

R Drop Columns in Dataframe

In this tutorial, we will learn how to delete or drop a column or multiple columns from a dataframe in R programming with examples.

You cannot actually delete a column, but you can access a dataframe without some columns specified by negative index. This is also called subsetting in R programming.

To delete a column, provide the column number as index to the Dataframe. The syntax is shown below:

```
mydataframe[-  
c(column_index_1,  
  
mydataframe[-c(column_index_1, column_index_2)]
```

where

- `mydataframe` is the dataframe.
- `column_index_1, column_index_2, ...` are the comma separated indices which should be removed in the resulting dataframe.

Example: Drop Column from Dataframe

Let us create a dataframe, DF1

```
> DF1 =  
data.frame(V1=c(1, 5,  
  
> DF1 = data.frame(V1= c(1, 5, 14, 23, 54), V2= c(9, 15, 85, 3, 42), V3= c(9, 7, 42, 87, 16))  
> DF1  
  V1 V2 V3  
1  1  9  9  
2  5 15  7  
3 14 85 42  
4 23  3 87  
5 54 42 16  
>
```

Let us assume that we need `DF1` with `V2` column deleted. The index of `V2` column is 2. Now, we will access this dataframe with a negative index and store the result in another Dataframe `DF2`.

```
> DF2 = DF1[-2]  
> DF2
```

```

> DF2 = DF1[-2]
> DF2
  V1 V3
1 1 9
2 5 7
3 14 42
4 23 87
5 54 16
>

```

Viola. We have created a new dataframe with a column deleted from the previous dataframe.

Example: Delete Multiple Columns from Dataframe

Let us create a dataframe, DF1

```

> DF1 =
data.frame(V1= c(1, 5, 14, 23, 54), V2= c(9, 15, 85, 3, 42), V3= c(9, 7, 42, 87, 16), V4= c(17, 25, 14, 23, 54), V5= c(17, 25, 14, 23, 54), V6= c(17, 25, 14, 23, 54))
> DF1
  V1 V2 V3 V4 V5 V6
1 1 9 9 17 9 9
2 5 15 7 25 15 75
3 14 85 42 14 85 4
4 23 3 87 23 43 7
5 54 42 16 54 2 6
>

```

Let us assume that we need `DF1` with `V2` and `V3` deleted. The index of `V2` is 2 and `V3` is 3. Now, we will access this dataframe with a vector of negative indices and store the result in another Dataframe `DF2`.

```

> DF2 = DF1[c(-2,-3)]
> DF2

```

```
> DF2 = DF1[c(-2,-3)]
> DF2
  V1 V4 V5 V6
1  1 17  9  9
2  5 25 15 75
3 14 14 85  4
4 23 23 43  7
5 54 54  2  6
>
```

Viola. We have created a new dataframe with multiple columns deleted from the previous dataframe.

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