Functions: Part 1

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Week 6, Class 1

Agenda

- Everything is a function
- Components of a function
- Function workflows

Learning objectives

- Understand and be able to fluently refer to the three fundamental components of a function
- Understand the workflows that often lead to writing functions, and how you iterate from interactive work to writing a function
- Be able to write a few basic functions.

Functions

Anything that carries out an operation in R is a function. For example

$$3 + 5$$

[1] 8

The + is a function (what's referred to as an infix function).

Any ideas on how we could re-write the above to make it look more "function"-y?

[1] 8

What about this?

```
3 + 5 + 7
## [1] 15
`+`(7, `+`(3, 5))
## [1] 15
Or
library(magrittr)
`+`(3, 5) %>%
   `+`(7)
## [1] 15
```

What's going on here?

- The + operator is a function that takes two arguments (both numeric), which it sums.
- The following are also the same (minus what's being assigned)

```
a <- 7
a
```

```
## [1] 7
```

```
`<-`(a, 5)
a
```

[1] 5

Everything is a function!

Being devious

Want to introduce a devious bug? Redefine +

```
`+` <- function(x, y) {
    if(runif(1) < 0.01) {
        sum(x, y) * -1
    } else {
        sum(x, y)
table(map2_dbl(1:500, 1:500, `+`) > 0)
##
## FALSE TRUE
## 5 495
rm(`+`, envir = globalenv())
table(map2_dbl(1:500, 1:500, `+`) > 0)
##
## FALSE TRUE
## 6 494
```

Tricky...

Functions are also (usually) objects!

```
a <- lm
a(hp ~ drat + wt, data = mtcars)

##
## Call:
## a(formula = hp ~ drat + wt, data = mtcars)
##
## Coefficients:
## (Intercept) drat wt
## -27.782 5.354 48.244</pre>
```

What does this all mean?

- Anything that carries out ANY operation in R is a function
- Functions are generally, but not always, stored in an object (otherwise known as binding the function to a name)

Anonymous functions

- The function for computing the mean is bound the name
 mean
- When running things through loops, you may often want to apply a function without binding it to a name

Example

```
vapply(mtcars, function(x) length(unique(x)), FUN.VALUE = double

## mpg cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
## 25 3 27 22 22 29 30 2 2 3 6
```

Another possibility

- If you have a bunch of functions, you might consider storing them all in a list.
- You can then access the functions in the same way you would subset any list

```
funs <- list(
  quarter = function(x) x / 4,
  half = function(x) x / 2,
  double = function(x) x * 2,
  quadruple = function(x) x * 4
)</pre>
```

This is kind of weird...

```
funs$quarter(100)

## [1] 25

funs[["half"]](100)

## [1] 50

funs[[4]](100)

## [1] 400
```

What does this imply?

• If we can store functions in a vector (list), then we can loop through the vector just like any other!

map_dbl(smry, ~.x(mtcars\$mpg))

```
## n n_miss n_valid mean sd
## 32.000000 0.000000 32.000000 20.090625 6.026948
```

Careful though

This doesn't work

```
map_dbl(smry, mtcars$mpg)
```

```
## Error: Can't pluck from a builtin
```

Why?

Remember what {purrr} map(

With map_df

What if we wanted this for all columns?

Challenge

 Can you extend the previous looping to supply the summary for every column? Hint: You'll need to make a nested loop (loop each function through each column)

```
map_df(mtcars, function(col) map_df(smry, ~.x(col)),
    .id = "column")
```

```
## # A tibble: 11 x 6
##
 column n n miss n valid mean
                                             sd
## <chr> <int> <int> <int> <dbl>
                                          <dbl>
##
   1 mpg
        32
                         32 20.09062
                                      6.026948
## 2 cyl 32
                         32 6.1875
                                       1.785922
##
   3 disp 32
                         32 230.7219 123.9387
##
         32
   4 hp
                         32 146.6875 68.56287
##
   5 drat 32
                         32 3.596562 0.5346787
##
           32
                         32 3.21725
   6 wt
                                       0.9784574
           32
## 7 qsec
                         32 17.84875
                                      1.786943
## 8 vs
            32
                         32 0.4375
                                       0.5040161
            32
                         32 0.40625
   9 am
           32
## 10 gear
                         32 3.6875
             32
                         32
                                       1.615200
  11 carb
                             2.8125
```

Maybe easier

• Often when you get into nested loops, it's easier to turn (at least) one of the loops into a function.

```
summarize_col <- function(column) {
  map_df(smry, ~.x(column))
}</pre>
```

Now we can just loop this function through each column

Wrap the whole thing in a function

```
summarize_df <- function(df) {
  map_df(df, summarize_col, .id = "column")
}</pre>
```

```
summarize_df(airquality)
```

Notice the missing data. Why? What should we do?

Function components

Three components

- body()
- formals()
- environment() (we won't focus so much here for now)

```
poly <- function(x, power) {
   z <- x^power
return(z)
}</pre>
Body
Formals
```

Formals

- The arguments supplied to the function
- What's one way to identify the formals for a function say, lm?
- ?: Help documentation!

Alternative – use a function!

formals(lm)

```
## $formula
##
## 
## $data
##
## 
## $subset
##
## 
## 
$weights
```

How do you see the body?

• In RStudio: Super (command on mac, cntrl on windows) + click!

[demo]

Alternative – just print to screen

Or use body

body(lm)

```
## {
##
       ret.x < -x
##
      ret.v <- v
##
       cl <- match.call()</pre>
##
       mf <- match.call(expand.dots = FALSE)</pre>
##
       m <- match(c("formula", "data", "subset", "weights", "na.action",</pre>
##
            "offset"), names(mf), OL)
       mf \leftarrow mf[c(1L, m)]
##
##
       mf$drop.unused.levels <- TRUE
##
       mf[[1L]] <- quote(stats::model.frame)</pre>
##
       mf <- eval(mf, parent.frame())</pre>
##
       if (method == "model.frame")
##
            return (mf)
##
       else if (method != "qr")
##
            warning(gettextf("method = '%s' is not supported. Using 'gr'",
##
                method), domain = NA)
##
       mt <- attr(mf, "terms")</pre>
##
       y <- model.response(mf, "numeric")</pre>
##
       w <- as.vector(model.weights(mf))</pre>
##
       if (!is.null(w) && !is.numeric(w))
            stop("'weights' must be a numeric vector")
##
##
       offset <- model.offset(mf)</pre>
##
       mlm <- is.matrix(y)</pre>
##
       ny < - if (mlm)
```

Environment

• As I mentioned, we won't focus on this too much, but if you get deep into programming it's pretty important

```
double <- function(x) x*2
environment(double)

## <environment: 0x7f9d88883008>

environment(lm)

## <environment: namespace:stats>
```

Why this matters

What will the following return?

```
x <- 10
f1 <- function() {
    x <- 20
    x
}</pre>
```

```
## [1] 20
```

What will this return?

```
x <- 10
y <- 20
f2 <- function() {
    x <- 1
    y <- 2
    sum(x, y)
}
f2()</pre>
```

```
## [1] 3
```

Last one

What do each of the following return?

```
x <- 2
f3 <- function() {
  y <- 1
  sum(x, y)
}</pre>
f3()
```

```
## [1] 3
## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'y' not found
```

Environment summary

- The previous examples are part of lexical scoping.
- Generally, you won't have to worry too much about it
- If you end up with unexpected results, this could be part of why

Scoping

- Part of what's interesting about these scoping rules is that your functions can, and very often do, depend upon things in your global workspace, or your specific environment.
- If this is the case, the function will be a "one-off", and unlikely to be useful in any other script

Example 1

Extracting information

This is a real example

Example 2

Reading in data

```
read_sub_files <- function(file) {
  read_csv(file) %>%
   mutate(
     content_area = str_extract(
        file, "[Ee][Ll][Aa]|[Rr]dg|[Ww]ri|[Mm]ath|[Ss]ci"
     ),
     grade = gsub(".+g(\\d\\d*).+", "\\1", file),
     grade = as.numeric(grade)
    ) %>%
   select(content_area, grade, everything()) %>%
   clean_names()
}
ifiles <- map_df(ifiles, read_sub_files)</pre>
```

Simple example

Pull out specific coefficients

```
mods <- mtcars %>%
    group_by(cyl) %>%
    nest() %>%
    mutate(
        model = map(
            data, ~lm(mpg ~ disp + hp + drat, data = .x)
    )
    )
    mods
```

Pull a specific coef

Find the solution for one model

```
m <- mods$model[[1]]</pre>
coef(m)
## (Intercept) disp hp
                                          drat
## 6.284507434 0.026354099 0.006229086 2.193576546
coef(m)["disp"]
## disp
## 0.0263541
coef(m)["(Intercept)"]
## (Intercept)
##
     6.284507
```

Generalize it

```
mods %>%
    mutate(intercept = map_dbl(model, pull_coef, "(Intercept)"),
          disp = map dbl(model, pull coef, "disp"),
          hp = map_dbl(model, pull_coef, "hp"),
          drat = map dbl(model, pull coef, "drat"))
## # A tibble: 3 x 7
## # Groups: cyl [3]
## cyl data
                              model intercept disp
## <dbl> <list>
                              t> <dbl>
                                                   <dbl>
                                                               <db]
## 1 6 <tibble[,10] [7 × 10]> <lm> 6.284507 0.02635410 0.00622908
## 2 4 <tibble[,10] [11 × 10] > <lm> 46.08662 -0.1225361 -0.04937771
## 3 8 <tibble[,10] [14 × 10]> <lm> 19.00162 -0.01671461 -0.02140236
```

Make it more flexible

• Since the intercept is a little difficult to pull out, we could have it return that by default.

```
pull_coef <- function(model, coef_name = "(Intercept)") {
    coef(model)[coef_name]
}
mods %>%
    mutate(intercept = map_dbl(model, pull_coef))
```

Return all coefficients

```
pull coef <- function(model) {</pre>
    coefs <- coef(model)</pre>
    data.frame(coefficient = names(coefs),
               estimate = coefs)
mods %>%
    mutate(coefs = map(model, pull coef))
## # A tibble: 3 \times 4
## # Groups: cyl [3]
## cyl data
                                  model coefs
## <dbl> <list>
                                  <list> <list>
## 1 6 <tibble[,10] [7 × 10]> <lm> <df[,2] [4 × 2]>
## 2 4 <tibble[,10] [11 × 10]> <lm> <df[,2] [4 × 2]>
## 3 8 <tibble[,10] [14 × 10]> <lm> <df[,2] [4 × 2]>
```

```
mods %>%
   mutate(coefs = map(model, pull_coef)) %>%
   unnest(coefs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 12 x 5
##
  # Groups:
            cyl [3]
##
        cvl data
                                    model coefficient
                                                           estimate
##
      <dbl> <list>
                                    <list> <chr>
                                                              <dbl>
##
          6 < tibble[,10] [7 \times 10] > < lm > (Intercept)
                                                        6.284507
##
   2
          6 <tibble[,10] [7 × 10]> <lm>
                                          disp
                                                        0.02635410
##
    3
          6 <tibble[,10] [7 × 10]> <lm>
                                                        0.006229086
                                           hp
##
          6 <tibble[,10] [7 × 10]> <lm>
                                           drat
                                                        2.193577
##
    5
          4 <tibble[,10] [11 × 10]> <lm>
                                          (Intercept) 46.08662
          4 <tibble[,10] [11 × 10]> <lm>
##
    6
                                           disp
                                                       -0.1225361
          4 <tibble[,10] [11 × 10]> <lm>
##
   7
                                           hp
                                                       -0.04937771
##
    8
          4 <tibble[,10] [11 × 10]> <lm>
                                           drat
                                                       -0.6041857
##
          8 <tibble[,10] [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                          (Intercept) 19.00162
## 10
          8 <tibble[,10] [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                           disp
                                                       -0.01671461
          8 <tibble[,10] [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                                       -0.02140236
## 11
                                           hp
## 12
          8 <tibble[,10] [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                           drat
                                                        2.006011
```

Slightly nicer

```
mods %>%
    mutate(coefs = map(model, pull_coef)) %>%
    select(cyl, coefs) %>%
    unnest(coefs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 12 x 3
## # Groups: cyl [3]
## cyl coefficient estimate
## <dbl> <chr>
                        <dbl>
## 1 6 (Intercept) 6.284507
## 2 6 disp 0.02635410
             0.006229086
## 3 6 hp
## 4 6 drat 2.193577
## 5 4 (Intercept) 46.08662
## 6 4 disp -0.1225361
## 7
       4 hp -0.04937771
## 8 4 drat -0.6041857
## 9 8 (Intercept) 19.00162
## 10 8 disp -0.01671461
## 11 8 hp -0.02140236
## 12 8 drat 2.006011
```

Create nice table

When to write a function?

Example

```
set.seed(42)
df <- tibble::tibble(
    a = rnorm(10, 100, 150),
    b = rnorm(10, 100, 150),
    c = rnorm(10, 100, 150),
    d = rnorm(10, 100, 150)
)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 4
##
             b
                                      d
       а
                       С
##
       ## 1 305.6438 295.7304 54.00421 168.3175
##
  2 15.29527 442.9968 -167.1963 205.7256
##
  3 154.4693 -108.3291 74.21240 255.2655
## 4 194.9294 58.18168 282.2012 8.661044
   5 160.6402 80.00180 384.2790 175.7433
##
## 6 84.08132 195.3926 35.42963 -157.5513
## 7 326.7283 57.36206 61.40959 -17.66885
## 8 85.80114 -298.4683 -164.4745 -27.63614
## 9 402.7636 -266.0700 169.0146 -262.1311
## 10 90.59289 298.0170 4.000769 105.4184
```

Rescale each column to 0/1

Do it for one column

```
df %>%
    mutate(a = (a - min(a, na.rm = TRUE))) /
               (max(a, na.rm = TRUE) - min(a, na.rm = TRUE)))
## # A tibble: 10 x 4
##
                     b
                                          d
##
       <dbl>
##
   1 0.7493478 295.7304 54.00421
                                  168.3175
##
   2 0 442.9968 -167.1963
                                  205.7256
   3 0.3591881 -108.3291 74.21240 255.2655
##
##
   4 0.4636099 58.18168 282.2012 8.661044
##
   5 0.3751145 80.00180 384.2790 175.7433
##
   6 0.1775269 195.3926 35.42963 -157.5513
## 7 0.8037639 57.36206 61.40959 -17.66885
## 8 0.1819655 -298.4683 -164.4745 -27.63614
##
      -266.0700 169.0146 -262.1311
## 10 0.1943323 298.0170 4.000769 105.4184
```

Do it for all columns

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 4
##
##
 1 0.7493478 0.8013846 0.4011068 0.8319510
##
## 2 0 1 0 0.9042516
## 3 0.3591881 0.2564372 0.4377506 1
## 4 0.4636099 0.4810071 0.8149005 0.5233744
                          0.8463031
##
   5 0.3751145 0.5104355
                      0.3674252 0.2021270
## 6 0.1775269 0.6660608
## 7 0.8037639 0.4799017 0.4145351 0.4724852
## 8 0.1819655 0
               0.004935493 0.4532209
       0.04369494 0.6096572
## 10 0.1943323 0.8044685 0.3104346 0.7103825
```

An alternative

 What's an alternative we could use without writing a function?

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 4
##
        <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
##
   1 0.7493478 0.8013846 0.4011068 0.8319510
  2 0 1 0 0.9042516
3 0.3591881 0.2564372 0.4377506 1
## 2 0
##
## 4 0.4636099 0.4810071 0.8149005 0.5233744
##
   5 0.3751145 0.5104355
                      1 0.8463031
## 6 0.1775269 0.6660608 0.3674252 0.2021270
## 7 0.8037639 0.4799017 0.4145351 0.4724852
## 8 0.1819655 0
               0.004935493 0.4532209
## 9 1 0.04369494 0.6096572
## 10 0.1943323 0.8044685 0.3104346 0.7103825
```

Another alternative

Write a function

- What are the arguments going to be?
- What will the body be?

Arguments

One formal argument – A numeric vector to rescale

Body

You try first

```
(x - min(x, na.rm = TRUE)) /
  (max(x, na.rm = TRUE) - min(x, na.rm = TRUE))
```



Create the function

Test it!

```
rescale01(c(0, 5, 10))

## [1] 0.0 0.5 1.0

rescale01(c(seq(0, 100, 10)))

## [1] 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0
```

Make it cleaner

- There's nothing inherently "wrong" about the prior function, but it is a bit hard to read
- How could we make it easier to read?
 - Remove missing data once (rather than every time)
 - Don't calculate things multiple times

A little cleaned up

```
rescale01b <- function(x) {
    z <- na.omit(x)
    min_z <- min(z)
    max_z <- max(z)

    (z - min_z) / (max_z - min_z)
}</pre>
```

Test it!

```
rescale01b(c(0, 5, 10))

## [1] 0.0 0.5 1.0

rescale01b(c(seq(0, 100, 10)))

## [1] 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0
```

Make sure they give the same output

```
identical(rescale01(c(0, 1e5, .01)), rescale01b(c(0, 1e5, 0.01)))
## [1] TRUE

rand <- rnorm(1e3)
identical(rescale01(rand), rescale01b(rand))
## [1] TRUE</pre>
```

Final solution

Could use modify here too

map_df(df, rescale01b)

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 4
##
## <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
  1 0.7493478 0.8013846 0.4011068 0.8319510
##
## 2 0
           1 0 0.9042516
## 3 0.3591881 0.2564372 0.4377506
## 4 0.4636099 0.4810071 0.8149005 0.5233744
##
  5 0.3751145 0.5104355
                       0.8463031
## 6 0.1775269 0.6660608 0.3674252 0.2021270
## 7 0.8037639 0.4799017 0.4145351 0.4724852
## 9 1 0.04369494 0.6096572 0
## 10 0.1943323 0.8044685 0.3104346 0.7103825
```

Getting more complex

 What if you want a function to behave differently depending on the input?

Add conditions

```
function() {
   if (condition) {

# code executed when condition is TRUE

} else {
   # code executed when condition is FALSE

}
}
```

Lots of conditions?

```
function() {
   if (this) {

    # do this
   } else if (that) {

   # do that
   } else {

    # something else
   }
}
```

Easy example

• Given a vector, return the mean if it's numeric, and **NULL** otherwise

```
mean2 <- function(x) {
    if(is.numeric(x)) {
        mean(x)
    }
    else {
        return()
    }
}</pre>
```

Test it

```
mean2(rnorm(12))

## [1] 0.1855869

mean2(letters[1:5])

## NULL
```

Mean for all numeric columns

 The prior function can now be used within a new function to calculate the mean of all columns of a data frame that are numeric

```
means_df <- function(df) {
    means <- map(df, mean2) # calculate means
    nulls <- map_lgl(means, is.null) # find null values
    means_l <- means[!nulls] # subset list to remove nulls
    as.data.frame(means_l) # return a df
}</pre>
```

head(iris)

```
##
   Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width Species
## 1
          5.1
                   3.5
                             1.4
                                       0.2 setosa
## 2
         4.9
                   3.0
                             1.4
                                       0.2 setosa
## 3
       4.7 3.2
                             1.3
                                       0.2 setosa
## 4
        4.6
                  3.1
                             1.5
                                       0.2 setosa
## 5
         5.0
                  3.6
                             1.4
                                       0.2 setosa
## 6
        5.4
                   3.9
                             1.7
                                       0.4 setosa
```

means_df(iris)

```
## Sepal.Length Sepal.Width Petal.Length Petal.Width ## 1 5.843333 3.057333 3.758 1.199333
```

We have a problem though!

head(airquality)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 41 190 7.4 67 5 1
## 2 36 118 8.0 72 5 2
## 3 12 149 12.6 74 5 3
## 4 18 313 11.5 62 5 4
## 5 NA NA 14.3 56 5 5
## 6 28 NA 14.9 66 5 6
```

means_df(airquality)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 NA NA 9.957516 77.88235 6.993464 15.80392
```

Why is this happening?

How can we fix it?

Easiest way in this case . . .

Pass the dots!

Redefine means2

```
mean2 <- function(x, ...) {
    if(is.numeric(x)) {
        mean(x, ...)
    }
    else {
        return()
    }
}</pre>
```

Reefine means df

```
means_df <- function(df, ...) {
    means <- map(df, mean2, ...) # calculate means
    nulls <- map_lgl(means, is.null) # find null values
    means_l <- means[!nulls] # subset list to remove nulls
    as.data.frame(means_l) # return a df
}</pre>
```

means_df(airquality)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 NA NA 9.957516 77.88235 6.993464 15.80392
```

means_df(airquality, na.rm = TRUE)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 42.12931 185.9315 9.957516 77.88235 6.993464 15.80392
```

Next time

Functions: Part 2