Lecture 2: Vectors, Lists and Data Frames (base R)

Harris Coding Camp - Accelerated Track

Summer 2022

Today's agenda:

- Vectors
- Data types
- data.frames and tibbles

Vectors: the foundational data structure in R

Vectors store an arbitrary¹ number of same type items

Use c() to build vectors

```
# numeric vector of length 6
my_numbers <- c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
my_numbers</pre>
```

```
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6
```

```
# character vector of length 3
my_characters <- c("public", "policy", "101")
my_characters</pre>
```

```
## [1] "public" "policy" "101"
```

¹Within limits determined by hardware

Vectors are the smallest unit of data in R

```
# vectors of length 1
i_am_a_vector <- 12.0
as_am_i <- TRUE
is.vector(i_am_a_vector)
## [1] TRUE
is.vector(as_am_i)
## [1] TRUE
```

The c() function combines vectors

```
x <- c(c(1, 2, 3), c(4, 5, 6))

x

## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6

y <- c(x, 2022)

y

## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 2022
```

i.e. c() "adds" elements to a vector

```
z <- c("Bo", "Cynthia", "David")</pre>
7.
## [1] "Bo" "Cynthia" "David"
z <- c(z, "Ernesto")
Z
## [1] "Bo" "Cynthia" "David" "Ernesto"
z \leftarrow c(\text{"Amelia"}, z)
Z
## [1] "Amelia" "Bo"
                            "Cynthia" "David" "Ernesto"
```

Technical detail: creates new objects in memory!

Create vectors of seq()uential numbers with: and seq()

```
too_much_typing \leftarrow c(2, 3, 4, 5)
2:5
## [1] 2 3 4 5
seq(2, 5)
## [1] 2 3 4 5
seq(from = 2, to = 5, by = 1)
## [1] 2 3 4 5
```

Create rep()eated vectors

```
too_much_typing <- c("a", "a", "a", "a")
rep("a", 4)
```

```
## [1] "a" "a" "a" "a"
```

Can you explain what is going on?

```
rep(c("a", 5), 4)

## [1] "a" "5" "a" "5" "a" "5" "a" "5"

rep(c("a", 5), each = 4)

## [1] "a" "a" "a" "a" "5" "5" "5" "5"
```

Creating placeholder vectors of a given type

```
too_much_typing <- c("", "", "", "", "", "")
vector("character", length = 5)
## [1]
# or this shorter short-cut.
character(5)
```

Creating placeholder vectors of a given type

[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE

```
# 1 million Os
my_integers <- integer(1000000)</pre>
head(my_integers)
## [1] 0 0 0 0 0 0
# 1 million FALSEs
my_lgl <- logical(1e6)</pre>
head(my_lgl, 3)
```

Create random data following a distribution

```
# Randomly choose 3 numbers from a Normal distribution
(my_random_normals <- rnorm(3))</pre>
```

[1] 1.0799690 0.4404190 0.2834663

```
# Randomly choose 4 numbers from a Uniform distribution
(my_random_uniforms <- runif(4))</pre>
```

[1] 0.2766011 0.4250474 0.7822993 0.2178838

The pattern is rdistribution (runif, rnorm, rf, rchisq)

Vectorization

R is a vectorized language

"Vectorized" means do something to a vector element by element

- ▶ In non-vectorized languages (e.g. Python, Java), you use a loop.
- Other vectorized languages include: Julia, MATLAB, numpy library in Python

Math is vectorized

Do the operation **element by element**

```
my_numbers <- 1:6
#1+1,
# 2 + 2.
#3+3,
# 4 + 4,
#5+5,
# 6 + 6
my_numbers + my_numbers
## [1] 2 4 6 8 10 12
```

Add a single value to a vector

Do the operation element by element

▶ if one vector is "short", recycle it's elements.

```
# 1 + 6,

# 2 + 6,

# 3 + 6,

# 4 + 6,

# 5 + 6,

# 6 + 6

my_numbers + 6
```

```
## [1] 7 8 9 10 11 12
```

Many built-in functions are vectorized.

► This may remind Excel users of "dragging" a function

```
# sqrt(1)
# sqrt(2)
# sqrt(3)
# sqrt(4)
# sqrt(5)
# sqrt(6)
sqrt(my_numbers)
```

```
## [1] 1.000000 1.414214 1.732051 2.000000 2.236068 2.44949
```

You try: Guess the output before running the code

```
my_numbers <- 1:6
my_numbers - my_numbers
my_numbers * my_numbers
my_numbers / my_numbers

a_vector <- rnorm(6)
sqrt(a_vector)
round(a_vector, 2)</pre>
```

What happens when the vectors aren't the same size?

```
a <- 1:6 + 1:3
a
```

[1] 2 4 6 5 7 9

Warning: Vector recycling

The shorter vector re-starts from it's beginning.

```
# 1 + 1,

# 2 + 2,

# 3 + 3,

# 4 + 1, -- '1' is 'recycled'

# 5 + 2, -- '2' is 'recycled'

# 6 + 3 -- '3' is 'recycled'

c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) + c(1, 2, 3)
```

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

Some times we get a warning . . .

$$x \leftarrow c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) + c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)$$

Warning in c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) + c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5): longor ## multiple of shorter object length

... but not if vector lengths are multiples

$$x \leftarrow c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) + c(1, 2, 3)$$

Conditional operators are vectorized

```
# 1 > 1,
# 2 > 1,
# 3 > 3,
# 4 > 3,
# 5 > pi,
# 6 > pi

my_numbers > c(1, 1, 3, 3, pi, pi)
```

[1] FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE TRUE TRUE

Conditional operators are vectorized

```
x <- c(1, 3, 6, 10)
# 4 is "recycled" think c(4, 4, 4)
x > 4

## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE

x == 3

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

Warning: Vector recycling still an issue

You want to see if a value is equal to 1 or 6

```
# FAIL 
 x == c(1, 6)
```

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

You want to see if a value is equal to 1 or 6

```
# FAIL
x == c(1, 6)

## [1] TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE

# Success!
x == 1 | x == 6

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

Boolean operators are vectorized

```
# TRUE & TRUE
# TRUE & FALSE
# FALSE & TRUE
# FALSE & FALSE
rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), each = 2) & rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), 2)
## [1] TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE
```

Boolean operators are vectorized

```
# TRUE | TRUE
# TRUE | FALSE
# FALSE | TRUE
# FALSE | FALSE
rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), each = 2) | rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), 2)
## [1] TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE
```

xor() exists in baseR as a function!

See section 13.3 of R4DS

```
# TRUE | TRUE.
# TRUE | FALSE
# FALSE | TRUE
# FALSE | FALSE
xor(rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), each = 2), rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), 2))
## [1] FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE
```

Working with characters

- paste0() is a function that combines character vectors
- str_c() is a tidyverse cousin

```
pasteO(c("a", "b", "c"), c("x", "y", "z"))

## [1] "ax" "by" "cz"

pasteO("a", "w", "e", "s", "o", "m", "e")

## [1] "awesome"
```

Subseting Vectors

Accessing Elements by Index with Brackets [

```
Z
## [1] "Amelia" "Bo"
                           "Cynthia" "David" "Ernesto"
z[3]
## [1] "Cynthia"
z[c(1, 2, 3)]
## [1] "Amelia" "Bo"
                           "Cynthia"
```

Reassign Elements by Index

```
z[1] <- "Arthur"
z[1:3]
## [1] "Arthur" "Bo" "Cynthia"</pre>
```

Excluding Elements by Index

Using a negative sign, returns everything *except* the selected one(s):

```
my letters <- c("a", "b", "c", "d", "e")
# get all numbers besides the 1st
my_letters[-1]
## [1] "b" "c" "d" "e"
# get all numbers besides the 4th and 5th
my letters [-c(4, 5)]
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
```

Try it out:

a <- 0:9

- subset the number 7
- ▶ subset all the numbers not equal to 8 or 9
- subset all the even numbers

Try it out:

[1] 0 2 4 6 8

```
a[8]
## [1] 7
a[-c(9, 10)]
## [1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
a[c(1, 3, 5, 7, 9)]
```

Accessing Element by Logical Vector

```
logical_index <-
# 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,
c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE, FALSE)

# same as my_numbers[c(1, 2, 5)]
my_numbers[logical_index]

## [1] 1 2 5</pre>
```

Accessing Element by Logical Vector

```
# 1 subset TRUE
# 2 subset TRUE
# 3 subset FALSE
# 4 subset FALSE
# 5 subset TRUE
# 6 subset FALSE
my_numbers[logical_index]
```

```
## [1] 1 2 5
```

Accessing elements that meet a condition (i.e. Logical Vector)

```
x <- c(-3, -2, 15, 11, -12, 13)
x < 0
## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE

x[x < 0]
## [1] -3 -2 -12</pre>
```

Reassigning elements that meet a condition

```
# Replace elements which meet the condition with 0 x[x < 0] <-0 x
```

```
## [1] 0 0 15 11 0 13
```

Try it out – with conditional expressions / logical vectors:

a < -0:9

- subset the number 7
- subset all the numbers not equal to 8 AND are not equal to 9
- subset all the even numbers

Try it out:

```
a[a == 7]
## [1] 7
a[a != 8 & a != 9]
## [1] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
a[a \% 2 == 1]
## [1] 1 3 5 7 9
```

Functions that reduce vectors

length() tells you how many items in the vector

```
# letters is the English alphabet
head(letters)

## [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e" "f"
length(letters)

## [1] 26
```

Summarize your data

```
a_vector <- c(1, 3, 5, 7, 15)
sum(a_vector)  # add all numbers
mean(a_vector)  # find the mean
median(a_vector)  # find the median
sd(a_vector)  # find the standard deviation</pre>
```

Generalize logical operators

Generalize | with any()

```
# 1 > 12 | 3 > 12 | 5 > 12 | 7 > 12 | 15 > 12
any(a_vector > 12)
```

[1] TRUE

Generalize & with all()

```
# 1 == 5 & 3 == 5 & 5 == 5 & 7 == 5 & 15 == 5
all(a_vector == 5)
```

[1] FALSE

Functions that reduce vectors

Useful functions to summarize data

- Center: mean(), median()
- Spread: sd(), IQR(), mad()
- Range: min(), max(), quantile()
- Position: first(), last(), nth(),
- Count: n(), n_distinct()
- Logical: any(), all()

Data Types

What is going on here?

```
a <- "4"
b <- 5
a * b
```

Error in a * b : non-numeric argument to binary operator

What is going on here?

The error we got when we tried a * b was because a is a character:

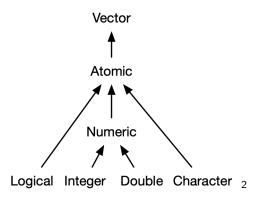
```
a <- "4"
b <- 5
a * b # invalid calculation
```

R does not multiply *non-numeric* vectors!

Data types

R has four primary types of atomic vectors

▶ these determine how R stores the data in memory



 $^{^2} Image\ from\ https://adv-r.hadley.nz/vectors-chap.html$

Data types

logicals, also known as booleans

```
type_logical <- FALSE
type_logical <- TRUE</pre>
```

integer and double, together are called: numeric

```
type_integer <- 1000
type_double <- 1.0</pre>
```

character, need to use " " to include the text

```
type_character <- "abbreviated as chr"
type_character <- "also known as a string"</pre>
```

Testing types with is.<type>()

```
x <- "1"
typeof(x) # for atomic vectors, same as class()
## [1] "character"
is.integer(x)
## [1] FALSE
is.character(x)
```

[1] TRUE

technical: typeof() returns types built-in to R. When we develop new structures, we can assign our own class(); class allows for more nuanced results (more later). You might also see people use mode(), which is nearly a synonym of typeof().

Reassign types on the fly as.<type>()

The error we got when we tried a * b was because a is a character:

```
a <- "4"
b <- 5
as.numeric(a) * b
```

```
## [1] 20
```

What Happens When You Mix Types Inside a Vector?

```
c(4, "harris")
c(TRUE, "harris")
c(TRUE, 5)
c(FALSE, 100)
```

Character > Numeric > Logical

```
# Numbers can be coerced into Characters.
c(4, "harris")
## [1] "4" "harris"
# Logicals are coercible to numeric or character.
c(TRUE, "harris")
## [1] "TRUE" "harris"
c(TRUE, 5)
## [1] 1 5
c(FALSE, 100)
## [1] 0 100
```

Automatic coercion

We make use of logical coercion a lot.

What do you think the following code will return?

```
TRUE + 10
sum(c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE))
mean(c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE))
```

Automatic coercion

```
TRUE + 10
## [1] 11
sum(c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE))
## [1] 3
mean(c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE, TRUE))
## [1] 0.6
```

Automatic coercion only works from simple to complex

```
# Since Character > Numeric R won't turn "4" into 4
"4" + 4
```

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

```
# But, it will turn 4 into "4"
paste0("4", 4)
```

```
## [1] "44"
```

NAs introduced by coercion

R does not know how to turn the string "unknown" into an integer. So, it uses NA which is how R represents *missing* or *unknown* values.

```
as.integer("Unknown")

## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion

## [1] NA
```

NAs are contagious

[1] NA

NA could be anything so the output is also unknown

```
NA + 4
## [1] NA
\max(c(NA, 4, 1000))
## [1] NA
mean(c(NA, 3, 4, 5))
## [1] NA
4 == NA
```

Some functions let you ignore the missing values

```
b \leftarrow c(NA, 3, 4, 5)
sum(b)
## [1] NA
sum(b, na.rm = TRUE)
## [1] 12
mean(b, na.rm = TRUE)
## [1] 4
```

Do you remember how to test for missing values?

```
x \leftarrow c(4, NA)

x == NA
```

[1] NA NA

Test for NAs with is.na()

```
x <- c(4, NA)
is.na(x)

## [1] FALSE TRUE

!is.na(x)

## [1] TRUE FALSE</pre>
```

Lists

What do we do we when we want to store different types?

```
c(TRUE, c(2,2,2), "Last")
## [1] "TRUE" "2" "2" "Last"
```

What do we do we when we want to store different types?

Use lists!

Lists are useful building blocks for:

- data frames / tibbles
- output from statistical models

```
# vector coercion
typeof(c(1, "a", TRUE))

## [1] "character"

# no-coercion
typeof(list(1, "a", TRUE))

## [1] "list"
```

List

We can name the objects in a list for easy reference.

... Hey that looks like a data frame!

Lists

[1] "character"

[[and \$ pull out a single object from a list by name or location. my_list[[2]] ## [1] 2 2 typeof(my_list[[2]]) ## [1] "double" my_list\$anything ## [1] "last" "last" typeof(my_list\$anything)

Lists

We can also subset a [list and retain a list

```
my_list[c(1,3)]
## $can
## [1] TRUE TRUE
##
## $anything
## [1] "last" "last"
# this is still a list
typeof(my_list[c(1,3)])
## [1] "list"
```

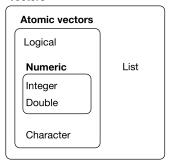
Lists are vectors?

lists are still vectors, just not atomic

is.vector(my_list)

[1] TRUE

Vectors



NULL

3

 $^{^3}$ image from https://r4ds.had.co.nz/vectors.html

Empty list creation

To create an empty list of a given size use vector()

```
empty_list <- vector("list", 10)</pre>
```

Data Frames are lists with specific properties

Data Frame, Vector, List

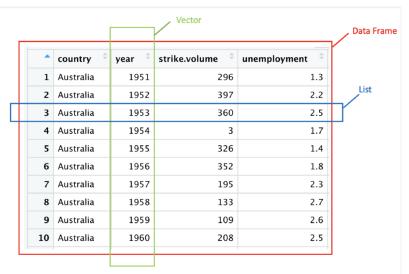
			Vector		Data Frame
•	country [‡]	year ‡	strike.volume [‡]	unemployment ‡	
1	Australia	1951	296	1.3	
2	Australia	1952	397	2.2	List
3	Australia	1953	360	2.5	
4	Australia	1954	3	1.7	
5	Australia	1955	326	1.4	
6	Australia	1956	352	1.8	
7	Australia	1957	195	2.3	
8	Australia	1958	133	2.7	
9	Australia	1959	109	2.6	
10	Australia	1960	208	2.5	

- Row: holds elements of different types (e.g. numeric, character, logical)
- ► Column: store elements of the same type

We like tidy data

Row: A distinct observation

Column: A feature or characteristic of that observation



Columns are vectors

We can create a tibble or data.frame manually

- ► To test out code on a simpler tibble
- ► To organize data from a simulation

```
care_data <- tibble(
  id = 1:5,
    n_kids = c(2, 4, 1, 1, NA),
    child_care_costs = c(1000, 3000, 300, 300, 500),
    random_noise = rnorm(5, sd = 5)*30
)</pre>
```

Could create the same code with data.frame()

Ta-da

Take a look at our data set care_data:

care_data

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 4
##
        id n kids child care costs random noise
##
     <int> <dbl>
                               <dbl>
                                            <dbl>
## 1
                                1000
                                             36.1
## 2
                                3000
                                            -24.6
## 3
         3
                                 300
                                           -267.
## 4
         4
                                 300
                                            385.
         5
                                           -105.
## 5
               NA
                                 500
```

Rows are lists

(we make use of this idea less often.)

```
bind_rows(
  list(id = 1, n_kids = 2, child_care_costs = 1000),
  list(id = 2, n_kids = 4, child_care_costs = 3000),
  list(id = 5, n_kids = NA, child_care_costs = 500)
)
```

In fact, the whole data.frame/tibble is a list

```
typeof(storms)
## [1] "list"
```

► This says that the tibble use list like storage-mode

```
class(storms)
```

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

- ► This says storms inherits the properties of "tbl_df" "tbl" and "data.frame"
- ► This effects how the data interacts with functions
 - e.g. compare print(mtcars) (a "data.frame") and print(storms)

Why do you keep saying tibble?

tibble is the tidyverse "subclass" of base R's data.frame

- tibbles print nicer
- tibbles avoid niche issues/gotchas that you get with data.frame
 - see ?tbl_df for the tidyverse-people's detailed spiel

Base R ways to pull out a column as a vector:

```
# base R way
care_data$n_kids
## [1] 2 4 1 1 NA
# base R way (same result as above)
care_data[["n_kids"]]
## [1] 2 4 1 1 NA
```

Two base R ways to pull out a column as a tibble/data.frame:

```
care data["n kids"]
## # A tibble: 5 x 1
## n kids
## <dbl>
## 1
## 2
## 3
## 4
## 5
        NA
```

```
# recall n_kids is the second column!
care_data[2]
care_data[c(FALSE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)]
```

Subsetting and extracting

Notice similarity with lists

[[and \$ for extracting (or pulling)

VS.

[for subsetting / selecting.

Idea: a data frame is a named list with equal length vectors for each object (i.e. columns)

subsetting [] vs [,]

```
We saw that using [] pulls out columns. ("single index")

Using [ , ] allows us to subset rows and columns. ("double index")

data[ filter rows , select columns ]
```

Using [with two indices

```
data[filter rows,]

care_data[c(1, 3),]

## # A tibble: 2 x 4

## id n_kids child_care_costs random_noise

## <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 1 2 1000 36.1

## 2 3 1 300 -267.
```

Using [with two indices

data[, select columns] is equivalent to single index data[get
columns]

```
# gets same results as single-bracket care_data[c("id", "n_
care_data[, c("id", "n_kids")]
```

Using [with two indices

```
data[filter rows, select columns]
care_data[!is.na(care_data$n_kids), c("id", "n_kids")]
## # A tibble: 4 \times 2
##
        id n kids
## <int> <dbl>
## 1
## 2
## 3 3 1
## 4
```

Recap

We discussed how to:

- Create vectors, lists and data frames for various circumstances
- Do vectorized operations and math with vectors
- Subset vectors and lists
- Understand data types and use type coercion when necessary

Next steps

Lab:

- ► Today: Vectorized math
- ► Tomorrow: Using [for data analysis

Touchstone: I can subset and extract from data and vectors with [

Next lecture:

Using dplyr for data exploration!

(If you want to get ahead go through section 5.1-5.5 of r4ds.had.co.nz)

Appendix A: Subsetting with [,]

We can refer to columns by name or index location.

2

Or even a logical vector. (... this should remind you of vector subsetting!!)

3000

Similarly for rows!

```
care data[c(1,3), c("id","n kids")]
## # A tibble: 2 x 2
##
      id n_kids
## <int> <dbl>
## 1
## 2 3
logical indexing <- c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)
care_data[logical_indexing , c("id", "n_kids")]
## # A tibble: 2 x 2
       id n_kids
##
## <int> <dbl>
## 1
        3
## 2
```

More usual usage for logical indexing

```
logical_index <- care_data$id < 3
care_data[logical_index, c("id", "n_kids")]

## # A tibble: 2 x 2

## id n_kids

## <int> <dbl>
## 1  1  2

## 2  2  4
```

```
# put the conditional right into the brackets.
care_data[care_data$id < 3 , "id"]</pre>
```

Let's get you to try.

First, we need data.

us_rent_income is a practice data set that comes tidyverse.

```
library(tidyverse)
head(us_rent_income)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 5
##
    GEOID NAME variable estimate
                                     moe
##
    <chr> <chr> <chr>
                             <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 01
          Alabama income
                             24476
                                     136
          Alabama rent
                                       3
## 2 01
                               747
## 3 02
          Alaska income
                             32940
                                     508
## 4 02
          Alaska rent
                              1200
                                      13
## 5 04
          Arizona income
                             27517
                                     148
## 6 04
          Arizona rent
                               972
                                       4
```

Explore us_rent_income quickly with glimpse() and head()

How would you use a single bracket [...

- 1. to select the state names and variable columns?
- 2. to get the rows 1, 3, 5, 7?
- 3. to get all the rows about "income".4
- 4. to get the variable and estimate columns for rows about Illinois?

⁴hint: test if *something* == "income"?

More examples [

```
# 1
us rent income[c("NAME", "variable")] # with single indexi:
## # A tibble: 104 \times 2
##
  NAME variable
## <chr> <chr>
## 1 Alabama income
##
   2 Alabama rent
##
   3 Alaska income
##
   4 Alaska
               rent
##
   5 Arizona income
##
   6 Arizona rent
   7 Arkansas income
##
##
   8 Arkansas rent
##
   9 California income
## 10 California rent
## # ... with 94 more rows
```