

How can I use the sub() function in R, and what are some examples of its usage?

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The `sub()` function in R is a powerful tool that allows users to substitute specific elements within a string or vector with new values. It is often used in data manipulation and cleaning tasks, as well as in text processing. To use the `sub()` function, users need to specify the target string, the pattern to be replaced, and the replacement value. Some examples of its usage include removing unwanted characters, correcting spelling errors, and replacing missing values. Overall, the `sub()` function in R provides users with a convenient way to modify and transform data, making it a valuable tool for data analysis and manipulation tasks.

Use sub() Function in R (With Examples)

The `sub()` function in R can be used to replace the first occurrence of certain text within a string in R.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
sub(pattern, replacement, x)
```

where:

pattern: The pattern to look for
replacement: The replacement for the pattern
x: The string to search

The following examples show how to use this function in practice.

Note: To replace all occurrences of certain text in a string, use the `gsub()` function instead.

Example 1: Replace One Specific Text in String

The following code shows how to replace the text "cool" with "nice" in a string in R:

```
#create string  
my_string <- 'This is a cool string'  
  
#replace 'cool' with 'nice'  
my_string <- sub('cool', 'nice', my_string)  
  
#view updated string  
my_string  
  
"This is a nice string"
```

Notice that "cool" has been replaced with "nice" in the string.

Example 2: Replace One of Several Specific Texts in String

The following code shows how to replace the texts "zebra", "walrus", and "peacock" with "dog" if any of them occur in a string:

```
#create string
```

```
my_string <- 'My favorite animal is a walrus'
```

```
#replace either zebra, walrus, or peacock with dog
```

```
my_string <- sub('zebra|walrus|peacock', 'dog',  
my_string)
```

```
#view updated string
```

```
my_string
```

```
"My favorite animal is a dog"
```

Notice that "walrus" has been replaced with "dog" in the string.

Note: The | operator stands for "OR" in R.

Example 3: Replace Numeric Values in String

```
#create string
```

```
my_string <- 'There are 400 dogs out here'
```

```
#replace numeric values with 'a lot'
```

```
my_string <- sub('[0-9]+', 'a lot of', my_string)
```

```
#view updated string
```

```
my_string
```

"There are a lot of dogs out here"

Notice that the numeric value of 400 has been replaced with "a lot" in the string.

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