# Introduction

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#### Introduction to R and RStudio

## Recap

This morning we have learned the basics of programming in R:

- How to use RStudio, R-scripts and R-notebooks
- How to assign numbers to variables (<-)
- Data types (elements)
  - character, numeric, integer, logical, factor
- Data structures: composed of data types
  - vector, matrix, list, data.frame
- Code is applied on those data types/structures to transform them

## Quick detour: Naming conventions

• You can't have spaces in your variable names.

```
student cleaned <- 3
```

- Some programming languages tell you how to handle this, but not R.
- I use students\_cleaned. This is the standard of Python.
- Use any, but be consistent

```
student_cleaned <- 3 #studentCleaned</pre>
```

Source: stackoverflow

# Data Types (Elements)

## **Data Types**

They are the basis of everything

#### 1: Character

```
var_char <- "ab"
class(var_char)
## [1] "character"</pre>
```

#### 2: Numeric

```
var_num <- 3.2
class(var_num)</pre>
```

```
## [1] "numeric"
var_ind <- "3"</pre>
class(var_ind)
## [1] "character"
converted_var <- as.numeric(var_ind)</pre>
class(converted_var)
## [1] "numeric"
var_inf <- Inf</pre>
class(var_inf)
## [1] "numeric"
var_nan <- NaN</pre>
class(var_nan)
## [1] "numeric"
3: Logical
var_true <- TRUE</pre>
class(var_true)
## [1] "logical"
Behind the scenes they are numbers: FALSE = 0, TRUE = 1
as.numeric(var_true)
## [1] 1
var_true + var_true
## [1] 2
They arise when comparing elements
a <- 3
b <- 5
a == b
## [1] FALSE
a == "3"
## [1] TRUE
a == 3
## [1] TRUE
```

# Data Structures: Objects that contain more than one element

Basic data types (elements)

• character: "some text"

```
numeric: e.g., 2.1
integer: e.g., 2L
logical: TRUE/FALSE
factor: e.g., factor("amsterdam")
```

#### Basic data structures

• Consist of data types and functions to transform them

```
- vector: c(2, 4, 2)

- list: list(first_col = 1, second = "a", third = TRUE)

- matrix: matrix(c(4, 4, 4, 4), nrow = 2, ncol = 2)

- data.frame: The most important ~ spreadsheet
```

#### 1: Vector

- Collection of elements of the same type
- We concatenate the elements using the c() function (stands for concatenation)

```
#To create a vector we used `c()`, which stands for 'concatenation'. a \leftarrow c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) a \leftarrow 1:5 a ## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

Characters (or character strings) in R are indicated by the double quote identifier.

```
c(a, "A")
## [1] "1" "2" "3" "4" "5" "A"
```

Repeating the same element many times

```
rep(a, 3)
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5 1 2 3 4 5
```

#### Retrieving elements from vectors by position

If we would want just the third element, we would type

```
#The first element in R is 1 (in other languages (e.g. Python) it is 0)
a[3]
## [1] 3
```

## Retrieving elements from vectors by range

If we would want the first to the third (both included)

```
#The first element in R is 1 (in other languages (e.g. Python) it is 0)
a[1:3]
## [1] 1 2 3
Empty means all elements
#The first element in R is 1 (in other languages (e.g. Python) it is 0)
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

## 2. Matrix: Multiple vectors in one object

This we would refer to as a matrix

```
matrix(3, nrow = 5, ncol = 2)
       [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
         3
## [2,]
         3
             3
## [3,]
        3
             3
## [4,]
        3
             3
## [5,]
#We can also create them with vectors, it fills the matrix by column. But be careful!
c \leftarrow matrix(c(1,2,3), nrow = 5, ncol = 2)
## Warning in matrix(c(1, 2, 3), nrow = 5, ncol = 2): data length [3] is not a sub-
## multiple or multiple of the number of rows [5]
С
##
       [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
        1 3
## [2,]
        2
               1
        3
## [3,]
               2
        1
## [4,]
               3
          2
## [5,]
               1
```

## Retrieving elements in matrices

The first row is retrieved with

```
c[1, ]
## [1] 1 3
```

The second column is retrieved with

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

The intersection of the first row and second column is called by

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

We can also use ranges.

```
c[1:3, 2]
## [1] 3 1 2
```

## Matrices with mixed numeric / character data

If we add a character column to matrix c; everything becomes a character:

```
cbind(c, c("a", "b", "c", "d", "e"))
```

```
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] "1" "3" "a"
## [2,] "2" "1" "b"
## [3,] "3" "2" "c"
## [4,] "1" "3" "d"
## [5,] "2" "1" "e"
```

Remember, matrices and vectors are numerical OR character objects. They can never contain both and still be used for numerical calculations.

#### 3. Data frames

Data frames can contain both numerical and character elements at the same time, although never in the same column. You can think of them as spreadsheets (with column names, and rows)

```
## V1 V2 V3

## 1 -0.4949495 5.125496 a

## 2 -0.2158361 8.033798 a

## 3 -1.7104945 1.243462 b

## 4 0.3960940 5.263127 b

## 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
```

We 'filled' a dataframe with two randomly generated sets from the normal distribution - where V1 is standard normal and  $V2 \sim N(5,2)$  - and a character set.

## Data frames (continued)

You can name the columns and rows in data frames (just like in matrices)

```
row.names(d) <- c("row 1", "row 2", "row 3", "row 4", "row 5")
d
##
                 V1
                          V2 V3
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726
#Columns
names(d) <- c("V1", "V2_new", "V3")
d
                 V1
                      V2_new V3
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
```

#### Retrieving row elements in data frames

There are two ways to obtain row 3 from data frame d:

```
d["row 3",]

## V1 V2_new V3

## row 3 -1.710495 1.243462 b

and
```

```
d[3, ]

## V1 V2_new V3

## row 3 -1.710495 1.243462 b

CAREFUL! You always need the comma (,) when filtering by rows
```

## Retrieving columns elements in data frames

Both

```
d[, "V2_new"] # and

## [1] 5.125496 8.033798 1.243462 5.263127 5.893726
d[, 2]

## [1] 5.125496 8.033798 1.243462 5.263127 5.893726
d$V2_new

## [1] 5.125496 8.033798 1.243462 5.263127 5.893726
```

## Retrieving both

The intersection between row 2 and column 3 can be obtained by

```
d[2, 3]
```

```
## [1] "a"
```

And you can also use ranges

```
d[3:4, 1:2]

## V1 V2_new
```

```
## row 3 -1.710495 1.243462
## row 4 0.396094 5.263127
```

#### 4. Factor

- A data type used to encode categorical variables
- It'll be useful for data modeling and data isualization

Class

```
class(d$V3_factor)
## [1] "factor"
```

Summary

```
str(d$V3_factor)
## Factor w/ 2 levels "Amsterdam", "Utrecht": 1 1 2 2 2
```

#### Use of as.xxx functions

You can convert between data types (as long as the conversion is valid)

```
d$V2 int = as.integer(d$V2 new)
d
##
                      V2_new V3 V3_factor V2_int
                 ۷1
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496
                             a Amsterdam
                                               8
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798
                              a Amsterdam
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462 b
                                  Utrecht
                                               1
                                               5
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127
                              b
                                  Utrecht
                                               5
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
                                  Utrecht
d$V2_char = as.character(d$V2_int)
##
                      V2_new V3 V3_factor V2_int V2_char
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496 a Amsterdam
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798
                                               8
                              a Amsterdam
                                                       8
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462
                                  Utrecht
                                               1
                                                       1
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127 b
                                  Utrecht
                                               5
                                                        5
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
                                               5
                                                       5
                                  Utrecht
```

## 5. List: Mixed type

You can have a list of everything mixed with everything. For example, an simple list can be created by

```
a <- 1:5 #a vector
f <- list(a) #convert to a list
f

## [[1]]
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5</pre>
```

Elements or objects within lists can be called by using double square brackets [[]]. For example, the first (and only) element in list f is object a

```
f[[1]]
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

#### Lists (continued)

We can simply add an object or element to an existing list

```
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462 b
                                 Utrecht
                                                      1
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127 b
                                              5
                                                      5
                                 Utrecht
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
                                 Utrecht
                                                      5
```

to obtain a list with a vector and a data frame.

## Lists (continued)

We can add names to the list as follows

```
names(f) <- c("vector", "data frame")</pre>
f
## $vector
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
##
## $`data frame`
##
                 ۷1
                      V2_new V3 V3_factor V2_int V2_char
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496 a Amsterdam
                                                5
                                                        5
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798 a Amsterdam
                                                8
                                                        8
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462 b
                                  Utrecht
                                                1
                                                        1
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127 b
                                   Utrecht
                                                5
                                                        5
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
                                                5
                                  Utrecht
                                                        5
```

## Lists (continued)

We can also create it as

```
f <- list("vector" = 1:5,</pre>
          "data frame" = f)
## $vector
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
## $`data frame`
## $`data frame`$vector
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
##
## $`data frame`$`data frame`
                 V1
                     V2_new V3 V3_factor V2_int V2_char
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496 a Amsterdam
                                               5
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798 a Amsterdam
                                               8
                                                        8
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462 b
                                  Utrecht
                                               1
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127 b
                                  Utrecht
                                               5
                                                        5
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
                                  Utrecht
                                               5
                                                        5
```

#### Retrieving elements in lists

Retrieving the vector from the list can be done as follows

```
f[[1]]
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
f[["vector"]]
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

```
f$vector
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
Lists in lists
g <- list(1:4, list("vector" = 5:1,
                     matrix_ex = matrix(0, nrow = 2, ncol = 2))
g
## [[1]]
## [1] 1 2 3 4
##
## [[2]]
## [[2]]$vector
## [1] 5 4 3 2 1
##
## [[2]]$matrix_ex
##
        [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
           0
## [2,]
           0
To call the vector from the second list within the list g, use the following code
g[[2]][[1]] #Also g[[2]]$vector
```

# Filtering by condition

## Logical operators

## [1] 5 4 3 2 1

- Logical operators are signs that evaluate a statement, such as == (equal), != (different), < (lower), > (greater), <= (lower or equal), >= (greater or equal), and | (OR) as well as & (AND).
- For example, if we would like elements out of example vector below that are larger than 3, we would type:

```
example_vector = c(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9)
example_vector[example_vector>3]
## [1] 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

Why does this work? It filters the vector, keeping the elements where the condition is TRUE

```
example_vector > 3
## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE
```

#### Logical operators (cont'd)

If we would like the elements that are smaller than 3 OR larger than 3, we could type.

```
example_vector[(example_vector < 3) | (example_vector > 3)] #c smaller than 3 or larger than 3
## [1] 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9
or
```

```
example_vector[example_vector != 3] #c not equal to 3

## [1] 1 2 4 5 6 7 8 9

Logical operators (cont'd)
You can use %in to select specific elements
example_vector %in% c(1,5)

## [1] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE
example_vector[example_vector %in% c(1,5)]

## [1] 1 5

Typing ! before a logical operator takes the complement of that action (the opposite)
!(example_vector %in% c(1,5))

## [1] FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE

Logical operators (cont'd)
They are extremely useful in dataframes
d
```

```
##
                     V2_new V3 V3_factor V2_int V2_char
                V1
## row 1 -0.4949495 5.125496 a Amsterdam
                                             5
## row 2 -0.2158361 8.033798 a Amsterdam
                                              8
                                                      8
## row 3 -1.7104945 1.243462 b
                                 Utrecht
                                              1
                                                      1
## row 4 0.3960940 5.263127 b
                                              5
                                                      5
                                 Utrecht
## row 5 -0.2365980 5.893726 b
                                 Utrecht
                                              5
                                                      5
d$V1 > 0
## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE
d[d$V1 > 0,]
```

```
## V1 V2_new V3 V3_factor V2_int V2_char ## row 4 0.396094 5.263127 b Utrecht 5 5
```

## **Functions**

#### Basic idea

- Take some standard input (e.g. a vector of numbers)
- Return some standard output (e.g. the mean)
- You call them with parenthesis

```
mean(c(1,2,3,4,5))
## [1] 3
```

• You can save the output with a name

```
mean_v <- mean(c(1,2,3,4,5))
mean_v
## [1] 3
```

• When they come from a package, you can call them in two ways

```
#install.packages("dplyr")
library(dplyr)
#You can specify the package where the library comes from
dplyr::n_distinct(c(1,2,2,3,3))
```

## Function's arguments

- Functions typically have arguments (i.e., things that the function need to work).
- Usually at least one is required. e.g., in the mean example you need to pass a vector of numbers.
- Other arguments tell the function how it should handle the input. In the example below it tells the mean function to remove missing values.

```
mean(c(1,2,3,4,5,NA))

## [1] NA

mean(c(1,2,3,4,5,NA), na.rm = TRUE)

## [1] 3
```

• You can create your own (more on this next day)

```
my_mean <- function(vector_num){
   return(sum(vector_num)/length(vector_num))
}

my_mean(c(1,2,3,4,5))
## [1] 3</pre>
```

## Math errors

#### Things that cannot be done

Things that have no representation in real number space (at least not without tremendous effort)
 For example, the following code returns "Not a Number"

```
0 / 0
## [1] NaN
```

• Also impossible are calculations based on missing values (NA's)

```
mean(c(1, 2, NA, 4, 5))
## [1] NA
```

• You can ignore missing values (often not recommended). Two ways:

```
mean(c(1, 2, NA, 4, 5), na.rm = TRUE)

## [1] 3

mean(na.omit(c(1, 2, NA, 4, 5)))

## [1] 3
```

### Be careful with rounding errors

• The computer uses approximations of the numbers (floating-point arithmetic). This can create problems in R:

```
(3 - 2.9)
## [1] 0.1
(3 - 2.9) == 0.1
```

```
## [1] FALSE
(3 - 2.9) - .1
## [1] 8.326673e-17
```

You can use the function near from the library dplyr

```
#install.packages("dplyr")
#library(dplyr) #we already run this earlier, we don't need it again
dplyr::near((3 - 2.9), 0.1)
## [1] TRUE
```

## **Applications**

### Reading a CSV file and calculating descriptive statistics

That was dry, but let's see some potential, reading a CSV file and calculating some descriptive statistics.

You'll need to install the packages/load the library beforehand

```
#install.packages(c("readr", "readxl", "haven", "foreign", "Hmisc"),
#repos = "http://cran.us.r-project.org")
readr::read_delim("here_path.csv", delim = ",") #CSV
readr::read rds("here path.Rds") #RDS (R format)
readxl::read_excel("here_path.xlsx") #Excel
haven::read dta("here path.dta") #Stata
haven::read_spss("here_path.sav") #SPSS
#Read example data
df <- readr::read_delim("../common_datasets/dataset_boys.csv", delim = ",")</pre>
## Rows: 748 Columns: 9
## -- Column specification -
## Delimiter: ","
## chr (3): gen, phb, reg
## dbl (6): age, hgt, wgt, bmi, hc, tv
##
## i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for this data.
```

## Calculate some descriptive statistics

## i Specify the column types or set `show\_col\_types = FALSE` to quiet this message.

```
- attr(*, "spec")=
##
##
    .. cols(
        age = col_double(),
##
    . .
##
        hgt = col_double(),
##
    . .
        wgt = col_double(),
##
       bmi = col double(),
    .. hc = col double(),
##
##
       gen = col_character(),
    . .
    .. phb = col_character(),
##
##
    .. tv = col_double(),
    .. reg = col_character()
##
    ..)
##
   - attr(*, "problems")=<externalptr>
summary(df)
##
                                                      bmi
       age
                       hgt
                                      wgt
##
  Min. : 0.035
                  Min. : 50.00
                                  Min. : 3.14
                                                 Min. :11.77
  1st Qu.: 1.581
                  1st Qu.: 84.88
                                  1st Qu.: 11.70
                                                 1st Qu.:15.90
## Median :10.505
                  Median :147.30
                                  Median : 34.65
                                                 Median :17.45
                                  Mean : 37.15
   Mean : 9.159
                  Mean :132.15
                                                 Mean :18.07
   3rd Qu.:15.267
                  3rd Qu.:175.22
                                  3rd Qu.: 59.58
                                                 3rd Qu.:19.53
##
  Max. :21.177
                  Max. :198.00
                                  Max. :117.40
                                                 Max. :31.74
                                  NA's :4
                  NA's
##
                         :20
                                                 NA's
                                                      :21
##
        hc
                                      phb
                     gen
                                                         tv
##
                 Length:748
                                                    Min. : 1.00
  Min. :33.70
                                 Length:748
   1st Qu.:48.12
                 1st Qu.: 4.00
  Median :53.00
                 Mode :character
                                  Mode :character
                                                    Median :12.00
##
   Mean :51.51
                                                    Mean :11.89
##
   3rd Qu.:56.00
                                                    3rd Qu.:20.00
         :65.00
                                                    Max. :25.00
  Max.
                                                         :522
##
   NA's
        :46
                                                    NA's
##
       reg
  Length:748
  Class :character
##
  Mode :character
##
##
##
##
Hmisc::describe(df)
## df
##
                   748 Observations
   9 Variables
##
  _____
## age
##
        n missing distinct
                              Info
                                      Mean
                                               Gmd
                                                       . 05
                                                              .10
##
       748
             0
                       683
                               1
                                     9.159
                                             7.827
                                                      0.151
                                                              0.271
##
       .25
                       .75
                                       .95
               .50
                               .90
```

19.091

17.982

1.581 10.505 15.267

##

```
##
## lowest: 0.035 0.038 0.057 0.060 0.062, highest: 20.429 20.761 20.780 20.813 21.177
## -----
## hgt
##
      n missing distinct
                       Info Mean
                                      Gmd .05
                                                     .10
##
      728 20 482
                         1 132.2 52.59 58.00 62.85
                         .90 .95
           .50 .75
     .25
    84.88 147.30 175.22 183.90 188.00
##
##
## lowest : 50.0 50.1 52.5 53.0 53.5, highest: 195.5 195.7 196.2 196.7 198.0
## wgt
                       Info Mean
                                                     .10
##
      n missing distinct
                                       Gmd .05
                         1 37.15 29.55 5.082 6.692
##
      744 4 523
    .25 .50 .75 .90
##
                              .95
   11.700 34.650 59.575 71.970 79.425
##
##
## lowest: 3.14 3.37 3.65 3.73 3.81, highest: 99.00 100.10 102.00 113.00 117.40
##
     n missing distinct Info Mean
                                      Gmd .05
                                                    .10
##
     727 21 503
                         1 18.07 3.291 14.28 14.83
                         .90
                                .95
##
     . 25
           .50 .75
    15.90 17.45 19.53
                         22.44
                               23.86
##
##
## lowest : 11.77 12.33 12.56 12.77 12.78, highest: 29.03 29.93 30.62 31.34 31.74
## hc
##
      n missing distinct Info Mean
                                             .05
                                       \mathtt{Gmd}
                                                     .10
      702 46 204
                         1
                               51.51
                                      6.504 39.00 41.82
                        .90
##
     . 25
           .50
                  .75
                                .95
##
    48.12 53.00 56.00
                         57.80
                                58.70
## lowest : 33.7 34.9 35.0 35.2 35.7, highest: 60.0 60.2 60.3 60.5 65.0
## gen
  n missing distinct
##
      245 503
## lowest : G1 G2 G3 G4 G5, highest: G1 G2 G3 G4 G5
## Value G1 G2
## Frequency 56 50
                    G3
                         G4
                               G5
                50 22 42
## Proportion 0.229 0.204 0.090 0.171 0.306
## phb
##
      n missing distinct
##
      245 503
## lowest : P1 P2 P3 P4 P5, highest: P2 P3 P4 P5 P6
##
## Value
           P1 P2 P3 P4
                             P5 P6
## Frequency 63 40 19 32 50 41
## Proportion 0.257 0.163 0.078 0.131 0.204 0.167
```

```
##
  t.v
             missing distinct
##
          n
                                    Info
                                             Mean
                                                        Gmd
                                                                  .05
                                                                           .10
##
        226
                                   0.988
                                            11.89
                                                                    2
                                                                             2
                  522
                            18
                                                      9.116
##
        .25
                  .50
                            .75
                                     .90
                                               .95
                   12
                            20
                                      25
                                               25
##
## lowest : 1 2 3 4 5, highest: 16 17 18 20 25
##
                         2
                               3
                                      4
## Value
                   1
                                                         8
                                                                9
                                                                     10
                                                                           12
                                                                                  13
## Frequency
                   5
                        26
                              19
                                     17
                                            5
                                                  10
                                                        13
                                                                1
                                                                     16
                                                                           15
                                                                                  1
## Proportion 0.022 0.115 0.084 0.075 0.022 0.044 0.058 0.004 0.071 0.066 0.004
##
## Value
                  14
                        15
                               16
                                     17
                                           18
                                                  20
                                                        25
                        27
                                                        29
## Frequency
                  1
                               1
                                      1
                                            1
                                                  38
## Proportion 0.004 0.119 0.004 0.004 0.004 0.168 0.128
##
##
          n missing distinct
##
                    3
##
## lowest : city east north south west , highest: city east north south west
##
               city east north south west
## Value
## Frequency
                  73
                       161
                              81
                                    191
## Proportion 0.098 0.216 0.109 0.256 0.321
```

## Some programming tips:

- Keep your code clean
  - Break the code in components, keep it tidy
  - Use (at least) a folder for the data, and another for figures; don't save all code in one folder.
  - If you have several R files, use descriptive names (e.g.  $1\_data\_collection.Rmd; 2\_data\_cleaning.Rmd; etc)$
  - Write all code in the source editor, don't use the console until you know what you are doing.
     Otherwise you'll forget to copy a step to the code and you'll not be able to remember what you did.
- Use **comments** (text preceded by #) to clarify what you are doing
  - If you look at your code again, one year from now: you will not know what you did -> unless you use comments

#### Useful shortcuts

- Tab while typing in the console: list all objects with that name
- Ctrl+Enter (Windows) or Cmd+Enter (Mac): run line or selection
- Ctrl+Alt+I (Windows) or Cmd+Option+I (Mac): insert R chunk

## **Practical**

#### How to approach the next practical

Aim to make the exercises without looking at the answers.

• Use the answers to evaluate your work

• Use the help to identify how functions work

If this does not work out -> show the code.

In any case; ask for help when you feel help is needed.

• Do not 'struggle' for too long: we only have limited time!