Advanced R programming: practical 2

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1 Rprofile

1. Create an `.Rprofile` file. Put in the line

```
cat("Successfully loaded .Rprofile at", date(), "\n")

## Successfully loaded .Rprofile at Wed May  7 21:18:06 2014
```

   Restart R. Does the welcome message appear.

2. Try adding my suggestions to your `.Rprofile`

2 S3 objects

1. Following the cohort example in the notes, suppose we want to create a mean method.

   - List all S3 methods associated with the mean function.

   - Examine the source code of mean.

   - What are the arguments of mean?

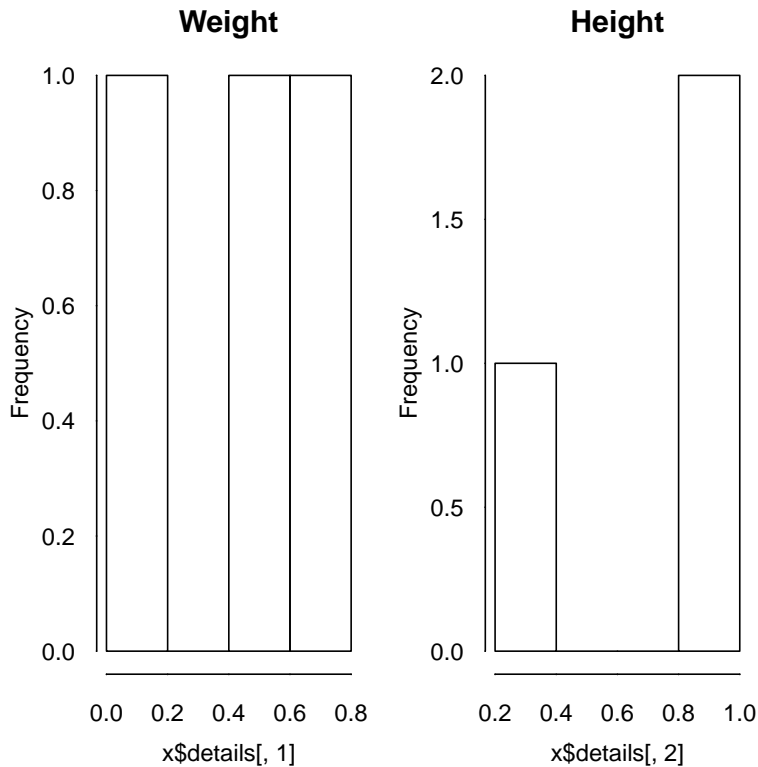   - Create a function called `mean.cohort` that returns a vector containing the mean weight and mean height.[1]

2. Let's now make a similar function for the standard deviation

   - Look at the arguments of the `sd` function.

   - Create an function call `sd.cohort` that returns a vector containing the weight and height standard deviation.[2]

   - Create a default `sd` function. Look at `cor.default` in the notes for a hint.

3. Create a `hist` method for the `cohort` class. When the `hist` function is called on a `cohort`, it should produce a single plot showing two histograms - one for height and another for weight.

[1] Ensure that you can pass in the standard mean arguments, i.e. `na.rm`.

[2] Ensure that you can pass in the standard sd arguments, i.e. `na.rm`.

4. Create a `[` method for the `cohort` class. This method should return a `cohort` object, but with the relevant rows sub setted. For example, if ç was a cohort object,

```
cc[1:3, ]
```

would return the first three rows of the data frame.

5. Create a verb"[<-" method for the `cohort` class. This method should allow us to replace values in the `details` data frame, i.e.

```
cc[1, 1] = 10
```

3 S4 objects

1. Following the `Cohort` example in the notes, suppose we want to make a generic for the `mean` function.

   - Using the `isGeneric` function, determine if the `mean` function is an S4 generic. If not, use `setGeneric` to create an S4 generic.

   - Using `setMethod`, create a `mean` method for the `Cohort` class.[3]

2. Repeat the above steps for the `sd` function.

3. Create a `hist` method for the `cohort` class. When the `hist` function is called on a `cohort`, it should produce a single plot showing two histograms - one for height and another for weight.

I've intentionally mirrored the functions from section 2 of this practical to highlight the differences.

[3] Be careful to match the arguments.

4. Create a [method for the cohort class. This method should return a cohort object, but with the relevant rows sub setted. For example, if ç was a cohort object,

```
cc[1:3, ]
```

would return the first three rows of the data frame.

5. Create a verb"[<-" method for the cohort class. This method should allow us to replace values in the details data frame.

4 Reference classes

The example in the notes created a random number generator using a reference class.

- Reproduce the randu generator from the notes and make sure that it works as advertised.[4]

- When we initialise the random number generator, the very first state is called the seed. Store this variable and create a new function called get_seed that will return the initial seed, i.e.

```
r = randu(calls = 0, seed = 10, state = 10)
r$r()

## [1] 0.0003052

r$get_state()

## [1] 655390

r$get_seed()

## [1] 10
```

[4] The reference class version, not the function closure generator.

Reference classes also have an initialise method - that way we would only specify the seed and would then initialise the other variables. I'll give you an example in the solutions.

- Create a variable that stores the number of times the generator has been called. You should be able to access this variable with the function get_num_calls

```
r = randu(calls = 0, seed = 10, state = 10)
r$get_num_calls()

## [1] 0

r$r()

## [1] 0.0003052

r$r()

## [1] 0.001831

r$get_num_calls()

## [1] 2
```

«P2, echo=echo» @

Solutions

Solutions are contained within the course package

```
library("nclRadvanced")
vignette("solutions2", package = "nclRadvanced")
```