

How can I rename factor levels in R, and what are some examples of how to do so?

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Renaming factor levels in R refers to the process of changing the categories or labels associated with the levels of a factor variable. This can be useful for creating more meaningful or descriptive labels, or for standardizing the levels across multiple variables. To rename factor levels in R, the "levels" function can be used to assign a vector of new labels to the existing levels. Alternatively, the "relevel" function can be used to reorder the levels and assign new labels at the same time. Examples of renaming factor levels in R include converting numerical levels to corresponding text labels, changing abbreviations to full names, or combining multiple levels into a single category. By utilizing these functions, users can easily customize their factor levels to better suit their data and analysis needs.

Rename Factor Levels in R (With Examples)

There are two methods you can use to rename factor levels in R:

Method 1: Use levels() from Base R

```
levels(df$col_name) <- c('new_name1', 'new_name2',  
'new_name3')
```

Method 2: Use recode() from dplyr package

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
data$col_name <- recode(data$col_name, name1 =  
'new_name1',  
name2 = 'new_name2',  
name3 = 'new_name3')
```

The following examples show how to use each of these methods in practice.

Method 1: Use levels() Function

Suppose we have the following data frame in R:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(conf = factor(c('North', 'East', 'South',  
'West'))),
```

```
points = c(34, 55, 41, 28))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
conf points
```

```
1 North 34
```

```
2 East 55
```

```
3 South 41
```

```
4 West 28
```

```
#view levels of 'conf' variable
```

```
levels(df$conf)
```

```
"East" "North" "South" "West"
```

The following code shows how to rename one factor level by name using the `levels()` function:

```
#rename just 'North' factor level
```

```
levels(df$conf) <- 'N'
```

```
#view levels of 'conf' variable
```

```
levels(df$conf)
```

```
"East" "N" "South" "West"
```

And the following code shows how to rename every factor level:

```
#rename every factor level
```

```
levels(df$conf) <- c('N', 'E', 'S', 'W')
```

```
#view levels of 'conf' variable
```

```
levels(df$conf)
```

```
"N" "E" "S" "W"
```

Example 2: Use `recode()` Function

The following code shows how to use the `recode()` function from the `dplyr` package to rename factor levels:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(conf = factor(c('North', 'East', 'South',  
'West'))),  
points = c(34, 55, 41, 28))
```

```
#recode factor levels
```

```
df$conf <- recode(df$conf, North = 'N',  
East = 'E',  
South = 'S',  
West = 'W')
```

```
levels(df$conf)
```

```
"E" "N" "S" "W"
```

Note: You can find the complete documentation for the `recode()` function .