Importing Data to R

R Tutorial

# Objectives of this tutorial

* Discuss Entering Data in R
* Importing Data from a csv file
* Checking the data and changing the data set name

## Entering Data

There are two ways we will enter data into R:

* Enter the data explicitly in your code – discussed in a separate tutorial.
* Import the data from a Microsoft Excel file or text file.

## Importing Data

Most often we will import data sets from files (typically CSV, or comma-separated value, files).

**Using the Import Dataset Button in Environment Pane**

To import a CSV file, follow these steps:

1. Locate the **Import Dataset** in the Environment window. Left click.
2. From the pull-down menu, select **From CSV**
3. In the pop-up window, click the **Browse…** option in the upper right corner.
4. Navigate to and select the desired file
5. If necessary, change the data set name in **Import Options**.

**Best Practice** – Dataset names should be short and simple. You may need to reference these many times. Complicated names are easy to misspell and may cause errors. If you must have a longer name, separate the words with an \_ or a . Example: my\_awesome \_data or my.awesome.data

1. Use the **Import** button in the bottom right corner.

The data set should then appear in the script window and be listed in the environment windowpane.

Let’s Import the carwt data.

**Checking your data**

To make sure the data imported correctly, inspect the imported data frame by using either method:

* **Environment Pane** - Should show the dataset carwt with two variables car and weight. The data frame has 2 columns and 38 rows.
* **The head function**  - Provides a “snapshot” of the data frame. Gives the first 6 rows of data rather than the entire data set which may be too large for the console.

Using the head function you should get:

head(carwt)

## car weight  
## 1 Buick Estate Wagon 4.36  
## 2 Ford Country Squire Wagon 4.05  
## 3 Chevy Malibu Wagon 3.61  
## 4 Chrysler LeBaron Wagon 3.94  
## 5 Chevette 2.15  
## 6 Toyota Corona 2.56