

# Variables, Objects, Vectors

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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 6 6 4 6 8 6 8 4 4 6 ...
## $ 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
```

```
var1
```

```
## [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)
```

```
## [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")
```

```
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" "!" "My" "name" "is" "Steve."
```

```
patientid <- "ID:011472:M:C" # Encodes Birthday, Gender, and Race
strsplit(patientid, ":")
```

```
## [[1]]
## [1] "ID"      "011472" "M"      "C"
```

```
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] "2023-01-09"
```

```
Sys.Date() + 1
```

```
## [1] "2023-01-10"
```

```
str(Sys.Date())
```

```
## Date[1:1], format: "2023-01-09"
```

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)
```

```
## 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
```

```
## [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)
%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", "%m/%d/%y")
```

```
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",  
          "02/20/01","02/22/01","03/04/01"))  
  
str(mydf)
```

```
## 'data.frame':  4 obs. of  2 variables:  
## $ measure: num  0.81 -0.07 1.34 -0.04  
## $ date   : chr  "01/23/01" "02/20/01" "02/22/01" "03/04/01"
```

```
mydf$date <- as.Date(mydf$date,"%m/%d/%y")  
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      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")
```

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	%B	Full month
%c	Locale-specific date and time	%d	Decimal Date
%H	Decimal hours (24 hr)	%I	Decimal hours (12 hr)

Token	Meaning	Token	Meaning
%j	Decimal day of yr	%m	Decimal month
%M	Decimal minute	%p	Locale-specific AM/PM
%S	Decimal second	%U	Decimal week of yr (Sunday)
%w	Decimal wkday (0=Sunday)	%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	%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')
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

```
mydate <- strptime("12/11/2014 05:15:00", "%m/%d/%Y %H:%M:%S")
str(mydate)

## POSIXlt[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



```
mydate <- strptime("12/11/2014 05:15:00", "%m/%d/%Y %H:%M:%S")
```

```
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
```

```
## [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 <- (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")
}

```

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")
}

```

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 common 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()
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))
```

```
## [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))
}

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] -0.62527369 1.64659275 -0.59794807 0.09674228 0.25098919 -1.13493189
## [7] -2.47348621 1.22583485 -0.07280218 1.84573747
```

```
y <- 5.4 # A single assignment
```

```
y <- 1:10 # A vector with 10 elements (1 .. 10)
```

```
y <- 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
```

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

```
height[height == 72]
```

```
## [1] 72
```

```
# SAME AS  
logical.vector <- (height == 72)  
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) {  
    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) {  
    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)
```

```
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^2
```

```
## [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 ?
```

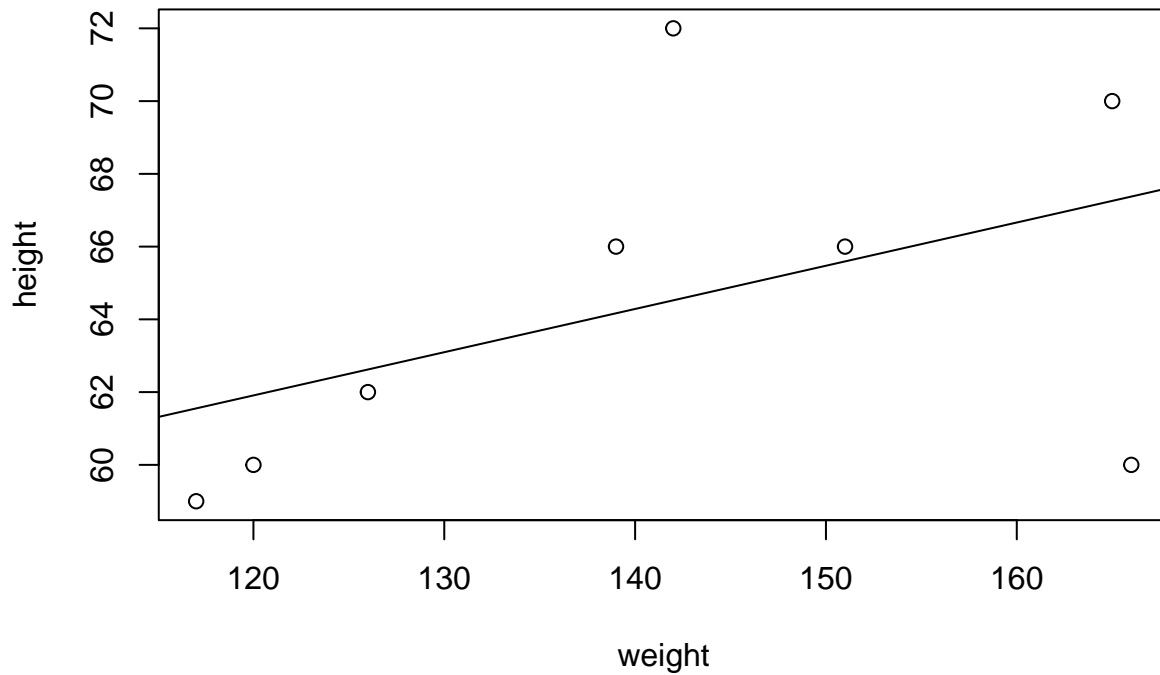
```
## [1] 0.46295
```

```
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
```

```
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: 0x7fd993fcc7c0>
```

```
## <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 0.99 0.99
```

## Character Vectors

```
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 ?
```

```
table(gender,smoker) # Let's count them
```

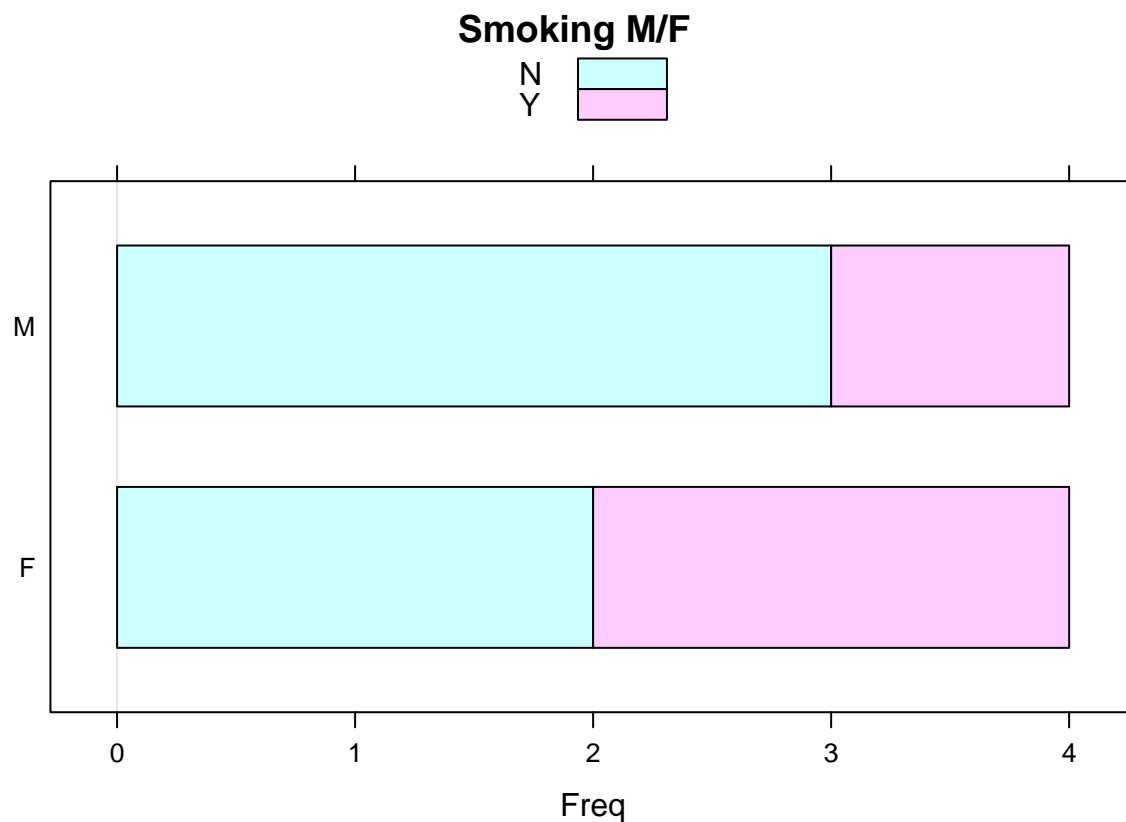
```
##      smoker
## gender N  Y
##      F  2  2
##      M  3  1
```

```
prop.table(table(gender,smoker))
```

```
##      smoker
## gender    N    Y
##      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
vec2 <- c(1,3)
vec1 + vec2 # The shorter vector (vec2) is recycled
```

```
## 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 <- c(59,70,66,72,62,66,60,60)

# Let's also create a character vector that contains the names
# of people whose heights we measured
```

```
my.names <- c("Jacqueline","Frank","Babette","Mario","Adriana",
              "Esteban","Carole","Louis")
```

```
names(height) <- my.names
```

```
height
```

```
## Jacqueline      Frank      Babette      Mario      Adriana      Esteban      Carole
##          59         70         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
```

```
## Jacqueline      Frank      Babette      Mario      Adriana      Esteban      Carole
##      FALSE      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE      TRUE      FALSE
##      Louis
##      FALSE
```

```
which(height > 60)
```

```
##      Frank Babette      Mario Adriana Esteban
##          2         3         4         5         6
```

```
height[which(height > 60)]
```

```
##      Frank Babette      Mario Adriana Esteban
##          70         66         72         62         66
```

```
# Note that the element names do not interfere with numeric evaluations
```

```
mean(height)
```

```
## [1] 64.375
```

The **paste** 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="_")
```

```
new.names
```

```
## [1] "ID_1" "ID_2" "ID_3" "ID_4" "ID_5" "ID_6" "ID_7" "ID_8"
```

```
names(height) <- new.names
```

```
height
```

```
## ID_1 ID_2 ID_3 ID_4 ID_5 ID_6 ID_7 ID_8  
## 59 70 66 72 62 66 60 60
```

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 ?
```

```
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
```

## Some common functions

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

Function	Purpose	Function	Purpose
sum(x)	Sum of x	prod(x)	Product of x
cumsum(x)	Cumulative sum	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
setdiff(x,y)	Elements of x not in y	setequal(x,y)	Test if x and y equal

## Common logical operators

### # RELATIONAL OPERATORS

```
Equal to      ==      if (myvar == "test") {print("EQ")}
              ==      if (mynum == 3)    {print("EQ")}
Not equal to  !=      if (myvar != "test") {print("NE")}
Less than or equal to <= if (number <= 5)    {print("LTE")}
Less than    <       if (number < 10)   {print("LT")}
Greater than or equal to >= if (number >= 10)  {print("GTE")}
Greater than  >      if (number > 12)   {print("GT")}
```

### # BOOLEAN OPERATORS

```
And          &      if ((myvar == "test" & (num <= 10) ) {
                    print("Equal and less than")
                    }

Not          !      if (!complete.cases(myvec)) {
                    print("Non complete cases")
                    }

Or           |      if ((num > 3) | (num < -3)) {
                    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  
##    59    60    64    68    72
```

```
length(height) # Vector length
```

```
## [1] 8
```

```
quantile(height) # Quantiles
```

```
##    0%   25%   50%   75%  100%  
##    59    60    64    67    72
```

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 <- 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 without replacement.

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

```
## [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
```

```
sample(my.coins, 5, replace=TRUE) # 5 coin tosses
```

```
## [1] "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads"
```

```
my.vec <- sample(my.coins, 100, replace=TRUE)  
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" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails"
## [46] "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails"
## [55] "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails"
## [64] "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads"
## [73] "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads" "Heads"
## [82] "Tails" "Tails" "Heads" "Tails" "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 49
```

```
my.heads <- my.vec[my.vec == "Heads"] # Gives us all the Heads
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)) )
```

```
##
## Heads Tails
## 500328 499672
```

```
# NOW LET'S CHEAT AND RIG THE COIN
```

```
unfaircoin <- table(sample(my.coins,
                           1000000,
                           replace=TRUE,
                           prob=c(.75,.25)))
```

(<http://www.sigmapfield.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)))

# 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),
               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)

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"     "Jack_of_Spades"   "Queen_of_Clubs"
## [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"
## [31] "5_of_Spades"        "6_of_Clubs"       "7_of_Hearts"
## [34] "8_of_Diamonds"      "9_of_Spades"      "10_of_Clubs"
## [37] "Jack_of_Hearts"     "Queen_of_Diamonds" "King_of_Spades"
## [40] "Ace_of_Clubs"       "2_of_Hearts"      "3_of_Diamonds"
## [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")

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"      "are"      "now"      "in"      "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")
```

```
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")
```

```
char.vec[ !grep("ar",char.vec)] # All words NOT containing "ar"
```

```
## [1] "here"    "we"      "now"      "in"      "winter"
```

```
-grep("ar",char.vec)
```

```
## [1] -3
```

```
char.vec[-3]
```

```
## [1] "here" "we" "now" "in" "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" "Ze" "are" "now" "in" "Zinter"
```

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),
               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("O:F",myvec)
```

```
## [1] 1 2 6 7 15 17 24 28 33 36 45 50 51 53 59 79 84 91 98
```

```
grep("O: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:O:F" "CO:O:F" "IN:O:F" "MS:O:F" "NY:O:F" "TX:O:F" "ID:O:F" "ND:O:F"  
## [17] "MI:O:F" "GA:O:F" "WV:O: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:0:M" "VA:1:M" "TN:0:M" "WV:0:M" "OH:1:M" "MN:1:M" "MI:1:M" "VT:0: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:0:M" "MN:0:M" "TX:1:M" "MT:1:M" "IA:1:M" "MI:0:M" "DE:1:M" "MO:0:M"  
## [57] "WA:1:M" "NC:0:M" "AL:1:M"
```

Find all identifiers that relate to Georgia or Pennsylvania

```
grep("PA|GA",myvec,value=T)
```

```
## [1] "GA:O: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:O:F" "WA:1:F" "MA:O:M" "CO:O:F" "WI:O:M" "NY:O:M" "MI:1:M" "OR:1:M"
## [41] "SD:1:F" "OR:1:M" "AK:1:F" "DE:O:M" "IN:O:F" "VA:1:M" "TN:O:M" "WV:O:M"
## [49] "OH:1:M" "MS:O:F" "NY:O:F" "MN:1:M" "TX:O:F" "MI:1:M" "IL:1:F" "VT:O:M"
## [57] "MT:1:F" "CT:O:M" "ID:O:F" "KS:1:F" "MO:1:M" "MA:O:M" "MT:1:F" "SD:1:M"
## [65] "WI:O:M" "MD:O:M" "ME:1:M" "IA:O:M" "NJ:O:M" "WI:1:M" "VT:O:M" "SD:1:F"
## [73] "MI:1:M" "UT:1:M" "CT:1:M" "NC:O:M" "VT:O:M" "OK:O:M" "ND:O:F" "FL:1:F"
## [81] "WI:1:F" "MN:O:M" "TX:1:M" "MI:O:F" "NM:1:F" "MT:1:M" "IA:1:M" "MI:O:M"
## [89] "WV:1:F" "DE:1:M" "MO:O:M" "WA:1:M" "DE:1:F" "MT:1:F" "NC:O:M" "AL:1:M"
## [97] "WV:O:F" "IN:1:F" "CA:1:F"
```

expression	matches...
abc	abc (that exact character sequence, but anywhere in the string)
^abc	abc at the <i>beginning</i> of the string
abc\$	abc at the <i>end</i> 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.

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")

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", "C", "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"
```

```
# 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 <- 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)
```

```
## [1] "G" "G" "G" "C" "C" "C" "G" "G" "C" "C" "G" "C" "C"
```



```
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",  
        "C","T","G","A","A","C")
```

```
my.str <- paste(dna,collapse="")
```

```
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="")
```

```
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] "AACGACCCGGGATGACTGAAC"
```

```
substr(my.str,2,8)
```

```
## [1] "ACGACCC"
```

```
substr(my.str,2,8) = "TTTTTTT"  
my.str
```

```
## [1] "ATTTTTTTGGGATGACTGAAC"
```

```
nchar(my.str)
```

```
## [1] 20
```

```
for (ii in 1:nchar(my.str)) {  
  cat(substr(my.str,ii,ii))  
}
```

```
## ATTTTTTTGGGATGACTGAAC
```

```
for (ii in nchar(my.str):1) {  
  cat(substr(my.str,ii,ii))  
}
```

```
## CAAGTCAGTAGGTTTTTTTA
```

```
# 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" "T" "T" "G" "G" "A" "T" "G" "A" "C" "T" "G" "A" "A"  
## [20] "C"
```