

Assignment 3 Part 4 -- Printing unknown numbers rather than hospital names

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[Donald F Coffin](#) Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔒

I have implemented the following pseudo logic for the rankall.R assignment:

- Create a character list containing "valid outcome values"
- Convert "outcome" parameter to lower case
- Verify "outcome" parameter is valid
- Determine which column of the customer care data base contains requested "outcome"
- Input "outcome-of-care-measures" database
- Eliminate all entries with no data available
- Create a list of valid "states" based on content of customer care data base "state" values
- Create a matrix containing the hosp name, state, and requested "outcome" results for all customer care data
- Sort created matrix into "state", "outcome", "hosp name" sequence
- Create a report matrix
- Perform a for loop from 1 to length of valid "states" matrix
 - Set "state" based on for loop index within valid "states" matrix
 - Create data frame containing reporting data based on current valid "states" matrix element
 - Create data frame containing hosp name from above data frame
 - Determine which row of hosp name data frame matches requested outcome rank
 - Test if requested outcome rank exceeds number of reporting hospitals in state
 - If requested outcome rank exceeds number of reporting hospitals insert "NA" for hospital name
 - If requested outcome rank is within number of reporting

hospitals insert "hosp name" based on rank from hosp
name data frame

- End of for loop
- Convert report matrix to data frame

The problem I am encountering is that although in debug mode, I can enter the logic to be executed and obtain the hosp name as expected, when the program executes, it inserts what seems to be a random number rather than the hosp name.

After several hours of debugging and research I am extremely confused about why the executed code produces different results than when I manually enter the command in the R Studio console and see the correct data when I view the data frames.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[Pradyumna Misra](#) COMMUNITY TA · 12 days ago 🔗

The problem is likely to be in the last step when you are converting to data frame.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[Donald F Coffin](#) Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔗

Pradyumma,

If by "last step" you mean the conversion to the data frame structure, I've confirmed the error occurs prior to the conversion while the logic loops through the valid "states" structure.

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[Edper Castro](#) Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔗

Could it be that the random number is the row number of the observation that you were able to extract?

Try opening your csv file in Excel and compare the random number that you see against the row number (minus one since header is included) in csv file.

Also you don't need loops in doing so. Nevertheless, it should still work and probably you messed up with your logic on the inner loop.

So, try to print() some values just to see what really transpire inside the loop.

Hope this helps and GOD bless.

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Donald F Coffin Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔗

Edper,

Although I suspected the source of the "random" value might be the row number of the factor within the hosp name structure, I've already verified the requested rank (i.e., row in which the hosp name occurs), matches the expected structure row and thus is not the source of the "random" value.

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Anonymous · 12 days ago 🔗

I would also look at this part of the code:

```
If requested outcome rank is within number of reporting hospitals insert "hosp name"
based on rank from hosp name data frame
```

If this is where you mean when you say you enter the logic in debugger and get the expected result, but then the code goes and does something different in the same step...check and make sure the class of your "expected result" is indeed what you are expecting (i.e, character).

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Donald F Coffin Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔗

Anonymous,

I have already confirmed using the R Studio variable section that the "expected result" is character.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Anonymous · 12 days ago 🔗

Could we look at the snippet of the code where everything goes wrong?

When you can do one thing, and then the same step of the code does something completely different. A closer look may be instructive here, and it sounds like you have narrowed it down pretty well.

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Donald F Coffin Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔗

I've confirmed the source of the issue. If I enter the following option setting:

```
options(stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
```

The "random" values change to hosp names. While that resolves the output problem, I am still failing submissions 9 and 10. Additionally, if I run the test-rankall.r script, it complains that the values are NOT factors.

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Shyamprasad Molugu · 12 days ago

guys, was having trouble converting the list returned by lapply to dataframe. I finished the assignment by using the method found on stackoverflow (do.call(rbind.data.frame, x)) but not comfortable and would like to know how to do it.

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Shyamprasad Molugu · 11 days ago

found a way to convert list to data frame by using lapply and rbind. was hoping for a simpler method like above.

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Shyamprasad Molugu · 12 days ago

Donald, I can only think of one reason. this happens when you are storing one datatype into a different datatype. Check your code for the same. I am not sure what you are doing manually.

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Donald F Coffin Signature Track · 12 days ago

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Donald F Coffin Signature Track · 12 days ago

<RESOLVED>

I resolved the "random" value issue by using the following:

```
options(stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
```

The reason I was failing submissions 9 and 10 was that I forgot to treat the outcome results as "numeric" values when I performed the sort. A simple error and easily resolved once I was able to solve the "random" value issue.

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Debbie Hoffpauir Signature Track · 11 days ago 🔗

Yes, Donald, I was frustrated with this problem for quite a while, now I set this option when reading the data in.

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