Programming: practical 1

In the questions below, the important part is **understanding** what's going on rather than just typing the R commands. If you are unsure of what's going on, please ask.

1 Practice questions

1. Basic functions

```
v = 5
Fun1 = function() {
  v = 0
  return(v)
}
Fun1()

## [1] 0

v

## [1] 5
```

   (a) Why does the final line return 5 and not 0.

   (b) Delete line 3 in the above piece of code. Now change `Fun1` to allow v to be passed as an argument, i.e. we can write `Fun1(5)`. Call this function to make sure it works.

   (c) Now make the argument in `Fun1` have a default value of 0.

2. Default arguments:

```
Fun2 = function(x=10) {
  return(x)
}

Fun3 = function(x) {
  return(x)
}
```

   (a) Why does this work:

   ```
   Fun2()
   ```

   but this raises an error

   ```
   Fun3()
   ```

   (b) Change `Fun2` so that it returns $\sqrt{x}$.

3. `if` statements.

```
Fun4 = function(x) {
  if(x==5) {
    y = 0
  } else {
    y = 1
  }
  return(y)
}
```

(a) Change `Fun4` so that it:

- returns 1 if x is positive;
- returns -1 if x is negative;
- returns 0 if x is zero.

4. `for` loops.

```
total = 0
for(i in 1:5) {
  total = total + i
}
total

## [1] 15
```

The `for` loop above calculates

$$\sum_{i=1}^{5} i$$

(a) What is the final value of `total` in the above piece of code?

(b) Change the above `loop` to calculate the following summations:

$$\text{(i)} \sum_{i=1}^{20} (i+1)$$

$$\text{(ii)} \sum_{j=-10}^{15} j$$

5. More `for` loops:

```
a = 2
total = 0
for(blob in a:5) {
  total = total + blob
}
```

(a) Delete line 1. Now put the above code in a function called `Fun5`, where `a` is passed as an argument, i.e. we can call `Fun5(1)`

(b) Alter the code so that the `for` loop goes from `a` to `b`, rather than `a` to 5. Allow `b` to be passed as an argument, i.e. we can call `Fun5(1,5)`.

(c) Change `Fun5` so that it has default arguments of `a=1` and `b=10`.

Solutions

Solutions are contained within the `nclRprogramming` package. To obtain the package, we need to use `drat`, which can be installed via

```
install.packages("drat")
```

Then

```
drat::addRepo("rcourses")
install.packages("nclRprogramming", type="source")
```

The solutions can be viewed via

```
library(nclRprogramming)
vignette("solutions1", package="nclRprogramming")
```