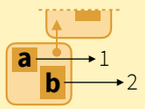
Tidy evaluation with rlang : : **CHEAT SHEET**

Vocabulary

Tidy Evaluation (Tidy Eval) is not a package, but a framework for doing non-standard evaluation (i.e. delayed evaluation) that makes it easier to program with tidyverse functions.

pi

Symbol - a name that represents a value or object stored in R. *is_symbol(expr(pi))*



Environment - a list-like object that binds symbols (names) to objects stored in memory. Each env contains a link to a second, **parent** env, which creates a chain, or search path, of environments. *is_environment(current_env())*

rlang::**caller_env**(n = 1) Returns calling env of the function it is in.

rlang::**child_env**(.parent, ...) Creates new env as child of .parent. Also **env**.

rlang::**current_env**() Returns execution env of the function it is in.

1

Constant - a bare value (i.e. an atomic vector of length 1). *is_bare_atomic(1)*

abs (**1**)

Call object - a vector of symbols/constants/calls that begins with a function name, possibly followed by arguments. *is_call(expr(abs(1)))*

pi — code
3.14 — result

Code - a sequence of symbols/constants/calls that will return a result if evaluated. Code can be:

1. Evaluated immediately (**Standard Eval**)
2. Quoted to use later (**Non-Standard Eval**)

is_expression(expr(pi))

e
a + b

Expression - an object that stores quoted code without evaluating it. is_*expression(expr(a + b))*

q
a + b, a b

Quosure- an object that stores both quoted code (without evaluating it) and the code's environment. *is_quosure(quo(a + b))*

a b rlang::**quo_get_env**(quo) Return the environment of a quosure.

a b rlang::**quo_set_env**(quo, expr) Set the environment of a quosure.

a + b rlang::**quo_get_expr**(quo) Return the expression of a quosure.

Expression Vector - a list of pieces of quoted code created by base R's *expression* and *parse* functions. Not to be confused with **expression**.

Quoting Code

Quote code in one of two ways (if in doubt use a quosure):

a + b → **e** **a + b**
3

QUOSURES

q
a + b, a b
when evaluated → **a + b** → 3 (a b)

Quosure- An expression that has been saved *with an environment* (aka a closure).

A quosure can be evaluated later in the stored environment to return a predictable result.

rlang::**quo**(expr) Quote contents as a quosure. Also **quos** to quote multiple expressions. *a <- 1; b <- 2; q <- quo(a + b); qs <- quos(a, b)*

rlang::**enquo**(arg) Call from within a function to quote what the user passed to an argument as a quosure. Also **enquos** for multiple args.
quote_this <- function(x) enquo(x)
quote_these <- function(…) enquos(…)

rlang::**new_quosure**(expr, env = caller_env()) Build a quosure from a quoted expression and an environment.
new_quosure(expr(a + b), current_env())

EXPRESSION

e
a + b
when evaluated → **a + b** → ?

Quoted Expression - An expression that has been saved by itself.

A quoted expression can be evaluated later to return a result that will depend on the environment it is evaluated in

rlang::**expr**(expr) Quote contents. Also **exprs** to quote multiple expressions. *a <- 1; b <- 2; e <- expr(a + b); es <- exprs(a, b, a + b)*

rlang::**enexpr**(arg) Call from within a function to quote what the user passed to an argument. Also **enexprs** to quote multiple arguments.
quote_that <- function(x) enexpr(x)
quote_those <- function(…) enexprs(…)

rlang::**ensym**(x) Call from within a function to quote what the user passed to an argument as a symbol, accepts strings. Also **ensyms**.
quote_name <- function(name) ensym(name)
quote_names <- function(…) ensyms(…)

Parsing and Deparsing

"a + b" —parse→ **e** **a + b** —deparse→ **"a + b"**

Parse - Convert a string to a saved expression.

rlang::**parse_expr**(x) Convert a string to an expression. Also **parse_exprs**, **sym**, **parse_quo**, **parse_quos**. e<-*parse_expr("a+b")*

Deparse - Convert a saved expression to a string.

rlang::**expr_text**(expr, width = 60L, nlines = Inf) Convert expr to a string. Also **quo_name**. *expr_text(e)*

Building Calls

rlang::**call2**(.fn, ..., .ns = NULL) Create a call from a function and a list of args. Use **exec** to create and then evaluate the call. (See back page for **!!!**) *args <- list(x = 4, base = 2)*

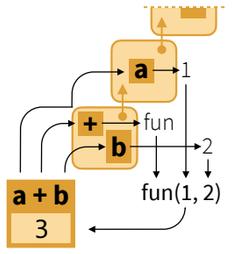
log (x = **4** , base = **2**)

2

call2("log", x = 4, base = 2)
call2("log", !!!args)

exec("log", x = 4, base = 2)
exec("log", !!!args)

Evaluation



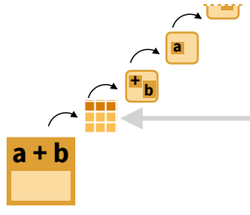
To evaluate an expression, R :

1. Looks up the symbols in the expression in the active environment (or a supplied one), followed by the environment's parents
2. Executes the calls in the expression

The result of an expression depends on which environment it is evaluated in.

QUOTED EXPRESSION

rlang::**eval_bare**(expr, env = parent.frame()) Evaluate expr in env. *eval_bare(e, env =.GlobalEnv)*



a <- 1; b <- 2
*p <- quo(**.data$**a + **!!**b)*
mask <- tibble(a = 5, b = 6)
eval_tidy(p, data = mask)

QUOSURES (and quoted exprs)

rlang::**eval_tidy**(expr, data = NULL, env = caller_env()) Evaluate expr in env, using data as a **data mask**. Will evaluate quosures in their stored environment. *eval_tidy(q)*

Data Mask - If data is non-NULL, eval_tidy inserts data into the search path before env, matching symbols to names in data.

Use the pronoun **.data$** to force a symbol to be matched in data, and **!!** (see back) to force a symbol to be matched in the environments.

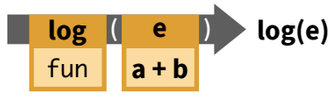
Quasiquotation (!!, !!!, :=)

QUOTATION

Storing an expression without evaluating it.
e <- expr(a + b)

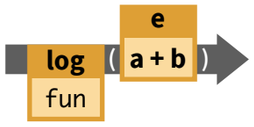
QUASIQUOTATION

Quoting *some* parts of an expression while evaluating and then inserting the results of others (**unquoting** others).
e <- expr(a + b)



log(e)

expr(log(e))



log(a + b)

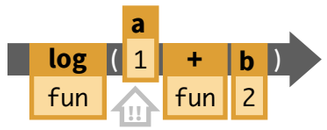
expr(log(!!e))

rlang provides **!!**, **!!!**, and **:=** for doing quasiquotation.

!!, **!!!**, and **:=** are not functions but syntax (symbols recognized by the functions they are passed to). Compare this to how

. is used by magrittr::**%>%()**
. is used by stats::**lm()**
.x is used by purrr::**map()**, and so on.

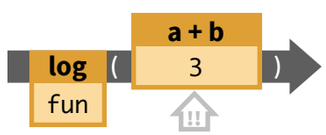
!!, **!!!**, and **:=** are only recognized by some rlang functions and functions that use those functions (such as tidyverse functions).



log(1 + b)

expr(log(!!a + b))

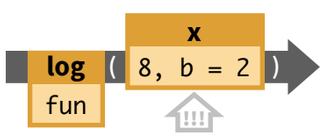
!! Unquotes the symbol or call that follows. Pronounced "unquote" or "bang-bang." *a <- 1; b <- 2*
expr(log(!!a + b))



log(3)

expr(log(!!(a + b)))

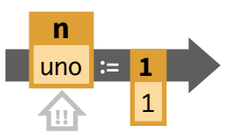
Combine **!!** with **()** to unquote a longer expression.
a <- 1; b <- 2
expr(log(!!(a + b)))



log(8, b=2)

expr(log(!!!x))

!!! Unquotes a vector or list and splices the results as arguments into the surrounding call. Pronounced "unquote splice" or "bang-bang-bang."
x <- list(8, b = 2)
expr(log(!!!x))



uno = 1

tibble::tibble(!!n := 1)

:= Replaces an = to allow unquoting within the name that appears on the left hand side of the =. Use with **!!**
n <- expr(uno)
tibble::tibble(!!n := 1)

Programming Recipes

Quoting function- A function that quotes any of its arguments internally for delayed evaluation in a chosen environment. You must take **special steps to program safely** with a quoting function.

How to spot a quoting function?
A function quotes an argument if the argument returns an error when run on its own.

Many tidyverse functions are quoting functions: e.g. **filter**, **select**, **mutate**, **summarise**, etc.

dplyr::filter(cars, **speed = = 25**)

```
speed dist
1     25    85
```

speed == 25

```
Error!
```

PROGRAM WITH A QUOTING FUNCTION

```
data_mean <- function(data, var) {
  require(dplyr)
  var <- rlang::enquo(var)                1
  data %>%
    summarise(mean = mean(!!var))         2
}
```

1. Capture user argument that will be quoted with rlang::**enquo**.
2. Unquote the user argument into the quoting function with **!!**.

PASS MULTIPLE ARGUMENTS TO A QUOTING FUNCTION

```
group_mean <- function(data, var, …) {
  require(dplyr)
  var <- rlang::enquo(var)
  group_vars <- rlang::enquos(…)            1
  data %>%
    group_by(!!!group_vars) %>%             2
    summarise(mean = mean(!!var))
}
```

1. Capture user arguments that will be quoted with rlang::**enquos**.
2. Unquote splice the user arguments into the quoting function with **!!!**.

PASS TO ARGUMENT NAMES OF A QUOTING FUNCTION

```
named_m <- function(data, var, name) {
  require(dplyr)
  var <- rlang::enquo(var)
  name <- rlang::ensym(name)                1
  data %>%
    summarise(!!name := mean(!!var))        2
}
```

1. Capture user argument that will be quoted with rlang::**ensym**.
2. Unquote the name into the quoting function with **!!** and **:=**.

MODIFY USER ARGUMENTS

```
my_do <- function(f, v, df) {
  f <- rlang::enquo(f)                      1
  v <- rlang::enquo(v)
  todo <- rlang::quo((!!f)(!!v))            2
  rlang::eval_tidy(todo, df)                3
}
```

1. Capture user arguments with rlang::**enquo**.
2. **Unquote** user arguments into a new expression or quosure to use
3. **Evaluate** the new expression/ quosure instead of the original argument

APPLY AN ARGUMENT TO A DATA FRAME

```
subset2 <- function(df, rows) {
  rows <- rlang::enquo(rows)                1
  vals <- rlang::eval_tidy(rows, data = df)
  df[vals, , drop = FALSE]                  2
}
```

1. Capture user argument with rlang::**enquo**.
2. Evaluate the argument with rlang::**eval_tidy**. Pass the data frame to **data** to use as a data mask.
3. **Suggest** in your documentation that your users use the **.data** and **.env** pronouns.

PASS CRAN CHECK

```
#' @importFrom rlang .data                  1
mutate_y <- function(df) {
  dplyr::mutate(df, y = .data$a +1)         2
}
```

Quoted arguments in tidyverse functions can trigger an **R CMD check** NOTE about undefined global variables. To avoid this:

1. Import rlang::**.data** to your package, perhaps with the roxygen2 tag **@importFrom rlang .data**
2. Use the **.data$** pronoun in front of variable names in tidyverse functions

WRITE A FUNCTION THAT RECOGNIZES QUASIQUOTATION (!!,!!!,:=)

1. Capture the quasiquotation-aware argument with rlang::**enquo**.
2. Evaluate the arg with rlang::**eval_tidy**.

```
add1 <- function(x) {
  q <- rlang::enquo(x)                      1
  rlang::eval_tidy(q) + 1                   2
}
```