

10 Base R

27 A Field Guide to Base R

1. Working With Vectors

- vectors are the fundamental data structure in base r
- all elements in a vector must be the same type
- c() combines values into a vector
- typeof() and length() help inspect vector properties

2. Vectorized Operations

- arithmetic automatically applies element-wise to vectors
- logical comparisons also operate element-wise
- recycling occurs when vectors of different lengths are combined

3. Indexing And Subsetting

- use [] to extract elements by position
- use logical vectors to filter elements
- negative indices remove elements you do not want

4. Common Vector Types

- numeric vectors store doubles by default
- integers require an L suffix
- characters store text enclosed in quotes
- logicals store TRUE, FALSE, or NA

5. Important Base Functions

- seq(), rep(), and sort() are core vector utilities
- unique() finds distinct values
- match() and %in% test membership

6. Attributes And Names

- vectors can have names added with names()
- attributes store metadata such as class or dimensions
- names improve readability and subsetting efficiency

7. Base R Data Structures

- lists can store elements of different types
- matrices are vectors with dimensions
- data.frames are lists of equal-length vectors
- base structures underpin tibbles and tidyverse data

8. Base R vs Tidyverse

- base r is compact but less consistent
- tidyverse is more readable and predictable
- understanding base r helps interpret underlying behaviors