## CSSS508, Week 7

#### Vectorization and Functions

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### Visualize the Goal First

Before you can write effective code, you need to know *exactly* what you want that code to produce.

- Do I want a single value? A vector? List?
- Do I want one observation per person? Person-year? Year?

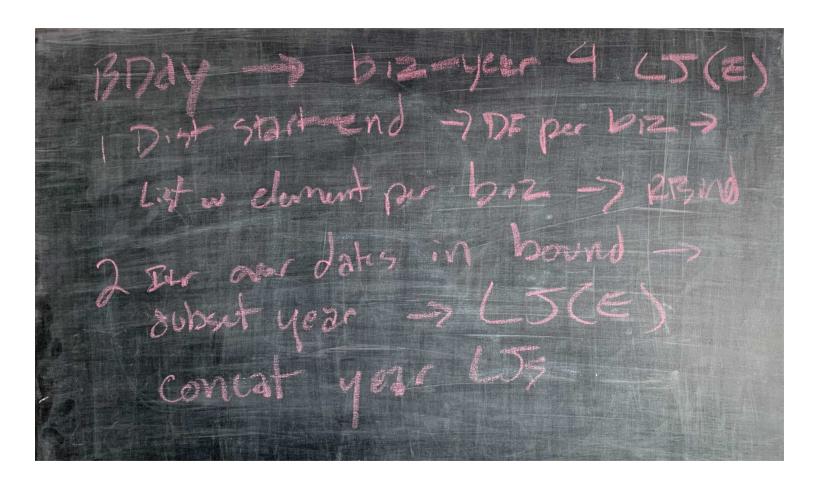
Most programming problems can be reduced to having an unclear idea of your end **goal** (or your beginning state).

If you know what you *have* (the data structure) and what you *want*, the intermediate steps are usually obvious.

When in doubt, *sketch* the beginning state and the intended end state. Then consider what translates the former into the latter in the least complicated way.

If that seems complex, break it into more steps.

## A Quick Sketch





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# Example from Last Week

Remember when we tried find the mean for each variable in the swiss data?

The best solution is to just use colMeans() without even thinking about preallocation or for() loops:

#### colMeans(swiss)

```
## Fertility Agriculture Examination Education
## 70.14255 50.65957 16.48936 10.97872
## Catholic Infant.Mortality
## 41.14383 19.94255
```

# Vectorization Avoids Loops

Loops are very powerful and applicable in almost any situation.

They are also often slower and require writing more code than vectorized commands.

Whenever possible, use existing vectorized commands like colMeans() or dplyr functions.

Sometimes no functions exist to do what you need, so you'll be tempted to write a loop.

This makes sense on a fast, one-time operation, on small data.

If your data are large or you're going to do it repeatedly, however, consider writing your own functions!



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## Examples of Existing Functions

- mean():
  - Input: a vector
  - Output: a single number
- dplyr::filter():
  - Input: a data frame, logical condition(s)
  - Output: a data frame with rows removed using those conditions
- readr::read\_csv():
  - Input: a file path, optionally variable names or types
  - Output: a data frame containing info read in from file

## Why Write Your Own Functions?

Functions can encapsulate actions you might perform often, such as:

- Given a vector, compute some special summary stats
- Given a vector and definition of "invalid" values, replace with NA
- Templates for favorite ggplot's used in reports
- Defining a new logical operator

Advanced function applications (not covered in this class):

- Parallel processing
- Generating *other* functions
- Making custom packages containing your functions

# Simple Function

Let's look at a function that takes a vector as input and outputs a named vector of the first and last elements:

```
first_and_last <- function(x) {
   first <- x[1]
   last <- x[length(x)]
   return(c("first" = first, "last" = last))
}</pre>
```

Test it out:

```
first_and_last(c(4, 3, 1, 8))

## first last
## 4 8
```

# Testing first\_and\_last

What if I give first\_and\_last() a vector of length 1?

```
first_and_last(7)

## first last
## 7 7

Oflength 0?

first_and_last(numeric(0))

## first
## NA
```

Maybe we want it to be a little smarter.

# Checking Inputs

Let's make sure we get an error message when the vector is too small:

```
smarter_first_and_last <- function(x) {
   if(length(x) == OL) { # specify integers with L
        stop("The input has no length!")
   } else {
      first <- x[1]
      last <- x[length(x)]
      return(c("first" = first, "last" = last))
   }
}</pre>
```

stop() ceases running the function and prints the text inside as an error message.

# Testing Smarter Function

```
smarter_first_and_last(numeric(0))

## Error in smarter_first_and_last(numeric(0)): The input has no length!

smarter_first_and_last(c(4, 3, 1, 8))

## first_last
## 4 8
```

# Cracking Open Functions

If you type a function name without any parentheses or arguments, you can see its contents:

#### smarter\_first\_and\_last

```
## function(x) {
##     if(length(x) == 0L) { # specify integers with L
##         stop("The input has no length!") #<<
##     } else {
##         first <- x[1]
##         last <- x[length(x)]
##         return(c("first" = first, "last" = last))
##    }
##     }
##     <environment: 0x000002589dcf1640>
```

You can also put your cursor over a function in your syntax and hit F2.

# Anatomy of a Function

```
NAME <- function(ARGUMENT1, ARGUMENT2=DEFAULT){
  BODY
  return(OUTPUT)
}</pre>
```

- Name: What you assign the function to so you can use it later
  - You can have "anonymous" (no-name) functions
- **Arguments** (aka inputs, parameters): things the user passes to the function that affect how it works
  - e.g. x or na.rm in my\_new\_func <- function(x, na.rm =
    FALSE) {...}</pre>
  - o na.rm = FALSE is example of setting a default value: if user doesn't say what na.rm is, it'll be FALSE
  - o x, na.rm values won't exist in R outside of the function
- **Body**: The actual operations inside the function.
- **Return Value**: The output inside return(). Could be a vector, list, data frame, another function, or even nothing
  - If unspecified, will be the last thing calculated (maybe not what you want?)

# Example: Reporting Quantiles

Maybe you want to know more detailed quantile information than summary() gives you and with interpretable names.

Here's a starting point:

```
## Bottom 1% Bottom 5% Bottom 10% Bottom 25% Median
## -2.329538054 -1.645994932 -1.288954121 -0.658721560 -0.005901012
## Top 25% Top 10% Top 5% Top 1%
## 0.661052632 1.267883667 1.638962360 2.242584394
```



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#### Don't Loop, apply() Yourself Instead

Writing loops is challenging, particularly for new coders.

Loops also require writing a lot of code and are hard to troubleshoot.

But loops aren't the only way to iterate in R.

Like a loop, apply functions iterate over elements of objects, except:

- They don't need preallocation--you can directly assign the output.
- They must use a function

Nearly anything you can do with an explicit loop can be done more easily with the apply family of functions<sup>1</sup>

[1] The tidyverse version of apply functions is called <u>purrr</u> and has many more options for methods of iteration than base R.

# lapply(): List + Functions

lapply() is used to apply a function over a list of any kind (e.g. a data frame) and return a list. This is a lot easier than preparing a for() loop!

#### lapply(swiss, FUN = quantile\_report)

```
## $Fertility
   Bottom 1%
               Bottom 5% Bottom 10% Bottom 25%
                                                    Median
                                                              Top 25%
       38.588
                                                    70,400
                                                                78,450
##
                  47.580
                             56,240
                                         64.700
##
     Top 10%
                Top 5%
                             Top 1%
##
       84,600
                  90.670
                             92,454
##
  $Agriculture
   Bottom 1%
               Bottom 5% Bottom 10% Bottom 25%
                                                    Median
                                                              Top 25%
        4.190
                  15,650
                             17.360
                                         35,900
                                                    54,100
                                                                67,650
##
##
      Top 10%
                  Top 5%
                             Top 1%
       76.820
                  84.810
                             87.952
##
##
  $Examination
   Bottom 1%
                                                    Median
##
               Bottom 5% Bottom 10% Bottom 25%
                                                               Top 25%
##
         3.00
                    5.00
                               6.00
                                          12.00
                                                     16.00
                                                                 22.00
##
      Top 10%
                  Top 5%
                             Top 1%
##
        26.00
                   30.40
                              36.08
```

# sapply(): Simple lapply()

A downside to lapply() is that lists are hard to work with. sapply() simplifies the output by making each element a column in a matrix... usually:

#### sapply(swiss, FUN = quantile\_report)

```
Fertility Agriculture Examination Education Catholic
##
                 38.588
## Bottom 1%
                              4.190
                                            3.00
                                                      1.46
                                                              2.2052
## Bottom 5%
                 47,580
                              15,650
                                            5.00
                                                      2.00
                                                              2,4480
## Bottom 10%
                 56.240
                              17.360
                                            6.00
                                                      3.00
                                                             2.8320
## Bottom 25%
                 64.700
                              35.900
                                           12.00
                                                      6.00
                                                             5.1950
## Median
                 70.400
                                           16.00
                              54.100
                                                      8.00
                                                            15.1400
## Top 25%
                 78.450
                              67.650
                                           22.00
                                                     12.00
                                                            93.1250
## Top 10%
                 84.600
                             76.820
                                           26.00
                                                     23.20
                                                            99,0000
## Top 5%
                 90.670
                              84.810
                                           30.40
                                                     29.00
                                                            99.6140
## Top 1%
                 92.454
                              87.952
                                           36.08
                                                     43.34
                                                            99.8666
##
              Infant.Mortality
## Bottom 1%
                        12.778
## Bottom 5%
                        15.600
## Bottom 10%
                        16.420
## Bottom 25%
                        18.150
## Median
                        20.000
                        21.700
## Top 25%
## Top 10%
                        23.680
## Top 5%
                        24.470
## Top 1%
                        25.818
```

# apply()

There is also apply() which works over matrices or data frames. You can apply the function to each row (MARGIN = 1) or column (MARGIN = 2).

#### apply(swiss, MARGIN = 2, FUN = quantile\_report)

```
Fertility Agriculture Examination Education Catholic
##
                 38.588
## Bottom 1%
                               4.190
                                            3.00
                                                       1.46
                                                              2.2052
## Bottom 5%
                 47.580
                              15.650
                                            5.00
                                                              2.4480
                                                       2.00
## Bottom 10%
                 56.240
                              17.360
                                            6.00
                                                       3.00
                                                              2.8320
## Bottom 25%
                 64.700
                              35,900
                                           12.00
                                                       6.00
                                                              5.1950
## Median
                 70.400
                              54.100
                                           16.00
                                                       8.00
                                                             15.1400
## Top 25%
                 78.450
                              67.650
                                           22.00
                                                      12.00
                                                             93.1250
## Top 10%
                 84.600
                              76.820
                                           26.00
                                                      23.20
                                                             99.0000
## Top 5%
                 90.670
                              84.810
                                           30.40
                                                      29.00
                                                             99.6140
## Top 1%
                 92.454
                              87.952
                                           36.08
                                                      43.34
                                                            99.8666
##
              Infant.Mortality
## Bottom 1%
                         12.778
## Bottom 5%
                         15.600
## Bottom 10%
                        16.420
## Bottom 25%
                        18.150
## Median
                        20.000
## Top 25%
                        21.700
## Top 10%
                        23.680
## Top 5%
                        24.470
## Top 1%
                        25.818
```

Remember the loop for loading data files from last week?

```
library(dplyr); library(readr)
file_list <- list.files("./example_data/")
file_paths <- paste0("./example_data/", file_list)
data_names <- stringr::str_remove(file_list, ".csv")
data_list <- vector("list", length(file_list))
names(data_list) <- data_names
for (i in seq_along(file_list)){
   data_list[[ data_names[i] ]] <- read_csv(file_paths[i])
}
complete_data <- bind_rows(data_list)
head(complete_data, 3)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
## id x z
## <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> ## 1 44 0.516 0.381
## 2 49 2.17 0.346
## 3 50 -0.122 0.711
```

# Data Loading with lapply()

Another way to load these files would be to... lapply() over the file names then bind the rows together. Faster and easier!

```
complete_data <- lapply(file_paths, read_csv) %>%
  bind_rows()
head(complete_data, 3)
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
## id x z
## <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> ## 1
    44    0.516    0.381
## 2    49    2.17    0.346
## 3    50 -0.122    0.711
```

# Data Loading with vroom

The fastest and easiest way is to use a fully vectorized data loading function, like vroom::vroom()!

```
library(vroom)
complete_data <- vroom(file_paths)
head(complete_data, 3)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
## id x z
## <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> ## 1 44 0.516 0.381
## 2 49 2.17 0.346
## 3 50 -0.122 0.711
```

Just give vroom() a vector of file locations and it determines their delimiter, loads them all (crazy fast), and binds them into one dataframe.

## From Loop to apply()

Converting code in a loop to an apply function is straightforward:

- 1. What you iterate over in the loop (e.g.  $seq_along(x)$ ) becomes the first input.
- 2. The body of the loop becomes a function.
  - This function should take only the iterator index (e.g. i) as an input.
- 3. Assign the output to what your loop stored values in.

# Loop vs. Apply

```
loop_vec <- numeric(5)  # Preallocation!
for(x in seq_along(loop_vec)){ # Change x to 1,2,3,4,5
  loop_vec[x] <- x^2  # Write x squared to loop_vec
}
loop_vec</pre>
```

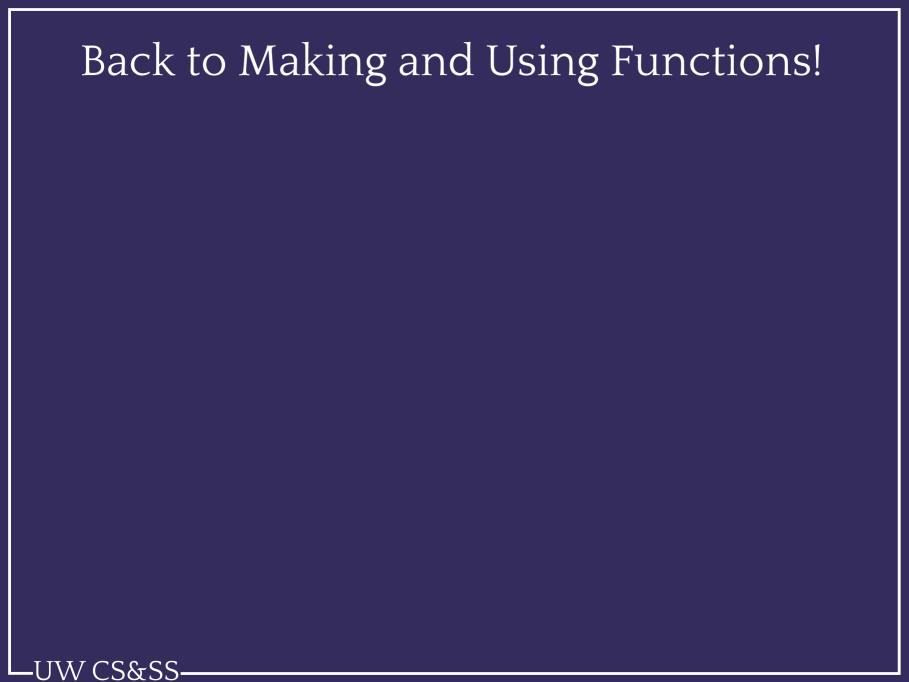
```
## [1] 1 4 9 16 25
```

seq\_along(loop\_vec) is just 1:5, but we need the empty loop\_vec to store
results.

```
# No preallocation, just iterate over 1:5 and assign output!
apply_vec <- sapply(1:5, function(x){x^2})
apply_vec</pre>
```

```
## [1] 1 4 9 16 25
```

For apply functions, we don't need to prellocate, so we just sapply() over 1:5 directly.



# Example: Discretizing Continuous Data

Maybe you often want to bucket variables in your data into groups based on quantiles:

Person	Income	Income Bucket
1	8000	1
2	103000	3
3	12000	1
4	52000	2
5	150000	3
6	45000	2

# **Bucketing Function**

There's already a function in R called cut() that does this, but you need to tell it breaks or the number of buckets.

Let's make a function that calls cut() using quantiles (quants) for splitting and returns integers:

```
bucket <- function(x, quants = c(0.333, 0.667)) {
    # set low extreme, quantile points, high extreme
    new_breaks <- c(min(x)-1, quantile(x, probs = quants), max(x)+1)
    # labels = FALSE will return integer codes instead of ranges
    return(cut(x, breaks = new_breaks, labels = FALSE))
}</pre>
```

By default this will produce *three buckets*:

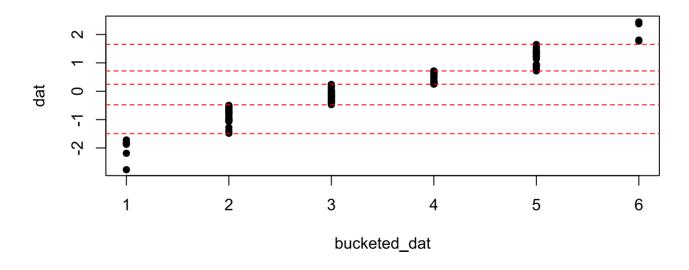
- 1. Anything below 33.3rd percentile
- 2. Anthing from 33.3rd to 66.7th
- 3. Anything above 66.7th

To capture all high/low values, we start with min(x)-1 and end with max(x)+1.

# Trying Out bucket()

```
dat <- rnorm(100)
dat_quants <- c(0.05, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.95)
bucketed_dat <- bucket(dat, quants = dat_quants)
plot(x = bucketed_dat, y = dat, main = "Buckets and values", pch = 16)
abline(h = quantile(dat, dat_quants), lty = "dashed", col = "red")</pre>
```

#### **Buckets and values**



# Example: Removing Bad Data

Let's say we have data where impossible values occur:<sup>1</sup>

```
(school_data <-
  data.frame(school = letters[1:10],
  pr_passing_exam=c(0.78, 0.55, 0.91, -1, 0.88, 0.81, 0.90, 0.76, 99, 99),
  pr_free_lunch = c(0.33, 99, 0.25, 0.05, 0.12, 0.09, 0.22, -13, 0.21, 99)))</pre>
```

```
##
    school pr passing exam pr free lunch
## 1
                 0.78
                            0.33
        a
## 2
                 0.55 99.00
## 3
                 0.91
                          0.25
                 -1.00
                         0.05
## 4
## 5
                 0.88 0.12
                 0.81
                          0.09
## 6
## 7
                0.90 0.22
## 8
               0.76 -13.00
                99.00
                          0.21
## 9
## 10
                 99.00
                           99.00
```

[1] Different types of missing data are often coded this way in survey and administrative data sets.

# Function to Remove Extreme Values

#### Goal:

- Input: a vector x, cutoff for low, cutoff for high
- Output: a vector with NA in the extreme places

```
remove_extremes <- function(x, low, high) {
    x_no_low <- ifelse(x < low, NA, x)
    x_no_low_no_high <- ifelse(x_no_low > high, NA, x)
    return(x_no_low_no_high)
}
remove_extremes(school_data$pr_passing_exam, low = 0, high = 1)
```

## [1] 0.78 0.55 0.91 NA 0.88 0.81 0.90 0.76 NA NA

# dplyr::across()

The dplyr function across() allows us to a function to every variable (besides school) to update the columns in school\_data:

```
library(dplyr)
 school data %>%
    mutate(across(-school, \sim remove\_extremes(x = ., low = 0, high = 1)))
      school pr passing exam pr free lunch
##
## 1
                         0.78
                                       0.33
           a
                         0.55
## 2
                                          NA
           b
## 3
                         0.91
                                       0.25
                                       0.05
## 4
                           NA
## 5
                         0.88
                                       0.12
```

0.09

0.22

0.21

NA

NA

NA

0.81

0.90

0.76

NA

34 / 56

## 6

## 7 ## 8

## 9

## 10

## (Non-)Standard Evaluation

dplyr uses what is called **non-standard evaluation** that lets you refer to "naked" variables (no quotes around them) like school.

dplyr verbs (like mutate()) recently started supporting standard
evaluation allowing you to use quoted object names as well. This makes
writing functions and loops with dplyr easier.

```
swiss %>%
  select("Fertility", "Catholic") %>%
  head(2)
```

```
## Fertility Catholic
## Courtelary 80.2 9.96
## Delemont 83.1 84.84
```

## Anonymous Functions in dplyr

You can skip naming your function in dplyr if you won't use it again. Code below will return the mean divided by the standard deviation for each variable in swiss:

```
swiss %>%
    summarize(across(everything(), ~ mean(., na.rm=TRUE) / sd(., na.rm=TRUE)))

## Fertility Agriculture Examination Education Catholic
## 1 5.615134 2.230597 2.066884 1.141785 0.9865478
## Infant.Mortality
## 1 6.846766
```

# Anonymous lapply()

Like with dplyr, you can use anonymous functions in lapply()<sup>1</sup>, but a difference is you'll need to have the function() part at the beginning:

```
lapply(swiss, function(x) mean(x, na.rm = TRUE) / sd(x, na.rm = TRUE))
## $Fertility
## [1] 5.615134
##
## $Agriculture
## [1] 2.230597
##
## $Examination
## [1] 2.066884
##
## $Education
## [1] 1.141785
##
## $Catholic
## [1] 0.9865478
```

[1] Note that lapply() produces a list as output. You could instead use sapply() to get a vector.

# Extended Example:

ggplot2 Templates

### Flexible ggplot2

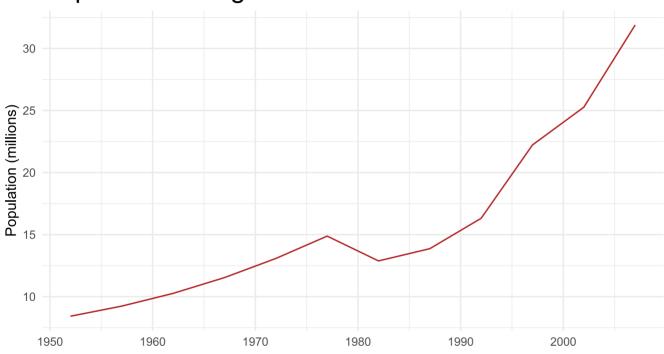
Let's say you have a particular way you like your charts:

```
library(gapminder); library(ggplot2)
ggplot(gapminder %>% filter(country == "Afghanistan"),
    aes(x = year, y = pop / 1000000)) +
    geom_line(color = "firebrick") +
    xlab(NULL) + ylab("Population (millions)") +
    ggtitle("Population of Afghanistan since 1952") +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0, size = 20))
```

- How could we make this flexible for any country?
- How could we make this flexible for any gapminder variable?

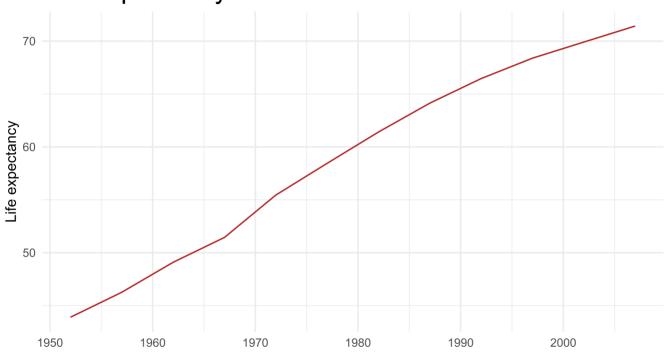
#### Example of Desired Chart

Population of Afghanistan since 1952



#### Another Example

Life expectancy in Peru since 1952



#### Making Country Flexible

We can have the user input a character string for cntry as an argument to the function to get subsetting and the title right:

```
gapminder_lifeplot <- function(cntry) {
    ggplot(gapminder %>% filter(country == cntry),
        aes(x = year, y = lifeExp)) +
    geom_line(color = "firebrick") +
    xlab(NULL) + ylab("Life expectancy") + theme_minimal() +
    ggtitle(paste0("Life expectancy in ", cntry, " since 1952")) +
    theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0, size = 20))
}
```

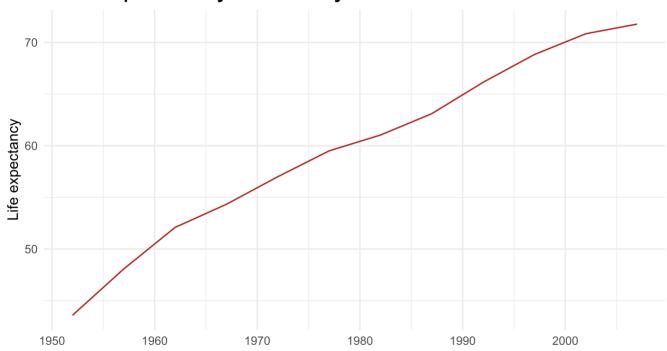
#### What cntry does:

- filter() to the specific value of cntry
- Add text value of cntry in ggtitle()

#### Testing Plot Function

gapminder\_lifeplot(cntry = "Turkey")

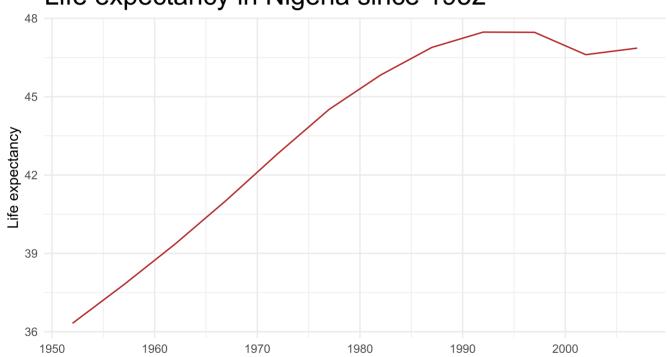
Life expectancy in Turkey since 1952



#### Testing Plot Function

gapminder\_lifeplot(cntry = "Nigeria")





### Making y Value Flexible

Now let's allow the user to say which variable they want on the y-axis. How we can get the right labels for the axis and title? We can use a named character vector to serve as a "lookup table" inside the function:

```
y axis label <- c("lifeExp" = "Life expectancy",</pre>
                  "pop" = "Population (millions)",
                  "gdpPercap" = "GDP per capita, USD")
           <- c("lifeExp" = "Life expectancy in ",
title text
                  "pop" = "Population of ",
                  "gdpPercap" = "GDP per capita in ")
# example use:
y axis label["pop"]
##
                       pop
## "Population (millions)"
title_text["pop"]
##
               pop
## "Population of "
```

# aes\_string()

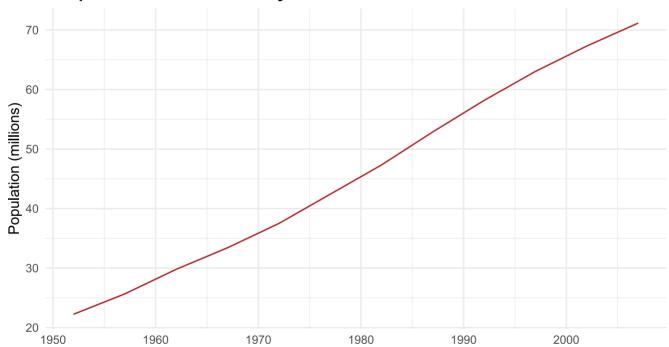
ggplot() is usually looking for "naked" variables, but we can tell it to take
them as quoted strings (standard evaluation) using aes\_string() instead of
aes(), which is handy when making functions:

```
gapminder plot <- function(cntry, yvar) {</pre>
   y_axis_label <- c("lifeExp" = "Life expectancy",</pre>
                      "pop" = "Population (millions)",
                      "gdpPercap" = "GDP per capita, USD")[yvar]
   title_text <- c("lifeExp" = "Life expectancy in ",</pre>
                      "pop" = "Population of ",
                      "gdpPercap" = "GDP per capita in ")[yvar]
    ggplot(gapminder %>% filter(country == cntry) %>%
            mutate(pop = pop / 1000000),
           aes_string(x = "year", y = yvar)) +
     geom line(color = "firebrick") +
      ggtitle(paste0(title_text, cntry, " since 1952")) +
      xlab(NULL) + ylab(y_axis_label) + theme_minimal() +
      theme(plot.title = element_text(hjust = 0, size = 20))
```

# Testing gapminder\_plot()

```
gapminder_plot(cntry = "Turkey", yvar = "pop")
```

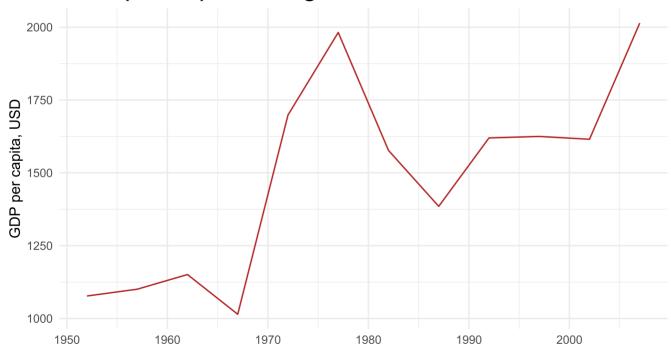
#### Population of Turkey since 1952



### Testing gapminder\_plot()

```
gapminder_plot(cntry = "Nigeria", yvar = "gdpPercap")
```

#### GDP per capita in Nigeria since 1952





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#### Opposite of %in%

%in% returns TRUE where elements on its left equal any element on the right.

```
us_ca <- c("Canada", "United States")
gapminder %>% filter(country %in% us_ca) %>% distinct(country) %>% head(2)

## # A tibble: 2 x 1

## country

## <fct>
## 1 Canada

## 2 United States
```

We can invert this to get the opposite, but it looks a bit awkward:

```
gapminder %>% filter(!country %in% us_ca) %>% distinct(country) %>% head(2)

## # A tibble: 2 x 1

## country

## <fct>
## 1 Afghanistan
```

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## 2 Albania

#### %!in%

We can *invert* or **negate**<sup>1</sup> %in% to get a "not in" operator:

```
`%!in%` <- Negate(`%in%`)
```

To make a new operator, you need to put it in backticks.

```
gapminder %>%
  filter(country %!in% us_ca) %>% # Our new operator!
  distinct(country) %>%
  head(2)
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 x 1
## country
## <fct>
## 1 Afghanistan
## 2 Albania

[1] Negate() produces logical negations of functions, inverting their output.
e.g.: isnt.numeric <- Negate(is.numeric)</pre>
```



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#### Debugging

Something not working as hoped? Try using debug() on a function, which will show you the world as perceived from inside the function:

```
debug(gapminder_plot)
```

Then when you've fixed your problem, use undebug() so that you won't go into debug mode every time you run it:

undebug(gapminder\_plot)

#### Overview: The Process

Data processing can be very complicated, with many valid ways of accomplishing it.

I believe the best general approach is the following:

- 1. Look carefully at the **starting data** to figure out what you can get from them.
- 2. Determine *precisely* what you want the **end product** to look like.
- 3. Identify individual steps needed to go from Step 1 to Step 2.
- 4. Make each discrete step its own set of functions or function calls.
  - If any step is confusing or complicated, **break it into more steps**.
- 5. Complete each step *separately and in order*.
  - Do not continue until a step is producing what you need for the next step.
  - Do not worry about combining steps for efficiency until everything works.

Once finished, if you need to do this again, *convert the prior steps into functions*!

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#### **Bonus Function**

My lectures are rendered with a function!

I give it a numeric week and it (1) finds the lecture Rmd, (2) knits the slides, (3) creates a R file, (4) then opens the slides in Chrome and prints a PDF.

#### Homework

<u>Download</u> and analyze data from the first year of Seattle's Pronto! bike sharing program.

Using the provided template, you will write:

- 1. A loop (or lapply()) to read in the data from multiple files.
  - Don't just use vroom()!
- 2. Functions to clean up the data
- 3. A function to visualize ridership over the first year.

There is some string processing needed—much of which you have already seen or can probably Google—but *some will come in the next lecture*. I give suggestions in the template, but I can cover string processing in detail in lab if needed before the homework is due.

PART 1 DUE: Next week

PART 2 DUE: In two weeks

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