



## Subsection 4

### Useful R Functions



## table()

`table()` is a quick and dirty way to build a contingency table of the counts at each combination of factor levels

- Using the `iris` data set, how many of each type of `Species` are there?

```
> table(iris$Species)

setosa versicolor virginica 
    50         50         50
```

- Using the `ToothGrowth` data set, what is the count of `dose` by `supp`?

```
> table(ToothGrowth$dose, ToothGrowth$supp)

    OJ VC
0.5 10 10
1   10 10
2   10 10
```



## `attach()` & `detach()`

- Don't use these!
- `attach()` allows you to semi-permanently attach a data frame, thereby not having to enclose statement in a `with()`
- Can you guess what issue might arise when attaching multiple data frames?
- **Again...DON'T USE THESE!**



## unique()

- Identifies unique values in data, with duplicate elements removed

Cars have how many unique cylinder sizes in `mtcars`?

```
> unique(mtcars$cyl)
```

```
[1] 6 4 8
```

- A similar function, `dplyr::distinct()`, will remove all duplicate rows from a data frame



## which()

- Returns the row number (index) of a subset of data

Which observations in `mtcars` have cars with 6 cylinders and 100 horsepower?

```
> which(mtcars$cyl == 6 & hp == 110)
[1] 1 2 4 # rows (observations) 1, 2 and 4
```



## paste()

- Converts arguments to characters and then concatenates them

```
> library(magrittr)

> iris %>%
  dplyr::filter(Sepal.Length >= 7.7) %>%
  dplyr::mutate(paste("The ", Species, " has a petal length of ",
    Petal.Length, sep = ""))

[1] "The virginica has a petal length of 6.7"
[2] "The virginica has a petal length of 6.9"
[3] "The virginica has a petal length of 6.7"
[4] "The virginica has a petal length of 6.4"
[5] "The virginica has a petal length of 6.1"
```



## seq()

- `seq()` and its variants are a quick way to generate sequences
- Common arguments include `from`, `to`, and `by`

```
> 1:10
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

> seq(1:10)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

> seq(1, 10, 2) # the last argument is equivalent to by = 2
[1] 1 3 5 7 9

> seq(from = 1, by = 7, length.out = 10)
[1] 1 8 15 22 29 36 43 50 57 64
```



## seq\_len() & seq\_along()

- two stylized variants of `seq()` which are abbreviated versions of `seq()` and very fast results
- `seq_len()` only take one argument, `length.out`, and generates a sequence of integers beginning from one to `length.out`
- `seq_along()` is (ideally) passed a vector and generates a sequence of integers from 1 to `length(myVector)`

```
> seq_len(15)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

> (myVec <- c(LETTERS[4:8]))
[1] "D" "E" "F" "G" "H"

> seq_along(myVec)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
```





## rep()

- `rep()` replicates the value(s) passed to it  $n$  times
- Setting the `each` equal to a positive integer repeats each entry sequentially that integer number of times

```
> rep(LETTERS[2:4], times = 3)
[1] "B" "C" "D" "B" "C" "D" "B" "C" "D"

> rep(letters[2:4], each = 2)
[1] "b" "b" "c" "c" "d" "d"

> rep(letters[2:4], times = 2, each = 2)
[1] "b" "b" "c" "c" "d" "d" "b" "b" "c" "c" "d" "d"
```



## any()

- Given a set of logical vectors, is at least one of the values **TRUE**?
- Returns a single logical value
- If relevant, can use **na.rm** option

```
> myAtomicVector <- c(1, 2, 99.99, NA, sqrt(2))  
  
> is.na(myAtomicVector)  
[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE  
  
> any(is.na(myAtomicVector))  
[1] TRUE
```

- Passing a data structure to **anyNA()** will return a single **logical** indicating whether or not **NAs** are in said data structure; this is an alternative to the equivalent compound statement **any(is.na())**



## sample()

- `sample()` takes a sample of the specified size from the elements of a vector passed to it
- `replace` permits for sampling with or without replacement (default is `FALSE`, i.e., w/o replacement)
- `n` is non-negative, integral sample size

```
> sample(LETTERS, 5)
[1] "D" "R" "J" "I" "L"

> mtcars[sample(nrow(mtcars), 5), ]
      mpg  cyl  disp  hp drat    wt  qsec vs am gear carb
Chrysler Imperial 14.7   8 440.0 230 3.23 5.345 17.42 0 0   3   4
Merc 450SLC       15.2   8 275.8 180 3.07 3.780 18.00 0 0   3   3
Merc 280          19.2   6 167.6 123 3.92 3.440 18.30 1 0   4   4
Merc 230          22.8   4 140.8  95 3.92 3.150 22.90 1 0   4   2
Datsun 710        22.8   4 108.0  93 3.85 2.320 18.61 1 1   4   1
```



## source()

- In its simplest form, `source()` permits running an external R script while inside another R script

E.g. The file `firstFile.R` contains a single line of code:

```
titanicData <- read.csv("~/titanic.csv")
```

A second file, `secondFile.R` can call `firstFile.R` via the `source()` function to run all code in `firstFile.R`

```
source("~/firstFile.R")
```

which, in this case, would result in loading the csv file and storing it in a data frame `titanicData`, where code from `secondFile.R` could then manipulate said data frame