# Introduction to R\*

# Part 2: Atomic Data Types - Atomic/homogeneous vectors

# Wim R.M. Cardoen

Last updated: 11/26/2024 @ 20:04:58

# Contents

1	$\mathbf{R}$ C	Objects 4
	1.1	The creation of R objects
		1.1.1 Examples
	1.2	The deletion of R objects
		1.2.1 Examples
2	Ato	omic Data Types
	2.1	The core/atomic data types
		2.1.1 Examples
	2.2	Operations on atomic data types
		2.2.1 Examples
	2.3	Exercises
3	Ato	omic vectors
	3.1	Creation of atomic vectors
		3.1.1 Examples
		3.1.2 Exercises
	3.2	Operations on vectors: element-wise
		3.2.1 Examples
		3.2.2 Exercises
	3.3	Retrieving elements of vectors
	0.0	3.3.1 Examples
		3.3.2 Exercises
	3.4	Hash tables
	0.1	3.4.1 Examples
	3.5	NA (Not Available values)
	5.5	3.5.1 Examples
		3.5.2 Exercises
	3.6	NaN and infinities
	5.0	
		3.6.1 Examples

 $<sup>^*</sup>$ © - Wim R.M. Cardoen, 2022 - The content can neither be copied nor distributed without the **explicit** permission of the author.

3.7	Note o	on logical operators							 									24
		Examples																
	3.7.2	Exercises							 									25

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 objects<sup>1</sup> 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>
```

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For 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] 0.9220099
 myvar(x,mean(x))
  [1] 0.9200559
 var(x)
```

[1] 0.9200559

# 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  $\pi$  to 4 decimal places.
  - Note:
    - \* You can generate the value for  $\pi$  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] -0.21762551  0.05462450  0.06989174  0.91250665  0.56312441 -0.21607659
[7] -2.04680647 -1.79808294 -0.74705420 -1.25622359

which(vecnum>1.0)
integer(0)
```

• Use of the any()/all() functions.

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

[1] 1 13 17 27 49 91 y

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

[1] TRUE

```
all(x[6:7]>y[2:3])
```

[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 x without invoking the **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  $\pi$

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  $\rho$  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  $\pi$  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] 5 1 10 3 4 6 3 4 10 6
y <- sample(x=1:10, size=10, replace=TRUE)
У
 [1] 1 6 4 1 2 5 9 10 3 7
v1 <- (x<=3)
v1
 [1] FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE
```

v2 <- (y>=7) v2

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

v1 & v2

[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE

v1 | v2

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

xor(v1, v2)

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

!v1

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

## 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 **x**.