How can the read.delim function be used in R?

Authored by

stats writer

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The read.delim function in R is a useful tool for reading and importing tabular data from external sources into R. This function is specifically designed to read in data from delimited text files, where data is separated into columns by a specific delimiter (such as a comma or tab). By specifying the appropriate file name and delimiter, the read.delim function can efficiently and accurately import data into R, creating a data frame object that can be further manipulated and analyzed. This makes it a valuable function for data scientists and analysts who need to work with data from various sources in their R programming projects.

Use read.delim Function in R

You can use the read.delim() function to read delimited text files into R.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

read.delim(file, header=TRUE, sep='t')

where:

file: The file location.header: Whether the first line represents the header of the table. Default is TRUE.sep: The table delimiter. Default is tab (t).

The following example shows how to use this function in practice.

Example: How to Use read.delim in R

First, let's create a data frame in R:

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```
#create data frame
df <- data.frame(team=c('Mavs', 'Mavs', 'Spurs', 'Nets'),
points=c(99, 90, 84, 96),
assists=c(22, 19, 16, 20),
rebounds=c(30, 39, 42, 26))

#view data frame
df

team points assists rebounds
1 Mavs 99 22 30
2 Mavs 90 19 39
3 Spurs 84 16 42
4 Nets 96 20 26
```

Next, let's use the write.table() function to export the data frame to a tab-delimited text file:

```
#export to tab-delimited text file
write.table(df, 'my_data.txt', quote=FALSE, sep='t',
row.names=FALSE)
```

I can then navigate to the location where I exported the data and view the text file:

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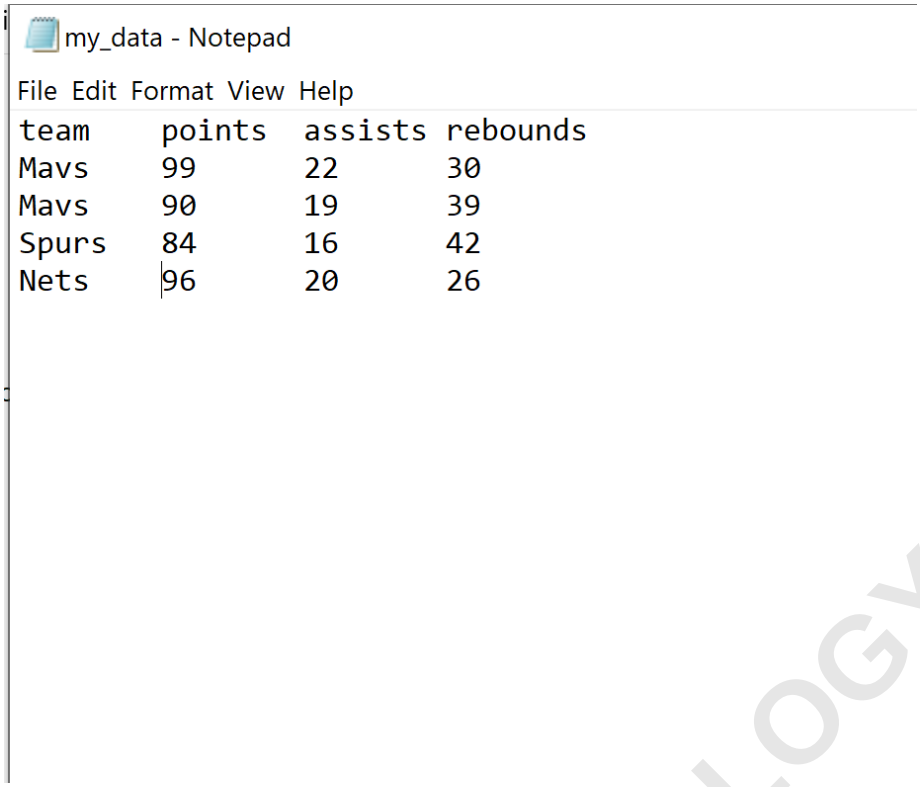

I can then use the read.delim() function to read in the text file:

#read in tab-delimited text file
my_df <- read.delim('my_data.txt')

#view data
my_df
team points assists rebounds
1 Mavs 99 22 30
2 Mavs 90 19 39
3 Spurs 84 16 42

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4 Nets 96 20 26

The data frame matches the data frame that we created earlier.

Note that the default table delimiter for the read.delim() function is a tab (t).

#read in tab-delimited text file
my_df <- read.delim('my_data.txt', sep='t')

#view data
my_df
team points assists rebounds
1 Mavs 99 22 30
2 Mavs 90 19 39
3 Spurs 84 16 42
4 Nets 96 20 26

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Notes on Using read.delim()

Note that you can use the getwd() function to get the current working directory to find where the first data frame was exported to.

You can also use the setwd() function if you'd like to

change the location of the current working directory.

The following tutorials explain how to import other types of files into R:

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