

Returning values from functions

INTRODUCTION TO WRITING FUNCTIONS IN R



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A simple sum function

```
simple_sum <- function(x) {  
  if(anyNA(x)) {  
    return(NA)  
  }  
  total <- 0  
  for(value in x) {  
    total <- total + value  
  }  
  total  
}
```

```
simple_sum(c(0, 1, 3, 6, NA, 7))
```

```
NA
```

Geometrics means again

```
calc_geometric_mean <- function(x, na.rm = FALSE) {  
  assert_is_numeric(x)  
  if(any(is_non_positive(x), na.rm = TRUE)) {  
    stop("x contains non-positive values, so the geometric mean makes no sense.")  
  }  
  na.rm <- coerce_to(use_first(na.rm), "logical")  
  x %>%  
    log() %>%  
    mean(na.rm = na.rm) %>%  
    exp()  
}
```

Returning NaN with a warning

```
calc_geometric_mean <- function(x, na.rm = FALSE) {  
  assert_is_numeric(x)  
  if(any(is_non_positive(x), na.rm = TRUE)) {  
    warning("x contains non-positive values, so the geometric mean makes no sense.")  
    return(NaN)  
  }  
  na.rm <- coerce_to(use_first(na.rm), "logical")  
  x %>%  
    log() %>%  
    mean(na.rm = na.rm) %>%  
    exp()  
}
```

Reasons for returning early

1. You already know the answer.
2. The input is an edge case.

Hiding the return value

```
simple_sum <- function(x) {  
  if(anyNA(x)) {  
    return(NA)  
  }  
  total <- 0  
  for(value in x) {  
    total <- total + value  
  }  
  total  
}
```

```
simple_sum(c(0, 1, 3, 6, 2, 7))
```

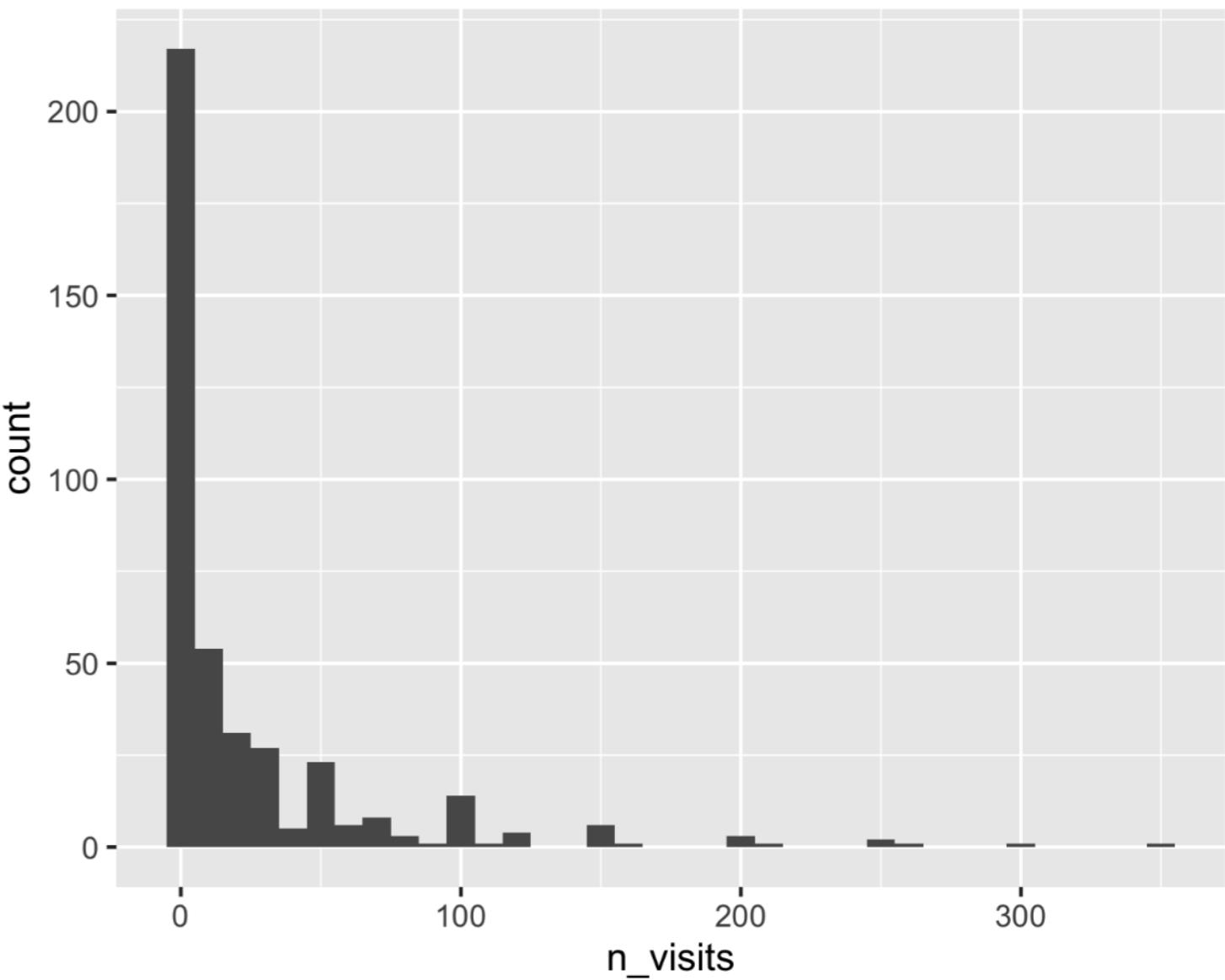
Hiding the return value

```
simple_sum <- function(x) {  
  if(anyNA(x)) {  
    return(NA)  
  }  
  total <- 0  
  for(value in x) {  
    total <- total + value  
  }  
  invisible(total)  
}
```

```
simple_sum(c(0, 1, 3, 6, 2, 7))
```

Many plots invisibly return things

```
ggplot(snake_river_visits, aes(n_visits)) +  
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 10)
```

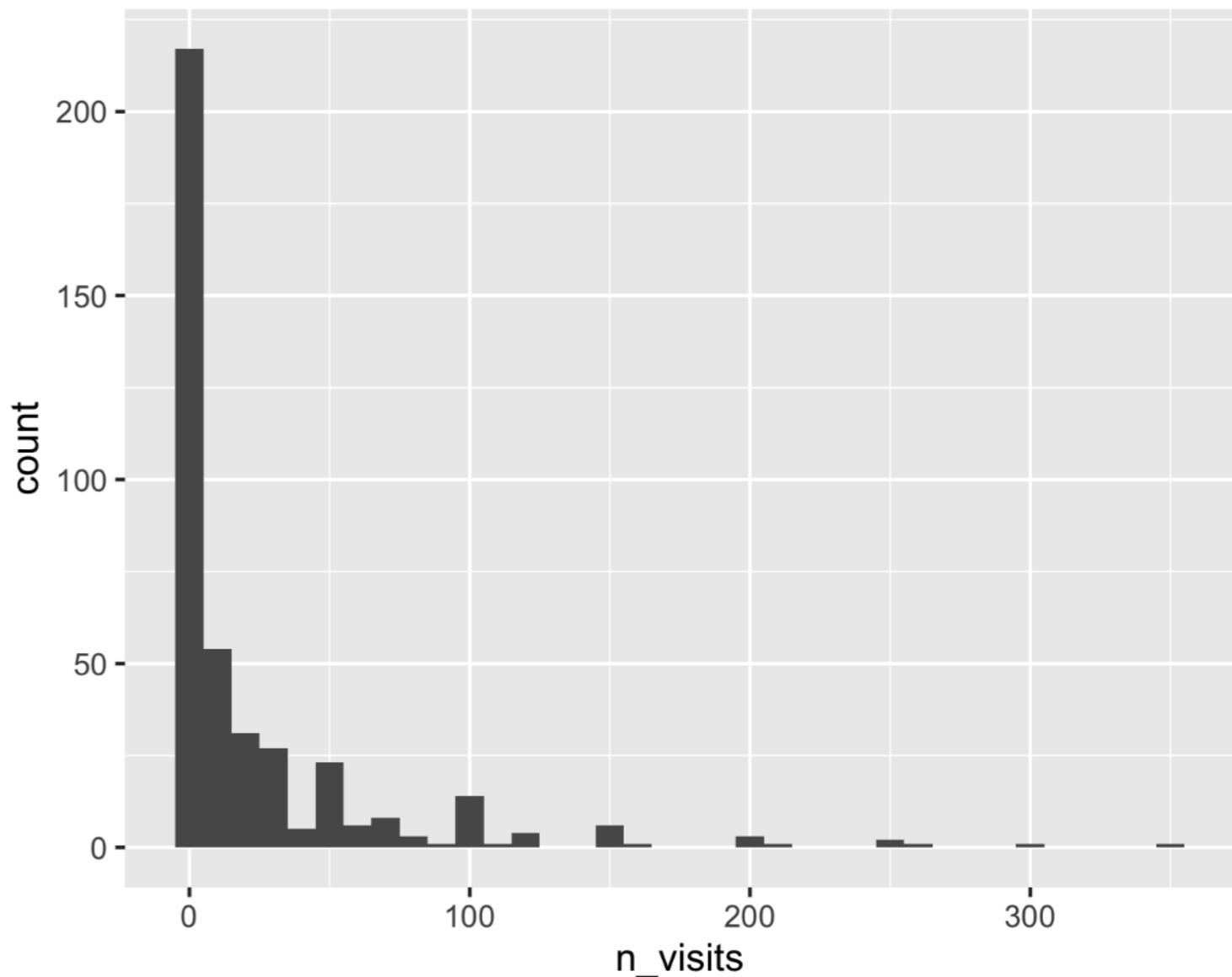


Many plots invisibly return things

```
srv_hist <- ggplot(snake_river_visits, aes(n_visits)) +  
  geom_histogram(binwidth = 10)
```

```
str(srv_hist, max.level = 0)
```

```
List of 9  
- attr(*, "class")= chr [1:2] "gg" "ggplot"
```



Let's practice!

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Returning multiple values from functions

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Getting the session information

```
R.version.string
```

```
"R version 3.5.3 (2019-03-11)"
```

```
Sys.info()[c("sysname", "release")]
```

```
sysname          release  
"Linux" "4.14.106-79.86.amzn1.x86_64"
```

```
loadedNamespaces()
```

```
[1] "Rcpp"           "grDevices"    "crayon"  
[4] "dplyr"          "assertthat"   "R6"  
[7] "magrittr"       "datasets"     "pillar"  
[10] "rlang"          "utils"        "praise"  
[13] "rstudioapi"    "graphics"    "base"  
[16] "tools"          "glue"         "purrr"  
[19] "yaml"           "compiler"    "pkgconfig"  
[22] "stats"          "tidyselect"   "methods"  
[25] "tibble"
```

Defining session()

```
session <- function() {  
  r_version <- R.version.string,  
  operating_system <- Sys.info()[c("sysname", "release")],  
  loaded_pkgs <- loadedNamespaces()  
  # ???  
}
```

Defining session()

```
session <- function() {  
  list(  
    r_version = R.version.string,  
    operating_system = Sys.info()[c("sysname", "release")],  
    loaded_pkgs = loadedNamespaces()  
  )  
}
```

Calling session()

```
session()
```

```
$r_version
[1] "R version 3.5.3 (2019-03-11)"

$operating_system
  sysname           release
  "Linux" "4.14.106-79.86.amzn1.x86_64"

$loaded_pkgs
 [1] "Rcpp"         "grDevices"    "crayon"
 [4] "dplyr"        "assertthat"   "R6"
 [7] "magrittr"     "datasets"     "pillar"
[10] "rlang"        "utils"       "praise"
[13] "rstudioapi"   "graphics"    "base"
[16] "tools"        "glue"        "purrr"
[19] "yaml"         "compiler"    "pkgconfig"
[22] "stats"        "tidyselect"  "methods"
[25] "tibble"
```

Multi-assignment

```
library(zeallot)  
c(vrsn, os, pkgs) %<-% session()
```

```
vrsn
```

```
"R version 3.5.3 (2019-03-11)"
```

```
os
```

```
sysname          release  
"Linux" "4.14.106-79.86.amzn1.x86_64"
```

Attributes

```
month_no <- setNames(1:12, month.abb)  
month_no
```

```
Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
```

```
attributes(month_no)
```

```
$names  
[1] "Jan" "Feb" "Mar" "Apr" "May" "Jun" "Jul"  
[8] "Aug" "Sep" "Oct" "Nov" "Dec"
```

```
attr(month_no, "names")
```

```
[1] "Jan" "Feb" "Mar" "Apr" "May" "Jun" "Jul"  
[8] "Aug" "Sep" "Oct" "Nov" "Dec"
```

```
attr(month_no, "names") <- month.name  
month_no
```

January	February	March	April	May
1	2	3	4	5
June	July	August	September	October
6	7	8	9	10
November	December			
11	12			

Attributes of a data frame

```
orange_trees
```

```
# A tibble: 35 x 3
  Tree    age circumference
  <ord> <dbl>        <dbl>
1 1     118          30
2 1     484          58
3 1     664          87
4 1    1004         115
5 1    1231         120
6 1    1372         142
7 1    1582         145
8 2     118          33
9 2     484          69
10 2    664         111
# ... with 25 more rows
```

```
attributes(orange_trees)
```

```
$names
[1] "Tree"           "age"
[3] "circumference"

$row.names
[1] 1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8  9 10 11 12 13 14 15
[16] 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
[31] 31 32 33 34 35

$class
[1] "tbl_df"        "tbl"          "data.frame"
```

¹ `data(Orange, package = "datasets")`

Attributes added by group_by()

```
library(dplyr)  
orange_trees %>%  
  group_by(Tree) %>%  
  attributes()
```

```
$names  
[1] "Tree"           "age"            "circumference"  
  
$row.names  
[1]  1   2   3   4   5   6   7   8   9   10  11  12  13  14  15  16  17  18  
[19] 19  20  21  22  23  24  25  26  27  28  29  30  31  32  33  34  35  
  
$class  
[1] "grouped_df" "tbl_df"        "tbl"          "data.frame"  
  
$groups  
# A tibble: 5 x 2  
  Tree .rows  
  <ord> <list>  
1 3    <int [7]>  
2 1    <int [7]>  
3 5    <int [7]>  
4 2    <int [7]>  
5 4    <int [7]>
```

When to use each technique

- If you need the result to have a particular type, add additional return values as attributes.
- Otherwise, collect all return values into a list.

broom

Model objects are converted into 3 data frames.

function	level	example
glance()	model	degrees of freedom
tidy()	coefficient	p-values
augment()	observation	residuals

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Environments

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Environments are like lists

```
datacamp_lst <- list(  
  name = "DataCamp",  
  founding_year = 2013,  
  website = "https://www.datacamp.com"  
)
```

```
ls.str(datacamp_lst)
```

```
founding_year : num 2013  
name : chr "DataCamp"  
website : chr "https://www.datacamp.com"
```

```
datacamp_env <- list2env(datacamp_lst)
```

```
ls.str(datacamp_env)
```

```
founding_year : num 2013  
name : chr "DataCamp"  
website : chr "https://www.datacamp.com"
```

Environments have parents



Getting the parent environment

```
parent <- parent.env(datacamp_env)  
environmentName(parent)
```

"R_GlobalEnv"

```
grandparent <- parent.env(parent)  
environmentName(grandparent)
```

"package:stats"

```
search()
```

```
[1] ".GlobalEnv"           "package:stats"  
[3] "package:graphics"     "package:grDevices"  
[5] "package:utils"        "package:datasets"  
[7] "package:methods"      "Autoloads"  
[9] "package:base"
```

Does a variable exist?

```
datacamp_lst <- list(  
  name = "DataCamp",  
  website = "https://www.datacamp.com"  
)  
datacamp_env <- list2env(datacamp_lst)  
foundating_year <- 2013
```

```
exists("foundating_year", envir = datacamp_env)
```

TRUE

```
exists("foundating_year", envir = datacamp_env, inherits = FALSE)
```

FALSE

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Scope and precedence

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Accessing variables outside functions

```
x_times_y <- function(x) {  
  x * y  
}
```

```
x_times_y(10)
```

```
Error in x_times_y(10) :  
object 'y' not found
```

```
x_times_y <- function(x) {  
  x * y  
}  
y <- 4
```

```
x_times_y(10)
```

```
40
```

Accessing function variables from outside

```
x_times_y <- function(x) {  
  x * y  
}  
y <- 4  
x_times_y(10)
```

```
print(x)
```

```
Error in print(x) : object 'x' not found
```

What's best? Inside or outside?

```
x_times_y <- function(x) {  
  y <- 6  
  x * y  
}  
y <- 4
```

```
x_times_y(10)
```

60

Passed in vs. defined in

```
x_times_y <- function(x) {  
  x <- 9  
  y <- 6  
  x * y  
}  
y <- 4
```

```
x_times_y(10)
```

54

Let's practice!

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