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Data types and import into R

Theory **R functions** Examples Exercise 

R functions

- **read.table** - reads table in a plain text with cells delimited by some symbol (default setting for delimiter is `sep = ""`, i.e. one or more white spaces, tabs, newlines or returns).
- **read.delim** - reads table delimited by tabulators.
- **read.csv** - reads table delimited by commas (,), with decimals being dots (.).
- **read.csv2** - reads table delimited by semicolons (;) and decimals being commas (,).
- **read.cep (library vegan)** - reads legacy *canoco condensed files* (usually with extension *.cep or *.cc!); the function can get quite slow for large datasets - if the speed is an issue, consider using `readCEP` from `cepreader` package (also maintained by Jari Oksanen)
- **read.CEP (library rioja)** the same as `read.cep` from `vegan` and `readCEP` from `cepreader`; the package `rioja` has also function `write.CEP` producing cep files.

Note that by default, functions like `read.table`, `read.delim`, `read.csv` and `read.csv2` import the columns containing characters strings into R as factors. If you don't like this behaviour, change the setting of `stringsAsFactors` argument into `FALSE`. If you want to know why this behaviour is set to default, read [this blog post](#).

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<https://anadat-r.davidzeleny.net/> - **Analysis of community ecology data in R**

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