

8.1: Starting...

If you download your data file from Internet, go to the [read.table\(\)](#) step. Otherwise, proceed as described.

Create the working directory on the disk (using only lowercase English letters, numbers and underscore symbols for the name); inside working directory, create the directory [data](#). Copy into it the data file with [*.txt](#) extension and [Tab](#) delimiter into it (this file could be made in Excel or similar via [Save as...](#)). Name file as [bugs.txt](#).

Open R. Using [setwd\(\)](#) command (with the full path and / slashes as argument), change working directory to the directory where [bugs.txt](#) is located.

To check location, type

... and press [ENTER](#) key (press it on the end of every command). Among other, this command should output the name of file, [bugs.txt](#).

Now read the data file and create in R memory the object data which will be the working copy of the data file. Type:

If you use online approach, replace [data](#) with URL (see the foreword).

Look on the data file:

Attention! If anything looks wrong, note that it is not quite handy to change data from inside R. The more sensible approach is to change the initial text file (for example, in Excel) and then [read.table\(\)](#) it from disk again.

Look on the data structure: how many characters (variables, columns), how many observations, what are names of characters and what is their type and order:

Please note that [SEX](#) and [COLOR](#) are represented with numbers whereas they are categorical variables.

Create new object which contains data only about females ([SEX](#) is 0):

Now—the object containing data about big (more than 10 mm) males:

By the way, this command is easier not to type but create from the previous command (this way is preferable in R). To repeat the previous command, press “↑” key on the keyboard.

“==” and “&” are logical statements “equal to” and “and”, respectively. They were used for *data selection*. Selection also requires square brackets, and if the data is tabular (like our data), there should be a comma inside square brackets which separates statements about rows from statements concerning columns.

Add new character (columns) to the data file: the relative weight of bug (the ratio between weight and length)—[WEIGHT.R](#):

Check new character using [str\(\)](#) (use “↑”!)

This new character was added only to the memory copy of your data file. It will disappear when you close R. You may want to save new version of the data file under the new name [bugs_new.txt](#) in your data subdirectory:

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