



# Introduction to the R Language

Loop Functions - `tapply`

Roger Peng, Associate Professor  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

# tapply

tapply is used to apply a function over subsets of a vector. I don't know why it's called tapply.

```
> str(tapply)
function (X, INDEX, FUN = NULL, ..., simplify = TRUE)
```

- **X** is a vector
- **INDEX** is a factor or a list of factors (or else they are coerced to factors)
- **FUN** is a function to be applied
- ... contains other arguments to be passed **FUN**
- **simplify**, should we simplify the result?

# tapply

Take group means.

```
> x <- c(rnorm(10), runif(10), rnorm(10, 1))
> f <- gl(3, 10)
> f
 [1] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 3 3 3
[24] 3 3 3 3 3 3 3
Levels: 1 2 3
> tapply(x, f, mean)
      1      2      3
0.1144464 0.5163468 1.2463678
```

# tapply

Take group means without simplification.

```
> tapply(x, f, mean, simplify = FALSE)
$'1'
[1] 0.1144464

$'2'
[1] 0.5163468

$'3'
[1] 1.246368
```

# tapply

Find group ranges.

```
> tapply(x, f, range)
$'1'
[1] -1.097309  2.694970

$'2'
[1] 0.09479023 0.79107293

$'3'
[1] 0.4717443 2.5887025
```