

Is there a way to check if a specific character is present in a string in R programming language?

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The question "Is there a way to check if a specific character is present in a string in R programming language?" refers to the ability to determine whether a particular character exists within a given string using the R programming language. This can be useful for various data analysis and manipulation tasks, as it allows for the identification and manipulation of specific characters within a larger body of text.

R: Check if Character is in String

You can use the following methods to check if a character is in a string in R:

Method 1: Check if Character is in String Using Base R

```
grepl(my_character, my_string, fixed=TRUE)
```

Method 2: Check if Character is in String Using stringr Package

```
library(stringr)
```

```
str_detect(my_string, my_character)
```

The following examples show how to use each method in practice.

Example 1: Check if Character is in String Using Base R

The following code shows how to check if "Doug"

exists in a particular string in R:

#define character to look for

my_character <- "Doug"

#define string

my_string <- Hey my name is Douglas"

#check if "Doug" is in string

grepl(my_character, my_string, fixed=TRUE)

TRUE

Since "Doug" does exist in the string, the grepl() function returns TRUE.

Suppose we instead check if "Steve" exists in the string:

#define character to look for

my_character <- "Steve"

#define string

my_string <- Hey my name is Douglas"

#check if "Steve" is in string

```
grepl(my_character, my_string, fixed=TRUE)
```

FALSE

Since "Steve" does not exist in the string, the `grepl()` function returns **FALSE**.

Example 2: Check if Character is in String Using stringr Package

The following code shows how to use the `str_detect()` function from the `stringr` package to check if the string "Doug" exists in a particular string:

```
library(stringr)
```

```
#define character to look for
```

```
my_character <- "Doug"
```

```
#define string
```

```
my_string <- "Hey my name is Douglas"
```

```
#check if "Doug" is in string
```

```
str_detect(my_string, my_character)
```

TRUE

The `str_detect()` function returns TRUE since "Doug" is in the string.

```
library(stringr)
```

```
#define vector of characters to look for
```

```
my_characters <- c("Doug", "Steve", "name", "He")
```

```
#define string
```

```
my_string <- "Hey my name is Douglas"
```

```
#check if each character is in string
```

```
str_detect(my_string, my_characters)
```

```
TRUE FALSE TRUE TRUE
```

From the output we can see:

"Doug" exists in the string. "Steve" does not exist in the string. "name" exists in the string. "He" exists in the string.

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