Boring stuff as usual: For the cached chunk below, you will need to wait for 10 seconds for the first time you compile this document, but it takes no time the next time you run it again. Now we know the first element of x is SOMETHING WRONG WITH knitr. And we also know the 26 letters are SOMETHING WRONG WITH knitr. An expression that returns a value of length 0 will be removed from the output, SOMETHING WRONG WITH knitr but it was indeed evaluated, e.g. now the first element of x becomes SOMETHING WRONG WITH knitr. How about figures? Let's use the Cairo PDF device (assumes $R \geq 2.14.0$). Warnings, messages and errors are preserved by default.