the modes are coarser.
 - For example, integer and double types are both of mode "numeric".
- I don't understand the need for mode.
 - ► The only reason I mention it is that the str() function sometimes reports the mode of an object, rather than its type, so we will frequently see reports of numeric objects.

```
mode(x)
## [1] "numeric"
mode(y)
## [1] "numeric"
```

Vectors

Vectors

- ▶ Two types of vector: can be either atomic or list
 - ▶ **Atomic**: all elements must be the same type.
 - List ("generic vectors"): objects can be of different types.
 - ▶ (low-key third type) NULL: absence of vector.

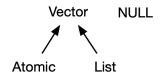


Figure 1: vector types

- ▶ R has no true scalars (a special syntax to create an individual value), everything that looks like a scalar is actually a vector of one. e.g., x<-1.</p>
- Empty vectors can be created by the vector() function:

The null object

- The null object, NULL, is an un-typed no-value object.
 - ► Test for NULL with is.null()
 - NULL can be used to initialize objects that will be created through combining, rbinding, etc.

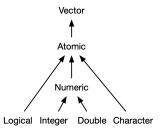
```
x <- NULL; is.null(x)
## [1] TRUE
x \leftarrow c(x,1); x \leftarrow c(x,2); x
## [1] 1 2
# etc., or as a loop (more on these later)
x <- NUI.I.
for(i in 1:2) {
  x \leftarrow c(x,i)
х
```

Types of atomic vector

Four primary types of atomic vectors:

- Logical: either be written in full (TRUE or FALSE), or abbreviated (T,F)
- 2. Integer: exactly an integer. Assign them by adding L behind it (for "long integer"). e.g., -1L, 0L, 1L, 2L, etc.
- 3. Double: decimal numbers. e.g., 1, 1.0, 1.02 ... Note that Inf, -Inf, NaN are also doubles.
- 4. Character: anything in quotes.

Integers and doubles are together called "numeric"



Creating empty vectors and Combining vectors

Use vector() to create an empty vector

```
avec <- vector(mode="double",length=4) # shorthand: avec <- double()
lvec <- vector(mode="list",length=3) # shorthand: levc <- list()</pre>
```

▶ Use c() to combine vectors

```
avec <-c(54,210,77)
lvec <- list(54,210,c("grey","thin"))</pre>
c(avec, c(100, 101))
## [1] 54 210 77 100 101
c(lvec,TRUE)
## [[1]]
## [1] 54
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 210
##
## [[3]]
## [1] "grey" "thin"
##
## [[4]]
## [1] TRUE
```

Combining lists

c() concatenates two lists, which may or may not be what you intend.

```
111 <- list(a=1:2,b=3:4); 112 <- list(a=5:6,b=7:8)
c(111,112) # not the same as list(ll1,ll2)

## $a
## [1] 1 2
##
## $b
## [1] 3 4
##
## $a
## [1] 5 6
##
## $b
## [1] 7 8</pre>
```

Use unlist() to remove the list structure.

```
unlist(111)

## a1 a2 b1 b2

## 1 2 3 4
```

A list of lists:

```
c(list(ll1),list(ll2)) # keep this in mind for the project
```

Determine type and length of a vector

- You can determine the type of a vector with typeof()
- ► The special values (infinite and undefined values): Inf,-Inf, and NaN are doubles. Test for Inf and NaN with is.infinite() and is.nan().
- ➤ You can check the specific type with is.logical(),is.integer(),is.double(), and is.character().
- Missing values are represented by NA which is technically a logical value.
 - This rarely matters because logicals get coerced to other types when needed.
 - Never use == when testing for missingness. It will return NA since it is always unknown if two unknowns are equal.
 - Test for and set missing values with is.na().
- Attempting to combine vectors of different types coerces them to the same type. The order of preference is character>integer>double>logical.

```
typeof(list(a=2,b=3))
## [1] "list"
x \leftarrow 1:3; typeof(x)
## [1] "integer"
length(x)
## [1] 3
is.integer(x)
## [1] TRUE
typeof(NA)
## [1] "logical"
typeof(c(1L, NA)) # logicals get coerced to other types
## [1] "integer"
typeof(c(Inf,-Inf, NaN))
## [1] "double"
typeof(c(2L,TRUE, 98.0)) # different types coerces to the same type
## [1] "double"
```

Test your knowledge

Predict R output for the following R code

```
x \leftarrow c(1,2,3, NA)
typeof(x)
is.na(c(1,2,3, NA))
is.na(x) \leftarrow 2  # set 2nd element of x to be NA
х
is.finite(c(1,Inf,-Inf, NaN))
is.infinite(c(1,Inf,-Inf, NaN))
is.nan(c(1,Inf,-Inf, NaN))
typeof(c("hello",9L, TRUE))
# exercise from Advanced R
c(1, FALSE)
c("a", 1)
c(TRUE, 1L)
1 == "1" # TRUE
-1 < FALSE # TRUE
"one" < 2 # FALSE
```

Vector attributes

- Attributes are meta information applied to atomic vectors.
- Many common objects (like matrices, arrays, factors, date-times) are just atomic vectors with special attributes.
- Vectors have type, length and, optionally, attributes such as names.
- You get and set attributes with attr().
- You could see all attributes of a vector with attributes().
- Attributes are name-value pairs, and all of the attributes are associated with an object. Below, the vector c(1,2,3) points to two attributes x and y that each have their own values.

```
a <- 1:3
attr(a,"x") <- "abecdf"
attr(a, "y") <- 4:6
attributes(a) # display all attributes

## $x
## [1] "abecdf"
##
## $y
## [1] 4 5 6
# attr(a, "x") # retrieve the x attributes of vector a</pre>
```

Set many attributes at the same time with structure()

```
b \leftarrow structure(1:3, x = "abcdef", y=4:6)
attributes(b)
## $x
## [1] "abcdef"
##
## $y
## [1] 4 5 6
b # after operation
## [1] 1 2 3
## attr(,"x")
## [1] "abcdef"
## attr(,"y")
```

 Most attributes are typically lost by most operations except names and dim

[1] 4 5 6

NULL

```
attributes(b[[1]])

## NULL
attributes(sum(b))
```

Vector attribute - names

- Names: a character vector giving each element of the vector a name. Each name corresponds to a single element.
- ▶ You could set names using attr(), but you should not.

```
#This method is not recommended
x < -1:3
attr(x, "names") <- c("a", "b", "c")
Х
## 1 2 3
attributes(x)
## $names
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
names(x)
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
```

▶ Names are so special, that you could specify element names when creating a vector.

```
x < -c(a=1, b=2, c=3)
х
## a b c
## 1 2 3
attributes(x)
## $names
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
names(x)
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
# alternatively
x < -1:3
names(x) <- c("a", "b", "c")
Х
## a b c
## 1 2 3
x+2:4 # names attribute is preserved
## a b c
```

3 5 7

Names stay with single bracket subsetting (not double bracket subsetting).

```
names(x[1])
## [1] "a"
names(x[1:2])
## [1] "a" "b"
names(x[[1]])
## NULL
```

▶ Names can be used for subsetting (more in chapter 4)

```
x[["a"]]
```

[1] 1

we can remove names with unname()

```
unname(x)
## [1] 1 2 3
```

Attributes tend to be dropped after operation. If not, they may not make sense.

```
x <- structure(1:3,at1="abc")</pre>
v <- structure(3:1,at1="def")</pre>
х
## [1] 1 2 3
## attr(,"at1")
## [1] "abc"
У
## [1] 3 2 1
## attr(,"at1")
## [1] "def"
x[1:2]
## [1] 1 2
x*y
## [1] 3 4 3
## attr(,"at1")
## [1] "abc"
```

Vector attribute - dimension

[,1] [,2]

5

[1,]

- the dim attribute makes a vector into a matrix (a rectangle of numbers) or an array (a block of numbers).
- again, you could use attr() to set dim(), but you should not.

```
x < -1:6
attr(x, 'dim') \leftarrow c(2,3)
х
  [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 1 3 5
## [2,] 2 4 6
y <- 1:12
attr(y, 'dim') \leftarrow c(2,2,3)
У
## , , 1
##
    [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 3
   [2,] 2 4
##
## , , 2
##
```

you should either use matrix() or array() to create these objects, or set the dimension with dim()

```
x <- 1:6
dim(x) <- c(2,3)
x
```

```
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 1 3 5
## [2,] 2 4 6
dim(x)
```

```
## [1] 2 3
x <- matrix(1:6,nrow=2,ncol=3, byrow=FALSE) # byrow=FALSE,
y <- 1:12
attr(y,'dim') <- c(2,2,3)</pre>
```

```
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 3
## [2,] 2 4
##
## , , 2
```

##

, , 1

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► Many of the functions for working with vectors have generalisations for matrices and arrays:

Vector	Matrix	Array
names()	<pre>rownames(), colnames()</pre>	<pre>dimnames()</pre>
length()	<pre>nrow(), ncol()</pre>	<pre>dim()</pre>
<u>c()</u>	<pre>rbind(), cbind()</pre>	abind::abind()
_	<u>t()</u>	aperm()
<pre>is.null(dim(x))</pre>	<pre>is.matrix()</pre>	<pre>is.array()</pre>

Figure 3: Functions for matrices and arrays

► Instead of having names, arrays and matrices of dimnames.

The dimnames of a matrix or an array is a list the same length as the number of dimensions of the array.

```
x <- matrix(1:12,nrow=3,ncol=4)</pre>
dimnames(x) = list(c("r1", "r2", "r3"), c("c1", "c2", "c3", "c4"))
x \leftarrow array(1:12, dim = c(2, 2, 3))
dimnames(x) <- list(first = c("a", "b"),</pre>
                      second = c("c", "d"),
                      third = c("e", "f", "g"))
dimnames(x)
## $first
## [1] "a" "b"
##
## $second
## [1] "c" "d"
##
## $third
## [1] "e" "f" "g"
х
## , , third = e
##
##
       second
## first c d
##
       a 1 3
```

##

b 2 4

- ➤ This is useful for subsetting, and for bookkeeping when you have data structured in a complicated multidimensional array (e.g. it is hard to remember what indexes the first vs second vs third dimensions without dimnames).
- ▶ A vector is not a matrix with 1 dimension, it has NULL dimsions.

```
x["a","c","g"] # easy subsetting

## [1] 9
z <- 1:3
dim(z)

## NULL
# Exercise: how do you get rid of the dimensions in following array?
x <- array(1:12, dim=c(2,2,3))</pre>
```

Vector attribute - class

- ► A special attribute named class is a key component of the "S3" object-oriented programming system (more on this later).
- ▶ Get and set with the class() function.
- ▶ You can set the class to NULL by unclass().

```
lvec <- structure(list(age=54,hair="grey"),at1="abc",at2=1:3)</pre>
class(lvec) <- "prof"</pre>
lvec
## $age
## [1] 54
##
## $hair
## [1] "grey"
##
## attr(,"at1")
## [1] "abc"
## attr(,"at2")
## [1] 1 2 3
## attr(,"class")
## [1] "prof"
names(lvec)
  [1] "age"
               "hair"
```

S3 atomic vectors

- ► The *class* of an object is an important attribute that control R's S3 system for object oriented programming.
- ► The class of an object will determine its behavior when you use that class in **generic** function such as print(), summary().
 - A generic function is a function that has different behavior based on the class of the input.
- ➤ You could create your own S3 classes (chapter 13). Here, we will talk about some S3 classes that come with R by default.

► There are four important classes of atomic vector: factors, Dates, POSIXct and difftime. We will discuss factors. See the text, section 3.4 for information on the others.

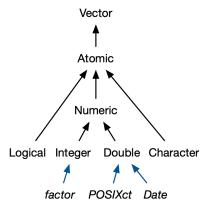


Figure 4: Vectors types in a tree

Factors

- ► The statistical concept of a factor is important in experimental design.
- ► Factors are implemented in R as atomic vectors with attributes class and levels:

```
trt <- factor(c("drug1","placebo","placebo","drug2"))
attributes(trt)

## $levels
## [1] "drug1" "drug2" "placebo"
##
## $class
## [1] "factor"
str(trt)</pre>
```

Factor w/ 3 levels "drug1", "drug2", ...: 1 3 3 2

- ► The levels are coded numerically (1, 2 and 3) with assigned labels ordered alphabetically ("drug1", "drug2" and "placebo") by default.
- You can specify an order to the factors with the level argument:

Subsetting vectors and extracting elements

Subset with Γ:

```
lvec <- list(age=54,weight=210,height=77,hair=c("grey","thin"))</pre>
attributes(lvec)
## $names
## [1] "age" "weight" "height" "hair"
attr(lvec, "at1") <- "abc" # add by name
attr(lvec, "at2") <- 1:3
attributes(lvec)
## $names
## [1] "age" "weight" "height" "hair"
##
## $at1
## [1] "abc"
##
## $at2
## [1] 1 2 3
lvec[c(1,3)] # same as lvec[c("age", "height")]
```

```
## $age
## [1] 54
##
## $height
```

"" L41 ---

Take care using [[for lists

► [[]] (and \$) can only return one item at a time. Trying to extract more than one has unexpected results.

```
lvec[[c(4,2)]] # the [[2]] element of lvec[[4]] !!
## [1] "thin"
# Error when you do this: lvec$c("hair", "weight")
```

Subsetting factors

► Subsetting may remove all instances of a level, but the level will be retained in the data structure

```
trt[1:3]

## [1] drug1 placebo placebo
## Levels: placebo drug1 drug2
```

If subsetting is intended to remove a level of the factor, use drop=TRUE

```
trt[1:3,drop=TRUE]
## [1] drug1 placebo placebo
## Levels: placebo drug1
```

Subsetting and assignment

➤ You can combine subsetting and assignment to change the value of vectors.

```
avec

## [1] 54 210 77

avec[2] <- 220
avec

## [1] 54 220 77
```

Assignment to vector elements

- ► To assign to a vector element, it is clearer to use [[rather than [.
 - ▶ Also, for lists, assignment with [requires that the replacement element be of length 1; [[does not have this restriction

```
lvec[3:4] <- c("Hi","there")
lvec[3:4]

## $height
## [1] "Hi"
##
## ## $hair
## [1] "there"</pre>
```

```
lvec[4] <- c("All","of","this")</pre>
## Warning in lvec[4] <- c("All", "of", "this"): number of items to replace is
## a multiple of replacement length
lvec[4] # Only used first element of replacement vector
## $hair
## [1] "All"
lvec[[4]] <- c("All", "of", "this")</pre>
lvec[3:4]
## $height
## [1] "Hi"
##
## $hair
## [1] "All" "of" "this"
```

Coercion: atomic vectors to lists

Atomic vectors can be coerced to lists with as.list():

```
avec = c(age=54, weight=210, height=77)
avec
##
      age weight height
##
       54
             210
                      77
as.list(avec)
## $age
## [1] 54
##
## $weight
   [1] 210
##
## $height
## [1] 77
```

Coercion: lists to atomic vectors

▶ Lists can be "flattened" into atomic vectors with unlist():

```
unlist(lvec)
```

```
## age weight height hair1 hair2 hair3
## "54" "210" "Hi" "All" "of" "this"
```

- Notice how the numeric values are coerced to the more flexible character type.
- ▶ The order of flexibility, from least to most, is logical, integer, numeric, character.

Coercion: factors to atomic vectors

- We saw how to use factor() to coerce an atomic vector to a factor.
- Use as.vector() to coerce a factor back to an atomic vector.
- ► The result is a character vector. You may need to use as.numeric() to coerce to numeric, if required.

```
a <-factor(c(2,1,1,2))
as.vector(a)

## [1] "2" "1" "1" "2"
as.numeric(as.vector(a))

## [1] 2 1 1 2</pre>
```

Matrices, data frames and tibbles

Matrices and data frames

- ► Matrices are implemented as atomic vectors with a "dim" attribute of length 2 (number of rows, number of columns).
- As an atomic vector, elements of a matrix must all be of the same type.
- ▶ Data frames are lists where each list element has the same length. Thus data frames can include columns of varying type.

Matrices

▶ Matrices can be created with the matrix() function as in

```
A <- matrix(1:4,nrow=2,ncol=2)
A

## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 3
## [2,] 2 4
```

► Here 1:4 is the same as c(1,2,3,4)

The default is to read the data vector into the matrix column-by-column. To read row-by-row instead use the byrow=TRUE argument:

Combining matrices

Combine matrices with rbind() and cbind():

```
rbind(A,matrix(c(5,6),nrow=1,ncol=2))
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 2
## [2,] 3 4
## [3,] 5 6
cbind(A,A)
## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
## [1,] 1 2 1 2
## [2,] 3 4 3 4
```

Matrix attributes

► Matrices have a type, dimension and optional attributes such as dimnames (row and column names).

```
typeof(A)

## [1] "double"
dim(A)

## [1] 2 2
```

Subsetting matrices

▶ Subset with [and a comma to separate rows from columns:

```
A[1,1]

## [1] 1

A[1,]

## var1 var2

## 1 2

A[,1]

## subj1 subj2

## 1 3
```

When a subsetting operation leads to a vector, the dimension of the object is "dropped" from 2 to 1. To prevent this use drop=FALSE:

```
A[1,,drop=FALSE]

## var1 var2

## subj1 1 2
```

Extracting elements from matrices

Can use [[to extract elements, but this is not necessary because of the way subsetting to a single element drops to a vector of length 1 by default:

```
A[[1,1]]

## [1] 1

A[1,1]

## [1] 1
```

Coercion: Matrices to/from vectors

- We have already seen how matrix() coerces a vector to a matrix
- as.vector() applied to a matrix removes the dim attribute and creates a vector by concatenating columns:

```
as.vector(A)
```

[1] 1 3 2 4

Data frames

- Data frames (class data.frame) are the usual way to store data in R.
 - ▶ Rows are intended to be observational units, columns variables
 - Implemented as a list (columns are list elements), but also behave like a matrix in terms of combining and subsetting.
- Create with data.frame:

```
set.seed(1)
n <- 4
x <- 1:n; y <- rnorm(n,mean=x,sd=1) # multiple commands separated by ;
dd <- data.frame(x=x,y=y) # like making a list
str(dd)
## 'data.frame': 4 obs. of 2 variables:
## $ x: int 1 2 3 4
## $ y: num 0.374 2.184 2.164 5.595</pre>
```

Row and column names

- Get and set with rownames() and colnames(), respectively.
- names() also gets and sets the column names

```
colnames(dd); names(dd)

## [1] "x" "y"

## [1] "x" "y"

rownames(dd) <- paste0("subj",1:nrow(dd))
rownames(dd)

## [1] "subj1" "subj2" "subj3" "subj4"</pre>
```

Subsetting data frames like a list

```
dd$x

## [1] 1 2 3 4

dd[[1]]

## [1] 1 2 3 4
```

Subsetting and combining data frames like a matrix

```
dd[1:2,]
##
## subj1 1 0.3735462
## subj2 2 2.1836433
zz = data.frame(z=runif(4))
cbind(dd,zz)
##
## subj1 1 0.3735462 0.62911404
## subj2 2 2.1836433 0.06178627
## subj3 3 2.1643714 0.20597457
## subj4 4 5.5952808 0.17655675
```

tibbles

- ➤ A tidyverse replacement (or extension) of the data frame with different default behaviour.
- ▶ See section 3.6 for a discussion of some of the differences.

```
library(tibble)
tt \leftarrow tibble(x = 1:3, y = letters[1:3])
typeof(tt)
## [1] "list"
attributes(tt)
## $class
## [1] "tbl_df"
                     "t.b1 "
                                    "data.frame"
##
## $row.names
## [1] 1 2 3
##
## $names
## [1] "x" "y"
```

More on subsetting

1

one-dimensional subsets of data frames are coerced to atomic vectors, but not so with tibbles.

```
dd[,1]; dd[1,1]
## [1] 1 2 3 4
## [1] 1
tt[,1]; tt[1,1]
## # A tibble: 3 x 1
##
         х
     <int>
## 3
## # A tibble: 1 x 1
##
         x
     <int>
```

List columns

One way that tibbles improve on data frames is easier handling of columns whose elements are lists.

Logical and relational operators

Logical operators

- ► The basic logical operators are described in help("Logic").
- ▶ ! is NOT
- ▶ & and && are AND, with & acting vector-wise and && acting on scalars
- ▶ | and || are OR, with | acting vector-wise and || acting on scalars
- ► Make sure you understand the following:

```
x <- c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE); y <- c(FALSE, TRUE, TRUE)
!x ; x&y ; x&&y ; x|y ; x||y
```

- ## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE
- ## [1] FALSE TRUE FALSE
- ## [I] FALSE IRUE FALSI
- ## Warning in x && y: 'length(x) = 3 > 1' in coercion to 'logica
 ## Warning in x && y: 'length(x) = 3 > 1' in coercion to 'logica
- ## [1] FALSE
- ## [1] TRUE TRUE TRUE
- ## Warning in x || y: 'length(x) = 3 > 1' in coercion to 'logica $\frac{61}{67}$

▶ Notice how && and || act on the first element of the vectors x and y and ignore all the rest.

Relational operators

- Relational operators can be used to compare values in atomic vectorsSee help("Comparison")
- > is greater than, >= is greater than or equal
- < is less than, <= is less than or equal</p>
- == is equal and != is not equal
- Make sure you understand the following:

```
x <- 1:3; y <- 3:1
x>y; x>=y; x<y; x<=y; x==y; x!=y
## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE
## [1] FALSE TRUE TRUE
## [1] TRUE FALSE FALSE
## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE
## [1] FALSE TRUE FALSE
       TRUE FALSE
                   TRUF.
```

Subsetting vectors with logical expressions

Can subset with logicals and [:

```
avec
## age weight height
##
      54
            210
                    77
avec>100
     age weight height
##
##
   FALSE TRUE FALSE
avec[avec>100]
## weight
##
     210
avec[avec>54 & avec<100]
## height
      77
##
```

Subsetting matrices with logical expressions

Can also subset matrices, but results may not be as expected:

```
Α
## var1 var2
## subj1 1 2
## subj2 3 4
A>1
## var1 var2
## subj1 FALSE TRUE
## subj2 TRUE TRUE
A[A>1] # coerces to a vector
## [1] 3 2 4
```

Subset and assign with logical expressions

Combine subset and assign to change the value of objects

```
A[A>1] <- 9
A

## var1 var2
## subj1 1 9
## subj2 9 9
```

▶ In the above substitution, the vector 9 is shorter than the three elements in A>1 so R "recycles" the 9 three times.

Be careful about recycling:

subj2 -10 -10

```
A[A>1] <- c(-10,10) # Throws a warning

## Warning in A[A > 1] <- c(-10, 10): number of items to replace is not

## of replacement length

A # R used c(-10,10), then just the -10

## var1 var2

## subj1 1 10
```