

# Basic R

## Common new users frustrations

1. **Different versions of software**
2. **Data type problems (is that a character or a number?)**
3. Working directory problems: trying to read files that R “can’t find”
  - RStudio can help, and so do RStudio Projects
  - discuss in Data Input/Output lecture
4. Typos (R is **case sensitive**, x and X are different)
  - RStudio helps with “tab completion”
  - discussed throughout

## Explaining output on slides

In slides, a command (we'll also call them code or a code chunk) will look like this

```
print("I'm code")
```

```
[1] "I'm code"
```

And then directly after it, will be the output of the code.

So `print("I'm code")` is the code chunk and `[1] "I'm code"` is the output.

## R as a calculator

```
2 + 2
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
2 * 4
```

```
[1] 8
```

```
2^3
```

```
[1] 8
```

Note: when you type your command, R inherently thinks you want to print the result.

## R as a calculator

- The R console is a full calculator
- Try to play around with it:
  - +, -, /, \* are add, subtract, divide and multiply
  - ^ or \*\* is power
  - parentheses – ( and ) – work with order of operations
  - %% finds the remainder

# R as a calculator

$$2 + (2 * 3)^2$$

[1] 38

$$(1 + 3) / 2 + 45$$

[1] 47

$$6 / 2 * (1 + 2)$$

[1] 9

Why I have trust issues



#BEDMAS #PEMDAS

Math Prof answers  $6 \div 2(1+2) = ?$  once and for all \*\*\*Viral Math Problem\*\*\*

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lol, am I really doing this? Ok, fine. There is a \*\*\*viral math problem\*\*\* about, uh, order of operations. You know, #BEDMAS or #PEMDAS. The most common form is  $6/2(1+2)$  but it also shows up as  $60/5(7-5)$  and other equivalent forms. What is the correct answer explained by a math

SHOW MORE

## R as a calculator

Try evaluating the following:

- $2 + 2 * 3 / 4 - 3$
- $2 * 3 / 4 * 2$
- $2^4 - 1$

# Commenting in Scripts

# creates a comment in R code

*# this is a comment*

*# nothing to its right is evaluated*

*# this # is still a comment*

*### you can use many #'s as you want*

**1** + **2** *# Can be the right of code*

[1] 3

In an `.Rmd` file, you can write notes outside the R chunks.



## Assigning values to objects

- You can create objects from within the R environment and from files on your computer
- R uses `<-` to assign values to an object name (you might also see `=` used, but this is not best practice)
- Object names are case-sensitive, i.e. `X` and `x` are different

```
x <- 2  
x
```

```
[1] 2
```

```
x * 4
```

```
[1] 8
```

```
x + 2
```

```
[1] 4
```

## Assigning values to objects

- The most comfortable and familiar class/data type for many of you will be `data.frame`
- You can think of these as essentially spreadsheets with rows (usually subjects or observations) and columns (usually variables)
- `data.frames` are somewhat advanced objects in R; we will start with simpler objects

## Assigning values to objects

- Here we introduce “1 dimensional” classes; often referred to as ‘vectors’
- Vectors can have multiple sets of observations, but each observation has to be the same class.

```
class(x)
```

```
[1] "numeric"
```

```
y <- "hello world!"  
print(y)
```

```
[1] "hello world!"
```

```
class(y)
```

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

## Simple object practice

Try assigning your full name to an R object called `name`

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Try assigning your full name to an R object called `name`

```
name <- "Ava Hoffman"  
name
```

```
[1] "Ava Hoffman"
```

## The 'combine' function

The function `c()` collects/combines/joins single R objects into a vector of R objects. It is mostly used for creating vectors of numbers, character strings, and other data types.

```
x <- c(1, 4, 6, 8)  
x
```

```
[1] 1 4 6 8
```

```
class(x)
```

```
[1] "numeric"
```

## The 'combine' function

Try assigning your first and last name as 2 separate character strings into a single vector called `name2`

## The 'combine' function

Try assigning your first and last name as 2 separate character strings into a length-2 vector called name2

```
name2 <- c("Ava", "Hoffman")
```

```
name2
```

```
[1] "Ava"      "Hoffman"
```



# Arguments inside R functions

- The contents you give to an R function are called “arguments”
- Here, R assumes all arguments should be objects contained in the vector
- We will talk more about arguments as we use more complicated functions!

```
name2 <- c("Ava", "Hoffman")  
# Arg 1      ^^^^^
```

```
name2 <- c("Ava", "Hoffman")  
# Arg 2      ^^^^^^^^^
```

## length of R objects

`length()`: Get or set the length of vectors (including lists) and factors, and of any other R object for which a method has been defined.

```
length(x)
```

```
[1] 4
```

```
y
```

```
[1] "hello world!"
```

```
length(y)
```

```
[1] 1
```

## length of R objects

What do you expect for the length of the `name` object? What about the `name2` object?

What are the lengths of each?

## length of R objects

What do you expect for the length of the `name` object? What about the `name2` object?

What are the lengths of each?

```
length(name)
```

```
[1] 1
```

```
length(name2)
```

```
[1] 2
```

## Math + vector objects

You can perform functions to entire vectors of numbers very easily.

```
x + 2
```

```
[1] 3 6 8 10
```

```
x * 3
```

```
[1] 3 12 18 24
```

```
x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)
```

```
[1] 2 6 9 12
```

# Lab Part 1

▮ [Lab](#)

## Math + vector objects

But things like algebra can only be performed on numbers.

```
name2 + 4
```

```
Error in name2 + 4: non-numeric argument to binary operator
```

## Reassigning to a new object

Save these modified vectors as a new vector called y.

```
y <- x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)  
y
```

```
[1]  2  6  9 12
```

Note that the R object y is no longer “hello world!” - It has been overwritten by assigning new data to the same name.



## Reassigning to a new object

Reassigning allows you to make changes “in place”

*# results not stored:*

```
x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)
```

*# x remains unchanged, results stored in `y`:*

```
y <- x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)
```

*# replace `x` in place*

```
x <- x + c(1, 2, 3, 4)
```

# R objects

You can get more attributes than just class. The function `str()` gives you the structure of the object.

```
str(x)
```

```
num [1:4] 1 4 6 8
```

```
str(y)
```

```
num [1:4] 2 6 9 12
```

This tells you that `x` is a numeric vector and tells you the length.

## R objects

This is handy when we start dealing with bigger / more complex objects.

```
str(z)
```

```
num [1:100] 12 12 6 6 2 12 9 2 2 6 ...
```

# Summary

- R functions as a calculator
- Use `<-` to save (assign) values to objects
- Use `c()` to **combine** vectors
- `length()`, `class()`, and `str()` tell you information about an object

□ [Class Website](#)

□ [Basic R Lab](#)