

Working with Data

Arni Magnusson

Statistical Modeling in R

Universidad de Concepción

19–23 January 2026

Outline

Data Objects

numbers, strings, vectors, tables

Special Objects

lists, date/time, formula

Information

class, dimensions, names

Manipulation

subset, round, aggregate

Simple objects

<code>integer</code>	1	2	3
<code>numeric</code>	0.1	0.2	0.3
<code>character</code>	"one"	"two"	"three"
<code>logical</code>	TRUE	FALSE	TRUE

Is x integer?

```
is.integer(x)
```

Convert x to integer

```
as.integer(x)
```

Unusual values

0	zero	<code>x == 0</code>
""	empty string	<code>x == ""</code>
NA	not available	<code>is.na(x)</code>
NULL	not defined	<code>is.null(x)</code>
Inf	large positive number	<code>is.infinite(x)</code>
-Inf	large negative number	<code>is.infinite(x)</code>
FALSE	not TRUE	<code>!x</code>

Vector and factor

```
numbers <- c(10, 20, 30)
```

```
strings <- c("ten", "twenty", "thirty")
```

```
vec <- c("West", "Center", "East", "West", "Center")
```

```
fac <- factor(vec)
```

```
ord <- ordered(vec, levels=c("West","Center","East"))
```

```
table(fac)
```

```
table(ord)
```

```
plot(fac)
```

```
plot(ord)
```

Data frame, matrix, table

```
# numbers <- c(10, 20, 30)
# strings <- c("ten", "twenty", "thirty")
data.frame(one=numbers, two=strings)
```

```
matrix(c(10, 20, 30, 40), ncol=2)
```

```
mtcars
class(mtcars)
as.matrix(mtcars)
```

```
table(mtcars$cyl)
table(mtcars$am, mtcars$cyl)
```

Data frame, matrix, table

`data.frame` data in columns (analysis, plots)
default choice for statistical analysis
supports $y \sim x$ formula notation
supports `x$name` column selection

`matrix` all values of same mode (linear algebra)

`table` frequency table (view)

`tibble` when using the tidyverse package

`data.table` when using data.table package

List

```
list(one=rivers, two=TRUE, three=sleep, four=pi)
```


Date/time

```
as.Date("2026-01-19")
```

```
as.POSIXct("2026-01-19 23:59:59")
```

Formula

```
plot(mpg ~ cyl, data=mtcars)
```

```
lm(mpg ~ cyl, data=mtcars)
```

```
aggregate(mpg ~ cyl, data=mtcars, mean)
```

Object information

`length(rivers)`

`dim(mtcars)`

`nrow(mtcars)`

`ncol(mtcars)`

`names(mtcars)`

`colnames(mtcars)`

`rownames(mtcars)`

`dimnames(mtcars)`

`mode(WorldPhones)`

`class(WorldPhones)`

`unclass(mtcars)`

`attributes(mtcars)`

`head(mtcars)`

`tail(mtcars)`

`unique(mtcars$cyl)`

`object.size(mtcars)`

Names

```
v <- c(10, 20, 30)
```

```
names(v) <- c("one", "two", "three")
```

```
head(cars)
```

```
names(cars) <- c("s", "d")    # or colnames
```

```
dimnames(cars)
```

Logical expressions

`pi == 3`

`pi != 3`

`pi < 3`

`pi <= 3`

`pi > 3`

`pi >= 3`

Logical expressions

AND

logical	&&	logical	# one value
vector	&	vector	# many values

OR

logical		logical	# one value
vector		vector	# many values

NOT

!logical
!vector

Logical expressions

`pi > 3`

`is.character(pi)`

`!is.character(pi)`

`pi > 3 && is.character(pi)`

`pi > 3 || is.character(pi)`

`!(pi > 3 || is.character(pi))`

Logical expressions

```
# numbers <- c(10, 20, 30)
# strings <- c("ten", "twenty", "thirty")
```

```
numbers >= 20
strings == "thirty"
numbers >= 20 | strings == "thirty"
numbers >= 20 & strings == "thirty"
```

```
any(numbers >= 20)
all(numbers >= 20)
```


Logical expressions

```
chickwts$feed=="soybean" | chickwts$feed=="casein"
```

```
chickwts$feed %in% c("soybean","casein")
```

Ways to subset

Vector (logical, integer, names)

```
islands[islands < 20]  
islands[1:3]  
islands[c("Greenland", "Iceland", "Britain")]
```

Data frame (dollar, logical, integer, names)

```
cars$dist  
cars[1, 2]  
cars[1:10, 1]  
cars[,1]
```

List (dollar, logical, integer, names)

```
z <- list(one=rivers, two=TRUE, three=sleep, four=pi)  
z$two  
z["two"]      # returns a list of length one  
z[["two"]]    # returns the value, same as z$two
```

Extract

Vector

```
v <- c(1, 3, 5, 7, 9)
v[1:3]
```

Data frame

```
x <- data.frame(num=v, char=letters[v])
x[1:3, "char"]
```

List

```
z <- list(one=rivers, two=TRUE, three=sleep, four=pi)
z$two
```

Replace

Vector

```
v <- c(1, 3, 5, 7, 9)
v[1:3] <- 0
v <- v[-(1:3)]
```

Data frame

```
x <- data.frame(num=v, char=letters[v])
x[1:3, "char"] <- ""
x <- x[-(1:3),]
```

List

```
z <- list(one=rivers, two=TRUE, three=sleep, four=pi)
z$two <- FALSE
z$two <- NULL
```

Subset summary

<code>x[i]</code>	<code>x["name"]</code>	<code>x[c(TRUE,FALSE)]</code>
-------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------

select elements from vector

<code>x[i,]</code>	<code>x["name",]</code>	<code>x[c(TRUE,FALSE),]</code>	<code># row</code>
<code>x[,j]</code>	<code>x[, "name"]</code>	<code>x[, c(TRUE,FALSE)]</code>	<code># column</code>
<code>x[i, j]</code>	<code>x["name", "name"]</code>	<code>x[c(TRUE,FALSE), c(TRUE,FALSE)]</code>	

select rows/columns/elements from data frame or matrix

`x$name`

select column in data frame, or element in list

Repeat, sample, order

```
rep(10, 3)
```

```
rep(1:10, 3)
```

```
rep(1:10, each=3)
```

```
rep(1:10, length=22)
```

```
sample(month.abb, 10, replace=TRUE)
```

```
sort(islands)
```

```
sort(islands, decreasing=TRUE)
```

```
rev(rivers)
```

```
order(rivers) # rivers[order(rivers)]
```

Numbers

```
1:10
```

```
seq(1, 10, 0.5)
```

```
seq(1, 10, length=5)
```

```
rnorm(10, m=0, s=1)
```

```
runif(10, min=0, max=1)
```

```
rpois(10, lambda=1)
```

```
round(pi)
```

```
trunc(pi)
```

```
pi %% 1
```

String manipulation

```
nchar(month.name)
```

```
paste(month.abb[1], month.abb[3], sep="-")  
paste(month.abb, collapse=".")
```

```
substring(month.abb, first=2, last=3)
```

```
grep("r", month.name)  
month.abb[grep("r", month.name)]  
month.abb[grep("r", month.name, invert=TRUE)]
```

```
gsub("J", "Y", month.abb)
```


Bind, apply, transpose

```
v <- 1:10
```

```
cbind(v)
```

```
cbind(v^2, log(v))
```

```
rbind(v)
```

```
rbind(v^2, log(v))
```

```
apply(WorldPhones, 1, sum) # within row
```

```
apply(mtcars, 2, max)      # within column
```

```
a <- list(rivers=rivers, islands=islands, precip=precip)
```

```
sapply(mtcars, max)        # within element
```

```
sapply(a, median)         # within element
```

```
t(WorldPhones)
```

Aggregate and crosstab

```
aggregate(hp ~ cyl, data=mtcars, mean)
```

```
z <- aggregate(qsec ~ cyl+am, data=mtcars, mean)  
xtabs(qsec ~ cyl+am, data=z)
```

Outline

Data Objects

numbers, strings, vectors, tables

Special Objects

lists, date/time, formula

Information

class, dimensions, names

Manipulation

subset, round, aggregate