Introduction to R

Instructor: Selina Baldauf

Freie Universität Berlin - Theoretical Ecology



2021-08-01 (updated: 2022-03-13)

Arithmetic operators

Addition	+
Subtraction	-
Multiplication	*
Division	/
Modulo	%%
Power	٨

```
# Addition
2 + 2
# Subtraction
5.432 - 34234
# Multiplication
33 * 42
# Division
3 / 42
# Modulo (Remainder)
2 %% 2
# Power
2^2
# Combine operations
((2 + 2) * 5)^(10 %% 10)
```

Relational operators

Equal to	==
Not equal to	! =
Less than	<
Greater than	>
Less or equal than	<=
Greater or equal than	>=

[1] FALSE

```
2 == 2
## [1] TRUE
2 != 2
## [1] FALSE
33 <= 32
## [1] FALSE
20 < 20
```

Logical operators

Not !

```
!TRUE

## [1] FALSE

!(3 < 1)

## [1] TRUE
```

Logical operators

Not	!	
And	&	

```
(3 < 1) & (3 == 3) # FALSE & TRUE = FALSE

## [1] FALSE

(1 < 3) & (3 == 3) # TRUE & TRUE = TRUE

## [1] TRUE

(3 < 1) & (3 != 3) # FALSE & FALSE = FALSE

## [1] FALSE
```

Logical operators

Not	!
And	&
Or	I

```
## [1] TRUE

## [1] TRUE

(1 < 3) | (3 == 3) # TRUE | TRUE = TRUE

## [1] TRUE

(3 < 1) | (3 != 3) # FALSE | FALSE = FALSE

## [1] FALSE</pre>
```

Comments in R

- Everything that follows a # is a comment
- Comments are not evaluated
- Notes that make code more readable or add information.
- Comments can be used for
 - Explanation of code (if necessary)
 - o Include links, names of authors, ...
 - Mark different sections of your code (♀ try Ctrl/Cmd + Shift + R)

Objects and data types in **R**

Variables

- Store values under meaningful names to reuse them
- A variable has a **name** and **value** and is created using the **assignment operator**

- Variables are available in the global environment
- R is case sensitive: radius != Radius
- Variables can hold any R objects, e.g.
 - Simple numbers
 - Lists
 - Tables with data
 - o ..
- Choose meaningful variable names

Variables

```
# create a variable
radius <- 5
# use it in a calculation and save the result
# pi is a built-in variable that comes with R
circumference <- 2 * pi * radius
# change value of variable radius
radius <- radius + 1</pre>
```

just use the name to print the value to the console
radius

Atomic data types

There are 6 so-called **atomic data types** in R. The 4 most important are:

Numeric: There are two numeric data types:

- Double: can be specified in decimal (1.243 or -0.2134), scientific notation (2.32e4) or hexadecimal (0xd3f1)
- Integer: numbers that are not represented by fraction. Must be followed by an L (1L, 2038459L, -5L)

Logical: only two possible values TRUE and FALSE (abbreviation: T or F - but better use non-abbreviated form)

Character: also called string. Sequence of characters surrounded by quotes ("hello", "sample_1")

Check the type of a variable

• Check the type of a variable with typeof()

"character"

• Check if a variable is of a specific data type with is.*()

```
var <- 123L
typeof(var)
## [1] "integer"
is.double(var)
## [1] FALSE
typeof (TRUE)
  [1] "logical"
typeof("TRUE")
```

Explicit type conversion

You can convert a value from one data type to the other using as.*()

```
as.character(1L)
```

Strings can be converted to numbers if possible

[1] 2

```
as.integer("hello")
## [1] NA
as.integer("2")
```

Implicit type conversion

Type conversion can happen implicitly

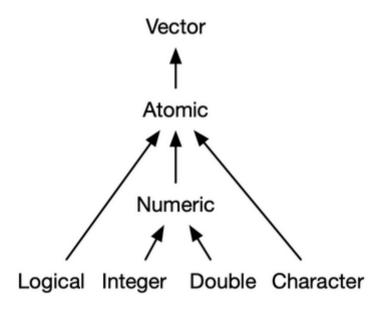
```
typeof(1L + 2.5) # integer -> double
## [1] "double"
typeof(1L + TRUE) # logical -> integer (TRUE = 1, FALSE = 0)
## [1] "integer"
typeof(1.34 + FALSE) # logical -> double
## [1] "double"
typeof("hello" + FALSE) # Error: no implicit conversion from string to other data types
## Error in "hello" + FALSE: non-numeric argument to binary operator
```

Vectors

Vectors

Vectors are data structures that are built on top of atomic data types.

Imagine a vector as a collection of values that are all of the same data type.



Creating vectors: c()

Use the function c () to combine values into a vector

```
lgl_var <- c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE)
dbl_var <- c(2.5, 3.4, 4.3)
int_var <- c(1L, 45L, 234L)
chr_var <- c("These are", "just", "some strings")</pre>
```

You can also combine multiple vectors into one:

```
# Combine multiple vectors
v1 <- c(1,2,3)
v2 <- c(800, 83, 37)
v3 <- c(v1, v2)
```

Be aware of implicit type conversion when combining vectors of different types

```
c(int_var, lgl_var)
## [1] 1 45 234 1 1 0
```

Creating vectors: : and seq()

The: operator creates a sequence between two numbers with an increment of (-)1

```
1:10
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
```

The seq () function creates a sequence of values

```
seq(from = 1, to = 10, by = 1) # specify increment of sequence with by

## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

seq(from = 1, to = 10, length.out = 10) # specify desired length with length.out

## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
```

Creating vectors: rep()

Repeat values multiple times with rep ()

[1] 1 1 2 2 3 3

```
rep("hello", times = 5)

## [1] "hello" "hello" "hello" "hello"

You can also repeat entire vectors

rep(c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE), times = 2) # repeat the whole vector twice

## [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE

rep(c(1, 2,3), each = 2) # repeat each element of the vector twice
```

Let's create some vectors to work with.

```
# list of 10 biggest cities in Europe
cities <- c("Istanbul", "Moscow", "London", "Saint Petersburg", "Berlin", "Madrid", "Kyiv",
"Rome", "Bucharest", "Paris")

population <- c(15.1e6, 12.5e6, 9e6, 5.4e6, 3.8e6, 3.2e6, 3e6, 2.8e6, 2.2e6, 2.1e6)
area_km2 <- c(2576, 2561, 1572, 1439,891,604, 839, 1285, 228, 105)</pre>
```

We can check the length of a vector using the length () function:

```
length(cities)
## [1] 10
```

Divide the population and area vector to calculate the population density in each city:

```
population / area_km2

## [1] 5861.801 4880.906 5725.191 3752.606 4264.871 5298.013 3575.685 2178.988 9649.123

## [10] 20000.000
```

The operation is performed separately for each element of the two vectors and the result is a vector.

The same happens, if a **vector is divided by vector of length 1** (i.e. a single number). The result is always a vector.

```
mean_population <- mean(population) # calculate the mean of vector population
population / mean_population

## [1] 2.5549915 2.1150592 1.5228426 0.9137056 0.6429780 0.5414552 0.5076142 0.4737733 0.3722504
## [10] 0.3553299</pre>
```

We can also work with relational and logical operators

```
population > mean_population
```

```
## [1] TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE
```

The result is a vector containing TRUE and FALSE, depending on whether the city's population is larger than the mean population or not.

Logical and relational operators can be combined

```
# population larger than mean population OR population larger than 3 million
population > mean_population | population > 3e6
```

[1] TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE

Check whether elements occur in a vector:

```
cities == "Istanbul" | cities == "Berlin" | cities == "Madrid"

## [1] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE
```

The %in% operator checks whether multiple elements occur in a vector.

```
# for eachelement of cities, checks whether that element is contained in to_check
to_check <- c("Istanbul", "Berlin", "Madrid")
cities %in% to_check</pre>
```

[1] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE

```
\# for each element of to_check, check whether that element is contained in cities to_check \%in\% cities
```

[1] TRUE TRUE TRUE

%in% always returns a vector of the same length as the vector on the left side

You can use square brackets [] to access specific elements from a vector.

The basic structure is:

vector [vector of indexes to select]

```
cities[5]

## [1] "Berlin"

# the three most populated cities
cities[1:3] # same as cities[c(1,2,3)]

## [1] "Istanbul" "Moscow" "London"

# the last entry of the cities vector
cities[length(cities)] # same as cities[10]

## [1] "Paris"
```

Change the values of a vector at specified indexes using the assignment operator <-

Imagine for example, that the population of

- Istanbul (index 1) increased to 20 Million
- Rome (index 8) changed but is unknown
- Paris (index 10) decreased by 200,000

```
# first copy the original vector to leave it untouched
population_new <- population
# Update Istanbul (1) and Rome(8)
population_new[c(1, 8)] <- c(20e6, NA) # NA means missing value
# Update Paris (10)
population_new[10] <- population_new[10] - 200000</pre>
```

```
population_new  ## [1] 20000000 12500000 9000000 5400000 3800000 3200000 3000000 NA 2200000 1900000
```

You can also index a vector using logical tests. The basic structure is:

vector [logical vector of same length]

```
mega_city <- population > mean_population
mega_city
```

[1] TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE

Which are the mega cities?

```
cities[mega_city] # or short: cities[population > mean_population]
```

```
## [1] "Istanbul" "Moscow" "London"
```

Index only the cities that return TRUE for the comparison of their population against the mean population

We also use %in%for logical indexing.

```
population[ cities %in% c("Berlin", "Paris", "Stockholm", "Madrid")]
## [1] 3800000 3200000 2100000
```

- Returns only 3 values for population, because Stockholm is not a city in our vector
 - No city in cities returns TRUE for the comparison with "Stockholm"

```
cities %in% c("Berlin", "Paris", "Stockholm", "Madrid")
## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE
```

Summary I

• Variables have a name and a value and are created using the assignment operator <-, e.g.

```
radius <- 5
```

- Vectors are a collection of values of the same data type:
 - character ("hello")
 - numeric: integer (23L) and double (2.23)
 - logical (TRUE and FALSE)
- Be careful about implicit type conversion:
 - numeric to character
 - logical to character
 - o logical to numeric

Summary II

Data types

```
# check the data type of a variable
typeof("hello")

# check if a variable is of a certain data type
is.*()
is.integer(1L)

# convert a variable into a certain data type
as.*()
as.logical("hello")
```

Summary III

Create vectors

```
# combine objects into vector
c(1,2,3)

# create a sequence of values
seq(from = 3, to = 6, by = 0.5)
seq(from = 3, to = 6, length.out = 10)
2:10

# repeat values from a vector
rep(c(1,2), times = 2)
rep(c("a", "b"), each = 2)
```

Summary IV

Indexing and subsetting vectors

```
# By index
v[3]
v[1:4]
v[c(1,5,7)]

# Logical indexing with 1 vector
v[v > 5]
v[v != "bird" | v == "rabbit"]
v[v %in% c(1,2,3)] # same as v[v == 1 | v == 2 | v == 3]

# Logical indexing with two vectors of same length
v[y == "bird"] # return the value in v for which index y == "bird"
v[y == max(y)] # return the value in v for which y is the maximum of y
```

Summary V

Working with vectors

```
# length
length(v)
# rounding numbers
round(v, digits = 2)
# sum
sum(v)
# mean
mean(v)
# median
median(v)
# standard deviation
sd(v)
# find the min value
min(v)
# find the max value
```

Now you

Task 2: Data types and vectors (35 min)

Find the task description here