

Rtutorial-part1

March 10, 2025

1 R - overview

- Programming language and environment for statistics and data analysis
- Platforms: Linux, MacOS X, Windows
- Published under GNU General Public License (GPL); i.e., freely available (see www.r-project.org)
- Command-line; interpreter (similar to Python)
- Object oriented
- Own programs can easily be integrated
- Extensive statistics library
- Very powerful graphics package

Getting started manual: An Introduction to R <https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-intro.pdf>

by W. N. Venables, D. M. Smith and the R Core Team

1.1 R - basics

```
[ ]: # expressions: evaluated, displayed (implied print), value lost
1+1
```

```
[ ]: # assignments: variable <- object
# assignment operator in R is "<=", most of the time "=" can be used instead
# right hand side is evaluated, value assigned to variable
y <- 1+1
(y<- 1+1)                # print result
z <- cos(pi); cos(pi) -> z # "->" works in both ways
print(z)
```

- Beginning of a comment is indicated by a hash sign “#”
- Commands are case sensitive
- Commands are separated by a semicolon (“;”), or by a newline
- Command history: use up/down arrow keys Previously executed commands can be edited and executed again
- Command editing analogous to Linux shell
- To search in the command history, type ctrl-r

1.1.1 Arithmetic operators

```
^    raise to the power
**   raise to the power
*    multiplication
/    division
+    adding
-    subtracting
```

1.1.2 Integer and modulo division

`%/%` integer division `%%` modulo division

- The Integer operator `%/%` divides the numbers and returns the integer part of the quotient, discarding the remainder.
- The modulo operator `%%` returns the remainder of the division of two numbers.

Example:

```
[ ]: ### %/%
result <- 10 %/% 3
result
```

```
[ ]: ### %%
result <- 10 %% 3
result
```

1.1.3 Defining vectors in R

In R, vectors are one of the basic data structures and can be defined using the `c()` function, which combines values into a vector.

Here are some examples:

```
[ ]: # Define a numeric vector (contains numbers)
numeric_vector <- c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
print(numeric_vector)
```

```
[ ]: # Define a character vector (contains strings of characters)
character_vector <- c("apple", "banana", "cherry")
print(character_vector)
```

```
[ ]: # Define a logical vector (contains Boolean values (TRUE or FALSE) ).
logical_vector <- c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)
print(logical_vector)
```

```
[ ]: # You can also create a vector by repeating elements using the rep() function.
# e.g. Repeat the number 5, 10 times:
repeated_vector <- rep(5, 10)
print(repeated_vector)
```

You can access elements in a vector using indexing. R uses 1-based indexing.

e.g.

```
[ ]: # Access the first element of numeric_vector
first_element <- numeric_vector[1]
print(first_element)

# Access the second and third elements of character_vector
subset_vector <- character_vector[2:3]
print(subset_vector)
```

1.1.4 Logical constants, operators, and functions

TRUE, T true
False, F false
==, != equal, not equal
<, <= smaller, smaller or equal
>, >= larger, larger or equal
! not
&, %% and
|, || or
xor() exclusive or
all() tests whether all its arguments are TRUE
any() tests whether at least one of its arguments is TRUE

Examples:

```
[ ]: ### The xor() function performs an exclusive OR operation, which means it
      ↳ returns TRUE if one and only one of the arguments is TRUE, and FALSE
      ↳ otherwise.

result1 <- xor(TRUE, FALSE) # TRUE because one is TRUE and the other is FALSE
result2 <- xor(TRUE, TRUE)  # FALSE because both are TRUE
result3 <- xor(FALSE, FALSE) # FALSE because both are FALSE

print(result1) # Should print TRUE
print(result2) # Should print FALSE
print(result3) # Should print FALSE
```

```
[ ]: ### The all() function tests whether all of its arguments are TRUE. It returns
      ↳ TRUE if all arguments are TRUE, and FALSE otherwise.

vec1 <- c(TRUE, TRUE, TRUE)
vec2 <- c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE)

result4 <- all(vec1) # TRUE because all elements in vec1 are TRUE
result5 <- all(vec2) # FALSE because not all elements in vec2 are TRUE

print(result4) # Should print TRUE
```

```
print(result5)  # Should print FALSE
```

Using `paste()` or `paste0()` allows you to easily include variables and text together in a print statement.

```
[ ]: # Printing text with the result
print(paste("The output for result5 is:", result5)) # Using paste()
```

1.1.5 Vector/matrix operators and functions

<code>%*%</code>	inner product
<code>%o%</code>	outer product
<code>dim()</code> , <code>ncol()</code> , <code>nrow()</code>	number of columns and rows
<code>diag()</code>	reading/setting matrix diagonale
<code>eigen()</code>	eigenvalues/eigenvectors
<code>solve()</code>	inverting a matrix
<code>tr()</code>	transpose
<code>colSums()</code> , <code>colMeans()</code>	sums, arithmetic means of all matrix columns
<code>rowSums()</code> , <code>rowMeans()</code>	sums, arithmetic means of all matrix rows

Example:

```
[ ]: ### How to perform an inner product operation using R

# Define two vectors
a <- c(1, 2, 3)
b <- c(4, 5, 6)

# Calculate the inner product
inner_product <- a %*% b

# Print the result
print(inner_product)
```

This is because the inner product of vectors **a** and **b** is calculated as:

$$(1 \times 4) + (2 \times 5) + (3 \times 6) = 4 + 10 + 18 = 32$$

The inner product is a single scalar value, but R returns it in a 1x1 matrix form by default.

You can convert this result to a scalar if needed:

```
[ ]: scalar_inner_product <- as.numeric(inner_product)
print(scalar_inner_product)
### which will print:
```

1.1.6 Pre-defined functions (many more!)

<code>max()</code> , <code>min()</code>	minimum/maximum value
---	-----------------------

<code>abs()</code>	absolute value
<code>sqrt()</code>	square root
<code>round()</code>	rounding
<code>sum(), prod()</code>	sum, product
<code>log(), log10()</code>	logarithms
<code>exp()</code>	exponential function
<code>sin(), cos(), tan()</code>	trigonometric functions
<code>mean(), var(), sd()</code>	mean, variance, standard deviation

1.1.7 Creating your own functions

Syntax:

```
FunctionName <- function(arguments){
# Commands here
return(value)      # return is optional, otherwise last evaluated expression is returned
}
```

- R differs from Python: function definition is an expression
- R differs from Python: `return()` is a function (not a statement)
- R differs from Python: curly braces used to define command groups, and scopes (not indentation)
- scoping rules for variables similar to Python

```
[ ]: # example:
TimesTwo <- function(z){
y <- 2.0 * z
}

print(TimesTwo(3))
```

1.1.8 Passing arguments to functions

Definition:

```
f <- function(a,b,c=3){
  # commands here
}
```

Invocation:

```
result <- f(1,2,3)
result <- f(c=3, a=1, b=2)  # equivalent to above
result <- f(1,2)           # assuming the default c=3
```

- assignments to variables in function body are local
- using `<-` instead of `<-`-allows one to change variables in host environment (global variable assignment)

Example:

```
[ ]: # Define the function
f <- function(a, b, c = 3) {
  # Local variable assignment
  local_result <- a + b + c
  print(paste("Local result:", local_result))

  # Global variable assignment using <-
  global_result <- a * b * c
  print(paste("Global result:", global_result))

  return(local_result)
}
```

```
[ ]: # Invoke the function with named arguments (equivalent to above)
result1 <- f(a = 2, b = 4, c = 6)

# The assignments to variables inside the function body are local by default.
```

```
[ ]: # This will work because local_result is returned
print(result1)
```

```
[ ]: # This will give an error because local_result is not defined in the global
    ↪environment
print(local_result)
```

```
[ ]: # The global_result variable is assigned in the global environment using <- so
    ↪this will return a result
# generally it is a bad idea to assign variables in the global environment from
    ↪within a function, but there are cases when you might want to do it
print(global_result)
```

1.1.9 Miscellaneous commands

getwd()	get working directory
setwd("[PATH]")	set working directory
system("[COMMAND]")	issue system command
source("[FILENAME]")	execute commands from file
source(..., echo = TRUE)	execute and print commands from file
sink("[FILENAME]")	divert output to file
sink()	end diverting

```
[ ]: getwd()
```

1.1.10 Recommended Resources

- `?[command]`, `help()`, `help.start()`, `help.search()`, `apropos()`
- Venables et al (20XX), *An introduction to R* (see start of notebook here)

- R reference manual (use table of contents, index, or full text search)
- Website describing tuning R code: [Efficient R programming by Gillespie & Lovelace](#)
- [Base R cheat sheet](#)

1.2 Plotting in R

Plotting is a good way to get a first impression of a dataset. It is the quickest way to get a feel of what the raw data set looks like. To do this, one needs to have some basic information like the size of a dataset, what kind of variables (continuous, discrete, categorical, binary) are in there, and what range the variables cover. After creating an appropriate plot one can get a first idea about trends, notice outliers, correlations, peaks, and what not. Since plotting is easy in R one can just experiment until one gets something reasonable.

1.2.1 Plotting commands

Conceptually, there is a hierarchy of plotting commands in R:

- **High-level plotting** functions create a new plot on the graphics device; usually with axes, labels, titles, etc.
- **Low-level plotting** functions add more information to an existing plot, such as extra points, lines, and labels
- **Interactive** graphics functions allow you to interactively add information to, or extract information from, a graphics window, using the mouse
- In **jupyter notebooks**, interactive graphics is typically not working with inline graphics; moreover, all commands for creating a plot should go into the same cell

```
[ ]: # perhaps most important: plot() for x-y-plots
x <- seq(1.0, 5.0, 0.5)
y <- x^2
plot(x,y)
```

```
[ ]: # for a line plot, specify the "type"
# one may also add color information
plot(x, y, type='l', col='red')
lines(x, 25-y, col='green')      # low level command for adding a line
                                # try also points()
```

```
[ ]: # barplots are popular in statistics
fruit <- c('apple', 'banana', 'cherry', 'pear')
amount <- c(20, 10, 70, 30)
barplot(amount, names.arg=fruit, ylab='Amount')
```

```
[ ]: # sometimes one wants this transposed
barplot(amount, names.arg=fruit, xlab='Amount', horiz=TRUE)
```

```
[ ]: # histograms are often used in statistics
x <- rnorm(5000) # create 5000 random values distributed according to a Normal
↪ (Gaussian) distribution
```

```
# Don't panic (we will cover probability distributions later)
hist(x)
```

```
[ ]: # often one wants not frequencies but the probability density
hist(x, prob=TRUE)
```

```
[ ]: # 2D plots
y <- x <- seq(-2*pi,2*pi,length.out=100)
xy <- expand.grid(x,x) # create 2D (x,y)coordinates
z <- matrix(sin(xy[,1])*cos(xy[,2]),100,100) # chess board patterns
image(x, y, z, main='False color image')
contour(x, y, z,main='Contour plot')
persp(x, y, z, theta=30, phi=45, main='3D surface plot')
```

2 Reading Data Files in R

Let us quickly see how to read data from different types of files in R, for example CSV and text files.

2.1 Reading CSV Files

CSV (Comma-Separated Values) files are a common format for storing tabular data. You can read a CSV file in R using the `read.csv()` function.

2.1.1 Example

```
“r # Reading a CSV file data <- read.csv(“path/to/your/file.csv”)
```

3 Display the first few rows of the data

```
head(data)
```

3.1 Reading Text Files

Text files can be read using the `read.table()` function. This function can handle various delimiters, such as spaces, tabs, or commas.

3.1.1 Example

```
“r # Reading a text file with space-separated values data <- read.table(“path/to/your/file.txt”,
header = TRUE)
```

4 Display the first few rows of the data

```
head(data)
```


4.1 R - keeping track of things

R (like Python) is not strictly typed. Moreover, the return type of functions in R is not always what one would expect. Hence, sometimes one is losing track what kind of variable one is working with. Some functions in R help to keep track:

<code>class()</code>	object class
<code>mode()</code>	type of object, e.g., "numeric", "function", "list"
<code>is.vector()</code> , <code>is.matrix()</code>	vector, matrix?
<code>length()</code>	length of a vector
<code>dim()</code>	dimensions of multi-D arrays
<code>names()</code> , <code>dimnames()</code>	provides/sets names in objects
<code>summary()</code>	prints summary of an object

```
[ ]: summary(fruit)
```

4.2 General remarks on programming exercises

- For each exercise, write all commands that you want to execute into one or more files, and load it/them with `source()`. In a notebook, sort things in cells.
- Name your files or notebooks in a sensible way. Examples:
 - good: `verify_central_limit_theorem.R`
 - bad: `test` (note the file extensions)
- Save and keep all the data and program files that you produce during the exercises since you may need them again in later exercises.
- Write your programs step by step. Start with the core tasks, then increase the functionality and complexity stepwise.
- During each programming step, carefully test your program. Use the `print()` and `cat()` functions to produce screen output.
- Include comments in your programs, so that after 10 years you will still be able to understand how your program works.
- I will not *immediately* help you debugging your programs; you must learn how to do this yourself. However, I will answer general questions about R, and assist with debugging in desperate cases.

```
[ ]:
```