Introduction to R*

Part 2: Atomic Data Types - Atomic/homogeneous vectors

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R can be summarized in **three** principles (John M. Chambers, 2016)

- Everything that exists in R is an object.
- Everything that happens in R is a function call.
- Interfaces to other languages are a part of R.

1 R Objects

- R provides a number of specialized data structures: R objects.
- The most common types of R objects¹ are:
 - logical, integer, double, character, [complex, raw] (atomic vectors)
 - list (heterogeneous/recursive vectors)
 - closure (functions)
 - environment
 - S4
 - **symbol** (variable name)
 - NULL
- An R object can be referred to by symbols/variables.
- The **type** of an object in R is determined by the **typeof()** function.

1.1 The creation of R objects

• The following code creates an R object (vector of 4 integers) which bears the name x, e.g.:

```
x <- c(3L,17L,12L,5L)
x
[1] 3 17 12 5
cat(sprintf(" typeof(x):%s\n", typeof(x)))</pre>
```

```
typeof(x):integer
```

Under the hood it passes through the following steps:

- creation of an R object i.e. vector of 4 integers in memory.
- binding/assigning the R object to the variable name x using <- (left arrow symbol).
- There are **less common** ways to bind variables to R objects:
 - A simple equality sign (=). This approach is mainly used to assign default function arguments.
 - Using the **assign()** function.

1.1.1 Examples

• preferred way to assign variables

```
x <- 5.0
x
[1] 5
cat(sprintf("typeof(x):%s\n", typeof(x)))
typeof(x):double</pre>
```

¹For people interested in the details we recommend to have a look at the file *R Internals* and the R source code (especially the header file *Rinternals.h*) where all the current object types are defined.

• less common way to assign variables

```
- Alternative 1:
      y = 5.0
      У
      [1] 5
      cat(sprintf("typeof(y):%s\n", typeof(y)))
      typeof(y):double
    - Alternative 2:
      assign("z",5.0)
      [1] 5
      cat(sprintf("typeof(y):%s\n", typeof(y)))
      typeof(y):double
• functions are objects (as stated previously)
 myvar <- function(x, av=0){</pre>
    n <- length(x)</pre>
    if(n>1){
      return(1.0/(n-1)*sum((x-av)^2))
      stop("ERROR:: Dividing by zero (n==1) || (n==0) ")
    }
  cat(sprintf("typeof(myvar):%s\n", typeof(myvar)))
  typeof(myvar):closure
 x <- rnorm(100)
 myvar(x)
  [1] 1.211854
 myvar(x,mean(x))
  [1] 1.210896
 var(x)
```

[1] 1.210896

1.2 The deletion of R objects

You can remove objects from (the current environment) by invoking the $\mathbf{rm}()$ function. The removal process consists of 2 steps i.e.:

- the binding between the variable name and the R object is severed.
- the R object is automatically removed from memory by R's internal garbage collector (gc()).

1.2.1 Examples

 \bullet Remove the variable x from the current environment

character(0)

"Nothing exists except atoms and empty space; everything else is opinion". (Democritos)

2 Atomic Data Types

2.1 The core/atomic data types

- R has the following 6 atomic data types:
 - logical (i.e. boolean)
 - integer
 - double
 - character (i.e. string)
 - complex
 - raw (i.e. byte)

The latter 2 types (i.e. complex and especially raw) are less common.

The **typeof()** function determines the **INTERNAL** storage/type of an R object.

2.1.1 Examples

• boolean/logical values: either TRUE or FALSE

```
x1 <- TRUE x1
```

[1] TRUE

```
typeof(x1)
```

[1] "logical"

• integer values $(\in \mathbb{Z})$:

```
x2 <- 3L
x2
```

[1] 3

```
typeof(x2)
```

- [1] "integer"
 - double (precision) values:

```
x3 <- 3.14
x3
```

[1] 3.14

typeof(x5)

[1] "complex"

2.2 Operations on atomic data types

```
• logical operators: ==, !=, &&, ||, !
• numerical operators: +, -, *, /, \hat{}, ** (same as the caret), but also:
    - integer division: \%/\%
    - modulo operation: %%
    - Note: matrix multiplication will be performed using %*%
• character/string manipulation:
    - nchar():
    - paste():
    - cat():
    - sprintf():
    - substr():
    - strsplit():
    - Note: Specialized R libraries were developed to manipulate strings e.g. stringr
• explicit cast/conversion: https://data-flair.training/blogs/r-string-manipulation/
    as.{logical, integer, double, complex, character}()
• explicit test of the type of a variable:
    - is.{logical, integer, double, complex, character}()
```

2.2.1 Examples

[1] TRUE

[1] 1

• Logical operators:

```
x <-3
y <-7
(x<=3) &&(y==7)
[1] TRUE
!(y<7)
```

• Mathematical operations

```
2**4

[1] 16

7%%4

[1] 3

7/4

[1] 1.75

7%/%4
```

• String operations s <- "Hello" nchar(s) [1] 5 news <- paste(s,"World")</pre> [1] "Hello World" sprintf("My new string:%20s\n", news) [1] "My new string: Hello World\n" city <- "Witwatersrand"</pre> substr(city,4,8) [1] "water" • Conversion and testing of types s <- "Hello World" is.character(s) [1] TRUE s1 <- "-500" is.character(s1) [1] TRUE s2 <- as.double(s1)</pre> is.character(s2) [1] FALSE is.double(s2)

[1] TRUE

```
s3 <- as.complex(s2)
s3

[1] -500+0i
sqrt(s3)</pre>
```

[1] 0+22.36068i

2.3 Exercises

- Calculate $\log_2(10)$ using R's $\log()$ function. The **default** version of $\log()$ is $\log_e() := \ln()$. Use $\operatorname{help}(\log)$ to find the appropriate arguments for the $\log()$ function.
 - Perform the inverse operation (i.e. to obtain 10).
- R's round() function rounds (by default) a real number to 0 decimal places. Round the number π to 4 decimal places.
 - Note:
 - * You can generate the value for π as: 4.0 * atan(1.0).
 - * Use **help(round)** to find the appropriate arguments for the **round()** function.
- Let z = 3 + 4i
 - Use R's Re(), Im() functions to extract the real and imaginary parts of z.
 - Calculate the modulus of z using R's Mod() function and check whether you the same answer using $\sqrt{\Re(z)^2 + \Im(z)^2}$.
 - Calculate the argument of z using R's Arg() function and check whether you have the same answer using $\arctan\left(\frac{\Im(z)}{\Re(z)}\right)$.

3 Atomic vectors

- An **atomic** vector is a data structure containing elements of **only one atomic** data type. Therefore, an atomic vector is **homogeneous**.
- Atomic vectors are stored in a **linear** fashion.
- R does **NOT** have scalars:
 - An atomic vector of **length 1** plays the role of a scalar.
 - Vectors of **length 0** also exist (and they have some use!).
- A list is a vector not necessarily of the atomic type.

 A list is also known as a recursive/generic vector (vide infra).

3.1 Creation of atomic vectors

Atomic vectors can be created in a multiple ways:

- Use of the **vector()** function.
- Use of the $\mathbf{c}()$ function (\mathbf{c} stands for *combine*).
- Use of the column operator:
- Use of the **seq()** and **rep()** functions.

The length of a vector can be retrieved using the **length()** function.

3.1.1 Examples

• use of the **vector()** function:

```
x <- vector() # Empty vector (Default:'logical')
x

logical(0)
length(x)

[1] 0
typeof(x)

[1] "logical"</pre>
```

```
x <- vector(mode="complex", length=4)
x

[1] 0+0i 0+0i 0+0i 0+0i
length(x)

[1] 4
x</pre>
```

[1] 0+0i 0+0i 0+0i 0+0i

```
x[1] < -4
[1] 4+0i 0+0i 0+0i 0+0i
  • use of the c() function:
x1 \leftarrow c(3, 2, 5.2, 7)
x1
[1] 3.0 2.0 5.2 7.0
x2 < -c(8, 12, 13)
x2
[1] 8 12 13
x3 < -c(x2, x1)
xЗ
[1] 8.0 12.0 13.0 3.0 2.0 5.2 7.0
x4 <- c(FALSE,TRUE,FALSE)</pre>
x4
[1] FALSE TRUE FALSE
x5 <- c("Hello", "Salt", "Lake", "City")
[1] "Hello" "Salt" "Lake" "City"
  • use of the column operator:
y1 <- 1:10
у1
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
y2 <- 5:-5
у2
[1] 5 4 3 2 1 0 -1 -2 -3 -4 -5
y3 <- 2.3:10
уЗ
[1] 2.3 3.3 4.3 5.3 6.3 7.3 8.3 9.3
y4 <- 2.0*(7:1)
y4
[1] 14 12 10 8 6 4 2
```

```
y5 <- (1:7) - 1
у5
[1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6
   • seq() and rep() functions
z1 \leftarrow seq(from=1, to=15, by=3)
z1
[1] 1 4 7 10 13
z2 <- seq(from=-2,to=5,length=4)</pre>
z2
[1] -2.0000000 0.3333333 2.6666667 5.0000000
z3 \leftarrow rep(c(3,2,4), time=2)
z3
[1] 3 2 4 3 2 4
z4 \leftarrow rep(c(3,2,4), each=3)
[1] 3 3 3 2 2 2 4 4 4
z5 \leftarrow rep(c(1,7), each=2, time=3)
z5
 [1] 1 1 7 7 1 1 7 7 1 1 7 7
length(z5)
[1] 12
```

3.1.2 Exercises

- Use the **seq()** function to generate the following sequence: 6 13 20 27 34 41 48
- Create the following R vector using **only** the **seq()** and **rep()** functions: -8 -8 -8 0 8 8 16 16 16 16 16

3.2 Operations on vectors: element-wise

- All operations on vectors in R happen element by element (cfr. NumPy).
- Vector Recycling:

If 2 vectors of **different** lengths are involved in an operation, the **shortest vector** will be repeated until all elements of the longest vector are matched.

A warning message will be sent to the stdout.

```
3.2.1 Examples
```

```
x < -3:3
x
[1] -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3
y <- 1:7
У
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
xy <- x*y
хy
[1] -3 -4 -3 0 5 12 21
xpy <- x^y
хру
[1] -3 4 -1 0 1 64 2187
x < -0:10
y <- 1:2
length(x)
[1] 11
length(y)
[1] 2
X
[1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
У
[1] 1 2
x+y
Warning in x + y: longer object length is not a multiple of shorter object
length
[1] 1 3 3 5 5 7 7 9 9 11 11
3.2.2 Exercises
  • Create the following vector (do not use c()!):
    -512 -216 -64 -8 0 8 64 216 512 1000
```

3.3 Retrieving elements of vectors

- Indexing: starts at 1 (not 0 like C/C++, Python, Java,) see also: Edsger Dijkstra: Why numbering should start at zero
- Use of vector with indices to extract values.
- Advanced features:
 - use of boolean values to extract values.
 - the membership operator: %in%.
 - the deselect/omit operator: -
 - which(): returns the indices for which the condition is true.
 - any()/all() functions.
 - * any(): TRUE if at least 1 value is true
 - * all(): TRUE if all values are true

3.3.1 Examples

• Use of a simple index:

```
x <- seq(2,100,by=15)
x

[1] 2 17 32 47 62 77 92
x[4]

[1] 47</pre>
```

x[1]

[1] 2

• Select several indices at once using vectors:

```
[1] 2 17 32 47 62 77 92
```

x[3:5]

[1] 32 47 62

x[c(1,3,5,7)]

[1] 2 32 62 92

x[seq(1,7,by=2)]

[1] 2 32 62 92

• Extraction via booleans (i.e. retain only those values that are equal to **TRUE**):

```
[1] 2 17 32 47 62 77 92
x>45
[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE
x[x>45]
[1] 47 62 77 92
  • Use of the %in% operator:
[1] 2 17 32 47 62 77 92
10 %in% x
[1] FALSE
62 %in% x
[1] TRUE
c(32,33,43) %in% x
[1] TRUE FALSE FALSE
!(c(32,33,43) \%in\% x)
[1] FALSE TRUE TRUE
  • Negate/filter out the elements with negative indices:
x \leftarrow c(1,13,17,27,49,91)
[1] 1 13 17 27 49 91
x[-c(2,4,6)]
[1] 1 17 49
z \leftarrow x[-1] - x[-length(x)]
[1] 12 4 10 22 42
```

• The which() function returns only those indices of which the condition/expression is true.

```
# Sample 10 numbers from N(0,1)
vecnum <- rnorm(n=10)
vecnum

[1] -0.3294094  0.6193346  1.5127268 -0.2553236 -0.2478648  0.1036443
[7] -1.9911287  0.6207644  0.8038719  1.9618362

which(vecnum>1.0)
```

[1] 3 10

• Use of the any()/all() functions.

```
y <- seq(0,100,by=10)
x
```

[1] 1 13 17 27 49 91 v

[1] 0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80 90 100

any(x<y)

Warning in x < y: longer object length is not a multiple of shorter object length

[1] TRUE

[1] NA

3.3.2 Exercises

• R has the its own inversion function, **rev()**, e.g.:

```
x <- seq(from=2,to=33,by=3)
x

[1] 2 5 8 11 14 17 20 23 26 29 32
y <- rev(x)
y</pre>
```

 $[1] \ 32 \ 29 \ 26 \ 23 \ 20 \ 17 \ 14 \ 11 \ \ 8 \ \ 5 \ \ 2$

Invert the vector \mathbf{x} without invoking the $\mathbf{rev}()$ function.

• The Taylor series for $\ln(1+x)$ is converging when |x| < 1 and is given by:

$$\ln(1+x) = x - \frac{x^2}{2} + \frac{x^3}{3} - \frac{x^4}{4} + \frac{x^5}{5} - \frac{x^6}{6} + \dots$$

Calculate the sum of the first 5, 10, 15 terms in the above expression to approximate ln(1.2). Compare with R's value i.e.: log(1.2).

• The logarithmic return in finance is defined as:

$$R_t = \ln\left(\frac{P_t}{P_{t-1}}\right)$$

- Generate a financial time series using the following R code:

```
price <- abs(rcauchy(1000))+1.E-6</pre>
```

- Calculate the logarithmic return for the financial time series price.
 The newly created time series will be 1 element shorter in length than the original one.
 Compare your result with diff(log(price)).
- Monte-Carlo approximation of π

Let S1 be the square spanned by the following 4 vertices: $\{(0,0),(0,1),(1,0),(1,1)\}$. Let S2 be the first quadrant of the unit-circle $\mathcal{C}: x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

The ratio ρ defined as:

$$\rho := \frac{\text{Area S2}}{\text{Area S1}} = \frac{\text{\#Points in S2}}{\text{\#Points in S1}}$$

allows us to estimate $\frac{\pi}{4}$ numerically.

Therefore:

- Sample 100000 independent x-coordinates from Unif.
- Sample 100000 independent y-coordinates from Unif.
- Calculate an approximate value for π using the Monte-Carlo approach.

Note: The uniform distribution [0,1) (Unif) can be sampled using runif().

3.4 Hash tables

A hash table is a data structure which implements an associative array or dictionary. It is an abstract data which maps data to keys.

- There are several ways to create one:
 - Map names to an existing vector
 - Add names when creating the vector
- To remove the map, map the names to NULL

3.4.1 Examples

• Creation of 2 independent vectors

```
[1] "Albany"
                  "Providence" "Hartford"
                                              "Boston"
                                                            "Montpelier"
[6] "Concord"
                  "Augusta"
states
[1] "NY" "RI" "CT" "MA" "VT" "NH" "ME"
capitals[3]
[1] "Hartford"
  • Create the hashtable/dictionary
# Method 1
names(capitals) <- states</pre>
capitals
          NY
                        RΙ
                                      CT
                                                    MA
                                                                   VT
                                                                                 NH
    "Albany" "Providence"
                              "Hartford"
                                              "Boston" "Montpelier"
                                                                         "Concord"
          ME
   "Augusta"
capitals["MA"]
      MA
"Boston"
names(capitals)
[1] "NY" "RI" "CT" "MA" "VT" "NH" "ME"
# Method 2
phonecode <- c("801"="SLC", "206"="Seattle", "307"="Wyoming")</pre>
phonecode
                 206
                            307
    "SLC" "Seattle" "Wyoming"
phonecode["801"]
  801
"SLC"
  • Dissociate the 2 vectors
names(capitals) <- NULL</pre>
capitals
```

```
[1] "Albany" "Providence" "Hartford" "Boston" "Montpelier"
```

[6] "Concord" "Augusta"

3.5 NA (Not Available values)

• **NA**: stands for 'Not Available'/Missing values and has a length of 1. There are in essence 4 versions depending on the type:

```
- NA (logical - default)
```

- **NA_integer** (integer)
- **NA** real (double precision)
- **NA_character** (string)

Under the hood, the version of NA is subjected to **coercion**: $logical \rightarrow integer \rightarrow double \rightarrow character$

- some functions e.g. **mean()** return (by default) NA if 1 or more instances NA are present in a vector.
- is.na(): test a vector (element-wise) for NA values.

 Do NOT use:

```
x == NA
```

but use INSTEAD:

```
is.na(x)
```

3.5.1 Examples

· Types of NA

```
x <- NA
typeof(x)
```

[1] "logical"

```
# logical NA coerced to double precision NA
x <- c(3.0, 5.0, NA)
typeof(x[3])</pre>
```

[1] "double"

* Functions on a vector containing NA

```
mean(x)
```

[1] NA

```
mean(x, na.rm=TRUE)
```

[1] 4

* Check of the NA availability

```
x \leftarrow c(NA, 1, 2, NA)
is.na(x)
```

[1] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE

* Functions on a vector containing NA

```
mean(x)
[1] NA
mean(x, na.rm=TRUE)
```

[1] 1.5

3.5.2 Exercises

• A family has installed a device to monitor their daily energy consumption (in kWh). When a measurement fails or is unavailable NA is recorded.

You can invoke the following code to generate the measurements generated by the device.

```
dailyusage <- 30.0 + runif(365, min=0, max=5.0)
dailyusage[sample(1:365, sample(1:50,1), replace=FALSE)] <- NA</pre>
```

- How many measurements failed?
- What is the average daily energy consumption (based on the non-failed) measurements?

3.6 NaN and infinities

- NaN (only for numeric types!), and the infinities Inf and -Inf are part of the IEEE 754 floating-point standard.
- To test whether you have:
 - finite numbers: use **is.finite()**
 - infinite numbers: use is.infinite()
 - NaNs: use is.nan()
- Further:
 - a NaN will return TRUE only when tested by is.nan()
 - a NA will return TRUE when tested by either is.nan() or is.na()

3.6.1 Examples

• Infinities:

```
x <- 5.0/0.0
x
```

[1] Inf

```
is.finite(x)
[1] FALSE
is.infinite(x)
[1] TRUE
is.nan(x)
[1] FALSE
y < -5.0/0.0
[1] -Inf
is.finite(y)
[1] FALSE
is.infinite(y)
[1] TRUE
is.nan(y)
[1] FALSE
z <- x + y
[1] NaN
typeof(z)
[1] "double"
is.finite(z)
[1] FALSE
is.infinite(z)
[1] FALSE
is.nan(z)
[1] TRUE
```

```
• is.na() vs. is.nan():
# is.nan
v \leftarrow c(NA, z, 5.0, log(-1.0))
Warning in log(-1): NaNs produced
is.nan(v)
[1] FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
# is.na(): also includes NaN!
v \leftarrow c(NA, z, 5.0, log(-1.0))
Warning in log(-1): NaNs produced
is.na(v)
[1] TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE
3.7 Note on logical operators
  • &, |, !, xor(): element-wise operators on vectors (cfr. arithmetic operators)
  • &&, ||: evaluated from left to right until result is determined.
3.7.1 Examples
  • Vector operators (&, |, ! and xor())
x <- sample(x=1:10, size=10, replace=TRUE)
 [1] 9 10 5 1 7 3 7 9 6 2
y <- sample(x=1:10, size=10, replace=TRUE)
У
 [1] 1 2 1 7 8 2 6 10 5 9
v1 <- (x<=3)
v1
 [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE
```

v2 <- (y>=7) v2

[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE

v1 & v2

[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE

v1 | v2

[1] FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE

xor(v1, v2)

[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE

!v1

[1] TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE

3.7.2 Exercises

• Generate a random vector of integers using the following code:

```
x <- sample(x=0:1000, size=100, replace=TRUE)
```

- Invoke the above code to generate the vector ${\bf x}$
- Find if there are any integers in the vector **x** which can be divided by 4 and 6
- Find those numbers and their corresponding indices in the vector \mathbf{x} .