

Introduction to Functions

INTERMEDIATE R



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DataCamp Instructor

Functions

- You already know 'em!
- Create a list: `list()`
- Display a variable: `print()`

Black box principle



Black box principle

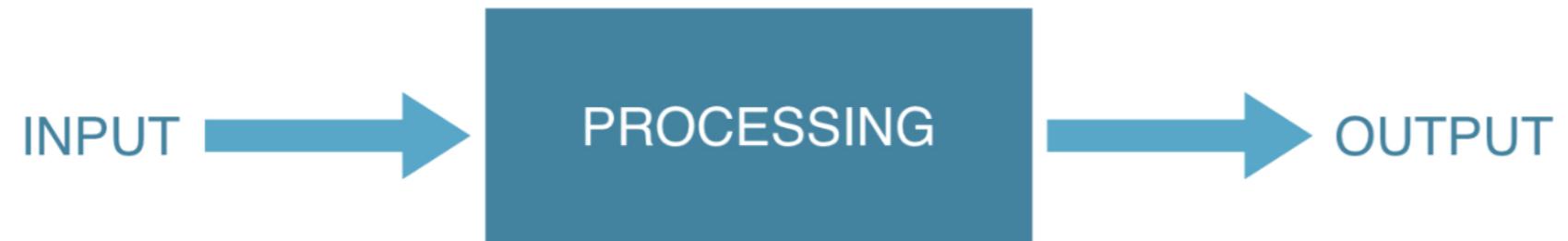
INPUT



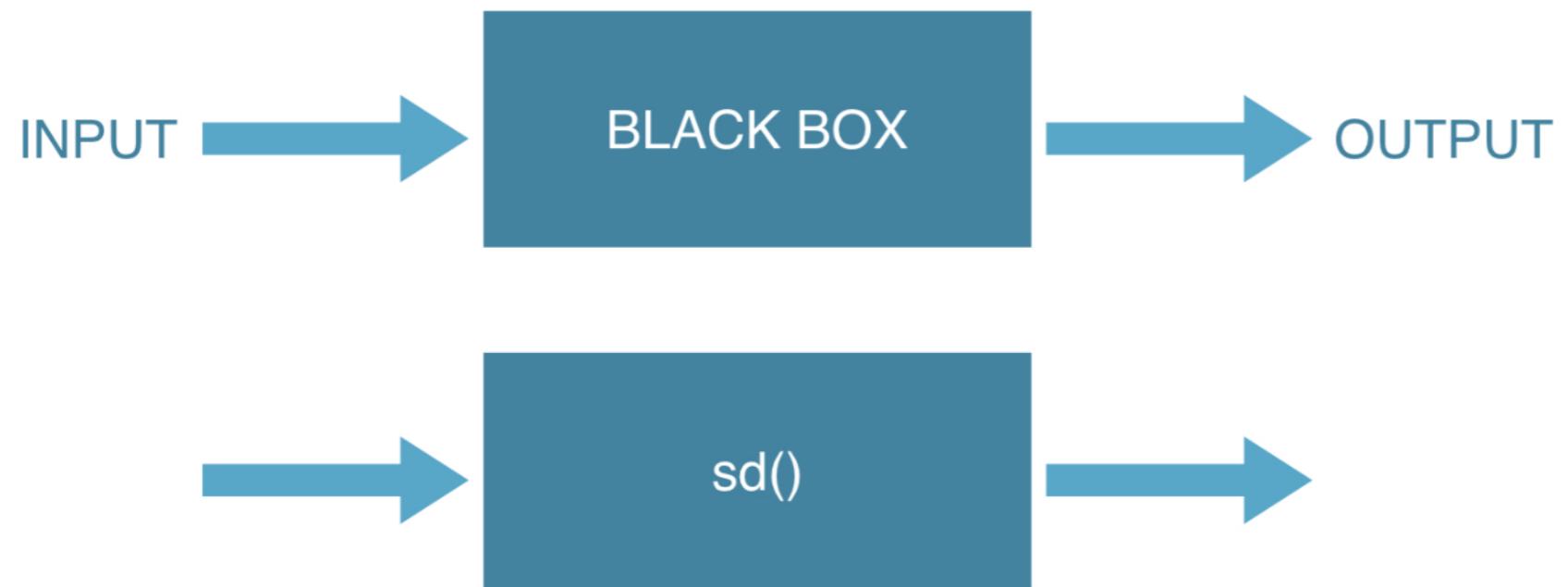
Black box principle



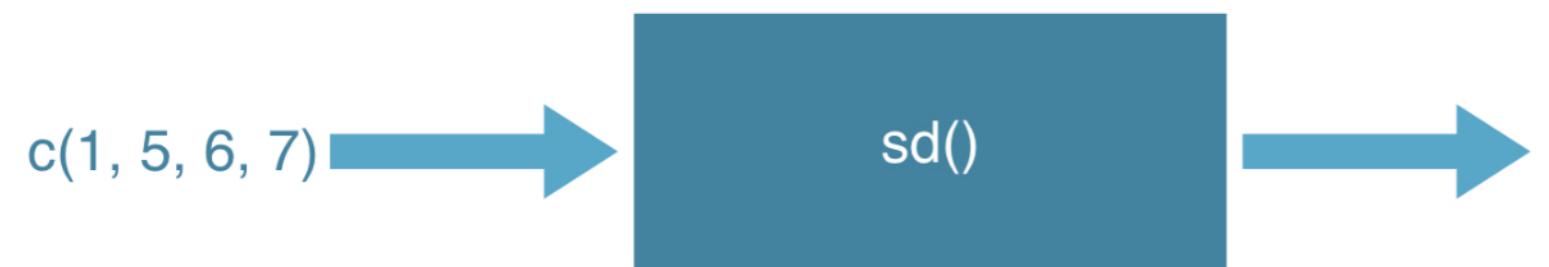
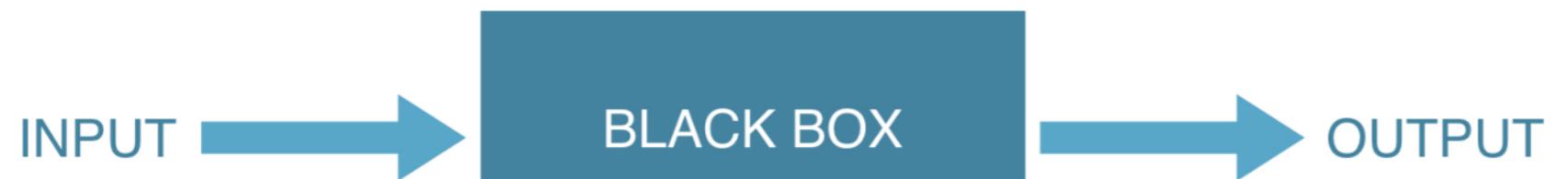
Black box principle



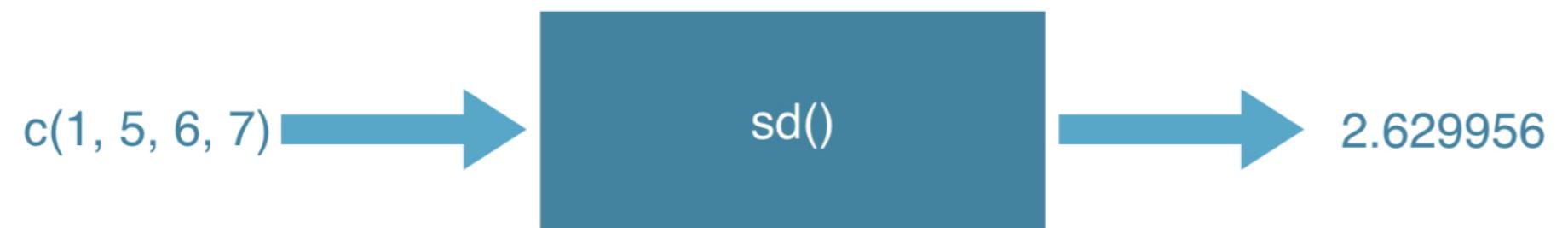
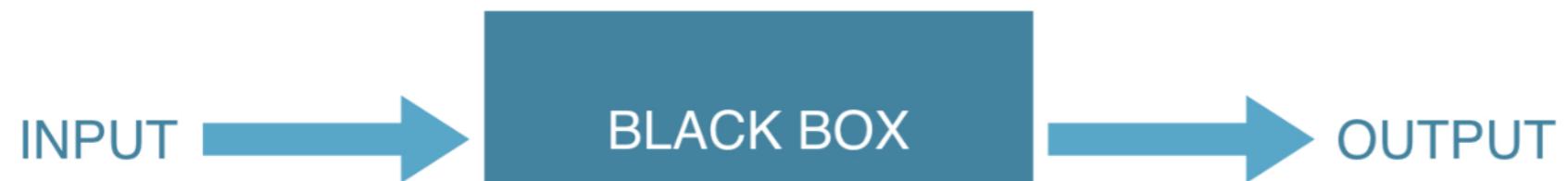
Black box principle



Black box principle



Black box principle



Call function in R

```
sd(c(1, 5, 6, 7))
```

```
2.629956
```

```
values <- c(1, 5, 6, 7)  
sd(values)
```

```
2.629956
```

```
my_sd <- sd(values)  
my_sd
```

```
2.629956
```

Function documentation

```
help(sd)
```

```
?sd
```

```
sd(x, na.rm = FALSE)
```

sd {stats}

R Documentation

Standard Deviation

Description

This function computes the standard deviation of the values in `x`. If `na.rm` is `TRUE` then missing values are removed before computation proceeds.

Usage

```
sd(x, na.rm = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`x` a numeric vector or an R object which is coercible to one by `as.vector(x, "numeric")`.
`na.rm` logical. Should missing values be removed?

Details

Like [var](#) this uses denominator $n - 1$.

The standard deviation of a zero-length vector (after removal of NAs if `na.rm = TRUE`) is not defined and gives an error. The standard deviation of a length-one vector is NA.

See Also

[var](#) for its square, and [mad](#), the most robust alternative.

Examples

```
sd(1:2) ^ 2
```

Questions

```
sd(x, na.rm = FALSE)
```

- Argument names: x, na.rm
- na.rm = FALSE
- sd(values) works?

Argument matching

```
sd(x, na.rm = FALSE)
```

By position

```
sd(values)
```

By name

```
sd(x = values)
```

na.rm argument

```
values <- c(1, 5, 6, NA)  
sd(values)
```

NA

```
sd(x, na.rm = FALSE)
```

```
sd(values, TRUE)
```

2.645751

```
sd(values, na.rm = TRUE)
```

2.645751

sd(values) works?

```
values <- c(1, 5, 6, 7)  
sd(values)
```

```
2.629956
```

```
sd()
```

```
Error in is.data.frame(x) :  
argument "x" is missing, with no default
```

```
sd(x, na.rm = FALSE)
```

Useful trick

```
args(sd)
```

```
function (x, na.rm = FALSE)  
NULL
```

Wrap-up

- Functions work like a black box
- Argument matching: by position or by name
- Function arguments can have defaults

Let's practice!

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Writing Functions

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When write your own?

- Solve a particular, well-defined problem
- Black box principle
- If it works, inner workings less important

The `triple()` function



The triple() function

```
my_fun <- function(arg1, arg2) {  
  body  
}
```

The triple() function

```
triple <- function(arg1, arg2) {  
  body  
}
```

The triple() function

```
triple <- function(x) {  
  body  
}
```

The triple() function

```
triple <- function(x) {  
  3 * x  
}
```

The triple() function

```
triple <- function(x) {  
  3 * x  
}
```

```
ls()
```

```
"triple"
```

```
triple(6)
```

```
18
```

- Numeric 6 matched to argument x (by pos)
- Function body is executed: $3 * 6$
- Last expression = return value

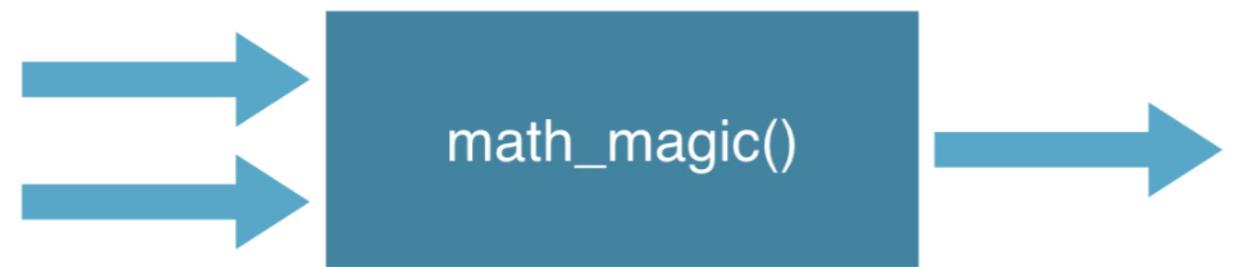
return()

```
triple <- function(x) {  
  y <- 3 * x  
  return(y)  
}
```

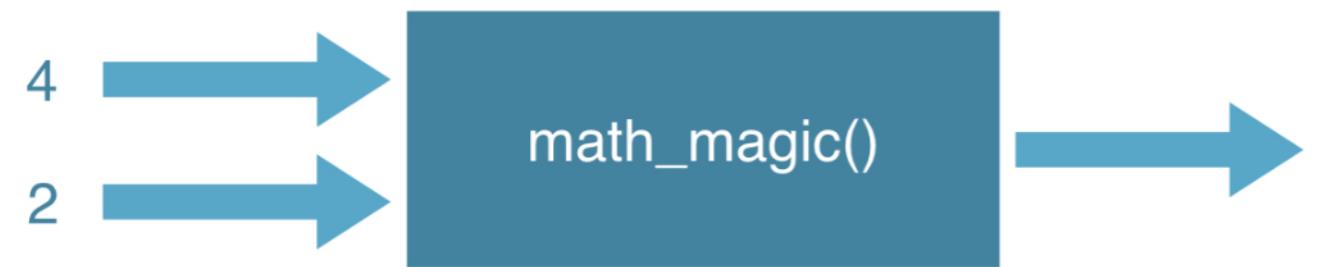
```
triple(6)
```

18

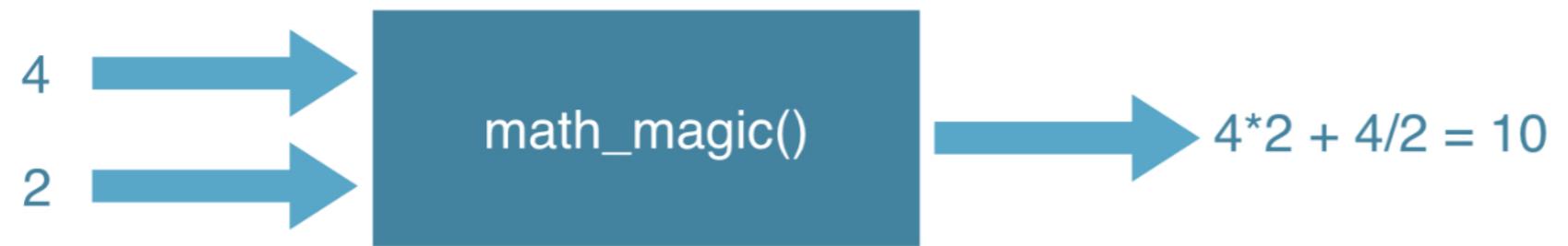
The `math_magic()` function



The `math_magic()` function



The `math_magic()` function



The math_magic() function

```
my_fun <- function(arg1, arg2) {  
  body  
}
```

The math_magic() function

```
math_magic <- function(arg1, arg2) {  
  body  
}
```

The math_magic() function

```
math_magic <- function(a, b) {  
  body  
}
```

The math_magic() function

```
math_magic <- function(a, b) {  
  a*b + a/b  
}
```

```
math_magic(4, 2)
```

10

```
math_magic(4)
```

Error in math_magic(4) : argument "b" is missing, with no default

Optional argument

```
math_magic <- function(a, b = 1) {  
  a*b + a/b  
}
```

```
math_magic(4)
```

8

```
math_magic(4, 0)
```

Inf

Use return()

```
math_magic <- function(a, b = 1) {  
  if(b == 0){  
    return(0)  
  }  
  a*b + a/b  
}
```

```
math_magic(4, 0)
```

```
0
```

Let's practice!

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R Packages

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R Packages

- Where do `mean()` , `list()` and `sample()` come from?
- Part of R packages
- Code, data, documentation and tests
- Easy to share
- Examples: `base` , `ggvis`

Install packages

- `base` package: automatically installed
- `ggvis` package: not installed yet

```
install.packages("ggvis")
```

- CRAN: Comprehensive R Archive Network

Load packages

- load package = attach to search list

```
search()
```

```
".GlobalEnv" ... "Autoloads" "package:base"
```

- 7 packages are attached by default
- ggvis not attached by default

```
ggvis(mtcars, ~wt, ~hp)
```

```
Error: could not find function "ggvis"
```

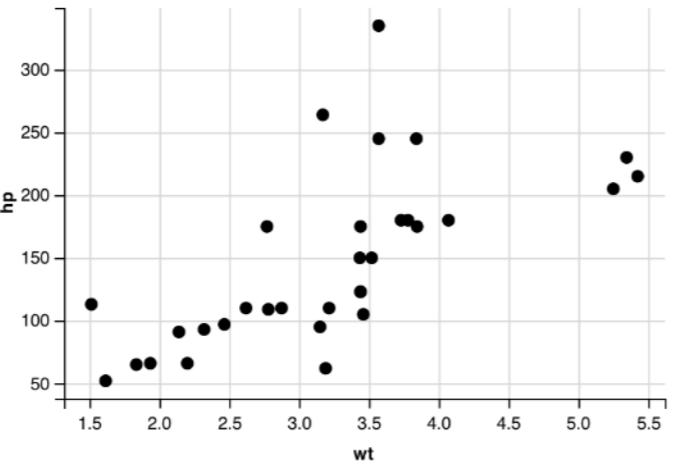
Load packages: library()

```
library("ggvis")
```

```
search()
```

```
".GlobalEnv" "package:ggvis" ... "package:base"
```

```
ggvis(mtcars, ~wt, ~hp)
```



Load packages: require()

```
library("data.table")
```

```
Error in library("data.table") :  
there is no package called 'data.table'
```

```
require("data.table")
```

```
Loading required package: data.table  
Warning message: ...
```

Load packages: require()

```
result <- require("data.table")
```

```
Loading required package: data.table  
Warning message: ...
```

```
result
```

```
FALSE
```

Wrap-up

- Install packages: `install.packages()`
- Load packages: `library()`, `require()`
- Load package = attach package to search list
- Google for cool R packages!

Let's practice!

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