

Class 6: R functions

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Background

All functions in R have at least 3 things:

- A **name** that we use to call the function.
- One or more input **arguments**
- The **body** the lines of R code that do the work

Our first function

Let's write a silly wee function called `add()` to add some numbers (the input argumentd)

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

Now we can use this function

```
add(100,1)
```

```
[1] 101
```

```
add(x=c(100,1,100), y=1 )
```

```
[1] 101    2 101
```

Q. What if I give a multiple element vector to **x** and **y**?

```
add(x=c(100,1), y=c(100,1))
```

```
[1] 200    2
```

Q. What if I give three inputs to the function?

```
#add(x=c(100,1), y=1, z=1)
```

Q. What happens if I give only one input to the add function?

```
addnew <- function(x, y=1) {  
  x+y  
}
```

```
addnew(x=100)
```

```
[1] 101
```

```
addnew(c(100,1), 100)
```

```
[1] 200 101
```

If we write our function with input arguments having no default value than the user will be required to set them when they use the function. We can give our input arguments “default” values.

A second function

Let's try something more interesting: Make a sequence generating tool...

The `sample()` function can be a useful starting point here:

```
sample(1:10, size=4)
```

```
[1] 5 7 10 1
```

Q. Generating 9 random numbers taken from the input vectore x=1:10?

```
sample(1:10, size=9)
```

```
[1] 2 5 1 4 9 8 3 6 7
```

Q. Generating 12 random numbers taken from the input vectore x=1:10?

```
sample(1:10, size= 12, replace=TRUE)
```

```
[1] 1 2 10 2 9 7 7 10 1 2 4 1
```

Q. Write code for the `sample()` function that generates nucleotide seurnce of length 6?

```
sample(c("A", "C", "G", "T"), size =6, replace= TRUE)
```

```
[1] "A" "T" "A" "T" "T" "G"
```

Q. Write a first functin `generate_dna()` that returns a *user specified length* DNA sequence:

```
generate_dna <- function(len=100) {  
  sample(c("A", "C", "G", "T"), size =len, replace= TRUE)  
}
```

```
generate_dna(len=100)
```

```
[1] "G" "A" "C" "T" "C" "T" "C" "C" "A" "A" "T" "T" "C" "C" "C" "T" "G" "G"  
[19] "G" "C" "A" "A" "C" "T" "T" "G" "A" "T" "T" "A" "G" "A" "A" "C" "A" "C"  
[37] "A" "T" "C" "G" "C" "G" "C" "A" "C" "A" "A" "A" "G" "G" "A" "C" "T" "C"  
[55] "C" "G" "G" "C" "G" "T" "A" "A" "T" "C" "A" "T" "G" "A" "G" "G" "C" "G"  
[73] "A" "A" "G" "T" "T" "C" "G" "A" "C" "T" "T" "C" "A" "T" "C" "G" "A" "G"  
[91] "A" "C" "T" "G" "C" "C" "C" "G" "A" "C"
```

Key-points Every function in R looks fundamentally the same in terms of its structure. Basically 3 things: name, input, and body

```
name <- function(input) {
  body
}
```

Functions can have multiple inputs. These can be *required arguments* or *optional arguments*. With optional arguments having a set default value.

Q. Modify and improve our `generate_dna` function to return it's generated sequence in a more standard format like "AGTAGTA" rather than vector "A", "T", "C", "G"

```
generate_dna <- function(len=6, fasta=TRUE) {
  ans <- sample(c("A", "C", "G", "T"),
               size =len, replace= TRUE)
  if(fasta) {
    ans <- paste(ans, collapse= "")
  }
  return(ans)
}
generate_dna()
```

```
[1] "CTACTC"
```

The `paste()` function - it's job is to join up or stick together (a.k.a paste) input strings together

```
paste("alice","loves R", sep=" ")
```

```
[1] "alice loves R"
```

Flow control means where the R brain goes in your code

```
good_mood <- TRUE

if(good_mood) {
  cat ("GREAT!")
} else {
  cat("Bummer!")
}
```

```
GREAT!
```

A protien generating function

Q. Write a function that generates user specified lengh prtien sequence.

Q. Use that function to generate protien sequences between length 6 and 12

Q. Are any of your sequences unique i.e. not found anywhere in nateure?

There are 20 natural amino acids

```
aa <-c("A","R","N","D","C","Q","E","G", "H","I","L","K","M","F","P","S","T","W","Y","V")
```

```
generate_protien <- function(len) {  
  
  # The amino-acids to sample from  
  aa <- c("A","R","N","D","C","Q","E","G", "H","I","L","K","M","F","P","S","T","W","Y","V")  
  #Draw n=len amino acids to make our sequence  
  ans <-sample(aa, size=len, replace= T)  
  ans <- paste(ans, collapse="")  
  return(ans)  
}
```

```
myseq <-generate_protien(142)  
myseq
```

```
[1] "WFRNCHLRHPINHLPNIGDRTMRDWMACWCEDLRHYVGVICLEIQCAPPPQGSEFEPPIILWYHFQHQKPEIWWVSFDMKTRYNPHGG"
```

Q. Use that function to generate protien sequences between length 6 and 12

```
generate_protien(6)
```

```
[1] "TSFPCF"
```

```
generate_protien(7)
```

```
[1] "LQMIMDS"
```

```
generate_protien(8)
```

```
[1] "RYDVCMYL"
```

```
generate_protien(9)
```

```
[1] "FLGLVVMKQ"
```

```
generate_protien(10)
```

```
[1] "LWFNHHYDTV"
```

```
generate_protien(11)
```

```
[1] "GKSVNFPKVEY"
```

```
generate_protien(12)
```

```
[1] "QRKVELINDTMS"
```

```
for(i in 6:12) {  
  #FASTA ID line ">id"  
  cat(">",i, sep=" ", "\n")  
  # protien equence line  
  cat(generate_protien(i), "\n")  
}
```

```
>6  
FFTGGS  
>7  
DDCSEEW  
>8  
TALHFMVH  
>9  
YQICFLMKM  
>10  
VFAYYHERYE  
>11  
MWWSCAMELWL  
>12  
NMMMVNSMIQEM
```