

An introduction to R factors

RStudio just introduced this software saying that a variable has unique values! And they can be ordered.

Jorge Cimentada and
6th of July

This has consequences

The screenshot shows the RStudio interface. The script editor contains the following code:

```
elm <- c("Good", "Bad", "Medium")
(elm_factor <- factor(elm, levels = c("Bad", "Medium", "Good"), ordered = T))
```

The console output shows:

```
[1] Good Bad Medium
Levels: Bad < Medium < Good
```

Below the console, there is a boxplot with four groups (A, B, C, D) on the x-axis and 'var' on the y-axis. The boxplots are colored red, green, cyan, and purple respectively. The legend indicates that group A is red, B is green, C is cyan, and D is purple.

The screenshot shows the RGui interface. The console contains the following code and output:

```
table(elm)
elm
  Bad Good Medium
  1    1    1
```

Below this, there is a help message:

```
'help.start()' for an HTML browser interface to help.
```

Then, the following code is executed:

```
table(elm_factor)
```

The output shows:

```
elm_factor
  Bad Medium Good
  1    1    1
```

How to install R?

Luckily, you guys have R and Rstudio installed, so you don't have to worry about this!

But if you want to install it at home, please follow **this guide**

That guide can help you install

- R
- Rstudio
- And `swirl`, a package in which you could do a bunch of exercises as homework!

What is R?

R is a programming language designed to do data analysis, usually interactive.

R is helpful for..

- Getting that darn excel/stata file into R (importing)
- Turning that very ugly dataset into something to work with (data cleaning)
- Automating your weekly reports (automating tasks)
- Analyzing data (modeling)
- Creating nicely formatted documents (communicating results)
- Building your own commands to do specific things (functions)
- **Building very creative graphics**
- **Among many things...**

And so.. what is Rstudio?

And so.. what is Rstudio?

The image shows the RStudio interface with four red callout boxes highlighting key features:

- 1- Code Editor**: The top-left pane shows R code for loading ggplot2, viewing the diamonds dataset, and creating a plot.
- 2- R Console**: The bottom-left pane shows the output of the R code, including summary statistics for the diamonds dataset.
- 3- Workspace and History**: The top-right pane shows the current workspace containing the 'diamonds' dataset and the 'aveSize' variable.
- 4- Plots and files**: The bottom-right pane shows a scatter plot titled 'Diamond Pricing' with 'Carat' on the x-axis and 'Price' on the y-axis, colored by clarity.

```
1 library(ggplot2)
2
3 view(diamonds)
4 summary(diamonds)
5
6 summary(diamonds$price)
7 aveSize <- round(mean(diamonds$carat), 4)
8 cla
9
10 p <-
11
12
13
14
```

```
Min.   : 0.000   Min.   : 0.000   Min.   : 0.000
1st Qu.: 4.710   1st Qu.: 4.720   1st Qu.: 2.910
Median : 5.700   Median : 5.710   Median : 3.530
Mean   : 5.700   Mean   : 5.710   Mean   : 3.539
3rd Qu.: 6.700   3rd Qu.: 6.710   3rd Qu.: 3.540
Max.   : 18.000  Max.   : 18.000  Max.   : 1.800
```

```
> sum
Min.   Max.
326    950    2401    3933    5324    18820
> aveSize <- round(mean(diamonds$carat), 4)
> clarity <- levels(diamonds$clarity)
> p <- qplot(carat, price,
+           data=diamonds, color=clarity,
+           xlab="Carat", ylab="Price",
+           main="Diamond Pricing")
>
> format.plot(plot=p, size=23)
>
```

Workspace History
Data
diamonds 53940 obs. of 10 variables
Values
aveSize 0.7979

Diamond Pricing
Price
Carat

Let's get to it then!

R is an interactive language. That means that if you type a number, you will get a number.

```
#Input  
10
```

```
[1] 10
```

```
#Input  
5
```

```
[1] 5
```

Introduction to R objects

R is also a calculator

Try typing these operations in R:

- $5 + 5$
- $10 - 5$
- $10 * 5$
- $20 / 10$
- $(10 * 20) - 5 / 2 + 2$
- $2 ^ 3$

Before we continue, what type of operations are these?

Answers in next slide!

Introduction to R objects

- Addition
- Subtraction
- Multiplication
- Division
- A combination of all
- Exponentiation

Numbers in R are called `numeric`s.

For example:

```
is.numeric(10)  
is.numeric(10 + 20)  
is.numeric(10 / 2)
```


Introduction to R objects

Having single numbers, like 10, is not very useful.

We want something similar to a column of a dataset, like age or income.

We can do that with `c()`, which stands for concatenate.

```
c(32, 34, 18, 22, 65)
```

```
[1] 32 34 18 22 65
```

Read this expression as: concatenate these numbers into a single object.

Introduction to R objects

We can also give it a name, like age.

```
age <- c(32, 34, 18, 22, 65)
```

- Why didn't the result get printed?
- Where is this age object at?
- What is formally the age object?

Introduction to R objects

We just created our first variable! The typical SAS/Excel/Stata column.

In R, these objects are called '**vectors**'.

Vectors can have several flavours:

- Numerics (we just saw one)
- Logicals
- Characters
- Factors

Introduction to R objects

Suppose these ages belong to certain people. We can create a character vector with their names.

Following this guideline, create it yourself.

- Create a character vector with `c()`
- Include the names Paul, Maria, Andres, Roberto and Alicia inside
- wrap every name in quotes like this "Paul", "Maria", etc... This will make R understand that input as characters.

Introduction to R objects

Answer:

```
c("Paul", "Maria", "Andres", "Robert", "Alicia")
```

```
[1] "Paul" "Maria" "Andres" "Robert" "Alicia"
```

We can also give it a name, like participants.

```
participants <- c("Paul", "Maria", "Andres", "Robert", "Alicia")
```

Introduction to R objects

Character vectors are filled by strings, like “Paul” or “Maria”.

Can we do operations with strings?

```
"Paul" + "Maria"
```

```
Error in "Paul" + "Maria": non-numeric argument to binary operator
```

Makes sense.. we can't add any letters.

Alright, we're set. Concatenate the numeric vector age and participants.

Introduction to R objects

```
c(age, participants)
```

```
[1] "32"      "34"      "18"      "22"      "65"      "Paul"    "Maria"  
[8] "Andres"  "Robert"  "Alicia"
```

- What's the problem with this result?

This breaks an R law!

We joined a numeric vector and a character vector.

Vectors can *ONLY* be of one class.

```
c(1, "one") # forces to character vector
```

```
[1] "1" "one"
```

```
c(1, "1") # note that the first one is a numeric, while the second is a character
```

```
[1] "1" "1"
```


Introduction to R objects

Now, which of these people has an age above 20?

```
age > 20
```

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

- That's a logical vector.

Contrary to character and numeric vectors, logical vectors can only have three values:

- TRUE
- FALSE
- NA (which stands for “Not available”.)

Introduction to R objects

logicals can be created manually or with a logical statement.

```
c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE, TRUE)
```

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

```
age < 60
```

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

The above expression tests for the logical statement.

For example,

```
  32   34   18   22   65  
TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE
```

Introduction to R objects

You can also write T or F as short abbreviations of TRUE and FALSE.

```
c(T, T, F, T) == c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)
```

```
[1] TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE
```

Which is comparing:

```
TRUE TRUE FALSE TRUE  
"T"  "T"  "F"  "T"
```

But behind the scenes, TRUE and T are just a 1 and F and FALSE are just a 0.

What is the result of this?

```
T + 5  
TRUE - 5  
FALSE + TRUE  
T + T - FALSE
```

Introduction to R objects

Now that you know that.. what would be the class of the following vectors?

```
c(5, TRUE)
c(5, "FALSE")
c(FALSE, TRUE)
c(1, FALSE)
```

- numeric: TRUE is coerced to 1
- character: "FALSE" is a string, can't be turned to a number
- logical: both elements are logical!
- numeric: FALSE is coerced to 0

Introduction to R objects

What do we know so far?

- Numeric vectors
- Character vectors
- Logical vectors
- How to assign a name to these vectors
- Vectors can contain only *one* class of data

What's missing?

Factors

Introduction to R objects

Factors are R's way of storing **categorical variables**.

Categories such as:

- 'Male' and 'Female' or 'Married' and 'Divorced'
- 'Good', 'Middle' and 'High'

```
gender <- c("Male", "Female", "Male", "Male", "Female")  
# Can be turned into  
gender <- factor(gender)
```

Introduction to R objects

Introduction to R objects

Factors are useful for some specific operations like:

- Changing order of levels for terms in modelling
- Changing order of axis labels in plots
- Among other things..

In many cases you can use characters to do what you would want with factors!

Introduction to R objects

Now, have you noticed that we've been assigning names to things?

```
age
```

```
[1] 32 34 18 22 65
```

The name `age` holds all these elements inside. How do we know where all the variables we've created are?

Let's ask R what objects can be listed from our workspace or environment.

```
ls()
```

```
[1] "age"          "elm"          "elm_factor"  "gender"  
[5] "lgl"         "participants"
```

Introduction to R objects

So far, we have a bunch of variables scattered around our workspace. This is usually no the way to go!

We want to group similar things in the same place.

```
our_df <- data.frame(name = participants, age = age, gender = gender, age_60 = lgl)
our_df
```

	name	age	gender	age_60
1	Paul	32	Male	TRUE
2	Maria	34	Female	TRUE
3	Andres	18	Male	TRUE
4	Robert	22	Male	TRUE
5	Alicia	65	Female	FALSE

A data frame is usually the primary structure of analysis
in R

Introduction to R objects

It's important that you understand the thing that defines a data frame.

- A data frame has *rows* and *columns*, more technically called *dimensions*.
- Data frames have two dimensions.

```
dim(our_df)
```

```
[1] 5 4
```

```
nrow(our_df)
```

```
[1] 5
```

```
ncol(our_df)
```

```
[1] 4
```

Introduction to R objects

Data frames are very distinctive because they can hold any type of vector.

Matrices cannot!

```
our_matrix <- matrix(1:20, ncol = 4, nrow = 5)  
our_matrix
```

```
[1,] [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]  
[2,]  1   6  11  16  
[3,]  2   7  12  17  
[4,]  3   8  13  18  
[5,]  4   9  14  19  
[5,]  5  10  15  20
```

- Matrices are very similar to data frames.
- They have same number of dimensions.
- You can choose rows/columns in similar ways.

Introduction to R objects

Finally, we're missing the secret ingredient that differentiates both matrices and data frames.

Lists

Introduction to R objects

Think of lists as a bag that can store anything.

```
our_list <- list(names = participants, gender = gender, age = age)
our_list
```

```
$names
[1] "Paul"   "Maria"  "Andres" "Robert" "Alicia"

$gender
[1] Male   Female Male   Male   Female
Levels: Female Male

$age
[1] 32 34 18 22 65
```

This is a bag that has 3 objects.

- A character
- A factor
- A numeric

Introduction to R objects

Think outside the box... when I say anything, I mean
ANYTHING!

```
complex_list <- list(df = our_df[1:3, ], matrix = our_df[1:3, ], avg_age = mean(age))  
complex_list
```

```
$df  
  name age gender age_60  
1 Paul  32   Male   TRUE  
2 Maria 34 Female   TRUE  
3 Andres 18   Male   TRUE  
  
$matrix  
  name age gender age_60  
1 Paul  32   Male   TRUE  
2 Maria 34 Female   TRUE  
3 Andres 18   Male   TRUE  
  
$avg_age  
[1] 34.2
```

Introduction to R objects

To sum up, these are the 4 types of data structures available in R.

Vector



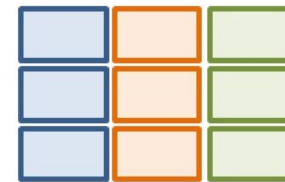
- 1 column or row of data
- 1 type (numeric or text)

Matrix



- multiple columns and/or rows of data
- 1 type (numeric or text)

Data Frame



- multiple columns and/or rows of data
- multiple types

List



- 1 column or row of data
- multiple types

Introduction to R objects

Now I'm gonna rock your world...

A data frame is a list (because it can have any class) with a row and column dimensions.

```
data.frame(our_list)
```

```
  names gender age
1  Paul   Male  32
2 Maria Female  34
3 Andres  Male  18
4 Robert  Male  22
5 Alicia Female  65
```

To be continued....