Data types

Daniel Anderson Week 1, Class 2



Agenda

- Finishing up on coercion
- Attributes
- Missing values
- Intro to lists
- Subsetting

• Understand the fundamental difference between lists and atomic vectors

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- Understand how atomic vectors are coerced, implicitly or explicitly

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- Understand how atomic vectors are coerced, implicitly or explicitly
- Understand various ways to subset vectors, and how subsetting differs for lists
- Understand what an attribute is, and how to set and modify attributes

Pop quiz

Without actually running the code, talk with your neighbor: Which will each of the following coerce to?

```
c(1.25, TRUE, 4L)
c(1L, FALSE)
c(7L, 6.23, "eight")
c(TRUE, 1L, 0L, "False")
```

Answers

```
typeof(c(1.25, TRUE, 4L))
## [1] "double"
typeof(c(1L, FALSE))
## [1] "integer"
typeof(c(7L, 6.23, "eight"))
## [1] "character"
typeof(c(TRUE, 1L, 0L, "False"))
## [1] "character"
```

Challenge

Work with a partner

- Create four atomic vectors, one for each of the fundamental types
- Combine two or more of the vectors. Predict the implicit coercion of each.
- Apply explicit coercions to a different type, and predict the output for each.

(basically quiz each other)

• What are attributes?

- What are attributes?
 - o metadata... what's metadata?

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 - Data about the data

• Atomic vectors by themselves make up only a small fraction of the total number of data types in R

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What are some other data types?

Data frames (actually built from lists and atomic vectors)

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- Data frames (actually built from lists and atomic vectors)
- Matrices & arrays

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- Dates

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What are some other data types?

- Data frames (actually built from lists and atomic vectors)
- Matrices & arrays
- Factors
- Dates

Remember, atomic vectors are the atoms of R. Many other data structures are built from atomic vectors.

We use attributes to create other data types from atomic vectors

Common

- Names
- Dimensions

Less common

• Arbitrary metadata

Examples

• See all attributes associated with a give object with attributes

attributes(iris)

```
## $names
   [1] "Sepal.Length" "Sepal.Width" "Petal.Length" "Petal.Width"
##
   [5] "Species"
##
   $class
   [1] "data.frame"
##
   $row.names
##
     \lceil 1 \rceil
           1
               2
                    3
                        4
                          5 6
                                   7
                                        8
                                            9
                                                 10
                                                     11
                                                          12
                                                              13
                                                                   14
                                                                       15
                                                                           16
                                                                                17
    [18]
                   20
                                23
                                                 27
                                                     28
                                                              30
##
          18
               19
                       21
                            22
                                    24
                                        25
                                             26
                                                          29
                                                                  31
                                                                       32
                                                                           33
                                                                                34
    [35]
          35
              36
                  37
                       38
                            39
                                40
                                    41
                                        42
                                             43
                                                 44
                                                     45
                                                          46
                                                              47
                                                                  48
                                                                       49
                                                                           50
                                                                                51
##
              53
                  54
                       55
                                    58
                                                 61
                                                     62
                                                                  65
    [52]
          52
                            56
                                57
                                        59
                                             60
                                                          63
                                                              64
                                                                       66
                                                                           67
                                                                                68
##
    [69]
          69
               70
                   71
                       72
                            73
                                74
                                    75
                                        76
                                             77
                                                 78
                                                     79
                                                          80
                                                              81
                                                                   82
                                                                       83
                                                                           84
                                                                                85
##
##
    [86]
          86
              87
                   88
                       89
                            90
                                91
                                    92
                                        93
                                             94
                                                 95
                                                     96
                                                          97
                                                              98
                                                                   99 100 101 102
   [103]
         103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119
         120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136
   [137] 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150
```

head(iris)

```
Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
##
## 1
              5.1
                          3.5
                                       1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 2
                                                    0.2
              4.9
                          3.0
                                        1.4
                                                         setosa
## 3
                          3.2
                                       1.3
                                                    0.2
                                                         setosa
              4.7
## 4
              4.6
                          3.1
                                       1.5
                                                    0.2
                                                         setosa
## 5
              5.0
                          3.6
                                       1.4
                                                    0.2 setosa
## 6
              5.4
                          3.9
                                       1.7
                                                    0.4 setosa
```

Get specific attribute

• Access just a single attribute by naming it within attr

```
attr(iris, "class")

## [1] "data.frame"

attr(iris, "names")

## [1] "Sepal.Length" "Sepal.Width" "Petal.Length" "Petal.Width"
## [5] "Species"
```

Get specific attribute

Access just a single attribute by naming it within attr

```
attr(iris, "class")

## [1] "data.frame"

attr(iris, "names")

## [1] "Sepal.Length" "Sepal.Width" "Petal.Length" "Petal.Width"
## [5] "Species"
```

Note - this is not generally how you would pull the names attribute. Rather, you would use names.

Be specific

- Note in the prior slides, I'm asking for attributes on the entire data frame.
- Is that what I want?... maybe. But what the individual vectors may have attributes as well

Be specific

NULL

- Note in the prior slides, I'm asking for attributes on the entire data frame.
- Is that what I want?... maybe. But what the individual vectors may have attributes as well

```
attributes(iris$Species)

## $levels
## [1] "setosa" "versicolor" "virginica"

##
## $class
## [1] "factor"

attributes(iris$Sepal.Length)
```

13 / 54

Set attributes

5.4

6

• Just redefine them within attr

```
attr(iris$Species, "levels") <- c("Red", "Green", "Blue")</pre>
head(iris)
##
     Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1
                                                     0.2
              5.1
                          3.5
                                        1.4
                                                             Red
                                                     0.2
## 2
              4.9
                          3.0
                                        1.4
                                                             Red
## 3
                          3.2
                                        1.3
                                                     0.2
                                                             Red
              4.7
                                        1.5
## 4
              4.6
                          3.1
                                                     0.2
                                                             Red
                          3.6
                                        1.4
                                                     0.2
                                                             Red
## 5
              5.0
```

1.7

0.4

Red

Note - you would generally not define levels this way, but it is a general method for modifying attributes.

3.9

Dimensions

• Let's create a matrix (please do it with me)

• Notice how the matrix fills

Dimensions

• Let's create a matrix (please do it with me)

```
m <- matrix(1:6, ncol = 2)
m

## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 4
## [2,] 2 5
## [3,] 3 6</pre>
```

- Notice how the matrix fills
- Check out the attributes

```
attributes(m)

## $dim
## [1] 3 2
```

Modify the attributes

• Let's change it to a 2 x 3 matrix, instead of 3 x 2 (you try first)

Modify the attributes

Let's change it to a 2 x 3 matrix, instead of 3 x 2 (you try first)

```
attr(m, "dim") <- c(2, 3)
m

## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 1 3 5
## [2,] 2 4 6
```

Modify the attributes

Let's change it to a 2 x 3 matrix, instead of 3 x 2 (you try first)

```
attr(m, "dim") <- c(2, 3)
m

## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 1 3 5
## [2,] 2 4 6
```

• is this the result what you expected?

Alternative creation

• Create an atomic vector, assign a dimension attribute

```
v <- 1:6
v

## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6

attr(v, "dim") <- c(3, 2)
v

## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 4
## [2,] 2 5
## [3,] 3 6</pre>
```

Aside

What if we wanted it to fill by row?

```
matrix(6:13,
      ncol = 2,
      byrow = TRUE)
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 6 7
## [2,] 8 9
## [3,] 10 11
## [4,] 12 13
vect <- 6:13
dim(vect) \leftarrow c(2, 4)
vect
## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
## [1,] 6 8 10 12
## [2,] 7 9 11 13
```

```
t(vect)
```

```
## [,1] [,2]

## [1,] 6 7

## [2,] 8 9

## [3,] 10 11

## [4,] 12 13
```

Names

• The following (this slide and the next) are equivalent

```
## col1 col2
## row1 1 4
## row2 2 5
## row3 3 6
```

Names

```
v2 <- 1:6
attr(v2, "dim") <- c(3, 2)
rownames(v2) <- c("row1", "row2", "row3")
colnames(v2) <- c("col1", "col2")
v2</pre>
```

```
## col1 col2
## row1 1 4
## row2 2 5
## row3 3 6
```

Arbitrary metadata

• I don't use this often (wouldn't recommend you do either)

 Note that anything can be stored as an attribute (including matrices or data frames, etc.)

Stripping attributes

• Many operations will strip attributes (generally why it's not a good idea to store important things in them)

Stripping attributes

• Many operations will strip attributes (generally why it's not a good idea to store important things in them)

```
attributes(rowSums(v))
```

```
## $names
## [1] "row1" "row2" "row3"
```

- Generally names are maintained
- Sometimes, dim is maintained, sometimes not (notice it was not here)
- All else is stripped

More on names

 The names attribute corresponds to the individual elements within a vector

```
names(v)
## NULL
names(v) <- letters[1:6]</pre>
V
## col1 col2
## row1 1 4
## row2 2 5
## row3 3 6
## attr(,"matrix_mean")
## [1] 3.5
## attr(,"names")
## [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e" "f"
```

• Perhaps more straightforward

```
v3a <- c(a = 5, b = 7, c = 12)
v3a

## a b c
## 5 7 12

names(v3a)

## [1] "a" "b" "c"

attributes(v3a)

## $names
## [1] "a" "b" "c"</pre>
```

Alternatives

```
v3b <- c(5, 7, 12)
names(v3b) <- c("a", "b", "c")
v3b

## a b c
## 5 7 12

v3c <- setNames(c(5, 7, 12), c("a", "b", "c"))
v3c

## a b c
## 5 7 12</pre>
```

Alternatives

5 7 12

```
v3b <- c(5, 7, 12)
names(v3b) <- c("a", "b", "c")
v3b

## a b c
## 5 7 12

v3c <- setNames(c(5, 7, 12), c("a", "b", "c"))
v3c

## a b c</pre>
```

• Note that names is **not** the same thing as colnames, but, somewhat confusingly, both work to rename the variables (columns) of a data frame.

Implementation of factors

Quickly

```
fct <- factor(c("a", "a", "b", "c"))
typeof(fct)
## [1] "integer"
attributes(fct)
## $levels
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
##
## $class
## [1] "factor"
str(fct)
   Factor w/ 3 levels "a", "b", "c": 1 1 2 3
```

Implementation of dates

Quickly

[1] 17988

```
date <- Sys.Date()
typeof(date)

## [1] "double"

attributes(date)

## $class
## [1] "Date"

attributes(date) <- NULL
date</pre>
```

• This number represents the days passed since January 1, 1970, known as the Unix epoch.

• Missing values breed missing values

```
NA > 5

## [1] NA

NA * 7

## [1] NA
```

• Missing values breed missing values

```
NA > 5

## [1] NA

NA * 7

## [1] NA

• What about this one?
```

[1] NA

• Missing values breed missing values

```
NA > 5

## [1] NA

NA * 7

## [1] NA

• What about this one?

NA == NA
```

Missing values breed missing values

```
NA > 5

## [1] NA

NA * 7

## [1] NA
```

What about this one?

```
NA == NA
```

[1] NA

It is correct because there's no reason to presume that one missing value is or is not equal to another missing value.

When missing values don't propagate

```
NA | TRUE

## [1] TRUE

x <- c(NA, 3, NA, 5)
any(x > 4)

## [1] TRUE
```

How to test missingness?

• We've already seen the following doesn't work

```
## [1] NA NA NA NA
```

x == NA

How to test missingness?

• We've already seen the following doesn't work

```
## [1] NA NA NA

• Instead, use is.na
```

```
is.na(x)
## [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE
```

When does this regularly come into play?

Lists

Lists

[1] 3.25

##

[[4]]

[1] TRUE

- Lists are vectors, but not *atomic* vectors
- Fundamental difference each element can be a different type

```
list("a", 7L, 3.25, TRUE)

## [[1]]
## [1] "a"
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 7
##
## [[3]]
```

Lists

- Technically, each element of the list is an atomic vector
- The prior example included all scalars, which are vectors of length 1.
- Lists do not require all elements to be the same length

```
l <- list(c("a", "b", "c"),</pre>
       rnorm(5),
      c(7L, 2L),
      c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE))
## [[1]]
   [1] "a" "b" "c"
##
   [[2]]
   [1] -1.3740535 0.8621910 0.8572382 -6
##
   [[3]]
   \lceil 1 \rceil 7 2
##
## [[4]]
   \lceil 1 \rceil
         TRUE
               TRUE FALSE TRUE
```

Check the list

```
typeof(l)
## [1] "list"
attributes(l)
## NULL
str(l)
## List of 4
## $ : chr [1:3] "a" "b" "c"
## $ : num [1:5] -1.374 0.862 0.857 -0.613 -1.457
## $ : int [1:2] 7 2
## $ : logi [1:4] TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE
```

Data frames as lists

• A data frame is just a special case of a list, where all the elements are of the same length.

```
data.frame(l_df)

## a b c d
## 1 red 2.084453 7 TRUE
## 2 blue 1.534013 2 FALSE
```

```
## $a
## [1] "red" "blue"
##
## $b
## [1] 2.084453 1.534013
##
## $c
## [1] 7 2
##
## $d
## [1] TRUE FALSE
```

Subsetting

Pop quiz

Work with your neighbor

- Show three different ways to extract the first element of x above
- Try extracting x from 1. Use typeof to check if you actually got the vector, and not a list.
- Show one alternative method of extracting x from 1. Check your result with typeof again.
- Try to extract the cubed version using two different methods

Answers

Three methods of extracting X

 Note, there are other methods too (and of course I'm showing four here, not three)

```
x["a"]

x[c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)]

## a
## 3

x[1]

x[-c(2, 3)]

## a
## 3

## a
## 3
```

Answers

Three methods of extracting X

 Note, there are other methods too (and of course I'm showing four here, not three)

```
x["a"]

x[c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)]

## a
## 3

x[1]

x[-c(2, 3)]

## a
## 3

## a
## 3
```

Why does x ["a"] work?

Aside

Be careful with factors

```
fct
## [1] a a b c
## Levels: a b c
fct["b"]
## [1] <NA>
## Levels: a b c
fct[3]
## [1] b
## Levels: a b c
fct[factor("b")]
## [1] a
## Levels: a b c
```

Subsetting lists

Multiple methods

Most common: \$, [, and [[

```
l[1]

## $x

## a b c

## 3 5 7

typeof(l[1])

## [1] "list"

l[[1]]

## a b c

## 3 5 7
```

```
typeof(l[[1]])

## [1] "double"

l[[1]]["c"]

## c
## 7
```

Named list

• Because the elements of the list are named, we can use \$

```
l$x2

## a b c a b c

## 3 5 7 3 5 7
```

```
## $vect
## a b c
## 3 5 7
##
## $squared
## a b c
## 9 25 49
##
## $cubed
## a b c
## 27 125 343
```

Subsetting nested lists

• Multiple \$ if all named

l\$x3\$squared

```
## a b c
## 9 25 49
```

 Note this doesn't work on named elements of an atomic vector, just the named elements of a list

l\$x3\$squared\$b

Error in l\$x3\$squared\$b: \$ operator is invalid for atomic vectors

Subsetting nested lists

• Multiple \$ if all named

l\$x3\$squared

```
## a b c
## 9 25 49
```

 Note this doesn't work on named elements of an atomic vector, just the named elements of a list

l\$x3\$squared\$b

```
## Error in l$x3$squared$b: $ operator is invalid for atomic vectors
```

But could do

l\$x3\$squared["b"]

```
## b
```

Alternatives

- You can always use logical
- Indexing works too

l[c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)]

```
## $x
## a b c
## 3 5 7
##
## $x3
## $x3$vect
## a b c
## 3 5 7
##
## $x3$squared
   a b c
##
    9 25 49
##
##
## $x3$cubed
##
         b
            С
   27 125 343
##
```

l[c(1, 3)]

```
## $x
## a b c
## 3 5 7
##
## $x3
## $x3$vect
## a b c
## 3 5 7
##
## $x3$squared
##
   a b c
    9 25 49
##
##
## $x3$cubed
##
         b
             C
    27 125 343
##
```

Careful with your brackets

```
l[[c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)]]
```

Error in l[[c(TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)]]: recursive indexing failed at level 2

Why doesn't the above work?

Subsetting in multiple dimensions

- Generally we deal with 2d data frames
- If there are two dimensions, we separate the [subsetting with a comma

head(mtcars)

```
## Mazda RX4 21.0 6 160 110 3.90 2.620 16.46 0 1 4 4 ## Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0 6 160 110 3.90 2.875 17.02 0 1 4 4 ## Datsun 710 22.8 4 108 93 3.85 2.320 18.61 1 1 4 1 ## Hornet 4 Drive 21.4 6 258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44 1 0 3 1 ## Hornet Sportabout 18.7 8 360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02 0 0 3 2 ## Valiant 18.1 6 225 105 2.76 3.460 20.22 1 0 3 1
```

```
mtcars[3, 4]
```

```
## [1] 93
```

Empty indicators

• An empty indicator implies "all"

Empty indicators

• An empty indicator implies "all"

Select the entire fourth column

```
mtcars[ ,4]
## [1] 110 110 93 110 175 105 245 62 95 123 123 180 180 180 205 215 230
## [18] 66 52 65 97 150 150 245 175 66 91 113 264 175 335 109
```

Empty indicators

An empty indicator implies "all"

Select the entire fourth column

```
mtcars[ ,4]
## [1] 110 110 93 110 175 105 245 62 95 123 123 180 180 180 205 215 230
## [18] 66 52 65 97 150 150 245 175 66 91 113 264 175 335 109
```

Select the entire 4th row

Data types returned

• By default, each of the prior will return a vector, which itself can be subset

The following are equivalent

Return a data frame

93

175

105

245

62

95

110

- Often, you don't want the vector returned, but rather the modified data frame.
- Specify drop = FALSE

Datsun 710

Duster 360

Merc 240D

Merc 230

Valiant

Hornet 4 Drive

Hornet Sportabout

```
mtcars[ ,4]

## [1] 110 110 93 110 175 105 245 62 95 123 123 180 180 180 205 215 230
## [18] 66 52 65 97 150 150 245 175 66 91 113 264 175 335 109

mtcars[ ,4, drop = FALSE]

## hp
## Mazda RX4 110
## Mazda RX4 Wag 110
```

More than two dimensions

• Depending on your applications, you may not run into this much

```
array <- 1:12
dim(array) <- c(2, 3, 2)
array

## , , 1
##</pre>
```

Select just the second matrix

Select just the second matrix

```
array[ , ,2]

## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 7 9 11
## [2,] 8 10 12
```

Select just the second matrix

```
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 7 9 11
## [2,] 8 10 12
```

array[, ,2]

Select first column of each matrix

Select just the second matrix

```
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 7 9 11
## [2,] 8 10 12
```

Select first column of each matrix

```
array[ ,1, ]

## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 7
## [2,] 2 8
```

Summary

- Atomic vectors must all be the same type
 - implicit coercion occurs if not (and you haven't specified the coercion explicitly)
- Lists are also vectors, but not atomic vectors
 - Each element can be of a different type and length
 - Incredibly flexible, but often a little more difficult to get the hang of, particularly with subsetting

Back to lists

Why are they so useful?

- Fairly obviously, they're much more flexible
- Often returned by functions, for example, lm

```
m <- lm(mpg ~ hp, mtcars)
str(m)</pre>
```

```
## List of 12
## $ coefficients : Named num [1:2] 30.0989 -0.0682
## ..- attr(*, "names") = chr [1:2] "(Intercept)" "hp"
## $ residuals : Named num [1:32] -1.594 -1.594 -0.954 -1.194 0.541 ...
## ..- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:32] "Mazda RX4" "Mazda RX4 Wag" "Datsun 710" "Ho
## $ effects : Named num [1:32] -113.65 -26.046 -0.556 -0.852 0.67 ...
  ..- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:32] "(Intercept)" "hp" "" "" ...
## $ rank
            : int 2
  $ fitted.values: Named num [1:32] 22.6 22.6 23.8 22.6 18.2 ...
  ..- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:32] "Mazda RX4" "Mazda RX4 Wag" "Datsun 710" "Ho
##
   $ assign : int [1:2] 0 1
        :List of 5
   $ gr
##
   ..$ qr : num [1:32, 1:2] -5.657 0.177 0.177 0.177 0.177 ...
                                                                        52 / 54
    .. ..- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
##
```

Probably out of time but...

Challenge

- From the model results:
 - Extract the qr tolerance
 - Extract the term labels

- From the list
 - Extract m
 - Extract the third column of
 m. Maintain the matrix
 structure
 - Extract the score for student7?

Next time Loops with base R Guest lecture with Dr. Joseph Nese