

3.4: Variables

A *variable* is a symbol that stands for another value (just like “X” in algebra). We can create a variable by assigning a value to it using the `<-` operator. If we then type the name of the variable R will print out its value.

```
> x <- 4
> x
[1] 4
```

The variable now stands for the value that it contains, so we can perform operations on it and get the same answer as if we used the value itself.

```
> x + 3
[1] 7
> x == 5
[1] FALSE
```

We can change the value of a variable by simply assigning a new value to it.

```
> x <- x + 1
> x
[1] 5
```

A note: You can also use the equals sign `=` instead of the `<-`

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