00 programming

Jan 2019

Charlotte Wickham

@cvwickham
cwickham@gmail.com
cwick.co.nz

sorry, I forgot this one

install.packages("sloop")



What is S3?

What does 53 do?

S3 powers context specific behaviour

```
x <- 1:5
y <- factor(letters[1:5])

A 6-number
summary

summary(x)

# Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
# 1 2 3 3 4 5</pre>
```

```
summary(y)
# a b c d e
# 1 1 1 1 1
categories
```

summary() is an S3 generic

```
sloop::ftype(summary)
# [1] "S3" "generic"
# summary() will look for methods based on an
# objects class
sloop::s3_class(y)
# [1] "factor"
sloop::s3_dispatch(summary(x))
# => summary.factor
                        => this method gets called
# * summary.default * this method exists but wasn't called
```

Your Turn

```
mod <- lm(mpg ~ wt, data = mtcars)
summary(mod)</pre>
```

What is the **class** of mod?

Which **method** gets dispatched by summary()?

Can you find the code for the method?

```
library(sloop)
mod <- lm(mpg ~ wt, data = mtcars)</pre>
summary(mod)
s3_class(mod)
# [1] "lm"
s3_dispatch(summary(mod))
# => summary.lm
# * summary.default
summary.lm
# won't always work
# use `s3_get_method()` to find non-exported methods
s3_get_method(summary.lm)
```

Motivation

Why should you care about \$3?

https://unsplash.com/photos/t5YUoHW6zRo

Important S3 objects in base R

```
data.frame()
factor()
Sys.Date()
Sys.time()
table()
```

This is obviously important for linear models

```
mod <- lm(mpg ~ wt, data = mtcars)
str(mod)

# But also their summaries
sum <- summary(mod)
str(sum)</pre>
```

One example is linear models

```
sum
#> Call:
#> lm(formula = mpg ~ wt, data = mtcars)
#>
#> Residuals:
           1Q Median
      Min
#>
                              30
                                    Max
#> -4.5432 -2.3647 -0.1252 1.4096 6.8727
#>
#> Coefficients:
              Estimate Std. Error t value Pr(>|t|)
#>
#> (Intercept) 37.2851 1.8776 19.858 < 2e-16 ***
     -5.3445 0.5591 -9.559 1.29e-10 ***
#> wt
#> ---
#> Signif. codes: 0 '***' 0.001 '**' 0.01 '*' 0.05 '.' 0.1 ' ' 1
#>
#> Residual standard error: 3.046 on 30 degrees of freedom
#> Multiple R-squared: 0.7528, Adjusted R-squared: 0.7446
#> F-statistic: 91.38 on 1 and 30 DF, p-value: 1.294e-10
```

Another example is tibbles

```
Total size

# A tibble: 53,940 x 10
```

Variable

type

```
color clarity depth table price
  carat cut
                                                         X
                     <ord> <ord>
                                   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <
  <dbl> <ord>
1 0.230 Ideal
                     Ε
                           SI2
                                    61.5
                                          55.0
                                                 326
                                                      3.95
                                                            3.98
                                                                  2.43
2 0.210 Premium
                     E
                           SI1
                                    59.8
                                          61.0
                                                 326
                                                      3.89
                                                            3.84
                                                                  2.31
                     Ε
 3 0.230 Good
                          VS1
                                    56.9
                                          65.0
                                                 327
                                                     4.05
                                                            4.07
                                                                  2.31
                     Ι
                                                 334
                                                     4.20
4 0.290 Premium
                           VS2
                                    62.4
                                          58.0
                                                            4.23
                                                                  2.63
 5 0.310 Good
                           SI2
                                    63.3
                                          58.0
                                                 335
                                                     4.34
                                                            4.35
                                                                  2.75
 6 0.240 "Very Good" J
                          VVS2
                                    62.8
                                          57.0
                                                 336
                                                      3.94
                                                            3.96
                                                                  2.48
7 0.240 "Very Good" I
                                    62.3
                                                      3.95
                          VVS1
                                          57.0
                                                 336
                                                            3.98
                                                                 2.47
8 0.260 "Very Good" H
                           SI1
                                    61.9
                                          55.0
                                                 337
                                                      4.07
                                                            4.11
                                                                  2.53
9 0.220 Fair
                                                 337
                     Ε
                           VS2
                                    65.1
                                          61.0
                                                      3.87
                                                            3.78
                                                                  2.49
10 0.230 "Very Good" H
                                    59.4
                                          61.0
                                                 338
                                                      4.00
                                                            4.05
                                                                  2.39
                           VS1
```

... with 53,930 more rows

Only shows first 10 rows

S3 makes packages extensible

New methods

Lets you extend other packages

New generics

Write packages in way that others can easily extend.

"Scalar" classes

a single complex object

Principle:

Provide consistent structure and print method for complex return values

Change project to:

[safely]

Challenge: how can the output of safely be improved?

```
library(purrr)
safe_log <- safely(log)</pre>
safe_log("a")
                                            safe_log(10)
#> $result
                                            #> $result
#> NULL
                                            #> [1] 2.302585
#>
                                            #>
#> $error
                                            #> $error
#> <simpleError in log(...):</pre>
                                            #> NULL
#> non-numeric argument to
   mathematical function>
#>
```

Creating a new S3 class

- 1. Figure out name safely
- 2. Define properties of the class
- 3. Write the constructor
- 4. Write methods

Your turn

What are the invariants of the results of safely?

```
safe_log <- purrr::safely(log)
# what do we know to be always true
# about the result of safe_log?</pre>
```

Invariants

Returns a list

- two components: result and error
- result should always come first
- one is always NULL

Now, write the constructor

```
new_safely <- function(result = NULL, error = NULL) {</pre>
  if (!is.null(result) && !is.null(error)) {
    stop(
      "One of `result` and `error` must be NULL",
      call. = FALSE
  structure(
    list(
      result = result,
      error = error
    ),
    class = "safely"
```

Check inputs

Enforce structure and apply class

Definition of safely

```
safely <- function(.f) {</pre>
  stopifnot(is.function(.f))
  function(...) {
    tryCatch({
      list(result = .f(...), error = NULL)
    }, error = function(e) {
      list(result = NULL, error = e)
    })
```

Then use the constructor

```
safely <- function(.f) {</pre>
  stopifnot(is.function(.f))
  function(...) {
    tryCatch({
      new_safely(result = .f(...))
    }, error = function(e) {
      new_safely(error = e)
    })
```

Abbreviation

Test

expect_null()

Checks if a literal NULL

expect_type()
expect_s3_class()
expect_s4_class()

Check that inherits from a given base type, S3 class, or S4 class.

expect_true()
expect_false()

Catch all expectations for anything not otherwise covered

Your turn

Write tests to ensure that our new_safely() function returns the correct type of output regardless of whether or not an error occurs. (i.e. express the invariants as unit tests)

```
# In tests/testthat/test-safely.R
context("test-safely.R")
test_that("can only supply error or result", {
  expect_error(new_safely(1, 2), "must be NULL")
})
test_that("it's ok for both to be null", {
  expect_error(new_safely(NULL, NULL), NA)
})
test_that("result and error are captured", {
 s1 <- new_safely(result = 1)</pre>
 s2 <- new_safely(error = 1)</pre>
expect_s3_class(s1, "safely")
expect_equal(s1$result, 1)
expect_equal(s1$error, NULL)
expect_s3_class(s2, "safely")
expect_equal(s2$result, NULL)
expect_equal(s2$error, 1)
})
```

Expect no error

Now we can improve the output with a print method

```
I think it's good practice to
#> <safely: ok>
                              include type in <>
#> [1] 2.302585
safe_log("a")
#> <safely: error>
#> Error: non-numeric argument to
   mathematical function
```

safe_log(10)

S3 methods all have the same basic structure

```
generic

print.safely <- function(x, ...) {
          class
}</pre>
```

Methods belong to generics, not classes

	Date	POSIXct	integer
print			
mean			
sum			

	Date	POSIXct	integer
print			
mean			
sum			

Your turn: fill in the blanks

```
# In R/safely.R
print.safely <- function(x, ...) {</pre>
# Useful helper found in utils.R
cat_line <- function(...) {</pre>
  cat(..., "\n", sep = "")
# See https://github.com/r-lib/cli for
# many more helpers.
```

Some test cases

```
f <- function() stop("message")</pre>
g <- function() 1
safe_f <- safely(f)</pre>
safe_g <- safely(g)</pre>
safe_f()
safe_g()
```

My print method

```
print.safely <- function(x, ...) {</pre>
  if (!is.null(x$error)) {
    cat_line("<safely: error>")
    cat_line("Error: ", x$error$message)
  } else {
    cat_line("<safely: ok>")
    print(x$result)
  invisible(x)
                   Called primarily for side-effects
```

A little colour can be transformative

```
print.safely <- function(x, ...) {</pre>
  if (!is.null(x$error)) {
    cat_line("<safely: ", crayon::bold(crayon::red("error")), ">")
    cat_line(crayon::red("Error: "), x$error$message)
  } else {
    cat_line("<safely: ", crayon::green("ok"), ">")
    print(x$result)
  invisible(x)
```

New generic

Change project to:

[bizarro]

Goal: create a bizarro function

```
bizarro("abc")
#> [1] "cba"
bizarro(1)
#> [1] -1
bizarro(c(TRUE, FALSE))
#> [1] FALSE TRUE
```

We could use if + else

```
str_reverse <- function(x) {</pre>
  purrr::map_chr(stringr::str_split(x, ""),
    ~ stringr::str_flatten(rev(.x))
bizarro <- function(x) {</pre>
  if (is.character(x)) {
    str_reverse(x)
  } else if (is.numeric(x)) {
    -x
  } else if (is.logical(x)) {
    ! x
  } else {
    stop(
      "Don't know how to make bizzaro <", class(x)[[1]], ">",
      call. = FALSE)
```

But instead we'll create a new S3 generic

```
Magically passes all
bizarro <- function(x) {</pre>
                              arguments to correct
  UseMethod("bizarro")
                                      method
generic.class
bizarro.character <- function(x) {</pre>
  str_reverse(x)
bizarro("abc")
```

#> [1] cba

Allows anyone to extend

Your turn

Implement:

- 1. a numeric method that multiplies by -1
- 2. a logical method which inverts TRUE/FALSE
- 3. a data frame method that bizarros the column names, as well as each column.

(i.e. get tests passing)

```
bizarro.numeric <- function(x) {</pre>
  -\chi
bizarro.logical <- function(x) {
  ! X
bizarro.data.frame <- function(x) {</pre>
  names(x) <- bizarro(names(x))</pre>
  x[] <- purrr::map(x, bizarro)
  X
                                  Useful technique Method for
                                  complex object: apply generic
                                        to components.
```

What happens when a method isn't available?

```
bizarro(factor(letters))
#> Error in UseMethod("bizarro") :
#> no applicable method for 'bizarro'
#> applied to an object of class "factor"
# How can we do better?
# We need to provide a catch-all default
method
```

```
bizarro.default <- function(x) {</pre>
  stop(
   "Don't know how to make bizzaro <",
   class(x)[[1]], ">",
   call. = FALSE
bizarro(factor(letters))
#> Error: Don't know how to make
#> bizzaro <factor>
```

Your turn

What should bizzaro(factor("abc")) return?

Decide, encode your decisions in tests, then implement bizarro.factor().

One idea: reverse letters in factor levels

```
# In tests/testthat/test-bizarro.R
test_that("bizarro factors have levels reversed", {
  f1 <- factor(c("abc", "def", "abc"))
  f2 <- factor(c("cba", "fed", "cba"))

  expect_equal(bizarro(f1), f2)
  expect_equal(bizarro(f2), f1)
})</pre>
```

```
# In R/bizarro.R
bizarro.factor <- function(x) {
  levels(x) <- bizarro(levels(x))
  x
}</pre>
```

Learning more

Advanced R (2nd ed) has four chapters

S3: https://adv-r.hadley.nz/s3.html

S4: https://adv-r.hadley.nz/s4.html

R6: https://adv-r.hadley.nz/r6.html

Trade-offs: https://adv-r.hadley.nz/oo-tradeoffs.html

Vector classes

Classes built on top of vector types



"vctrs will typically be used by other packages, making it easy for them to provide new classes of S3 vectors that are supported throughout the tidyverse (and beyond)."

--https://vctrs.r-lib.org/

Adapted from Tidy Tools by Hadley Wickham

This work is licensed as

Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International

To view a copy of this license, visit https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/