

# Programming with R

Alexandre Courtiol

Leibniz Institute of Zoo and Wildlife Research

June 2018

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Why writing your own R functions?

Using your own functions makes your scripts

- easier to understand
- safer to (re)use
- shorter to write (often)

# What do you prefer?

```
d <- data.frame(proba = c(0.1, 0.5, 0.4), group = factor(c("A", "B", "C")))

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 9

with(data = d, (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 6

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])))
## [1] 1.5
```

# What do you prefer?

```
d <- data.frame(proba = c(0.1, 0.5, 0.4), group = factor(c("A", "B", "C")))

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 9

with(data = d, (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 6

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])))
## [1] 1.5
```

Or

```
odds_ratio <- function(group1, group2, data){
  with(data = data, (proba[group == group1] / (1 - proba[group == group1])) / (proba[group == group2] / (1 - proba[group == group2])))
}

odds_ratio(group1 = "B", group2 = "A", data = d)
## [1] 9

odds_ratio(group1 = "C", group2 = "A", data = d)
## [1] 6

odds_ratio(group1 = "B", group2 = "C", data = d)
## [1] 1.5
```

# What do you prefer?

Still not convinced? Let's compute all pairwise comparisons:

```
with(data = d, (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 1

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 9

with(data = d, (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])) / (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])))
## [1] 6

with(data = d, (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])) / (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])))
## [1] 0.1111111

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])))
## [1] 1

with(data = d, (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])) / (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])))
## [1] 0.6666667

with(data = d, (proba[group == "A"] / (1 - proba[group == "A"])) / (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])))
## [1] 0.1666667

with(data = d, (proba[group == "B"] / (1 - proba[group == "B"])) / (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])))
## [1] 1.5

with(data = d, (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])) / (proba[group == "C"] / (1 - proba[group == "C"])))
## [1] 1
```

## What do you prefer?

Still not convinced? Let's compute all pairwise comparisons:

```
for (group2 in d$group) {  
  for (group1 in d$group) {  
    print(paste(group1, group2, odds_ratio(group1 = group1, group2 = group2, data = d)))  
  }  
}  
  
## [1] "A A 1"  
## [1] "B A 9"  
## [1] "C A 6"  
## [1] "A B 0.111111111111111"  
## [1] "B B 1"  
## [1] "C B 0.666666666666667"  
## [1] "A C 0.166666666666667"  
## [1] "B C 1.5"  
## [1] "C C 1"
```



## When to write your own functions?

Don't Repeat Yourself

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Learning by mimicking

Looking at code written by others will teach you

- how their functions work
- how to code
- new functions or packages that could be usefull for you

## How to get the code behind a function?

Usually, by simply typing its name (without brackets). But that is not always sufficient. . .

```
mosaic::oddsRatio  
## function (x, conf.level = 0.95, verbose = !quiet, quiet = TRUE,  
##     digits = 3)  
## {  
##     orrr(x, conf.level = conf.level, verbose = verbose, digits = digits,  
##         relrisk = FALSE)  
## }  
## <bytecode: 0x5576c5889a48>  
## <environment: namespace:mosaic>
```

# How to get the code behind a function?

Usually, by simply typing its name (without brackets). But that is not always sufficient. . .

```
mosaic::orrr
## function (x, conf.level = 0.95, verbose = !quiet, quiet = TRUE,
##   digits = 3, relrisk = FALSE)
## {
##   if (any(dim(x) != c(2, 2))) {
##     stop("expecting something 2 x 2")
##   }
##   names(x) <- NULL
##   row.names(x) <- NULL
##   colnames(x) <- NULL
##   rowsums <- rowSums(x)
##   p1 <- x[1, 1]/rowsums[1]
##   p2 <- x[2, 1]/rowsums[2]
##   o1 <- p1/(1 - p1)
##   o2 <- p2/(1 - p2)
##   RR <- p2/p1
##   OR <- o2/o1
##   crit <- qnorm((1 - conf.level)/2, lower.tail = FALSE)
##   names(RR) <- "RR"
##   log.RR <- log(RR)
##   SE.log.RR <- sqrt(sum(x[, 2]/x[, 1]/rowsums))
##   log.lower.RR <- log.RR - crit * SE.log.RR
##   log.upper.RR <- log.RR + crit * SE.log.RR
##   lower.RR <- exp(log.lower.RR)
##   upper.RR <- exp(log.upper.RR)
##   names(OR) <- "OR"
##   log.OR <- log(OR)
##   SE.log.OR <- sqrt(sum(1/x))
##   log.lower.OR <- log.OR - crit * SE.log.OR
##   log.upper.OR <- log.OR + crit * SE.log.OR
##   lower.OR <- exp(log.lower.OR)
##   upper.OR <- exp(log.upper.OR)
```

# How to get the code behind a function?

## R methods (S3):

```
residuals
## function (object, ...)
## UseMethod("residuals")
## <bytecode: 0x5576c382b908>
## <environment: namespace:stats>
```

`residuals()` is a *generic* function which rely on class specific *methods*:

```
methods(residuals)
## [1] residuals.default*      residuals.glm
## [3] residuals.gls*          residuals.glsStruct*
## [5] residuals.gnls*         residuals.gnlsStruct*
## [7] residuals.HoltWinters*   residuals.isoreg*
## [9] residuals.lm            residuals.lme*
## [11] residuals.lmeStruct*    residuals.lmList*
## [13] residuals.loglm*        residuals.nlmeStruct*
## [15] residuals.nls*          residuals.psych*
## [17] residuals.smooth.spline* residuals.tukeyline*
## see '?methods' for accessing help and source code
```

The methods with a \* are not exported from their package namespace!

# How to get the code behind a function?

## Getting the code for exported R methods (S3):

```
residuals.lm
## function (object, type = c("working", "response", "deviance",
##   "pearson", "partial"), ...)
## {
##   type <- match.arg(type)
##   r <- object$residuals
##   res <- switch(type, working = , response = r, deviance = ,
##     pearson = if (is.null(object$weights)) r else r * sqrt(object$weights),
##     partial = r)
##   res <- naresid(object$na.action, res)
##   if (type == "partial")
##     res <- res + predict(object, type = "terms")
##   res
## }
## <bytecode: 0x5576c99b1dc0>
## <environment: namespace:stats>
```

Note: this requires to know the class of the object you work with!

# How to get the code behind a function?

## Getting the code for non-exported R methods (S3):

```
residuals.nls
## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'residuals.nls' not found
```

```
getAnywhere("residuals.nls") # or getS3method("residuals", "nls")

## A single object matching 'residuals.nls' was found
## It was found in the following places
##   registered S3 method for residuals from namespace stats
##   namespace:stats
## with value
##
## function (object, type = c("response", "pearson"), ...)
## {
##   type <- match.arg(type)
##   if (type == "pearson") {
##     val <- as.vector(object$m$resid())
##     std <- sqrt(sum(val^2)/(length(val) - length(coef(object))))
##     val <- val/std
##     if (!is.null(object$na.action))
##       val <- naresid(object$na.action, val)
##     attr(val, "label") <- "Standardized residuals"
##   }
##   else {
##     val <- as.vector(object$m$lhs() - object$m$fitted())
##     if (!is.null(object$na.action))
##       val <- naresid(object$na.action, val)
##     lab <- "Residuals"
##     if (!is.null(aux <- attr(object, "units")$y))
##       lab <- paste(lab, aux)
##     attr(val, "label") <- lab
##   }
## }
```



# Challenge

What is the code behind `t.test()`?

## How to get the code behind a function?

Some functions – the interfaces – call functions that are written in other languages. The source code of these latter functions is not directly visible (spotted as `.C()`, `.Fortran()`, `.Call()`, `.Primitive()`, `.Internal()`, `.External()`).

```
dnorm
## function (x, mean = 0, sd = 1, log = FALSE)
## .Call(C_dnorm, x, mean, sd, log)
## <bytecode: 0x5576cb8ba768>
## <environment: namespace:stats>
```

In these cases, the easiest is to use the read-only mirror for R (<https://github.com/wch/r-source>) or the relevant package on Github! (here, the answer lies in `r-source/src/nmath/dnorm.c`)

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics**
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions**
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions**
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R**
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging**
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages

# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling**
- 9 Writing R packages



# Table of contents

- 1 Why programming?
- 2 Exploring existing code
- 3 Coding basics
- 4 Writing simple functions
- 5 Writing more advanced functions
- 6 Object systems in R
- 7 Debugging
- 8 Optimisation & Profiling
- 9 Writing R packages**

# Usual programming commands exist in R

```
for (i in 1:4) {  
  print(x = i)  
  if (i == 2) print(x = "found 2!")  
}
```

```
## [1] 1  
## [1] 2  
## [1] "found 2!"  
## [1] 3  
## [1] 4
```

```
? "for"
```

# You can write your own functions!

```
OddRatio <- function(a, b) {  
  odd.a <- a/(1 - a)  
  odd.b <- b/(1 - b)  
  return(odd.a/odd.b)  
}
```

```
OddRatio(0.1, 0.01)
```

```
## [1] 11
```

# Numerical issues common to most programming languages

```
print(seq(0, 1, 0.1), digits = 22)
## [1] 0.00000000000000000000 0.10000000000000000055511
## [3] 0.20000000000000000111022 0.30000000000000000444089
## [5] 0.40000000000000000222045 0.50000000000000000000000
## [7] 0.60000000000000000888178 0.70000000000000000666134
## [9] 0.80000000000000000444089 0.90000000000000000222045
## [11] 1.000000000000000000000
```

```
x <- 0.7 - 0.4 - 0.3
print(x, digits = 22)
## [1] -5.551115123125782702118e-17

x == 0
## [1] FALSE
```

NB: same kind of thing can happen in Excel too (<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/kb/214118>)

# Numerical issues common to most programming languages

```
??"equality"
```

Help files with alias or concept or title matching 'equality' using fuzzy matching:

FactoMineR::prefpls	Scatter plot and additional variables with quality of representation contour lines
base::all.equal	Test if Two Objects are (Nearly) Equal
base::identical	Test Objects for Exact Equality
datasets::airquality	New York Air Quality Measurements

```
?all.equal
all.equal(target = 0, current = x)
## [1] TRUE
```

# R is a programming language... with usual limits

J.M Muller's Serie:  $u_0 = 2$ ;  $u_1 = -4$ ;  $u_{n+1} = 111 - \frac{1130}{u_n} + \frac{3000}{u_n * u_{n-1}}$

```
u <- c(2, -4)
new.u <- function(u) 111 - 1130/u[length(u)] + 3000/(u[length(u)]*u[length(u)-1])
for(i in 1:40) u <- c(u, new.u(u))
```

