

A Handbook on R

Freddy Ray Drennan

2021-11-21

Contents

| | | |
|----------|---|-----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 5 |
| 1.1 | Initial Setup | 5 |
| 1.2 | A Dose of Theory | 6 |
| 2 | What is R | 9 |
| 2.1 | Types of Problems You Can Solve | 9 |
| 2.2 | Base R, Tidyverse, data.table | 9 |
| 2.3 | Arguments/ Developments within the language | 9 |
| 2.4 | What are Variables | 9 |
| 3 | Building Blocks | 11 |
| 3.1 | Vectors | 11 |
| 3.2 | Functions | 11 |
| 4 | Debugging | 15 |
| 4.1 | What is the debugger? | 15 |
| 4.2 | How to learn R without knowing any R | 15 |
| 4.3 | <code>browser()</code> | 15 |
| 4.4 | <code>next</code> , <code>continue</code> | 15 |
| 4.5 | <code>debug</code> and <code>undebug</code> | 15 |
| 4.6 | <code>debugonce</code> | 15 |
| 4.7 | Understanding debugging output | 15 |
| 4.8 | LOTS OF DEBUGGING EXERCISES CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH | 15 |

| | | |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 5 | Vectors | 17 |
| 5.1 | c | 17 |
| 5.2 | [and [[. | 17 |
| 6 | Lists | 19 |
| 6.1 | list | 19 |
| 6.2 | [and [[. | 19 |
| 7 | Tables | 21 |
| 7.1 | c | 21 |
| 7.2 | [and [[. | 21 |
| 8 | Functional Programming | 23 |
| 8.1 | Base R | 23 |
| 8.2 | Modern R | 23 |
| 9 | Tidy Data | 25 |
| 10 | dplyr | 27 |
| 11 | Project Outline | 29 |

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Initial Setup

Book Outline

- [Read]
 - What is R
- Install R
- Install R Studio
- Windows Only: Install RTools
 - When installed, run in the RStudio Console: `write('PATH="${RTTOOLS40_HOME}\\usr\\bin;${PATH}"', file = "~/.Renvirom", append = TRUE)`
- Windows Only: Install WSL2
 - Computer should be completely updated before install.
- Install Git
- Create Github Account
- Fork r-handbook
- Install Docker and Docker Compose
- Create AWS Account

- Billing will be discussed in the course, but don't expect to pay much - i.e., 10-20 dollars a month for high course activity.
- Remember to **stop** EC2 servers when we begin using them. AWS is polite about your first few refund requests.
- Create Reddit Account
 - Follow Instructions here

Make sure you install the `tidyverse` packages. Update to `renv` later.

1.2 A Dose of Theory

I struggle to determine the best way to start a book like this. But, as someone who has read one or two programming books, I can't help but get tired of the "Hello World" introduction. If you don't know what I am talking about, don't worry, you will but I won't bother you with that here. Instead, I want to talk about boring lists.

In order to talk about lists, we need to go get one. In the code below, you will see the function, `library`. Functions do things for us given a set of inputs. R is called a functional language, so it is fitting that the first thing we do is use one. In this case, `library` loads a package of code that someone submitted for the rest of the R community to use. We will discuss how to create these packages at a later part in the book.

```
library(COVID19)
```

```
## Warning: package 'COVID19' was built under R version 4.1.2
```

```
covid_data <- covid19(country = 'United States', start = '2021-01-01')
```

```
## We have invested a lot of time and effort in creating COVID-19 Data Hub, please cite
##
##   Guidotti, E., Ardia, D., (2020), "COVID-19 Data Hub", Journal of Open
##   Source Software 5(51):2376, doi: 10.21105/joss.02376.
##
## A BibTeX entry for LaTeX users is
##
##   @Article{,
##     title = {COVID-19 Data Hub},
##     year = {2020},
##     doi = {10.21105/joss.02376},
```

```
##      author = {Emanuele Guidotti and David Ardia},  
##      journal = {Journal of Open Source Software},  
##      volume = {5},  
##      number = {51},  
##      pages = {2376},  
##    }  
##  
## To hide this message use 'verbose = FALSE'.
```

How do I know if a function is vectorized

```
install.packages('tidyverse')
```


Chapter 2

What is R

2.1 Types of Problems You Can Solve

2.2 Base R, Tidyverse, data.table

2.3 Arguments/ Developments within the language

2.4 What are Variables

2.4.1 Valid Variable Names

Chapter 3

Building Blocks

3.1 Vectors

Vectors are containers information of similar type. You can think of them as having $1 * n$ cells where n is any positive integer, and make up the rows and columns of tables. Vectors always contain the same type of value. R has many different types of vectors, but the most common are **numeric**, **character**, and **logical** (**TRUE/FALSE**).

Vectors are cool. I like to think of them as boxes that can only be stacked on top of one another.

```
typeof(c(TRUE))
```

```
## [1] "logical"
```

```
typeof(c(TRUE, 1))
```

```
## [1] "double"
```

```
typeof(c(TRUE, 1, 'a'))
```

```
## [1] "character"
```

3.2 Functions

Functions are containers where anything or nothing can happen, but whatever happens, it happens the same way every single time. They allow for generalization of complicated ideas and routines that we wish to repeat over and over

again. A function may have an input, but no output. It may have an output, but no input, both or none. If it's something you need to do repeatedly, or containing code makes your program easier to read, then write a function for that process.

Rule 4: Functions have inputs, outputs, and a body. A function can have multiple outputs, but given a particular set of inputs, the solution should never change assuming you are not developing a function with randomness built in.

R has a built-in constant called `letters`. This means that no matter where you are writing R, `letters` will be available to you. We see that `letters` is a **character vector** in our program below, and use the composition of functions to create a program that describes `letters`.

```
print(letters)
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e" "f" "g" "h" "i" "j" "k" "l" "m" "n" "o" "p" "q" "r" "s"
## [20] "t" "u" "v" "w" "x" "y" "z"
```

Next, we can use some functions which take in pretty much any object that exists in R and spits back information regarding the `letters` data.

```
main <- function() {
  print_information <- function(x) {

    variable_name = deparse1(substitute(x))

    length_x = length(x)
    typeof_x <- typeof(x)
    is_vec_x <- is.vector(x)

    meta_list <- list(
      length = length_x,
      type = typeof_x,
      is_vector = is_vec_x
    )

    cli::cli_alert('Information about {variable_name}')

    cli::cli_alert_info("{variable_name} is a 1x{length_x} dimensional")
    cli::cli_alert_info("")

    purrr::iwalk(meta_list, function(x, index) {
      cli::cli_alert_info(glue::glue('{index} {x} is type {typeof(x)}'))
    })
  }
}
```

```
    return(meta_list)
  }

  cli::cli_alert_info('Execute print_information')
  output <- print_information(mtcars)
  cli::cli_alert_success('Execute print_information complete')

  print(output)
}

main()
```

```
## i Execute print_information

## > Information about mtcars

## i mtcars is a 1x11 dimensional

## i

## i length 11 is type integer

## i type list is type character

## i is_vector FALSE is type logical

## v Execute print_information complete

## $length
## [1] 11
##
## $type
## [1] "list"
##
## $is_vector
## [1] FALSE
```


Chapter 4

Debugging

4.1 What is the debugger?

4.2 How to learn R without knowing any R

4.3 `browser()`

4.4 `next`, `continue`

4.5 `debug` and `undebug`

4.6 `debugonce`

4.7 Understanding debugging output

4.8 LOTS OF DEBUGGING EXERCISES
CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH

Chapter 5

Vectors

5.1 `c`

5.2 `[` and `[[`

- Vectors
 - `atomic`
- Strings
 - Base R
 - `stringr`
 - * Regular Expressions
 - Cheat Sheet
- Numbers
 - Integer
 - Double
- Factors
 - `as.factor` vs. `as_factor`
- Dates
 - Base R
 - `lubridate`

Chapter 6

Lists

6.1 `list`

6.2 `[]` and `[][]`

- Lists
 - `list()` and `c`
 - `[]` and `[][]`
 - Connection between lists and json
 - * `jsonlite`

Chapter 7

Tables

7.1 `c`

7.2 `[` and `[[`

- Tables
 - matrices
 - `data.frame` vs `tibble`
 - data.frames are lists with equal length, atomic vectors

Chapter 8

Functional Programming

2. Functions

- Sequences
- Mapping functions
- pipes
- void
- `return`
 - Can a function return nothing?
 - What are side effects?
 - Multiple return statements

8.1 Base R

`apply`, `lapply`, `mapply`

8.2 Modern R

`purrr` * `map_*` * `map2_*` * `pmap_*` * Iterate over What? * Why are data.frames mapped over columnwise? * A: data.frames are lists, and mapping functions will iterate over each individual item in a list

Chapter 9

Tidy Data

- Concept of tidy data
 - Tidy Data Paper
- `tidyr`
 - `pivot_longer`
 - `pivot_wider`

Chapter 10

dplyr

- dplyr and data manipulation
 - main functions
 - * `select`
 - * `mutate`
 - * `filter`
 - * `transmute`
 - summarizing data
 - * `group_by`
 - * `summarize` - one row per group
 - * `mutate` - one or many rows per group will have same value
 - * `ungroup` - remove grouping
 - Not everything has to be a `group_by`
 - Solving group problems with vectors
- Joining Tables
 - `inner_join`
 - `full_join`
 - `left_join` / `right_join`

Chapter 11

Project Outline

To be expanded over many chapters

1. Windows vs Mac vs Linux
2. Docker Installation
 - Windows needs to set up VM in bios
3. RStudio IDE
 - Cheat Sheet
4. reddit api creds
5. reticulate
 - Enough R to know Python
 - Type Conversions
 - miniconda installation
 - virtual environments
6. Package Structure
 - Defaults for RStudio
 - Rebuild and Restart with Roxygen2
 - `.env`
 - `.gitignore`
 - `.Rprofile`
 - `.Renviron`
 - Packages necessary for efficient development
 - `usethis`
 - `roxygen`
 - `devtools`
 - * Cheat Sheet

- Make and Makefiles
 - Automating Package Build
- Unit Testing (probably bad location for ut, no code written)
 - testthat
- 7. Git
 - Github
 - git circle, workflow
- 8. Retrieving Data from API
 - `praw`
 - `dotenv` and `.env`
 - Old Reddit Code to start with
- 9. Docker and Docker Compose Introduction
 - `.dockerignore`
- 10. Create Postgres Database
 - What are Ports?
 - Postgres Credentials
- 11. Create functions for Storing Reddit Data
- 12. *Need preferred method for streaming data, i.e., Airflow not a good scheduler for scripts that are always running and need a kickstart on failure, timeout, etc. Docker with `restart: always` may be sufficient*
- 13. Plumber API
 - Add to docker-compose
 - Functions for ETL, Shiny Application
- 14. ETL with Airflow and HTTP operator connected to Plumber API
- 15. Shiny
 - Reactive Graph
 - Order does not matter, the graph does
 - Why Modules?
 - `map` over modules
- 16. Automating Infrastructure
 - `awscli`
 - `boto3`
 - `biggr`
 - Create EC2 Server from R
 - User Data