



That last one will make sense in 2h

# Programming with functions in R

Useful things, funny things and stat theory

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1 Functions and where to find them

2 Funny things

# Why make your own functions?

## Pros

- Less code writing
- Fewer mistakes
- Cleaner code
- More transferable code

Hence reproducibility and mental health

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- Less code writing
- Fewer mistakes
- Cleaner code
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## Cons

- More thinking
- Not always worth time investment

# Anatomy of a function

What is inside a function?

```
mean  
apply
```

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?apply  
?apply()
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# Anatomy of a function

What is inside a function?

```
mean  
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```

Hmm, clearer information?

```
?apply  
?apply()
```

Lots of code in one word



# How to make a function

```
myfunction <- function(){  
  3+5  
}
```

```
myfunction()
```

```
## [1] 8
```

myfunction is now an object in the environment

# Input/output

- Zero to many input objects (Arguments)
- Return one object (Value)

```
mean(x = c(3,7,1), na.rm = TRUE)
```

# Input/output

- Zero to many input objects (Arguments)
- Return one object (Value)

```
mean(x = c(3,7,1), na.rm = TRUE)
```

```
myfunction <- function(x, y){  
  x+y  
}
```

```
myfunction(2, 4); myfunction(3, 5)
```

```
## [1] 6
```

```
## [1] 8
```

myfunction now takes two arguments

# Input/output

- Zero to many input objects (Arguments)
- Return one object (Value)

```
myfunction <- function(x, y){  
  x-y  
  x+y  
}  
  
myfunction(2, 4); myfunction(3, 5)  
  
## [1] 6  
## [1] 8
```

**Functions returns only the result from the last line by default**

# Input/output

- Zero to many input objects (Arguments)
- Return one object (Value)

```
myfunction <- function(x, y){  
  subvalue <- x-y  
  advalue <- x+y  
  return(subvalue)  
  x*y  
}  
  
myfunction(2, 4); myfunction(3, 5)  
  
## [1] -2  
## [1] -2
```

**Functions returns only** `return()` **is one is provided**

# Exercise 1 and 2

- 1 Write a function that return the product of three arbitrary numbers together ( $x*y*z$ ) provided by the user
- 2 Write a function that return the product of three arbitrary numbers together ( $x*y*z$ ) as well as their sum ( $x+y+z$ )

"What happens in Functions Stays in Functions" (unless...)

```
x <- 10  
myfunction <- function(x){ x <- 5 }  
myfunction(x=x)  
x
```

What is the value of x ?

# Scope

"What happens in Functions Stays in Functions" (unless...)

Save the output to an object

```
x <- 10  
x <- myfunction(x=x)  
x  
  
## [1] 5
```



# Scope

"What happens in Functions Stays in Functions" (unless...)

Save the output to an object

```
x <- 10
x <- myfunction(x=x)
x

## [1] 5
```

Or special functions to break environment boundaries (Scoping assignment, see later)

# Sourcing as "primitive package"

Do Exercise 3

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**Complex code can easily be turned into a function**

# Sourcing as "primitive package"

Do Exercise 3

**Complex code can easily be turned into a function**

Save the function you just made to a new file "myfunctions.R".  
You can now call ("source") this file and all the functions it contains:

```
source("myfunctions.R")
```

# Fun time: Big exercise and stat theory!

## Exercise 4!

1 Functions and where to find them

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# Lists of functions!

```
funcs <- list(  
  half = function(x) x / 2,  
  double = function(x) x * 2  
)  
funcs$double(10)  
  
## [1] 20
```

# The dot-dot-dot

**See exercise 5**



# Scoping assignment

Using `<<-` or `assign(x, value, inherits=TRUE)`

## **See exercise 6**

Can be difficult, but can be useful (e.g. functions that create functions)

# Recursive function

A function can call another function, including itself

**See Exercises 7 and 8**

# To go further

Everything you (didn't) want to know about functions in R:

<https://adv-r.hadley.nz/functions.html#introduction-5>