# CT5102: Programming for Data Analytics

#### 4. Matrices and Data Frames

Prof. Jim Duggan,
School of Computer Science
University of Galway.

https://github.com/JimDuggan/explore or



CT 5102 2025/26

<b>5</b>	Matrices and Data Frames				
	5.1	Introduction	83		
	5.2	Matrices	84		
	5.3	Data frames			
	5.4	R functions for processing data frames: subset() and			
		transform()	94		
	5.5	Tibbles	95		
	5.6	Functionals on matrices and data frames	97		
		5.6.1 Using apply() on a matrix and data frame	97		
		5.6.2 Using lapply() on data frames	99		
		5.6.3 Adding extra arguments to apply() and lapply()			
	5.7	Mini-case 1: Modelling social networks using matrices			
	5.8				
	5.9	Summary of R functions from Chapter 5			
	5.10	Exercises			



On an intuitive level, a *data frame* is like a matrix, with a two-dimensional rows-and-columns structure. However, it differs from a matrix in that each column may have a different type.

— Norman Matloff (Matloff, 2011)

#### Overview

- To date, we have used atomic vectors and lists to store information.
- While these are foundational data structures in R, they do not provide support for processing rectangular data, which is a common format in data science.
- More generally, we can have two types of rectangular (two-dimensional) data of:
  - 1. The same type, typically numeric, that is stored in a matrix, and
  - 2. Different types that is stored in a data frame.



# (4.1) Matrices

- a matrix is a two-dimensional structure, with rows and columns, that contains the same type.
- it is an atomic vector in two dimensions, and is created using the matrix() function, with the following arguments:
  - data, which are the initial values, contained in an atomic vector, supplied to the matrix,
  - nrow, the desired number of rows,
  - ncol, the desired number of columns,
  - byrow, a logical value (default is FALSE), that specifies what way to fill the matrix with data, either filled by row or by column,
  - dimnames, a list of length 2 giving row and column names, respectively.



```
set.seed(100)
data <- sample(1:9)</pre>
data
#> [1] 7 6 3 1 2 5 9 4 8
m1 <- matrix(data,</pre>
             nrow = 3,
             ncol=3,
             dimnames = list(c("R1","R2","R3"),
                              c("C1","C2","C3")))
# Display the matrix
m1
      C1 C2 C3
#> R1 7 1 9
#> R2 6 2 4
#> R3 3 5 8
```

```
# Show the number of rows and columns
nrow(m1)
#> [1] 3
ncol(m1)
#> [1] 3

# Show the matrix dimensions
dim(m1)
#> [1] 3 3
```

## Useful points

- The matrix is populated by column order as the default.
- If by\_row was set to TRUE, then the matrix would be populated by row order.
- The row and column names are set using the dimnames argument.
   This is not required, and row names and column names can always be set on a matrix using the functions rownames() and colnames().
- The functions nrow() and ncol() can be used to return the matrix dimensions.
- The function dim() provides information on the matrix dimensions, and can also be used to resize a matrix, for example, converting a 3 × 3 to a 1 × 9.



### Growing a matrix

- An important property of a matrix is that it can be extended
  - Add rows using rbind()
  - Add columns with cbind()

```
m1_r <- rbind(m1,c(1,2,3))
rownames(m1_r)[4] <- "R4"
m1_r

#> C1 C2 C3

#> R1 7 1 9

#> R2 6 2 4

#> R3 3 5 8

#> R4 1 2 3
```

```
m1_c <- cbind(m1_r,c(10,20,30,40))

colnames(m1_c)[4] <- "C4"

m1_c

#> C1 C2 C3 C4

#> R1 7 1 9 10

#> R2 6 2 4 20

#> R3 3 5 8 30

#> R4 1 2 3 40
```

#### Subsetting a matrix, like vectors with 2 dimensions

```
m1

#> C1 C2 C3

#> R1 7 1 9

#> R2 6 2 4

#> R3 3 5 8

# Extract the value in row 2, column 2

m1 [2,2]

#> [1] 2
```

```
m1[1:2,1:2]

#> C1 C2

#> R1 7 1

#> R2 6 2
```

```
# Extract first row and all columns
m1[1,]
#> C1 C2 C3
#> 7 1 9
```

CT 5102 2025/26

```
# Extract first column, returned as a vector
m1[,1]
#> R1 R2 R3
#> 7 6 3
# Extract all rows and the first column, returned as matrix
m1[,1,drop=FALSE]
#> C1
#> R1 7
#> R2 6
#> R3 3
# Extract first row and first two columns
m1["R1",c("C1","C2")]
#> C1 C2
#> 7 1
# Extract all rows and first two columns
m1[,c("C1","C2")]
#> C1 C2
#> R1 7 1
#> R2 6 2
#> R3 3 5
```

# Using logical vectors and is.matrix()

```
m1
#> C1 C2 C3
#> R1 7 1 9
#> R2 6 2 4
#> R3 3 5 8
m1[c(T,F),]
#> C1 C2 C3
#> R1 7 1 9
#> R3 3 5 8
```

```
A <- matrix(1:4, nrow=2)
B <- matrix(1:4,nrow=2,byrow = T)
C <- list(c1=1:2, c2=3:4)
is.matrix(A)
#> [1] TRUE
is.matrix(B)
#> [1] TRUE
is.matrix(C)
#> [1] FALSE
```

## Arithmetic Operators – Element-wide basis

Α			
#>		A_C1	A_C2
#>	A_R1	1	3
#>	A_R2	2	4
В			
B #>		B_C1	B_C2
#>	B_R1	B_C1 1	_

```
# Multiplication of A and B
A*B
#> A_C1 A_C2
#> A_R1 1 6
#> A_R2 6 16
# Addition of A and B
A+B
#> A_C1 A_C2
#> A_R1 2 5
#> A_R2 5 8
```

#### Other useful matrix functions

```
# Use matrix algebra to multiply two matrices

A%*%B

#> B_C1 B_C2

#> A_R1 10 14

#> A_R2 14 20
```

```
t(A)

#> A_R1 A_R2

#> A_C1 1 2

#> A_C2 3 4
```

```
rownames(A)
#> [1] "A_R1" "A_R2"

colnames(A)
#> [1] "A_C1" "A_C2"
```

```
rowSums(A)

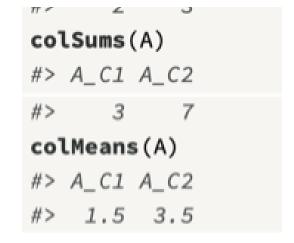
#> A_R1 A_R2

#> 4 6

rowMeans(A)

#> A_R1 A_R2

#> 2 3
```



#### **Matrices - Summary**

- R provides good support for problems that require matrix manipulation, but all values need to be the same type
- Matrices need to be defined using the matrix() function.
- Many of the subsetting commands used for atomic vectors can also be used for matrices, and that includes referencing elements by the row/column name.
- Matrices can be extended easily, using functions such as cbind() and rbind().



## (4.2) Data Frames

- A data frame is similar to a matrix, with a two-dimensional row and column structure, while on a technical level, a data frame is a list, with the elements of that list containing equal length vectors (Matloff, 2011).
- It's defined using the data.frame() function
- The elements (columns) of a data frame can be of different types
- The data frame, with its row and column structure, will be familiar to anyone who has used a spreadsheet, where each column is a variable, and every row is an observation.
- The data frame, and its successor, the tibble, will be used extensively during this course



```
summary(d)
#>
       Number
                 Letter
                                    Flag
              Length:5
                                 Mode : logical
#>
   Min. :1
   1st Qu.:2 Class :character
                                FALSE:2
   Median :3
              Mode :character TRUE :3
   Mean :3
#>
   3rd Qu.:4
#>
   Max.
```

4. Matrices and Data Frames CT 5102 2025/26

#### Activities on a data frame

- An important activity that is required with a data frame is to be able to: (1) subset rows, (2) subset columns, and (3) add new columns.
- Because a data frame is a list and also shares properties of a matrix, we can combine subsetting mechanisms from both of these data structures to subset a data frame
- We can access a data frame column using the \$ operator.

# Subsetting examples

#### Adding a new column

```
d1 <- d
d1$letter <- letters[1:5]</pre>
d1
#>
    Number Letter Flag letter
                  A TRUE
#> 1
                  B FALSE
#> 3
                  C TRUE
                  D FALSE
                  E TRUE
#> 5
                                e
```



### The subset() function

- The function subset(x, subset, select) returns subsets of vectors, matrices, or data frames that meet specified conditions.
- The main arguments to provide when subsetting data frames are:
  - x, the object to be subsetted,
  - subset, a logical expression indicating which rows should be kept,
  - select, which indicates the columns to be selected from the data frame. If this is not present, all columns are returned.



# Examples (and alternatives)



# The transform() function

- A second function that can be used to manipulate data frames is transform(data, ...), which takes in the following arguments:
  - data, which is the data frame,
  - ... which are additional arguments that capture the details of how the new column is created.

# (4.4) Tibbles

- Tibbles are a type of data frame; however they alter some data frame behaviors:
  - Printing, where tibbles only show the first ten rows, and limit the visible columns to those that fit on the screen. The type is also displayed for each variable.
  - Subsetting, where a tibble is always returned, and also partial matching is not supported.



### Previous example – using a tibble

```
library(tibble)
d1 <- tibble(Number=1:5,</pre>
           Letter=LETTERS[1:5],
           Flag=c(T,F,T,F,T))
d1
#> # A tibble: 5 x 3
    Number Letter Flag
#> <int> <chr> <lgl>
        1 A TRUE
#> 2 2 B FALSE
#> 3 3 C TRUE
#> 4 4 D FALSE
#> 5 5 E
               TRUE
```



#### Differences with data.frame

```
# Show the data frame
str(d)
#> 'data.frame': 5 obs. of 3 variables:
#> $ Number: int 1 2 3 4 5
#> $ Letter: chr "A" "B" "C" "D" ...
#> $ Flag : logi TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
# Show the tibble
str(d1)
#> tibble [5 x 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
#> $ Number: int [1:5] 1 2 3 4 5
#> $ Letter: chr [1:5] "A" "B" "C" "D" ...
#> $ Flag : logi [1:5] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
```



## Subsetting differences

```
# Subset the data frame
d[1:2,"Letter"]
#> [1] "A" "B"
# Subset the tibble
d1[1:2,"Letter"]
#> # A tibble: 2 x 1
#> Letter
#> <chr>
#> 2 B
```



# Moving between two types

```
str(as_tibble(d))
#> tibble [5 x 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
#> $ Number: int [1:5] 1 2 3 4 5
#> $ Letter: chr [1:5] "A" "B" "C" "D" ...
#> $ Flag : logi [1:5] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
str(as.data.frame(d1))
#> 'data.frame': 5 obs. of 3 variables:
#> $ Number: int 1 2 3 4 5
#> $ Letter: chr "A" "B" "C" "D" ...
#> $ Flag : logi TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
```



# (4.5) Functionals on matrices and data frames

- The apply(x,margin,f) function (similar to lapply()) is a functional used to iterate over matrices and data frames, and it accepts the following arguments:
  - x, which can be a matrix or a data frame.
  - margin, a number that indicates whether the iteration is by row (margin=1), or by column (margin=2).
  - f, which is the function to be applied during each iteration.



# Using apply() — analysing grades

```
set.seed(100)
grades <- sample(30:90,15,replace = T)</pre>
results <- matrix(grades, nrow=5)
rownames(results) <- paste0("St-",1:5)</pre>
colnames(results) <- paste0("Sub-",1:3)</pre>
results
      Sub-1 Sub-2 Sub-3
#>
#> St-1 39 54 51
#> St-2 84 87 35
#> St-3 67 43 33
#> St-4 77 73 84
#> St-5 80 52 35
```



## Maximum Grade for each subject

```
results

#> Sub-1 Sub-2 Sub-3

#> St-1 39 54 51

#> St-2 84 87 35

#> St-3 67 43 33

#> St-4 77 73 84

#> St-5 80 52 35
```

```
max_gr_subject <- apply(results, # the matrix
2, # 2 for columns
function(x)max(x)) # the function to apply
max_gr_subject
#> Sub-1 Sub-2 Sub-3
#> 84 87 84
```

#### Maximum Grade for each student

```
results

#> Sub-1 Sub-2 Sub-3

#> St-1 39 54 51

#> St-2 84 87 35

#> St-3 67 43 33

#> St-4 77 73 84

#> St-5 80 52 35
```



### Using apply() on data frames

```
set.seed(100)
my_mtcars <- mtcars[sample(1:6),c("mpg","cyl","disp")]
rows <- sample(1:nrow(my_mtcars),5)
rows
#> [1] 6 4 3 2 5

my_mtcars[rows[1],1] <- NA
my_mtcars[rows[2],2] <- NA
my_mtcars[rows[3],3] <- NA</pre>
```

# Count number of missing values by row



CT 5102 2025/26

# Count number of missing values by column

```
n_cm <- apply(my_mtcars,2,function(x)sum(is.na(x)))
n_cm
#> mpg cyl disp
#> 2 2 1
sum(n_cm)
#> [1] 5
```



# Using lapply() on data frames

- Given that a data frame is also a list, and that lapply() processes lists, it also means that the lapply() functional can be used to process a data frame.
- When processing data frames with lapply(), the most important thing to remember is that the data frame will be processed *column-by-column* (e.g. variable)

```
str(mtcars)
   'data.frame': 32 obs. of 11 variables:
               21 21 22.8 21.4 18.7 18.1 14.
   $ cvl : num
               6646868446 ...
   $ disp: num
               160 160 108 258 360 ...
                   110 93 110 175 105 245 62
   $ drat: num
               3.9 3.9 3.85 3.08 3.15 2.76 3
        : num
               2.62 2.88 2.32 3.21 3.44 ...
   $ qsec: num
               16.5 17 18.6 19.4 17 ...
                   11010111...
         : num
         : num
               11100000000...
   $ gear: num
               4 4 4 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 ...
   $ carb: num
               4411214224 ...
```



CT 5102 2025/26

```
s1 <- mtcars |>
        subset(select=c("mpg","cyl","disp")) |>
        lapply(function(x)mean(x))
s1
#> $mpg
#> [1] 20.09
#>
#> $cyl
#> [1] 6.188
#>
#> $disp
#> [1] 230.7
```



# (4.6) Mini-case: Creating a pipeline for processing data frames

- For the data frame mtcars, the following processing actions will be taken:
  - Two columns from mtcars will be selected, mpg and disp.
  - A new column kpg will be added, which converts mpg to kilometers per gallon, using the multiplier 1.6.
  - A new column dm\_ratio will be added, which is the ratio of disp and mpg.
  - The first six observations will then be shown.



#### Solution pipeline

```
# the original data frame
mtcars_1 <- mtcars |>
          subset(select=c("mpg","disp")) |> # select 2 columns
          transform(kpg=mpg*1.6,
                                  # Add first column
                   dm_ratio=disp/mpg) |> # Add second column
          head()
                                         # Subset 1st 6 records
mtcars_1
#>
                   mpg disp kpg dm_ratio
#> Mazda RX4 21.0 160 33.60 7.619
#> Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0 160 33.60 7.619
#> Datsun 710 22.8 108 36.48 4.737
#> Hornet 4 Drive 21.4 258 34.24
                                  12.056
#> Hornet Sportabout 18.7 360 29.92
                                  19.251
#> Valiant
             18.1 225 28.96
                                  12.431
```



# (4.7) Summary Functions

Function	Description
as.data.frame()	Converts a tibble to a data frame
apply()	Iterates over rectangular data, by row or by column.
$\operatorname{cbind}()$	Adds a new vector as a matrix column.
$\operatorname{colnames}()$	Set (or view) the column names of a matrix.
$\operatorname{colMeans}()$	Calculates the mean of each column in a matrix.
$\operatorname{colSums}()$	Calculates the sum of each column in a matrix.
data.frame()	Constructs a data frame.
$\operatorname{diag}()$	Sets a matrix diagonal, or generates an identity matrix
$\dim()$	Returns (or sets) the matrix dimensions.
$\operatorname{dimnames}()$	Returns the row and column names of a matrix.



$egin{aligned}  ext{eigen()} \  ext{factor()} \  ext{is.matrix()} \end{aligned}$	Calculates matrix eigenvalues and eigenvectors. Encode a vector as a factor. Checks to see if the object is a matrix.
$\operatorname{matrix}() \\ \operatorname{rbind}()$	Creates a matrix from the given set of arguments. Adds a vector as a row to a matrix.
rownames() t() rowMeans() rowSums() subset()	Sets (or views) the row names of a matrix. Returns the matrix transpose. Calculates the mean of each matrix row. Calculates the sum of each matrix row. Subsets data frames which meet specified conditions.
tibble() as_tibble() transform()	Constructs a tibble (tibble package). Converts a data frame to a tibble (tibble package). Add columns to a data frame.

# (4.8) Exercises

1. Use the following initial code to generate the matrix res.

```
set.seed(100)
N=10
CX101 <- rnorm(N,45,8)
CX102 <- rnorm(N,65,8)
CX103 <- rnorm(N,85,25)
CX104 <- rnorm(N,60,15)
CX105 <- rnorm(N,55,15)</pre>
```

```
res
#>
                           CX103 CX104 CX105
              CX101 CX102
             40.98 65.72
                           74.05 58.63 53.48
  Student-1
  Student-2
             46.05 65.77 104.10 86.36 76.05
  Student-3
              44.37 63.39
                           91.55 57.93 28.35
#> Student-4
             52.09 70.92 104.34 58.33 64.34
  Student-5
              45.94 65.99
                           64.64 49.65 47.17
  Student-6
             47.55 64.77
                           74.04 56.67 74.83
  Student-7
             40.35 61.89
                           66.99 62.74 49.55
  Student-8
             50.72 69.09
                           90.77 66.26 74.79
  Student-9
             38.40 57.69
                           56.06 75.98 55.66
  Student-10 42.12 83.48
                          91.18 74.55 26.82
```



CT 5102 2025/26

2. The matrix res (from the previous question) has values that are out of the valid range for grades (i.e., greater than 100). To address this, all out-of-range values should be replaced by NA. Use apply() to generate the following modified matrix.

```
res_clean
#>
             CX101 CX102 CX103 CX104 CX105
#> Student-1 40.98 65.72 74.05 58.63 53.48
#> Student-2 46.05 65.77 NA 86.36 76.05
#> Student-3 44.37 63.39 91.55 57.93 28.35
#> Student-4 52.09 70.92 NA 58.33 64.34
#> Student-5 45.94 65.99 64.64 49.65 47.17
#> Student-6 47.55 64.77 74.04 56.67 74.83
#> Student-7 40.35 61.89 66.99 62.74 49.55
#> Student-8 50.72 69.09 90.77 66.26 74.79
#> Student-9 38.40 57.69 56.06 75.98 55.66
#> Student-10 42.12 83.48 91.18 74.55 26.82
```



4. Matrices and Data Frames CT 5102 2025/26

3. The matrix res\_clean (from the previous question) has NA values, and as a work around, it has been decided to replace these values with the average subject mark. Write the code (using apply()) to generate the matrix res\_update.

```
res_update
#>
             CX101 CX102 CX103 CX104 CX105
#> Student-1 40.98 65.72 74.05 58.63 53.48
#> Student-2 46.05 65.77 76.16 86.36 76.05
#> Student-3 44.37 63.39 91.55 57.93 28.35
#> Student-4 52.09 70.92 76.16 58.33 64.34
#> Student-5 45.94 65.99 64.64 49.65 47.17
#> Student-6 47.55 64.77 74.04 56.67 74.83
#> Student-7 40.35 61.89 66.99 62.74 49.55
#> Student-8 50.72 69.09 90.77 66.26 74.79
#> Student-9 38.40 57.69 56.06 75.98 55.66
#> Student-10 42.12 83.48 91.18 74.55 26.82
```



4. Matrices and Data Frames CT 5102 2025/26

4. Use the subset() function to generate the following tibbles from the tibble ggplot2::mpg. Use the R pipe operator (|>) where necessary.

```
# The car with the maximum displacement, with a subset of features
max_displ
#> # A tibble: 1 x 6
    manufacturer model year displ cty class
    <chr>
                <chr> <int> <dbl> <int> <chr>
#> 1 chevrolet corvette 2008
                                     15 2seater
# All 2seater cars, with selected columns
two_seater
#> # A tibble: 5 x 6
          manufacturer model
    class
                                displ year
                                              hwy
    <chr> <chr> <chr>
                                <dbl> <int> <int>
#>
#> 1 2seater chevrolet corvette
                                  5.7 1999
                                               26
#> 2 2seater chevrolet corvette 5.7
                                       1999
                                               23
#> 3 2seater chevrolet corvette
                                  6.2
                                       2008
                                               26
#> 4 2seater chevrolet corvette
                                  6.2
                                               25
                                       2008
#> 5 2seater chevrolet
                      corvette
                                  7
                                       2008
                                               24
```