

How can I handle the error “object of type ‘closure’ is not subsettable” in R?

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The error "object of type 'closure' is not subsettable" in R typically occurs when trying to subset or access elements of a function instead of a data object. This error can be handled by carefully checking the code for any functions that may be mistakenly used as data objects and replacing them with the appropriate data objects. Additionally, using proper debugging techniques, such as using the print or debug functions, can help identify and resolve the issue causing the error. It is also important to ensure that all necessary packages and libraries are loaded before running the code. Overall, handling this error requires thorough examination of the code and making necessary adjustments to ensure proper functioning.

Handle in R: object of type 'closure' is not subsettable

One error you may encounter in R is:

object of type 'closure' is not subsettable

This error occurs when you attempt to subset a function.

In R, it's possible to subset lists, vectors, matrices, and data frames, but a function has the type 'closure' which cannot be subsetted.

This tutorial shares exactly how to address this error.

How to Reproduce the Error

Suppose we create the following function in R that takes each value in a vector and multiplies it by 5:

#define function

```
cool_function <- function(x) {  
  x <- x*5  
  return(x)  
}
```

Here's how we might use this function in practice:

#define data

```
data <- c(2, 3, 3, 4, 5, 5, 6, 9)
```

#apply function to data

```
cool_function(data)
```

```
10 15 15 20 25 25 30 45
```

Notice that each value in the original vector was multiplied by 5.

Now suppose we attempted to subset the function:

#attempt to get first element of function

```
cool_function
```

Error in cool_function : object of type 'closure' is not

subsettable

We receive an error because it's not possible to subset an object of type 'closure' in R.

We can use the following syntax to verify that the function is indeed of the type 'closure':

```
#print object type of function  
typeof(cool_function)
```

```
"closure"
```

More Examples of 'Closure' Objects

```
#attempt to subset mean function  
mean
```

```
Error in mean : object of type 'closure' is not  
subsettable
```

```
#attempt to subset standard deviation function  
sd
```

```
Error in sd : object of type 'closure' is not subsettable
```

```
#attempt to subset table function  
tbl[d
```

Error in table : object of type 'closure' is not subsettable

How to Address the Error

The way to address this error is to simply avoid subsetting a function.

For example, if we'd like to apply our cool_function from earlier to only the first element in a vector, we can use the following syntax:

```
#apply function to just first element in vector  
cool_function(data)
```

10

We don't receive an error because we subsetted the vector instead of the function.

Or we could apply the cool_function to the entire vector:

```
#apply function to every element in vector
```

cool_function(data)

10 15 15 20 25 25 30 45

We don't receive an error because we didn't attempt to subset the function in any way.

The following tutorials explain how to address other common errors in R:

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