Introduction to R for Data Management and Analysis

Marcel Ramos, MPH

Tuesday, June 6, 2016

Notes on last week's lecture

- Using c() with mixed data types
- ... ellipses
 - additional arguments to "lower level" functions (e.g., par() in plot())
- Any questions?

Brief recap

- Basic features of the language
 - interactive and interpreted
 - case sensitive, ignores spaces except between objects and functions
 - an object is any type of variable stored in R (i.e., data.frame, numeric vector, function, etc.)
 - Be familiar with the parts of a function
 - know your help pages (use ?functionname or help("functionname"))
 - Finding help and troubleshooting are critically important
 - Help pages can be intimidating but very useful

Today's lecture overview

- Importing and Exporting Data
- Classes and Data types in R
 - data.frame
 - data type coercion
- Subsetting
 - using brackets and dollar signs ([, \$)
 - using vector operands
- More troubleshooting

Importing and Exporting Data

- Recognizing file types
 - File extensions (e.g., .tsv, .csv, .xlsx, .txt, .sav, .sasb7dat)
- Show file extensions on Windows
 - Windows Start button > Control panel > (View by: Large Icons) >
 Folder options > View tab > Advanced Settings: [Deselect] Hide
 extensions for known file types
- Downloading files from the internet

Packages for reading foreign data

• readr, readxl, haven

Exporting Data

- write.table()
- write.csv() / write_csv()
- write_delim()

Classes in R



What are classes?

- R objects have class attributes
- Define what functions/operations can be performed
- class() function
- Examples

Vectors, classes

- Vectors of class (may be named):
 - character, integer, numeric, logical, complex, raw (bytes)
 - factor: discrete levels
 - missing (NA)
- Tabular classes:
 - data.frame
 - matrix
- Non-tabular:
 - function
 - list
 - array
 - custom classes