



## **Exercises: Introduction to R**

**Statistics for Data Science  
Master Program in Advanced Analytics  
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# 1 Objects in R

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## 1.1 Expressions

An expression in **R** corresponds to a sequence of operations, and it can include variables and/or functions. These expressions can be evaluated in **R** and have (only one) return.

1. Consider the following expressions:

- `123 * 321`
- `42 ** 2`
- `34 - 2 * 6`
- `4 + 2 == 42`
- `1 + sum(2,3)`

- (a) Assess the result of these expressions in **R**.
- (b) Save the result of the last expression in a variable named `x` (Important: R is case sensitive! Pay attention whether you are using upper or lower case).
- (c) Use that same variable, `x`, in another expression.
- (d) Attribute to the variable `x` the value 42. What happened to the result of the expression in (b)?

## 1.2 Sequences

1. Check the function `seq` in help and create the following sequences:

- from 1 to 20
- from 1 to 20, by 2
- 15 elements from 1 to 20
- 20 elements from 1, spaced by 0.4
- number 1 repeated 100 times

### 1.3 Vectors

Vectors are a simple yet powerful way to store information in R. However, these objects can only store one type of information (i.e, numeric, logical, character). Vectors are created through the function `c()`.

1. Consider the following vectors:

`a = c("L", 3, 3, T)` and `b = c(F, 4, 1, 7)`

Create these vectors in R and explain what happened to values saved in both vectors.

2. Consider the following Table:

Table 1: Grades

| Name     | Grade |
|----------|-------|
| Andre    | 10    |
| Carolina | 12    |
| John     | -     |
| Pedro    | 15    |
| Zé       | 15    |
| Vânia    | 7     |

- Save the information in the Table 1 in two separate vectors: `names` and `grades`. Beware of the missing grade. What would happen if you saved the data in the same vector?
- Verify, with a logical operator, if the two vectors have the same size (Hint: Check the function `length`).
- To access an element of a vector, we use the notation: `VectorName[i]`, where `i` is the index of element you want to access. In R, the index count starts with 1 (not with zero!).  
Knowing this, access the name and grade of the 5<sup>th</sup> student.
- Update the missing grade with 13.

## 1.4 Matrices

A matrix, in **R**, is an extension of a vector to two dimensions.

1. Consider the following vector that contains the grades of a curricular unit:

```
grades = sample(8:20, 20)
```

Verify its dimensions, using the function `dim()`. Transform it into a matrix `grades`, with 4 lines and 5 columns. Now, verify the dimensions of the matrix created.

2. Add labels to the columns and lines of the matrix `grades`, using the function `colnames()` and `rownames()`.

3. To access elements within a matrix, we use the notation: `MatrixName[i,j]`, where *i* represents the position/index or name of the row and *j* is the position/index or name of column.

Access the elements of the matrix `grades` in different ways:

- by two positions
- by two names
- by one position and one name
- a whole line by a position
- a whole column by a name
- the first three lines and all the columns except the last one.

4. Assess the result of some operations on the following matrix:

- `grades + 1`
- `grades * 2`
- `grades * grades`
- `grades %*% grades`
- determinant, through the function `det()`
- transpose, through the function `t()`
- invert, through the function `solve()`

## 1.5 Data Frames

The structure of data `data.frame` is one of the most used in **R**, mainly due to its versatility in the type of objects supported and in indexation: it is derived from lists, supporting elements from different types in a single object; and it adds the functionalities of indexation of vectors.

It is mainly used to keep tables of data, being similar to a matrix with names in lines and columns, but it supports elements from different types. This type of table can be seen as a database, or a spreadsheet, where each line corresponds to a different register.

1. Consider the table below:

| Name   | Favorite_Tech | Years_Experience |
|--------|---------------|------------------|
| Ana    | R             | 3                |
| Bruno  | Python        | 5                |
| Clara  | Power BI      | 2                |
| Daniel | Tableau       | 4                |

Transform it into a data frame using the function `data.frame()`.

2. Check the dimensions of the data frame created.
3. Show the lines where individuals have more than 3 years of experience.
4. Update Clara's favorite tech to Python.

## 2 Control Structures

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Control structures allow you to control the flow of execution of a script typically inside of a function. Some common structures include: `if`, `else`, `for`, `while` and `repeat`, `break`. We do not use these while working with R interactively but rather inside functions.

- Without using **R**, state the expected results given by the following chunks of code:

```
(a) ifelse(sqrt(9)<2,sqrt(9),0)
(b) ifelse(sqrt(100)>9,sqrt(100),0)
(c) x=12
    if(is.numeric(x)) y=x*2
(d) z=-1
    if(z<0){x=abs(z);y=z*3}
(e) z=6
    if(z<0) y=z*3 else y=z*5
(f) x=15
    y=3
    if(is.numeric(x))
        if(is.numeric(y) & y!=0)
            z=x/y
(g) x=letters[20]
    if (is.numeric(x)) print('is numeric') else
        if(is.character(x)) print('is character')
(h) x=90
    ifelse(x<100,ifelse(x/2==trunc(x/2),x/2,0),
           ifelse(x/100==trunc(x/100),x/100,-1))
```

- Create a loop through `for` that prints all numbers from 1 to 15, except the number 3. Check in the examples available in help the notation of `for`.

### 3 Functions

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Functions are used to logically break our code into simpler parts which become easy to maintain and understand. It is pretty straightforward to create your own function in R programming. The syntax for writing functions in R is:

```
func_name <- function(argument) {  
    statement  
}
```

We have seen here several functions available within R, such as `sum()`. In R programming you can write and create your own functions to solve an existing problem or optimize your script. Consider this example to print `x` to the power of `y`:

```
pow <- function(x, y) {  
    result <- x^y  
    print(paste(x, "raised to the power", y, "is", result))  
}
```

When creating a function, the best option is to start writing the statement, from which we identify the necessary arguments. So, in the previous example we write: `x^y`, from which we identify the arguments `x` and `y`. Then, we can print the result, just by typing the name (`result`) or use a different format, such as with `paste()`.

1. Create the following functions:

- (a) A function called `propna` that receives a vector and returns the percentage of NA observations. Use the function `is.na()` to check the number of NA observations and calculate the proportion.
- (b) A function called `par` that receives a vector and excludes uneven numbers.

2. Create a function that converts Fahrenheit degrees ( $^{\circ} F$ ) to Celsius ( $^{\circ} C$ ), knowing that its relation is given by:

$$^{\circ}C = (^{\circ}F - 32) \div 1.8$$

Expand your function to convert Celsius degrees to Fahrenheit, optionally. The inverse relation is given by:  $^{\circ}F = (^{\circ}C \times 1.8) + 32$