[DataCamp](https://www.datacamp.com/)

[Course Outline](https://campus.datacamp.com/courses/free-introduction-to-r/chapter-5-data-frames?ex=6)

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**Selection of data frame elements**

Similar to vectors and matrices, you select elements from a data frame with the help of square brackets [ ]. By using a comma, you can indicate what to select from the rows and the columns respectively. For example:

* my\_df[1,2] selects the value at the first row and select element in my\_df.
* my\_df[1:3,2:4] selects rows 1, 2, 3 and columns 2, 3, 4 in my\_df.

Sometimes you want to select all elements of a row or column. For example, my\_df[1, ] selects all elements of the first row. Let us now apply this technique on planets\_df!

# Selection of data frame elements (2)

Instead of using numerics to select elements of a data frame, you can also use the variable names to select columns of a data frame.

Suppose you want to select the first three elements of the type column. One way to do this is

planets\_df[1:3,1]

A possible disadvantage of this approach is that you have to know (or look up) the column number of type, which gets hard if you have a lot of variables. It is often easier to just make use of the variable name:

planets\_df[1:3,"type"]