

Unit testing

(With a dash of API design)

May 2018

Forwards Teaching Team

Motivation

Let's add a column to a data frame

```
# Write a function that allows us to add a  
# new column to a data frame at a specified  
# position.
```

```
add_col(df, "name", value, where = 1)  
# Start simple and try out as we go
```

Your turn

```
# A useful building block is add_cols() -  
# works like cbind() but can insert anywhere
```

```
add_cols <- function(x, y, where = 1) {  
  if (where == 1) { # first col  
    ...  
  } else if (where > ncol(x)) { # last col  
    ...  
  } else {  
    ...  
  }  
}
```

A first attempt

```
add_cols <- function(x, y, where = 1) {  
  if (where == 1) {  
    cbind(x, y)  
  } else if (where > ncol(x)) {  
    cbind(y, x)  
  } else {  
    cbind(x[1:where], y, x[where:nrow(x)])  
  }  
}
```

Actually correct

```
add_cols <- function(x, y, where = 1) {  
  if (where == 1) {  
    cbind(y, x)  
  } else if (where > ncol(x)) {  
    cbind(x, y)  
  } else {  
    lhs <- 1:(where - 1)  
    cbind(x[lhs], y, x[-lhs])  
  }  
}
```

A common workflow

Create some simple inputs

```
df1 <- data.frame(a = 3, b = 4, c = 5)
```

```
df2 <- data.frame(X = 1, Y = 2)
```

After tweaking the function, re-run these cases

```
add_cols(df1, df2, where = 1)
```

```
add_cols(df1, df2, where = 2)
```

```
add_cols(df1, df2, where = 3)
```

```
add_cols(df1, df2, where = 4)
```

Two challenges

Duplication/unsaved changes

Looking at the outputs of
each run is tedious

We need a new workflow!

Duplication/unsaved changes

Create a formal suite of unit tests

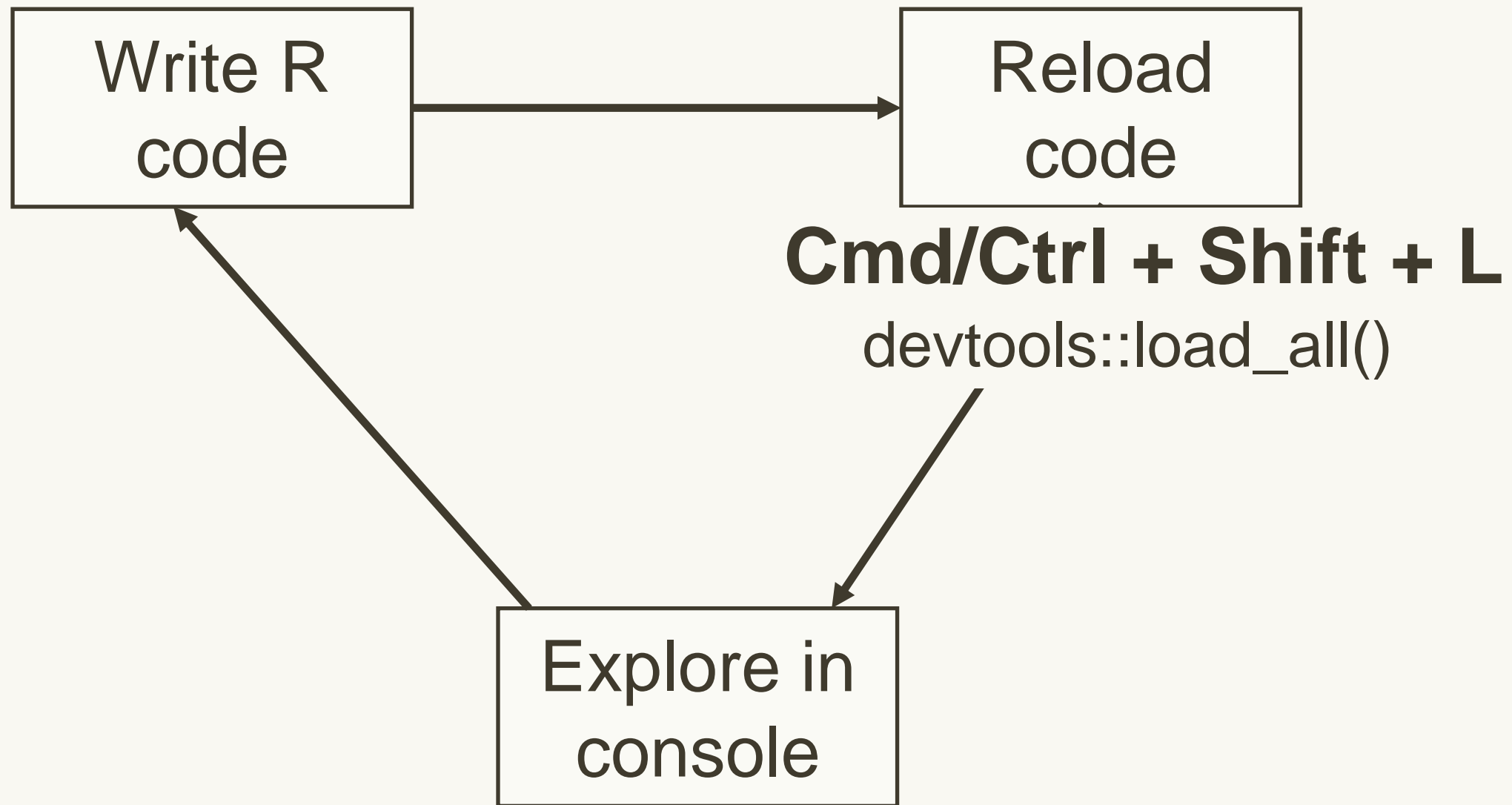
Looking at the outputs of
each run is tedious

Use `devtools::test()` to run & check

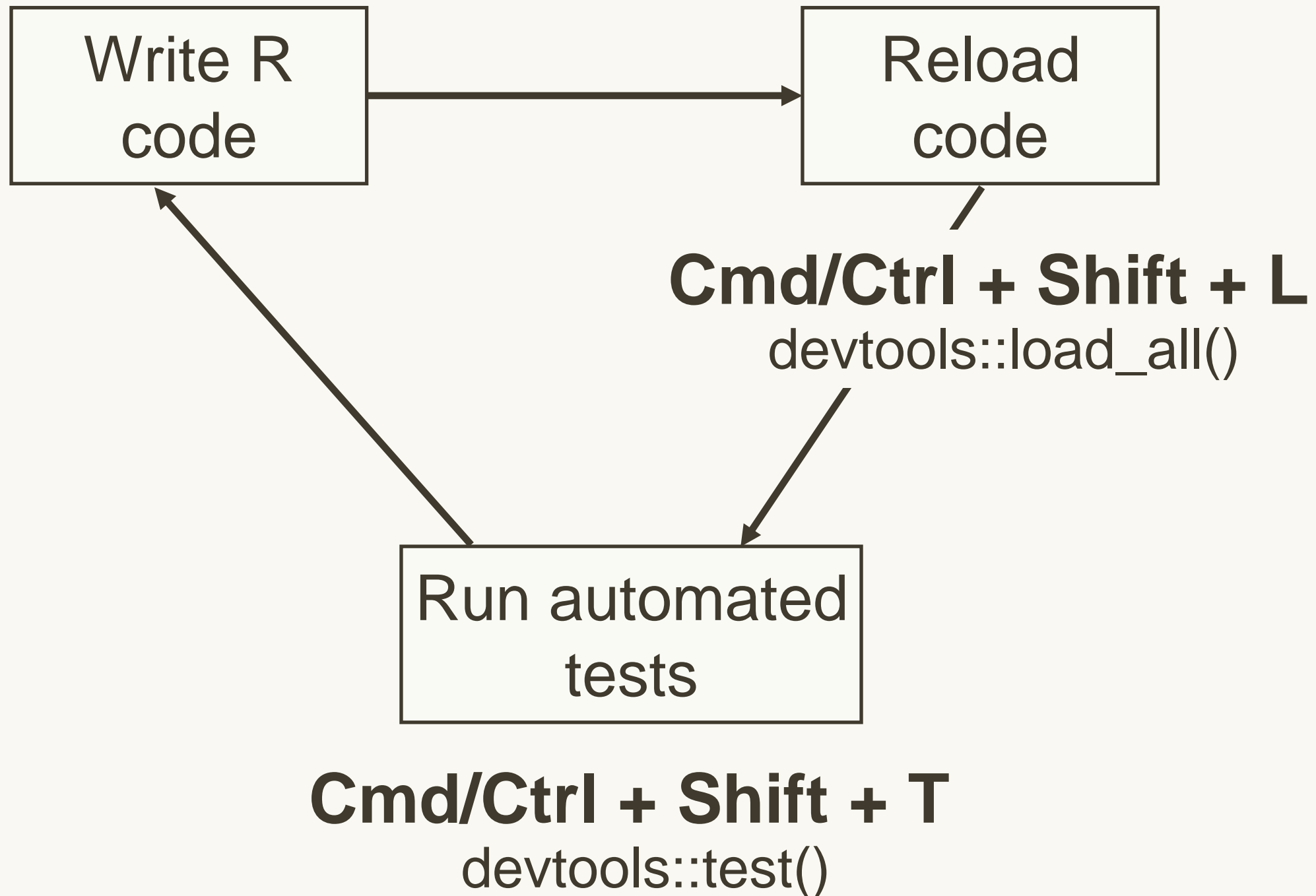
Testing workflow

<http://r-pkgs.had.co.nz/tests.html>

So far we've done this:



Testthat gives a new workflow



But why load the code?



Cmd/Ctrl + Shift + T

`devtools::test()`

We know how to create a package

```
usethis::create_package("~/desktop/addcol")
```

```
usethis::use_r("add_col")
```

```
# add_cols <- function(x, y, where = 1) {  
#   if (where == 1) {  
#     cbind(y, x)  
#   } else if (where > ncol(x)) {  
#     cbind(x, y)  
#   } else {  
#     lhs <- 1:(where - 1)  
#     cbind(x[lhs], y, x[-lhs])  
#   }  
# }
```

Now add tests

`usethis::use_test()`

Set up testthat infrastructure

- ✓ Adding 'testthat' to Suggests field
- ✓ Creating 'tests/testthat/'
- ✓ Writing 'tests/testthat.R'
- ✓ Writing 'tests/testthat/test-add_cols.R'
- Modify 'tests/testthat/test-add_cols.R'

`devtools::test()`

Or Command + Shift + T

Create test file matching script

Key idea of unit testing is to automate!

Helper function to reduce duplication

```
at_pos <- function(i) {  
  add_cols(df1, df2, where = i)  
}
```

```
expect_named(at_pos(1), c("X", "Y", "a", "b", "c"))  
expect_named(at_pos(2), c("a", "X", "Y", "b", "c"))  
expect_named(at_pos(3), c("a", "b", "X", "Y", "c"))  
expect_named(at_pos(4), c("a", "b", "c", "X", "Y"))
```

Describes an expected property of the output

And this automation must follow conventions

Tests for R/add_cols.R

```
# In tests/testthat/test-add_cols.R
```

```
test_that("can add column at any position", {  
  at_pos <- function(i) {  
    add_cols(df1, df2, where = i)  
  }  
  
  expect_named(at_pos(1), c("X", "Y", "a", "b", "c"))  
  expect_named(at_pos(2), c("a", "X", "Y", "b", "c"))  
  expect_named(at_pos(3), c("a", "b", "X", "Y", "c"))  
  expect_named(at_pos(4), c("a", "b", "c", "X", "Y"))  
})
```

Tests are organised in three layers

File

One per .R file in R/

Hard to define precisely. One per “chunk” of functionality.

Test

Expectation
Expectation
Expectation
Expectation

Test

Expectation
Expectation
Expectation

Test

Expectation
Expectation
Expectation
Expectation
Expectation
Expectation

Test

Very fine grained

Expectation

Practice the workflow

Copy in your `add_cols()` function.

Create an `add_cols()` test file using `use_test()`.

Put the previous expectations in a test case.

Verify that the tests pass with `Cmd + Shift + T`.

Add test using `where = -1`. Verify that it fails.

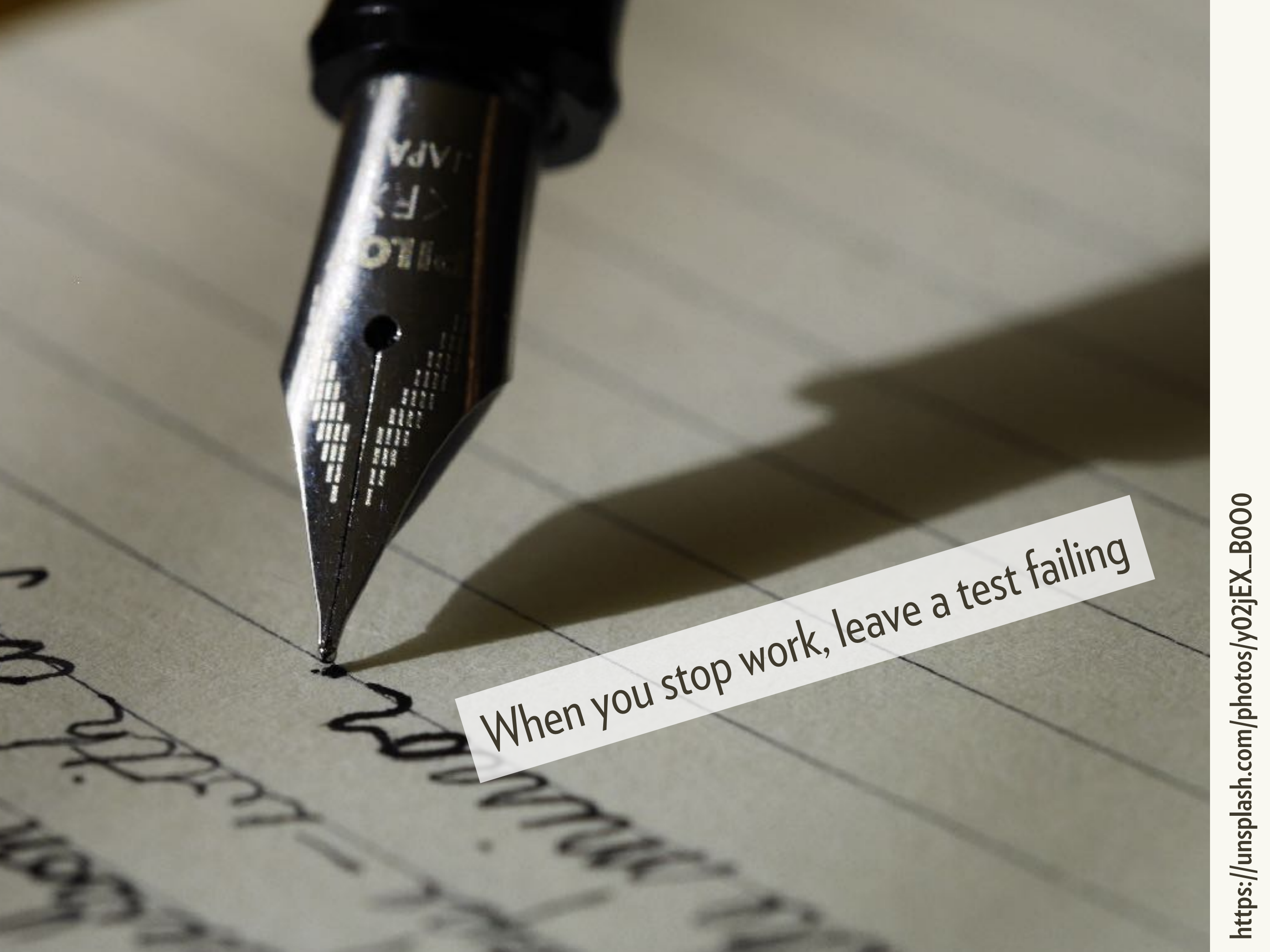
Why test?



Writing tests improves your API



Improve readability or performance
without changing behaviour.



When you stop work, leave a test failing



If you're bored in this class, write tests!

Test-driven Development

Next challenge is to implement add_col

```
df <- data.frame(x = 1)
```

```
add_col(df, "y", 2, where = 1)
```

```
add_col(df, "y", 2, where = 2)
```

```
add_col(df, "x", 2)
```

We'll use **test-driven development** to write add_col such that it passes required tests.

Four expectations cover 90% of cases

`expect_equal(object, expected)`

`expect_error(code, regexp)`

`expect_warning(code, regexp)`

`expect_warning(code, NA)`

`expect_known_output(code)`

Make these tests pass

```
# use_test("add_col")
test_that("where controls position", {
  df <- data.frame(x = 1)

  expect_equal(
    add_col(df, "y", 2, where = 1),
    data.frame(y = 2, x = 1)
  )
  expect_equal(
    add_col(df, "y", 2, where = 2),
    data.frame(x = 1, y = 2)
  )
})
# Some hints on next slide
```

Hints

```
# Start by establishing basic form of the  
# function and setting up the test cases.  
add_col <- function(x, name, value, where = 1) {  
  
}
```

```
# Make sure that you can Cmd + Shift + T  
# and get two test failures before you  
# continue
```

```
# More hints on the next slide
```

More hints

```
# Write the body of add_col(), using add_cols() to do most of the  
# work
```

```
# add_cols() takes two data frames and  
# you have a data frame and a vector
```

```
# setNames() lets you change the names of  
# data frame
```

A solution

```
add_col <- function(x, name, value, where) {  
  df <- setNames(data.frame(value), name)  
  add_cols(x, df, where = where)  
}
```

Make this test pass

```
test_that("can replace columns", {  
  df <- data.frame(x = 1)  
  
  expect_equal(  
    add_col(df, "x", 2, where = 2),  
    data.frame(x = 2)  
  )  
})
```


A solution

```
add_col <- function(x, name, value, where) {  
  if (name %in% names(x)) {  
    x[[name]] <- value  
    x  
  } else {  
    df <- setNames(data.frame(value), name)  
    add_cols(x, df, where = where)  
  }  
}
```

Make this test pass

```
test_that("default where is far right", {  
  df <- data.frame(x = 1)  
  
  expect_equal(  
    add_col(df, "y", 2),  
    data.frame(x = 1, y = 2)  
  )  
})
```

A solution

```
add_col <- function(x, name, value,  
                    where = ncol(x) + 1) {  
  if (name %in% names(x)) {  
    x[[name]] <- value  
    x  
  } else {  
    df <- setNames(data.frame(value), name)  
    add_cols(x, df, where = where)  
  }  
}
```

Can we use `add_col()` to **remove** columns?

```
df <- data.frame(x = 1, y = 2)
```

```
expect_equal(  
  add_col(df, "x", NULL)  
  data.frame(y = 2)  
)
```

Should we?

Would `remove_col()` be better?

Can we use `add_col()` to **move** columns?

```
df <- data.frame(x = 1, y = 2)
```

```
expect_equal(  
  add_col(df, "x", 1, where = 2)  
  data.frame(y = 2, x = 2)  
)
```

Should we?

Would `move_col()` be better?

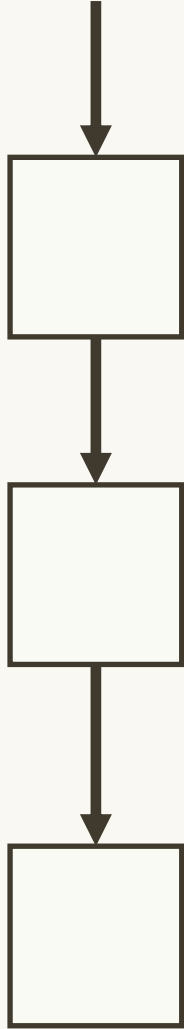
Fail fast

What about bad inputs?

```
# We need to test for errors too  
add_cols(df1, df2, where = 0)  
add_cols(df1, df2, where = NA)  
add_cols(df1, df2, where = 1:10)  
add_cols(df1, df2, where = "a")
```

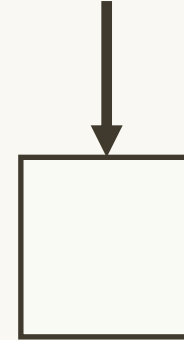
For robust code, fail early

Bad input



Uninformative error

Bad input



Useful error

We could add to add_cols directly

```
add_cols <- function(x, y, where = 1) {  
  if (!is.numeric(where) || length(where) != 1) {  
    stop("`where` is not a number", call. = FALSE)  
  } else if (where == 0 || is.na(where)) {  
    stop("`where` must not be 0 or NA", call. = FALSE)  
  } else if (where == 1 || where <= -ncol(x)) {  
    cbind(x, y)  
  } else if (where >= ncol(x) || where == -1) {  
    cbind(y, x)  
  } else {  
    if (where < 0) where <- nrow(x) + where  
    cbind(x[1:where], y, x[where:nrow(x)])  
  }  
}
```

But this confuses the intent of add_cols

```
# Better to have one function responsible  
# for checking for valid inputs  
check_where <- function(where, ncols) {
```

```
  ...  
}
```

```
# This also makes it easier to test because  
# it's independent of add_cols
```

Example tests

```
# check_where() lives in same file as add_cols()
# so tests should live in test-add_cols()

test_that("where must be valid value", {
  expect_error(check_where("a"), "length one numeric vector")
  expect_error(check_where(1:10), "length one numeric vector")

  expect_error(check_where(0), "not be zero or missing")
  expect_error(check_where(NA_real_), "not be zero or missing")
})
```

Test coverage

Useful to know which lines have been tested

Powered by the covr package
devtools::test_coverage()

You can also automate

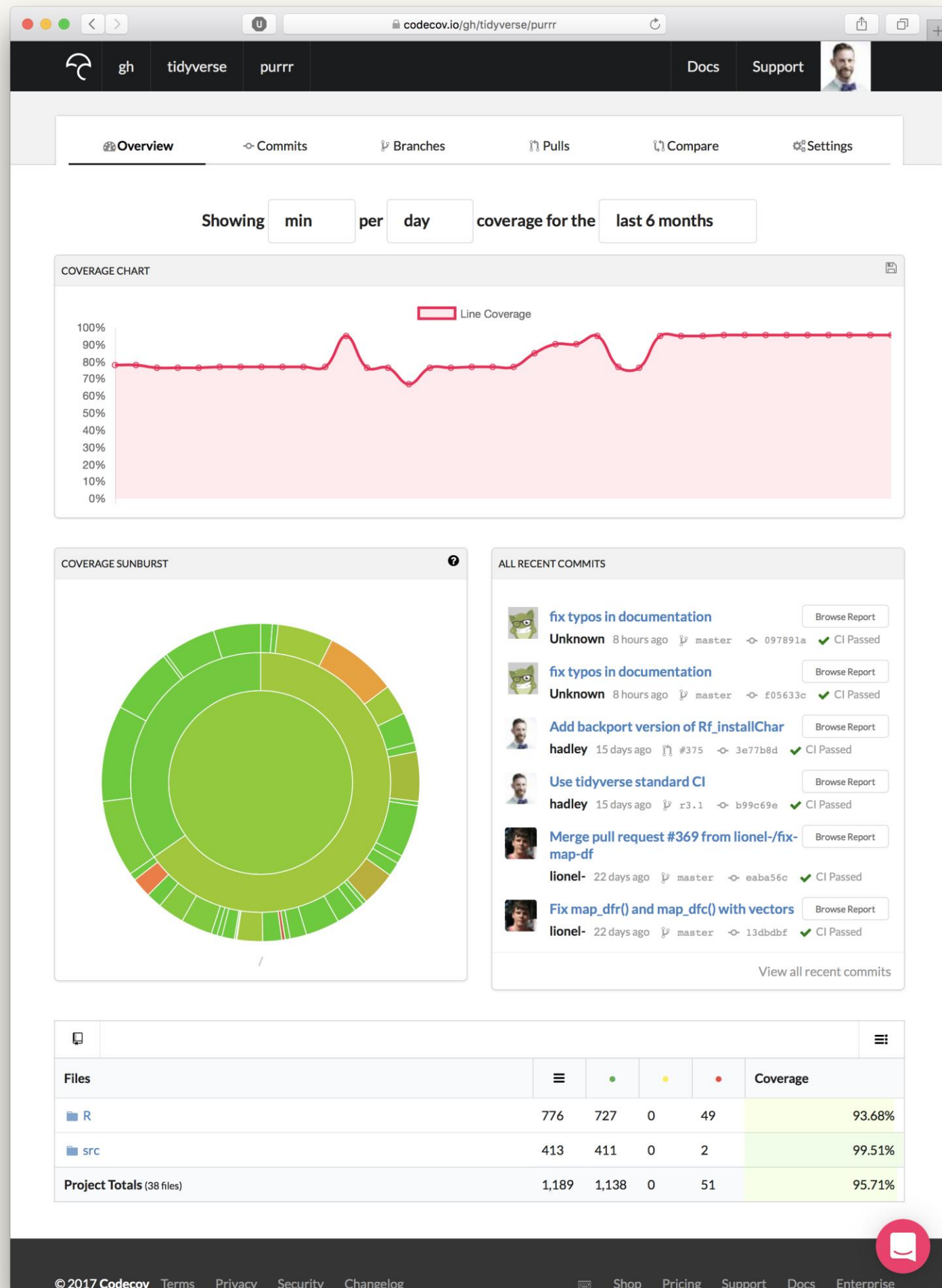
Known as **continuous integration**

1. Publish your code on GitHub
2. Use Travis and/or Appveyor to build package and run tests every time you push changes.

```
usethis::use_travis()
```

```
usethis::appveyor()
```

3. Use Codecov to display test coverage



ghtidyversepurrrDocsSupport

OverviewCommitsBranchesPullsCompareSettings

Showing min per day coverage for the last 6 months

COVERAGE CHART

COVERAGE SUNBURST

fix typos in documentation

Unknown8 hours ago master 097891a CI Passed

fix typos in documentation

Unknown8 hours ago master f05633c CI Passed

Add backport version of Rf_installChar

hadley15 days ago #375 3e77b8d CI Passed

Use tidyverse standard CI

hadley15 days ago r3.1 b99c69e CI Passed

Merge pull request #369 from lionel-/fix-map-df

lionel-22 days ago master eaba56c CI Passed

Fix map_dfr() and map_dfc() with vectors

lionel-22 days ago master 13dbdbf CI Passed

View all recent commits

Files

					Coverage
R	776	727	0	49	93.68%
src	413	411	0	2	99.51%
Project Totals (38 files)	1,189	1,138	0	51	95.71%

© 2017 CodecovTermsPrivacySecurityChangelogShopPricingSupportDocsEnterprise

Click! →

gh

tidyverse

purrr

Docs

Support

fix typos in documentation

95.71%

Somebody 8 hours ago

✓ CI Passed

[097891a](#) [master](#) [eaba56c](#)

Diff

Files

Build

Graphs

/ R

Files					Coverage
along.R	2	2	0	0	100.00%
arrays.R	15	15	0	0	100.00%
as_mapper.R	24	18	0	6	75.00%
coerce.R	5	5	0	0	100.00%
coercion.R	38	37	0	1	97.36%
compose.R	11	11	0	0	100.00%
composition.R	41	41	0	0	100.00%
cross.R	42	36	0	6	85.71%
depth.R	10	10	0	0	100.00%
every-some.R	14	14	0	0	100.00%
find-position.R	23	23	0	0	100.00%
flatten.R	9	9	0	0	100.00%
head-tail.R	6	6	0	0	100.00%
imap.R	17	17	0	0	100.00%
invoke.R	31	29	0	2	93.54%
keep.R	6	6	0	0	100.00%
list-modify.R	37	37	0	0	100.00%
lmap.R	19	19	0	0	100.00%
map.R	37	35	0	2	94.59%
map2-pmap.R	67	63	0	4	94.02%
modify.R	60	55	0	5	91.66%
negate.R	5	5	0	0	100.00%
output.R	87	69	0	18	79.31%
partial.R	20	20	0	0	100.00%
predicates.R	4	0	0	4	0.00%
prepend.R	7	7	0	0	100.00%

```
codecov.io/gh/tidyverse/purrr/src/master/R/output.R

67 #' @rdname safely
68 quietly <- function(.f) {
69   .f <- as_mapper(.f)
70   function(...) capture_output(.f(...))
71 }
72
73 #' @export
74 #' @rdname safely
75 possibly <- function(.f, otherwise, quiet = TRUE) {
76   .f <- as_mapper(.f)
77   force(otherwise)
78
79   function(...) {
80     tryCatch(.f(...),
81       error = function(e) {
82         if (!quiet)
83           message("Error: ", e$message)
84         otherwise
85       },
86       interrupt = function(e) {
87         stop("Terminated by user", call. = FALSE)
88       }
89     )
90   }
91 }
92
93 #' @export
94 #' @rdname safely
95 auto_browse <- function(.f) {
96   if (is_primitive(.f)) {
97     abort("Can not auto_browse() primitive functions")
98   }
99
100   function(...) {
101     withCallingHandlers(
102       .f(...),
103       error = function(e) {
104         # 1: h(simpleError(msg, call))
105         # 2: .handleSimpleError(function (e) <...>
106         # 3: stop(...)
107         frame <- ctxt_frame(4)
108         browse_in_frame(frame)
109       },
110       warning = function(e) {
111         if (getOption("warn") >= 2) {
112           frame <- ctxt_frame(7)
113           browse_in_frame(frame)
114         }
115       },
116       interrupt = function(e) {
117         stop("Terminated by user", call. = FALSE)
118       }
119     )
120   }
121 }
122
123 browse_in_frame <- function(frame) {
124   # ESS should probably set `.Platform$GUI == "ESS"
125   # In the meantime, check that ESSR is attached
126   if (is_scoped("ESSR")) {
127     # Workaround ESS issue
128     with_env(frame$env, on.exit({
129       browser()
130       NULL
131     })))
132     return_from(frame)
133   } else {
134     eval_bare(quote(browser()), env = frame$env)
135   }
136 }
137
138 capture_error <- function(code, otherwise = NULL, quiet = TRUE) {
139   tryCatch(
140     list(result = code, error = NULL),
141     error = function(e) {
142       if (!quiet)
143         message("Error: ", e$message)
144
145       list(result = otherwise, error = e)
146     },
147     interrupt = function(e) {
148       stop("Terminated by user", call. = FALSE)
149     }
150   )
151 }
```

This work is licensed under the
Creative Commons Attribution-
Noncommercial 3.0
United States License.

To view a copy of this license, visit
<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/3.0/us/>