a pipe passes its input to the first argument of the following function

function(object) | is equivalent to | object %>% function

Given functions f1() and f2():

 $f1 \leftarrow function(data, argA=0)$

 $f2 \leftarrow function(data, argB=1)$

regular

$y \leftarrow f1(x)$

$$y \leftarrow f1(x, argA=3)$$

$y \leftarrow f2(f1(x, argA=3), argB=2)$

with pipes

$$y \leftarrow \mathbf{f1}(x, \text{argA=3}) \mid y \leftarrow x \% > \% \mathbf{f1}(\text{argA=3})$$

$$y \leftarrow x \% > \% \mathbf{f1}(argA=3) \% > \% \mathbf{f2}(argB=2)$$

$$y \leftarrow f1(x, argA=3)$$

 $y \leftarrow f2(y, argB=2)$

$$y \leftarrow f2(y, argB=2)$$