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# Shift function from r-bloggers.com
# http://www.r-bloggers.com/generating-a-laglead-variables/
#
# Used to create lag and lead variables in a data frame

shift<-function(x,shift_by){
  stopifnot(is.numeric(shift_by))
  stopifnot(is.numeric(x))

  if (length(shift_by)>1)
    return(sapply(shift_by,shift, x=x))

  out<-NULL
  abs_shift_by=abs(shift_by)
  if (shift_by > 0 )
    out<-c(tail(x,-abs_shift_by),rep(NA,abs_shift_by))
  else if (shift_by < 0 )
    out<-c(rep(NA,abs_shift_by), head(x,-abs_shift_by))
  else
    out<-x
  out
}

```