

R for Biologist - An Introduction to R (Beginner)

What is R

R is a language and environment for statistical computing and graphics. It provides a wide variety of statistical and graphical techniques (linear and nonlinear modelling, statistical tests, time series analysis, classification, clustering, ...) and graphical techniques, and is highly extensible. It is a GNU project (Free and Open Source) which is similar to the S language and environment which was developed at Bell Laboratories (formerly AT&T, now Lucent Technologies) by John Chambers and colleagues. R was created by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman[4] at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, and now, R is developed by the R Development Core Team, of which Chambers is a member. R is named partly after the first names of the first two R authors (Robert Gentleman and Ross Ihaka), and partly as a play on the name of S. R can be considered as a different implementation of S. There are some important differences, but much code written for S runs unaltered under R.

Some of R's strengths:

- * The ease with which well-designed publication-quality plots can be produced, including mathematical symbols and formulae where needed. Great care has been taken over the defaults for the minor design choices in graphics, but the user retains full control.
- * It compiles and runs on a wide variety of UNIX platforms and similar systems (including FreeBSD and Linux), Windows and MacOS.
- * R can be extended (easily) via packages.
- * R has its own LaTeX-like documentation format, which is used to supply comprehensive documentation, both on-line in a number of formats and in hardcopy.
- * Its FREE!
- * It has a vast community both in academia and in business.

The R environment

R is an integrated suite of software facilities for data manipulation, calculation and graphical display. It includes

- an effective data handling and storage facility,
- a suite of operators for calculations on arrays, in particular matrices,
- a large, coherent, integrated collection of intermediate tools for data analysis,
- graphical facilities for data analysis and display either on-screen or on hardcopy, and
- a well-developed, simple and effective programming language which includes conditionals, loops, user-defined recursive functions and input and output facilities.

The term "environment" is intended to characterize it as a fully planned and coherent system, rather than an incremental accretion of very specific and inflexible tools, as is frequently the case with other data analysis software.

R, like S, is designed around a true computer language, and it allows users to add additional functionality by defining new functions. Much of the system is itself written in the R dialect of S, which makes it easy for users to follow the algorithmic choices made. For

computationally-intensive tasks, C, C++ and Fortran code can be linked and called at run time. Advanced users can write C code to manipulate R objects directly.

Many users think of R as a statistics system. The R group, prefers to think of it of an environment within which statistical techniques are implemented.

The R Homepage

The R homepage has a wealth of information on it,

R-project.org

On the homepage you can: * Learn more about R * Download R * Get Documentation (official and user supplied) * Get access to CRAN 'Comprehensive R archival network'

RStudio

Relatively new project that is the BEST integrated development environment I have ever used.

[RStudio](http://RStudio.com)

RStudio has many features: * syntax highlighting * code completion * smart indentation * "Projects" * workspace browser and data viewer * imbedded plots * Sweave authoring and knitr with one click pdf or html * runs on all platforms and over the web

Topics covered in this introduction to R

1. Basic data types in R
2. Importing and exporting data in R
3. Basic statistics in R
4. Simple data visulization in R
5. `lapply()`, `sapply()`
6. Installing packages in R

Topic 1. Basic data types in R

Simple variables: variables that have a numeric value, a character value (such as a string), or a logical value (True or False)

Examples of numeric values.

```
# assign number 150 to variable a.  
a <- 150  
a
```

```
## [1] 150

# assign a number in scientific format to variable b.
b <- 3e-2
b

## [1] 0.03
```

Examples of character values.

```
# assign a string "Professor" to variable title
title <- "Professor"
title

## [1] "Professor"

# assign a string "Hello World" to variable hello
hello <- "Hello World"
hello

## [1] "Hello World"
```

Examples of logical values.

```
# assign logical value "TRUE" to variable is_female
is_female <- TRUE
is_female

## [1] TRUE

# assign logical value "FALSE" to variable is_male
is_male <- FALSE
is_male

## [1] FALSE

# assign logical value to a variable by logical operation
age <- 20
is_adult <- age > 18
is_adult

## [1] TRUE
```

To find out the type of variable.

```
class(is_female)

## [1] "logical"

# To check whether the variable is a specific type
is.numeric(hello)

## [1] FALSE
```

```
is.numeric(a)
## [1] TRUE
is.character(hello)
## [1] TRUE
```

The rule to convert a logical variable to numeric: TRUE > 1, FALSE > 0

```
as.numeric(is_female)
## [1] 1
as.numeric(is_male)
## [1] 0
```

R does not know how to convert a numeric variable to a character variable.

```
b
## [1] 0.03
as.character(b)
## [1] "0.03"
```

Vectors: a vector is a combination of multiple values(numeric, character or logical) in the same object. A vector is created using the function `c()` (for concatenate).

```
friend_ages <- c(21, 27, 26, 32)
friend_ages
## [1] 21 27 26 32
friend_names <- c("Mina", "Ella", "Anna", "Cora")
friend_names
## [1] "Mina" "Ella" "Anna" "Cora"
```

One can give names to the elements of a vector.

```
# assign names to a vector by specifying them
names(friend_ages) <- c("Mina", "Ella", "Anna", "Carla")
friend_ages
##  Mina  Ella  Anna  Carla
##   21   27   26   32
```

assign names to a vector using another vector

```
names(friend_ages) <- friend_names  
friend_ages
```

```
## Mina Ella Anna Cora  
##    21    27    26    32
```

Or One may create a vector with named elements from scratch.

```
friend_ages <- c(Mina=21, Ella=27, Anna=26, Cora=32)  
friend_ages
```

```
## Mina Ella Anna Cora  
##    21    27    26    32
```

To find out the length of a vector:

```
length(friend_ages)
```

```
## [1] 4
```

To access elements of a vector: by index, or by name if it is a named vector.

```
friend_ages[2]
```

```
## Ella  
##    27
```

```
friend_ages["Ella"]
```

```
## Ella  
##    27
```

```
friend_ages[c(1,3)]
```

```
## Mina Anna  
##    21    26
```

```
friend_ages[c("Mina", "Anna")]
```

```
## Mina Anna  
##    21    26
```

selecting elements of a vector by excluding some of them.

```
friend_ages[-3]
```

```
## Mina Ella Cora  
##    21    27    32
```

To select a subset of a vector can be done by logical vector.

```
my_friends <- c("Mina", "Ella", "Anna", "Cora")  
my_friends
```

```
## [1] "Mina" "Ella" "Anna" "Cora"

has_child <- c("TRUE", "TRUE", "FALSE", "TRUE")
has_child

## [1] "TRUE" "TRUE" "FALSE" "TRUE"

my_friends[has_child == "TRUE"]

## [1] "Mina" "Ella" "Cora"
```

*** NOTE: a vector can only hold elements of the same type.

Matrices: A matrix is like an Excel sheet containing multiple rows and columns. It is used to combine vectors of the same type.

```
col1 <- c(1,3,8,9)
col2 <- c(2,18,27,10)
col3 <- c(8,37,267,19)

my_matrix <- cbind(col1, col2, col3)
my_matrix

##      col1 col2 col3
## [1,]    1    2    8
## [2,]    3   18   37
## [3,]    8   27  267
## [4,]    9   10   19

rownames(my_matrix) <- c("row1", "row2", "row3", "row4")
my_matrix

##      col1 col2 col3
## row1    1    2    8
## row2    3   18   37
## row3    8   27  267
## row4    9   10   19

t(my_matrix)

##      row1 row2 row3 row4
## col1    1    3    8    9
## col2    2   18   27   10
## col3    8   37  267   19
```

To find out the dimension of a matrix:

```
ncol(my_matrix)

## [1] 3

nrow(my_matrix)
```

```
## [1] 4
dim(my_matrix)
## [1] 4 3
```

Accessing elements of a matrix is done in similar ways to accessing elements of a vector.

```
my_matrix[1,3]
## [1] 8
my_matrix["row1", "col3"]
## [1] 8
my_matrix[1,]
## col1 col2 col3
##    1    2    8
my_matrix[,3]
## row1 row2 row3 row4
##    8   37  267   19
my_matrix[col3 > 20,]
##      col1 col2 col3
## row2    3   18   37
## row3    8   27  267
```

Calculations with matrices.

```
my_matrix * 3
##      col1 col2 col3
## row1    3    6   24
## row2    9   54  111
## row3   24   81  801
## row4   27   30   57
log10(my_matrix)
##      col1      col2      col3
## row1 0.0000000 0.301030 0.903090
## row2 0.4771213 1.255273 1.568202
## row3 0.9030900 1.431364 2.426511
## row4 0.9542425 1.000000 1.278754
```

Total of each row.

```
rowSums(my_matrix)
```

```
## row1 row2 row3 row4
##    11    58   302   38
```

Total of each column.

```
colSums(my_matrix)

## col1 col2 col3
##    21    57   331
```

It is also possible to use the function `apply()` to apply any statistical functions to rows/columns of matrices. The advantage of using `apply()` is that it can take a function created by user.

The simplified format of `apply()` is as following:

`apply(X, MARGIN, FUN)`

X: data matrix MARGIN: possible values are 1 (for rows) and 2 (for columns) FUN: the function to apply on rows/columns

To calculate the mean of each row.

```
apply(my_matrix, 1, mean)

##      row1      row2      row3      row4
## 3.666667 19.333333 100.666667 12.666667
```

To calculate the median of each row

```
apply(my_matrix, 1, median)

## row1 row2 row3 row4
##    2   18   27   10
```

Factors: a factor represents categorical or groups in data. The function `factor()` can be used to create a factor variable.

```
friend_groups <- factor(c(1,2,1,2))
friend_groups

## [1] 1 2 1 2
## Levels: 1 2
```

In R, categories are called factor levels. The function `levels()` can be used to access the factor levels.

```
levels(friend_groups)

## [1] "1" "2"
```

Change the factor levels.


```

levels(friend_groups) <- c("best_friend", "not_best_friend")
friend_groups

## [1] best_friend      not_best_friend best_friend      not_best_friend
## Levels: best_friend not_best_friend

```

Change the order of levels.

```

levels(friend_groups) <- c("not_best_friend", "best_friend")
friend_groups

## [1] not_best_friend best_friend      not_best_friend best_friend
## Levels: not_best_friend best_friend

```

By default, the order of factor levels is taken in the order of numeric or alphabetic.

```

friend_groups <- factor(c("not_best_friend", "best_friend",
"not_best_friend", "best_friend"))
friend_groups

## [1] not_best_friend best_friend      not_best_friend best_friend
## Levels: best_friend not_best_friend

```

The factor levels can be specified when creating the factor, if the order does not follow the default rule.

```

friend_groups <- factor(c("not_best_friend", "best_friend",
"not_best_friend", "best_friend"), levels=c("not_best_friend",
"best_friend"))
friend_groups

## [1] not_best_friend best_friend      not_best_friend best_friend
## Levels: not_best_friend best_friend

```

If you want to know the number of individuals at each levels, there are two functions.

```

summary(friend_groups)

## not_best_friend      best_friend
##                2                2

table(friend_groups)

## friend_groups
## not_best_friend      best_friend
##                2                2

```

Data frames: a data frame is like a matrix but can have columns with different types (numeric, character, logical).

A data frame can be created using the function `data.frame()`.

```
# creating a data frame using previously defined vectors
friends <- data.frame(name=friend_names, age=friend_ages, child=has_child)
friends

##      name age child
## Mina  Mina  21  TRUE
## Ella  Ella  27  TRUE
## Anna  Anna  26 FALSE
## Cora  Cora  32  TRUE
```

To check whether a data is a data frame, use the function `is.data.frame()`.

```
is.data.frame(friends)

## [1] TRUE

is.data.frame(my_matrix)

## [1] FALSE
```

One can convert a object to a data frame using the function `as.data.frame()`.

```
class(my_matrix)

## [1] "matrix"

my_data <- as.data.frame(my_matrix)
class(my_data)

## [1] "data.frame"
```

A data frame can be transposed in the similar way as a matrix.

```
my_data

##      col1 col2 col3
## row1    1    2    8
## row2    3   18   37
## row3    8   27  267
## row4    9   10   19

t(my_data)

##      row1 row2 row3 row4
## col1    1    3    8    9
## col2    2   18   27   10
## col3    8   37  267   19
```

To obtain a subset of a data frame can be done in similar ways as we have discussed: by index, by row/column names, or by logical values.

```
friends["Mina",]
```

```
##      name age child
## Mina Mina  21  TRUE

# The columns of a data frame can be referred to by the names of the columns
friends

##      name age child
## Mina Mina  21  TRUE
## Ella Ella  27  TRUE
## Anna Anna  26 FALSE
## Cora Cora  32  TRUE

friends$age

## [1] 21 27 26 32

friends[friends$age > 26,]

##      name age child
## Ella Ella  27  TRUE
## Cora Cora  32  TRUE

friends[friends$child == "TRUE",]

##      name age child
## Mina Mina  21  TRUE
## Ella Ella  27  TRUE
## Cora Cora  32  TRUE
```

Function `subset()` can also be used to get a subset of a data frame.

```
# select friends that are older than 26
subset(friends, age > 26)

##      name age child
## Ella Ella  27  TRUE
## Cora Cora  32  TRUE

# select the information of the ages of friends
subset(friends, select=age)

##      age
## Mina  21
## Ella  27
## Anna  26
## Cora  32
```

A data frame can be extended.

```
# add a column that has the information on the marital status of friends
friends$married <- c("YES", "YES", "NO", "YES")
friends
```

```
##      name age child married
## Mina  Mina  21  TRUE      YES
## Ella  Ella  27  TRUE      YES
## Anna  Anna  26 FALSE      NO
## Cora  Cora  32  TRUE      YES
```

A data frame can also be extended using the functions `cbind()` and `rbind()`.

```
# add a column that has the information on the salaries of friends
cbind(friends, salary=c(4000, 8000, 2000, 6000))

##      name age child married salary
## Mina  Mina  21  TRUE      YES  4000
## Ella  Ella  27  TRUE      YES  8000
## Anna  Anna  26 FALSE      NO  2000
## Cora  Cora  32  TRUE      YES  6000
```

Lists: a list is an ordered collection of objects, which can be any type of R objects (vectors, matrices, data frames).

A list can be created using the function `list()`.

```
my_list <- list(mother="Sophia", father="John", sisters=c("Anna", "Emma"),
               sister_age=c(5, 10))
my_list

## $mother
## [1] "Sophia"
##
## $father
## [1] "John"
##
## $sisters
## [1] "Anna" "Emma"
##
## $sister_age
## [1] 5 10

# names of elements in the list
names(my_list)

## [1] "mother"      "father"      "sisters"     "sister_age"

# number of elements in the list
length(my_list)

## [1] 4
```

To access elements of a list can be done using its name or index.

```
my_list$mother
```

```
## [1] "Sophia"
my_list[["mother"]]
## [1] "Sophia"
my_list[[1]]
## [1] "Sophia"
my_list[[3]]
## [1] "Anna" "Emma"
my_list[[3]][2]
## [1] "Emma"
```

Topic 2. Importing and exporting data in R

R base function `read.table()` is a general function that can be used to read a file in table format. The data will be imported as a data frame.

```
data <- read.table(file="raw_counts.txt", sep="\t", header=T,
stringsAsFactors=F)
```

Take a look at the beginning part of the data frame.

```
head(data)
```

	C61	C62	C63	C64	C91	C92	C93	C94	I561	I562	I563	I564	I591
## AT1G01010	322	346	256	396	372	506	361	342	638	488	440	479	770
## AT1G01020	149	87	162	144	189	169	147	108	163	141	119	147	182
## AT1G01030	15	32	35	22	24	33	21	35	18	8	54	35	23
## AT1G01040	687	469	568	651	885	978	794	862	799	769	725	715	811
## AT1G01046	1	1	5	4	5	3	0	2	4	3	1	0	2
## AT1G01050	1447	1032	1083	1204	1413	1484	1138	938	1247	1516	984	1044	1374
	I592	I593	I594	I861	I862	I863	I864	I891	I892	I893	I894		
## AT1G01010	430	656	467	143	453	429	206	567	458	520	474		
## AT1G01020	156	153	177	43	144	114	50	161	195	157	144		
## AT1G01030	8	16	24	42	17	22	39	26	28	39	30		
## AT1G01040	567	831	694	345	575	605	404	735	651	725	591		
## AT1G01046	8	8	1	0	4	0	3	5	7	0	5		
## AT1G01050	1355	1437	1577	412	1338	1051	621	1434	1552	1248	1186		

To read in data from the internet, one can input the file url to `read.table()` as following: `{r}`

```
read.table(file="https://raw.githubusercontent.com/ucdavis-bioinformatics-
training/2017-June-RNA-Seq-Workshop/master/thursday/Intro2R/raw_counts.txt",
sep="", header=T, stringsAsFactors=F) ``
```

Depending on the format of the file, several variants of `read.table()` are available to make reading a file easier.

`read.csv()`: for reading "comma separated value" files (.csv).

`read.csv2()`: variant used in countries that use a comma "," as decimal point and a semicolon ";" as field separators.

`read.delim()`: for reading "tab separated value" files (.txt). By default, point(".") is used as decimal point.

`read.delim2()`: for reading "tab separated value" files (.txt). By default, comma (",") is used as decimal point.

```
data2 <- read.csv(file="raw_counts.csv", stringsAsFactors=F)
head(data2)

##           C61  C62  C63  C64  C91  C92  C93  C94  I561  I562  I563  I564  I591
## AT1G01010  322  346  256  396  372  506  361  342  638  488  440  479  770
## AT1G01020  149   87  162  144  189  169  147  108  163  141  119  147  182
## AT1G01030   15   32   35   22   24   33   21   35   18   8   54   35   23
## AT1G01040  687  469  568  651  885  978  794  862  799  769  725  715  811
## AT1G01046    1    1    5    4    5    3    0    2    4    3    1    0    2
## AT1G01050 1447 1032 1083 1204 1413 1484 1138 938 1247 1516  984 1044 1374
##           I592  I593  I594  I861  I862  I863  I864  I891  I892  I893  I894
## AT1G01010  430  656  467  143  453  429  206  567  458  520  474
## AT1G01020  156  153  177   43  144  114   50  161  195  157  144
## AT1G01030    8   16   24   42   17   22   39   26   28   39   30
## AT1G01040  567  831  694  345  575  605  404  735  651  725  591
## AT1G01046    8    8    1    0    4    0    3    5    7    0    5
## AT1G01050 1355 1437 1577  412 1338 1051  621 1434 1552 1248 1186
```

R base function `write.table()` can be used to export a data frame or matrix to a file.

```
write.table(data2[1:20,], file="output.txt", sep="\t", quote=F, row.names=T,
col.names=T)
```

It is also possible to export data to a csv file.

`write.csv()`

`write.csv2()`

Topic 3. Basic statistics in R

Description	R_function
Mean	<code>mean()</code>
Standard deviation	<code>sd()</code>
Variance	<code>var()</code>

Minimum	min()
Maximum	max()
Median	median()
Range of values: minimum and maximum	range()
Sample quantiles	quantile()
Generic function	summary()
Interquartile range	IQR()

Calculate the mean expression for each sample.

```
apply(data, 2, mean)
```

```
##      C61      C62      C63      C64      C91      C92      C93      C94
## 391.9998 336.4872 333.7007 380.6545 364.6587 407.0191 361.3672 314.1931
##      I561      I562      I563      I564      I591      I592      I593      I594
## 398.8421 380.4970 382.0019 378.7685 387.7994 349.4061 400.9421 385.1493
##      I861      I862      I863      I864      I891      I892      I893      I894
## 219.8517 379.0522 341.6387 271.0391 395.3089 426.0254 350.8965 358.8508
```

Calculate the range of expression for each sample.

```
apply(data, 2, range)
```

```
##      C61      C62      C63      C64      C91      C92      C93      C94      I561      I562      I563
## [1,]      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
## [2,] 81764 89072 43781 64539 51516 68279 64407 53799 116414 90133 69623
##      I564      I591      I592      I593      I594      I861      I862      I863      I864      I891      I892
## [1,]      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
## [2,] 76426 111873 73071 114566 89630 69853 122114 98449 51835 102672 80998
##      I893      I894
## [1,]      0      0
## [2,] 116025 89270
```

Calculate the quantiles of each samples.

```
apply(data, 2, quantile)
```

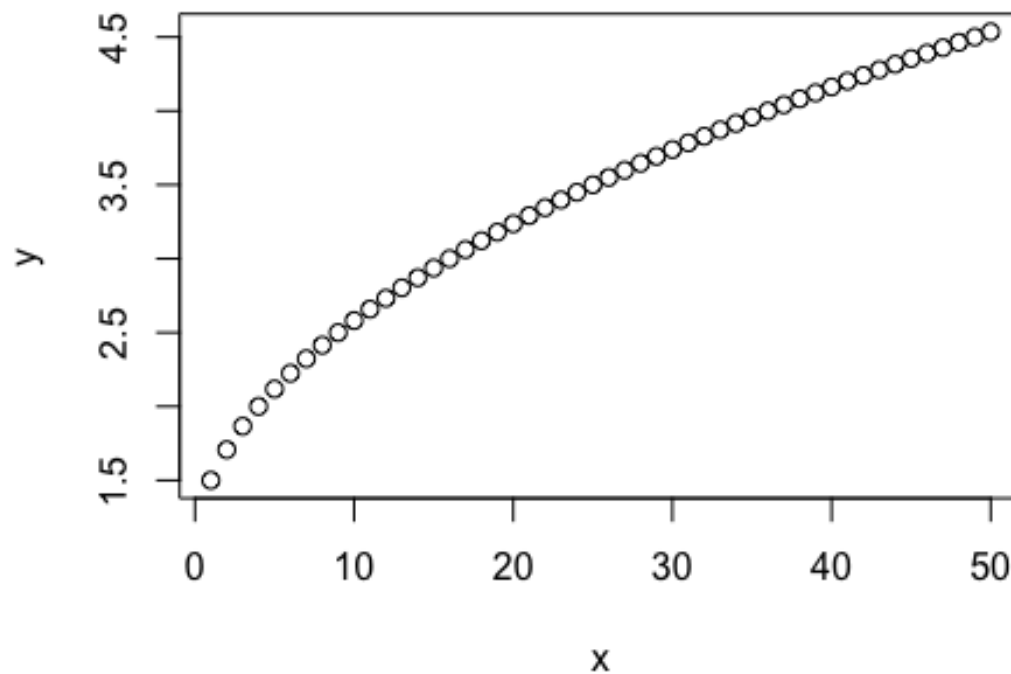
```
##      C61      C62      C63      C64      C91      C92      C93      C94      I561      I562      I563
## 0%      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
## 25%      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
## 50%      43      38      45      47      48      45      47      39      41      45      47
## 75%     330     270     294     331     326     344     311     266     327     333     314
## 100% 81764 89072 43781 64539 51516 68279 64407 53799 116414 90133 69623
##      I564      I591      I592      I593      I594      I861      I862      I863      I864      I891      I892
## 0%      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
## 25%      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0      0
## 50%      45      48      41      45      43      21      49      33      31      46      49
## 75%     316     330     298     338     333     149     327     274     211     333     354
## 100% 76426 111873 73071 114566 89630 69853 122114 98449 51835 102672 80998
```

```
##           I893  I894
## 0%         0.00    0
## 25%        0.00    0
## 50%       44.00   41
## 75%      300.75  304
## 100% 116025.00 89270
```

Topic 4. Simple data visualization in R

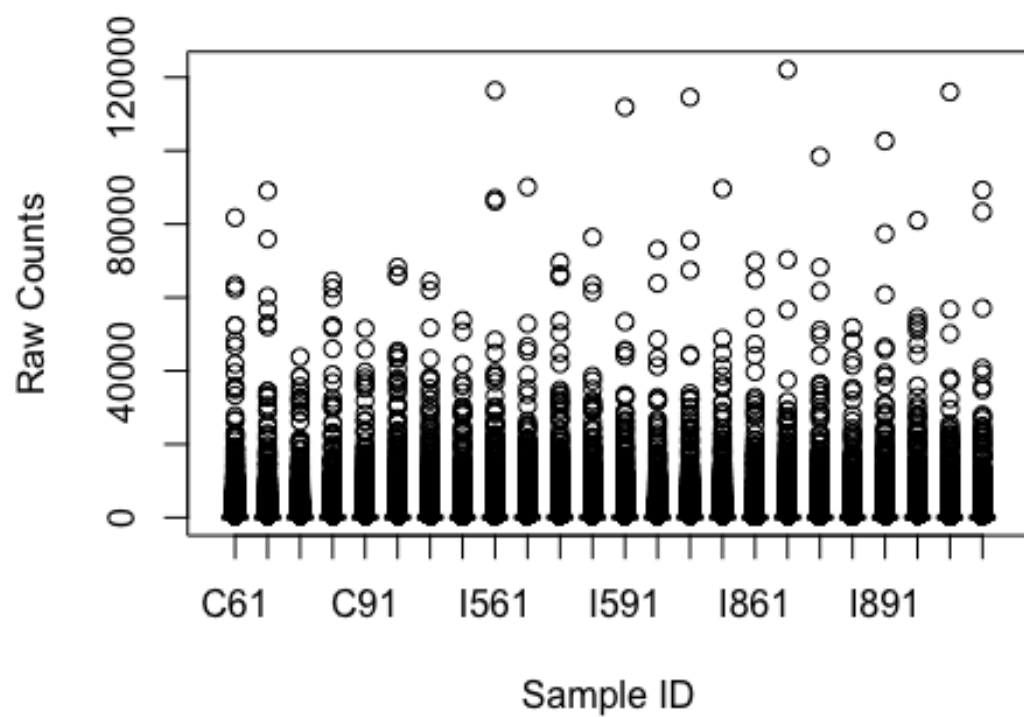
Scatter plot can be produced using the function `plot()`.

```
x <- c(1:50)
y <- 1 + sqrt(x)/2
plot(x,y)
```

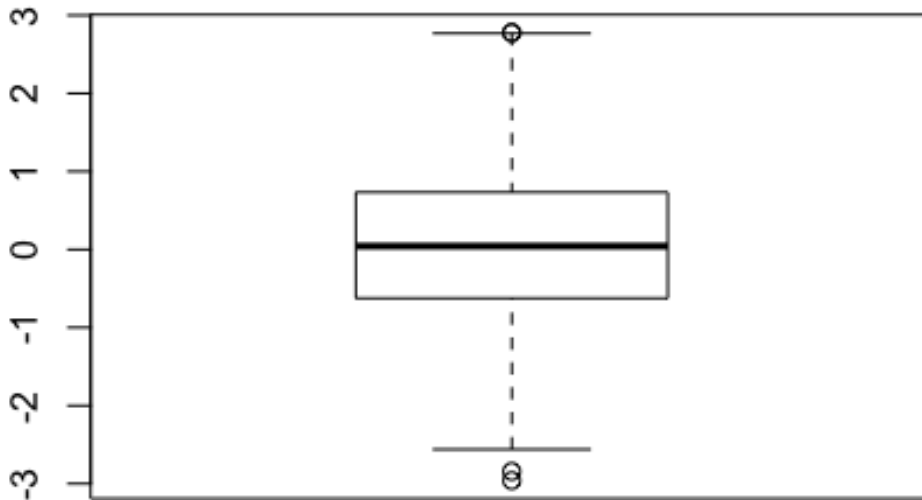


`Boxplot()` can be used to summarize expression data.

```
boxplot(data, xlab="Sample ID", ylab="Raw Counts")
```

```
x <- rnorm(1000)  
boxplot(x)
```



Topic 5. lapply(), sapply()

lapply() is to apply a given function to every element of a list and obtain a list as results.

The difference between **lapply()** and **apply()** is that **lapply()** can be applied on objects like dataframes, lists or vectors. Function **apply()** only works on an array of dimension 2 or a matrix.

To check the syntax of using lapply():

```
#?lapply()
```

```
data <- as.data.frame(matrix(rnorm(49), ncol=7), stringsAsFactors=F)
dim(data)
```

```
## [1] 7 7
```

```

lapply(1:dim(data)[1], function(x){sum(data[x,])})

## [[1]]
## [1] -2.631371
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 6.083566
##
## [[3]]
## [1] 0.118538
##
## [[4]]
## [1] -5.31708
##
## [[5]]
## [1] 0.4478361
##
## [[6]]
## [1] -0.5566494
##
## [[7]]
## [1] 1.85869

apply(data, MARGIN=1, sum)

## [1] -2.6313709  6.0835659  0.1185380 -5.3170803  0.4478361 -0.5566494
## [7]  1.8586898

lapply(1:dim(data)[1], function(x){log10(sum(data[x,]))})

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## [[1]]
## [1] NaN
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 0.7841582
##
## [[3]]
## [1] -0.9261423
##
## [[4]]
## [1] NaN
##
## [[5]]
## [1] -0.3488809
##

```

```
## [[6]]
## [1] NaN
##
## [[7]]
## [1] 0.2692069
```

The function `sapply()` works like function `lapply()`, but tries to simplify the output to the most elementary data structure that is possible. As a matter of fact, `sapply()` is a "wrapper" function for `lapply()`. By default, it returns a vector.

```
# To check the syntax of using sapply():
#?sapply()
```

```
sapply(1:dim(data)[1], function(x){log10(sum(data[x,]))})

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## [1]      NaN  0.7841582 -0.9261423      NaN -0.3488809      NaN
## [7] 0.2692069
```

If the "simplify" parameter is turned off, `sapply()` will produced exactly the same results as `lapply()`, in the form of a list. By default, "simplify" is turned on.

```
sapply(1:dim(data)[1], function(x){log10(sum(data[x,]))}, simplify=FALSE)

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): NaNs produced

## [[1]]
## [1] NaN
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 0.7841582
##
## [[3]]
## [1] -0.9261423
##
## [[4]]
```

```
## [1] NaN
##
## [[5]]
## [1] -0.3488809
##
## [[6]]
## [1] NaN
##
## [[7]]
## [1] 0.2692069
```

Topic 6. Installing packages in R

There are two ways to install bioconductor packages in R: `biocLite()`, `install.packages()`

```
source("http://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")

## Bioconductor version 3.2 (BiocInstaller 1.20.3), ?biocLite for help
## A new version of Bioconductor is available after installing the most
## recent version of R; see http://bioconductor.org/install

## install core packages
#biocLite()
## install specific packages
#biocLite("edgeR")
#biocLite(c("topGO", "org.At.tair.db", "biomaRt", "KEGGREST", "WGCNA",
"gpplots"))

#install.packages("ggplot2", repos="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
#install.packages("locfit", repos="http://cran.us.r-project.org")
```

biocLite() is the recommended way to install Bioconductor packages.

- Bioconductor has a repository and release schedule that differ from R (Bioconductor has a 'devel' branch to which new packages and updates are introduced, and a stable 'release' branch emitted once every 6 months to which bug fixes but not new features are introduced). This mismatch causes that the version detected by `install.packages()` is sometimes not the most recent 'release'.
- A consequence of the distance 'devel' branch is that `install.packages()` sometimes points only to the 'release' repository, while users might want to have access to the leading-edge features in the develop version.
- An indirect consequence of Bioconductor's structured release is that packages generally have more extensive dependencies with one another.

To update the installed Bioconductor packages.

```
#biocLite("BiocUpgrade")
```