Class 6: R Functions

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Functions are how we get work done in R. We call functions to do everything from reading data to doing analysis and outputing plots and results.

All function in R have at least 3 things:

- a **name** (you get to pick this)
- input **arguments** (there can be only one or loads- again your call)
- the **body** (where the work gets done, this code between the curly brackets)

A first silly function

Let's write a funct to add some numbers. We can call it `add()`

```
x <- 10
y <- 10
x + y
```

```
[1] 20
```

```
add <- function(x, y) {
  y <- 10
  x + y
}
```

Can I just use my new function?

```
add(1)
```

```
[1] 11
```

Let's make it a bit more flexible.

```
add <- function(x, y=1) {
  x+y
}

add(x=10, y=10)
```

```
[1] 20
```

```
add(10)
```

```
[1] 11
```

```
add(10, 100)
```

```
[1] 110
```

2nd example grade() function

Write a function to grade student work.

We will start with a simple version of the problem and the following example student vectors:

```
# Example input vectors to start with
student1 <- c(100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 100, 90)
student2 <- c(100, NA, 90, 90, 90, 90, 97, 80)
student3 <- c(90, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA, NA)
```

Start with student1

```
mean(student1)
```

```
[1] 98.75
```

```
mean(student2, na.rm=TRUE)
```

```
[1] 91
```

```
mean(student3, na.rm=TRUE)
```

[1] 90

Ok lets try to work with student1 and find (and drop) the lowest score.

```
student1
```

[1] 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 90

Google told me about min() and max()

```
min(student1)
```

[1] 90

```
which.min(student1)
```

[1] 8

```
student1[8]
```

[1] 90

```
student1[which.min(student1)]
```

[1] 90

```
student1[-8]
```

[1] 100 100 100 100 100 100 100

Our first working snippet that drops the lowest score and calculates the mean

```
mean(student1[-which.min(student1)])
```

[1] 100

```
x <- student3
mean(x[-which.min(x)], na.rm=T)
```

[1] NaN

Our approach to the NA problem (missing homeworks): We can replace all NA values with zero.

1st task is find the NA values (i.e. where are they in the vetor)

```
x <- student2
x
```

[1] 100 NA 90 90 90 90 97 80

```
x == 90
```

[1] FALSE   NA TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE

```
x
```

[1] 100 NA 90 90 90 90 97 80

```
is.na(x)
```

[1] FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE

I have found the NA (TRUE) values frin `is.na()` now I want to make them equal to zero (overwrite them/mask them etc.)

```r
y <- 1:5
y
```

```
[1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

```r
y[y>3] <- 0
y
```

```
[1] 1 2 3 0 0
```

I want to combine the `is.na(x)` with making these elements equal to zero. And then take this "masked" (vector of student scores with NA values as zero) and drop the lowest and get the mean,

```r
x <- student3
x[is.na(x)] <- 0
mean(x[-which.min(x)])
```

```
[1] 12.85714
```

Now I can turn my most awesome snipet into my first function

```r
grade <- function(x) {
  # Make NA (missing work) equal to zero
  x[is.na(x)] <- 0
  # Drop lowest score and get mean
mean(x[-which.min(x)])
}
```

```r
grade(student3)
```

```
[1] 12.85714
```

> Q1. Write a function grade() to determine an overall grade from a vector of student homework assignment scores dropping the lowest single score. If a student misses a homework (i.e. has an NA value) this can be used as a score to be potentially dropped. Your final function should be adquately explained with code comments and be able to work on an example class gradebook such as this one in CSV format: "https://tinyurl.com/gradeinput" [3pts]

```
url <- "https://tinyurl.com/gradeinput"
gradebook <- read.csv(url, row.names=1)
head(gradebook)
```

```
          hw1 hw2 hw3 hw4 hw5
student-1 100  73 100  88  79
student-2  85  64  78  89  78
student-3  83  69  77 100  77
student-4  88  NA  73 100  76
student-5  88 100  75  86  79
student-6  89  78 100  89  77
```

The `apply()` function in R is super useful but can be a little confusing to begin with. Lets have a look how it works.

```
ans <- apply(gradebook, 1, grade)
ans
```

```
 student-1   student-2   student-3   student-4   student-5   student-6   student-7
     91.75       82.50       84.25       84.25       88.25       89.00       94.00
 student-8   student-9  student-10  student-11  student-12  student-13  student-14
     93.75       87.75       79.00       86.00       91.75       92.25       87.75
student-15  student-16  student-17  student-18  student-19  student-20
     78.75       89.50       88.00       94.50       82.75       82.75
```

Q2. Using your grade() function and the supplied gradebook, Who is the top scoring student overall in the gradebook? [3pts]

```
which.max(ans)
```

```
student-18
        18
```

```
max(ans)
```

```
[1] 94.5
```

Q3. From your analysis of the gradebook, which homework was toughest on students (i.e. obtained the lowest scores overall? [2pts]

```r
which.min(apply(gradebook, 2, mean, na.rm=T))
```

```
hw3
  3
```

> Q4. Optional Extension: From your analysis of the gradebook, which homework was most predictive of overall score (i.e. highest correlation with average grade score)? [1pt]

```r
#ans
cor(gradebook$hw1, ans)
```

```
[1] 0.4250204
```

```r
cor(gradebook$hw5, ans)
```

```
[1] NA
```

```r
gradebook$hw5
```

```
 [1]  79  78  77  76  79  77 100 100  77  76 100 100  80  76  NA  77  78 100  79
[20]  76
```

Make all NA values into zero.

```r
mask <- gradebook
mask[is.na(mask)] <- 0
#mask
```

```r
cor(mask$hw5, ans)
```

```
[1] 0.6325982
```

Now we can use `apply()` to examien the correlation of every assignment in the masked gradebook to the overall score for each student in the class

```
apply(mask, 2, cor, y=ans)
```

```
      hw1       hw2       hw3       hw4       hw5
0.4250204 0.1767780 0.3042561 0.3810884 0.6325982
```

Q5. Make sure you save your Quarto document and can click the "Render" (or Rmarkdown"Knit") button to generate a PDF foramt report without errors. Finally, submit your PDF to gradescope. [1pt]