



PROG102
Guided N...

PROG102: Functions

Writing your own functions in R

MARINCS 100B | Intro to Marine Data Science | Winter 2025

Key concepts

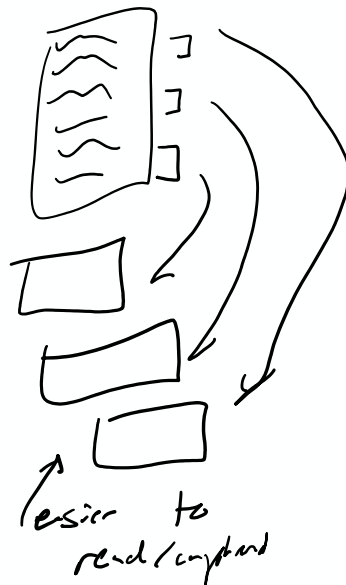
2 purposes

1) Hide det's behind name
(encapsulation)

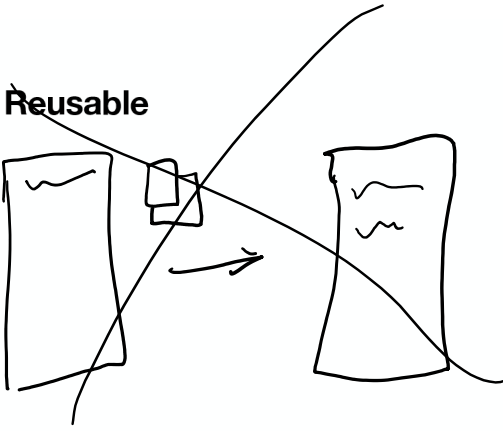
2) Apply same code over again (function)
(reusability)

Easy to read

Human
only think
of ≤ 7
items



~~Reusable~~



Use parameters

input \rightarrow

beep
beep

 \rightarrow outputs

(save logic, reuse
inputs, new
outputs)

Syntax

- ① Name ② Keyword Function ③ Parenthesis (parenthesis
(?))
- ④ Body ⑤ Return output

Demo in R

See code

Recap

Functions make code readable by hiding details

(encapsulation) yippie

Functions make code reusable by allowing diff inputs

(parameters)

Syntax - every function def has 5 parts (recognize them!) ~~PS~~ ☺

New vocabulary and lingering questions

New vocabulary

Encapsulation = make something simpler
by combining

Lingering questions

N/A

Exercises

Label the five parts of this function:

```
first_and_last <- function(s) {  
  first_char <- substr(s, 1, 1)  
  last_char <- substr(s, nchar(s), 1)  
  result <- paste(first_char, last_char)  
  return(result)  
}
```

Handwritten labels:

- Name* (above `first_and_last`)
- keyword func* (above `function`)
- argument* (above `s`)
- body* (to the right of the function body lines)
- return* (below the `return` statement)

Exercises

Match the function bodies on the left with the name that describes what they're doing on the right.

```
function(x) {  
  result <- x + 1  
  return(result)  
}
```

```
function(a) {  
  result <- a * 2  
  return(result)  
}
```

```
function(a, b) {  
  c_squared <- a^2 + b^2  
  result <- sqrt(c_squared)  
  return(result)  
}
```

double

hypotenuse_length

increment

Exercises

Write a function that turns a vector into a palindrome. For example, it should turn 1 2 3 into 1 2 3 3 2 1. Hint: you'll have to use a function called `rev()`. Choose a short but descriptive name for your function.

```
pal(x) {  
  newx ← x + rev(x)  
  return(newx)  
}
```

PROG102: Functions

How functions execute

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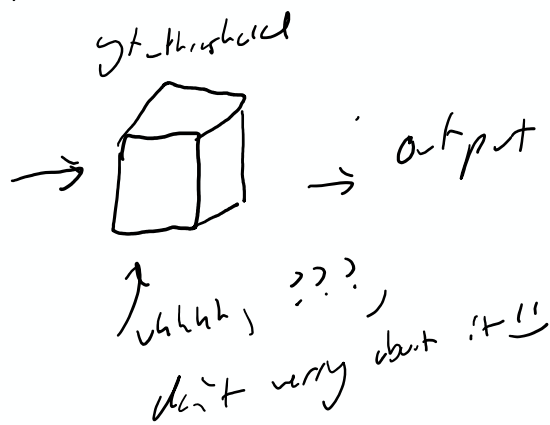
Key concepts

- ① Functions act as black boxes (unknown)
separate universe
- ② Parameters + returns, these are our bridges
in/out black box
- ③ Debugger - helps (??)

The black box

Encapsulation

(x)
threshold



Demo in R

See code
↓

Recap

Functions are uni-

parameters go unchanged after

New vocabulary and lingering questions

New vocabulary

known verbs

Lingering questions

N/A

Exercises

- What value does the following code yield?

9

- How could you change fish_mass so the code yields 12 instead?

$fish_mass \leftarrow fish_mass + 3$

- How could you change the body of the function so the code yields 12?

$growth \leftarrow 2 + \frac{0.25 \cdot temp}{=}$

```
fish_mass <- 5
temperature <- 20
fish_growth <- function(mass, temp) {
  growth <- 2 + 0.2 * temp
  mass <- mass + growth
  return(mass)
}
fish_growth(fish_mass, temperature)
```


Exercises

In your own words, why does running this code generate an error?

```
calc_volume <- function(height, width, depth) {  
  area <- height * width  
  volume <- area * depth  
  return(volume)  
}
```

```
vol <- calc_volume(3, 5, 1)  
area
```

Area does not exist outside of function

PROG102: Functions

Default and named parameters

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Key concepts

- 1) Parameters usually enter in order "by pos"
- 2) Default parameter values allow omit values
- 3) Named parameters let skip in order ☺
- 4) Default + named parameters are usually options ☺

Default and named parameters

`round(x, digits = 0)`

↑
parameter here

default value

oo

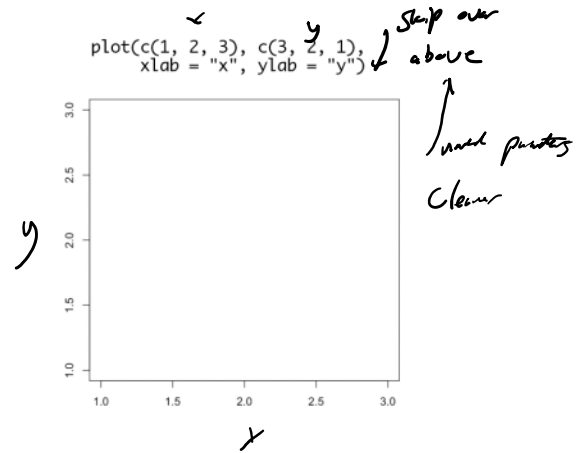
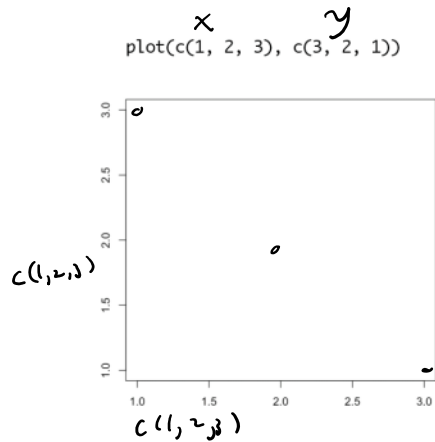
`round(pi) → 3` default

`round(pi, 6) → 3` by pos

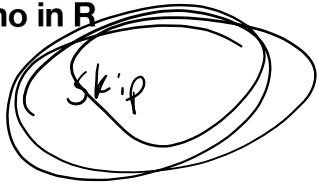
`round(digits=6, pi) → 3` all equiv, named parameters

Long parameter lists

```
plot(x, y = NULL, type = "p", xlim = NULL, ylim = NULL,
     log = "", main = NULL, sub = NULL, xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL,
     ann = par("ann"), axes = TRUE, frame.plot = axes,
     panel.first = NULL, panel.last = NULL, asp = NA,
     xgap.axis = NA, ygap.axis = NA,
     ...)
```



Demo in R



Triple dots

`max(..., na.rm = FALSE)`

`paste(..., sep = " ", collapse = NULL, recycle0 = FALSE)`

↑
ignore ...

$\max(1, 2, 3) = 3$

`paste("water", "is", "wet") → "water is wet"`

Recap

- 1) Named and default parameters are useful for modifying how functions work
- 2) Default values allow missing
- 3) Named allow skip around

New vocabulary and lingering questions

New vocabulary

N/A

Lingering questions

N/t

Exercises

R represents *missing* data with the value NA. Say you're doing an experiment and you miss the second observation. In R you can write that as `c(1, NA, 3, 4)`.

Most summary functions, like `mean()`, `max()`, and `median()`, have a parameter called `na.rm`. What does this parameter do? What is its default value? How would you get the maximum value of the vector `c(1, NA, 3, 4)`?

It removes any NA values

Default value is `FALSE`

Remove NA, set highest as x and keep, compare to next value, return x

```
129 tempEXTRACT <- function(inputTimeSTART, inputTimeEND, site) {
130   tempEXTRACTSTART_new <- Alaskan_DateTime(inputTimeSTART)
131   tempEXTRACTSTART_end <- Alaskan_DateTime(inputTimeEND)
132   tempEXTRACT_idx <- kefj_site == site & kefj_datetime >= tempEXTRACTSTART_new & kefj_
133   tempEXTRACT_vector <- kefj_temperature[tempEXTRACT_idx]
134   return(tempEXTRACT_vector)
135 }
136
137 tempEXTRACT("2013-01-27 0:00:00", "2013-01-27 23:59:59", "Aialik")
```

Diagram annotations:

- `function` points to `function`
- `name` points to `tempEXTRACT`
- `start` points to `inputTimeSTART`
- `end` points to `inputTimeEND`
- `site` points to `site`
- `body` points to the function body (lines 130-134)
- `return` points to `return(tempEXTRACT_vector)`

