Subsetting Data in R

Introduction to R for Public Health Researchers

Overview

We showed one way to read data into R using read_csv and read.csv. In this module, we will show you how to:

- 1. Select specific elements of an object by an index or logical condition
- 2. Renaming columns of a data.frame
- 3. Subset rows of a data.frame
- 4. Subset columns of a data.frame
- 5. Add/remove new columns to a data.frame
- 6. Order the columns of a data.frame
- 7. Order the rows of a data.frame

Setup

We will show you how to do each operation in base R then show you how to use the dplyr package to do the same operation (if applicable).

Many resources on how to use dplyr exist and are straightforward:

- https://cran.rstudio.com/web/packages/dplyr/vignettes/
- https://stat545-ubc.github.io/block009_dplyr-intro.html
- https://www.datacamp.com/courses/dplyr-data-manipulation-r-tutorial

The dplyr package also interfaces well with tibbles.

Select specific elements using an index

Often you only want to look at subsets of a data set at any given time. As a review, elements of an R object are selected using the brackets ([and]).

For example, x is a vector of numbers and we can select the second element of x using the brackets and an index (2):

```
x = c(1, 4, 2, 8, 10)

x[2]
```

Select specific elements using an index

We can select the fifth or second AND fifth elements below:

```
x = c(1, 2, 4, 8, 10)

x[5]

[1] 10

x[c(2,5)]

[1] 2 10
```

Subsetting by deletion of entries

You can put a minus (–) before integers inside brackets to remove these indices from the data.

```
x[-2] # all but the second
[1] 1 4 8 10
```

Note that you have to be careful with this syntax when dropping more than 1 element:

```
x[-c(1,2,3)] # drop first 3

[1] 8 10

# x[-1:3] # shorthand. R sees as -1 to 3
x[-(1:3)] # needs parentheses

[1] 8 10
```

Select specific elements using logical operators

What about selecting rows based on the values of two variables? We use logical statements. Here we select only elements of x greater than 2:

```
x
[1] 1 2 4 8 10

x > 2
[1] FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE

x[ x > 2 ]
[1] 4 8 10
```

Select specific elements using logical operators

You can have multiple logical conditions using the following:

- · &:AND
- · |: OR

```
x[x > 2 & x < 5]
```

[1] 4

$$x[x > 5 | x == 2]$$

[1] 2 8 10

which function

The which functions takes in logical vectors and returns the index for the elements where the logical value is TRUE.

```
which(x > 5 | x == 2) # returns index
[1] 2 4 5

x[ which(x > 5 | x == 2) ]

[1] 2 8 10

x[ x > 5 | x == 2 ]

[1] 2 8 10
```

Creating a data. frame to work with

Here we use one of the datasets that comes with R called mtcars create a toy data.frame named df using random data:

```
data(mtcars)
df = mtcars
tbl = as.tbl(df)
```

Renaming Columns

Renaming Columns of a data. frame: base R

We can use the colnames function to directly reassign column names of df:

Renaming Columns of a data. frame: base R

We can assign the column names, change the ones we want, and then re-assign the column names:

Renaming Columns of a data. frame: dplyr and tidyverse

```
library(tidyverse)

— Attaching packages — tidyverse 1.2.1 —

// ggplot2 2.2.1.9000 / readr 1.1.1
// tibble 1.4.2 / purrr 0.2.4
// tidyr 0.8.0 / stringr 1.3.1
// ggplot2 2.2.1.9000 / forcats 0.3.0

— Conflicts — tidyverse_conflicts() —

// dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
// dplyr::lag() masks stats::lag()
```

Note, when loading dplyr, it says objects can be "masked"/conflicts. That means if you use a function defined in 2 places, it uses the one that is loaded in **last**.

Renaming Columns of a data.frame: dplyr

For example, if we print filter, then we see at the bottom namespace:dplyr, which means when you type filter, it will use the one from the dplyr package.

```
filter

function (.data, ...)
{
    UseMethod("filter")
}
<bytecode: 0x7fa4c6c36db0>
<environment: namespace:dplyr>
```

Renaming Columns of a data.frame: dplyr

A filter function exists by default in the stats package, however. If you want to make sure you use that one, you use PackageName::Function with the colon-colon ("::") operator.

```
head(stats::filter,2)

1 function (x, filter, method = c("convolution", "recursive"),
```

This is important when loading many packages, and you may have some conflicts/masking:

sides = 2L, circular = FALSE, init = NULL)

Renaming Columns of a data.frame: dplyr

To rename columns in dplyr, you use the rename command

Lab Part 1

Website

Subsetting Columns

Subset columns of a data. frame:

We can grab the carb column using the \$ operator.

df\$carb

[1] 4 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 4 1 2 1 1 2 2 4 2 1 2 2 4 6 8 2

Subset columns of a data. frame:

We can also subset a data.frame using the bracket [,] subsetting.

For data.frames and matrices (2-dimensional objects), the brackets are [rows, columns] subsetting. We can grab the x column using the index of the column or the column name ("carb")

```
df[, 11]

[1] 4 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 4 1 2 1 1 2 2 4 2 1 2 2 4 6 8 2

df[, "carb"]

[1] 4 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 4 4 3 3 3 4 4 4 1 2 1 1 2 2 4 2 1 2 2 4 6 8 2
```

Biggest difference between tbl and data.frame:

Mostly, tbl (tibbles) are the same as data.frames, except they don't print all lines. When subsetting only one column using brackets, a data.frame will return a vector, but a tbl will return a tbl

```
df[, 1]
 [1] 21.0 21.0 22.8 21.4 18.7 18.1 14.3 24.4 22.8 19.2 17.8 16.4 17.3 15.2
[15] 10.4 10.4 14.7 32.4 30.4 33.9 21.5 15.5 15.2 13.3 19.2 27.3 26.0 30.4
[29] 15.8 19.7 15.0 21.4
tbl[, 1]
# A tibble: 32 x 1
    mpg
   <dbl>
 1 21
 2 21
 3 22.8
 4 21.4
 5 18.7
 6 18.1
 7 14.3
 8 24.4
 9 22.8
10 19.2
                                                                       22/48
# ... with 22 more rows
```

Subset columns of a data.frame:

We can select multiple columns using multiple column names:

```
df[, c("mpg", "cyl")]
```

	mpg	cyl
Mazda RX4	21.0	6
Mazda RX4 Wag	21.0	6
Datsun 710	22.8	4
Hornet 4 Drive	21.4	6
Hornet Sportabout	18.7	8
Valiant	18.1	6
Duster 360	14.3	8
Merc 240D	24.4	4
Merc 230	22.8	4
Merc 280	19.2	6
Merc 280C	17.8	6
Merc 450SE	16.4	8
Merc 450SL	17.3	8
Merc 450SLC	15.2	8
Cadillac Fleetwood	10.4	8
Lincoln Continental	10.4	8
Chrysler Imperial	14.7	8
Fiat 128	32.4	4
Honda Civic	30.4	4
Toyota Corolla	33.9	4
Toyota Corona	21.5	4
Dodge Challenger	15.5	8

Subset columns of a data.frame: dplyr

The select command from dplyr allows you to subset

select(df, mpg)

Mazda RX4 Wag Datsun 710 Hornet 4 Drive Hornet Sportabout Valiant Duster 360 Merc 240D Merc 230 Merc 280 Merc 280C Merc 450SE Merc 450SL Merc 450SLC Cadillac Fleetwood Lincoln Continental Chrysler Imperial Fiat 128 Honda Civic	mpg 21.0 21.0 22.8 21.4 18.1 14.3 24.4 22.8 17.3 15.4 17.3 10.4 14.7 30.4 33.9
Toyota Corolla : Toyota Corona :	30.4 33.9 21.5 15.5

Select columns of a data.frame: dplyr

The select command from dplyr allows you to subset columns of

select(df, mpg, cyl)

Mazda RX4 Mazda RX4 Wag Datsun 710 Hornet 4 Drive Hornet Sportabout	mpg 21.0 21.0 22.8 21.4 18.7	6 6 4
Valiant	18.1	
Duster 360	14.3	
Merc 240D	24.4	
Merc 230	22.8	
Merc 280	19.2	
Merc 280C	17.8	
Merc 450SE	16.4	8
Merc 450SL	17.3	8
Merc 450SLC	15.2	8
Cadillac Fleetwood	10.4	8
Lincoln Continental	10.4	8
Chrysler Imperial	14.7	8
Fiat 128	32.4	4
Honda Civic	30.4	4
Toyota Corolla	33.9	
Toyota Corona	21.5	
Dodge Challenger	15.5	

Lab Part 2

Website

Subsetting Rows

Subset rows of a data. frame with indices:

Let's select **rows** 1 and 3 from df using brackets:

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

```
mpg cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb Mazda RX4 21.0 6 160 110 3.90 2.62 16.46 0 1 4 4 Datsun 710 22.8 4 108 93 3.85 2.32 18.61 1 1 4 1
```

Subset rows of a data. frame: dplyr

The command in dplyr for subsetting rows is filter. Try ?filter

```
filter(df, mpg > 20 \mid mpg < 14)
                                qsec vs am gear carb
            disp
                 hp drat
                         wt
   mpq cyl
  21.0
         6 160.0 110 3.90 2.620 16.46
  21.0 6 160.0 110 3.90 2.875 17.02
  22.8
        4 108.0
                  93 3.85
                          2.320
  21.4
        6 258.0
                 110 3.08
                          3.215 19.44
  24.4
        4 146.7
                 62 3.69
                         3.190
  22.8
                 95 3.92 3.150
        4 140.8
  10.4
        8 472.0 205 2.93
                         5.250
        8 460.0 215 3.00 5.424 17.82
  10.4
  32.4
        4 78.7 66 4.08
                         2.200
                               19.47
10 30.4
         4 75.7 52 4.93
                         1.615
                               18.52
11 33.9
         4 71.1 65 4.22
                          1.835
12 21.5
        4 120.1
                  97 3.70 2.465 20.01
13 13.3
        8 350.0 245 3.73
                         3.840
14 27.3
        4 79.0
                 66 4.08
15 26.0
        4 120.3
16 30.4
            95.1 113 3.77 1.513 16.90
        4 121.0 109 4.11 2.780 18.60 1 1
17 21.4
```

Note, no \$ or subsetting is necessary. R "knows" mpg refers to a column of df.

Subset rows of a data. frame: dplyr

By default, you can separate conditions by commas, and filter assumes these statements are joined by &

```
filter(df, mpg > 20 \& cyl == 4)
   mpg cyl disp hp drat
                       wt
                             gsec vs am gear carb
  22.8 4 108.0 93 3.85 2.320 18.61 1
  24.4 4 146.7 62 3.69 3.190 20.00 1
  22.8 4 140.8
               95 3.92 3.150 22.90
  32.4 4 78.7 66 4.08 2.200 19.47
  30.4 4 75.7 52 4.93
                       1.615
                             18.52
  33.9
       4 71.1 65 4.22 1.835 19.90
 21.5
       4 120.1 97 3.70 2.465 20.01
 27.3 4 79.0 66 4.08
                       1.935
  26.0
       4 120.3
               91 4.43
       4 95.1 113 3.77 1.513 16.90 1 1
10 30.4
       4 121.0 109 4.11 2.780 18.60 1 1
11 21.4
filter(df, mpg > 20, cyl == 4)
          disp hp drat
                       wt
                             gsec vs am gear carb
   mpa cyl
  22.8 4 108.0 93 3.85 2.320 18.61
  24.4 4 146.7 62 3.69 3.190 20.00 1 0
                       3.150 22.90 1 0 4
  22.8 4 140.8
               95 3.92
       4 78.7
               66 4.08 2.200 19.47
  32.4
                                                              30/48
  30.4
       4 75.7 52 4.93 1.615 18.52
```

Lab Part 3

Website

Combining filter and select

You can combine filter and select to subset the rows and columns, respectively, of a data.frame:

```
select(filter(df, mpg > 20 & cyl == 4), cyl, hp)

cyl hp
1     4     93
2     4     62
3     4     95
4     4     66
5     4     52
6     4     65
7     4     97
8     4     66
9     4     91
10     4     113
11     4     109
```

In R, the common way to perform multiple operations is to wrap functions around each other in a nested way such as above

Assigning Temporary Objects

One can also create temporary objects and reassign them:

```
df2 = filter(df, mpg > 20 \& cyl == 4)

df2 = select(df2, cyl, hp)
```

Using the pipe (comes with dplyr):

Recently, the pipe %>% makes things such as this much more readable. It reads left side "pipes" into right side. RStudio CMD/Ctrl + Shift + M shortcut. Pipe df into filter, then pipe that into select:

```
df %>% filter(mpg > 20 & cyl == 4) %>% select(cyl, hp)

    cyl hp
1    4   93
2    4   62
3    4   95
4    4   66
5    4   52
6    4   65
7    4   97
8    4   66
9    4   91
10    4   113
11    4   109
```

Adding/Removing Columns

Adding new columns to a data.frame: base R

You can add a new column, called newcol to df, using the \$ operator:

```
df newcol = df wt/2.2
head (df, 3)
```

```
        Mazda RX4
        Wasda RX4
        <t
```

Adding columns to a data. frame: dplyr

The \$ method is very common.

The mutate function in dplyr allows you to add or replace columns of a data.frame:

```
df = mutate(df, newcol = wt/2.2)
                                   qsec vs am gear carb
             disp
                  hp drat
                               wt
                                                            newcol
    mpq cyl
                                           1
   21.0
                  110 3.90 2.620
                                  16.46
                                                       4 1.1909091
  21.0
                  110 3.90 2.875
                                                       4 1.3068182
  22.8
         4 108.0
                   93 3.85
                            2.320
                                                         1.0545455
   21.4
                  110 3.08
                                                       1 1.4613636
                            3.215
  18.7
          8 360.0
                                                       2 1.5636364
                  175 3.15
                           3.440
  18.1
                  105 2.76
                           3.460
                                                       1 1.5727273
  14.3
                      3.21
                                                       4 1.6227273
          8 360.0
                  245
  24.4
                      3.69
                                                       2 1.4500000
                   95 3.92
  22.8
                           3.150
                                                       2 1.4318182
10 19.2
                  123
                      3.92
                                                       4 1.5636364
11 17.8
                      3.92
                                                        1.5636364
                  123
12 16.4
                  180
                      3.07
                                                       3 1.8500000
13 17.3
                  180 3.07
                            3.730
                                                       3 1.6954545
14 15.2
                      3.07
                  180
                                                       3 1.7181818
15 10.4
                                                       4 2.3863636
                      2.93
16 10.4
                                                       4 2.4654545
17 14.7
                                                       4 2.4295455
18 32.4
                   66 4.08 2.200 19.47
                                                       1 1.0000000
```

Removing columns to a data.frame: base R

You can remove a column by assigning to NULL:

dfnewcol = NULL

Removing columns to a data. frame: dplyr

The NULL method is still very common.

The select function can remove a column with a minus (-), much like removing rows:

```
select(df, -newcol)
```

```
disp hp drat
                                 qsec vs am gear carb
                              wt
   mpg cyl
   21.0
          6 160.0 110 3.90 2.620
                                 16.46
  21.0
                  110 3.90
                           2.875 17.02
  22.8
                   93 3.85
  21.4
                  110 3.08
        6 258.0
  18.7
         8 360.0
                           3.440
  18.1
                  105 2.76
                           3.460
  14.3
                  245
  24.4
                   62 3.69
        4 146.7
                           3.190
  22.8
                      3.92
10 19.2
                  123 3.92
  17.8
                  123
                      3.92
12 16.4
                  180
                      3.07
13 17.3
                  180
                      3.07
14 15.2
                  180
15 10.4
                  205
                      2.93
17 14.7
                  230 3.23
18 32.4
                   66 4.08 2.200 19.47
```

Removing columns to a data. frame: dplyr

Remove newcol and drat

22 15.5

```
select(df, -one of("newcol", "drat"))
           disp
                 hp
                       wt
                           qsec vs am gear carb
   mpq cyl
  21.0
         6 160.0 110 2.620 16.46
  21.0 6 160.0
                110 2.875
  22.8 4 108.0
  21.4
        6 258.0
                 110 3.215
  18.7 8 360.0
                 175
                    3.440
  18.1 6 225.0
                    3.460 20.22
                 105
  14.3 8 360.0
                 245
                    3.570
                          15.84
8 24.4 4 146.7
                  62 3.190 20.00 1
  22.8 4 140.8
                  95 3.150
10 19.2 6 167.6
                 123 3.440
                          18.30 1
11 17.8
                 123 3,440
12 16.4
                 180 4.070
13 17.3 8 275.8
                 180
                    3.730
14 15.2
                    3.780
15 10.4
                 205 5.250
16 10.4
        8 460.0
                 215
17 14.7 8 440.0
                 230 5.345
18 32.4
        4 78.7
19 30.4
         4 75.7
                  52 1.615
                          18.52
20 33.9
                 65 1.835
                                    1
21 21.5
        4 120.1
                 97 2.465 20.01
```

8 318.0 150 3.520 16.87

Ordering columns

Ordering the columns of a data. frame: dplyr

The select function can reorder columns. Put newcol first, then select the rest of columns:

```
select(df, newcol, everything())
      newcol
              mpg cyl
                      disp hp drat
                                         wt
                                             qsec vs am qear carb
   1.1909091 21.0
                     6 160.0 110 3.90 2.620 16.46
   1.3068182 21.0
                                 3.90
                             110
                                      2.875
   1.0545455 22.8
                                 3.85
                              93
                                      2.320
  1.4613636 21.4
                                 3.08
                                      3.215
  1.5636364 18.7
  1.5727273 18.1
                             105
                                 2.76
                                      3.460
  1.6227273 14.3
                             245
                                 3.21
                              62 3.69
  1.4500000 24.4
   1.4318182 22.8
                              95
                                 3.92
   1.5636364 19.2
                             123
                                 3.92
11 1.5636364 17.8
                                3.92
12 1.8500000 16.4
                             180 3.07
  1.6954545
                             180
                                 3.07
14 1.7181818
15 2.3863636
                                 2.93
16 2.4654545 10.4
   2.4295455
                             230
  1.0000000
                              66 4.08
19 0.7340909 30.4
                              52 4.93
                                      1.615 18.52
                              65 4.22 1.835 19.90
   0.8340909 33.9
                                                                        42/48
```

Ordering rows

Ordering the rows of a data. frame: dplyr

The arrange function can reorder rows By default, arrange orders in ascending order:

```
arrange (df, mpg)
             disp
                   hp drat
                               wt
                                    qsec vs am qear carb
                                                             newcol
    mpg cyl
                                                        4 2.3863636
   10.4
            472.0 205 2.93 5.250
   10.4
                                                        4 2.4654545
                   215
                       3.00
                            5.424
  13.3
          8 350.0
                            3.840
                   245
                       3.73
                                                          1.7454545
  14.3
                  245
                       3.21
                            3.570
                                                          1.6227273
  14.7
                                                        4 2.4295455
                   230
  15.0
                       3.54
                   335
                                                          1.6227273
  15.2
                                                          1.7181818
  15.2
                                                        2 1.5613636
   15.5
                                                        2 1.6000000
10 15.8
                   264
                                                          1.4409091
11 16.4
                   180
                       3.07
                                                        3 1.8500000
12 17.3
                   180
                      3.07
                            3.730
                                                        3 1.6954545
13 17.8
                   123
                       3.92
                                                         1.5636364
14 18.1
                       2.76
                            3,460
                                                          1.5727273
15 18.7
                                                        2 1.5636364
16 19.2
                       3.92
                                                        4 1.5636364
  19.2
                       3.08
                                                          1.7477273
18 19.7
                       3.62
                                                          1.2590909
19 21.0
                  110 3.90 2.620
                                                        4 1.1909091
20 21.0
                  110 3.90 2.875
                                                        4 1.3068182
```

Ordering the rows of a data. frame: dplyr

22 16.4

Use the desc to arrange the rows in descending order:

8 275.8 180 3.07 4.070 17.40

```
arrange (df, desc (mpg))
    mpg cyl
             disp
                   hp drat
                               wt
                                    qsec vs am gear carb
                                                             newcol
   33.9
                    65 4.22 1.835
                                  19.90
                                                        1 0.8340909
                                                   4
  32.4
             78.7
                            2.200
                                                        1 1.0000000
                  66
                       4.08
                                  19.47
                                                        2 0.7340909
   30.4
          4 75.7
                            1.615
   30.4
          4 95.1
                  113 3.77
                            1.513
                                                        2 0.6877273
   27.3
             79.0
                    66 4.08
                            1.935
                                  18.90
                                                          0.8795455
   26.0
          4 120.3
                                   16.70
                   91 4.43
                            2.140
                                                        2 0.9727273
   24.4
          4 146.7
                   62 3.69
                            3.190
                                  20.00
                                                        2 1.4500000
  22.8
                                          1
          4 108.0
                  93 3.85
                                  18.61
                                                        1 1.0545455
                            2.320
  22.8
                  95
          4 140.8
                      3.92
                            3.150
                                  22.90
                                                        2 1.4318182
  21.5
10
          4 120.1
                       3.70
                            2.465
                                                        1 1.1204545
                                                        1 1.4613636
11 21.4
                       3.08
12 21.4
                                                        2 1.2636364
                            2.780
13 21.0
                       3.90
                            2.620
                                                         1.1909091
14 21.0
                       3.90
                                                         1.3068182
15 19.7
                       3.62 2.770
                                                        6 1.2590909
16 19.2
                       3.92
                            3,440
                                                        4 1.5636364
17 19.2
                       3.08
                            3.845
                                                        2 1.7477273
18 18.7
                                                        2 1.5636364
                            3,440
                                                        1 1.5727273
19 18.1
                       2.76
                            3.460
20 17.8
                                                         1.5636364
                   123
                       3.92
21 17.3
                   180
                      3.07
                            3.730
                                                         1.6954545
```

3 1.8500000

Ordering the rows of a data. frame: dplyr

It is a bit more straightforward to mix increasing and decreasing orderings:

```
arrange(df, mpg, desc(hp))
    mpg cyl
             disp
                   hp drat
                                wt
                                    qsec vs
                                            am gear carb
                                                              newcol
   10.4
                       3.00 5.424
                                   17.82
                                                        4 2.4654545
   10.4
                       2.93
                            5.250
                                                        4 2.3863636
                                                          1.7454545
  13.3
          8 350.0
                   245
                       3.73
                            3.840
   14.3
                                                          1.6227273
                   245
                       3
  14.7
                       3.23
                   230
                                                        4 2.4295455
                       3.54
  15.0
                   335
                            3.570
                                                          1.6227273
  15.2
                   180
                       3.07
                            3.780
                                                          1.7181818
  15.2
                   150
                       3.15
                            3.435
                                                        2 1.5613636
  15.5
                       2.76
                                                        2 1.6000000
                   150
                            3.520
10 15.8
                   264
                       4.22
                                                          1.4409091
11 16.4
                                                        3 1.8500000
                       3.07
12 17.3
                                                        3 1.6954545
                       3.07
                            3.730
13 17.8
                                                          1.5636364
14 18.1
                   105
                       2.76
                                                          1.5727273
15 18.7
                       3.15
                            3.440
                                                        2 1.5636364
16 19.2
                       3.08
                            3.845
                                                        2 1.7477273
17 19.2
                                                        4 1.5636364
                       3.92
18 19.7
                       3.62
                                                          1,2590909
19 21.0
                       3.90
                                                        4 1.1909091
20 21.0
                       3.90
                                                        4 1.3068182
21 21.4
                       3.08
                                                          1.4613636
22 21.4
          4 121.0 109 4.11 2.780 18.60
                                                        2 1.2636364
```

Transmutation

20 0.8340909 33.9

21 1.1204545 21.5

65

The transmute function in dplyr combines both the mutate and select functions. One can create new columns and keep the only the columns wanted:

```
transmute (df, newcol2 = wt/2.2, mpq, hp)
    newcol2
             mpg
  1.1909091 21.0
  1.3068182 21.0
  1.0545455 22.8
  1.4613636 21.4 110
  1.5636364 18.7 175
  1.5727273 18.1 105
  1.6227273 14.3 245
  1.4500000 24.4
  1.4318182 22.8
10 1.5636364 19.2 123
11 1.5636364 17.8 123
12 1.8500000 16.4 180
13 1.6954545 17.3 180
14 1.7181818 15.2 180
15 2.3863636 10.4 205
16 2.4654545 10.4
17 2.4295455 14.7 230
18 1.0000000 32.4
19 0.7340909 30.4
                   52
```

Lab Part 4

Website