Intro to R

Data Classes

One dimensional vectors

Data classes/types

* Character: strings or individual characters, quoted
* Numeric: any real number(s)
* Integer: any integer(s)/whole numbers (1,2,3)
* Double: any number with fractional values (1.2, 4.0)
* Factor: categorical/qualitative variables
* Logical: variables composed of TRUE or FALSE
* Date/POSIXct: represents calendar dates and times

Character and numeric

We have already covered `character` and `numeric` types.

```
class(c("tree", "cloud", "stars_&_sky"))
```

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

```
class(c(1, 4, 7))
```

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

Character and numeric

This can also be a bit tricky.

```
class(c(1, 2, "tree"))
```

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

```
class(c("1", "4", "7"))
```

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

Logical

`logical` is a type that only has two possible elements: `TRUE` and `FALSE`

```
x <- c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE, TRUE, FALSE)
class(x)
```

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

Note that `logical` elements are NOT in quotes.

```
z <- c("TRUE", "FALSE", "TRUE", "FALSE")
class(z)
```

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

General Class Information

There is one useful functions associated with practically all R classes:

`as.CLASS_NAME(x)` **coerces between classes**. It turns `x` into a certain class.

Examples:

- `as.numeric()`
- `as.character()`
- `as.logical()`
- `as.double()`
- `as.integer()`
- `as.Date()`
- `as.factor()` (More on this one later!)

General Class Information: Checking

```
class(4)
```

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

```
class(c(1, 4, 7))
```

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

```
class("tree")
```

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

```
class(c("tree", "cloud"))
```

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

Coercing: seamless transition

Sometimes coercing works great!

```
as.character(4)
```

```
## [1] "4"
```

```
as.numeric(c("1", "4", "7"))
```

```
## [1] 1 4 7
```

```
as.logical(c("TRUE", "FALSE", "FALSE"))
```

```
## [1]  TRUE FALSE FALSE
```

```
as.logical(0)
```

```
## [1] FALSE
```

Coercing: not-so-seamless

When interpretation is ambiguous, R will return `NA` (an R constant representing "**N**ot **A**vailable" i.e. missing value)

```
as.numeric(c("1", "4", "7a"))
```

```
## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion
```

```
## [1]  1  4 NA
```

```
as.logical(c("TRUE", "FALSE", "UNKNOWN"))
```

```
## [1]  TRUE FALSE    NA
```

```
as.Date(c("2021-06-15", "2021-06-32"))
```

```
## [1] "2021-06-15" NA
```

Number Subclasses

There are two major number subclasses or types

1. Double
2. Integer

Double

`Double` is equivalent to `numeric`. It is a number that contains fractional values.

`Double` stands for double-precision

```
y <- c(1.1, 2.0, 3.2, 4.5, 5.6)
y
```

```
## [1] 1.1 2.0 3.2 4.5 5.6
```

```
class(y)
```

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

```
typeof(y)
```

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

Integer

`Integer` is a special number that contains only whole numbers.

```
y
```

```
## [1] 1.1 2.0 3.2 4.5 5.6
```

```
y_int <- as.integer(y)
y_int
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

```
class(y_int)
```

```
## [1] "integer"
```

```
typeof(y_int)
```

```
## [1] "integer"
```

Integer

Need to use `as.integer()` function to create integers (unless they are read in as integers or created as such with `seq` and `sample`). Otherwise, will be double by default.

```
x <- c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5) # technically integers
class(x)
```

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

```
typeof(x)
```

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

Checking double vs integer

A `tibble` will show the difference (as does `glimpse()`).

```
my_data <- tibble(double_var = y, int_var = y_int)
my_data
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 × 2
##   double_var int_var
##        <dbl>   <int>
## 1        1.1       1
## 2        2         2
## 3        3.2       3
## 4        4.5       4
## 5        5.6       5
```

```
glimpse(my_data)
```

```
## Rows: 5
## Columns: 2
## $ double_var <dbl> 1.1, 2.0, 3.2, 4.5, 5.6
## $ int_var    <int> 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
```

Factors

A `factor` is a special `character` vector where the elements have pre-defined groups or 'levels'. You can think of these as qualitative or categorical variables. Order is often important.

Examples:

- red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple
- breakfast, lunch, dinner
- baby, toddler, child, teen, adult
- Strongly Agree, Agree, Neutral, Disagree, Strongly Disagree
- beginner, novice, intermediate, expert

Factors

Use the `factor()` function to create factors.

```
x <- c("small", "medium", "large", "medium", "large")
class(x)
```

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

```
x_fact <- factor(x)
class(x_fact)
```

```
## [1] "factor"
```

```
x_fact
```

```
## [1] small  medium large  medium large
## Levels: large medium small
```

Note that levels are, by default, in **alphanumerical** order!

Factors

Q: Why not use `as.factor()` ?

A: You can coerce with `as.factor()`. But you can't specify levels! More on this soon.

Factors

You can learn what are the unique levels of a `factor` vector

```
levels(x_fact)
```

```
## [1] "large"  "medium" "small"
```

More on how to change the levels ordering in a lecture coming up!

Factors

Factors can be converted to `numeric` or `character` very easily.

```
x_fact
```

```
## [1] small  medium large  medium large
## Levels: large medium small
```

```
as.character(x_fact)
```

```
## [1] "small"  "medium" "large"  "medium" "large"
```

```
as.numeric(x_fact)
```

```
## [1] 3 2 1 2 1
```

Classes Overview

Example	Class	Type	Notes
1.1	Numeric	double	default for numbers
1	integer	integer	Need to coerce to integer with as.integer() or use sample() or seq() with whole numbers
“FALSE”, “Ball”	Character	Character	Need quotes
FALSE, TRUE	logical	logical	No quotes
“Small”, “Large”	Factor	Factor	Need to coerce to factor with factor()

Summary

- There are two types of number class objects: integer and double
- Logic class objects only have `TRUE` or `FALSE` (without quotes)
- `class()` can be used to test the class of an object x
- `as.CLASS_NAME(x)` can be used to change the class of an object x
- Factors are a special character class that has levels - more on that soon!
- tibbles show column classes!

Lab Part 1

Class Website

Lab

Two-dimensional data classes

Two-dimensional data classes

Two-dimensional classes are those we would often use to store data read from a file

- a data frame (`data.frame` or `tibble` class)
- a matrix (`matrix` class)
  - also composed of rows and columns
  - unlike `data.frame` or `tibble`, the entire matrix is composed of one R class
  - for example: all entries are `numeric`, or all entries are `character`

Matrices

`as.matrix()` creates a matrix from a data frame (where all values are the same class). `matrix()` creates a matrix from scratch.

```
head(iris)
```

```
##   Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1          5.1         3.5          1.4         0.2  setosa
## 2          4.9         3.0          1.4         0.2  setosa
## 3          4.7         3.2          1.3         0.2  setosa
## 4          4.6         3.1          1.5         0.2  setosa
## 5          5.0         3.6          1.4         0.2  setosa
## 6          5.4         3.9          1.7         0.4  setosa
```

```
class(iris)
```

```
## [1] "data.frame"
```

```
iris_mat <- head(tibble(select(iris, -Species)))
as.matrix(iris_mat)
```

```
##      Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width
## [1,]          5.1         3.5          1.4         0.2
## [2,]          4.9         3.0          1.4         0.2
## [3,]          4.7         3.2          1.3         0.2
## [4,]          4.6         3.1          1.5         0.2
## [5,]          5.0         3.6          1.4         0.2
## [6,]          5.4         3.9          1.7         0.4
```



```
matrix(1:6, ncol = 2)
```

Lists

- One other data type that is the most generic are `lists`.
- Can hold vectors, strings, matrices, models, list of other list!
- Lists are used when you need to do something repeatedly across lots of data - for example wrangling several similar files at once
- Lists are a bit more advanced but you may encounter them when you work with others or look up solutions

Making Lists

- Can be created using `list()`

```
mylist <- list(c("A", "b", "c"), c(1, 2, 3), matrix(1:4, ncol = 2))
mylist
```

```
## [[1]]
## [1] "A" "b" "c"
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 1 2 3
##
## [[3]]
##      [,1] [,2]
## [1,]    1    3
## [2,]    2    4
```

```
class(mylist)
```

```
## [1] "list"
```

Lists

List elements can be named

```
mylist_named <- list(
  letters = c("A", "b", "c"),
  numbers = c(1, 2, 3),
  one_matrix = matrix(1:4, ncol = 2)
)
mylist_named
```

```
## $letters
## [1] "A" "b" "c"
##
## $numbers
## [1] 1 2 3
##
## $one_matrix
##      [,1] [,2]
## [1,]    1    3
## [2,]    2    4
```

Special data classes

Dates

There are two most popular R classes used when working with dates and times:

- `Date` class representing a calendar date
- `POSIXct` class representing a calendar date with hours, minutes, seconds

We convert data from character to `Date`/`POSIXct` to use functions to manipulate date/date and time

`lubridate` is a powerful, widely used R package from “tidyverse” family to work with `Date` / `POSIXct` class objects

Creating `Date` class object

```
class("2021-06-15")
```

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

```
library(lubridate)

ymd("2021-06-15") # lubridate package
```

```
## [1] "2021-06-15"
```

```
class(ymd("2021-06-15")) # lubridate package
```

```
## [1] "Date"
```

```
class(date("2021-06-15")) # lubridate package
```

```
## [1] "Date"
```

Note for function `ymd`: **y**ear **m**onth **d**ay

dates

```
a <- ymd("2021-06-15")
b <- ymd("2021-06-18")
a - b
```

```
## Time difference of -3 days
```

Creating `Date` class object

`date()` is picky…

```
date("06/15/2021") # This doesn't work
```

```
## Error in as.POSIXlt.character(x, tz = tz(x)): character string is not in a
```

```
mdy("06/15/2021") # This works
```

```
## [1] "2021-06-15"
```

```
mdy("06/15/21") # This works
```

```
## [1] "2021-06-15"
```

Note for function `mdy`: **m**onth **d**ay **y**ear

Creating `POSIXct` class object

```
class("2013-01-24 19:39:07")
```

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

```
ymd_hms("2013-01-24 19:39:07") # lubridate package
```

```
## [1] "2013-01-24 19:39:07 UTC"
```

```
class(ymd_hms("2013-01-24 19:39:07")) # lubridate package
```

```
## [1] "POSIXct" "POSIXt"
```

UTC represents time zone, by default: Coordinated Universal Time

Note for function `ymd_hms`: **y**ear **m**onth **d**ay **h**our **m**inute **s**econd.

There are functions in case your data have only date, hour and minute (`ymd_hm()`) or only date and hour (`ymd_h()`).

Summary

- two dimensional object classes include: data frames, tibbles, matrices, and lists
- matrix has columns and rows but is all one data class
  - can create a matrix with `matrix()` from scratch or `as.matrix()` from something
- lists can contain multiples of any other class of data including lists!
  - can create lists with `list()`
- calendar dates can be represented with the `Date` class using `ymd()`, `mdy()` functions from `lubridate` package
- `POSIXct` class representing a calendar date with hours, minutes, seconds. Can use `ymd_hms()` or `ymd_hm()` or `ymd_h()`functions from the `lubridate` package

Lab Part 2

Class Website

Lab

Image by Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

Extra Slides

Some useful functions from `lubridate` to manipulate `Date` objects

```
x <- ymd(c("2021-06-15", "2021-07-15"))
x
```

```
## [1] "2021-06-15" "2021-07-15"
```

```
day(x) # see also: month(x) , year(x)
```

```
## [1] 15 15
```

```
x + days(10)
```

```
## [1] "2021-06-25" "2021-07-25"
```

```
x + months(1) + days(10)
```

```
## [1] "2021-07-25" "2021-08-25"
```

```
wday(x, label = TRUE)
```

```
## [1] Tue Thu
## Levels: Sun < Mon < Tue < Wed < Thu < Fri < Sat
```

Some useful functions from `lubridate` to manipulate `POSIXct` objects

```
x <- ymd_hms("2013-01-24 19:39:07")
x
```

```
## [1] "2013-01-24 19:39:07 UTC"
```

```
date(x)
```

```
## [1] "2013-01-24"
```

```
x + hours(3)
```

```
## [1] "2013-01-24 22:39:07 UTC"
```

```
floor_date(x, "1 hour") # see also: ceiling_date()
```

```
## [1] "2013-01-24 19:00:00 UTC"
```

Differences in dates

```
x1 <- ymd(c("2021-06-15"))
x2 <- ymd(c("2021-07-15"))

difftime(x2, x1, units = "weeks")
```

```
## Time difference of 4.285714 weeks
```

```
as.numeric(difftime(x2, x1, units = "weeks"))
```

```
## [1] 4.285714
```

Similar can be done with time (e.g. difference in hours).

Data Selection

Matrices

```
n <- 1:9
n
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
```

```
mat <- matrix(n, nrow = 3)
mat
```

```
##      [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,]    1    4    7
## [2,]    2    5    8
## [3,]    3    6    9
```

Vectors: data selection

To get element(s) of a vector (one-dimensional object):

- Type the name of the variable and open the rectangular brackets `[ ]`
- In the rectangular brackets, type index (/vector of indexes) of element (/elements) you want to pull. **In R, indexes start from 1** (not: 0)

```
x <- c("a", "b", "c", "d", "e", "f", "g", "h")
x
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e" "f" "g" "h"
```

```
x[2]
```

```
## [1] "b"
```

```
x[c(1, 2, 100)]
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" NA
```

Matrices: data selection

Note you cannot use `dplyr` functions (like `select`) on matrices. To subset matrix rows and/or columns, use `matrix[row_index, column_index]`.

```
mat
```

```
##      [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,]    1    4    7
## [2,]    2    5    8
## [3,]    3    6    9
```

```
mat[1, 1] # individual entry: row 1, column 1
```

```
## [1] 1
```

```
mat[1, 2] # individual entry: row 1, column 2
```

```
## [1] 4
```

```
mat[1, ] # first row
```

```
## [1] 1 4 7
```

```
mat[, 1] # first column
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3
```

```
mat[c(1, 2), c(2, 3)] # subset of original matrix: two rows and two columns
```

Lists: data selection

You can reference data from list using `$` (if elements are named) or using `[[ ]]`

```
mylist_named[[1]]
```

```
## [1] "A" "b" "c"
```

```
mylist_named[["letters"]] # works only for a list with elements' names
```

```
## [1] "A" "b" "c"
```

```
mylist_named$letters # works only for a list with elements' names
```

```
## [1] "A" "b" "c"
```