SCR week 2: exercises

Exercises part 1

1.1 error... error

What do you think it is that produces the warnings in the following lines of code? How would you fix it?

```
mydlist <- vector(mode = 'list', length = 2)
mydlist[1] <- 97:122

## Warning in mydlist[1] <- 97:122: number of items to replace is not a
## multiple of replacement length

mydlist[2] <- letters

## Warning in mydlist[2] <- letters: number of items to replace is not a
## multiple of replacement length</pre>
```

Answer:

The warning is given by the fact that we try to replace 1 list element, with a vector of numbers (or letters). What the code probably meant to do, was replace the *contents* of the list element with a vector of numbers (or letters). E.g.: mydlist[[1]]] <- 97:122 will work (and is probably what is meant to happen).

1.2 Creating a list

a.

Create a list object with the following entries:

- An entry called name with value "my list"
- An entry called normal_values with 50 draws from a standard normal distribution
- An entry without a name that contains 50 samples from the numbers 1:10 using sample
- An entry called id that contains the numbers 1 through 50, but shuffled around using sample (try e.g. sample(1:5) a number of times.
- An entry called my_sampler that is a function that takes an integer argument and returns as many random samples from a standard normal distribution as the integer argument.

b.

Try to access the my_sampler element from your list. Is it possible to run the function?

Answer:

```
my_list$my_sampler(5)
```

```
## [1] 1.07497900 0.07299346 1.92164818 0.21676126 0.64779021
```

Yes!

c.

Convert the list to a data.frame, by using as.data.frame. Does it work?

Answer:

```
as.data.frame(my_list)
```

No, does not work, R does not know how

d.

Use negative indices to remove the element that gives a problem in **c** and feed the reduced list to as.data.frame. Does the result contain any strange variables? Do you notice any vector recycling?

Answer:

```
head(as.data.frame(my_list[-5]))
```

```
name normal_values
## 1 my list
                0.42760052
## 2 my list
                0.26282946
## 3 my list
               -0.08740638
## 4 my list
               -0.59360031
## 5 my list
               -0.04657028
## 6 my list
                1.75148623
     c.2L..1L..5L..8L..4L..2L..8L..10L..7L..1L..6L..6L..8L..4L..6L.. id
## 1
                                                                      2 47
## 2
                                                                      1 5
## 3
                                                                      5 34
## 4
                                                                      8 18
## 5
                                                                      4 44
## 6
                                                                      2 13
```

Although this works, R has to repeat the element name to fit it into shape of a data.frame.

e.

Use three different ways of accessing list elements, to access normal_values, the samples from 1:10, and id, and feed them to the data.frame function to create a data.frame (and store it as an object called my_data_frame). Add some nice tags for the variables you create.

Answer:

```
my_data_frame <- data.frame(
  norm_vals = my_list$normal_values,
  samples = my_list[[3]],
  id = my_list[["id"]]
)</pre>
```

1.3 Writing a bivariate summary function

a.

Create two vectors, each containing a 100 draws from a standard normal distribution.

Answer:

```
var1 <- rnorm(100)
var2 <- rnorm(100)</pre>
```

b.

Create a list that contains the following elements:

- A matrix of which its first 10 rows are the first 10 elements of both variables side by side
- A correlation matrix
- A covariance matrix
- A list with two elements:
- A vector with a few univariate statistics for variable 1 (i.e. min, max, mean, range)
- A vector with a few univariate statistics for variable 2

Make sure you set nice tags (labels) for all entries.

Take a look at the cov() and cor() functions to see whether it is more convenient to give these functions two vectors (with the two normal variables) or a matrix containing the two variables (given that you want a covariance *matrix* and a correlation *matrix*).

```
cov = cov(my_normal_matrix),
univariate_statistics = list(
  variable_1 = c(
    min = min(var1),
    max = max(var1),
    mean = mean(var1),
    range = range(var1)
),
  variable_2 = c(
    min = min(var2),
    max = max(var2),
    mean = mean(var2),
    range = range(var2)
)
)
```

c.

Try to unlist your list, with the argument recursive = FALSE.

```
nonrecurs_unl <- unlist(my_list, recursive = FALSE)
str(nonrecurs_unl)</pre>
```

```
## List of 30
## $ data_matrix_example1
                                    : num -0.183
## $ data_matrix_example2
                                    : num 0.155
## $ data_matrix_example3
                                    : num 0.592
## $ data_matrix_example4
                                    : num -0.312
## $ data_matrix_example5
                                    : num 0.252
## $ data_matrix_example6
                                    : num -0.599
## $ data_matrix_example7
                                    : num 0.41
## $ data matrix example8
                                    : num -0.478
## $ data_matrix_example9
                                    : num -1.45
## $ data_matrix_example10
                                    : num 1.89
## $ data_matrix_example11
                                    : num -0.397
## $ data_matrix_example12
                                    : num -1.04
## $ data_matrix_example13
                                    : num 0.427
## $ data_matrix_example14
                                    : num 1.08
## $ data_matrix_example15
                                     : num 1.79
## $ data_matrix_example16
                                    : num 0.71
## $ data_matrix_example17
                                    : num 1.4
## $ data_matrix_example18
                                    : num -0.635
## $ data_matrix_example19
                                     : num -0.484
## $ data_matrix_example20
                                     : num 1.89
## $ cor1
                                     : num 1
## $ cor2
                                     : num 0.0501
## $ cor3
                                     : num 0.0501
## $ cor4
                                     : num 1
## $ cov1
                                    : num 1.08
## $ cov2
                                     : num 0.0527
```

Try to unlist() your list, with the argument recursive = TRUE. Do you notice the difference with the previous question?

Answer:

d.

```
recurs_unl <- unlist(my_list, recursive = TRUE)
str(recurs_unl)

## Named num [1:38] -0.183 0.155 0.592 -0.312 0.252 ...
## - attr(*, "names")= chr [1:38] "data_matrix_example1" "data_matrix_example2" "data_matrix_example3"</pre>
```

Now use the code you've written in \mathbf{b} to write a function that takes as argument two vectors, and produces the summary provided in the list you've created in \mathbf{b} .

Try out your function use as arguments the two vectors you've created in \mathbf{a} and see if you get the same result as in \mathbf{b} .

Answer:

e.

```
GiveBivariateSummary <- function(var1, var2){</pre>
  my_normal_matrix <- cbind(var1, var2)</pre>
  my_list <- list(</pre>
    data_matrix_example = head(my_normal_matrix, 10),
    cor = cor(my_normal_matrix),
    cov = cov(my_normal_matrix),
    univariate statistics = list(
      variable_1 = c(
        min = min(var1),
        max = max(var1),
        mean = mean(var1),
        range = range(var1)
      variable_2 = c(
        min = min(var2),
        max = max(var2),
        mean = mean(var2),
        range = range(var2)
    )
  return(my_list)
GiveBivariateSummary(var1, var2)
```

```
## $data_matrix_example
##
               var1
                           var2
##
    [1,] -0.1829346 -0.3968699
    [2,] 0.1548105 -1.0388870
##
##
    [3,] 0.5924773
                     0.4271834
##
    [4,] -0.3115547
                     1.0753587
    [5,] 0.2523536
                     1.7874619
##
    [6,] -0.5994452
                     0.7102050
##
    [7,]
         0.4101400
                     1.3971136
##
    [8,] -0.4779210 -0.6351818
    [9,] -1.4506873 -0.4840632
##
   [10,]
         1.8907871
                    1.8851101
##
##
  $cor
##
              var1
                          var2
  var1 1.00000000 0.05006325
   var2 0.05006325 1.00000000
##
## $cov
##
              var1
  var1 1.07524260 0.05274749
  var2 0.05274749 1.03242641
##
## $univariate_statistics
   $univariate_statistics$variable_1
##
          min
                     max
                                mean
                                         range1
                                                     range2
##
   -4.0021529
               2.4070620 -0.1387152 -4.0021529
                                                  2.4070620
##
##
  $univariate_statistics$variable_2
##
           min
                       max
                                   mean
                                             range1
                                                          range2
## -2.41419250 2.69001563 0.02410321 -2.41419250
                                                      2.69001563
```

f.

Instead of returning a list variable / object, do you think there is another way to all of the information you've computed in your bivariate summary function?

Answer:

It would not be surprising if there exists a similar function in some R package elsewere. Probably it will be difficult to do this as neatly in anything else such as a vector, or data frame.

1.4 Choices, choices...

Often in programming, and thus in R, there are multiple ways to do things. The most important thing is that whatever you do: first get as fast as possible towards a correct solution with probably a "very ugly" script of code.

Then, there are other things to consider such as: readability of your code (by yourself and by others), the efficiency of your code (in terms of time and use of computer memory), maintainability of your code, and generic applicability of your code. Perhaps even aesthetics (the Art of R Programming).

Let us take a look at a simple example in which there are choices to be made. We've seen multiple ways to access a list. We can access an element by its name, or by its position in the list.

As Matloff notes, using names (and tags) is more convenient, because if the order of the elements changes, using numbers for positions might no longer be correct. This may happen easily if at some later point, when you decide the list needs another extra component.

For example:

```
my_personal_details <- list(species = "human", age = "75")

# Use age to print:
paste("I am", my_personal_details[[2]], "years old.")

## [1] "I am 75 years old."

# Oh oops, forgot to add that my name is...

my_personal_details <- c(name = "Mr. Miyagi", my_personal_details)

# Let's print my age again:
paste("I am", my_personal_details[[2]], "years old.")

## [1] "I am human years old."

# hmm....</pre>
```

a.

Use as.list() to create a list object, with the sequence 1 through 260000.

Answer:

```
my_named_list <- as.list(1:260000)</pre>
```

b.

Give each entry in this list of 260000 elements a unique name by setting the names attribute. Use paste() and for example a combination of numbers and letters to automatically generate these unique names. You could e.g. call the first 26 entries a1, b1, c1 etc, and the second 26 entries a2, b2, and so on.

Here's a small snippet of code to get you started:

```
paste(letters[1:5], rep(c(1, 2), each=5), sep="") # this uses vector recycling!
## [1] "a1" "b1" "c1" "d1" "e1" "a2" "b2" "c2" "d2" "e2"
Answer:
names(my_named_list) <- paste(letters, rep(1:10000, each=26), sep="")</pre>
```

c.

Access the 130001th element and read its name. Then also access the elements via its name to double-check you get the same entry.

Answer:

```
my_named_list[130001]

## $a5001
## [1] 130001

my_named_list["a5001"]

## $a5001
## [1] 130001
```

Let's introduce two new functions: replicate() and system.time(). These can be nicely used together to measure the amount of time it takes for the computer to do something. Many operations on the computer are done unmeasureably fast. So to measure how long a particular computation takes, is to repeat it many

times, and to look at the total time it takes to do all the replications. This is where replicate() comes in.

Two examples of system.time() are: system.time({ 1 + 1 }), and system.time(mean(1:10)) (R will provided you with three timings, in this course user is the most important one to look at). An example of replicate() is: replicate(n = 100, mean(1:10)), where n is the number of times you replicate mean(1:10). Combine what you see from these examples to compare the speed of accessing an element from a list, using the name of the element, and the position. Note: you may have to use many replicates. Which is faster?

Answer:

d.

```
system.time(
  replicate (100, my named list["a5000"])
)
##
            system elapsed
##
     0.143
             0.031
                      0.175
system.time(
  replicate(100, my_named_list[130001])
##
            system elapsed
      user
##
             0.000
     0.001
                      0.001
```

Thus, using a number is faster. Note that the computational costs (speed of your code) will only have to play a role when you are in need for speed.

1.5 Using lapply()

lapply is an R function that allow us to repeatedly 'apply' a function to the elements of a vector. Basically, lapply takes the first element from the vector, uses that element as the argument for a function you provide, and returns the result from that function. It then moves on to the next element and repeats the process until it has used all elements in the vector.

a.

Create a vector variable, called my_vector, with the numbers 1 through 26, and shuffle them with the function sample.

Answer:

```
my_vector <- sample(1:26)</pre>
```

b.

Use lapply to take the sqrt of all the elements of my_vector with the following code: lapply(my_vector, sqrt). Look at the result. What does the result look like? How many elements do you have?

Answer:

```
my_result <- lapply(my_vector, sqrt)
class(my_result)

## [1] "list"
length(my_result)

## [1] 26</pre>
```

c.

Use lapply() to translate the numbers 1 through 26, to the corresponding letter in the alphabet. Write a function to do this: i.e. write a function that takes a number, and returns the corresponding letter, call this function NumberToLetter.

```
NumberToLetter <- function(x){
   return(letters[x])
}
numbers_to_letters <- lapply(my_vector, NumberToLetter)</pre>
```

d.

Suppose you'd want the result of applying your functions to all the elements of the vector to be a vector itself. How could you do this? *Hint: we've already seen this function during class and in some of the previous exercises*.

Answer: With unlist.

unlist(my_result)

```
## [1] 3.316625 4.000000 2.449490 3.162278 4.123106 3.872983 2.645751 
## [8] 2.000000 1.414214 1.732051 2.236068 1.000000 4.582576 3.741657 
## [15] 3.000000 5.000000 4.242641 5.099020 4.358899 4.898979 3.464102 
## [22] 4.690416 4.795832 2.828427 4.472136 3.605551
```

e.

So far, all of the tasks in this exercises could have been done, simply by exploiting R's vectorized functions. We can feed a vector to the sqrt() function, and it will return, as a vector, all the square roots of the elements in that vector. We could have used the 26 numbers as index for the letter object: letters[my_vector]. However, this is not necessarily always possible.

Use the following code to create a new list object: my_list <- replicate(10, list(rnorm(5))). Look at the results to see what the replicate function has done.

Answer:

```
my_list <- replicate(10, list(rnorm(5)))</pre>
```

It has replicated the list(rnorm(5)) command 10 times, and put the results into a list (of length 10).

f.

Suppose now that we wish to calculate the mean of the 10 entries. Try feeding my_list to the function mean. Does it work?

Answer:

```
mean(my_list)
```

No! It does not work, because mean requires a vector of numbers (or logicals), not a vector of list elements.

g.

Use lapply to take the mean of each of the entries in my_list.

```
my_means <- lapply(my_list, mean)
head(my_means, 3)</pre>
```

```
## [[1]]
## [1] 0.3424466
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 0.2684359
##
## [[3]]
## [1] -0.04833592
```

Outro

Beyond simple examples, lapply can become tricky to use. For example, instead of using the mean function we may need to use a function that requires multiple arguments, and if so, how would we need to write this? For now, get comfortable with lapply() and the concept of repeatedly applying a function on elements of a vector. We'll get into more detail of the *apply family in a later lecture.

Exercises part 2

2.1 Row and column names

a.

Like during the lecture, create a dataset of your own with some variables containing random normal values.

Answer:

```
my_data <- data.frame(
  var1 = rnorm(50),
  var2 = rnorm(50),
  var3 = rnorm(50)
)</pre>
```

b.

Write the file to your computer using write.table. Use all the defaults.

Answer:

```
write.table(my_data, file = "0_data/my_data.txt")
```

c.

Look at the contents of the file with Notepad or TextEdit or similar. Do you see *just* the variables that you've created, or does the file contain more information?

Answer

You should also see rownames, and the variable names.

 \mathbf{d} .

R automatically also writes the row and columnnames of the data.frame you write. Look at the helpfile of write.table and see how to change the defaults to **not** write rownames.

Answer:

e.

Try to read in this new file, that does not have rownames, using read.table and its defaults. Anything wrong with the data.frame you get from reading this file?

Look for example at the class and mode of the columns of the data.frame. If you don't know what factors are in R yet (we'll cover these next lecture week), also specificy the argument stringsasFactors = FALSE.

head(read.table("0_data/my_data.txt", stringsAsFactors = FALSE))

```
##
                     V1
                                         ٧2
                                                             VЗ
## 1
                   var1
                                       var2
                                                           var3
## 2
       0.44058099960939 -0.952196885778056
                                              0.250598158919984
     -2.03060466770133
                        -0.66695221308752
                                              0.714116160283575
## 4 -0.341601330094993 -0.865420850761737 -0.0527796196266651
     -0.55826255259626 -1.31510303019255
                                              0.601082012271947
## 6 -0.683521524605934 -0.073291591666279
                                             -0.720848978392403
```

R apparently now thinks that there are no column names provided, and interprets the first line (with the variable names) as entries of the variables. Because, now, some of the entries are characters, it has to make the mode of the variable character!

f.

From the read.table helpfile:

header: a logical value indicating whether the file contains the names of the variables as its first line. If missing, the value is determined from the file format: header is set to TRUE if and only if the first row contains one fewer field than the number of columns.

Fix your code to correctly read in the file without rownames, but with the variable names.

Answer:

```
head(read.table("0_data/my_data.txt", header=TRUE))
```

```
## var1 var2 var3
## 1 0.4405810 -0.95219689 0.25059816
## 2 -2.0306047 -0.66695221 0.71411616
## 3 -0.3416013 -0.86542085 -0.05277962
## 4 -0.5582626 -1.31510303 0.60108201
## 5 -0.6835215 -0.07329159 -0.72084898
## 6 0.1379595 0.61764209 -0.17522463
```

Outro

R's defaults in writing and reading data make it convenient if you are exchanging data from and to R. However, other programs, when writing files, might not use rownames, or might use rownames, but explicitly give these a name in the header of the file (the first line) such as row_name. In both these cases, R will mess up reading the file, if left to its defaults. Then, you will need to do some manual tweaking of the arguments read.*() functions to get things right.

2.2 Reading and writing some difficult data

a.

Take a look at the file difficult.txt. The file contains two variables, with numerical values with decimal numbers, and rownames.

b.

Use read.table, read.csv and read.csv2 to read in the data, and store these as three seperate objects. Like in the previous exercise, use stringsAsFactors = FALSE.

Answer:

```
my_diff_data <- data.frame(
   numeric_variable_one = rnorm(100),
   numeric_variable_two = rnorm(100)
)
write.table(my_diff_data, "0_data/difficult.txt", dec=".", sep=";")
wrong_1 <- read.table("0_data/difficult.txt", stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
wrong_2 <- read.csv("0_data/difficult.txt", stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
wrong_3 <- read.csv2("0_data/difficult.txt", stringsAsFactors = FALSE)</pre>
```

c.

Inspect the three different data sets you've read into R. Make sure you inspect the modes of the variables and see if you can, for example, calculate a mean.

d.

If done correctly, you'll notice that none of these three default read.* functions correctly reads the file. Look specifically at the sep and dec arguments of the functions, and the corresponding seperators and decimal indications used in the file to fix the problem and correctly read in the data.

Answer:

```
correct <- read.csv("0_data/difficult.txt", sep=";")</pre>
```

Outro

R needs precise instructions: sometimes you need to tell it *exactly* what to do. Results from reading in data may often seen confusing, or weirdly incorrect, or surprisingly correct: these usually have to do with R's default choices (= default arguments in the function)! Know that you can simply set and change these as you want, using arguments.

Exercises part 3

3.1 Sorting our data

We've seen how to access the variables of a data.frame, for example using my_data_frame\$id. We can of course, also access the rows using (for the first row) my_data_frame[1,]. You can also select multiple rows at the same time, e.g. using my_data_frame[c(1, 2),]. This basically returns a data.frame, containing the selected rows, and more specifically in the order that you asked for: c(1, 2) asked to see the first row first, then the second row.

a.

Read in "my_data_frame.csv", into an object called my_data_frame.

Answer:

```
my_data_frame <- read.csv("0_data/my_data_frame.csv")</pre>
```

b.

Try $my_data_frame[c(3, 2, 1),]$ and compare the entries with first three entries of the original data.frame.

Answer:

```
my_data_frame[c(3, 2, 1), ]
## X norm_vals samples id
```

3 3 -1.8862651 3 33 ## 2 2 -0.1000495 5 40 ## 1 1 -1.2853634 4 29

c.

If you look at the variable id, you'll see its elements are not nicely ordered. We can get R to sort this variable, using the function sort. Look at the helpfile if needed, and sort the id variable.

Answer:

[47] 47 48 49 50

```
sort(my_data_frame$id)
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
## [24] 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46
```

 \mathbf{d} .

We can also sort my_data_frame according to the values of id. Look at the helpfile of the function order. An example application is:

```
order(c(3, 1, 2)) # the result is: 2 3 1 e.g. the second element should come first, then the third elem
```

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

Combine order with what you've learned in **b** to create a *new* data.frame, that has its rows order according to id

Answer:

```
my_data_frame_ordered <- my_data_frame[order(my_data_frame$id), ]
head(my_data_frame_ordered)</pre>
This is index
```

```
##
      Х
          norm_vals samples id
## 29 29 -1.15668247
                          3 1
## 16 16 -0.01652548
                          7
                             2
## 43 43 0.19864340
                          6 3
## 31 31 -0.30278878
                          10
                             4
## 10 10 -1.29475553
                          1 5
## 35 35 1.89057024
                          7 6
```

e.

Suppose however that we also had a group variable. Add this variable yourself to the original data you read in from my_data_frame.csv. Use rep to create a variable containing 5 different subsequent values (1 through 5), and repeated as many times as needed to have as many group entries as rows in the dataset (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1, 2, etc). Use cbind to combine the dataset and yourgroupvariable. Could you also come up with another way to add the group variable to the data set?

Answer:

```
my_data_frame <- cbind(my_data_frame, group = rep(1:5, 10))
# without using cbind:
my_data_frame$group <- rep(1:5, 10)</pre>
```

e.

Now let's order the dataset according to the group each object belongs to, and within each group, according to the id. We can do this my giving multiple arguments to order (e.g. order(var1, var2)). Try this to order the data as asked. In this case you can easily verify yourself if the ordering is correct!

```
idx <- order(my_data_frame$group, my_data_frame$id)
head(my_data_frame[idx, ], 3)</pre>
```

```
tail(my_data_frame[idx, ], 3)
```

```
## X norm_vals samples id group
## 5 5 -0.6150545 10 19 5
## 30 30 -1.4236571 9 34 5
## 50 50 -0.5237619 5 46 5
```

Applying apply

a.

Read in the data file jumble.txt. Which read.* function do you think you need to use? Take a look at the contents of the file to decide.

Answer:

```
jumble <- read.table("0_data/jumble.txt")</pre>
```

b.

Use apply to repeatedly paste together only every *fourth* element of the rows and the columns. That is: use letters number 4, 8, 12, etc. The result should be a vector of pasted together things, with as many elements as rows, or columns (depending on which index you used). Also paste together the elements of this resulting vector. In both paste operations, use the option collapse = "".

Which version of apply made more sense?

Answer:

```
paste(apply(jumble, 1, function(x) {
  paste(x[seq(4, length(x), by = 4)], collapse = "")
}), collapse = "")
```

[1] "iUxFdigTvzwPaxKZbR ynd rIfqjxrazEhwjtWRCsWa,diIeWP z olfFlAOubAuUDp enfaWmrbQqaAHKGGHoSetNpaxg

```
paste(apply(jumble, 2, function(x) {
  paste(x[seq(4, length(x), by = 4)], collapse = "")
}), collapse = "")
```

[1] "If you've used the apply function correctly, and used the right 'index', you should be reading

Definitely the second one makes more sense!