Stat 260, Lecture 12, Iteration

Brad McNeney

Load packages and datasets

```
library(tidyverse)
```

Reading

- Iteration chapter of R for Data Science, chapter 17 of printed book and chapter 21 online.
- purrr cheatsheet [https://github.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/raw/master/purrr.pdf]

Iterating over a vector

- For loops allow iteration.
- A common scenario for iteration is that our data is in a vector (list), and we want to perform the same operation on each element.
- Such iteration is so common that special tools have been developed with the aim of reducing the amount of code (and therefore errors) required for common iterative tasks.
  - Tools in base R include the `apply()` family of functions.
  - A tidyverse package called `purrr` includes more.

Example data

- To illustrate iteration we simulate data and fit four regression models.

```
set.seed(42)
n <- 100
x1 <- rnorm(n); x2<-rnorm(n)
y1 <- x1 + rnorm(n,sd=.5); y2 <- x1+x2+rnorm(n,sd=.5)
y3 <- x2 + rnorm(n,sd=.5); y4 <- rnorm(n,sd=.5)
rr <- list(fit1 = lm(y1 ~ x1+x2),
  fit2 = lm(y2 ~ x1+x2),
  fit3 = lm(y3 ~ x1+x2),
  fit4 = lm(y4 ~ x1+x2))
coef(rr$fit1)
```

```
##  (Intercept)           x1           x2
## 0.0008831357 0.9281453769 0.0426465892
```

Exercise

- The elements of the list `rr` from last slide are `lm` objects. The function `coef()` is generic. Assign class "lm_vec" to `rr` and write a `coef()` method for objects of this class. Hint: Your function could encapsulate a `for()` loop like the following.

```
for(i in seq_along(rr)) { # safer than 1:length(rr)
  coef(rr[[i]])
}
```

Extracting the regression coefficient for x1

- Using a `for()` loop, we initialize an object to hold the **output**, loop along a **sequence** of values for an index variable, and execute the **body** for each value of the index variable.

```
betahat <- vector("double",length(rr))
for(i in seq_along(rr)) { # safer than 1:length(rr)
  betahat[i] <- coef(rr[[i]])["x1"]
}
betahat
```

```
## [1]  0.92814538  1.03114836  0.04316514 -0.01842827
```

Looping over elements of a set

- The index set in the `for()` loop can be general.
  - We might use this generality to loop over named components of a list.

```
fits <- paste0("fit",1:4)
for(ff in fits) {
  print(coef(rr[[ff]])["x1"])
}
```

```
##        x1
## 0.9281454
##       x1
## 1.031148
##         x1
## 0.04316514
##          x1
## -0.01842827
```

- Looping over a set makes it harder to save the results, though.

Avoid growing vectors incrementally

```
means <- seq.int(1000)
set.seed(123)
system.time({
output <- double()
for (i in seq_along(means)) {
  n <- sample(100, 1)
  output <- c(output, rnorm(n, means[[i]]))
}
})
```

```
##    user  system elapsed
##   0.151   0.098   0.253
```

```r
system.time({
out <- vector("list", length(means))
for (i in seq_along(means)) {
  n <- sample(100, 1)
  out[[i]] <- rnorm(n, means[[i]])
}
out <- unlist(out)
})
```

```
##    user  system elapsed
##   0.024   0.002   0.025
```

The body of a loop can be a small part of the code

- In our examples, most of the code is for setting up the output and looping, with very little to do with the body.
- To illustrate, consider a small change: instead of the estimated coefficient of `x1` we wanted the estimated coefficient of `x2`:

```
betahat <- vector("double",length(rr))
for(i in seq_along(rr)) { # safter than 1:length(rr)
  betahat[i] <- coef(rr[[i]])["x2"]
}
betahat
```

```
## [1]  0.04264659  1.00306653  0.93035180 -0.11630942
```

Exercise

- Write a `for()` loop to find the `mode()` of each column in nycflights13::flights

Using `lapply()`

- The intent of `lapply()` is to take care of the output and the loop, allowing us to focus on the body.

```
b1fun <- function(fit) { coef(fit)["x1"] } # body
bfun <- function(fit,cc) { coef(fit)[cc] } # body
lapply(rr,b1fun)  # or sapply(rr,b1fun) or unlist(lapply(rr,b1fun))
```

```
## $fit1
##        x1
## 0.9281454
##
## $fit2
##       x1
## 1.031148
##
## $fit3
##         x1
## 0.04316514
##
## $fit4
##          x1
## -0.01842827
```

```
lapply(rr,bfun,"x1")
```

```
## $fit1
```

Exercise

- Re-write your summary method for objects of class `lm_vec` to use `lapply()`.

Iterating with the `map()` functions from `purrr`

- The `purrr` package provides a family of functions `map()`, `map_dbl()`, etc. that do the same thing as `lapply()` but work better with other tidyverse functions.
  - `map()` returns a list, like `lapply()`.
  - `map_dbl()` returns a double vector, etc.

```
library(purrr)
map_dbl(rr,b1fun) # or rr %>% map_dbl(b1fun)
```

```
##        fit1        fit2        fit3        fit4
##  0.92814538  1.03114836  0.04316514 -0.01842827
```

```
# map_dbl(rr,bfun,"x1")
```

Exercises

- Use `map_chr()` to return the `mode()` of each column of the `nycflights13::flights` tibble.
- Use `map()` to return the `summary()` of each column of the `nycflights13::flights` tibble.

Pipes and `map()` functions

- Suppose we want to record a model summary returned by the `summary()` function.
  - `summary()` applied to an `lm()` object it computes regression summaries like standard errors and model R^2.

```
rr %>%
  map(summary) %>%
  map_dbl(function(ss) { ss$r.squared })
```

```
##       fit1       fit2       fit3       fit4
## 0.78845184 0.91430933 0.73684218 0.04087594
```

- Notice that we can define a function on-the-fly in the call to a `map()` function.
- `map()` functions have a short-cut for function definitions.

```
rr %>%
  map(summary) %>%
  map_dbl(~.$r.squared)
```

```
##       fit1       fit2       fit3       fit4
## 0.78845184 0.91430933 0.73684218 0.04087594
```

- In `~.` read `~` as "define a function" and `.` as "argument to the function"

Exercise

- Re-write the code `map_dbl(rr,b1fun)` with the forward pipe, as in the previous slide, and define the function `b1fun` on the fly. Use the `~` and `.` to define your function.

Detour: The apply family of functions in R

- The "original" apply is `apply()`, which can be used to apply a function to rows or columns of a matrix.

```
mat <- matrix(1:6,ncol=2,nrow=3)
mat
```

```
##      [,1] [,2]
## [1,]    1    4
## [2,]    2    5
## [3,]    3    6
```

```
apply(mat,1,sum) # row-wise sums; rowSums() is faster
```

```
## [1] 5 7 9
```

```
apply(mat,2,sum) # column-wise; colSums() is faster
```

```
## [1]  6 15
```

Detour, cont.

- `sapply()` takes the output of `lapply()` and simplifies to a vector or matrix.

```
FIX -- this does not work
fsum <- function(x) { sum(x$FTEs) }
sapply(sp.stat,fsum)[1:2]
```

Detour, cont.

- Other `apply`-like functions `vapply()`, `mapply()`, `tapply()`, ...
- I don't use these.
  - See their respective help pages for information.