

# How to Easily Calculate the Mode in R

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The mode in R is the most frequently occurring value in a vector. To calculate the mode in R, you can use the `table()` or `findMode()` functions. The `table()` function creates a frequency table of the data set and then the `max()` function can be used to identify the most frequent value. The `findMode()` function is a convenient command that does all of this in one line of code. Examples are included to help show how these functions can be used to calculate the mode.

The of a dataset represents the most frequently occurring value.

In any given dataset, there can be no mode, one mode, or multiple modes.

The statistical software R does not have a built-in function to calculate the mode of a dataset, but you can use the following function to calculate the mode:

```
find_mode <- function(x) {  
  u <- unique(x)  
  tab <- tabulate(match(x, u))  
  u  
}
```

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

### Example 1: Calculating the Mode of A Numeric Vector

The following code shows how to use this function to calculate the mode of a numeric vector

```
#define function to calculate mode  
find_mode <- function(x) {  
  u <- unique(x)  
  tab <- tabulate(match(x, u))  
  u  
}  
  
#define numeric vector  
data <- c(1, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 6)  
  
#find mode  
find_mode(data)  
  
4
```

The mode of the dataset turns out to be **4**. This is the number that occurs most frequently.

Note that we can also use this function when there are multiple modes in a dataset:

```
#define function to calculate mode
```

```
find_mode <- function(x) {
```

```
  u <- unique(x)
```

```
  tab <- tabulate(match(x, u))
```

```
  u
```

```
}
```

```
#define numeric vector with multiple modes
```

```
data <- c(1, 2, 2, 2, 2, 3, 4, 4, 4, 4, 5, 6)
```

```
#find mode
```

```
find_mode(data)
```

```
2 4
```

The modes of the dataset are **2** and **4**. Both of these numbers occur most frequently.

## Example 2: Calculating the Mode of a Character Vector

This function can also be used to calculate the mode of a character vector:

```
#define function to calculate mode
```

```
find_mode <- function(x) {
```

```
  u <- unique(x)
```

```
  tab <- tabulate(match(x, u))
```

```
  u
```

```
}
```

```
#define character vector
```

```
data <- c('Sunny', 'Cloudy', 'Sunny', 'Sunny', 'Rainy', 'Cloudy')
```

```
#find mode
```

```
find_mode(data)
```

```
"Sunny"
```

The mode turns out to be "Sunny" - this is the string that occurs most often in the vector.