

# Class06: R functions

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## Table of contents

Our first (silly) function . . . . .	1
A second function . . . . .	2
A protein generating function . . . . .	4

All functions in R have at least 3 things:

- A **name**, we pick this and use it to call our function
- input **argument** (there can be multiple)
- The **body** lines of R code that do the work

### Our first (silly) function

write a function to add some numbers

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

Now we call this function

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

```
[1] 110
```

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

```
[1] 110 110
```

## A second function

write a function to generate random nucleotide sequences of a user specified length:

The `sample` function can be helpful here

```
sample(c("A", "C", "G", "T"), size=50, replace = TRUE)
```

```
[1] "A" "T" "G" "A" "T" "T" "G" "A" "G" "A" "C" "G" "G" "G" "G" "T" "C" "G" "T"  
[20] "C" "T" "T" "C" "A" "A" "C" "T" "A" "A" "G" "T" "C" "A" "T" "G" "T" "A" "A"  
[39] "T" "T" "C" "G" "C" "G" "A" "C" "A" "A" "C"
```

i want the a 1 element long character vector that looks “GCTATT” not “G” “C” “T” “A” “T” “T”

```
v <- sample(c("A", "C", "G", "T"), size=50, replace = TRUE)  
paste(v,collapse="")
```

```
[1] "CGGATCGAAATTGGTATACAGCGCGCGTTGGACTTTCTTGCACTT"
```

Turn this into my first wee function

```
generate_dna <- function(size=50){  
  v <- sample(c("A", "C", "G", "T"), size=size, replace = TRUE)  
  paste(v,collapse="")  
}
```

Test it:

```
generate_dna(6)
```

```
[1] "ATTATT"
```

```
generate_dna(60)
```

```
[1] "ATGCACCGAACATATGCCGAGAGAGATAAGGTTACTCTGGCGCGGGGACACTCCAGT"
```

```
if(TRUE){  
  cat("HELLO You!")  
}
```

HELLO You!

```
fasta<- TRUE  
if(fasta){  
  cat("HELLO You!")  
}
```

HELLO You!

Add the ability to return a multi-element vector or a single element fasta like vector

```
generate_fasta <- function(size=50,fasta=TRUE){  
  v <- sample(c("A","C","G","T"), size=size, replace = TRUE)  
  paste(v,collapse="")  
  if(fasta){  
    cat("HELLO You!")  
  }  
}
```

```
generate_fasta(10)
```

HELLO You!

```
generate_fasta(10,fasta=FALSE)
```

```
generate_fasta <- function(size=50,fasta=TRUE){  
  v <- sample(c("A","C","G","T"), size=size, replace = TRUE)  
  s<-paste(v,collapse="")  
  if(fasta){  
    return(s)  
  }else{  
    return(v)  
  }  
}
```

```
generate_fasta(10)
```

```
[1] "ACATTTATC"
```

```
generate_fasta(10,fasta=FALSE)
```

```
[1] "A" "A" "C" "G" "A" "A" "C" "G" "T" "C"
```

## A protein generating function

```
generate_protein <- function(size=50, fasta=TRUE){  
  aa_codes <- c("A", "R", "N", "D", "C", "Q", "E", "G", "H", "I", "L", "K", "M", "F", "P", "S", "T", "W", "Y", "V")  
  v <- sample(aa_codes, size=size, replace=TRUE)  
  s <- paste(v, collapse="")  
  if(fasta){  
    return(s)  
  } else {  
    return(v)  
  }  
}
```

```
generate_protein(6)
```

```
[1] "YRLRHW"
```

generate all sequences between length of 6 and 12 using `generate_protein()`

one function to do this is “brute force”

```
generate_protein(6)
```

```
[1] "PYSPSM"
```

```
generate_protein(7)
```

```
[1] "DGEWYGH"
```

```
generate_protein(8)
```

```
[1] "NSSCRCRI"
```

A second way is to use a `for()` loop:

```
lengths <- 6:12
for(i in lengths){
  cat(">", i, "\n", sep="")
  aa<- generate_protein(i)
  cat(aa)
  cat("\n")
}
```

```
>6
LKIIAK
>7
YDEYQSF
>8
EYMHMYCY
>9
IGYIVPIHA
>10
CVAQVQCIEL
>11
FGSQMKLQNWL
>12
LTVCHTCLDIPH
```

A third, and better, way to solve this is to use the `apply()` family of functions, specifically the `sapply()` function in this case

```
sapply(6:12, generate_protein)
```

```
[1] "FTAYWM"          "HHQIEMM"         "CFTDKSWV"        "AIQQTQTKH"       "MLTACPNHRQ"
[6] "GDKYRPTHNNQ"    "LNINKSSEVMMW"
```