BST02: Using R for Statistics in Medical Research

Part B: Basic use of R

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In this Section

- ► Using R
- ► In practice examples
- ▶ Basics in R
- ► Common R objects
- Importing data and saving your work
- Data transformation
- ► Data exploration
- Data visualization
- ► Indexing/Subsetting

Lots of practising

Using R

- ► R is a command-based procedural language
 - write and execute commands
 - use and define functions
- ➤ You may write the commands in the R console (Windows) or in a shell (Linux)

You will become more familiar with the syntax as you use it

Using R (cont'd)

- Strongly advisable to use a suitable text editor Some available options:
 - RWinEdt (for Windows; you also need WinEdt installed)
 - Tinn-R (for Windows; http://sciviews.org/Tinn-R/)
 - Rkward (for Linux)
 - ► Emacs (w. ESS, all platforms)
 - Visual Studio (for Windows)
 - Rstudio (all major platforms; http://www.rstudio.org/)
 - ▶ for more check https://r-dir.com/blog/2013/01/list-of-r-editors.html

Using R (cont'd)

- ► For this course: Rstudio (http://www.rstudio.org/)
 - ► free
 - works fine in Windows, MacOS and Linux
 - helpful with errors

Using R (cont'd)

- ► Can I use R without Rstudio?
- ► Can I use Rstudio without R?

Practical Examples

► Package survival - pbc data set

| id | time | status | trt | age | sex | bili | chol |
|----|------|--------|-----|----------|-----|------|------|
| 1 | 400 | 2 | 1 | 58.76523 | f | 14.5 | 261 |
| 2 | 4500 | Ο | 1 | 56.44627 | f | 1.1 | 302 |
| 3 | 1012 | 2 | 1 | 70.07255 | m | 1.4 | 176 |
| 4 | 1925 | 2 | 1 | 54.74059 | f | 1.8 | 244 |
| 5 | 1504 | 1 | 2 | 38.10541 | f | 3.4 | 279 |

- ▶ id: case number
- ▶ time: number of days between registration and the earlier of death, transplantation, or study analysis in July, 1986
- ▶ status: status at endpoint, 0/1/2 for censored, transplant, dead
- trt: 1/2/NA for D-penicillmain, placebo, not randomised
- **▶ age**: in years
- ► sex: m/f
- bili: serum bilirunbin (mg/dl)
- chol: serum cholesterol (mg/dl)

More details:

https://stat.ethz.ch/R-manual/R-devel/library/survival/html/pbc.html

| id | time |
|---|--|
| <pre>1 2 3 4 5</pre> | <pre> 400 4500 1012 1925 1504</pre> |
| | |

| id | time | status | trt | age | sex | bili | chol |
|--------|------|--------|-----|----------|-----|------|------|
| 1 | 400 | 2 | 1 | 58.76523 | f | 14.5 | 261 |
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| 3 | 1012 | 2 | 1 | 70.07255 | m | 1.4 | 176 |
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| 3 | 1012 | 2 | 1 | 70.07255 | m | 1.4 | 176 |
| 4 | 1925 | 2 | 1 | 54.74059 | f | 1.8 | 244 |
| 5 | 1504 | 1 | 2 | 38.10541 | f | 3.4 | 279 |

- ▶ Common questions
 - What is the average age?
 - What is the average serum bilirubin?
 - What is the average serum cholesterol?
 - What is the percentage of females?
 - How many missing values do we have for serum cholesterol?

All these questions can be answered using R!

Basics in R

- ► Elementary commands: **expressions** and **assignments**
- ► An expression given as command is evaluated printed and discarded
- ► An **assignment** evaluates an expression and passes the value to a variable the result is not automatically printed

Expression is given as a command,

103473

[1] 103473

▶ However, it cannot be viewed again unless the command is rerun.

Expression is given as a command,

103473

[1] 103473

▶ However, it cannot be viewed again unless the command is rerun.

In order to store information, the expression should assign the command

x < -103473

Х

[1] 103473

You can use R as a calculator!

► Basic arithmetics

```
+, -, *, /, ^
y <- 103473 + 100000
y
```

[1] 203473

► Complicated arithmetics

Tips:

- R is case sensitive, e.g.,
 - ▶ "sex" is different than "Sex"
- ► Commands are separated by a semi-colon or by a newline
- ► Comments can be put anywhere, starting with a hashmark #: everything to the end of the line is a comment
- Assign a value to an object by <- or =</p>

- Missing values
 - ► are coded as NA (i.e., not available) is.na()
- Infinity
 - ▶ is coded as Inf (plus infinity) or -Inf (minus infinity) is.finite()
- ► The Null objects
 - ▶ are coded as NULL
- Not a number
 - ▶ is coded as NaN (Not a Number). Example:

0/0

[1] NaN

Demos

► Basic R R html

Common R Objects

► There are different kinds of variables

| id | time | status | trt | age | sex | bili | chol |
|----|------|--------|-----|-------|-----|------|------|
| 1 | 400 | 2 | 1 | 58.77 | f | 14.5 | 261 |
| 2 | 4500 | 0 | 1 | 56.45 | f | 1.1 | 302 |
| 3 | 1012 | 2 | 1 | 70.07 | m | 1.4 | 176 |
| 4 | 1925 | 2 | 1 | 54.74 | f | 1.8 | 244 |
| 5 | 1504 | 1 | 2 | 38.11 | f | 3.4 | 279 |

- ▶ in R Everything (data, results, ...) is an object
- ▶ In order to list the created objects use the following functions

```
objects()
ls()
```

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- ▶ In order to list the created objects use the following functions

```
objects()
ls()
```

► In order to remove objects

```
rm(...)
rm(list=ls(all=TRUE))
```

► To investigate a specific object (e.g. pbc)

```
str(pbc[,c("id", "time", "status", "trt", "age", "sex", "bili", "chol")])
'data.frame': 418 obs. of 8 variables:
$ id : int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
$ time : int 400 4500 1012 1925 1504 2503 1832 2466 2400 51 ...
$ status: int 2 0 2 2 1 2 0 2 2 2 ...
$ trt : int 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 1 2 ...
$ age : num 58.8 56.4 70.1 54.7 38.1 ...
$ sex : Factor w/ 2 levels "m"."f": 2 2 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
$ bili : num 14.5 1.1 1.4 1.8 3.4 0.8 1 0.3 3.2 12.6 ...
$ chol : int 261 302 176 244 279 248 322 280 562 200 ...
```

The simplest data structures are:

- numeric : quantitative data
- character: qualitative data
- ▶ integer : whole numbers
- ▶ logical : TRUE or FALSE
- factors : qualitative data (ordered)

To find out what type of object you have, you can use the following function

```
mode(pbc$age)
```

[1] "numeric"

- Data structure:
 - Vectors have the same type of elements
 - ▶ Matrices have the same type of elements with the same length
 - ▶ Data.frames have elements of different type with the same length
 - Lists have elements of different type and length

▶ Differences between **vector**, matrix, data.frame and list

[1] 58.76523 56.44627 70.07255 54.74059 38.10541 66.25873

Differences between vector, **matrix**, data.frame and list

```
pbc[1:6, c("age", "bili", "chol")]

age bili chol

1 58.76523 14.5 261

2 56.44627 1.1 302

3 70.07255 1.4 176

4 54.74059 1.8 244

5 38.10541 3.4 279

6 66.25873 0.8 248
```

▶ Differences between vector, matrix, data.frame and list

```
pbc[1:6, c("id", "sex", "bili", "chol")]
```

```
id sex bili chol
1 1 f 14.5 261
2 2 f 1.1 302
3 3 m 1.4 176
4 4 f 1.8 244
5 5 f 3.4 279
6 6 f 0.8 248
```

Differences between vector, matrix, data.frame and list

```
list(pbc[1:6, c("sex")], pbc[1:2, c("sex", "bili")], pbc$age[1:4])
[[1]]
[1] f f m f f f
Levels: m f
[[2]]
  sex bili
1 f 14.5
2 f 1.1
[[3]]
[1] 58,76523 56,44627 70,07255 54,74059
```

Create a vector

[1] 1 2 3 4 5

```
vec <- c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
vec

[1] 1 2 3 4 5
vec <- c(1:5)
vec</pre>
```

Create a matrix

Create a matrix

Create a data frame

```
dtf <- data.frame(pbc$sex, pbc$age)
dtf[1:3,]
  pbc.sex  pbc.age
1     f 58.76523
2     f 56.44627
3     m 70.07255</pre>
```

Create a data frame

```
dtf <- data.frame(pbc$sex, pbc$age)
dtf[1:3,]
  pbc.sex pbc.age
1     f 58.76523
2     f 56.44627
3     m 70.07255</pre>
```

| | Gender | Age |
|---|--------|----------|
| 1 | f | 58.76523 |
| 2 | f | 56.44627 |
| 3 | m | 70 07255 |

Common R Objects (cont'd)

Create a list

```
list1 <- list(vec = c(1:5), mat = pbc[1:2, c("age", "sex")])
list1
$vec
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
$mat
       age sex
1 58.76523 f
2.56.44627 f
```

Common R Objects (cont'd)

Demos

► Common R Objects R html

Importing Data and Saving your Work

- function: read.table(), read.csv() and its variants
 - note: use forward slashes or double backward slashes in the file names, e.g.,

```
"C:/Documents and Settings/User/Data/file.txt" Or "C:\Documents and Settings\User\Data\file.txt"
```

- Specialized functions for importing data from other programs
 - package: foreign, function: read.spss(), read.dta()
 - package: Hmisc, function: sas.get()
 - package: openxlsx, function: read.xlsx()
 - package: readxl, function: read_excel()
 - package: haven, function: read_spss()
 - etc

Importing Data and Saving your Work (cont'd)

Tips:

- Short names are prefered over longer names
- Try to avoid using names that contain symbols
- Avoid spaces in names
- ► Remove any comments in your data set
- ► Make sure that any missing values in your data set are indicated with the same value (or no value)

Importing Data and Saving your Work (cont'd)

- save()
 - can be used to save a list of R objects
 - ▶ a binary file with all the objects available in your last R session
- You can load your saved R objects using load()
 - be careful about overwriting
- ▶ Using saveRDS and readRDS you can save and read a single R object
 - ► The result has to be assigned to a variable

- Specialized functions for exporting data to other programs
 - ► function: write.table(), write.csv()
 - package: foreign, function: write.spss(), write.dta()
 - package: openxlsx, function: write.xlsx()
 - ► etc

Importing Data and Saving your Work (cont'd)

Demos

► Importing and Saving R html

Data Transformation

You will never receive the perfect data set!

- Round continuous variables
- Convert numeric variables to factors
- Compute new variables
 - transform variables
- ▶ Data sets of wide ⇔ long format

Round continuous variables

```
DF <- format(pbc[,c("id", "time", "status", "trt", "age",</pre>
                 "sex", "bili", "chol")], digits = 2)
head(DF)
  id time status trt age sex bili chol
   1 400
             2 1 59 f 14.5 261
   2 4500 0 1 56 f 1.1 302
             2 1 70 m 1.4 176
   3 1012
             2 1 55 f 1.8 244
   4 1925
   5 1504 1 2 38 f 3.4 279
             2 2 66 f 0.8 248
   6 2503
```

Convert numeric variables to factors

```
id time status trt age sex bili chol
1 1 400 2 D-penicillmain 58.76523 f 14.5 261
2 2 4500 0 D-penicillmain 56.44627 f 1.1 302
3 3 1012 2 D-penicillmain 70.07255 m 1.4 176
4 4 1925 2 D-penicillmain 54.74059 f 1.8 244
5 5 1504 1 placebo 38.10541 f 3.4 279
6 6 2503 2 placebo 66.25873 f 0.8 248
```

- Compute new variables
 - transform variables

```
id
       time status trt
                          age sex bili chol time years
   13.33333
                2
                   1 58 76523
                               f 14.5
                                     261
                                            1.111111
2 150,00000
                  1 56.44627
                               f 1.1
                                      302
                                           12,500000
                               m 1.4 176
3
   33.73333
                  1 70.07255
                                          2.811111
                2
                  1 54.74059
4
   64.16667
                               f 1.8 244 5.347222
5
                  2 38.10541 f 3.4 279
   50.13333
                                          4.177778
6
   83.43333
                   2 66.25873
                                 0.8 248
                                           6.952778
```

▶ Data sets of wide ⇔ long format

```
id time status trt age sex bili chol
1 1 400 2 1 58.76523 f 14.5 261
2 2 4500 0 1 56.44627 f 1.1 302
3 3 1012 2 1 70.07255 m 1.4 176
4 4 1925 2 1 54.74059 f 1.8 244
5 5 1504 1 2 38.10541 f 3.4 279
6 6 2503 2 2 66.25873 f 0.8 248
```

▶ Data sets of wide ⇔ long format

```
id futime status trt age day sex bili chol
    400
            2 1 58.76523 0 f 14.5
                                    261
            2 1 58.76523 192 f 21.3 NA
   400
            0 1 56.44627 0 f 1.1 302
   5169
   5169
            0 1 56.44627 182 f 0.8
                                    NΑ
   5169
            0 1 56.44627 365 f 1.0 NA
2
            0 1 56.44627 768 f 1.9
                                     NΑ
   5169
```

Demos

► Data Transformation R html

Data Exploration

- Common questions
 - ▶ What is the mean and standard deviation for age?
 - ▶ What is the mean and standard deviation for time?
 - What is the median and interquartile range for age?
 - What is the percentage of placebo patients?
 - What is the percentage of females?
 - What is the mean and standard deviation for age in males?
 - What is the mean and standard deviation for baseline serum bilirubin?
 - What is the percentage of missings in serum bilirubin?

All these questions can be answered using R!

Data Exploration (cont'd)

▶ Hints

► Check functions: mean(...), sd(...), percent(...), median(...), IQR(...)

Data Exploration (cont'd)

▶ Hints

► Check functions: mean(...), sd(...), percent(...), median(...), IQR(...)

What is the mean value for age?

mean(pbc\$age)

[1] 50.74155

Data Exploration (cont'd)

Demos

► Data Exploration R html

Data Visualization

- ▶ It is important to investigate each variable in our data set using plots
 - Descriptive statistics for continuous and categorical variables
 - Distributions of variables
 - Distributions of variables per group
 - Extreme values
 - Linear/nonlinear evolutions

- ► R has very powerful graphics capabilities
- ► Some good references are
 - Murrel, P. (2005) R Graphics. Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
 - Sarkar, D. (2008) Lattice Multivariate Data Visualization with R. New York: Springer-Verlag.

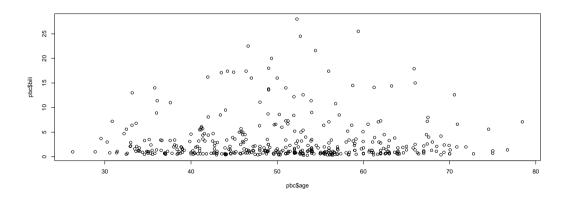
- ► Traditional graphics system
 - package graphics
- ► Trellis graphics system
 - package lattice (which is based on package grid)
- Grammar of Graphics implementation (i.e., Wilkinson, L. (1999) The Grammar of Graphics. New York: Springer-Verlag)
 - packages ggplot & ggplot2

Important plotting basic functions

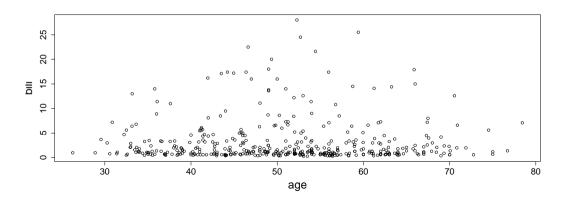
- plot(): scatter plot (and others)
- **▶ barplot()**: bar plots
- **boxplot()**: box-and-whisker plots
- ► dotchart(): dot plots
- ▶ hist(): histograms
- ▶ pie(): pie charts
- qqnorm(), qqline(), qqplot(): distribution plots
- ▶ pairs(): for multivariate data

Continuous variables

plot(pbc\$age, pbc\$bili)

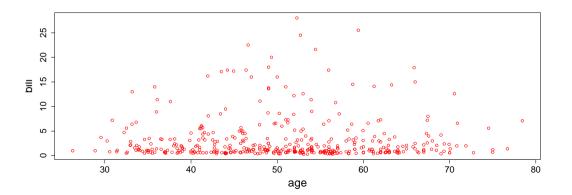


Continuous variables



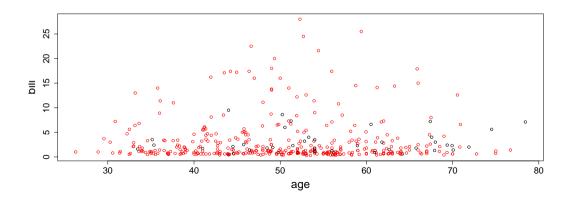
Continuous variables

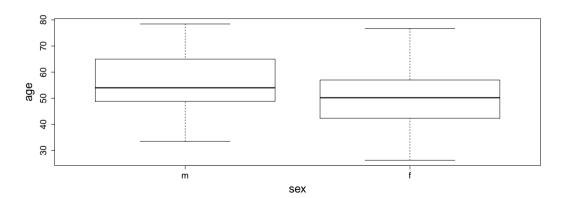
```
plot(pbc$age, pbc$bili, xlab = "age", ylab = "bili",
    cex.lab = 1.9, cex.axis = 1.5, col = "red")
```



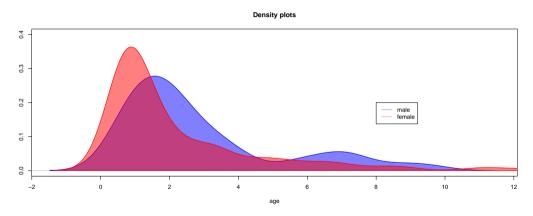
► For more options check

?plot

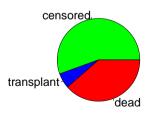




```
pbc male bili <- pbc$bili[pbc$sex == "m"]</pre>
pbc female bili <- pbc$bili[pbc$sex == "f"]</pre>
plot(density(pbc male bili), col = rgb(0,0,1,0.5),
     main = "Density plots", xlab = "age", vlab = "")
polygon(density(pbc male bili), col = rgb(0,0,1,0.5),
        border = "blue")
lines(density(pbc female bili), col = rgb(1,0,0,0.5))
polygon(density(pbc female bili), col = rgb(1,0,0,0.5),
        border = "red")
legend(8,0.2, c("male", "female"),
       col = c(rgb(0,0,1,0.5), rgb(1,0,0,0.5)), lty = 1)
```



Categorical variables



Demos

► Data Visualization R html

Useful Summary: Data manipulation

Common R objects

- ► c()
- ▶ matrix()
- data.frame()
- ▶ list()
- cbind(), rbind()

Transformation

- ► factor()
- reshape()
- order()
- complete.cases()

Exploration

- is.na()
- ▶ dim()
- ▶ mean(), sd()
- ▶ median(), IQR()
- percent()

Visualization

- ▶ plot(), legend()
- ▶ hist()
- barchart()
- boxplot()
- ▶ par()
- xyplot()
- ▶ ggplot()

Import/Save/Present

- head()
- save(), saveRDS()
- ▶ load(), readRDS()
- read.csv(),
 write.csv(),
 read.xlsx(),
 write.xlsx(),
 read.table(),
 write.table()

Other

- ▶ install.packages()
- ► library(), getwd()
- ▶ ls(), objects()

Indexing/Subsetting

- When transforming and analyzing data we often need to select specific observations or variables
 - Examples: Select ...
 - ▶ the 3rd element for vector age
 - the 3rd column of the pbc data set
 - ▶ the sex of the 10th patient
 - the baseline details of the 5th patient
 - ▶ the serum cholesterol for all males
 - the age for male patients or patients that have serum bilirubin more than 3
 - ▶ the first measurement per patient

Indexing/Subsetting (cont'd)

- ▶ This can be done using square bracket ([]) notation and indices.
- ► Three basic types
 - position indexing
 - logical indexing
 - name indexing

Indexing/Subsetting (cont'd)

Indexing with vector

► For position indexing, use a **positive** value to select an element

```
x <- c(6:17)
x

[1] 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

x[2]
```

[1] 7

Use multiple positive values to select multiple elements

```
x[c(2,3,4)]
```

[1] 7 8 9

Indexing/Subsetting (cont'd)

Indexing with vector

► For position indexing, use dublicated **positive** values to select the same elements

```
x <- c(6:17)
x

[1] 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

x[c(2,2,2)]
```

Indexing with vector

For position indexing, use a **negative** value to remove an element

```
x <- c(6:17)
x

[1] 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

x[-5]

[1] 6 7 8 9 11 12 13 14 15 16 17
```

Positive and negative indices cannot be combined

Indexing with vector

 Use logical index of the same length to select elements where the value is TRUE

```
x <- c(6:10)
y <- c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE)
x[y]</pre>
```

[1] 6

Indexing with vector

Use logical indexing in combination with conditions

```
x < -c(6:10)
x[x > 7]
[1] 8 9 10
x[x > 7 & x > 9]
[1] 10
x[x > 7 | x > 9]
[1] 8 9 10
```

Indexing with vector

► For name/character indexing, use the name of the element

```
x <- c(foo=5, bar=4, one=7, two=12, three=2)
x[c('foo', 'one')]

foo one
   5   7</pre>
```

Use the function names to obtain the names

Indexing with matrix

- Indexing matrices are similar to indexing vectors but with double index
 - ► The first position denotes the rows ["index",]
 - ► The first position denotes the columns [, "index"]

Indexing with matrix

- Indexing matrices are similar to indexing vectors but with double index
 - ► The first position denotes the rows ["index",]
 - ► The first position denotes the columns [, "index"]
- Use position indexing as:

```
mat <- matrix(1:6, 3, 3)
mat

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

```
[1,] 1 4 1
[2,] 2 5 2
[3,] 3 6 3
```

mat[2, 2]

Indexing with matrix

▶ When we leave a position blank all elements are selected

```
mat <- matrix(1:6, 3, 3)
mat
    [,1] [,2] [,3]
[1,] 1 4
[2,] 2 5 2
[3,] 3
mat[2, ]
[1] 2 5 2
```

Indexing with data.frame

- Works with single and double index
- ▶ When using a single index the data frame acts like a list of variables

Indexing with data.frame

- Works with single and double index
- ▶ When using a single index the data frame acts like a list of variables

Use position indexing as:

```
DF [2]

y
1 35
2 23
3 14
4 45
```

Indexing with data.frame

\$ provides a convinient notation to extract an element by name

head(pbc\$time)

[1] 400 4500 1012 1925 1504 2503

Indexing with data.frame

 When using a double index, indexing works like a matrix

Indexing with data.frame

 When using a double index, indexing works like a matrix

1 1 35

2 2 23

3 3 14

Use position indexing

```
DF[2, ]
```

x y 2 2 2 3

Use logical indexing

```
DF[DF\$y < 30,]
```

X

2 2 23

3 3 14

Indexing with data.frame

Combine logical and position indexing in data frame

```
pbcDF <- data.frame(pbc)</pre>
head(pbc[pbc$sex == "m", 1:7])
   id time
           status trt
                             age sex ascites
    3 1012
              dead
                      1 70.07255
                                   m
14 14 1217
              dead 2 56.22177
21 21 3445 censored 2 64.18891
                                   m
24 24 4079
              dead
                      1 44 52019
                                   m
48 48 4427 censored 2 49 13621
                                   m
52 52 2386
                      1 50.54073
              dead
                                   m
```

Indexing with data.frame

Combine logical and position indexing in data frame

```
pbcDF <- data.frame(pbc)</pre>
head(pbc[pbc$age > 30 | pbc$sex == "f", 1:7])
 id time
             status trt
                             age sex ascites
  1 400
               dead
                      1 58.76523
  2 4500 censored 1 56.44627
  3 1012
               dead
                      1 70.07255
  4 1925
               dead
                      1 54 74059
  5 1504 transplant
                      2 38 10541
  6 2503
                      2 66 25873
               dead
```

Indexing with data.frame

Combine logical and position indexing in data frame

```
pbcDF <- data.frame(pbc)</pre>
head(pbc[pbc$age > 30 \& pbc$sex == "f", 1:7])
 id time
             status trt
                            age sex ascites
  1 400
               dead
                      1 58.76523
  2 4500 censored 1 56.44627
  4 1925
               dead
                      1 54.74059
                      2 38 10541
  5 1504 transplant
  6 2503
               dead
                      2 66 25873
  7 1832
                      2 55 53457
           censored
```

Indexing with list

 Lists can be subsetted in the same way as vectors using single brackets - Note that the output is a list

Use position indexing

```
mylist <- list(y = c(14, 45), z = c("m", "f", "f"))
mylist[2]
```

```
$z
[1] "m" "f" "f"
```

Indexing with list

 Double square brackets can be also used - Note that the output is a vector

Use position indexing

```
mylist <- list(y = c(14, 45), z = c("m", "f", "f"))
mylist[[2]]
```

```
[1] "m" "f" "f"
```

Indexing with list

[1] 14 45

\$ provides a convinient notation to extract an element by name - Note that the output is a vector

```
mylist \leftarrow list(y = c(14, 45), z = c("m", "f", "f"))
mvlist
$v
[1] 14 45
$z
[1] "m" "f" "f"
mylist$y
```

 Use the following webpage to further investigate indexing and subsetting https://emcbiostatistics.shinyapps.io/indexing/

Demos

Shiny app indexing subsetting R

In order to run the app you will need to install the packages:

- survival
- shiny

Useful Summary: Indexing/Subsetting

Vectors

- **[**
- ► [""] for categorical variables

Matrices

(,]

Data frames

- **(**,]
- **▶** [[]]
- **>** \$

Lists

- **(**]
- **▶** [[]]
- **>** {

Useful Summary: Indexing/Subsetting (cont'd)

Demos

► Indexing Subsetting R html

Practicals

► Basic Use R html