


# loops and functions in

Berry Boessenkool, berry-b@gmx.de  
Jannes Breier, jbreier@gfz-potsdam.de

<https://bit.ly/37AYX1D>

These slides and tasks are a subset of Berry's teaching material at  
[github.com/brry/course](https://github.com/brry/course)

These slides are licenced under ,  
so you can use the material freely as long as you cite us.

R installation instructions: [github.com/brry/course#install](https://github.com/brry/course#install)

PDF created on 2019-11-27, 11:05


# Outline

For loops

Functions

Debugging

```
print("Hello world!")
```

- Berry Boessenkool → Geoecology @ Potsdam University
- R Fanatic since 2010
- Developer of `rdwd`, Freelance trainer & consultant 
- Jannes Breier → Geoecology @ Potsdam University
- Berry taught me R in 2013 😊
-  Research Software Engineer at GFZ,  Sec.4.4: Hydrology
- If we're proceeding too fast, please interrupt!

# Outline

For loops

Functions

Debugging

# For loops

Execute a block of code several times, with different input values.

Syntax: `for(aRunningVariable in aSequence){ doSomething }`

Often, `i` (for index) is used, thus `for(i in 1:n) doThis(i)`

```
help("for") # needs quotation marks!
```

```
print(1:2)
print(1:5)
print(1:9)
```

This is easier and less prone to human errors with:

```
for(i in c(2,5,9) ) { print(1:i) }
```

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

## For loops: fill a vector

```
v <- vector(mode="numeric", length=20)
```

```
v
```

```
## [1] 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
```

```
for(i in 3:17) { v[i] <- (i+2)^2 }
```

```
v # this code was executed once for each i
```

```
## [1] 0 0 25 36 49 64 81 100 121
```

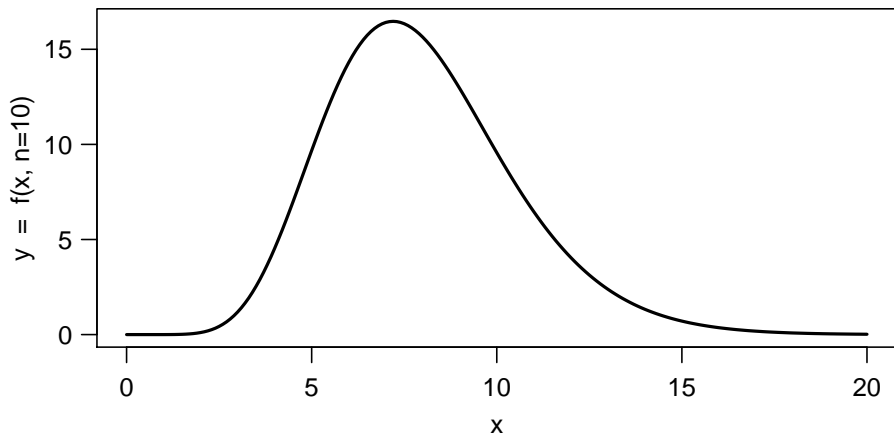
```
## [10] 144 169 196 225 256 289 324 361 0
```

```
## [19] 0 0
```

In R, `for` loops are slow. Always try to vectorize (the best option, not always possible) or use `lapply` (saves you the initiation of the empty vector, easier to parallelize).

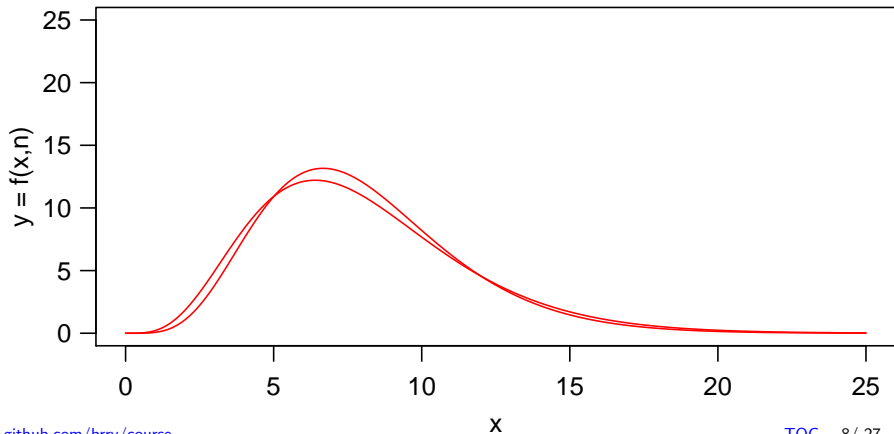
For loops: execute code multiple times I

$$y = f(x, n) = \frac{12.5 * n}{(n-1)!} * \left(\frac{nx}{8}\right)^{(n-1)} * e^{-\frac{nx}{8}}$$



## For loops: execute code multiple times II

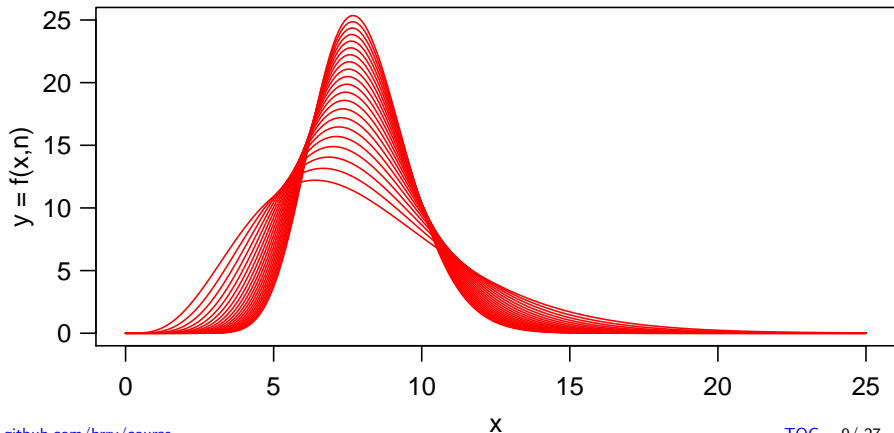
```
x <- seq(0,25,0.1)
plot(x,x, type="n", ylab="y = f(x,n)")
lines(x, 12.5*5/factorial(5-1)*(x/8*5)^(5-1)*exp(-x/8*5), col=2)
lines(x, 12.5*6/factorial(6-1)*(x/8*6)^(6-1)*exp(-x/8*6), col=2)
```





## For loops: execute code multiple times III

```
x <- seq(0,25,0.1)
plot(x,x, type="n", ylab="y = f(x,n)")
for (n in 5:25)
  lines(x, 12.5*n/factorial(n-1)*(x/8*n)^(n-1)*exp(-x/8*n), col=2)
```



# For loops exercise

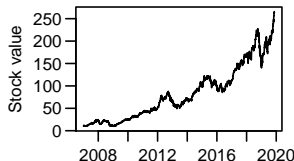
## Exercise 1: for loop

- 1 Read `stocks.txt` (rightclick **Raw**, save as), so that there are no factors in the data.frame. Use the command `read.table` and set the arguments `file`, `header` and `stringsAsFactors`
- 2 Change the first column type from `char` to `date` with `as.Date(yourDF$Date)`
- 3 What do you get with `plot(yourDF[,c(1,2)])`? Make it a line graph by setting the argument `type`.
- 4 With a `for` loop, plot each stock time series, i.e. plot the  $i$ th column over the first column.
- 5 BONUS 1: Use good annotations (`main`, `ylab`, `xlab`)
- 6 BONUS 2: Turn y axis labels upright (`las`)
- 7 BONUS 3: With `par(mfrow=...)`, set up a two by three panel plot

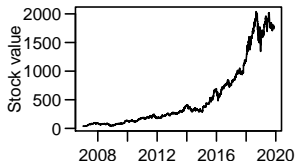
# For loops exercise solution

```
stocks <- read.table("data/stocks.txt", header=T, stringsAsFactors=FALSE)
stocks$Date <- as.Date(stocks$Date)
for(i in 2:7) plot(stocks[, c(1,i)], type="l", main=colnames(stocks)[i],
  ylab="Stock value", las=1)
```

**APPLE**



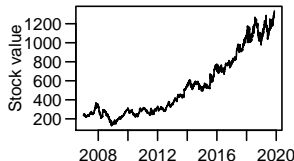
**AMAZON**



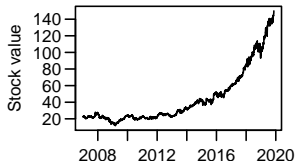
**FORD**



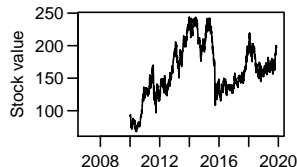
**GOOGLE**



**MICROSOFT**



**VOLKSWAGEN**



## for -> lapply

lapply: apply a function to elements of a list (or vector)

list: R object containing other objects

```
files <- dir("../rawdata", pattern="*.csv", full=TRUE)
```

*# bad and slow way:*

```
ldfs <- list() # initiate empty list
```

```
for(i in 1:length(files))
```

```
  ldfs[[i]] <- read.csv(files[i], as.is=TRUE)
```

*# much better way: apply function to each file*

```
ldfs <- lapply(X=files, FUN=read.csv, as.is=TRUE)
```

*# progress bar with remaining time (+ parallelized!)*

```
library("pbapply")
```

```
ldfs <- pblapply(X=files, FUN=read.csv, as.is=TRUE)
```

```
ldfs <- pblapply(X=files, FUN=read.csv, as.is=TRUE, cl=8)
```

# Outline

For loops

**Functions**

Debugging

# Functions I

<http://r4ds.had.co.nz/functions.html>

? "function"

Syntax:

```
Functionobjectname <- function(argument1, argument2, ...)
  {"DoSomething"}
```

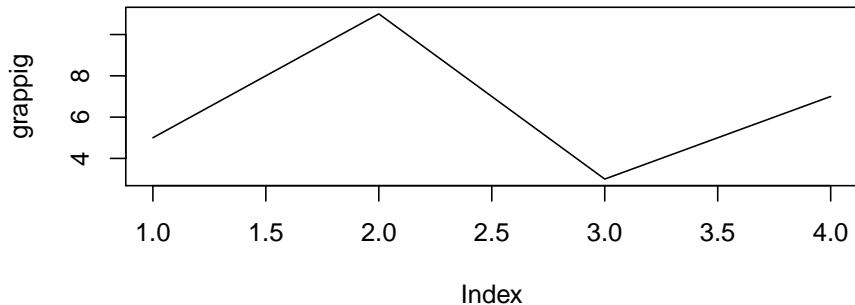
```
myfunct <- function(grappig)
  {plot(grappig, type="l"); return(grappig*7) }
```

After `return()`ing, the execution of the function is terminated, so it should only be positioned at the end. It can also be left away, the last instruction ("expression") will then be returned.

# Functions II

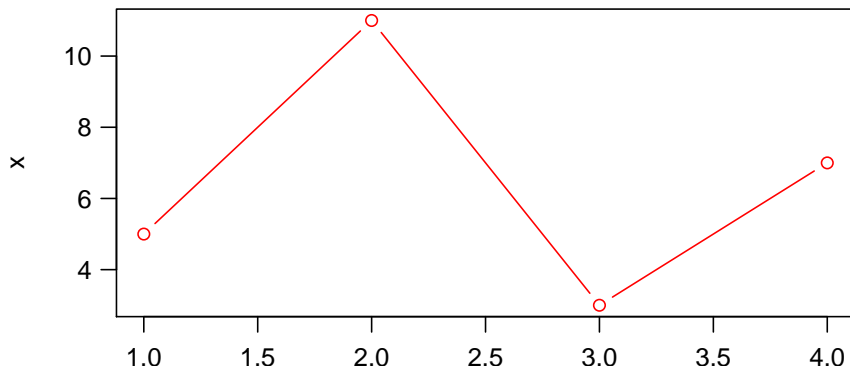
```
myfunct( c(5,11,3,7) )
```

```
## [1] 35 77 21 49
```



# Functions with more arguments + default values

```
myfunct <- function(x, type="b", ...) plot(x, type=type, ...)
# type="b" is now the default, thus used unless specified
# The ellipsis (...) passes arguments to other functions
myfunct( c(5,11,3,7) , col="red", las=1)
```





# Conditional execution

Syntax: `if(this_is_true) {do_something}`

`if(this_is_true) {do_something} else {do_other_thing}`

If condition == TRUE, then expression1 is evaluated,  
if condition == FALSE, then expression2 is evaluated.

<code>7-3 &gt; 2</code>	TRUE
<code>class(7-3 &gt; 2 )</code>	logical = truth value, boolean
<code>if(7-3 &gt; 2) 18</code>	Condition is TRUE, so 18 is returned
<code>if(7-3 &gt; 5) 18</code>	Condition is FALSE, so nothing happens
<code>if(7-3 &gt; 5) 18 else 17</code>	Condition FALSE, so 17 is returned.

```
if(length(input)>1)
  stop("length must be 1, not ", length(input))
```

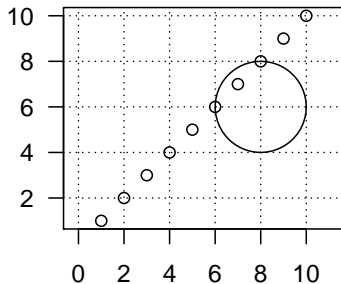
`stop`: Interrupts function execution and gives error

`warning`: continues but gives warning

`message`: to inform instead of worry the user

## Exercise: add circles with given radius

```
plot(1:10, asp=1) # aspect ratio y/x of graph range
grid(col=1)
# the next part should go into a function:
x <- 8 ; y <- 6 ; r <- 2
p <- seq(0, 2*pi, len=50)
cx <- x+r*cos(p) ; cy <- y+r*sin(p)
polygon(cx, cy)
```



# Time to practice programming

## Exercise 2: Writing functions

Write a function that

- 1 - draws a circle with a certain radius at user-specified locations of an existing plot (see last slide).
- 2 - uses ellipsis (...) to allow the user to customize the appearance
- 3 - checks all the arguments and gives useful warnings if the wrong type of input is provided
- 4 - has useful explanations for each argument (documentation)
- 5 - has readable indentation, spacing and comments explaining the code
- 6 Now let your neighbor use it without explaining how it is to be used (this should be inferred from the code and comments!)
- 7 Use your neighbor's function with a vector to draw several circles at once. (unintended use?) What happens?
- 8 BONUS: Learn writing packages at [packdev.R](https://packdev.R) (rightclick **Raw**, save as)

```

# Small helper function drawing circles into existing graphics
circle <- function(
  x, # x-coordinate of points, numeric value of length 1
  y, # ditto for y
  r, # radius of the circle, in the graphic's units
  locnum=100, # number of points on circle (more means smoother but slower)
  ...) # Further Arguments passed to polygon, like col, border, lwd
{

  # input checking - only one circle can be drawn:
  if(length(x) >1 | length(y) >1 | length(r) >1 | length(locnum) >1)
  {
    warning("Only the first element of the vectors is used.")
    x <- x[1]; y <- y[1]; r <- r[1]; locnum <- locnum[1]
  }

  if(!is.numeric(x)) stop("x must be numeric, not ", class(x))
  if(!is.numeric(y)) stop("y must be numeric, not ", class(y))
  if(!is.numeric(r)) stop("r must be numeric, not ", class(r))

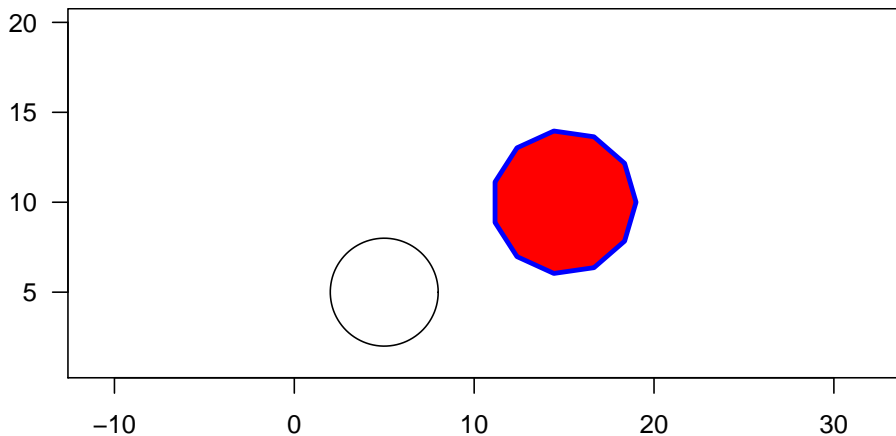
  # prepare circle line coordinates:
  cx <- x+r*cos( seq(0,2*pi,len=locnum) )
  cy <- y+r*sin( seq(0,2*pi,len=locnum) )
  polygon(cx, cy, ...) # actually draw it
}

# Note: if circles look like ellipsis, use plot(... asp=1)

```

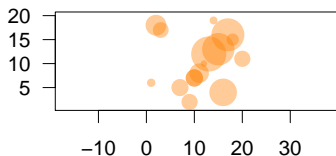
## Solution for exercise 2 II: functions

```
plot(1:20, type="n", asp=1, cex=2)  
circle(5,5, r=3)  
circle(15,10, r=4, locnum=12, col=2, border=4, lwd=3)
```



## Solution for exercise 2 III: functions

```
# can not be vectorized:  
x <- sample(1:20, 15) ; y <- sample(1:20, 15) ; r <- runif(20)*4  
circle(x,y,r, col=rgb(1,0.5,0,alpha=0.4), border=NA)  
  
## Warning in circle(x, y, r, col = rgb(1, 0.5, 0, alpha = 0.4), border = NA):  
Only the first element of the vectors is used.  
  
for(i in 1:15) circle(x[i],y[i],r[i], col=rgb(1,0.5,0,alpha=0.4), border=NA)
```



# Outline

For loops

Functions

Debugging

# Debugging

- Your code throws an error. You didn't call the mentioned function. Obviously, your code calls some function calling some function calling some function calling [you get the idea] which in the end creates an error. To trace back this path, you can use `traceback()`.
- Now that you know where the error originates from, you set `options(error=recover)`. You run your code again, but this time R waits at the level creating an error. You examine the environment within the function, play around with the objects and internal function code, until the bug has been fixed. You have just debugged a function.
- You want to step into the function you are developing at a specific point. You add `browser()` at that point of the code.



# Debugging: useful functions + Resources

<code>source("projectFuns.R")</code>	execute complete file
<code>traceback()</code>	find error source in sequence of function calls
<code>options(warn=2)</code>	warnings to error. default 0
<code>browser()</code>	go into function environment: <code>n</code> , <code>s</code> , <code>f</code> , <code>c</code> , <code>Q</code>
<code>options(error=recover)</code>	open interactive session where error occurred
<code>debug(func)</code>	toggle linewise function execution
<code>undebug(func)</code>	after calling and fixing func

R. Peng (2002): Interactive Debugging Tools in R

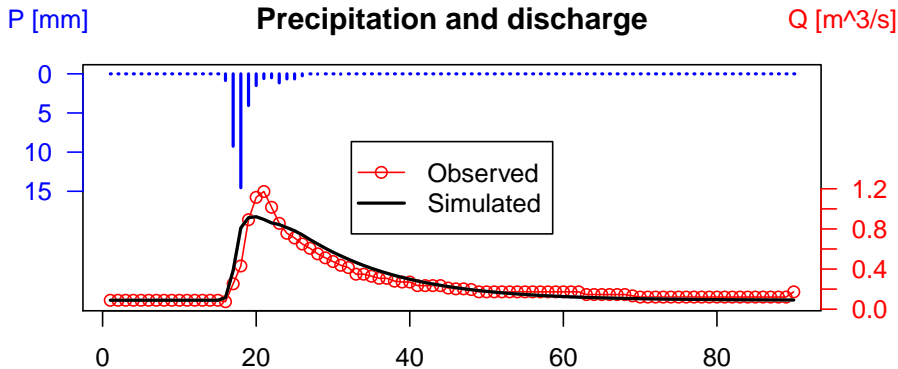
D. Murdoch (2010): Debugging in R

H. Wickham (2015): Advanced R: debugging

Example: Pete Werner Blog Post (2013)

## Exercise 3: Debugging

- 1 Load your package and the datasets. Correct the functions until `lsc(calib$P, calib$Q, area=1.6)` returns the result below.
- 2 BONUS: commit each change to git.



## Solution for exercise 3: Debugging

- `stupid error you can easily remove` - traceback - find location of error - `lsc#73` - just comment it out
- `harder to find but still stupid` - traceback - `nse#11` - ditto
- `Error in plot: need finite 'ylim' value` - `browser/options(error=recover)` - `lsc#105` - NAs in `Q` - `range(Q, na.rm=TRUE)` - also in other applicable locations
- `There were 50 or more warnings` - come from `rmse` being called in optimization - add argument `quietNA` (or similar) to `lsc` that is passed to `rmse` in `lsc#79`