# Introduction to Data Handling in R (BMS 109) 

Week3

## Today you will learn

- Functions in R
- Handling R objects ( variables, arrays etc..)
- Set arrays of values and access them
- Set matrix and tables
- Manipulating tables and matrix


## Quick recap of R Studio



A :Script Editor
B :Global Environment and History
C: Console

D :Everything else (e.g. file browser)

1. Open up RStudio All Programs > Rstudio
2. Maximise the RStudio window (always do this!)
3. Open last week script

## Print the values of objects

```
x <-3
y <-10
z <-15
s <-x+y+z
d<-(x-y)/z
S
cat("Ratio: ", d, "\n")
print(sq)
\(m<-x * y * z\)
v <-s^4
S
[1] 28
> cat("Ratio: ", d,"\n")
Ratio: -0.4666667
> print(paste("Multiplication: ", m))
[1] "Multiplication: 450"
> print(paste("Power of 4: \n", v))
[1] "Power of 4: \n 614656"
> print(sq)
[1] 3.464102
```

print(paste("Multiplication: ", m))
print(paste("Power of $4: \backslash n ", ~ v))$

Write these commands in the newly opened script and use comments to describe what you are doing.

## Functions

A function in $R$ is very much like a mathematical function. They (usually) takes one or more inputs, does something to them and then returns the result to us.

## my_func_name(arg1 = val1, arg2 = val2, ...)

my_func_name: the name of the function (e.g. print)
arg1: name of the first argument
val1: value of the first argument

A function may have 0, 1, or more "arguments". The arguments are the inputs (name value pairs) to the function. Remember: name on the left, value of the right.

## Examples of using functions

Variables can contain collections of letters called strings. We manipulate strings differently from how we manipulate numbers. We use commands such as paste. For example:

```
myname <- "Marta"
Greeting <- "Ciao"
#Let's join these together using R's paste function.
#Sep determines the type of separation you want.
message <- paste(Greeting,myname,sep=" ")
print(message) # Print out the message
[1] "Ciao Marta"
```


## Exercise

Write code to print your name, your email and the module code separated by a comma.

## Examples of using functions

If we want to round a number we can ask $R$ to do this. The function we would use is round()

Round needs arguments, we start with one. We give it the value 3.141593 .

```
> round(x = 3.141593)
[1] 3
>
> X
Error: object 'x' not found
```

We cam also ask $R$ for help and describe here all information about the function.

```
> ?round
round(x, digits = 0)
```

The description appears on the bottom right panel

```
round(3.141593,2)
[1] 3.14
```

You do not have to name arguments in R - it will match them up by position.

## Exercise

Using functions experiment with the following functions, use the help "?" to convince yourself you know what they do. Add comments to explain your findings:
sqrt
log
sum
seq
C
round

Hint: Don't just use whole numbers.

## Vectors

Vectors are the simplest type of "object" in R- It can be made of one or more elements ( values). Can be numerals or characters, or strings.

We use them to associate a row of values to the same name.

When we want to extract single element of the vectors we use [ ] and their position.

```
> x<-2
>x<-c(2,3)
> x
[1] 2 3
```

Now let's take a look at what the symbol :
It is used in to build a sequence of number and it is frequently used in vectors.

```
>1:15
```

[1] 123456789101112131415

We have build a sequence of 15 numbers

## Vectors (cont ...)

You can assign a set of values to an object and this can be in the form of a row of values (vector) or a table (matrix). For example to build a vector with numbers from 1 to 10 we can use any of the following methods:

```
x <- 1:10
x <- seq(1,10,by=1)
x <- seq(length=10,from=1,by=1)
x <- c(1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10) # c = concatenate
```

You can generate random sequences of number using commands like sample(), runif() and rnorm().

The first one just creates a vector of random numbers
The second function creates a vector of uniformly distributed random numbers The third function creates a vector of normally distributed random numbers

The function length ( x ) gives you the length of the vector It is very useful,

## Vectors (cont...)

## Exercise:

Explore the sampling functions sample(), runif () and rnorm() to create a sequence of 10 random integers from 1:100. Use the comments to describe briefly what you are doing and assign the outputs of the functions to variables $x, y, z$ respectively. For example you can use

```
x<-sample(1:100, 10, replace=TRUE)
y<-runif(10,min=1,max=10)
z<- rnorm(10,mean=0,sd=1)
x
y
z
> x
    [1] 64 97 36 35 82 25 45 92 6 6 8
> y
    [1] 2.817598 9.572927 5.784630 4.687285 7.461036 1.305383 4.009328
8.185989 2.789331 2.984100
> z
    [1] -0.2387676 0.6077371 -0.2714998 -1.1619429 -0.5161393
-0.2406907 -1.5376712 -0.8294226
    [9] -1.4247751 0.8918644
```


## Vectors (cont...)

We access elements of a vector using the [ ] brackets and the position of the elements we want.

For example if we want the fourth element of x we write:

```
> x[4]
[1] 52
```


## Exercise

Get the first, the second and the forth element of $y$

```
> x[c(1,2,4)]
[1] 9 27 52
```

Get the even elements of $z$ ( hints: you can write a vector of even numbers in 1:10 or use the seq $(2,10)$ specify by=2

```
> index<- seq(2,10,by=2)
> z[index]
[1] -0.2387676 -0.2714998 -0.5161393 -1.5376712
-1.4247751
```


## Matrix and tables

Often we need to organise our data in a table with rows and columns. Vectors of rows and columns are called matrix.

We more often use the command matrix( ), to create a matrix or rearrange a set of data. matrix() needs the data, nrow, ncol. For example:

```
M<- matrix( x, nrow = 2, ncol = 5)
M
[1,] 64 36 82 45 6
[2,]
```

We can index the elements of $M$ in the same way we used for vectors. The only difference: now we need two indices in the square brackets [ , ], because M is twodimensional. The first index corresponds to the rows, the second to the columns.

## Matrix and tables(cont...)

Create new matrix called M1 of 20 elements with nrows $=4$, ncol=5

```
M1<- matrix(1:20,nrow=4,ncol=5)
M1
\begin{tabular}{cccccc} 
& {\([, 1]\)} & {\([, 2]\)} & {\([, 3]\)} & {\([, 4]\)} & {\([, 5]\)} \\
{\([1]\),} & 1 & 5 & 9 & 13 & 17 \\
{\([2]\),} & 2 & 6 & 10 & 14 & 18 \\
{\([3]\),} & 3 & 7 & 11 & 15 & 19 \\
{\([4]\),} & 4 & 8 & 12 & 16 & 20
\end{tabular}
```

We access elements of the matrix specifying the two indices. For example to the element on second row and third column
M1 [2,3]
We can also access more than one element with the function $c()$

```
> M1[c(1,3,4),4]
[1] 13 15 16
```


## Matrix and tables(cont...)

We also can skip a whole column and/or row by using the index with the minus sign. For example if we want to skip the third column we can write

```
>M2<- M1[,-3]
M2
\begin{tabular}{lrrrr} 
& {\([, 1]\)} & {\([, 2]\)} & {\([, 3]\)} & {\([, 4]\)} \\
{\([1]\),} & 1 & 5 & 13 & 17 \\
{\([2]\),} & 2 & 6 & 14 & 18 \\
{\([3]\),} & 3 & 7 & 15 & 19 \\
{\([4]\),} & 4 & 8 & 16 & 20
\end{tabular}
```

What are the dimensions of M 2 ?
Use $\operatorname{dim}(\mathrm{M} 2)$ to discover them. Very useful function.

```
> dim(M2)
[1] 4 4
```


## Exercise

Create from the matrix M1 new sub-matrices using the instruction below. Assign new names to each sub-matrix and find the their dimensions:

- The $2 \times 2$ matrix forming the first two row and the first two column
- The first two rows with all columns
- Second column missing
- The first two row and the 4 with third column missing


## Solutions

- The $2 \times 2$ matrix forming the first two row and the first two column

```
> M3<-M1[1:2,1:2]
> dim(M3)
[1] 2 2
```

- The first two rows with all columns

```
> M4<- M1[1:2,]
> dim(M4)
[1] 2 5
```

- Second column missing

```
> M5<- M1[-2,]
> dim(M5)
[1] 3 5
```

- The first two row and the 4 with third column missing

```
> M6<-M1[c(1,2,4),-3]
> dim(M6)
[1] 3 4
```


## Before you go

Comment well your script.

Save your .R file

Close Rstudio

Log off

