Variables, Objects, Vectors

Everything in R is an object, which has a type and belongs to a class. There are functions that will help you figure out what it is you are working with

```
3+5
## [1] 8
typeof(3)
## [1] "double"
class(3)
## [1] "numeric"
typeof(`+`)
## [1] "builtin"
The str function does a really good job of telling you what the type and structure of an object is. Use it
frequently! (I do).
myvec <- 1:10
str(myvec)
  int [1:10] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
str(mtcars)
  'data.frame':
                    32 obs. of 11 variables:
   $ mpg : num 21 21 22.8 21.4 18.7 18.1 14.3 24.4 22.8 19.2 ...
   $ cyl : num 6646868446 ...
   $ disp: num 160 160 108 258 360 ...
   $ hp : num 110 110 93 110 175 105 245 62 95 123 ...
##
   $ drat: num 3.9 3.9 3.85 3.08 3.15 2.76 3.21 3.69 3.92 3.92 ...
##
   $ wt : num 2.62 2.88 2.32 3.21 3.44 ...
   $ qsec: num 16.5 17 18.6 19.4 17 ...
##
##
  $ vs : num 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 ...
   $ am : num
                1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
   $ gear: num 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 ...
   $ carb: num 4 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 4 ...
```

Variable Types

There are four primary variable classes: numeric, character, dates, and factors. First we will look at numeric data types.

```
var1 <-3
```

[1] 3

```
sqrt(var1)
## [1] 1.732051
var1 <- 33.3
str(var1)
## num 33.3
var1 + var1
## [1] 66.6
var1 * var1
## [1] 1108.89
There is a difference between real and integer values. If you have programmed in strongly typed languages
before coming to R it is important to know.
aa <- 5
str(aa)
## num 5
aa <- as.integer(aa)
str(aa)
## int 5
aa <- 5.67
as.integer(aa)
## [1] 5
```

Character Variables

Character strings usually represent qualitative variables. Many R functions will usually convert character variables into factors if necessary but not always. (We will discuss factors soon enough)

```
var.one <- "Hello there ! My name is Steve."

var.two <- "How do you do ?"

var.one

## [1] "Hello there ! My name is Steve."

nchar(var.one) # Number of characters present

## [1] 31

toupper(var.one)</pre>
```

```
## [1] "HELLO THERE ! MY NAME IS STEVE."
```

Character strings usually represent qualitative variables. Many R functions will usually convert character variables into factors if necessary but not always. (We will discuss factors soon enough)

```
mydna <- c("A","G","T","C","A")</pre>
str(mydna)
## chr [1:5] "A" "G" "T" "C" "A"
mydna
## [1] "A" "G" "T" "C" "A"
pi <- "3.14"
str(pi)
## chr "3.14"
# pi + pi
paste(var.one, var.two)
## [1] "Hello there ! My name is Steve. How do you do ?"
paste(var.one, var.two, sep=":")
## [1] "Hello there ! My name is Steve.:How do you do ?"
strsplit(var.one, " ")
## [[1]]
## [1] "Hello" "there" "!"
                                   "Mv"
                                            "name"
                                                      "is"
                                                               "Steve."
patientid <- "ID:011472:M:C" # Encodes Birthday, Gender, and Race
strsplit(patientid, ":")
## [[1]]
                "011472" "M"
                                   "C"
## [1] "ID"
bday <- strsplit(patientid, ":")[[1]][2] # Get just the birthday
```

Dates

R has a builtin function called Sys.Date() that can tell you the date. It looks like it returns just a character string but it returns a true date object. (Use **str** when in doubt). But Sys.Date() doesn't help us convert strings to dates.

```
Sys.Date()
## [1] "2022-01-06"
Sys.Date() + 1
## [1] "2022-01-07"
str(Sys.Date())
## Date[1:1], format: "2022-01-06"
So unless you tell R that a string is in fact a "real" date it will assume that it is simply a character string.
somedate <- "03/17/99"
str(somedate)</pre>
```

```
## chr "03/17/99"
# somedate+1

realdate <- as.Date("03/17/99","%m/%d/%y")

str(realdate)

## Date[1:1], format: "1999-03-17"

realdate+1</pre>
```

[1] "1999-03-18"

R has multiple functions and packages to handle dates which can be confusing to the newcomer. The following chart attempts to summarize them and present their respective capabilities.

function	Package	Dates	Times	Timezones
as.Date()	Base	Y	N	Y
chron	chron	Y	Y	N
POSIX	Base	Y	Y	Y
lubridate	lubridate	Y	Y	Y

The rule of thumb is to use the function that satisfies the need. So if you need to convert just dates and no times then use as.Date(). If you need date, time, and timezone support then use POSIX tools or lubridate.

The as.Date() function handles dates involving years, months, and days. It does not handle times. It is easy to use once you learn the tokens.

```
as.Date("January 01 2010","%b %d %Y")

## [1] "2010-01-01"

as.Date("Jan 01, 2010","%b %d, %Y")

## [1] "2010-01-01"

as.Date("01/01/10","%m/%d/%y")

## [1] "2010-01-01"

as.Date("1Jan2010","%d%b%Y")
```

[1] "2010-01-01"

The as.Date() function handles dates involving years, months, and days. It does not handle times. It is easy to use once you learn the tokens.

Token	Value
%d	Day of month (decimal number)
$\%\mathrm{m}$	Month (decimal number)
%b	Month (abbreviated)
%B	Month (full name)
%y	Year (2 digit)
%Y	Year (4 digit)

Once dates have been converted we can perform arithmetic and logical operations on them.

```
date1 <- as.Date("03/17/08","\mbox{m}/\mbox{d}/\mbox{\gammay}")
date2 <- as.Date("04/17/08","%m/%d/%y")
date2 - date1
## Time difference of 31 days
mean(c(date1,date2))
## [1] "2008-04-01"
date2 < date1
## [1] FALSE
date2 > date1
## [1] TRUE
This function can help us convert columns in a data frame that contain dates as character strings
mydf <- data.frame(measure=round(rnorm(4),2),date=c("01/23/01",</pre>
                      "02/20/01","02/22/01","03/04/01"))
str(mydf)
## 'data.frame':
                     4 obs. of 2 variables:
## $ measure: num -0.25 0.29 -1.61 -0.76
             : chr "01/23/01" "02/20/01" "02/22/01" "03/04/01"
mydf$date <- as.Date(mydf$date,"%m/%d/%y")</pre>
str(mydf$date)
## Date[1:4], format: "2001-01-23" "2001-02-20" "2001-02-22" "2001-03-04"
There are some helper functions that make it easy to figure out the month name of a series of dates or
whether a given date represents a weekday.
months (mydf$date)
## [1] "January" "February" "February" "March"
weekdays (mydf$date)
## [1] "Tuesday" "Tuesday" "Thursday" "Sunday"
quarters (mydf$date)
## [1] "Q1" "Q1" "Q1" "Q1"
table(months(mydf$date))
##
## February January
                          March
          2
                              1
In general I prefer to use the POSIX tools to work with dates. The primary function is strptime.
strptime("1945-11-04","%Y-%m-%d")
## [1] "1945-11-04 EST"
```

```
strptime("Tuesday March 17, 2011 01:10:05","%A %B %d, %Y %H:%M:%S")
## [1] "2011-03-17 01:10:05 EDT"
strptime("11/14/45 10:10:00 AM","%m/%d/%y %I:%M:%S %p")
## [1] "2045-11-14 10:10:00 EST"
strptime("11/14/45 10:10:00 PM","%m/%d/%y %I:%M:%S %p")
## [1] "2045-11-14 22:10:00 EST"
date1 <- strptime("11/14/45 10:10:00 AM","%m/%d/%y %I:%M:%S %p")
date2 <- strptime("11/14/45 10:10:00 PM","%m/%d/%y %I:%M:%S %p")
date2 - date1
#Time difference of 12 hours
# Same as
difftime(date2,date1)
# We can convert many dates at once
strptime(c("03/27/2003","03/27/2003","04/14/2008"),format="%m/%d/%y")</pre>
```

Since strptime handles times as well as dates you will need to know the tokens necessary to process times. The tokens to process dates are the same as with as.Date()

Token	Meaning	Token	Meaning
%a	Abbreviated weekday	%A	Full weekday
%b	Abbreviated Month	$\%\mathrm{B}$	Full month
$\%\mathrm{c}$	Locale-specific date and time	%d	Decimal Date
$\%\mathrm{H}$	Decimal hours (24 hr)	%I	Decimal hours (12 hr)
%j	Decimal day of yr	$\%\mathrm{m}$	Decimal month
$\%\mathrm{M}$	Decimal minute	$\%\mathrm{p}$	Locale-specific AM/PM
$\%\mathrm{S}$	Decimal second	$\%\mathrm{U}$	Decimal week of yr (Sunday)
$\%\mathrm{w}$	Decimal wkday (0=Sunday)	$\%\mathrm{W}$	Decimal week of yr (Monday)
%x	Locale-specific date	%X	Locale-specific time
%y	2-digit year	%Y	Locale-specific time
%z	Offset from GMT	$\%\mathrm{Z}$	Time zone (character)

We can also easily generate sequences of dates if necessary.

```
start_date <- strptime('01/10/2011','%m/%d/%Y')
seq(start_date,by=5,length=3)

## [1] "2011-01-10 00:00:00 EST" "2011-01-10 00:00:05 EST"
## [3] "2011-01-10 00:00:10 EST"
date1 <- strptime('01/10/2011','%m/%d/%Y')
date2 <- strptime('02/01/2011','%m/%d/%Y')</pre>
```

```
seq(date1,to=date2,by='1 week')
## [1] "2011-01-10 EST" "2011-01-17 EST" "2011-01-24 EST" "2011-01-31 EST"
Once we have a date we can access "parts', of it
str(mydate)
## POSIX1t[1:1], format: "2014-12-11 05:15:00"
ls(mydate)
## [1] "gmtoff" "hour"
                       "isdst"
                               "mday"
                                       "min"
                                               "mon"
                                                        "sec"
                                                                "wday"
## [9] "yday"
               "year"
                       "zone"
mydate$hour
## [1] 5
mydate$wday
## [1] 4
Once we have a date we can re format it to suit our needs without changing the underlying date structure
format(mydate,'%Y')
                   # 4 digit year
## [1] "2014"
format(mydate,'%b')
                   # Abbreviated month name
## [1] "Dec"
format(mydate,'%B')
                   # Full month name
## [1] "December"
format(mydate,'%W')
                   # Numeric week of the year
## [1] "49"
format(mydate,'%w')
                  # Numeric day of the week (Sunday = 0)
## [1] "4"
```

Logical Variables

Logical variables are those that take on a TRUE or FALSE value. Either by direct assignment or as the result of some comparison:

```
some.variable <- TRUE
some.variable
## [1] TRUE
some.variable <- (4 < 5)
some.variable</pre>
```

[1] TRUE

Note that the following is equivalent to the above. Enclosing an R statement within parenthesis will print out the value of that statement.

```
(some.variable \leftarrow (4 < 5))
```

[1] TRUE

Logicals are extremely important especially when using if-statements as part of writing functions.

```
if (some_logical_condition) {
    do something
} else {
    do something else
}

if (4 < 5) {
    print("Four is less than Five")
}</pre>
```

Logicals are extremely important especially when using if-statements as part of writing functions.

```
my.var <- ( 4 < 5)

if (my.var) {
    print("four is less than five")
}

## [1] "four is less than five"

if (! my.var ) {
    print("four is greater than five")
}</pre>
```

We use logical operators to link smaller comparisons. For example, the & character is the logical AND operator.

In the following statement both expressions on either side of the AND operator need to be TRUE for my.var to be TRUE.

```
my.var <- (4 < 5) & (4 < 6) # & is the "AND" operator
my.var
```

[1] TRUE

The logical OR operator is the | character. Only one of the expressions on either side of the OR operator needs to be TRUE for my.var to be TRUE

```
my.var <- (4 < 5) | ( 4 < 6 ) # Logical OR operator my.var
```

[1] TRUE

Variable Interrogation/Coercion

It is commont to interrogate variables from within some programming logic to see what they are (or are not). It is also common to "coerce" variables into another form. There are functions for both activities.

Function	Package
is.array()	as.array()
is.character()	as.character()

Function	Package
is.date.frame()	as.data.frame()
is.factor()	as.factor()
is.list()	as.list()
is.logical()	as.logical()
is.matrix()	as.matrix()
is.numeric()	as.numeric()
is.vector()	as.vector()

Here are some examples of interrogation:

```
pi <- 3.14
is.integer(pi)
## [1] FALSE
is.numeric(pi)
## [1] TRUE
is.character(pi)
## [1] FALSE
is.logical(pi)
## [1] FALSE
pi <- 3.14
as.integer(pi)
## [1] 3
as.character(pi)
## [1] "3.14"
as.numeric(as.character(pi))</pre>
```

[1] 3.14

Here we use both interrogation and coercion to check arguments to a function that computes the mean of a vector.

```
mymean <- function(x) {

# Function to compute the mean of a numeric vector

#

if (!is.vector(x)) {
    stop("The argument is not a vector")
}

if (!is.numeric(x)) {
    print("The argument is not numeric - Trying to convert to numeric")
    x <-
        as.numeric(x)
}

return(sum(x)/length(x))</pre>
```

```
}
mymean(c("1","2","3","4"))
## [1] "The argument is not numeric - Trying to convert to numeric"
## [1] 2.5
Vectors
Vectors are a fundamental data structure in R. It is absolutely essential that you know how to be productive
using vectors. Vectors can have the types described previously, (integer, logical, real, character, factor).
1:10
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
rnorm(10)
## [1] -0.90916020 -1.06921273 -0.98521531 1.47069314 0.30403559 1.43419048
## [7] -1.02037240 0.93949149 0.01859908 -1.44490438
y <- 5.4 # A single assignment
y <- 1:10 # A vector with 10 elements (1 .. 10)
y \leftarrow c(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10) # Same as above yet using the "c" function
Let's say we have measured the heights of some people. Vectors are perfect for stashing this info. Also-
Bracket Notation is the key to working with vectors.
height <- c(59,70,66,72,62,66,60,60) # create a vector of 8 heights
height[1:5] # Get first 5 elements
## [1] 59 70 66 72 62
height[5:1] # Get first 5 elements in reverse
## [1] 62 72 66 70 59
height[-1] # Get all but first element
## [1] 70 66 72 62 66 60 60
height[-1:-2] # Get all but first two elements
## [1] 66 72 62 66 60 60
height[c(1,5)] # Get just first and fifth elements
## [1] 59 62
If we have a vector we can apply logical tests. This is very powerful
height
## [1] 59 70 66 72 62 66 60 60
height == 72 # Test for values equal to 72
```

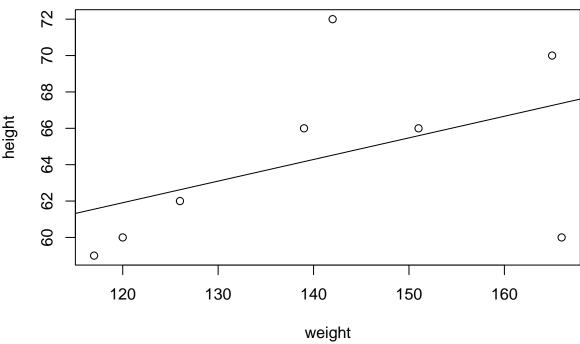
10

[1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE

```
height[height == 72]
## [1] 72
# SAME AS
logical.vector <- (height == 72)</pre>
logical.vector
## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE
height[ logical.vector ]
## [1] 72
There are operators we can use to combine logical comparisons
height[height > 60 & height < 70]
## [1] 66 62 66
height[height > 60 & height <= 70]
## [1] 70 66 62 66
height[height < 60 | height > 70]
## [1] 59 72
height[(height < 60) | (height > 70)]
## [1] 59 72
Vectors exist, in part, to help us avoid having to write "for loops' everytime we want to process a vector
and summarize it. Compare the following:
height[height > 60 & height < 70]
## [1] 66 62 66
# As opposed to this
for (ii in 1:length(height)) {
   if (height[ii] > 60 & height[ii] < 70) {</pre>
      print(height[ii])
}
## [1] 66
## [1] 62
## [1] 66
As opposed to this
for (ii in 1:length(height)) {
   if (height[ii] > 60 & height[ii] < 70) {</pre>
      print(height[ii])
   }
}
## [1] 66
## [1] 62
## [1] 66
```

```
Let's create a weight vector that corresponds to the height vector. (We measured the same people)
weight <- c(117,165,139,142,126,151,120,166) # weight (in lbs)</pre>
weight/100
## [1] 1.17 1.65 1.39 1.42 1.26 1.51 1.20 1.66
sqrt(weight)
## [1] 10.81665 12.84523 11.78983 11.91638 11.22497 12.28821 10.95445 12.88410
weight<sup>2</sup>
## [1] 13689 27225 19321 20164 15876 22801 14400 27556
sum((weight-mean(weight))^2)/(length(weight)-1) # The variance formula
## [1] 363.9286
var(weight)
## [1] 363.9286
height <-c(59,70,66,72,62,66,60,60)
weight <- c(117,165,139,142,126,151,120,166)
# Get 8 weight measurements
cor(height, weight) # Are they correlated ?
## [1] 0.46295
plot(weight,height,main="Height & Weight Plot") # Do a X/Y plot
res <- lm(height ~ weight) # Do a linear regression
abline(res) # Check out the regression line
```

Height & Weight Plot



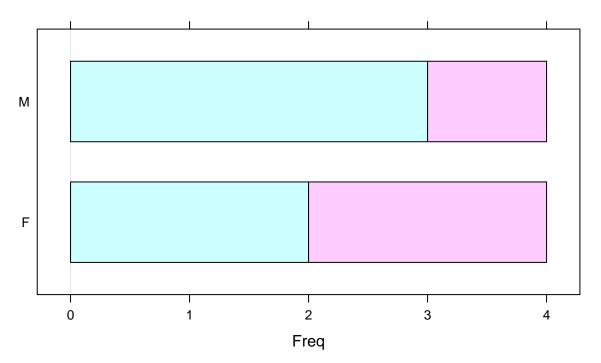
```
weight <- c(117,165,139,142,126,151,120,166) # weight (in lbs)
new.weights <- weight + 1 # Vector Addition</pre>
new.weights
## [1] 118 166 140 143 127 152 121 167
append(weights, new.weights) # Combines the two vectors
## [[1]]
## function (object, ...)
## UseMethod("weights")
## <bytecode: 0x7feb1d218270>
## <environment: namespace:stats>
## [[2]]
## [1] 118
##
## [[3]]
## [1] 166
##
## [[4]]
## [1] 140
##
## [[5]]
## [1] 143
##
## [[6]]
```

[1] 127

```
##
## [[7]]
## [1] 152
##
## [[8]]
## [1] 121
##
## [[9]]
## [1] 167
c(weight, new.weights) # Equivalent to the above
## [1] 117 165 139 142 126 151 120 166 118 166 140 143 127 152 121 167
round(weight/new.weights,2)
## [1] 0.99 0.99 0.99 0.99 0.99 0.99 0.99
Character Vectors
gender <- c("F","M","F","M","F","M","F","M") # Get their gender</pre>
smoker <- c("N","N","Y","Y","Y","N","N","N") # Do they smoke ?</pre>
table(gender, smoker) # Let's count them
##
         smoker
## gender N Y
        F 2 2
##
##
        M 3 1
prop.table(table(gender,smoker))
##
         smoker
             N
## gender
##
        F 0.250 0.250
        M 0.375 0.125
##
library(lattice)
barchart(table(gender,smoker),auto.key=TRUE,main="Smoking M/F")
```







An important attribute of a vector is its length. To determine its length, (or set it), one uses the "length" function.

```
y <- 1:10
length(y) # Length of the entire vector
## [1] 10
vec1 <- 1:5</pre>
```

```
vec1 <- 1:5
vec2 <- c(1,3)
vec1 + vec2 # The shorter vector (vec2) is recycled</pre>
```

Warning in vec1 + vec2: longer object length is not a multiple of shorter object ## length

[1] 2 5 4 7 6

You can name the elements of a vector. In this example, let's say we have measured some heights of eight people.

```
height
## Jacqueline
                    Frank
                              Babette
                                            Mario
                                                      Adriana
                                                                  Esteban
                                                                               Carole
                        70
##
           59
                                    66
                                                72
                                                            62
                                                                        66
                                                                                    60
##
        Louis
##
           60
The which command allows us to determine which element number(s) satisfies a condition. If the element
has a name then we will also see that listed.
height > 60
                                                                               Carole
## Jacqueline
                    Frank
                              Babette
                                            Mario
                                                      Adriana
                                                                  Esteban
##
        FALSE
                     TRUE
                                 TRUE
                                              TRUE
                                                          TRUE
                                                                      TRUE
                                                                                 FALSE
##
        Louis
##
        FALSE
which(height > 60)
##
     Frank Babette
                      Mario Adriana Esteban
##
         2
                  3
height[which(height > 60)]
##
     Frank Babette
                      Mario Adriana Esteban
        70
                          72
##
                 66
                                   62
# Note that the element names do not interfere with numeric evaluations
mean(height)
## [1] 64.375
The pastes function allows us to rapidly generate label names for a vector. For example we can rapidly
generate names for observations according to a pattern.
new.names <- paste("ID",1:8,sep="_")</pre>
new.names
## [1] "ID_1" "ID_2" "ID_3" "ID_4" "ID_5" "ID_6" "ID_7" "ID_8"
names(height) <- new.names</pre>
height
## ID_1 ID_2 ID_3 ID_4 ID_5 ID_6 ID_7 ID_8
     59
          70
                66
                     72
                           62
                                66
Dealing with Missing Values
gender <- c("F","M","F","M","F","M","F","M")  # Get their gender
smoker <- c("N","N","Y","Y","Y","N","N","N") # Do they smoke ?</pre>
length(gender) # Gives current length of vector
## [1] 8
gender # NA represents a missing value
```

```
## [1] "F" "M" "F" "M" "F" "M" "F" "M"
length(gender) <- 10 # Sets length of the vector
gender # NA represents a missing value

## [1] "F" "M" "F" "M" "F" "M" "F" "M" NA NA
is.na(gender)

## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE TRUE
which(is.na(gender)) # Which elements contain missing values

## [1] 9 10
which(!is.na(gender))

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

# Which elements don't have missing values

gender[!is.na(gender)] # Get elements which aren't missing

## [1] "F" "M" "F" "M" "F" "M" "F" "M"
gender[9:10] = "-" # Set all NAs to "-" but probably should leave NAs</pre>
```

Some common functions

Here are some of the functions in R that operate on vectors. There are many, many more.

Function	Purpose	Function	Purpose
$\overline{\operatorname{sum}(x)}$	Sum of x	prod(x)	Product of x
$\operatorname{cumsum}(x)$	Cumulative sum	$\operatorname{cumprod}(x)$	Cumulative product
$\min(x)$	Minimum value	$\max(x)$	Maximum value
mean(x)	Mean value	median(x)	Median value
var(x)	Variance	sd(X)	Standard Deviation
cov(x)	Covariance	cor(x)	Correlation
range(x)	Range of x	quantile(x)	quantiles of x
fivenum(x)	Five number summary	length(x)	Number of elements
unique(x)	Gets unique elements	rev(x)	Reverses
sort(x)	Sorts x	match(x,y)	Finds position of x in y
union(x,y)	Union of x and y	intersect(x,y)	Intersection of x and y
$\operatorname{setdiff}(x,y)$	Elements of x not in y	setequal(x,y)	Test if x and y equal

Common logical operators

```
Greater than
                                    if (number > 12) {print("GT")}
# BOOLEAN OPERATORS
And
                &
                       if ((myvar == "test") & (num <= 10) ) {</pre>
                                     print("Equal and less than")
                              }
                !
                       if (!complete.cases(myvec)) {
Not
                                     print("Non complete cases")
                              }
                       if ((num > 3) | (num < -3)) {
0r
                print("Only one of these has to be true")
mean(height) # Get the mean
## [1] 64.375
sd(height) # Get standard deviation
## [1] 4.897157
min(height) # Get the minimum
## [1] 59
range(height) # Get the range
## [1] 59 72
# Tukey's summary (minimum, lower hinge, median, upper hinge, maximum)
fivenum(height)
## ID_1 ID_7 ID_5 ID_6 ID_4
         60
              64
length(height) # Vector length
## [1] 8
quantile(height) # Quantiles
     0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
     59
          60
               64
                    67
##
More Example functions
# Generate 10000 numbers from a Normal distribution
set.seed(123)
my.vals <- rnorm(10000,20,2) # Mean of 20 and sd of 2
max(my.vals)
             # Find max
## [1] 27.69554
which.max(my.vals) # Which element is the max ?
## [1] 8156
```

```
my.vals[ which.max(my.vals) ] # Confirm
## [1] 27.69554
min(my.vals)
                 # Find min ?
## [1] 12.30936
my.vals[ which.min(my.vals) ]
                                  # Confirm
## [1] 12.30936
my.vals[ which.min(my.vals) ]
                                # Confirm
## [1] 12.30936
x <- 1:16
x[x \% 2 == 0] # Find the even numbers between 1 and 16
## [1] 2 4 6 8 10 12 14 16
Various Examples We want to find the sum of all the elements in x that are less than 5.
x <- 0:10
x[x < 5]
## [1] 0 1 2 3 4
sum(x[x<5])
## [1] 10
Find the reverse of x without using the rev function
x[length(x):1]
## [1] 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
Given the following vector compute the sum of the 3 largest elements. This is easy by visual inspection but
what if the vector had 100,000 or even 1,000,000 elements?
x \leftarrow c(20,22,4,27,9,7,5,19,9,12)
sort(x)
    [1] 4 5 7 9 9 12 19 20 22 27
rev(sort(x))
   [1] 27 22 20 19 12 9 9 7 5 4
rev(sort(x))[1:3]
## [1] 27 22 20
sum(rev(sort(x))[1:3])
## [1] 69
The sample function takes a sample of a specified size from a vector. It can be done with replacement or
```

LETTERS # A builtin character vector with the upper case alphabet letters

without replacement.

```
## [1] "A" "B" "C" "D" "E" "F" "G" "H" "I" "J" "K" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P" "Q" "R" "S"
## [20] "T" "U" "V" "W" "X" "Y" "Z"
sample(LETTERS, 26, replace=F)
## [1] "K" "X" "R" "F" "T" "U" "L" "W" "Y" "A" "P" "H" "C" "O" "J" "N" "D" "M" "G"
## [20] "V" "E" "B" "Q" "Z" "I" "S"
sample(LETTERS, 26, replace=TRUE)
## [1] "G" "B" "A" "Q" "U" "T" "Q" "I" "Z" "J" "O" "I" "P" "G" "L" "Z" "H" "E" "S"
## [20] "A" "C" "S" "D" "Q" "K" "R"
sample(LETTERS,8,replace=FALSE)
## [1] "F" "K" "S" "G" "M" "H" "N" "W"
sample(LETTERS,8,replace=FALSE)
## [1] "Z" "I" "N" "U" "T" "O" "R" "V"
Let's flip a coin
my.coins <- c("Heads", "Tails") # Create a coin vector</pre>
sample(my.coins,5,replace=TRUE) # 5 coin tosses
## [1] "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads"
my.vec <- sample(my.coins,100,replace=TRUE)</pre>
my.vec
     [1] "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads"
##
  [10] "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads"
## [19] "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails"
    [28] "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails"
   [37] "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails"
##
   [46] "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails"
## [55] "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails"
    [64] "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads"
## [73] "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads"
## [82] "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails"
## [91] "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads"
## [100] "Heads"
table(my.vec)
## my.vec
## Heads Tails
      51
my.heads <- my.vec[my.vec == "Heads"] # Gives us all the Heads</pre>
length(my.heads) / length(my.vec) * 100 # Gives percentage of Heads
## [1] 51
my.coins <- c("Heads", "Tails") # Create a coin vector
# LET'S SIMULATE 1,000,000 TOSSES AND TABULATE
```

```
( faircoin <- table(sample(my.coins,1000000,replace=TRUE)) )</pre>
##
## Heads Tails
## 500328 499672
# NOW LET'S CHEAT AND RIG THE COIN
unfaircoin <- table(sample(my.coins,
                            1000000,
                            replace=TRUE,
                            prob=c(.75,.25)))
                                ({\rm http://www.sigmafield.org/comment/21})
\end{frame}
# Does faircoin represent a fair coin ? Yes
chisq.test(faircoin, p=c(.5,.5))
##
   Chi-squared test for given probabilities
##
## data: faircoin
## X-squared = 0.43034, df = 1, p-value = 0.5118
# Is unfaircoin "fair" ? Of course not
chisq.test(unfaircoin, p=c(.5,.5))
##
##
    Chi-squared test for given probabilities
##
## data: unfaircoin
## X-squared = 249866, df = 1, p-value < 2.2e-16
Let's do a simple bootstrap example
# Generate 1,000 values from a normal dist, mu=10
my.norm <- rnorm(1000,10)
# Sample with replacement, collect means
mean(sample(my.norm,replace=TRUE))
## [1] 10.02555
mean(sample(my.norm,replace=TRUE))
## [1] 10.04385
Do this 1,000 times then do quantile of all the means according to .95 confidence to get a confidence interval
for the true mean
# Generate 1,000 values from a normal dist, mu=10
my.norm <- rnorm(1000,10)
# Use replicate to conveniently sample and take the mean of each sample
```

```
myreps <- replicate(1000, mean(sample(my.norm, replace=TRUE)))</pre>
# Now find the .95 confidence interval for the distribution of means
quantile(myreps, probs=c(0.025, 0.975))
##
       2.5%
               97.5%
## 9.92313 10.04579
How does this match up with the t.test function?
t.test(my.norm)$conf.int
## [1] 9.924676 10.051825
## attr(,"conf.level")
## [1] 0.95
Let's play some poker
cards <- paste(rep(c("Ace",2:10,"Jack","Queen","King"),4),</pre>
         c("Hearts", "Diamonds", "Spades", "Clubs"), sep="_of_")
# Deal 5 cards. Make sure you don't deal the same card twice
sample(cards,5,replace=FALSE)
## [1] "7_of_Spades"
                          "Ace_of_Diamonds" "King_of_Spades"
                                                                "King_of_Clubs"
## [5] "8_of_Diamonds"
my.cards <- rep(c("Ace",2:10,"Jack","Queen","King"),4)</pre>
paste(my.cards, c("Hearts", "Diamonds", "Spades", "Clubs"), sep="_of_")
  [1] "Ace of Hearts"
                             "2 of Diamonds"
                                                  "3 of Spades"
##
  [4] "4_of_Clubs"
                             "5_of_Hearts"
                                                  "6_of_Diamonds"
## [7] "7_of_Spades"
                             "8 of Clubs"
                                                  "9 of Hearts"
## [10] "10_of_Diamonds"
                                                  "Queen_of_Clubs"
                             "Jack_of_Spades"
## [13] "King_of_Hearts"
                             "Ace of Diamonds"
                                                  "2 of Spades"
## [16] "3_of_Clubs"
                             "4_of_Hearts"
                                                  "5 of Diamonds"
## [19] "6_of_Spades"
                             "7_of_Clubs"
                                                  "8_of_Hearts"
## [22] "9_of_Diamonds"
                             "10_of_Spades"
                                                  "Jack_of_Clubs"
## [25] "Queen_of_Hearts"
                             "King_of_Diamonds"
                                                  "Ace_of_Spades"
## [28] "2_of_Clubs"
                             "3_of_Hearts"
                                                  "4_of_Diamonds"
                             "6_of_Clubs"
## [31] "5_of_Spades"
                                                  "7_of_Hearts"
## [34] "8_of_Diamonds"
                             "9_of_Spades"
                                                  "10_of_Clubs"
## [37] "Jack_of_Hearts"
                             "Queen_of_Diamonds" "King_of_Spades"
                             "2_of_Hearts"
                                                  "3_of_Diamonds"
## [40] "Ace_of_Clubs"
## [43] "4_of_Spades"
                             "5_of_Clubs"
                                                  "6_of_Hearts"
## [46] "7_of_Diamonds"
                             "8_of_Spades"
                                                  "9_of_Clubs"
## [49] "10_of_Hearts"
                             "Jack_of_Diamonds"
                                                  "Queen_of_Spades"
## [52] "King of Clubs"
Let's reconsider character vectors
char.vec <- c("here", "we", "are", "now", "in", "winter")</pre>
nchar(char.vec)
```

```
## [1] 4 2 3 3 2 6
rev(char.vec) # Reverses the vector
## [1] "winter" "in"
                          "now"
                                    "are"
                                              "we"
                                                       "here"
char.vec[-1] # Omit the first element
## [1] "we"
                                    "in"
                 "are"
                          "now"
                                              "winter"
char.vec = c(char.vec, "Its cold") # Append the vector
R has support for string searching and matching.
char.vec <- c("here", "we", "are", "now", "in", "winter")</pre>
grep("ar",char.vec)
## [1] 3
char.vec[3]
## [1] "are"
grep("ar",char.vec,value=T)
## [1] "are"
grep("^w",char.vec,value=TRUE) # Words that begin with "w"
## [1] "we"
                 "winter"
grep("w",char.vec, value=TRUE) # Any words that contain "w"
## [1] "we"
                 "now"
                          "winter"
grep("w$",char.vec, value=TRUE) # words that end with "w"
## [1] "now"
R has support for string searching and matching.
char.vec <- c("here", "we", "are", "now", "in", "winter")</pre>
char.vec[ -grep("ar",char.vec)] # All words NOT containing "ar"
## [1] "here"
                           "now"
                                    "in"
                                              "winter"
-grep("ar",char.vec)
## [1] -3
char.vec[-3]
## [1] "here"
                          "now"
                                    "in"
                 "we"
                                              "winter"
gsub("here", "there", char.vec) # We can change words too !
## [1] "there" "we"
                          "are"
                                    "now"
                                             "in"
                                                       "winter"
gsub("^w", "Z", char.vec) # Replace any "w" at the beginning of a word to Z
## [1] "here"
                          "are"
                                             "in"
                                                       "Zinter"
                 "Ze"
                                    "now"
Let's say we have a vector of 100 sampled identifiers from a larger population that follows this naming
```

convention:

```
Two Letter state name abbreviation: (e.g. "GA")
Smoker: (0 = "No", 1 = "Yes")
Gender: M or F
myvec
[1] "MS:0:F" "SD:1:M" "OR:1:M" "RI:0:F" "IA:1:M" "NV:1:F" "VA:1:F"
[8] "MA:1:M" "ND:1:F" "TX:1:F" "KY:1:F" "MI:0:M" "SD:0:F" "VA:0:M"
[15] "VA:1:M" "WI:0:F" "HI:1:M" "KS:0:M" "GA:1:F" "KY:1:F" "HI:1:M"
[22] "MO:0:M" "AK:0:F" "AL:0:F" "MA:0:M" "NV:1:F" "AZ:1:F" "ID:0:F"
[29] "VT:1:F" "MN:1:M" "ND:1:F" "OR:1:M" "ME:1:M" "OR:1:F" "DE:1:F"
[36] "IN:1:F" "PA:1:M" "UT:0:M" "OH:0:M" "TX:1:M" "MD:0:M" "SC:1:F"
[43] "WV:1:M" "WI:0:F" "AK:1:M" "MN:0:F" "MO:1:F" "OK:1:M" "NJ:0:F"
[50] "PA:0:M" "OR:0:M" "ME:1:F" "DE:0:M" "OK:0:F" "TN:1:M" "MO:0:F"
[57] "KY:1:F" "OH:1:F" "RI:0:M" "LA:1:F" "KS:1:F" "IA:0:F" "CT:1:M"
[64] "WA:0:M" "CO:1:M" "CT:1:F" "UT:0:F" "IN:0:F" "MT:0:F" "DE:0:F"
[71] "CO:1:M" "GA:1:F" "MN:1:F" "HI:0:M" "HI:1:F" "MD:0:M" "CA:1:M"
[78] "HI:0:M" "NM:1:M" "MA:1:F" "IN:0:F" "SD:0:M" "GA:1:F" "MS:1:F"
[85] "VT:1:F" "RI:0:F" "NH:1:M" "MA:0:F" "NC:0:F" "AL:1:F" "WV:1:M"
[92] "FL:0:M" "NJ:1:F" "FL:1:F" "AR:1:M" "AL:1:F" "ND:0:M" "PA:0:F"
[99] "WA:1:M" "OK:0:M"
Here I create a sample set
numtosamp <- 100
myvec <- paste(sample(state.abb,numtosamp,T),</pre>
               sample(c(0,1),numtosamp,T),
               sample(c("M", "F"), numtosamp, T), sep=":")
# Find all identifiers that come from Arkansas "AK"
grep("AK",myvec)
## [1] 2 16 43
grep("AK",myvec,value=T)
## [1] "AK:O:F" "AK:1:M" "AK:1:F"
# Find all women who do not smoke from any state
grep("0:F",myvec)
## [1] 1 2 6 7 15 17 24 28 33 36 45 50 51 53 59 79 84 91 98
grep("0:F",myvec,value=T)
## [1] "CA:O:F" "AK:O:F" "OK:O:F" "HI:O:F" "DE:O:F" "OH:O:F" "UT:O:F" "MA:O:F"
## [9] "MA:0:F" "CO:0:F" "IN:0:F" "MS:0:F" "NY:0:F" "TX:0:F" "ID:0:F" "ND:0:F"
## [17] "MI:0:F" "GA:0:F" "WV:0:F"
Find all identifiers that relate only to males
grep("M$",myvec)
## [1] 3 4 5 9 10 12 13 16 18 19 20 21 23 25 26 27 29 31 35 37 38 39 40 42 44
## [26] 46 47 48 49 52 54 56 58 61 62 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 73 74 75 76 77 78 82
## [51] 83 86 87 88 90 92 93 96 97
```

```
grep("M$",myvec,value=T)
    [1] "ID:1:M" "MA:0:M" "VT:0:M" "OK:0:M" "UT:0:M" "CO:0:M" "IA:1:M" "AK:1:M"
   [9] "WY:1:M" "MI:1:M" "CT:1:M" "LA:0:M" "KY:1:M" "MA:0:M" "LA:0:M" "WI:0:M"
## [17] "DE:0:M" "NJ:0:M" "MA:0:M" "WI:0:M" "NY:0:M" "MI:1:M" "OR:1:M" "OR:1:M"
## [25] "DE:O:M" "VA:1:M" "TN:O:M" "WV:O:M" "OH:1:M" "MN:1:M" "MI:1:M" "VT:O:M"
## [33] "CT:0:M" "MO:1:M" "MA:0:M" "SD:1:M" "WI:0:M" "MD:0:M" "ME:1:M" "IA:0:M"
## [41] "NJ:0:M" "WI:1:M" "VT:0:M" "MI:1:M" "UT:1:M" "CT:1:M" "NC:0:M" "VT:0:M"
## [49] "OK:O:M" "MN:O:M" "TX:1:M" "MT:1:M" "IA:1:M" "MI:O:M" "DE:1:M" "MO:O:M"
## [57] "WA:1:M" "NC:0:M" "AL:1:M"
Find all indentifiers that relate to Georgia or Pennsylvania
grep("PA|GA",myvec,value=T)
## [1] "GA:0:F"
# Find all identifiers that relate to any state BUT Georgia
myvec[ -grep("GA",myvec) ]
   [1] "CA:O:F" "AK:O:F" "ID:1:M" "MA:O:M" "VT:O:M" "OK:O:F" "HI:O:F" "IN:1:F"
   [9] "OK:O:M" "UT:O:M" "AZ:1:F" "CO:O:M" "IA:1:M" "WY:1:F" "DE:O:F" "AK:1:M"
## [17] "OH:O:F" "WY:1:M" "MI:1:M" "CT:1:M" "LA:O:M" "MS:1:F" "KY:1:M" "UT:O:F"
   [25] "MA:O:M" "LA:O:M" "WI:O:M" "MA:O:F" "DE:O:M" "HI:1:F" "NJ:O:M" "OH:1:F"
  [33] "MA:0:F" "WA:1:F" "MA:0:M" "CO:0:F" "WI:0:M" "NY:0:M" "MI:1:M" "OR:1:M"
## [41] "SD:1:F" "OR:1:M" "AK:1:F" "DE:0:M" "IN:0:F" "VA:1:M" "TN:0:M" "WV:0:M"
## [49] "OH:1:M" "MS:0:F" "NY:0:F" "MN:1:M" "TX:0:F" "MI:1:M" "IL:1:F" "VT:0:M"
## [57] "MT:1:F" "CT:0:M" "ID:0:F" "KS:1:F" "MO:1:M" "MA:0:M" "MT:1:F" "SD:1:M"
## [65] "WI:0:M" "MD:0:M" "ME:1:M" "IA:0:M" "NJ:0:M" "WI:1:M" "VT:0:M" "SD:1:F"
## [73] "MI:1:M" "UT:1:M" "CT:1:M" "NC:0:M" "VT:0:M" "OK:0:M" "ND:0:F" "FL:1:F"
## [81] "WI:1:F" "MN:0:M" "TX:1:M" "MI:0:F" "NM:1:F" "MT:1:M" "IA:1:M" "MI:0:M"
## [89] "WV:1:F" "DE:1:M" "MO:0:M" "WA:1:M" "DE:1:F" "MT:1:F" "NC:0:M" "AL:1:M"
## [97] "WV:0:F" "IN:1:F" "CA:1:F"
Character vectors also show up when we use the list.files() function to generate a list of files to be processed.
For example let's say we have some files of the form 001.csv, 002.csv, ... 029.csv. Maybe we want to process
some or all of them. First we have to generate a character vector containing the names.
files_to_be_read <- list.files(".","*.csv")</pre>
str(files_to_be_read)
 chr [1:29] "001.csv" "002.csv" "003.csv" "004.csv" "005.csv"
            "006.csv" "007.csv" "008.csv" "009.csv" ...
DNA is a series of recurring letters. We can find patterns and "motifs' in stretches of DNA
dna <- c("A", "A", "C", "G", "A", "C", "C", "G", "G", "G", "A", "T", "G", "A", "C", "T", "G", "A", "A", "C")
# How many Gs are in the string ?
grep("G",dna) # Extracts the elements numbers
## [1] 4 9 10 13 17
dna[ grep("G",dna) ]
## [1] "G" "G" "G" "G" "G"
```

expression	matches
abc	abc (that exact character sequence, but anywhere in the string)
^abc	abc at the beginning of the string
abc\$	abc at the end of the string
a b	either of a and b
^abc abc\$	the string abc at the beginning or at the end of the string
ab{2,4}c	an a followed by two, three or four b's followed by a c
ab{2,}c	an a followed by at least two b's followed by a c
ab*c	an a followed by any number (zero or more) of b's followed by a c
ab+c	an a followed by one or more b's followed by a c
ab?c	an a followed by an optional b followed by a c; that is, either abc or ac
a.c	an a followed by any single character (not newline) followed by a c
a\.c	a.c exactly
[abc]	any one of a, b and c
[Aa]bc	either of Abc and abc
[abc]+	any (nonempty) string of a's, b's and c's (such as a, abba, acbabcacaa)
[^abc]+	any (nonempty) string which does <i>not</i> contain any of a, b and c (such as defg)
\d\d	any two decimal digits, such as 42; same as \d{2}
\w+	a "word": a nonempty sequence of alphanumeric characters and low lines (underscores), such as foo and 12bar8 and foo_1

Figure 1: Caption for the picture.

```
# OR MORE SIMPLY
grep("G",dna, value = TRUE)
## [1] "G" "G" "G" "G" "G"
length(grep("G",dna, value = TRUE)) # 5 occurrences of G
## [1] 5
DNA is a series of recurring letters. We can find patterns and "motifs'' in stretches of DNA strings.
We can use the sample function to simulate DNA strings
set.seed(188)
                   # Allows us to reproduce the sample
(dna \leftarrow sample(c("A","C","G","T"),20,T))
## [1] "T" "G" "G" "G" "A" "T" "T" "C" "C" "A" "C" "G" "G" "C" "C" "T" "G" "C" "C"
## [20] "T"
Find Gs or Cs in the simulated DNA string
grep("C|G",dna, value = TRUE)
length(grep("G|C",dna, value=T))
## [1] 13
Let's look at some special cases that are important to know
dna <- c("A","A","C","G","A","C","C","C","G","G","A","T","G","A",</pre>
        "C","T","G","A","A","C")
my.str <- paste(dna,collapse="")</pre>
length(my.str)
## [1] 1
rev(my.str)
            # What's going on ?
## [1] "AACGACCCGGATGACTGAAC"
str(my.str)
## chr "AACGACCCGGATGACTGAAC"
There are functions that work on character strings as opposed to character vectors
my.str <- paste(dna,collapse="")</pre>
substr(my.str,1,1)
## [1] "A"
substr(my.str,1,2)
```

[1] "AA"

```
substr(my.str,1,3)
## [1] "AAC"
substr(my.str,1,4)
## [1] "AACG"
gsub("TG","G",my.str)
## [1] "AACGACCCGGAGACGAAC"
my.str
## [1] "AACGACCCGGATGACTGAAC"
substr(my.str,2,8)
## [1] "ACGACCC"
substr(my.str,2,8) = "TTTTTTT"
my.str
## [1] "ATTTTTTGGATGACTGAAC"
nchar(my.str)
## [1] 20
for (ii in 1:nchar(my.str)) {
   cat(substr(my.str,ii,ii))
## ATTTTTTGGATGACTGAAC
for (ii in nchar(my.str):1) {
   cat(substr(my.str,ii,ii))
## CAAGTCAGTAGGTTTTTTA
# Recipe to get the "collapsed" string back into a vector with
# separate elements for each letter
unlist(strsplit(my.str,""))
## [1] "A" "T" "T" "T" "T" "T" "T" "G" "G" "A" "T" "G" "A" "C" "T" "G" "A" "A"
## [20] "C"
```