DATA SOCIETY®

Intro to R - Part 2

"One should look for what is and not what he thinks should be. -Albert Einstein.

Welcome back!

Before we start, check out this list of projects you can complete with R: https://www.upgrad.com/blog/data-science-projects-in-r-for-beginners/

Recap: before we can run....basics

- In the last class you **named your own variables** and **performed basic operations** in R to get familiar with the coding environment
- Today, we are going to learn more about vectors, matrices and how to perform various operations on them

Recap: variables and assignment operators

```
# Define a variable using `<-`
# as an assignment operator.
A <- 3
A</pre>
```

```
[1] 3
```

```
# Define a variable using `=`
# as an assignment operator.
B = 2 + 5
B
```

```
[1] 7
```

Notice that you not only can assign numbers to variables, you can assign any expression to a variable!



- You can set variables by setting numbers equal to letters or terms. R has two assignment operators: <- and =
- When a variable is named (instantiated), R stores it in its "environment"
- R session uses the values stored within its environment for all calculations within that session

Recap: operations with variables

Adding

Subtracting

You can add variables

```
# Add 2 variables.
C = A + B
C

[1] 10

# Add a variable and a number.
D = C + 5
D
[1] 15
```

The same stands for all other arithmetic operations!

You can subtract variables

```
# Subtract 2 variables from each other.
D - C
```

```
[1] 5
```

```
# Subtract a variable from number.
33 - D
```

```
[1] 18
```

```
# Or a number from a variable.
D - 33
```

```
[1] -18
```

Recap: Basic data classes and types

- **Data type** describes how internal R language stores our data, while **data class** is more generic and determined by the object-oriented programming mechanism behind R
- In most business cases, we do not distinguish between data types and data classes
- The point is to adopt the data type or data class that fits best

Data class (high level)	Data type (low level)	Example
Integer	Integer	-1, 5, or 1L, 5L
Numeric	Double, float	2.54
Character	Character	"Hello"
Logical	Logical	TRUE, FALSE

• Note: One of the common sources of errors for a person learning to use any programming language is the data type conversion.

Recap: Basic data classes: what we will use

• To generate more insights within our data, here is a list of functions we can use

ltem	Purpose
Value	Example of class
typeof()	Finds the type of the variable
class()	Returns the class of the variable
boolean function	Specific function that checks class and returns TRUE or FALSE
attributes()	Checks the metadata/attribute of the variable
length()	Checks the length of the object

Recap: Basic data structures

- In the previous session, we have learned some of the most basic as well as common data types
- Next, we are going to focus on groupings of one or more data types organized in various ways data structure
- A data structure is a method for **describing a certain way to organize pieces of data**, so operations and algorithms can be easily applied

Data structure	Number of dimensions	Single data type	Multiple data types
Vector (Atomic vector)	1 (entries)	✓	×
Vector (List)	1 (entries)	✓	✓
Matrix	2 (rows and columns)	✓	×
dataframe	2 (rows and columns)	✓	✓

Module completion checklist

Objective	Complete
Introduce list and dataframe in R	
Perform different operations on the above data types and structures	
Read/write data	
Clear environment	

Basic data structures: lists



- A list is a collection of entries that act as a container
- It has a **single dimension** at its top level
- It can be called as a generic vector because a list can hold items of different types
- Lists can be **nested** which means that a list can contain elements that are also lists

• Note: If you have ever worked with JSON files, they can be translated naturally into the list data structure.

Basic data structures: lists

• Creating lists

```
# To make an empty list in R,
# you have a few options:
# Option 1: use `list()` command.
list()
```

How is this different from a vector?

```
# Make a list with different entries.
sample_list = list(1, "am", TRUE)
sample_list
```

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

[[2]]
[1] "am"

[[3]]
[1] TRUE
```

Basic data structures: naming list elements

- Lists can have attributes such as names
- You can name list elements when you create a list.

```
$One
[1] 1

$Two
[1] "am"

$Three
[1] TRUE
```

```
attributes(sample_list_named)
```

```
$names
[1] "One" "Two" "Three"
```

 You can also set element names after it has been created

```
# Name existing list.
names(sample_list) = c("One", "Two", "Three")
sample_list
```

```
$One
[1] 1

$Two
[1] "am"

$Three
[1] TRUE
```

```
attributes(sample_list)
```

```
$names
[1] "One" "Two" "Three"
```

Basic data structures: introducing structure

```
?str #<- Check R documentation
str(object) #<- Any R object</pre>
```

Compactly Display the Structure of an Arbitrary R Object

Description

Compactly display the internal **str**ucture of an R object, a diagnostic function and an alternative to summary (and to some extent, dput). Ideally, only one line for each 'basic' structure is displayed. It is especially well suited to compactly display the (abbreviated) contents of (possibly nested) lists. The idea is to give reasonable output for any R object. It calls args for (non-primitive) function objects.

stroptions () is a convenience function for setting options (str = .), see the examples.

Usage

```
str(object, ...)
```

```
# Inspect the list's structure.
str(sample_list)
```

```
List of 3
$ One : num 1
$ Two : chr "am"
$ Three: logi TRUE
```

- Command str lets you inspect the structure of any R object such as a list or a dataframe
- It returns:
 - The class of the object (e.g. List)
 - The length of the object (e.g. 3)
 - Snippet of each entry and its type (e.g. One: num 1, Two: chr "am", Three: logi TRUE)

Basic data structures: accessing data within lists

 To access an element in a list, you can use its index

```
# Access an element of a list.
sample list[[2]]
[1] "am"
# Access a sub-list with its element(s).
sample list[2]
$Two
[1] "am"
# Access a sub-list with its element(s).
sample list[2:3]
$Two
[1] "am"
$Three
[1] TRUE
```

You can also refer to an element by its
 name, using the \$ operator (as seen in the
 output of the str command)

```
# Access named list elements.
sample_list$One

[1] 1

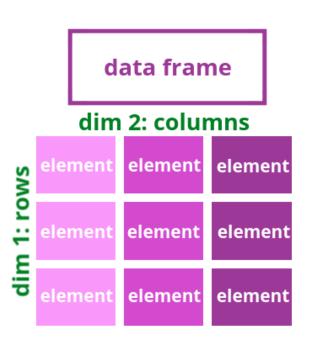
sample_list$Two

[1] "am"

sample_list$Three

[1] TRUE
```

Basic data structures: dataframes



 Note: if you have ever worked with relational databases, you can think of a dataframe as a table in a relational database

- A data.frame is a special kind of list, which is limited to a **2D structure**
- Each entry in a list is a column
- Each column has the same number of entries
- Columns can be of different types (e.g. character, numeric, logical)
- But within each column, the entries are always of the same type, which makes each column of a data.frame an atomic vector
- It combines properties of both lists and atomic vectors, which makes dataframe a de facto standard data structure for use in data analysis

Basic data structures: making dataframes

```
# To make an empty dataframe in R,
# use `data.frame()` command.
data.frame()
```

```
data frame with 0 columns and 0 rows
```

```
# To make a dataframe with several
# columns, pass column values
# to `data.frame()` command just like
# you would do with lists.
data.frame(1:5, 6:10)
```

- As with vectors, matrices, & lists, a
 data.frame can be created empty
- Column values can be passed directly to dataframes when they are created as you would with lists
- You can also combine pre-existing vectors
- Note: without defined column names
 data.frame auto-generates them. Column
 names in R cannot have numbers as the first
 character, which is why R appends x to them!

Dataframes: naming columns

 Use colnames to rename columns after data.frame is created

```
# Dataframe with unnamed columns.
unnamed_df = data.frame(1:3, 4:6)
unnamed_df
```

```
# Name columns of a dataframe.
colnames(unnamed_df) = c("col1", "col2")
unnamed_df
```

```
col1 col2
1 1 4
2 2 5
3 3 6
```

 Name columns at the time of creation of the data.frame

```
# Pass column names and values to
# `data.frame` command just like you
# would do with named lists.
named_df = data.frame(col1 = 1:3, col2 = 4:6)
named_df
```

```
col1 col2
1 1 4
2 2 5
3 3 6
```

Dataframes: naming rows

 In addition to column names, you can also rename row names of any dataframe with rownames

```
# View dataframe.
named_df
```

```
coll col2
1 1 4
2 2 5
3 3 6
```

```
# Rename dataframe rows.
rownames(named_df) = c(7:9)
named_df
```

```
col1 col2
7 1 4
8 2 5
9 3 6
```

• Similarly, you can also create a dataframe and define row names with method row.names at the time of its creation

```
col1 col2
7 1 4
8 2 5
9 3 6
```

Dataframes: converting a matrix

 We can make a dataframe from a matrix by casting a matrix into a data.frame with as.data.frame command

```
# Make a dataframe from matrix.
sample_matrix1 = matrix(nrow = 3, ncol = 3)
sample_matrix1 = 1:9
dim(sample_matrix1) = c(3, 3)

sample_df1 = as.data.frame(sample_matrix1)
sample_df1
```

```
V1 V2 V3
1 1 4 7
2 2 5 8
3 3 6 9
```

```
# Make a dataframe from matrix with named
columns and rows.
sample_df2 = as.data.frame(sample_matrix1,
row.names = c('Row1','Row2','Row3'))
cols = c('Col1','Col2','Col3') # defining the
column names
colnames(sample_df2) = cols # assigning the
column names to df
sample_df2
```

```
Coll Col2 Col3
Row1 1 4 7
Row2 2 5 8
Row3 3 6 9
```

Dataframes: row and column names

```
# Check attributes of a dataframe. attributes(sample_df1)
```

```
$names
[1] "V1" "V2" "V3"

$class
[1] "data.frame"

$row.names
[1] 1 2 3
```

- Unnamed dataframe column names
 will default to V1, V2, ..., Vm, where m
 = num columns of a dataframe
- Unnamed dataframe row names will default to 1, 2, ..., n, where n = num rows of a dataframe

```
# Check the attributes of dataframe.
attributes(sample_df2)
```

```
$names
[1] "Col1" "Col2" "Col3"

$class
[1] "data.frame"

$row.names
[1] "Row1" "Row2" "Row3"
```

- Named dataframe column names will become data.frame column names
- Named dataframe row names will become data frame row names

Dataframes: selecting columns

- Let's explore the different methods we have covered thus far for selecting columns from a data.frame
 - Use \$column name
 - Use [[column index]]
 - Use [, column index]

```
# To access a column of a dataframe # Option 1: Use `$column_name`. sample_df2$Col1
```

```
[1] 1 2 3
```

```
# To access a column of a dataframe
# Option 2: Use `[[column_index]]`.
sample_df2[[1]]
```

```
[1] 1 2 3
```

```
# To access a column of a dataframe
# Option 3: Use `[ , column_index]`.
sample_df2[, 1]
```

```
[1] 1 2 3
```

Dataframes: subsetting rows

- Let's explore a few methods for selecting a row from a data.frame
 - Use [row_index,]
 - Use ["row name",]

```
# To access a row of a dataframe
# Option 1: use `[row_index, ]`.
sample_df2[1, ]
```

```
Col1 Col2 Col3
Row1 1 4 7
```

```
# To access a row of a dataframe
# Option 2: use `["row_name", ]`.
sample_df2["Row1", ]
```

```
Coll Col2 Col3
Row1 1 4 7
```

Dataframes: accessing individual values

- There are four common methods for accessing individual values within a data.frame
 - Use \$column_name[row_index]
 - Use [[column_index]][row_index]
 - Use [row index, column index]
 - Use ["row name", "column name"]

```
# Option 1:
# `data_frame$column_name[row_index]`
sample_df2$Col2[1]
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
# Option 2:
# `data_frame[[column_index]][row_index]`
sample_df2[[2]][1]
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
# Option 3:
# `data_frame[row_index, column_index]`
sample_df2[1, 2]
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
# Option 4:
# `data_frame["row_name", "column_name"]`
sample_df2["Row1", "Col2"]
```

```
[1] 4
```

Dataframes: adding new columns

- Another common case is adding new columns into an existing dataframe
 - Use \$new_column_name
 - Use cbind

```
# To add a new column to a dataframe
# Option 1: use `$new_column_name`.
sample_df2$Col4 = "New column"
sample_df2
```

```
Coll Col2 Col3 Col4
Row1 1 4 7 New column
Row2 2 5 8 New column
Row3 3 6 9 New column
```

```
Coll Col2 Col3 Col4 Col5
Row1 1 4 7 New column Yet another
Row2 2 5 8 New column new
Row3 3 6 9 New column column
```

Dataframes: operations

```
# Let's take our sample dataframe.
str(sample df2)
'data.frame': 3 obs. of 5 variables:
$ Col1: int 1 2 3
$ Col2: int 4 5 6
$ Col3: int 7 8 9
$ Col4: chr "New column" "New column" "New column"
$ Col5: chr "Yet another" "new" "column"
# Add a number to each value in a column.
sample df2$Col1 + 2
[1] 3 4 5
# Add a number to each value in a row.
sample df2[1, ] + 2
Error in FUN(left, right): non-numeric argument to binary operator
```

Knowledge Check 1



Special classes: factors

```
# Let's take a look at the structure of the dataframe. str(sample_df2)
```

```
'data.frame': 3 obs. of 5 variables:
$ Col1: int 1 2 3
$ Col2: int 4 5 6
$ Col3: int 7 8 9
$ Col4: chr "New column" "New column"
$ Col5: chr "Yet another" "new" "column"
```

- Our talk about data types and structures in R is not complete without a special class factor
- A factor is a class of variable that is used to quantify categorical data
- Both numeric and character variables can be made into factors, but a factor's levels will always be character values
- Every factor variable has levels, which are unique instances of the values in the column (e.g. Colona 3 unique values, hence 3 levels)
- Use levels () to find the number of unique values of a factor

Special classes: dates

```
date_col1
1 2018-01-01
2 2018-02-01
3 2018-03-01
```

```
# Take a look at the structure.
# Notice both columns appear as `character` and not as `factor`.
str(special_data)
```

```
'data.frame': 3 obs. of 1 variable:
$ date_col1: chr "2018-01-01" "2018-02-01" "2018-03-01"
```

Special classes: dates and basic formats

 Given a character string of a particular format, we can convert to a Date using as.Date function (e.g. YYYY-MM-DD format will be automatically detected by R)

```
date_col1 date_col2
1 2018-01-01 2018-01-01
2 2018-02-01 2018-02-01
3 2018-03-01 2018-03-01
```

 Here is a table of common widgets for dates and their corresponding meanings

Code	Value
%d	Day of the month (number)
%m	Month (number)
%b	Month (abbreviated name)
%B	Month (full name)
%Y	Year (2 digit)
%Y	Year (4 digit)

Special values: `NA`

- Missing values is another common issue
- is.na helps identify NA values
- We will illustrate this now:

```
# Let's add a column with a numeric vector.
special_data$num_col1 = c(1, 555, 3)
# Let's make the 2nd element in that column `NA`.
special_data$num_col1[2] = NA
# To check for `NA`s we use `is.na`.
is.na(special_data$num_col1[2])
```

[1] TRUE

```
# We can also use it to check the whole column/vector.
# The result will be a vector of `TRUE` or `FALSE` with values corresponding to each element.
is.na(special_data$num_col1)
```

```
[1] FALSE TRUE FALSE
```

Special values: `NULL`

- Another special value in R is NULL
- This value causes an object, or a part of the object, to be NULLified, i.e. removed or cleared

```
# To get rid of a column in a `data.frame` all
# you have to do is set it to `NULL`.
special_data$num_col3 = NULL
special_data
```

```
date_col1 date_col2 num_col1
1 2018-01-01 2018-01-01 1
2 2018-02-01 2018-02-01 NA
3 2018-03-01 2018-03-01 3
```

```
# To check for `NULL`s use `is.null`.
is.null(special_data$num_col3)
```

```
[1] TRUE
```

```
# To check for `NULL`s use `is.null`.
is.null(special_data$num_col2)
```

```
[1] TRUE
```

Knowledge Check 2



Exercise 1



Module completion checklist

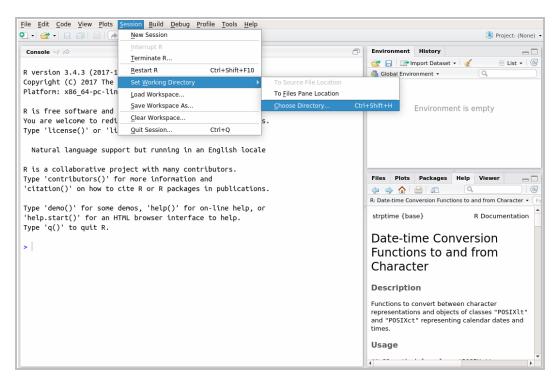
Objective	Complete
Introduce list and dataframe in R	V
Perform different operations on the above data types and structures	V
Read/write data	
Clear environment	

R's working directory

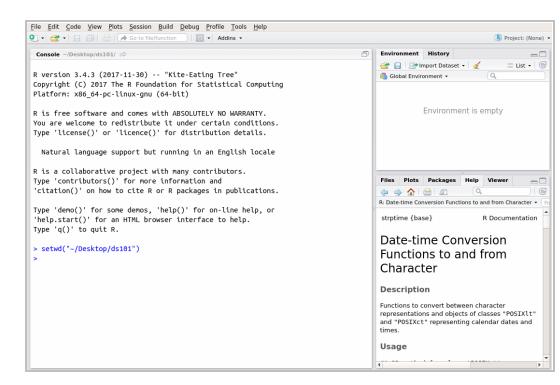
- The **working directory** is a folder on your machine (which R treats as your "sandbox") where R saves your files and from which it loads your data
- R has a default working directory, which can be found and set through RStudio's Global
 Options
- We can set the working directory
- We can get the working directory
- We can encode directory paths into variables and change them without having to manually type the paths every time

R's working directory

 You can set your working directory via RStudio's GUI



 Once the directory is set, you will see the command executed in the Console



R's working directory

You can set your working directory via command line (on Mac/Linux)

```
# To set working directory call `setwd` with the path to the folder.
setwd("~/Desktop/skillsoft-2021")

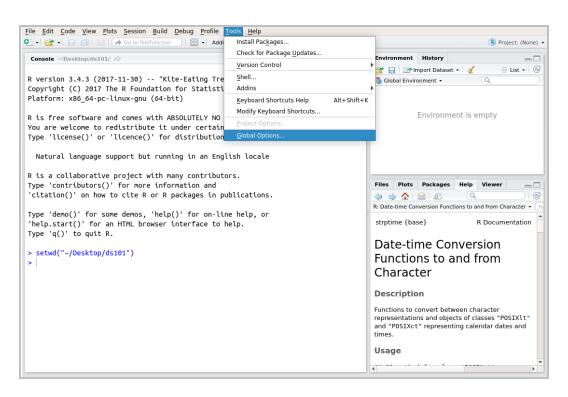
# To check the current working directory use `getwd`.
getwd()
[1] "/home/[your-user-name]/Desktop/skillsoft-2021"
```

You can set your working directory via command line (on Windows)

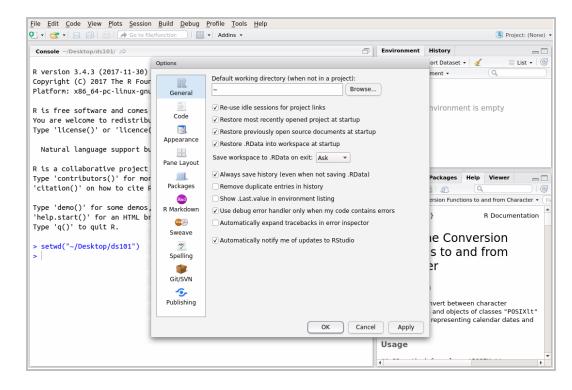
```
# To set working directory call `setwd` with the path to the folder.
setwd("C:/Users/[your-user-name]/Desktop/skillsoft-2021")
# To check the current working directory use `getwd`.
getwd()
```

```
[1] "C:/Users/[your-user-name]/Desktop/skillsoft-2021"
```

R's default working directory



 You can also set a default working directory for whenever R is launched



- Look at the very first option in the General section of the Global Options to see what the current working directory is
- To change it just click on Browse and select a default working directory

Directory settings

- In order to maximize the efficiency of your workflow, you may want to encode your directory structure into variables
- Let the main dir be the variable corresponding to your skillsoft-2021 folder

```
# Set `main_dir` to the location of your `skillsoft-2021` folder (for Mac/Linux).
main_dir = "~/Desktop/skillsoft-2021"

# Set `main_dir` to the location of your `skillsoft-2021` folder (for Windows).
main_dir = "C:/Users/[username]/Desktop/skillsoft-2021"

# Make `data_dir` from the `main_dir` and remainder of the path to data directory.
data_dir = paste0(main_dir, "/data")
```

Directory settings

- We will store all data sets in the data directory inside of the skillsoft-2021 folder, so we'll save its path to a data_dir variable
- 2. We will save all of the plots in the plots directory inside of the skillsoft-2021 folder, so we'll save its path to a plot_dir variable

To append a string to another string, use
 paste0 command and pass the strings you
 would like to paste together.

```
# Make `data_dir` from the `main_dir` and
# remainder of the path to data directory.
data_dir = paste0(main_dir, "/data")

# Make `plots_dir` from the `main_dir` and
# remainder of the path to plots directory.
plot_dir = paste0(main_dir, "/plots")

# Set directory to data_dir.
setwd(data_dir)
```

Directory settings

 Now all you have to do to switch between working directories is use a variable instead of typing the full path every time

```
# Set working directory to where the data is.
setwd(data_dir)

# Print working directory (Mac/Linux).
getwd()

[1] "/home/[your-user-name]/Desktop/skillsoft-2021/data"

# Print working directory (Windows).
getwd()

[1] "C:/Users/[your-user-name]/Desktop/skillsoft-2021/data"
```

Loading dataset into R: read CSV files

- Most of the time you will be working with data that was generated elsewhere which you will then need to load into your R environment
- R works with many different data types, but the most common one is CSV

Viewing data in R

First, we can take a general look into our dataset structure with str()

\$ Heart.Rate: int 70 71 74 80 73 75 82 64 69 70 ...

```
# Inspect the structure of the data.
str(temp_heart_data)

'data.frame': 130 obs. of 3 variables:
$ Gender : chr "Male" "Male" "Male" ...
$ Body.Temp : num 96.3 96.7 96.9 97 97.1 97.1 97.1 97.2 97.3 97.4 ...
```

Viewing data in R

- Then, we can inspect the head or tail of our data with head() or tail() function
- By default, head() will give you the first six rows and tail() will give you the last six
- However, you can also adjust the number of rows as the following example illustrates

```
head(temp heart data, 4) #<- Inspect the `head` (first 4 rows).
 Gender Body. Temp Heart. Rate
             96.3
   Male
         96.7
   Male
           96.9
   Male
            97.0
   Male
tail(temp heart data, 4) #<- Inspect the `tail` (last 4 rows).
   Gender Body. Temp Heart. Rate
127 Female
               99.4
128 Female
             99.9
            100.0
129 Female
130 Female
             100.8
```

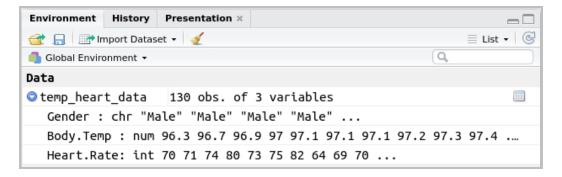
Viewing data in R

View in the tabular data explorer

View(temp_heart_data)



• You can also see the loaded data and variables in the Environment pane of RStudio



Other file types and commands in R

• The following is a list of commands to read data in other file types

Command	File type
read.csv("filename.csv")	File with comma separated values
read.table("filename")	Tabulated data in a text file
read.spss("filename.spss")	File produced in SPSS
read.dta("filename.dta")	File produced in STATA
read.ssd("filename.ssd")	File produced in SAS
read.JPEG("filename.jpg")	Read JPEG image files

Saving data: write CSV files

• The most common way to share tabular data is by saving your data to a CSV file

```
# Let's save the first 10 rows of our data to a variable.
temp_heart_subset = temp_heart_data[1:10, ]
temp_heart_subset
```

Module completion checklist

Objective	Complete
Introduce list and dataframe in R	✓
Perform different operations on the above data types and structures	V
Read/write data	✓
Clear environment	

Clearing objects from environment

```
# List all objects in environment.
ls()
                             "B"
                                                    11 ( 11
     "' A "
 [4] "cols"
                             "D"
                                                    "data dir"
                                                    "highlight js"
 [7] "directory"
                            "head"
                                                   "new dates"
[10] "main dir"
                            "named df"
[13] "plat\overline{f}orm"
                           "plot_d̄ir"
                                                  "sample df1"
[16] "sample_df2" "plot_dir"
[19] "sample_matrix1" "sample_list"
"session_info"
                                                "sample_list_named"
"special data"
                                                   "special data"
[22] "temp heart data" "temp heart subset" "unnamed df"
# Remove individual variable(s).
rm(X, x, this is a valid name, This.Is.Also.A.Valid.Name, unnamed list) #<- example
rm(list=ls()) #<- actual command
# List all objects again to check.
ls()
character (0)
```

Notice the variables we have removed are gone!

Clearing the entire environment

• The clear environment will always appear like this in the Environment pane



You can also clear the environment by clicking on the broom icon at the top of the environment pane.

Knowledge Check 3



Exercise 2



Module completion checklist

Objective	Complete
Introduce list and dataframe in R	✓
Perform different operations on the above data types and structures	V
Read/write data	✓
Clear environment	V

Summary

- We have successfully started our journey with R and gotten familiar with the concept of variables which we will use throughout this course
- You have learned more about data structures like lists, dataframes and how to perform various operations on them
- In our next module, we are going to learn more about performing basic data manipulation operations on datasets. Stay excited!

This completes our module **Congratulations!**