

Introduction, R installation, basic data types and structures, operations

B83128 – Introduction to R scripting language (shortened version)

Lubomír Štěpánek^{1, 2}



¹Department of Biomedical Statistics
Institute of Biophysics and Informatics
First Faculty of Medicine
Charles University, Prague



²Department of Biomedical Informatics
Faculty of Biomedical Engineering
Czech Technical University in Prague

(2020) Lubomír Štěpánek, CC BY-NC-ND 3.0 (CZ)



You must give appropriate credit, provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made. You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. You may not use the material for commercial purposes. If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you may not distribute the modified material.

Content

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Beginnings
- 3 Data types
- 4 Data structures
- 5 Vectors
- 6 Operations
- 7 Matrices

Subject organization

- elective subject (3 credit points), shortened, online
- ended by a seminar project making you credit-eligible (data analysis with R, 1–2 pages of your comments about the analysis and results)
- expected syllabus
 - (i) installation, data types and structures, operations
 - (ii) if-else conditions, cycles, warnings, data import and export
 - (iii) in-built and user-defined functions
 - (iv) exploratory data analysis, hypotheses testing
 - (v) analysis of variance, correlation, linear regression
 - (vi) logistic regression and other models

github repo ▶ GitHub

https://github.com/LStepanek/B83128_Introduction_to_R_scripting_language

What is R



- R is an interpreted programming language
- it combines several paradigms
 - imperative one
 - functional one
 - object one
- R is *domain specific language* – it is primarily dedicated for statistical analyses and ongoing graphical visualizations
- R is open-source, both *free-as-in-beer* and *free-as-in-speech*

Download and installation of R

- on webpages of R-project

<https://www.r-project.org/>

search for **download R**, and download to your desktop

- afterward, follow the instructions and install locally

Download and installation of RStudio

- RStudio is a graphical IDE (Integrated Development Environment) for R language
- on webpages of RStudio

<https://www.rstudio.com/>

follow **Products > RStudio > Desktop > Open Source Edition > Free > Download**, download to your desktop

- afterward, follow the instructions and install locally

Hello world!

- write in your script or directly into the console

```
1 || print("hello world")
```

- you are getting

```
1 || [1] "hello world"
```


Usage of help

- we can get a help for each object or function using `help()`, where a name of the object or function is the argument

```
1 || help(print)
```

- or by typing of `?` before a name of the object or function

```
1 || ?print
```

- by typing of `??` before a name of the object or function, we search through all help files

```
1 || ??print
```

- consequently, as an output, HTML file with a plain-text help is returned

Data types

- a „real“ number value (numeric)
- an integer (integer)
- a logical value (logical)
- a string (character)
- NA, NULL, NaN

A „real“ number value

- in R as numeric type
- $x \in \mathbb{R}$ limited by a float precision
- similar to double double type with 64 bit precision
- for example

```
1 ||      5; -13.8; 4.5578e15
```

- we can check whether a value is numeric using

```
1 ||      is.numeric(-13.8)      # TRUE
2 ||      class(-13.8)           # "numeric"
3 ||      class(Inf)              # "numeric"
```

- ideal for representation of real numbers (real data)

An integer

- in R as integer type
- $z \in \mathbb{Z}$ limited by a bit precision
- for example

```
1 ||      5L; 13L; -5L
```

- we can check whether a value is integer using

```
1 ||      is.integer(-13L)      # TRUE
2 ||      class(-13L)           # "integer"
3 ||      is.integer(-13)       # FALSE
4 ||      class(-13)            # "numeric"
```

- a coercion of an integer to numeric by

```
1 ||      as.numeric(5L)
```

A logical value

- in R as logical type
- boolean $x \in \{\text{TRUE}, \text{FALSE}\}$
- for example

```
1 || TRUE; FALSE; T; F
```

- we can check whether a value is logical using

```
1 || is.logical(TRUE)      # TRUE
2 || class(FALSE)         # "logical"
3 || class("TRUE")        # "character"
4 || class(T)              # "logical"
5 || class(F)              # "logical"
```

A string

- in R as character type
- a sequence of symbols (extended ASCII) bounded by simple or double quotes
- for example

```
1 || "hello"; 'xweiwogw23425ng'; ""
```

- we can check whether a value is character using

```
1 || is.character("ahoj")      # TRUE
2 || class("blah blah")      # "character"
3 || class("123")             # "character"
4 || class(123)                # "numeric"
5 || is.numeric(Inf)          # TRUE
6 || is.numeric("Inf")        # FALSE
```

- a coercion of other data type to character by

```
1 || as.character(123)
```

NA, NULL, NaN

- NA is a value of Not Available, i. e. usually a missing value
- NULL is a null object, it is used for initialization of an empty object
- NaN is a value of Not a Number, i. e. usually a result of an incorrect math operation
- it holds that $\{\text{NaN}\} \subseteq \{\text{NA}\}$
- for example

```
1 | log(-1) | # NaN
2 | is.na(NaN) | # TRUE
3 | is.nan(NA) | # FALSE
4 | is.nan(1 / 0) | # FALSE
5 | 1 / 0 | # Inf
```

Values assigning

- we can assign a value to another simply by an equation mark

```
1 || x = 5
```

- or by an oriented arrow

```
1 || x <- 5
2 || 5 -> x      # the same as above
```

- or using a function `assign()`, where the first argument is a name of the new variable, and the second one is its value

```
1 || assign("x", 5)  # equivalent to x <- 5 or x = 5
```


Data structures

- a vector (`vector`)
- a factor (`factor`)
- a matrix (`matrix`)
- a data frame (`data.frame`)
- a list (`list`)

Vector initialization and basic commands

- a vector is a one-dimensional sequence of values of the same data type, it does not have a prior column or row orientation
- a vector is a type of *tuple*, i. e. it respects an order of its values (contrary to *set* data type)
- a vector could be created using `c()` function, where *c* stands for *concatenate*
- for example

```
1 | c()           # an empty vector
2 | length(c())  # 0
3 | c(3, 1, 2)   # a vector of length 3 and values 3, 1, 2
4 | c("a", "d")  # a vector of length 2 and values "a", "d"
```

- using the `c()` function, we can combine existing vectors and make longer ones

```
1 | c(c(3, 1, 2), 4) # a vector of values 3, 1, 2, 4
2 | c(3, 1, 2, 4)   # the same as above
```

Vector initialization and basic commands

- one or more values could be added to a vector

```
1      x <- c(3, 1, 2)
2      length(x)          # 3
3      y <- 1
4      z <- c(2)
5      w <- c(5, 7)
6      x <- c(x, y)        # a vector x extended
7                          # by a value y
8      w <- c(w, z)        # a vector w extended
9                          # by a vector z
10     c <- c(1, 2, 3)
11     c                    # both a vector
12                          # and a function
13                          # could have the same name "c"
14                          # in one R session
```

Vectors of characters

- vectors could consist of character values, they could be used e. g. as names for other vectors

```
1 | x <- c(3, 1, 2)
2 | y <- c("a", "b", "c")
3 | names(x) <- y      # values of vector x
4 |                   # are named using y
5 |
6 | x
7 | unname(x)          # names of the vector x
8 |                   # are deleted
9 | setNames(x, y)     # again, values of the vector x
                       # are named using y
```

Subvectors, indexing, addressing

- R indexes vectors starting by 1, not by 0 (index of the first value is 1, index of the second value is 2, etc.)
- we address using brackets []

```
1 | x <- c(4, 2, 6, -3)
2 | x[1] # 4
3 | x[1:2] # c(4, 2)
4 | x[5] # NA
5 | x[length(x)] # -3
6 | x[c(1, 3, 4)] # c(4, 6, -3)
7 | x[length(x):1] # c(-3, 6, 2, 4)
8 | rev(x) # the same as above,
9 | # c(-3, 6, 2, 4)
```

Logical vectors

- they could be used for addressing of other vectors

```
1 | y <- c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE) # logical
2 |                                     # vector
3 |
4 | x <- c(3, 1, 2, 5)
5 | x[y]                               # (sub)vector c(3, 1)
6 | x[c(F, T, F, T)]                 # subvector c(1, 5)
```

- sometimes, a *recycling* is very useful

```
1 | z <- c("R", "G", "E", "F", "I")
2 | z[c(T, F)] # it picks only values
3 |             # with even indices,
4 |             # i. e. "R", "E", "I"
5 |             # or in other words, a vector of
6 |             # c("R", "E", "I")
```

Factors

- vectors of character values so that each value belongs to one of a few categories

```
1 | x <- factor(  
2 |   c("male", "female", "male", "male")  
3 | )           # an order of the levels (categories)  
4 |             # is apriori alphabetical  
5 | x <- factor(  
6 |   c("male", "female", "male", "male"),  
7 |   levels = c("male", "female")  
8 | )           # we can manage the order  
9 |             # of the levels (categories)
```

- we can simply create a pivot table using factors

```
1 | table(x)      # x  
2 |               # male female  
3 |               # 3 1
```

Arithmetic operations

operation	operator	example
summation	+	2 + 3
subtraction	-	2 - 3
multiplication	*	2 * 3
division	/	2 / 3
exponentiation	^ or **	2 ^ 3 or 2 ** 3
modulo ¹	%%	7 %% 3
integer division	%/%	7 %/% 3

¹a remainder by an integer division

Logical operations

- logical operations could be used for predicates, i. e. objects of a data type logical
- operation *short* AND (operator &)
 - useful for vectors
 - it evaluates the operation one-by-one value pairwise using both vectors

```
1 c(FALSE, FALSE, TRUE, TRUE) &  
2 c(FALSE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)  
3 # c(FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE)
```

- operation *short* OR (operator |)
 - useful for vectors, it evaluates the operation one-by-one value pairwise using both vectors

```
1 c(FALSE, FALSE, TRUE, TRUE) |  
2 c(FALSE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)  
3 # c(FALSE, TRUE, TRUE, TRUE)
```

Logical operations

- operation NOT (operator !)
 - it returns an opposite boolean value to the given value

```
1 || ! TRUE # FALSE
2 || ! 2 > 3 # TRUE
```

- function all()
 - it returns TRUE if and only if all the values are TRUE

```
1 || all(c(3 > 2, 7 %% 3 == 1, 1 == 0)) # FALSE
2 || all(c(3 > 2, 7 %% 3 == 1, 1 >= 0)) # TRUE
```

- function any()
 - it returns TRUE if at least one of the values is TRUE

```
1 || any(c(3 < 2, 7 %% 3 <= 0, FALSE)) # FALSE
2 || any(c(3 < 2, 7 %% 3 >= 1, FALSE)) # TRUE
```

Operation of comparison

- we can compare two objects of any length and values order
- as an output, we get a value of a data type logical
- a comparison of (`==`, `all.equal()`, `identical()`)

```
1 | 2 == 3 # FALSE
2 | all.equal(c(1, 2), c(1, 2 + 1e-13),
3 | tolerance = 1e-12)
4 | # TRUE; it respects
5 | # the given numerical
6 | # tolerance
7 | identical(c(1, 2), c(1, 2 + 1e-13))
8 | # FALSE, it returns
9 | # TRUE if and only if
10 | # both the objects are
    | # totally the same
```

Operation of comparison

- a comparison of *is less than*, *is less than or equal to*, *is greater than*, *is greater than or equal to* (<, <=, >, >=)

```
1 ||      2 < 3                # TRUE
2 ||      "b" <= "a"          # FALSE; it compares
3 ||                                     # an order within English
                                     alphabet
4 ||      FALSE >= TRUE        # FALSE; it compares
5 ||                                     # values in boolean algebra
6 ||                                     # (TRUE := 1, FALSE := 0)
```

- a comparison of *not equal* (!=)

```
1 ||      2 != 3                # TRUE
2 ||      TRUE != FALSE        # TRUE
```

Operation of comparison

- a comparison of type *is in* (%in%)

```
1 | c(2, 6) %in% c(1:5)           # c(TRUE, FALSE)
2 | "k" %in% LETTERS              # FALSE
3 | "J" %in% letters              # FALSE
4 | "May" %in% month.name         # TRUE
5 | "a" %in% "alphabet"          # FALSE
```

- an equivalent (a wrapper) to an operation %in% is a function `is.element()`

```
1 | is.element(c(2, 6), c(1:5))
2 |                               # c(TRUE, FALSE)
3 | is.element(c(1:5), c(2, 6))
4 |                               # c(FALSE, TRUE,
5 |                               # FALSE, FALSE, FALSE)
```

In-built math functions

- functions of packages base, stats and others
- for example

```
1 | abs(), sign()
2 | acos(), asin(), atan()
3 | sin(), cos(), tan()
4 | ceiling(), floor(), trunc()
5 | exp(), log(), log10(), log2(), sqrt()
6 | max(), min(), prod(), sum()
7 | cummax(), cummin(), cumprod(), cumsum(),
   | diff()
8 | pmax(), pmin()
9 | range()
10 | mean(), median(), cor(), sd(), var()
11 | rle()
```

Rounding and formatting of numbers

- rounding of a number x using `round(x, digits)` with respect to digits of decimal digits

```
1 | round(1.4, digits = 0)      # 1
2 | round(-146.655, 2)         # -146.66
```

- rounding of a number x using `signif(x, digits)` with respect to digits of significant digits

```
1 | signif(1.458, digits = 1)  # 1
2 | signif(1.458, digits = 2) # 1.5
3 | signif(1.458, digits = 3) # 1.46
4 | signif(1.458, digits = 4) # 1.458
```

- formatting of a number x using `format(x, nsmall)` with respect to `nsmall` of fixed decimal digits

```
1 | format(1.45, nsmall = 1)   # "1.45"
2 | format(1.45, nsmall = 2)   # "1.45"
3 | format(1.45, nsmall = 3)   # "1.450"
```

Matrices' initialization and basic commands

- a matrix (`matrix`) is a two-dimensional array containing values of (only) one data type
- all columns of a matrix are of one length, and all rows of a matrix are of one length
- let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$$

- in R, we get the matrices A and B by

```
1 A <- matrix(c(1, 2, 3, 4), nrow = 2,  
2               ncol = 2)  
3 B <- matrix(c(1, 3, 2, 4), nrow = 2,  
4               ncol = 2)  
5 B <- matrix(c(1, 2, 3, 4), nrow = 2,  
6               ncol = 2, byrow = TRUE)  
7 # only one of the arguments "nrow" and "ncol" is necessary
```


Manipulation with matrices

- let

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$$

- in R using

```
1 || C <- matrix(letters[1:12], nrow = 3,  
2 || byrow = T)
```

- some useful commands are

```
1 || is.matrix(C) # TRUE  
2 || class(C) # "matrix"  
3 || mode(C) # "character"; data type of matrix  
4 || # values  
5 || str(C) # chr [1:3, 1:4] "a" "e" "i" ...  
6 || dim(C) # c(3, 4); dimensions of matrix C
```

Manipulation with matrices

- let

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$$

- other bunch of useful commands

```
1 | colnames(C) <- c("c1", "c2", "c3", "c4")
2 | rownames(C) <- c("r1", "r2", "r3")
3 |           # adds labels to columns and rows
4 | C <- unname(C)
5 |           # deletes the labels of columns
6 |           # and rows
7 | dimnames(C) <- list(
8 |                   c("r1", "r2", "r3"),
9 |                   c("c1", "c2", "c3", "c4")
10 |                )
11 |           # also adds labels to columns and rows
```

Manipulation with matrices

- let's have

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$$

- another bunch of useful commands

```
1  rbind(C, c("x", "x", "x", "x"))  
2      # adds a row of c("x", "x", "x", "x")  
3      # to the matrix C  
4  cbind(C, c("x", "x", "x"))  
5      # adds a column of c("x", "x", "x")  
6      # to the matrix C  
7  C[-1, ]    # deletes the 1-st row of the matrix C  
8  C[, -2]    # deletes the 2-nd column  
9              # of the matrix C
```

Submatrices, indexing, addressing

- let

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$$

- in R by

```
1 | C <- matrix(letters[1:12], nrow = 3,  
2 |           byrow = T, dimnames = list(  
3 |           c("r1", "r2", "r3"),  
4 |           c("c1", "c2", "c3", "c4")))  
5 | C[2, 3]      # "g"; a value of the 2-nd row  
6 |             # and the 3-st column  
7 | C["r2", "c3"] # "g"; a value of the 2-nd row  
8 |             # and the 3-st column  
9 | C[1, ]       # c("a", "b", "c", "d");  
10 |             # a vector of the 1-st row of the matrix C  
11 |             # with labels
```

Submatrices, indexing, addressing

- still let's have

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$$

- addressing

```
1 | C[, 3]           # c("c", "g", "k");  
2 |                 # a vector of the 3-rd column  
3 |                 # of the matrix C with labels  
4 | C[c(1, 3), c(2, 4)]  
5 |                 # matrix(c("b", "j", "d", "l"), 2)  
6 |                 # a submatrix of the 1-st and 3-rd rows,  
7 |                 # 2-nd and 4-th column of the matrix C  
8 |                 # with labels  
9 | C["r2", ]       # c("e", "f", "g", "h");  
10 |                # a vector of the 2-nd row  
11 |                # of the matrix C with labels
```

Submatrices, indexing, addressing

- let's have

$$C = \begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ e & f & g & h \\ i & j & k & l \end{pmatrix}$$

- adresace

```
1 | C[dim(C)[1], dim(C)[2]]  
2 | # "l"; a general addressing  
3 | # of the right bottom page  
4 | C[5] # "f"; major-column ordering  
5 | C[c(8, 9)] # c("g", "k")  
6 | C[13] # NA  
7 | diag(C) # c("a", "f", "k"); main diagonal  
8 | diag(C[, dim(C)[2]:1])  
9 | # c("d", "g", "j"); opposite diagonal
```

Matrix algebra

- let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 7 \\ 6 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

- in R using

```
1 || A <- matrix(c(1, 2, 3, 4), nrow = 2)
2 || B <- matrix(c(5, 6, 7, 8), nrow = 2)
```

- Hadamard's product (*element-wise, pairwise*) $A \circ B = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 21 \\ 12 & 32 \end{pmatrix}$

```
1 || A * B      # matrix(c(5, 12, 21, 32), 2)
```

- matrix product $A \cdot B = \begin{pmatrix} 23 & 31 \\ 34 & 46 \end{pmatrix}$

```
1 || A %*% B     # matrix(c(23, 34, 31, 46), 2)
```

Matrix algebra

- let

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 2 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \quad B = \begin{pmatrix} 5 & 7 \\ 6 & 8 \end{pmatrix}$$

- in R using

```
1 || A <- matrix(c(1, 2, 3, 4), nrow = 2)
2 || B <- matrix(c(5, 6, 7, 8), nrow = 2)
```

- transposition $A^T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix}$

```
1 || t(A) # matrix(c(1, 3, 2, 4), 2)
```


Thank you for your attention!

lubomir.stepanek@lf1.cuni.cz

lubomir.stepanek@fbmi.cvut.cz

► GitHub

https://github.com/LStepanek/B83128_Introduction_to_R_scripting_language