

An Introduction to

Programming

Why Learn R?

Programming language widely used in data analysis and research. With its extensive library of packages, R allows you to manipulate data, perform statistical tests, create stunning visualizations, and much more. Learning R opens up a world of data exploration and analysis possibilities.



Why R?

It's free!

It runs on a variety of platforms including Windows, Unix and MacOS.

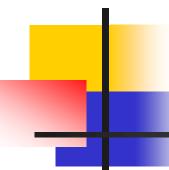
It provides an unparalleled platform for programming new statistical methods in an easy and straightforward manner.

It contains advanced statistical routines not yet available in other packages.

It has state-of-the-art graphics capabilities.

What is R Programming?

- R programming is a *powerful tool used in data analysis, statistical* computing, and graphics.
- It was created by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman at the University of Auckland, New Zealand, in the mid-1990s.
- R programming has become increasingly popular in recent years due to its
 open-source nature, flexibility, and ease of use.
- One of the key features of R programming is its ability to handle large datasets and perform complex statistical analyses.
- It also offers a wide range of built-in functions and packages for data visualization, machine learning, and predictive modeling.
- These capabilities make R programming an essential tool for data scientists, statisticians, and researchers in various fields.



How to download?

- Google it using R or CRAN
 (Comprehensive R Archive Network)
- http://www.r-project.org

Tutorials

Each of the following tutorials are in PDF format.

- P. Kuhnert & B. Venables, <u>An Introduction to R: Software</u> for Statistical Modeling & Computing
- J.H. Maindonald, <u>Using R for Data Analysis and Graphics</u>
- B. Muenchen, <u>R for SAS and SPSS Users</u>
- W.J. Owen, <u>The R Guide</u>
- D. Rossiter, <u>Introduction to the R Project for Statistical</u> <u>Computing for Use at the ITC</u>
- W.N. Venebles & D. M. Smith, <u>An Introduction to R</u>



- Paul Geissler's <u>excellent R tutorial</u>
- <u>Dave Robert's Excellent Labs</u> on Ecological Analysis
- Excellent Tutorials by David Rossitier
- Excellent tutorial an nearly every aspect of R MOST of these notes follow this web page format
- Introduction to R by Vincent Zoonekynd
- R Cookbook
- Data Manipulation Reference

Advantages of R Programming over other languages?

- It's **open-source**. No fees or licenses are needed, so it's a low-risk venture if you're developing a new program.
- It's *platform-independent*. R runs on all operating systems, so developers only need to create one program that can work on competing systems. This independence is yet another reason why R is cost-effective!
- It has *lots of packages*. For example, the R language has more than 10,000 packages stored in the CRAN repository, and the number is continuously increasing.
- It's great for statistics. Statistics are a big thing today, and R shines in this regard. As a result, programmers prefer it over other languages for **statistical tool development**.
- It's well suited for *Machine Learning*. R is ideal for machine learning operations such as regression and classification. It even offers many features and packages for artificial neural network development.
- R lets you perform *data wrangling*. R offers a host of packages that help data analysts turn unstructured, messy data into a structured format.

Limitations of R Programming

While R Programming provides a wide range of statistical tools, it has some limitations:

- One of the main limitations is its inability to handle very big data effectively. R requires loading all data into memory, which can be problematic for large datasets.
- Additionally, R's processing speed can be slow compared to other programming languages.
- Another limitation of R is its poor handling of non-numeric data. While R is excellent at analyzing numeric data, it struggles with handling text data. This can make it challenging to work with datasets that contain both numeric and non-numeric data.
- It's not as secure. R doesn't have basic security measures. Consequently, it's not a good choice for making web-safe applications. Also, R can't be embedded in web browsers.
- It takes up a lot of memory. Memory management isn't one of R's strong points. R's data must be stored in physical memory. However, the increasing use of cloud-based memory may eventually make this drawback moot.

Pros and Cons of



Advantages

Open Source

Data Wrangling

Array of Packages

Quality Plotting and Graphing

Platform Independent

Machine Learning Operations

Countinuously Growing



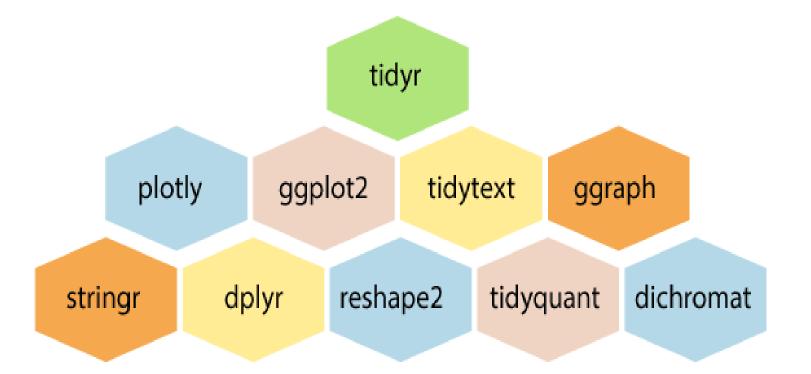
Weak Origin

Data Handling

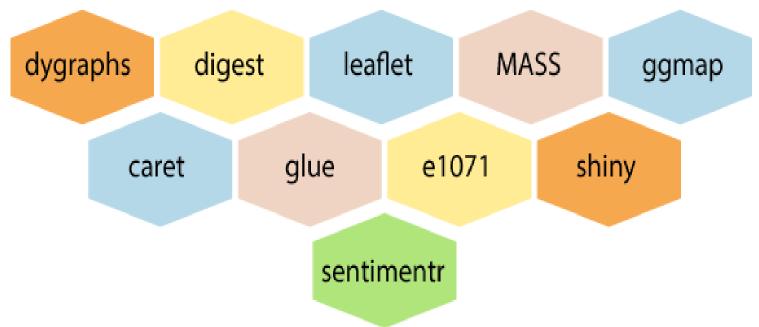
Basic Security

Complicated Language

Lesser Speed









Getting Started with R

To start using R, you need to install **R software** and an **integrated development environment (IDE)** like RStudio.

RStudio provides a userfriendly interface for coding in R and managing your projects. Once set up, you can begin writing and executing R code to unleash its power.

```
urn start;
var Community
                         params.cal
      unction
  this.overr
```

Basic R Syntax

R uses a concise and expressive syntax for data manipulation and analysis. Variables are assigned using the **assignment operator** '<-', and functions are called using parentheses.

R also supports **vectorized operations** that allow you to perform operations on entire data vectors at once, making it efficient and convenient for data analysis.



Data Manipulation in R

R provides powerful tools for data manipulation. With the help of **packages like dplyr and tidyr**, you can easily **filter**, **sort**, **group**, and **reshape data** to suit your analysis needs.

These packages make data wrangling a breeze, enabling you to efficiently clean and prepare your data for further analysis.

R Overview

R is a comprehensive statistical and graphical programming language and is a dialect of the S language:

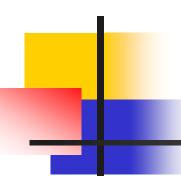
1988 - S2: RA Becker, JM Chambers, A Wilks

1992 - S3: JM Chambers, TJ Hastie

1998 - S4: JM Chambers

R: initially written by Ross Ihaka and Robert Gentleman at Dep. of Statistics of U of Auckland, New Zealand during 1990s.

Since 1997: international "R-core" team of 15 people with access to common CVS archive.



R Overview

You can enter commands one at a time at the command prompt (>) or run a set of commands from a source file.

There is a wide variety of data types, including vectors (numerical, character, logical), matrices, data frames, and lists.

To quit R, use >q()



Most functionality is provided through built-in and user-created functions and all data objects are kept in memory during an interactive session.

Basic functions are available by default. Other functions are contained in packages that can be attached to a current session as needed



A key skill to using **R** effectively is learning how to use the built-in help system. Other sections describe the working environment, inputting programs and outputting results, installing new functionality through packages and etc.

A fundamental design feature of **R** is that the output from most functions can be used as input to other functions. This is described in reusing results.

Your First R Session

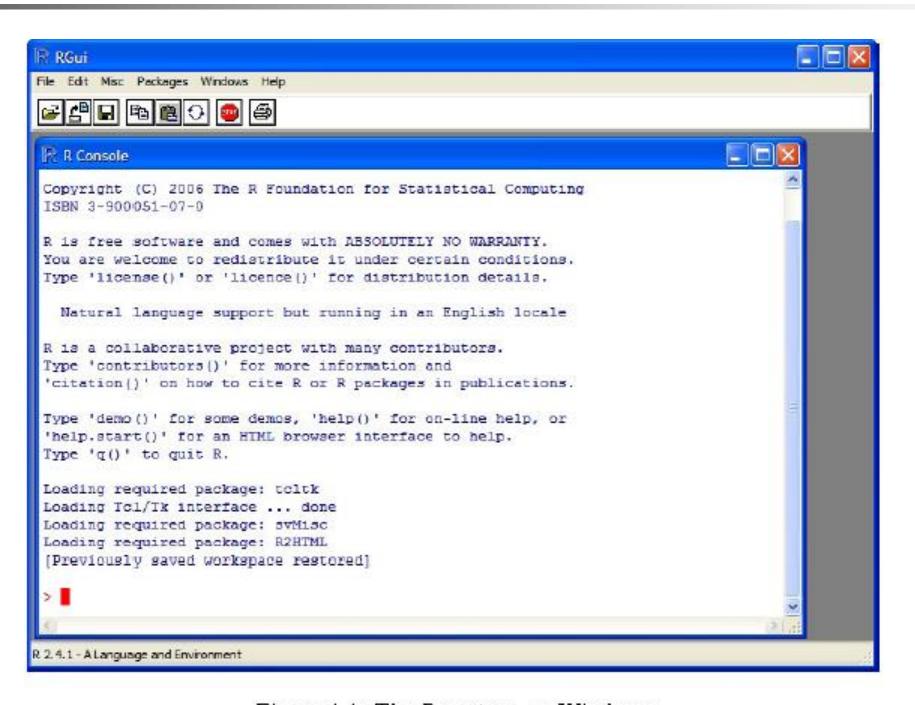
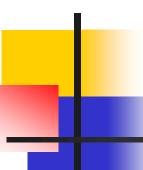


Figure 1.1: The R system on Windows



R Introduction

- These objects can then be used in other calculations. To print the object just enter the name of the object. There are some restrictions when giving an object a name:
 - Object names cannot contain `strange' symbols like !, +, -,
 #.
 - A dot (.) and an underscore () are allowed, also a name starting with a dot.
 - Object names can contain a number but cannot start with a number.
 - R is case sensitive, X and x are two different objects, as well as temp and temp.



Objects that you create during an R session are hold in memory, the collection of objects that you currently have is called the workspace.

This workspace is not saved on disk unless you tell R to do so. This means that your objects are lost when you close R and not save the objects, or worse when R or your system crashes on you during a session.



When you close the RGui or the R console window, the system will ask if you want to save the workspace image.

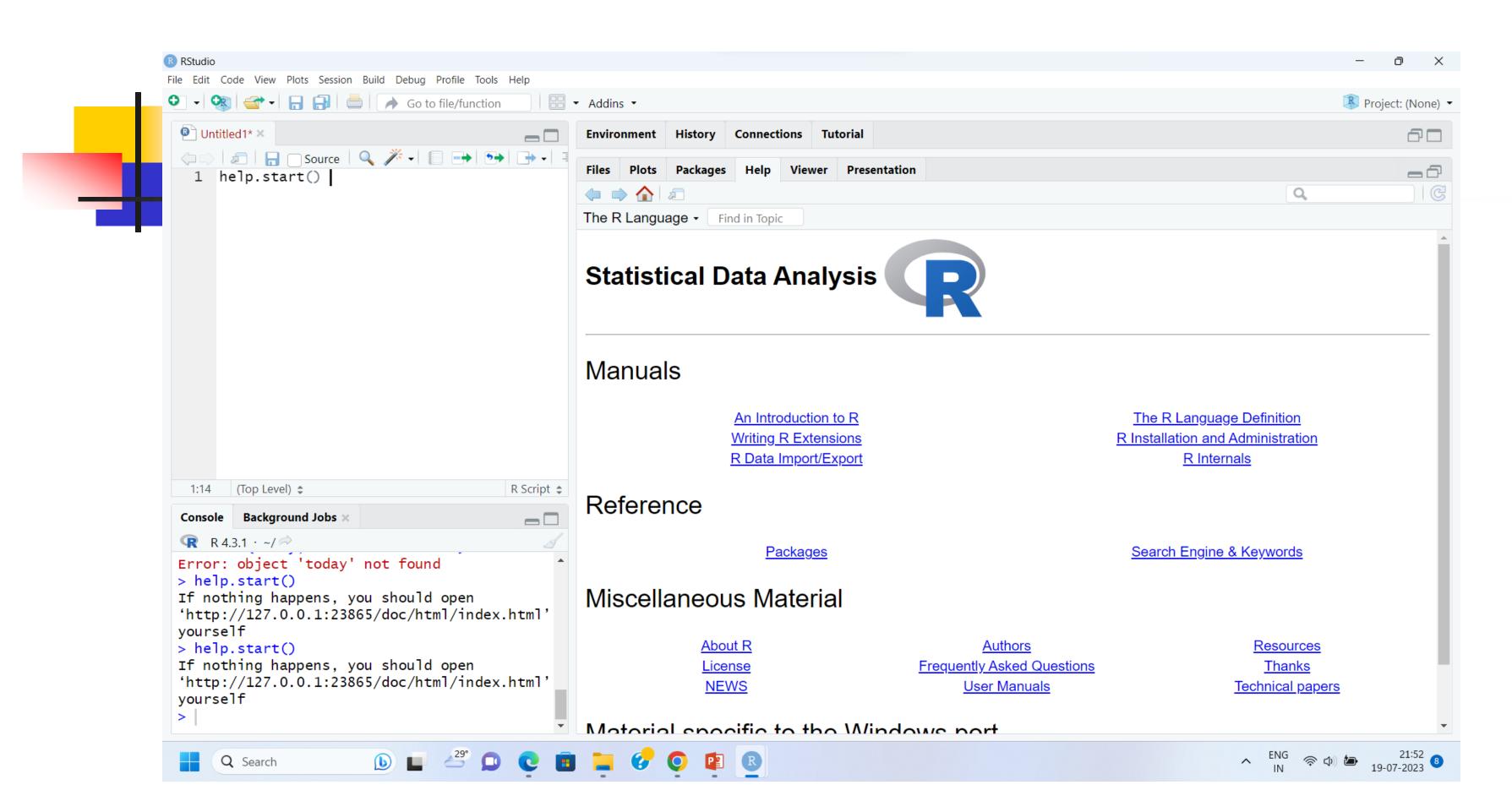
If you select to save the workspace image then all the objects in your current R session are saved in a file .RData.

This is a binary file located in the working directory of R, which is by default the installation directory of R.

RHelp

Once **R** is installed, there is a comprehensive built-in help system. At the program's command prompt you can use any of the following:

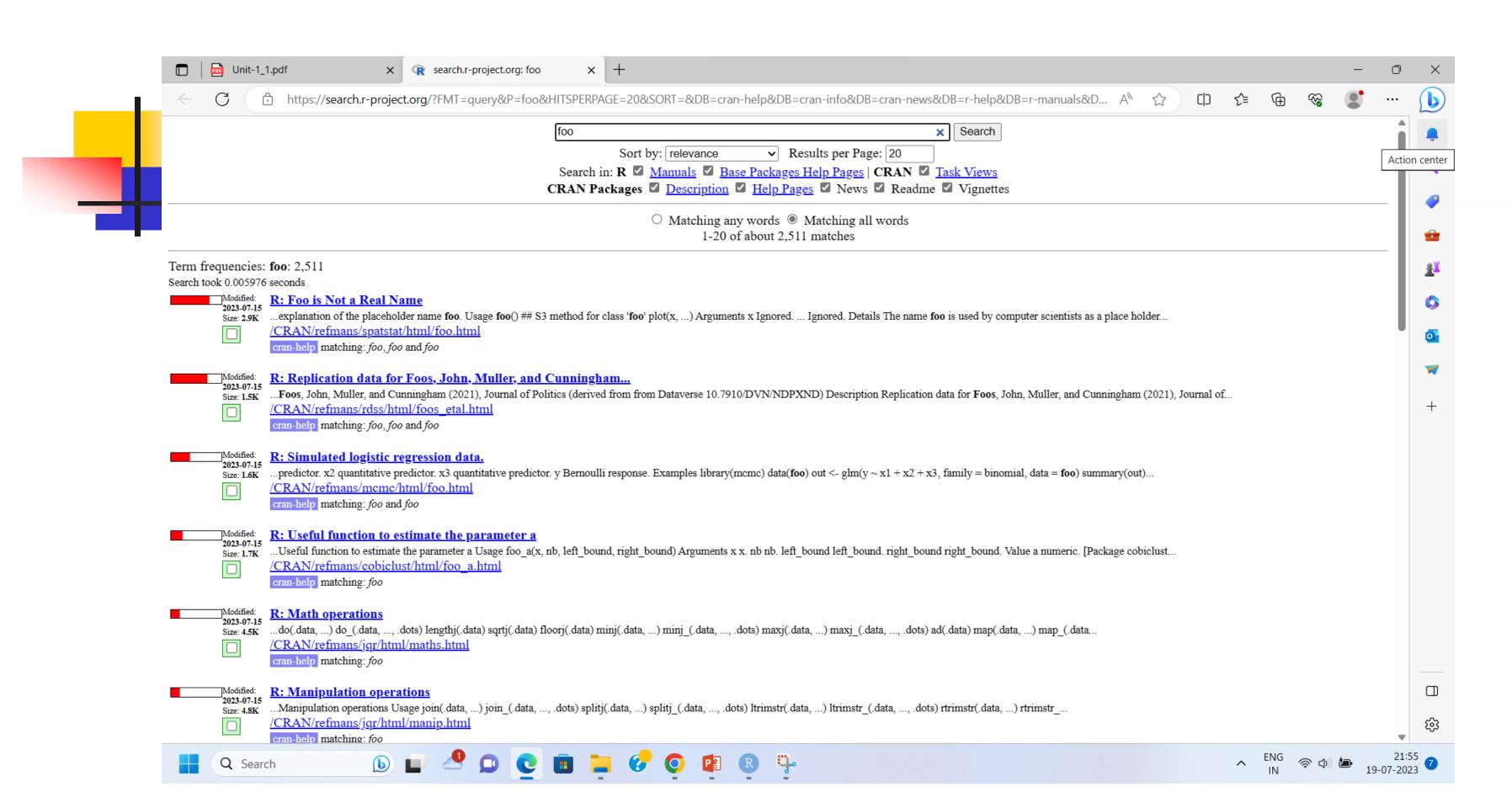
```
help.start() # general help
help(foo) # help about function foo
?foo # same thing
apropos("foo") # list all function containing string foo
example(foo) # show an example of function foo
```



Applied Statistical Computing and Graphics

RHelp

- # search for foo in help manuals and archived mailing lists RSiteSearch("foo")
- # get vignettes on using installed packages vignette() # show available vingettes vignette("foo") # show specific vignette



R Datasets

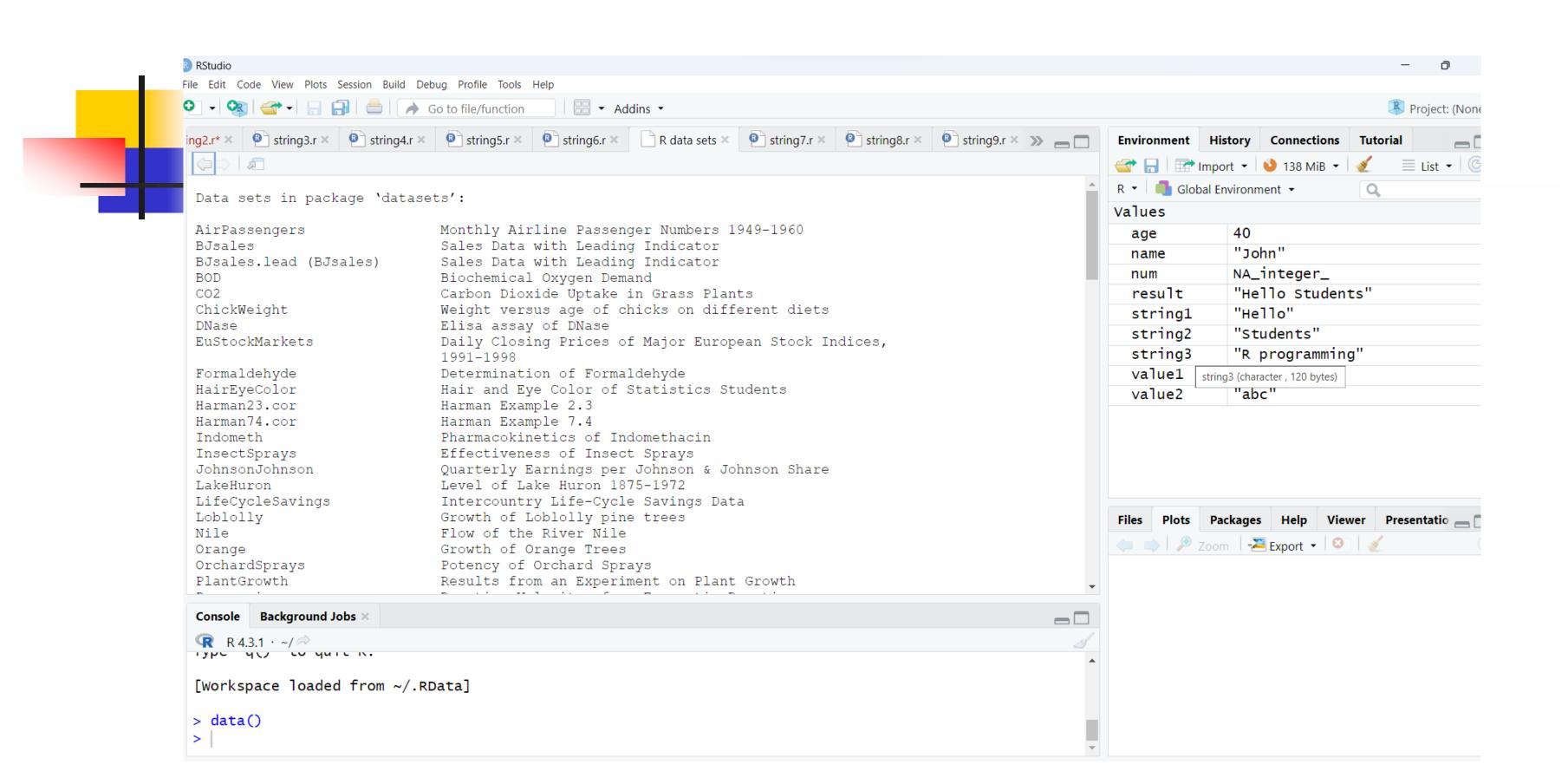
R comes with a number of sample datasets that you can experiment with. Type

> data()

to see the available datasets. The results will depend on which <u>packages</u> you have loaded. Type

help(datasetname)

for details on a sample dataset.



- One of the strengths of R is that the system can easily be extended.
- The system allows you to write new functions and package those functions in a so called `R package' (or `R library').
- The R package may also contain other R objects, for example data sets or documentation. There is a lively R user community and many R packages have been written and made available on CRAN for other users.
- Just a few examples, there are packages for portfolio optimization, drawing maps, exporting objects to html, time series analysis, spatial statistics and the list goes on and on.

- When you download R, already a number (around 30) of packages are downloaded as well.
- To use a function in an R package, that package has to be attached to the system. When you start R not all of the downloaded packages are attached, only seven packages are attached to the system by default.
- You can use the function search to see a list of packages that are currently attached to the system, this list is also called the search path.

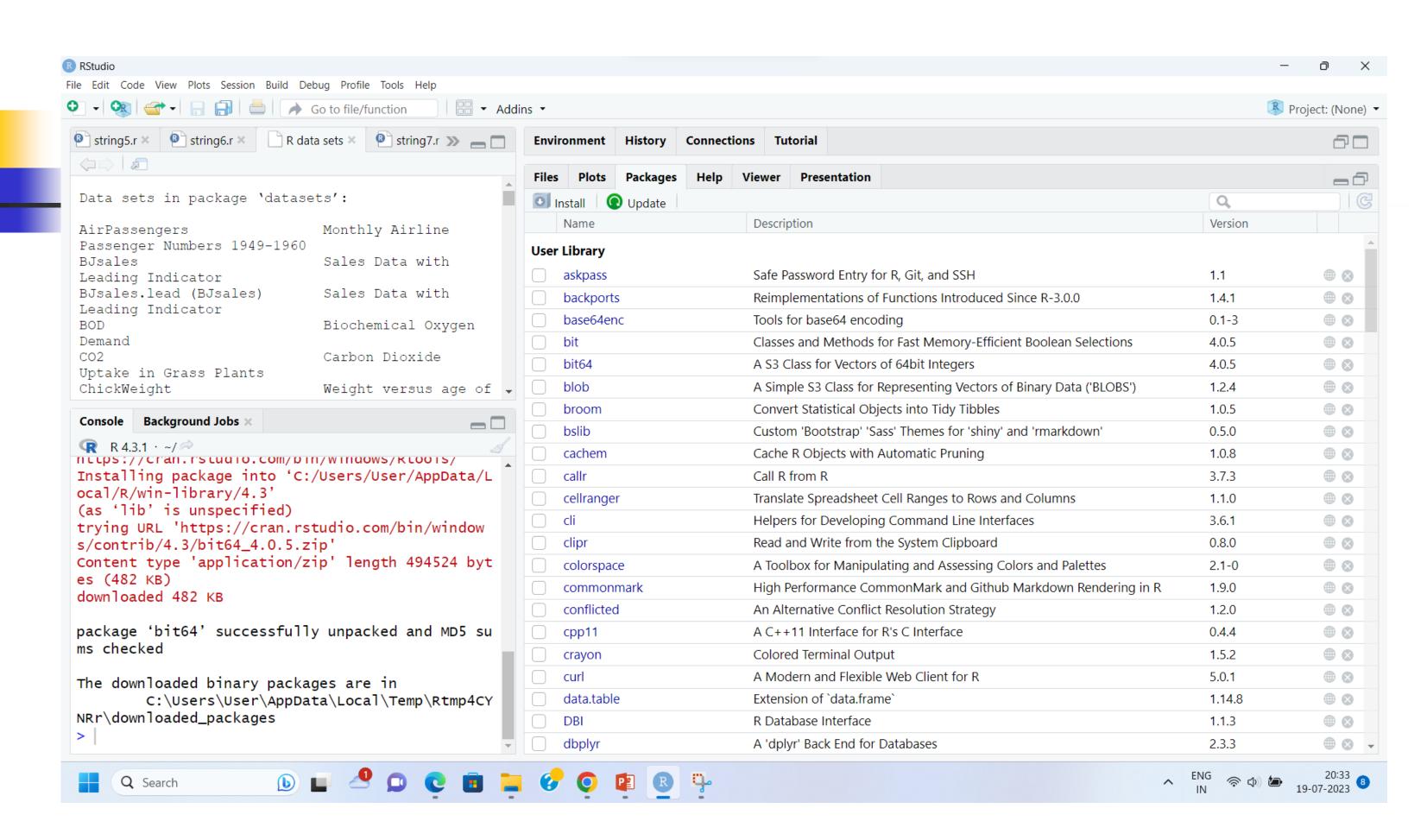
> search()

- [1] ".GlobalEnv" "package:stats" "package:graphics"
- [4] "package:grDevices" "package:datasets" "package:utils"
- [7] "package:methods" "Autoloads" "package:base"

To attach another package to the system you can use the menu or the library function. Via the menu:

Select the `Packages' menu and select `Load package...', a list of available packages on your system will be displayed. Select one and click `OK', the package is now attached to your current R session. Via the library function:

```
> library(MASS)
> shoes
$A
[1] 13.2 8.2 10.9 14.3 10.7 6.6 9.5 10.8 8.8 13.3
$B
[1] 14.0 8.8 11.2 14.2 11.8 6.4 9.8 11.3 9.3 13.6
```



 The function library can also be used to list all the available libraries on your system with a short description. Run the function without any arguments

```
> library()
```

Packages in library 'C:/PROGRA~1/R/R-25~1.0/library':

base The R Base Package

Boot Bootstrap R (S-Plus) Functions (Canty)

class Functions for Classification

cluster Cluster Analysis Extended Rousseeuw et al.

codetools Code Analysis Tools for R

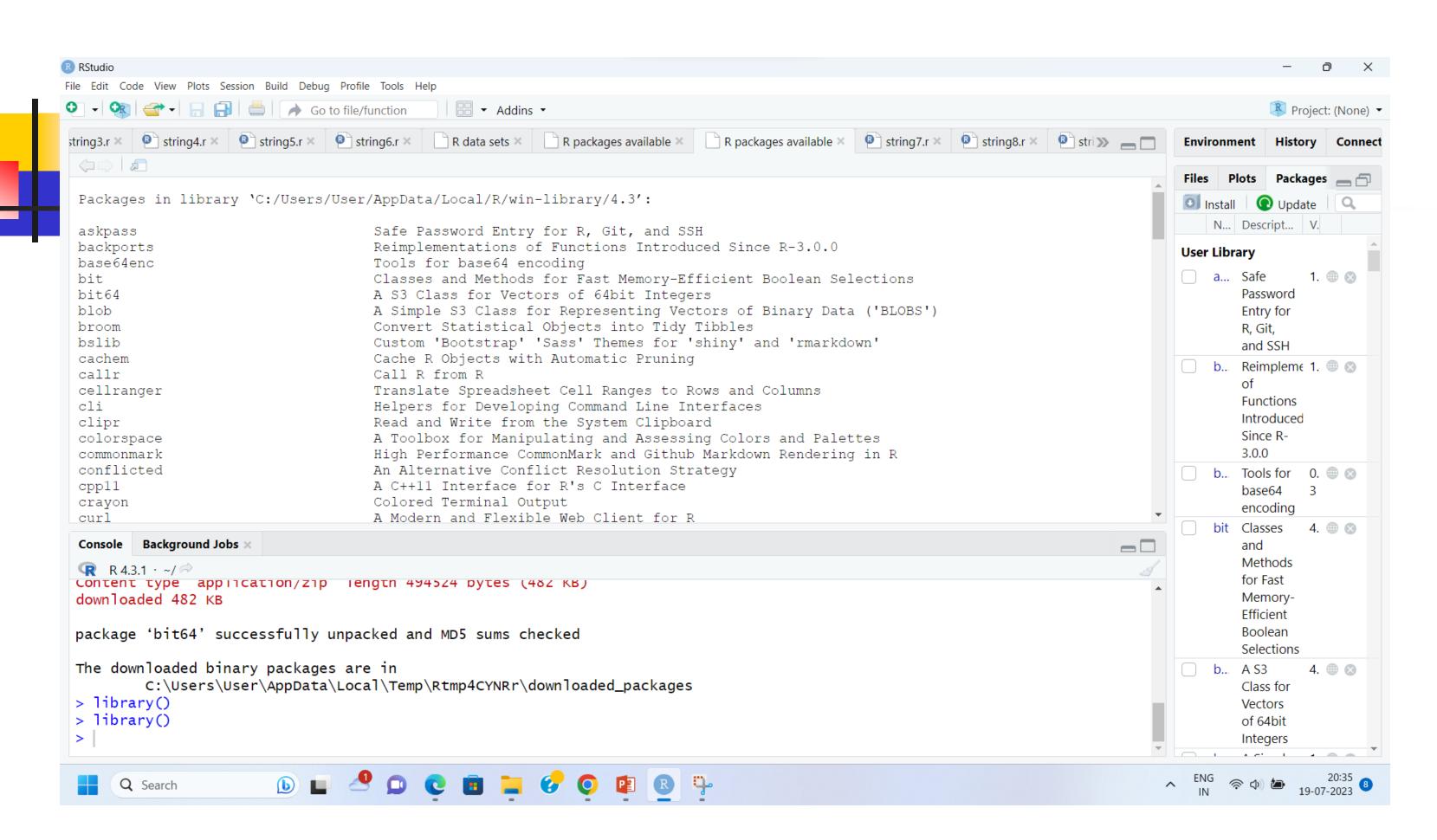
datasets The R Datasets Package

DBI R Database Interface

foreign Read Data Stored by Minitab, S, SAS,

ŠPSS, Stata, Systat, dBase, ...

graphics The R Graphics Package



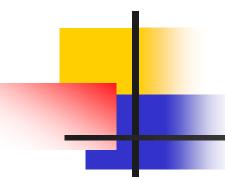
The Popularity of R by Industry

Thanks to its versatility, many different industries use the R programming language. Here is a list of industries/disciplines that use the R programming language:

- Fintech Companies (financial services)
- Academic Research
- Government (FDA, National Weather Service)
- Retail
- Social Media
- Data Journalism
- Manufacturing
- Healthcare

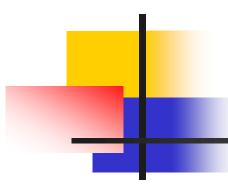
Some Popular R Books

- A First Course in Statistical Programming with R. Braun, W. and Murdoch, D. (2007). Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.
- R for Data Science: Import, Tidy, Transform, Visualize, and Model Data. Wickham, H. (Author), Grolemund, G. (2017). O'Reilly Media.
- Programming with Data: A Guide to the S Language. Chambers, J. M. (1998). Murray Hill, NJ: Bell Laboratories.
- Introductory Statistics with R (2nd edition). Dalgaard, P. (2008). New York: Springer.
- A Handbook of Statistical Analyses Using R. Everitt, B., and Hothorn, T. (2006). Boca Raton, FL: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
- Learning R: A Step-by-Step Function Guide to Data Analysis. Cotton, R. (2013). O'Reilly Media.
- R for Everyone: Advanced Analytics and Graphics. Lander, J. (2017). Addison-Wesley Professional; 2nd edition.
- Linear Models with R. Faraway, J. J. (2005). Boca Raton, FL: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
- Extending the Linear Model with R: Generalized Linear, Mixed Effects and Nonparametric Regression Models. Faraway, J. J. (2006). Boca Raton, FL: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
- An R and S-Plus Companion to Applied Regression. Fox, J. (2002). Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- R for SAS and SPSS Users. Springer Series in Statistics and Computing. Muenchen, R. A. (2009). New York: Springer.
- R Cookbook: Proven Recipes for Data Analysis, Statistics, and Graphics. Long, J.D. and Teetor, P. (2019). O'Reilly Media; 2nd edition.



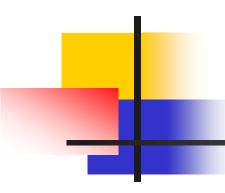
Outline

- Data Types
- Importing Data
- Keyboard Input
- Database Input
- Exporting Data
- Viewing Data
- Variable Labels
- Value Labels
- Missing Data
- Date Values



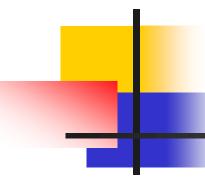
Data Types

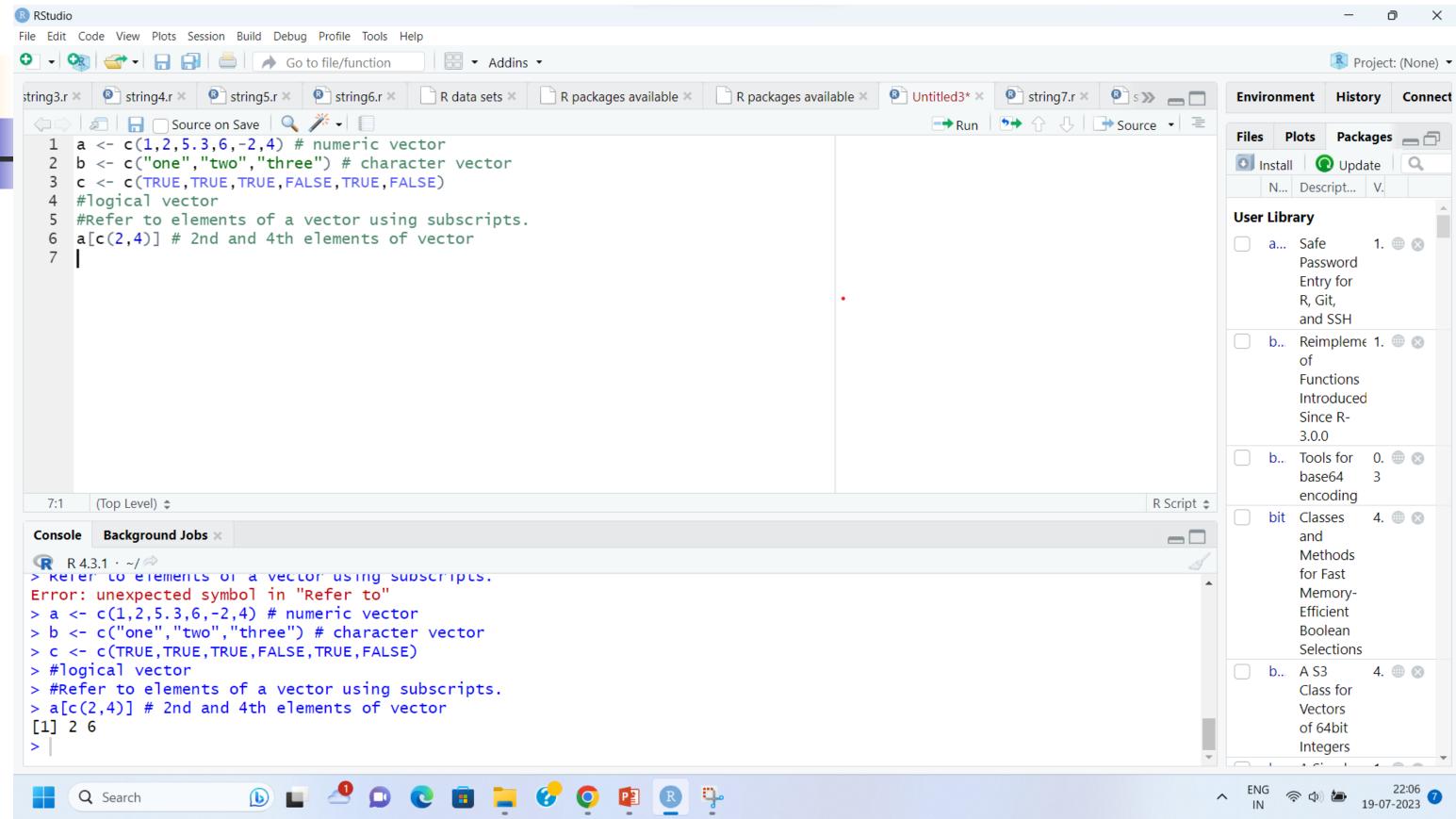
R has a wide variety of data types including scalars, vectors (numerical, character, logical), matrices, dataframes, and lists.



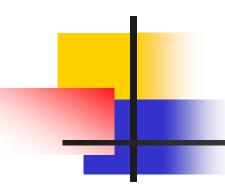
Vectors

```
a <- c(1,2,5.3,6,-2,4) # numeric vector
b <- c("one","two","three") # character vector
c <- c(TRUE,TRUE,TRUE,FALSE,TRUE,FALSE)
#logical vector
Refer to elements of a vector using subscripts.
a[c(2,4)] # 2nd and 4th elements of vector
```





Applied Statistical Computing and Graphics

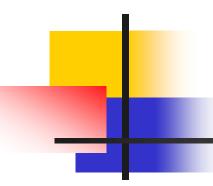


Matrices

All columns in a matrix must have the same mode(numeric, character, etc.) and the same length.

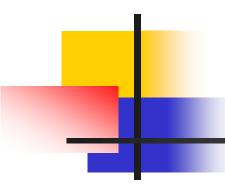
The general format is

byrow=TRUE indicates that the matrix should be filled by rows. byrow=FALSE indicates that the matrix should be filled by columns (the default). dimnames provides optional labels for the columns and rows.



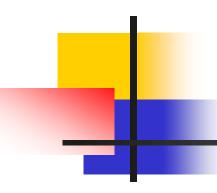
Matrices

```
# generates 5 x 4 numeric matrix
  y < -matrix(1:20, nrow=5, ncol=4)
# another example
  cells <- c(1,26,24,68)
  rnames <- c("R1", "R2")
  cnames <- c("C1", "C2")
  mymatrix <- matrix(cells, nrow=2, ncol=2,
  byrow=TRUE, dimnames=list(rnames, cnames))
#Identify rows, columns or elements using subscripts.
x[,4] # 4th column of matrix
  x[3,] # 3rd row of matrix
  x[2:4,1:3] # rows 2,3,4 of columns 1,2,3
```



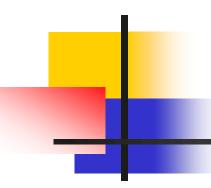
Arrays

Arrays are similar to matrices but can have more than two dimensions. See **help(array)** for details.



Data frames

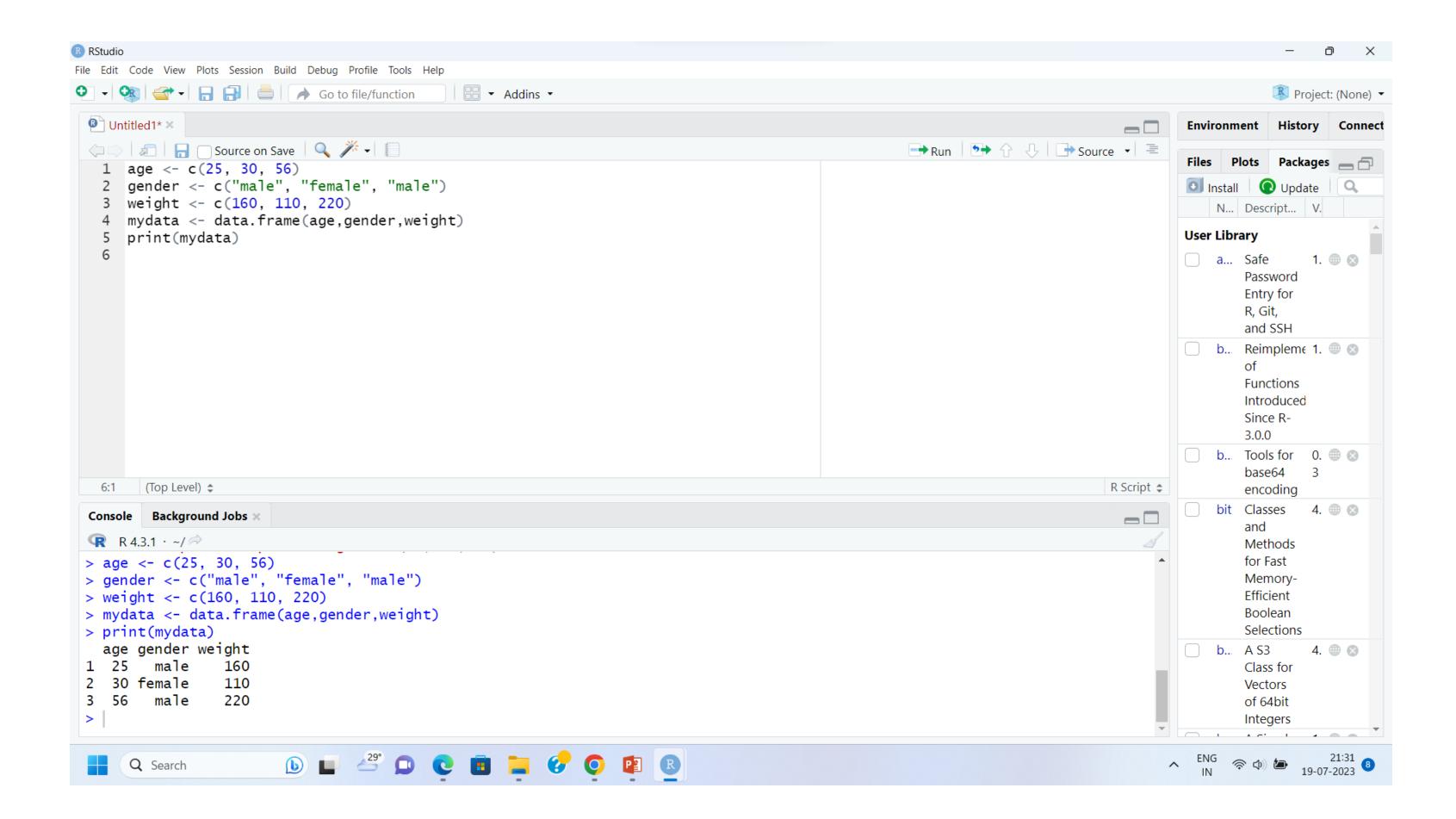
```
A data frame is more general than a matrix, in
  that different columns can have different
  modes (numeric, character, factor, etc.).
d < -c(1,2,3,4)
e <- c("red", "white", "red", NA)
f <- c(TRUE,TRUE,TRUE,FALSE)
mydata <- data.frame(d,e,f)
names(mydata) <- c("ID","Color","Passed")
  #variable names
```

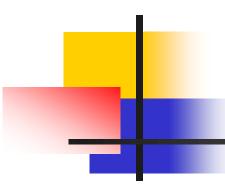


Data frames

There are a variety of ways to identify the elements of a dataframe.

myframe[3:5] # columns 3,4,5 of dataframe myframe[c("ID","Age")] # columns ID and Age from dataframe myframe\$X1 # variable x1 in the dataframe



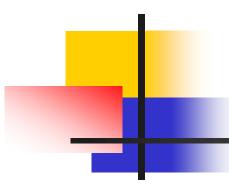


Lists

An ordered collection of objects (components). A list allows you to gather a variety of (possibly unrelated) objects under one name.

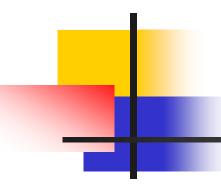
example of a list with 4 components # a string, a numeric vector, a matrix, and a scaler
w <- list(name="Fred", mynumbers=a, mymatrix=y,
age=5.3)</pre>

example of a list containing two lists
v <- c(list1,list2)</pre>



Lists

Identify elements of a list using the [[]] convention. mylist[[2]] # 2nd component of the list



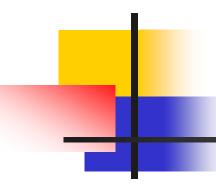
Factors

Tell **R** that a variable is **nominal** by making it a factor. The factor stores the nominal values as a vector of integers in the range [1... k] (where k is the number of unique values in the nominal variable), and an internal vector of character strings (the original values) mapped to these integers.

```
# variable gender with 20 "male" entries and
```

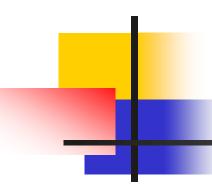
```
# 30 "female" entries
gender <- c(rep("male",20), rep("female", 30))
gender <- factor(gender)
```

- # stores gender as 20 1s and 30 2s and associates
- # 1=female, 2=male internally (alphabetically)
- # R now treats gender as a nominal variable summary(gender)



Useful Functions

```
length(object) # number of elements or components
str(object) # structure of an object
class(object) # class or type of an object
names(object) # names
c(object,object,...) # combine objects into a vector
cbind(object, object, ...) # combine objects as columns
rbind(object, object, ...) # combine objects as rows
ls() # list current objects
rm(object) # delete an object
newobject <- edit(object) # edit copy and save a newobject</pre>
fix(object)
               # edit in place
```



Importing Data

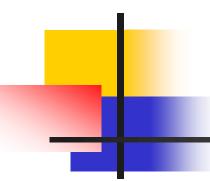
Importing data into **R** is fairly simple.

For Stata and Systat, use the **foreign** package.

For SPSS and SAS I would recommend the <u>Hmisc</u> package for ease and functionality.

See the **Quick-R** section on <u>packages</u>, for information on obtaining and installing the these packages.

Example of importing data are provided below.



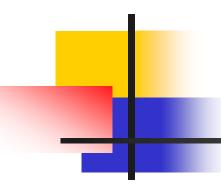
From A Comma Delimited Text File

```
# first row contains variable names, comma is separator
```

```
# assign the variable id to row names
```

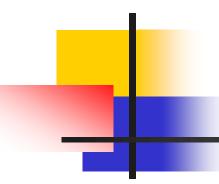
note the / instead of \ on mswindows systems

```
mydata <- read.table("c:/mydata.csv",
header=TRUE, sep=",", row.names="id")</pre>
```



From Excel

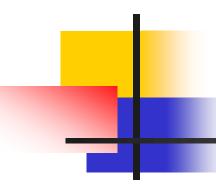
- The best way to read an Excel file is to export it to a comma delimited file and import it using the method above.
- On windows systems you can use the **RODBC** package to access Excel files. The first row should contain variable/column names.
- # first row contains variable names
- # we will read in workSheet mysheet
 library(RODBC)
 channel <- odbcConnectExcel("c:/myexel.xls")
 mydata <- sqlFetch(channel, "mysheet")
 odbcClose(channel)</pre>



From SAS

- # save SAS dataset in trasport format libname out xport 'c:/mydata.xpt'; data out.mydata; set sasuser.mydata; run;
- library(foreign)

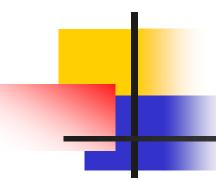
 #bsl=read.xport("mydata.xpt")



Keyboard Input

Usually you will obtain a dataframe by <u>importing</u> it from **SAS**, **SPSS**, **Excel**, **Stata**, a database, or an ASCII file. To create it interactively, you can do something like the following.

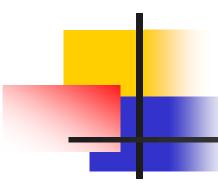
```
# create a dataframe from scratch age <- c(25, 30, 56) gender <- c("male", "female", "male") weight <- c(160, 110, 220) mydata <- data.frame(age,gender,weight)
```



Keyboard Input

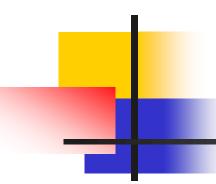
You can also use **R**'s built in spreadsheet to enter the data interactively, as in the following example.

```
# enter data using editor
  mydata <- data.frame(age=numeric(0),
  gender=character(0), weight=numeric(0))
  mydata <- edit(mydata)
  # note that without the assignment in the line
  above,
  # the edits are not saved!</pre>
```



Exporting Data

There are numerous methods for exporting **R** objects into other formats . For SPSS, SAS and Stata. you will need to load the **foreign** packages. For Excel, you will need the **xlsReadWrite** package.



Exporting Data

To A Tab Delimited Text File

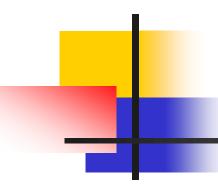
write.table(mydata, "c:/mydata.txt", sep="\t")

To an Excel Spreadsheet

```
library(xlsReadWrite)
write.xls(mydata, "c:/mydata.xls")
```

To SAS

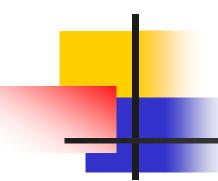
```
library(foreign)
  write.foreign(mydata, "c:/mydata.txt",
  "c:/mydata.sas", package="SAS")
```



Viewing Data

There are a number of functions for listing the contents of an object or dataset.

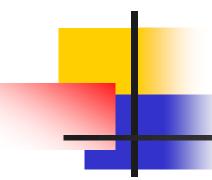
- # list objects in the working environment ls()
- # list the variables in mydata names(mydata)
- # list the structure of mydata str(mydata)
- # list levels of factor v1 in mydata levels(mydata\$v1)
- # dimensions of an object
 dim(object)



Viewing Data

There are a number of functions for listing the contents of an object or dataset.

- # class of an object (numeric, matrix, dataframe, etc) class(object)
- # print mydata mydata
- # print first 10 rows of mydata
 head(mydata, n=10)
- # print last 5 rows of mydata
 tail(mydata, n=5)

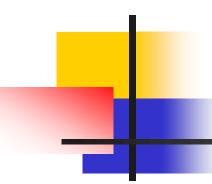


Variable Labels

R's ability to handle variable labels is somewhat unsatisfying.

If you use the **Hmisc** package, you can take advantage of some labeling features.

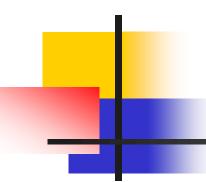
```
library(Hmisc)
  label(mydata$myvar) <- "Variable label for variable
  myvar"
  describe(mydata)</pre>
```



Variable Labels

Unfortunately the label is only in effect for functions provided by the **Hmisc** package, such as **describe()**. Your other option is to use the variable label as the variable name and then refer to the variable by position index.

names(mydata)[3] <- "This is the label for variable 3"
mydata[3] # list the variable</pre>



Value Labels

- To understand value labels in **R**, you need to understand the data structure <u>factor</u>.
- You can use the factor function to create your own value lables.

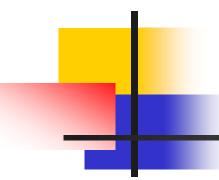
```
# variable v1 is coded 1, 2 or 3
```

```
# we want to attach value labels 1=red, 2=blue,3=green mydata$v1 <- factor(mydata$v1,
```

```
levels = c(1,2,3),
```

```
labels = c("red", "blue", "green"))
```

- # variable y is coded 1, 3 or 5
- # we want to attach value labels 1=Low, 3=Medium, 5=High

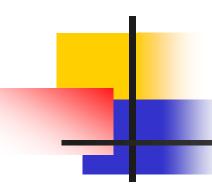


Value Labels

```
mydata$v1 <- ordered(mydata$y,
levels = c(1,3, 5),
labels = c("Low", "Medium", "High"))
```

Use the **factor()** function for **nominal data** and the **ordered()** function for **ordinal data**. **R** statistical and graphic functions will then treat the data appropriately.

Note: factor and ordered are used the same way, with the same arguments. The former creates factors and the later creates ordered factors.



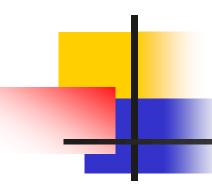
In **R**, missing values are represented by the symbol **NA** (not available). Impossible values (e.g., dividing by zero) are represented by the symbol **NaN** (not a number). Unlike SAS, **R** uses the same symbol for character and numeric data.

Testing for Missing Values

is.na(x) # returns TRUE of x is missing

y < -c(1,2,3,NA)

is.na(y) # returns a vector (F F F T)



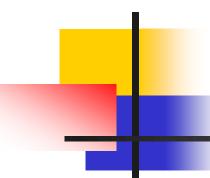
Recoding Values to Missing

```
# recode 99 to missing for variable v1
# select rows where v1 is 99 and recode column v1
mydata[mydata$v1==99,"v1"] <- NA</pre>
```

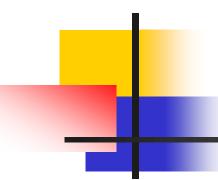
Excluding Missing Values from Analyses

Arithmetic functions on missing values yield missing values.

```
x <- c(1,2,NA,3)
mean(x) # returns NA
mean(x, na.rm=TRUE) # returns 2</pre>
```

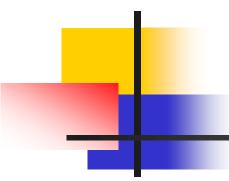


- The function **complete.cases()** returns a logical vector indicating which cases are complete.
- # list rows of data that have missing values mydata[!complete.cases(mydata),]
- The function **na.omit()** returns the object with listwise deletion of missing values.
- # create new dataset without missing data newdata <- na.omit(mydata)</pre>



Advanced Handling of Missing Data

Most modeling functions in **R** offer options for dealing with missing values. You can go beyond pairwise of listwise deletion of missing values through methods such as multiple imputation. Good implementations that can be accessed through **R** include **Amelia II**, **Mice**, and **mitools**.



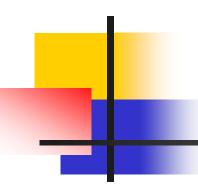
Date Values

Dates are represented as the number of days since 1970-01-01, with negative values for earlier dates.

```
# use as.Date() to convert strings to dates
mydates <- as.Date(c("2007-06-22", "2004-02-13"))
# number of days between 6/22/07 and 2/13/04
days <- mydates[1] - mydates[2]</pre>
```

Sys.Date() returns today's date.

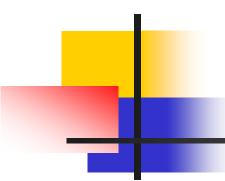
Date() returns the current date and time.



Date Values

The following symbols can be used with the format() function to print dates.

Symbol	Meaning	Example
%d	day as a number (0-31)	01-31
%a %A	abbreviated weekday unabbreviated weekday	Mon Monday
%m	month (00-12)	00-12
%b %B	abbreviated month unabbreviated month	Jan January
%y %Y	2-digit year 4-digit year	07 2007



Date Values

print today's date

```
today <- Sys.Date()
format(today, format="%B %d %Y")
  "June 20 2007"</pre>
```