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Other common data structures

In this reading, you will continue on the topic of data structures with an introduction to data frames and matrices. You will learn about the basic properties of each structure, and simple ways to make use of them using R code. You will also briefly explore **files**, which are often used to access and store data and related information.

Data structures

Recall that a data structure is like a house that contains your data.

Data frames

Data frames are the most common way of storing and analyzing data in R, so it's important to understand what they are and how to create them. A **data frame** is a collection of columns–similar to a spreadsheet or SQL table. Each column has a name at the top that represents a variable, and includes one observation per row. Data frames help summarize data and organize it into a format that is easy to read and use.