R Wizardry, Week 7
Control Structures:
Looping and and conditional arguments

March 9th, 2016

Flow control: looping and conditional arguments

Control structures

- Allow you to control the flow of execution of a series of R expressions. Also allows to:

- put some "logic" into your R code, rather than just always executing the same R code every time.

- Respond to inputs or to features of the data and execute different R expressions accordingly.

- Highly used when building functions.

- Control structures knowledge is a transferable skill: it is common to many programming languages.

Commonly used control structures

if and else: testing a condition and acting on it

for: execute a loop a fixed number of times

while: execute a loop while a condition is true

repeat: execute an infinite loop (must break out of it to stop)

break: break the execution of a loop

next: skip an interation of a loop

Warning

Whenever possible, it is more efficient to use built-in functions rather than control structures.

- Just do not re-invent the wheel! Somebody already did it for you.