

R language and data analysis: strings

Qiang Shen

Jan.2,2018

Paste

```
paste('Welcome','Qiang')
paste('Welcome','Qiang','and his friends.')
paste('Christ','mas',sep=" ") #equivalent to paste0
paste('Welcome','Qiang','and his friends.',sep=' + ')
##vectorization
paste('Welcome',c('Qiang','jack','Lucy'),
c('and his friends.','and his classmates'),sep=" ")
# result<-paste('Welcome',c('Qiang','jack','Lucy'),
# c('and his friends.','and his classmates'),sep=" ")
#   result
#   cat(result,sep='\n')
```

Paste: collapse for vectors.

```
vectorOfText<-c('Hello','everyone','out there',".")
vectorOfText
paste(vectorOfText,collapse="*")

paste(c('a','b','c','d'),collapse=" + ")
## "PC1 + PC2 + PC3 + PC4 + PC5 + PC6 + PC7 + PC8
# + PC9 + PC10"
PCs<-paste0('PC',1:10)
PCs
paste(PCs,collapse=" + ")
paste0("PC", 1:10,collapse=" + ")#strjoin
```

Sprintf

```
"Hello Qiang,the game will start at eight at  
Zhaohui campus"
```

```
person='Ming';time='six';location='Pingfeng'
```

```
paste('Hello ',person,",the game will start at ",  
      time,' at ', location,' campus',sep="")
```

```
sprintf("Hello %s,the game will start at %s at %s campus",  
        person,time,location)
```

```
#vectoriztion
```

```
person=c('Ming','Jack','Linda','Tracy');time='six';
```

```
location=c('Pingfeng','Chaohui','Deqing','Keqiao')
```

```
sprintf("Hello %s,the game will start at %s at %s campus",  
        person,time,location)
```

nchar/toupper/tolower

```
value<-c('gender','general','requirement','ecosystem')
value[nchar(value)>8]
length(value)
nchar("");length("")
DNA<-"ATGCtttACC"
toupper(DNA)
tolower(DNA)
DNA
chartr("Tt", "Uu", DNA)##character translation
chartr("Tt", "UU", DNA)
```

String manipulation

- substr: element extraction
- grep(l): vector search
- (g)regexpr: position search
- (g)sub: element replacement
- strsplit: string split

String manipulation

- **substr**
- `grep(l)`
- `(g)regexpr`
- `(g)sub`
- `strsplit`

Substr

```
str(substr)
value<-c('a1243_v','b3934_d','c1723_t')
substr(value,2,5)
substr(value,2,5)<-'1234'
value
```


String manipulation

- substr
- **grep()**
- (g)regexpr
- (g)sub
- strsplit

Grep

```
str(grep) ##pattern is regular expression
grep('A',c('ABC','DEF','XAT','ATZ'))
grep('A',c('ABC','DEF','XAT','ATZ'),value=T)
grepl('A',c('ABC','DEF','XAT','ATZ'))
##regular expression.
grep('^A',c('ABC','DEFA','XAT','ATZ'),value=T)
```

Grep example

```
# only works on Qiang's computer but you can revise  
# it accordingly for your purpose.  
files<-list.files('~'/desktop/test')  
# pattern=".*stata[0-9]*_[0-9]*\\.dta$"  
files  
files[grep("\\.txt$", files)]  
##"\"escape character(转义字符).
```

Escape character

```
paste('I\'m', 'a', 'big fan of R')  
# cat('Hello', 'World!')  
# text<- c("Hello, Adam!", "Hi, Adam!",  
# "How are you, Adam.")  
# sub(pattern=".*(Adam).*",  
# replacement="\1", text)
```

String manipulation

- substr
- grep(l)
- **(g)regexpr**
- (g)sub
- strsplit

String manipulation

- How many ABs is available for each element in the following vector?

```
vec<-c('ABAAAABBBAAAAB', 'AAABBBBBBBAABBB',  
       'AAAAAAAABBBBBAA', 'AABBBABBBBAABBAB')
```

String manipulation

```
vec<-c('ABAAAABBBAAAAB', 'AAABBBBBBBBAABBB',  
       'AAAAAAAAABBBBBBAA', 'AABBBABBBBAABBAB')  
regexpr('AB',vec)  
gregexpr('AB',vec)  
sapply(gregexpr('AB',vec),length)
```

String manipulation

- substr
- grep(l)
- (g)regexpr
- **(g)sub**
- strsplit

Sub and gsub

```
str(sub)
sub('a','x',c('abcda','bcda','xdg_a','xgh_a'))
gsub('a','x',c('abcda','bcda','xdg_a','xgh_a'))

##blank:space and tab
sub('\\s','_',c('abcd','hello world!','jack Ma'))
sub('_.','_x',c('abcda','bcda','xdg_a','xgh_a'))
```

Practical example: revisit the export example

```
library(rmatio)
data(iris)
names(iris)
names(iris)<-sub("\\\\.", "_", names(iris))
names(iris)
```

Practical example: revisit the export example

```
data(iris);names(iris)
sub(".", "_", names(iris))
sub("\\.", "_", names(iris))
names(iris)<-sub(".", "_", fixed = T,names(iris))
names(iris)
sub("[.]", "_", names(iris))

## with pipeline.
library(dplyr)
iris %>% setNames(sub("[.]", "_", names(.)))
names(iris)
out<-split(iris[,c(1:4)],f=iris$Species)
write.mat(out,'/Users/qiangshen/desktop/iris_nested.mat')
```

String manipulation

- substr
- grep(l)
- (g)regexpr
- (g)sub
- **strsplit**

Strsplit

How to split the first and last name in the following vector?

```
namelist<-c('Jack Ma','Bruce Lee','Jackie Chan',  
            'Jet Lee','Chow Yunfat')  
namelist
```

```
[1] "Jack Ma"      "Bruce Lee"    "Jackie Chan" "Jet Lee"
```

Strsplit

```
str(strsplit)
namelist<-c('Jack Ma','Bruce Lee','Jackie Chan',
            'Jet Lee','Chow Yunfat')
y<-strsplit(namelist," ")
y
# sapply(y, '[')[1,]
do.call('rbind',y)
```

String function

- substr
- grep(l)
- (g)regexpr
- (g)sub
- strsplit

Regular expression(正则表达式)

- 12: [] \ ^ \$. | ? * + ()
- ^ and \$
- ., ?, +, * and {n}
- [a-z],[0-9], [a-zA-Z], [ab|ba] and (ab)
- \d(D:digit) , \w(W:word) and \s(S:space)

Regular expression

- ^ and \$

```
grep('^A',c('ABC','DEF','XAT','ATZ','aBC'))
```

```
[1] 1 4
```

```
grep('C$',c('ABC','DEF','XAT','ATZ','aBC'))
```

```
[1] 1 5
```

Regular expression

X^*	0 or more repetitions of X
X^+	1 or more repetitions of X
$X^?$	0 or 1 instances of X
$X\{m\}$	exactly m instances of X
$X\{m, \}$	at least m instances of X
$X\{m, n\}$	between m and n (inclusive) instances of X

Regular expression

- .,?,+,*

```
# var<-c('a123', 'bcda', 'a456', 'xdfa', 'xddga')
# grep('^a', var)
# grep('a$', var)
# sub('^a', '', var)
# sub('a$', '', var)
var0<-c('aa123b_a', 'bcdab_b', 'a45b6_c',
        'xdafa_d', 'xgaab_e')
sub('_.', '', var0)
sub('_.?', '', var0)
grep('aa?b', var0, value=T)
grep('aa+b', var0, value=T)
grep('aa*b', var0, value=T)
```

Regular expression

- [] and | and ()

```
var0<-c('aa123b_a','bcdab_b','ba45b6_c',  
        'xdafa_d','xgaab_e')  
sub('_[a-e]',' ',var0)
```

```
[1] "aa123b" "bcdab" "ba45b6" "xdafa" "xgaab"
```

```
grep('ab|ba',var0,value=T)
```

```
[1] "bcdab_b" "ba45b6_c" "xgaab_e"
```

```
grep('[Aa$]',c('ABC','DEF','XAT$','ATZ','aBC'),value=T)
```

```
[1] "ABC" "XAT$" "ATZ" "aBC"
```

```
grep("(ab)?c",c("ababc","ac","cde"))
```

Example

```
variable<-c('A1234','A1234M6','A1234X5','A1565',  
            'A2456Z4','1245')  
var1<-c('data','hi14','history','hi2','thim','hi5')  
grep('^h.*[0-9]+$ ',var1,value = T)  
  
var2<-c(5,9,1,4,5,2)  
var3<-rep(1:3,2)  
data<-data.frame(var1,var2,var3)  
data  
data[grep('^hi[0-9]+$ ',data[,1]),]  
grep('^A[0-9]+$ ', variable, value=TRUE)  
variable[grep1('^A.',variable)]
```

Example

```
sub('a$', 'x', c('abcd', 'bcda'))  
sub('a.c', '', c('abcd', 'bcda'))  
var0<-c('aa123b_a', 'bcdab_b', 'a45b6_c', 'xdafa_d',  
        'xgaab_e')  
sub('a*b', '', c('akbcd', 'dcaaaba'))  
sub('a*d', '', c('abcd', 'bcda'))  
sub('a.*e', '', c('abcde', 'edcba'))  
sub('ba|ab', '', c('abcd', 'cdba'))  
sub('[^ab]', "", var0)
```


String manipulation

- `substr`: element extraction
- `grep(l)`: vector search
- `(g)regexpr`: position search
- `(g)sub`: element replacement
- `strsplit`: string split

