



CHARLOTTE WICKHAM

---

# SOLVING ITERATION PROBLEMS WITH PURRR

## GETTING SETUP

1. Download slides @ [bit.ly/purrr-cascadia](https://bit.ly/purrr-cascadia)

2. Check you have packages:

```
library(tidyverse)
library(repurrrsive) # devtools::install_github("jennybc/repurrrsive")
```

## GETTING HELP

1. Your neighbors!

2. TAs

3. Slack: <http://bit.ly/cascadiarconf> For this workshop use #purrr channel

SOLVE ITERATION PROBLEMS

FOR EACH \_\_\_\_\_ DO \_\_\_\_\_

You are already solving them:

copy & paste, for loops, (l/s)apply()

I'll show you an alternative purrr::map() & friends

Download slides @ [bit.ly/purrr-cascadia](https://bit.ly/purrr-cascadia)

```
library(repurrrsive)
```

```
# includes objects: sw_films, sw_people, sw_vehicles,  
# sw_starships, sw_planets & sw_species
```

1. How many elements are in `sw_people`?
2. Who is the first person listed in `sw_people`? What information is given for this person?
3. What is the difference between `sw_people[1]` and `sw_people[[1]]`?

**BEWARE!**  
**ANSWERS ON FOLLOWING SLIDE**

```
length(sw_people)
## [1] 87
```

```
sw_people[[1]]
## $name
## [1] "Luke Skywalker"
##
## $height
## [1] "172"
##
## $mass
## [1] "77"
##
## $hair_color
## [1] "blond"
##
## $skin_color
## [1] "fair"
##
## $eye_color
## [1] "blue"
##
## $birth_year
## [1] "19BBY"
##
## $gender
## [1] "male"
##
## $homeworld
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/planets/1/"
##
```

```
## $films
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/films/6/"
## [2] "http://swapi.co/api/films/3/"
## [3] "http://swapi.co/api/films/2/"
## [4] "http://swapi.co/api/films/1/"
## [5] "http://swapi.co/api/films/7/"
##
## $species
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/species/1/"
##
## $vehicles
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/vehicles/14/"
## [2] "http://swapi.co/api/vehicles/30/"
##
## $starships
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/starships/12/"
## [2] "http://swapi.co/api/starships/22/"
##
## $created
## [1] "2014-12-09T13:50:51.644000Z"
##
## $edited
## [1] "2014-12-20T21:17:56.891000Z"
##
## $url
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/people/1/"
```







**map()**

```
map( .x, .f, ... )
```

for each element of .x do .f

.x

- ▶ a vector
- ▶ a list
- ▶ a data frame (for each column)

.f

We'll get to that...



# HOW MANY STARSHIPS HAS EACH CHARACTER BEEN IN?

for each person in `sw_people`, count the number of starships

```
map(sw_people, ____)
```

## STRATEGY

1. Do it for one element
2. Turn it into a recipe
3. Use `map()` to do it for all elements

```
luke <- sw_people[[1]]
```

## HOW MANY STARSHIPS HAS LUKE BEEN IN?

Write a line of code to find out.

Bored? Find the names of those starships...

# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
luke <- sw_people[[1]]
```

```
length(luke$starships)
```



# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
luke <- sw_people[[1]]
```

```
length(luke$starships)
```

# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
leia <- sw_people[[5]]
```

```
length(leia$starships)
```

# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
_____ <- sw_people[[?]]
```

```
length(_____ $starships)
```



# TURN IT INTO A RECIPE

Make it a formula

Use .x as a pronoun

~ length(      **.x**\$starships)

A formula

purrr's "pronoun" for  
one element of our vector

# DO IT FOR ALL!

Your recipe is the second argument to map

```
map( sw_people, le  
  ~ length( .x$starships) )
```

A formula

purrr's "pronoun" for  
one element of our vector

```
map(sw_people, ~ length(.x$starships))
```

Copy and paste ME.



Create planet\_lookup (ignore details for now):

```
planet_lookup <- map_chr(sw_planets, "name") %>%  
  set_names(map_chr(sw_planets, "url"))  
planet_lookup
```

## FIND THE NAME OF EACH CHARACTERS HOME WORLD.

Bored? Find the body mass index (BMI) of all characters.

$$\text{bmi} = (\text{mass in kg}) / ((\text{height in m})^2)$$

```
luke$homeworld
```

```
## [1] "http://swapi.co/api/planets/1/"
```

```
planet_lookup[luke$homeworld]
```

```
## http://swapi.co/api/planets/1/
```

```
## "Tatooine"
```

```
map(sw_people, ~ planet_lookup[.x$homeworld])
```

```
## [[1]]
```

```
## http://swapi.co/api/planets/1/
```

```
## "Tatooine"
```

```
## [[2]]
```

```
## http://swapi.co/api/planets/1/
```

```
## "Tatooine"
```

```
## [[3]]
```

```
## http://swapi.co/api/planets/8/
```

```
## "Naboo"
```

```
...
```





ARE YOU PURRRRING YET?



# ROAD<sub>map()</sub>

map\_lgl( .x, .f, ... )

Other types of output

Other ways of specifying .f

Other iteration functions

# ROAD<sub>map()</sub>

map( .x, length, ... )

Other types of output

Other ways of specifying .f

Other iteration functions

# ROAD<sub>map()</sub>

map2( *.x*, *.y*, *.f*, ... )

Other types of output

Other ways of specifying *.f*

Other iteration functions

# map() details

`map()` **always** returns a list

## SIMPLER OUTPUT:

`map_lgl()` **logical** vector

`map_int()` **integer** vector

`map_dbl()` **double** vector

`map_chr()` **character** vector

`walk()` - when you want nothing at all,  
use a function for its side effects

**Result:** **No surprises!**

vector same length as `.x` or an ERROR



```
# names can be useful  
sw_people <- sw_people %>% set_names(map_chr(sw_people, "name"))
```

## REPLACE `map()` WITH THE APPROPRIATELY TYPED FUNCTION

```
# How many starships has each character been in?  
map(sw_people, ~ length(.x[["starships"]]))
```

```
# What color is each character's hair?  
map(sw_people, ~ .x[["hair_color"]])
```

```
# Is the character male?  
map(sw_people, ~ .x[["gender"]] == "male")
```

```
# How heavy is each character?  
map(sw_people, ~ .x[["mass"]])
```

```
# How many starships has each character been in?
```

```
map_int(sw_people, ~ length(.x[["starships"]]))
```

```
##      Luke Skywalker  C-3PO  R2-D2  Darth Vader
##              2      0      0              1  ...
```

```
# What color is each character's hair?
```

```
map_chr(sw_people, ~ .x[["hair_color"]])
```

```
##      Luke Skywalker  C-3PO  R2-D2  Darth Vader
##           "blond"    "n/a"   "n/a"           "none" ...
```

```
# Is the character male?
```

```
map_lgl(sw_people, ~ .x[["gender"]] == "male")
```

```
##      Luke Skywalker  C-3PO  R2-D2  Darth Vader
##           TRUE      FALSE  FALSE           TRUE ...
```

```
# How heavy is each character?
```

```
map_dbl(sw_people, ~ .x[["mass"]])
```

```
## Error: Can't coerce element 1 from a character to a double
```

```
# Doesn't work...because we get a string back
```

```
map(sw_people, ~ .x[["mass"]])
```

```
## [[1]]
```

```
## [1] "77"
```

```
##
```

```
## [[2]]
```

```
## [1] "75"
```

```
...
```

```
# A little risky
```

```
map_dbl(sw_people, ~ as.numeric(.x[["mass"]]))
```

```
## [1]  77.0   75.0   32.0  136.0  49.0 120.0   75.0   32.0   84.0
```

```
## ...
```

```
## There were 29 warnings (use warnings() to see them)
```

```
# Probably want something like:
```

```
map_chr(sw_people, ~ .x[["mass"]]) %>%
```

```
  readr::parse_number(na = "unknown")
```

```
## [1]  77.0   75.0   32.0  136.0  49.0 120.0   75.0   32.0   84.0
```

```
## ...
```

## . f CAN BE A FORMULA

`map(.x, .f = ~ DO SOMETHING WITH .x)`

```
map_int(sw_people, ~ length(.x[["starships"]]))
```

```
map_chr(sw_people, ~ .x[["hair_color"]])
```

```
map_chr(sw_people, ~ .x[["mass"]])
```

# .f CAN BE A STRING OR INTEGER

For each element, extract the named/numbered element

```
map(.x, .f = "some_name")
```

equivalent to

```
map(.x, ~ .x[["some_name"]])
```



# .f CAN BE A STRING OR INTEGER

For each element, extract the named/numbered element

```
map(.x, .f = some_number )
```

equivalent to

```
map(.x, ~ .x[[some_number]])
```

```
map_chr(sw_people, ~ .x[["hair_color"]])
```

# becomes

```
map_chr(sw_people, "hair_color")
```

# .f CAN BE A FUNCTION

`map(.x, .f = some_function, ...)`

equivalent to

`map(.x, ~ some_function(.x, ...))`

gets passed on to .f

```
char_starships <- map(sw_people, "starships")  
map_int(char_starships, length)
```

```
# In one go  
map(sw_people, "starships") %>% map_int(length)
```

```
# also equivalent to  
map_int(sw_people, ~ length(.x[["starships"]]))
```

don't be afraid to do things in  
little steps and pipe them  
together

## FROM EARLIER...

Create planet\_lookup ~~(ignore details for now)~~:

```
planet_lookup <- map_chr(sw_planets, "name") %>%
```

```
  set_names(map_chr(sw_planets, "url"))
```

```
planet_lookup
```

```
x %>% set_names(y)
```

equivalent to

```
names(x) <- y
```

```
x
```

## WHAT ABOUT `sapply()` & `lapply()`?

What type of object does `sapply()` return? It depends.

Motivation for `purrr`:

- consistent return type,
- useful shortcuts,
- consistent syntax for more complicated iteration

## STAR WARS CHALLENGES

Which film (see `sw_films`) has the most characters?

Which `sw_species` has the most possible eye colors?

Which `sw_planets` do we know the least about (i.e. have the most "unknown" entries)?

**BREAK?**

```
# Which film (see sw_films) has the most characters?  
map(sw_films, "characters") %>%  
  map_int(length) %>%  
  set_names(map_chr(sw_films, "title")) %>%  
  sort()
```



```
# Which species has the most possible eye colors?
```

```
sw_species[[1]]$eye_colors
```

```
map_chr(sw_species, "eye_colors") %>%
```

```
  strsplit(",", "") %>%
```

```
  map_int(length)
```

```
# this is lazy, what about n/a and unknown?
```

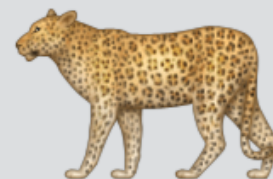
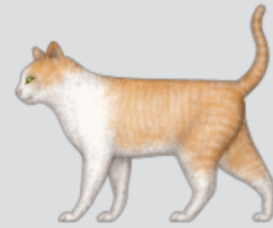
**More iteration  
functions**

to each element of .x apply .f

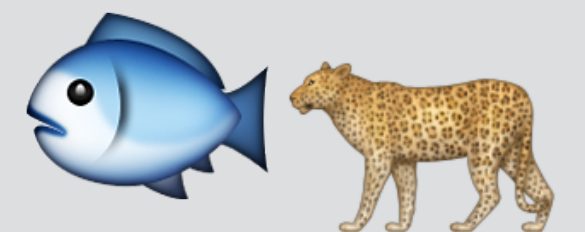
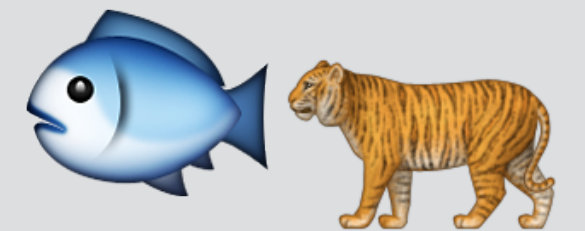
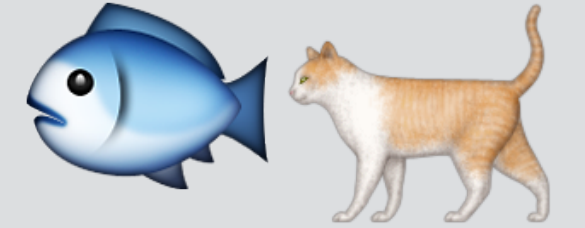
map( .x , .f )

to each `cat` apply `give_fish`

`map(`



`, give_fish)`






to each element of .x apply .f

`walk( .x , .f )`

Expect nothing in return

You actually get .x invisibly back,  
good for piping

to each **cat** apply **love**

walk(  , love )

Expect nothing in return

You actually get .x invisibly back,  
good for piping

For functions called for their side effects:

- ▶ printing to screen
- ▶ plotting to graphics device
- ▶ file manipulation (saving, writing, moving etc.)
- ▶ system calls

to each element of `.x` and corresponding element of `.y` apply `.f`

```
map2( .x , .y , .f )
```

to each **cat** and corresponding **times** apply **rep**

map2(



,

3

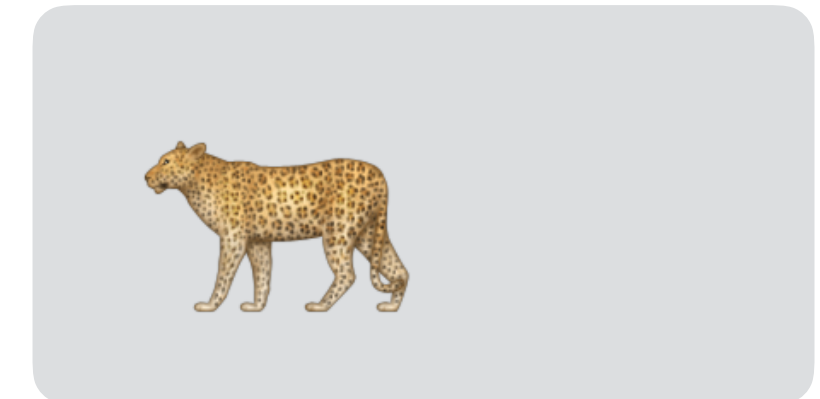
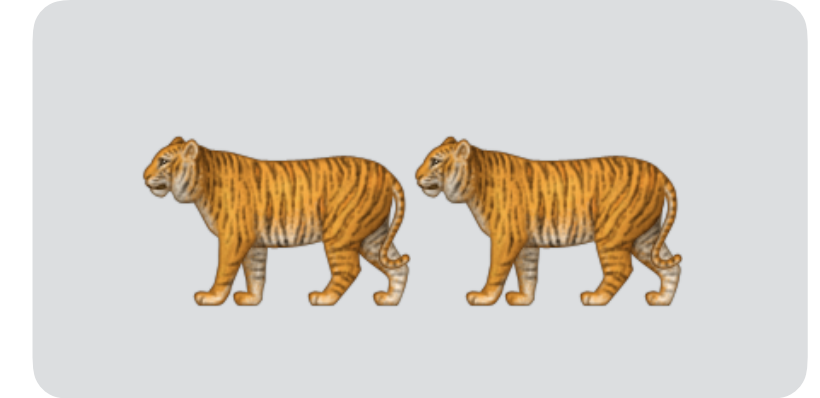
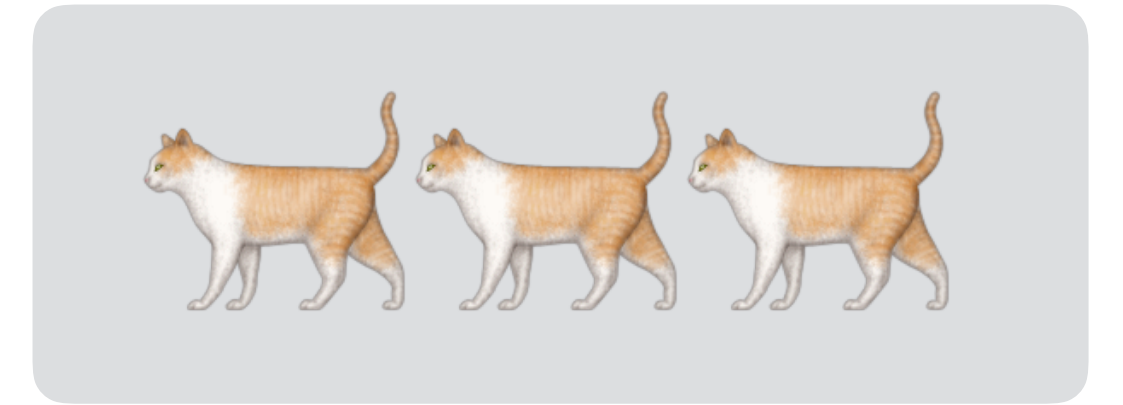
, rep)



2



1



Always get a list back, or use:

walk2(), map2\_lgl(), map2\_int(), map2\_dbl(), map2\_chr()

## DISCUSS WITH YOUR NEIGHBOR

1. For each function, which two arguments might be useful to iterate over?

`download.file()`

`rnorm()`

`lm()`

`predict.lm()`

`write.csv()`

2. For which functions above should we use `walk2()` or a typed version of `map2()`?



`download.file()` for each url download to destfile `walk2()`, `map2_int()`

`rnorm()` for each n generate a Normal sample with mean mean (or sd)

(See `purrr::rerun()` for repeating a function many times)

`lm()` for each data fit a model (formula)

`predict.lm()` for each model (object), generate predictions at data (newdata)

`readr::write_csv()` for each data frame (x) save to path

Similar for `ggplot::ggsave()` for each plot save to filename

`walk2()`

```
jan_sales <- read_csv("jan.csv")  
jan_sales <- mutate(jan_sales, month = "jan")  
  
feb_sales <- read_csv("feb.csv")  
feb_sales <- mutate(feb_sales, month = "feb")  
  
mar_sales <- read_csv("mar.csv")  
mar_sales <- mutate(mar_sales, month = "mar")  
  
sales <- bind_rows(jan_sales, feb_sales, mar_sales)
```

**WHAT DOES  
THIS CODE  
DO?**

## REDUCE DUPLICATION (AND MISTAKES) WITH PURRR

```
months <- c("jan", "feb", "mar")
```

```
files <- paste0(months, ".csv")
```

```
sales_list <- map(files, read_csv)
```

Now...For each element (do) add a month column

## USE THE SAME STRATEGY!

# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
mutate(sales_list[[1]],  
       month = months[[1]])
```

# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
mutate(sales_list[[1]],  
       month = months[[1]])
```

# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
mutate(sales_list[[2]],  
       month = months[[2]])
```



# DO IT FOR ONE

Solve the problem for one element

```
mutate(sales_list[[2]],  
       month = months[[2]])
```

Iterating over two objects!

# TURN IT INTO A RECIPE

Make it a formula

Use .x and .y

```
mutate(sales_list[[2]],  
       month = months[[2]])
```

# TURN IT INTO A RECIPE

Make it a formula

Use .x and .y

```
~ mutate(sales_list[[2]],
```

A formula

```
month = months[[2]])
```

# TURN IT INTO A RECIPE

Make it a formula

Use .x and .y

~ mutate( .x ,

A formula month = .y )

# DO IT FOR ALL!

Your recipe is the .f argument to map2

```
map2(.x = sales_files ,
```

```
    .y = months ,
```

```
    ~ mutate(      .x ,
```

A formula

```
      month =      .y    ) )
```

```
months <- c("jan", "feb", "mar")  
files <- paste0(months, ".csv")  
sales_list <- map(files, read_csv)  
sales_list_months <- map2(.x = sales_list,  
                           .y = months,  
                           .f = ~ mutate(.x, month = .y))  
bind_rows(sales_list_months)
```



```
library(repurrrsive)

gap_split_small <- gap_split[1:10]

countries <- names(gap_split_small)
```

**FOR EACH COUNTRY CREATE A GGLOT OF LIFE  
EXPECTANCY THROUGH TIME WITH A TITLE**

Need a hint? For one country, see next slide

Bored? For each plot, save it to a .pdf, with an  
appropriate file name

```
# For one country  
ggplot(gap_split[[1]], aes(year, lifeExp)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  labs(title = countries[[1]])
```

```
# For all countries

plots <- map2(gap_split_small, countries,
  ~ ggplot(.x, aes(year, lifeExp)) +
    geom_line() +
    labs(title = .y))

plots[[1]]

# Display all plots

walk(plots, print) # this might take awhile
```

**purrr and  
list columns**

## PURRR AND LIST COLUMNS

Data should be in a data frame as soon as it makes sense!

Data frame: **cases** in rows, **variables** in columns

## YOUR TURN:

What are the **cases** and **variables** in the `sw_people` data?

```
# A tibble: 87 × 4
```

	name	films	height	species
	<chr>	<list>	<dbl>	<chr>
1	Luke Skywalker	<chr [5]>	172	<a href="http://swapi.co/api/species/1/">http://swapi.co/api/species/1/</a>
2	C-3P0	<chr [6]>	167	<a href="http://swapi.co/api/species/2/">http://swapi.co/api/species/2/</a>
3	R2-D2	<chr [7]>	96	<a href="http://swapi.co/api/species/2/">http://swapi.co/api/species/2/</a>
4	Darth Vader	<chr [4]>	202	<a href="http://swapi.co/api/species/1/">http://swapi.co/api/species/1/</a>
5	Leia Organa	<chr [5]>	150	<a href="http://swapi.co/api/species/1/">http://swapi.co/api/species/1/</a>

```
# ... with 82 more rows
```



# PURRR CAN HELP TURN LISTS INTO TIBBLES

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
people_tbl <- tibble(
```

```
  name      = c("John", "Jane", "Bob", "Alice", "Charlie"),
```

```
  films     = c("Star Wars", "The Godfather", "The Godfather", "The Godfather", "The Godfather"),
```

```
  height    = c(180, 165, 190, 170, 185),  
  species   = c("Human", "Human", "Human", "Human", "Human")
```

```
)
```

# PURRR CAN HELP TURN LISTS INTO TIBBLES

```
library(tidyverse)
```

```
people_tbl <- tibble(
```

```
  name      = sw_people %>% map_chr("name"),
```

```
  films     = sw_people %>% map("films"),
```

will result in list column

```
  height    = sw_people %>% map_chr("height") %>%
```

```
    readr::parse_number(na = "unknown"),
```

needs some parsing

```
  species   = sw_people %>% map_chr("species", .null = NA_character_)
```

isn't in every element

```
)
```

# COMBINE PURRR WITH DPLYR TO WORK WITH LIST COLUMNS

```
people_tbl$films
```

```
people_tbl %>%
```

```
  mutate(
```

```
    film_numbers = map(films, ~ film_number_lookup[.x]),
```

```
    n_films = map_int(films, length)
```

```
)
```

```

library(tidyverse)
library(repurrrsive)

# A useful lookup table -----
film_number_lookup <- map_chr(sw_films, "url") %>%
  map(~ stringr::str_split_fixed(.x, "/", 7)[, 6]) %>%
  as.numeric() %>%
  set_names(map_chr(sw_films, "url"))

people_tbl <- tibble(
  name      = sw_people %>% map_chr("name"),
  films     = sw_people %>% map("films"),
  height    = sw_people %>% map_chr("height") %>%
    readr::parse_number(na = "unknown"),
  species   = sw_people %>% map_chr("species", .null = NA_character_)
)

# Turning parts of our list to a tibble -----
people_tbl$films

# Use map with mutate to manipulate list columns
people_tbl <- people_tbl %>%
  mutate(
    film_numbers = map(films,
      ~ film_number_lookup[.x]),
    n_films = map_int(films, length)
  )

people_tbl %>% select(name, film_numbers, n_films)

```

Create a new character column that collapses the film numbers into a single string,

e.g. for Luke: " 6, 3, 2, 1, 7"

?paste

```
people_tbl <- people_tbl %>%  
  mutate(films_squashed = map_chr(film_numbers, paste,  
                                   collapse = ", "))  
  
people_tbl %>% select(name, n_films, films_squashed)
```

## CHALLENGES @ <https://github.com/cwickham/purrr-tutorial>

challenges/01-mtcars.R - Fit and summarise many regression models

challenges/02-word\_count.R - Count the number of words of all files in a directory

challenges/03-starwars.R - Print who used which vehicles in the films

challenges/04-weather.R - Download, tidy, plot and save daily temperatures

challenges/05-swapi.R - Download all Star Wars data using rwars package

**Next up:** a few remaining iteration functions, a comment about other functions in purrr, wrap up.



**OTHER FEATURES OF  
PURRR**

to each element of each vector in `.l`, apply `.f`

# `pmap( .l , .f , ... )`

```
.f(.l[[1]][[1]], .l[[2]][[1]], .l[[3]][[1]], ...)
```

```
.f(.l[[1]][[2]], .l[[2]][[2]], .l[[3]][[1]], ...)
```




```
.f(.l[[1]][[3]], .l[[2]][[3]], .l[[3]][[1]], ...)
```




and so on




or by name if supplied




to each element in animal, reaction, and animal2, apply c




pmap (data.frame (



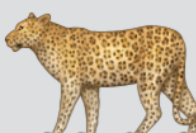












no formula shortcut

for each function in `.f`, apply it to `.x`

# `invoke_map(.f, .x, ...)`

`.f[[1]](.x, ...)`

`.f[[2]](.x, ...)`

`.f[[3]](.x, ...)`

and so on

for each function in .f, apply it to .x

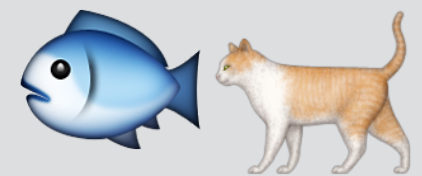
`invoke_map(`

`give_fish`

, )

`double`

`count_legs`



4

# LISTS AND FUNCTIONS

Key objects in purrr

`purrr` provides a pile of functions to make working with them easier

Functions: `safely()`, `possibly()`, `partial()`

Lists: `transpose()`, `accumulate()`, `reduce()`, `every()`, `order_by()`

# WRAP UP

purrr provides:

- ▶ functions that write for loops for you
- ▶ with consistent syntax, and
- ▶ convenient shortcuts for specifying functions to iterate

Choosing the right function depends on:

- type of iteration
- type of output



# LEARNING MORE

R for Data Science:

- ▶ <http://r4ds.had.co.nz/iteration.html>
- ▶ <http://r4ds.had.co.nz/many-models.html>

DataCamp Writing functions in R

<https://www.datacamp.com/courses/writing-functions-in-r>

Jenny Bryan's purrr tutorial

<https://github.com/jennybc/purrr-tutorial>

# THANK YOU

Slides @ [bit.ly/purrr-cascadia](https://bit.ly/purrr-cascadia)

All materials (code files too): <https://github.com/cwickham/purrr-tutorial>

 @cwickham

<http://cwick.co.nz>

[cwickham@gmail.com](mailto:cwickham@gmail.com)

## FOR HIRE

