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SK

## What is the difference between labels and levels in factor?

Saurabh Kumar Week 1 · 2天前

Why I am getting NA when I use levels?

```
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
>
> data <- c(1,2,3,4,1,2,3,4)
> factor(data)
[1] 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
Levels: 1 2 3 4
> factor(data,labels = c("a","b","c","d"))
[1] a b c d a b c d
Levels: a b c d
>
>
> factor(data)
[1] 1 2 3 4 1 2 3 4
Levels: 1 2 3 4
> factor(data,levels = c("a","b","c","d"))
[1] <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA> <NA>
Levels: a b c d
>
```

 0 贊 · [取消關注](#) 2 · [回复](#) Saurabh Kumar

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涂玉臻 Mentor · 一天前 · 已編輯



Hi Saurabh,

The "levels" argument allows you to change the orders (or the baseline) of the factor. In your case, "1" is the baseline category by default because it's the smallest number among the four ones. Still you can change that by

```
1 factor(data, levels = 4:1)
2 # Now "4" is the baseline category
```

Thus, if something exist in the data but don't exist in levels, they will be unrecognizable and R returns NAs.

On the other hand, "labels" labels the factor with another set of character strings, in the same order as levels. It doesn't matter if the labels are completely different with the original data, but one should be careful not to be confused after relabeling.

```
1 factor(data, labels = c("a", "b", "c", "d"))
2 factor(data, levels = 4:1, labels = c("a", "b", "c", "d"))
```

BTW, I would suggest you not assigning values to "data" in the future, because it's a built-in function of R. If you assign values to it, the "data" function will be overwritten by your values in this session. You might want to check whether the name has been taken by R every time before assigning values. To do so, just type the name in the console. If R returns an error telling you that object doesn't exist, you can use the name safely.

Cheers,

Yu-Zhen

👍 2 · 回复



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回复

描述

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