



## Creating a specific sequence of date/times in R

I want to create a single column with a sequence of date/time increasing every hour for one year or one month (for example). I was using a code like this to generate this sequence:

```
start.date<-"2012-01-15"
start.time<-"00:00:00"
interval<-60 # 60 minutes

increment.mins<-interval*60
x<-paste(start.date,start.time)

for(i in 1:365){
  print(strptime(x, "%Y-%m-%d %H:%M:%S")+i*increment.mins)
}
```

However, I am not sure how to specify the range of the sequence of dates and hours. Also, I have been having problems dealing with the first hour "00:00:00"? Not sure what is the best way to specify the length of the date/time sequence for a month, year, etc? Any suggestion will be appreciated.

[r](#) [datetime](#) [sequence](#)

asked Dec 23 '12 at 7:11



[user1626688](#)

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## 2 Answers

I would strongly recommend you to use the `POSIXct` datatype. This way you can use `seq` without any problems and use those data however you want.

```
start <- as.POSIXct("2012-01-15")
interval <- 60

end <- start + as.difftime(1, units="days")

seq(from=start, by=interval*60, to=end)
```

Now you can do whatever you want with your vector of timestamps.

answered Dec 23 '12 at 7:17



Thilo

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Try this. `mondate` is very clever about advancing by a month. For example, it will advance the last day of Jan to last day of Feb whereas other date/time classes tend to overshoot into Mar. `chron` does not use time zones so you can't get the time zone bugs that code as you can using `POSIXct`. Here `x` is from the question.

```
library(chron)
library(mondate)

start.time.num <- as.numeric(as.chron(x))

# +1 means one month. Use +12 if you want one year.
end.time.num <- as.numeric(as.chron(paste(mondate(x)+1, start.time)))

# 1/24 means one hour. Change as needed.
hours <- as.chron(seq(start.time.num, end.time.num, 1/24))
```

edited Dec 24 '14 at 3:14

answered Dec 24 '12 at 22:00



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