```
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCXY:1:1107:1633:2243 1:N:0:1AACAAGAACT
TGCAGGTGGCGTCATGACGGTCCTCATCCCGAGGAACACCACCATCCCGACCAAGAAGGAGCAGGTCTTCTCCACGTACTCCGACAACCA
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCXY:1:1107:2117:2194 1:N:0:1AACAAGAACT
TGCAGCAGGAAGCCCAAGATTTGCTCCATCTCCATTTGGCGACCGAACATGCACTTGTCCATAATCAGGTACATGCTGTTGGGCTGGCGG
TGCAGATGGTCTCCAGAAGGATTAGATCAACCATGACGGTGCGTCAGGGGCTATCCAACAGGCAGTGGACGCGGGCCATCTCGGGCAGCA
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCXY:1:1107:2889:2165 1:N:0:1AACAAGAACT
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCX
TGCAGCGGACGCCGAGGATGC
              Working with text
IGIIIIIIIIGGGIIIIIIII
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCX
TGCAGTACACGTCGGACGTG
GGGIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIIII
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCXY:1:
               Lecture 4, CPSC 499, Fall 2018
TGCAGGAAAGGACTCTCGCTTCCT
IIIAGGIGGIIIIIIIIIIIGIIII
@D00758:226:HNHHWBCXY:1:
```

Intro to working with strings

- We have already seen a lot of strings in this course (anytime something is in quotes)
- You can have a vector of strings, which is class character
- Typing within either single or double quotes will create a string

Importing data as text

- With read.csv, read.table, etc., use stringsAsFactors = FALSE if you want to do text processing on a column
- (Leave stringsAsFactors = TRUE if you just want to treat it as a categorical variable)
- readLines will import a file as a character vector rather than data frame

String operators

- ==, !=, >, <, >= , <= all work(> and < refer to alphabetical order)
- + does not work (sorry Python fans)

mysequence == "AGG"

paste

- Very handy function for concatenating strings together
- Element-wise concatenation of strings from multiple vectors
 - sep argument indicates the separator string
- Concatenation of all strings within one vector
 - collapse argument indicates the separator string

"Height:"

1.5

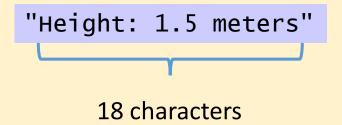
"meters"



"Height: 1.5 meters"

nchar

- Returns the number of characters in a string
- Vectorized; you can give it a vector of strings and get the length of each element



substring

- Returns part of a string, as specified by positions
- Give it the string, the start position, the end position.
- All three of those arguments can be vectors

```
"Height: 1.5 meters"

first = 2, last = 5

"eigh"
```

strsplit

- Splits a string into multiple strings
- The split argument is a character or longer string that is used for delimiting the new strings
- Returns a list, one vector for each original string
- (Note that even if you pass it just one string, it still returns a list)

```
"Height: 1.5 meters"

split = " "

"Height:" "1.5" "meters"
```

formatC and prettyNum

- Convert number to text
- Can set number of significant digits or number of digits after decimal place
- Trailing or leading zeros "1.80" "015"
- Scientific notation

- "5.36e-04"
- Commas "1,246,782"
- Handy for output to a table for publication, getting the right format for a file, numbering a list of genes, etc.

Mini exercise

- Make a new column for our table of plant germplasm information
- It should contain a new sample id, in the format "Sample001" to "Sample558".

match

- Works for numbers or strings
- Find first match of a value inside another vector
- Handy for reordering one data set based on another

Indexing with strings – named vectors

- Any vector can have a "names" attribute giving a name to each element
- Ideally all names are unique
- Many functions will carry names over to results
- Functions to retrieve or assign
 - names for vectors and lists
 - rownames, colnames for data frames and matrices
- Can set up at vector creation without quotes

$$c(a = 5, b = 6)$$

Mini exercise

- Take the "X.sample" column of the plant germplasm data table, and assign these same values to the row names of the table using rownames.
- Index the data frame by row names to get just the rows for JY001, JY012, and JY028.

Pattern matching

- grep: find matches across a vector of strings
 - Returns numeric index or string itself (value arg)
 - grepl returns TRUE/FALSE vector
 - Named after Unix command

```
grep = "ember"
c("September", "October", "November") = 1,3
```

Pattern matching

- "find and replace" functions for strings:
 - sub: replaces first instance of pattern
 - gsub: replaces all instances of pattern

```
"ember", "month"
c("September", "October", "November")

c("Septmonth", "October", "Novmonth")
```

Pattern matching

- Functions to give positions and lengths of pattern matches within a string:
 - regexpr returns vector with first match position
 - gregexpr returns list with all match positions

```
gregexpr = "e"
c("September", "October", "November")

2, 5, 8
6
4, 7
```

The fixed argument

- fixed = TRUE means pattern must be matched exactly
- fixed = FALSE (the default) matches strings using regular expressions

• If you already know regular expressions in Perl, you can use perl = TRUE to use that syntax

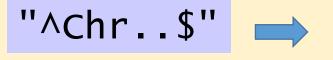
Regular expressions

- Used by grep, grepl, gsub, sub, regexpr, gregexpr, strsplit
- For when you need to match not an exact string, but an overall pattern
- For example, "Chr" followed by two numbers, and it must be at the beginning of a string

"^chr[0-9]{2}"

Regular expression basics

- Most characters (letters and numbers) match themselves
- . (period) indicates any character
- ^ indicates the beginning of the string
- \$ indicates the end of the string



Start with ^ and end with \$ to indicate that this must be the whole string. This would match "Chr26" but not "Chr30A".

Repeating characters

- Put one of these after a character to indicate how many times that character should repeat:
 - ? : one or zero matches
 - *: zero or more matches
 - + : one or more matches
 - {2} : two matches
 - {2,} : two or more matches
 - {2,4} : two to four matches
- Enclose a group of characters in parentheses if you want to repeat a group

Matching one of several characters or strings

- Group characters with square brackets []
 - Start with \(\Lambda \) to indicate any character except any of these
 - Use hyphen to indicate range, e.g. [3-6]
- Group strings with parentheses, with pipe to separate them ()

```
"(Chr|Scaffold)" To match "Chr" or "Scaffold"
```

Mini exercise

- Find all sample names from the plant germplasm table that start with "JM2014-S" or "JM2014-K"
- Use grep and regular expressions

Escaping characters

- Say you actually want to search for the characters
 ^, [, \$, etc. in your string.
- A backslash before the character escapes that character, meaning it should be interpreted literally
- Since a backslash is also an escape character for creating strings in R, you generally need to type two of them out.

"locus2\\.5"

Searches for "locus2.5", rather than using the period as a wildcard character.

Character classes

```
• [:digit:] : any number
• [:alpha:] : any letter
• [:blank:] : space or tab
• [:space:] : space, tab, or newline
• [:punct:] : any punctuation
• [:upper:] : upper case letters
• [:]ower:] : lower case letters
• [:a]num:] : letters and numbers
```

Using character classes

Generally have to enclose them in brackets again

```
• [[:digit:]]+ : one or more digits
```

• [[:digit:][:punct:]] : a digit or punctuation mark

Mini exercise

- Write a regular expression to find samples that start with "JY" and then three numbers
- Make it so that it will not match "JY118-1"