Functions: Parts 1 & 2

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Agenda

- Review take-home midterm
- Everything is a function
- Components of a function
- Function workflows

Learning objectives

- Understand and be able to fluently refer to the three fundamental components of a function
- Understand the workflows that often lead to writing functions, and how you iterate from interactive work to writing a function
- Be able to write a few basic functions.

Review Take-

Functions

Functions

Anything that carries out an operation in R is a function. For example

$$3 + 5$$

[1] 8

The + is a function (what's referred to as an infix function).

Any ideas on how we could re-write the above to make it look more "function"-y?

[1] 8

What about this?

```
3 + 5 + 7
## [1] 15
`+`(7, `+`(3, 5))
## [1] 15
Or
library(magrittr)
`+`(3, 5) %>%
   `+`(7)
## [1] 15
```

What's going on here?

- The + operator is a function that takes two arguments (both numeric), which it sums.
- The following are also the same (minus what's being assigned)

```
a <- 7
a
```

[1] 7

```
`<-`(a, 5)
a
```

[1] 5

Everything is a function!

Being devious

Want to introduce a devious bug? Redefine +

```
`+` <- function(x, y) {
    if(runif(1) < 0.01) {
        sum(x, y) * -1
    } else {
        sum(x, y)
table(map2_dbl(1:500, 1:500, `+`) > 0)
##
## FALSE TRUE
## 6 494
rm(`+`, envir = globalenv())
table(map2_dbl(1:500, 1:500, `+`) > 0)
##
## FALSE TRUE
## 4 496
```

Tricky...

Functions are also (usually) objects!

```
a <- lm
a(hp ~ drat + wt, data = mtcars)

##
## Call:
## a(formula = hp ~ drat + wt, data = mtcars)
##
## Coefficients:
## (Intercept) drat wt
## -27.782 5.354 48.244</pre>
```

What does this all mean?

- Anything that carries out ANY operation in R is a function
- Functions are generally, but not always, stored in an object (otherwise known as binding the function to a name)

Anonymous functions

- The function for computing the mean is bound the name
 mean
- When running things through loops, you may often want to apply a function without binding it to a name

Example

```
vapply(mtcars, function(x) length(unique(x)), FUN.VALUE = double

## mpg cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
## 25 3 27 22 22 29 30 2 2 3 6
```

Another possibility

- If you have a bunch of functions, you might consider storing them all in a list.
- You can then access the functions in the same way you would subset any list

```
funs <- list(
  quarter = function(x) x / 4,
  half = function(x) x / 2,
  double = function(x) x * 2,
  quadruple = function(x) x * 4
)</pre>
```

This is kind of weird...

```
funs$quarter(100)

## [1] 25

funs[["half"]](100)

## [1] 50

funs[[4]](100)

## [1] 400
```

What does this imply?

• If we can store functions in a vector (list), then we can loop through the vector just like any other!

```
smry <- list(
  n = length,
  n_miss = function(x) sum(is.na(x)),
  n_valid = function(x) sum(!is.na(x)),
  mean = mean,
  sd = sd
)</pre>
```

map_dbl(smry, ~.x(mtcars\$mpg))

```
## n n_miss n_valid mean sd
## 32.000000 0.000000 32.000000 20.090625 6.026948
```

Careful though

This doesn't work

```
map_dbl(smry, mtcars$mpg)
```

```
## Error: Can't pluck from a builtin
```

Why?

Remember what {purrr} map(

With map_df

What if we wanted this for all columns?

Challenge

 Can you extend the previous looping to supply the summary for every column? Hint: You'll need to make a nested loop (loop each function through each column)

```
map_df(mtcars, function(col) map_df(smry, ~.x(col)),
    .id = "column")
```

```
## # A tibble: 11 \times 6
## column n n miss n valid mean
                                             sd
## <chr> <int> <int> <int> <dbl>
                                          <dbl>
##
   1 mpg
        32
                         32 20.09062
                                      6.026948
## 2 cyl 32
                         32 6.1875
                                       1.785922
##
   3 disp 32
                         32 230.7219 123.9387
##
         32
   4 hp
                         32 146.6875 68.56287
##
   5 drat 32
                         32 3.596562 0.5346787
##
           32
                         32 3.21725
   6 wt
                                       0.9784574
           32
## 7 qsec
                         32 17.84875
                                       1.786943
## 8 vs
             32
                         32 0.4375
                                       0.5040161
            32
                         32 0.40625
   9 am
          32
## 10 gear
                         32 3.6875
             32
                         32
                                       1.615200
  11 carb
                             2.8125
```

Easier * more readable

- Avoid nested loops
- Instead, turn (at least) one of the loops into a function

```
summarize_col <- function(column) {
  map_df(smry, ~.x(column))
}</pre>
```

Now we can just loop this function through each column

map_df(mtcars, summarize_col, .id = "column")

```
## # A tibble: 11 × 6
## column n n miss n valid
                              mean
                                           sd
## <chr> <int> <int> <int> <dbl>
                                        <dbl>
##
        32
                        32 20.09062 6.026948
   1 mpg
                   0
            32
##
                        32 6.1875
   2 cyl
                   0
                                     1.785922
                        32 230.7219 123.9387
   3 disp 32
##
                  0
         32
##
                   0
                        32 146.6875 68.56287
   4 hp
##
   5 drat 32
                   0
                        32 3.596562 0.5346787
##
   6 wt
         32
                   0
                        32 3.21725 0.9784574
  7 qsec 32
##
                        32 17.84875
                   0
                                     1.786943
                        32 0.4375
           32
##
  8 vs
                   0
                                     0.5040161
## 9 am
          32
                        32 0.40625 0.4989909
                   0
## 10 gear 32
                        32 3.6875
                                     0.7378041
                   0
            32
                            2.8125
## 11 carb
                   0
                        32
                                     1.615200
```

Wrap the whole thing in a function

```
summarize_df <- function(df) {
  map_df(df, summarize_col, .id = "column")
}</pre>
```

summarize_df(airquality)

Notice the missing data. Why? What should we do?

Deep breaths

So far, this has just been a high-level overview.

I wanted to show why you might want to write functions first.

Let's dig into the particulars

Function components

Three components

- body()
- formals()
- environment() (we won't focus so much here for now)

```
poly <- function(x, power) {
   z <- x^power
return(z)
}</pre>
Body
Formals
```

Formals

- The arguments supplied to the function
- What's one way to identify the formals for a function say, lm?

?: Help documentation!

Alternative – use a function!

formals(lm)

```
## $formula
##
## $data
##
## $subset
##
## $weights
```

How do you see the body?

• In RStudio: Super (command on mac, cntrl on windows) + click!

[demo]

Alternative – just print to screen

Or use body

body(lm)

```
## {
##
       ret.x < -x
##
      ret.v <- v
##
       cl <- match.call()</pre>
##
       mf <- match.call(expand.dots = FALSE)</pre>
##
       m <- match(c("formula", "data", "subset", "weights", "na.action",</pre>
##
            "offset"), names(mf), OL)
       mf \leftarrow mf[c(1L, m)]
##
##
       mf$drop.unused.levels <- TRUE
##
       mf[[1L]] <- quote(stats::model.frame)</pre>
##
       mf <- eval(mf, parent.frame())</pre>
##
       if (method == "model.frame")
##
            return (mf)
##
       else if (method != "qr")
##
            warning(gettextf("method = '%s' is not supported. Using 'gr'",
##
                method), domain = NA)
##
       mt <- attr(mf, "terms")</pre>
##
       y <- model.response(mf, "numeric")</pre>
##
       w <- as.vector(model.weights(mf))</pre>
##
       if (!is.null(w) && !is.numeric(w))
            stop("'weights' must be a numeric vector")
##
##
       offset <- model.offset(mf)</pre>
##
       mlm <- is.matrix(y)</pre>
##
       ny < - if (mlm)
```

Environment

• As I mentioned, we won't focus on this too much, but if you get deep into programming it's pretty important

```
double <- function(x) x*2
environment(double)

## <environment: 0x7ff1dd310cf0>

environment(lm)

## <environment: namespace:stats>
```

Why this matters

What will the following return?

```
x <- 10
f1 <- function() {
    x <- 20
    x
}
f1()</pre>
```

```
## [1] 20
```

What will this return?

```
x <- 10
y <- 20
f2 <- function() {
    x <- 1
    y <- 2
    sum(x, y)
}
f2()</pre>
```

```
## [1] 3
```

Last one

What do each of the following return?

```
x <- 2
f3 <- function() {
  y <- 1
  sum(x, y)
}</pre>
```

```
## [1] 3
## Error in eval(expr, envir, enclos): object 'y' not found
```

Environment summary

- The previous examples are part of lexical scoping.
- Generally, you won't have to worry too much about it
- If you end up with unexpected results, this could be part of why

Scoping

- Part of what's interesting about these scoping rules is that your functions can, and very often do, depend upon things in your global workspace, or your specific environment.
- If this is the case, the function will be a "one-off", and unlikely to be useful in any other script
- Note that our summarize_df() function depended on the global smry list object.

A few real examples

Example 1

Return the item "scores" for a differential item functioning analysis

```
extract_grades <- function(dif_mod, items) {
  item_names <- names(items)
  delta <- -2.35 * log(dif_mod$alphaMH)
  grades <- symnum(
    abs(delta),
    c(0, 1, 1.5, Inf),
    symbols = c("A", "B", "C")
)

tibble(item = item_names, delta, grades) %>%
  mutate(grades = as.character(grades))
}
```

Example 2

Reading in data

```
read_sub_files <- function(filepath) {
  read_csv(filepath) %>%
    mutate(
      content_area = str_extract(
         file, "[Ee][Ll][Aa]|[Rr]dg|[Ww]ri|[Mm]ath|[Ss]ci"
      ),
      grade = gsub(".+g(\\d\\d*).+", "\\1", filepath),
      grade = as.numeric(grade)
      ) %>%
      select(content_area, grade, everything()) %>%
      clean_names()
}
ifiles <- map_df(filepaths, read_sub_files)</pre>
```

Simple example

Please follow along

Pull out specific coefficients

```
mods <- mtcars %>%
    group_by(cyl) %>%
    nest() %>%
    mutate(
        model = map(
            data, ~lm(mpg ~ disp + hp + drat, data = .x)
        )
    )
    mods
```

Pull a specific coef

Find the solution for one model

(Intercept)

##

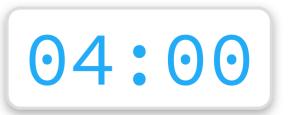
6.284507

```
# pull just the first model
m <- mods$model[[1]]</pre>
# extract all coefs
coef(m)
## (Intercept) disp hp drat
## 6.284507434 0.026354099 0.006229086 2.193576546
# extract specific coefs
coef(m)["disp"]
## disp
## 0.0263541
coef(m)["(Intercept)"]
```

Challenge

Can you write a function that returns a *specific* coefficient from a model?

Try using the code on the previous slide as you guide



Generalize it

```
pull_coef <- function(model, coef_name) {
  coef(model)[coef_name]
}</pre>
```

Make it more flexible

• Since the intercept is a little difficult to pull out, we could have it return that by default.

```
pull_coef <- function(model, coef_name = "(Intercept)") {
    coef(model)[coef_name]
}
mods %>%
    mutate(intercept = map_dbl(model, pull_coef))
```

Return all coefficients

First, figure it out for a single case

```
coef(m)

## (Intercept) disp hp drat
## 6.284507434 0.026354099 0.006229086 2.193576546

names(coef(m))

## [1] "(Intercept)" "disp" "hp" "drat"
```

Put them in a data frame

Challenge

Can you generalize this to a function?

```
pull_coef <- function(model) {
   coefs <- coef(model)
   tibble(
    term = names(coefs),
    coefficient = coefs
   )
}</pre>
```

Test it out

unnest

```
mods %>%
   mutate(coefs = map(model, pull_coef)) %>%
   unnest(coefs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 12 \times 5
##
  # Groups: cyl [3]
##
                             model term
                                            coefficient
       cyl data
##
                             t> <chr>
     <dbl> <list>
                                                      <dbl>
         6 < tibble [7 \times 10] > < lm> (Intercept)
##
                                                 6.284507
   1
##
  2
                                    disp
         6 <tibble [7 × 10]> <lm>
                                                0.02635410
##
   3
         6 < \text{tibble} [7 \times 10] > < \text{lm} >
                                    hp
                                             0.006229086
##
         6 <tibble [7 × 10]> <lm>
                                    drat
                                             2.193577
##
   5
         4 <tibble [11 × 10]> <lm>
                                   (Intercept) 46.08662
##
   6
         4 <tibble [11 × 10]> <lm>
                                    disp -0.1225361
## 7
         4 <tibble [11 × 10]> <lm>
                                    hp
                                              -0.04937771
## 8
         4 <tibble [11 × 10]> <lm>
                                    drat
                                              -0.6041857
##
         8 <tibble [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                   (Intercept) 19.00162
## 10
         8 <tibble [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                    disp
                                               -0.01671461
## 11
         8 <tibble [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                    hp
                                              -0.02140236
## 12
         8 <tibble [14 × 10]> <lm>
                                    drat
                                              2.006011
```

Slightly nicer

```
mods %>%
    mutate(coefs = map(model, pull_coef)) %>%
    select(cyl, coefs) %>%
    unnest(coefs)
```

```
## # A tibble: 12 × 3
## # Groups: cyl [3]
## cyl term coefficient
## <dbl> <chr>
                        <dbl>
## 1 6 (Intercept) 6.284507
## 2 6 disp
             0.02635410
             0.006229086
## 3 6 hp
## 4 6 drat 2.193577
## 5 4 (Intercept) 46.08662
## 6 4 disp -0.1225361
## 7
       4 hp -0.04937771
## 8 4 drat -0.6041857
## 9 8 (Intercept) 19.00162
## 10 8 disp -0.01671461
## 11 8 hp -0.02140236
## 12 8 drat 2.006011
```

Create nice table

```
mods %>%
    mutate(coefs = map(model, pull_coef)) %>%
    select(cyl, coefs) %>%
    unnest(coefs) %>%
    pivot_wider(
        names_from = "term",
        values_from = "coefficient"
) %>%
    arrange(cyl)
```

When to write a function?

Example

```
set.seed(42)
df <- tibble::tibble(
   a = rnorm(10, 100, 150),
   b = rnorm(10, 100, 150),
   c = rnorm(10, 100, 150),
   d = rnorm(10, 100, 150)
)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 10 \times 4
##
             b
                                      d
       а
                        С
##
       ## 1 305.6438 295.7304 54.00421 168.3175
##
  2 15.29527 442.9968 -167.1963 205.7256
##
  3 154.4693 -108.3291 74.21240 255.2655
## 4 194.9294 58.18168 282.2012 8.661044
   5 160.6402 80.00180 384.2790 175.7433
##
## 6 84.08132 195.3926 35.42963 -157.5513
## 7 326.7283 57.36206 61.40959 -17.66885
## 8 85.80114 -298.4683 -164.4745 -27.63614
## 9 402.7636 -266.0700 169.0146 -262.1311
## 10 90.59289 298.0170 4.000769 105.4184
```

Rescale each column to 0/1

We do this by subtracting the minimum value from each observation, then dividing that by the difference between the min/max values. For example

```
tibble(
  v1 = c(3, 4, 5),
  numerator = v1 - 3,
  denominator = 5 - 3,
  scaled = numerator / denominator
)
```

One column

```
df %>%
    mutate(
        a = (a - min(a, na.rm = TRUE)) /
        (max(a, na.rm = TRUE) - min(a, na.rm = TRUE))
)

## # A tibble: 10 × 4
```

```
##
       a b c
##
  1 0.7493478 295.7304 54.00421 168.3175
##
  2 0 442.9968 -167.1963 205.7256
## 3 0.3591881 -108.3291 74.21240 255.2655
## 4 0.4636099 58.18168 282.2012 8.661044
  5 0.3751145 80.00180 384.2790 175.7433
##
##
  6 0.1775269 195.3926 35.42963 -157.5513
## 7 0.8037639 57.36206 61.40959 -17.66885
## 8 0.1819655 -298.4683 -164.4745 -27.63614
## 9 1 -266.0700 169.0146 -262.1311
## 10 0.1943323 298.0170 4.000769 105.4184
```

Do it for all columns

```
df %>%
    mutate(
    a = (a - min(a, na.rm = TRUE)) /
        (max(a, na.rm = TRUE) - min(a, na.rm = TRUE)),
    b = (b - min(b, na.rm = TRUE)) /
        (max(b, na.rm = TRUE) - min(b, na.rm = TRUE)),
    c = (c - min(c, na.rm = TRUE)) /
        (max(c, na.rm = TRUE) - min(c, na.rm = TRUE)),
    d = (d - min(d, na.rm = TRUE)) /
        (max(d, na.rm = TRUE) - min(d, na.rm = TRUE))
)
```

An alternative

 What's an alternative we could use without writing a function?

```
## # A tibble: 10 \times 4
##
        <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
##
   1 0.7493478 0.8013846 0.4011068 0.8319510
  2 0 1 0 0.9042516
3 0.3591881 0.2564372 0.4377506 1
## 2 0
##
## 4 0.4636099 0.4810071 0.8149005 0.5233744
##
   5 0.3751145 0.5104355
                      1 0.8463031
## 6 0.1775269 0.6660608 0.3674252 0.2021270
## 7 0.8037639 0.4799017 0.4145351 0.4724852
## 8 0.1819655 0
               0.004935493 0.4532209
## 9 1 0.04369494 0.6096572
## 10 0.1943323 0.8044685 0.3104346 0.7103825
```

Another alternative

Write a function

- What are the arguments going to be?
- What will the body be?

Arguments

One formal argument – A numeric vector to rescale

Body

You try first

```
(x - min(x, na.rm = TRUE)) /
  (max(x, na.rm = TRUE) - min(x, na.rm = TRUE))
```



Create the function

```
rescale01 <- function(x) {
  (x - min(x, na.rm = TRUE)) /
    (max(x, na.rm = TRUE) - min(x, na.rm = TRUE))
}</pre>
```

Test it!

```
rescale01(c(0, 5, 10))

## [1] 0.0 0.5 1.0

rescale01(c(seq(0, 100, 10)))

## [1] 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0
```

Make it cleaner

- There's nothing inherently "wrong" about the prior function, but it is a bit hard to read
- How could we make it easier to read?
 - Remove missing data once (rather than every time)
 - Don't calculate things multiple times

A little cleaned up

```
rescale01b <- function(x) {
    z <- na.omit(x)
    min_z <- min(z)
    max_z <- max(z)

    (z - min_z) / (max_z - min_z)
}</pre>
```

Test it!

```
rescale01b(c(0, 5, 10))

## [1] 0.0 0.5 1.0

rescale01b(c(seq(0, 100, 10)))

## [1] 0.0 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 0.5 0.6 0.7 0.8 0.9 1.0
```

Make sure they give the same output

```
identical(rescale01(c(0, 1e5, .01)), rescale01b(c(0, 1e5, 0.01)))
## [1] TRUE

rand <- rnorm(1e3)
identical(rescale01(rand), rescale01b(rand))
## [1] TRUE</pre>
```

Final solution

Could use modify here too

map_df(df, rescale01b)

```
## # A tibble: 10 × 4
##
## <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
  1 0.7493478 0.8013846 0.4011068 0.8319510
##
## 2 0
           1 0 0.9042516
## 3 0.3591881 0.2564372 0.4377506
## 4 0.4636099 0.4810071 0.8149005 0.5233744
##
  5 0.3751145 0.5104355
                       0.8463031
## 6 0.1775269 0.6660608 0.3674252 0.2021270
## 7 0.8037639 0.4799017 0.4145351 0.4724852
## 9 1 0.04369494 0.6096572 0
## 10 0.1943323 0.8044685 0.3104346 0.7103825
```

Getting more complex

 What if you want a function to behave differently depending on the input?

Add conditions

```
function() {
   if (condition) {

   # code executed when condition is TRUE

   } else {
   # code executed when condition is FALSE

   }
}
```

Lots of conditions?

```
function() {
   if (this) {

    # do this
   } else if (that) {

   # do that
   } else {
    # something else
   }
}
```

Easy example

• Given a vector, return the mean if it's numeric, and **NULL** otherwise

```
mean2 <- function(x) {
    if(is.numeric(x)) {
        out <- mean(x)
    }
    else {
        return()
    }
    out
}</pre>
```

Test it

```
mean2(rnorm(12))

## [1] 0.1855869

mean2(c("a", "b", "c"))

## NULL
```

Mean for all numeric columns

- The prior function can now be used within a new function to calculate the mean of all columns of a data frame that are numeric
- First, let's do it "by hand", then we'll wrap it in a function. We'll use ggplot2::mpg

```
head(mpg, n = 3)
```

Calculate all means

```
means_mpg <- map(mpg, mean2)
means_mpg</pre>
```

```
## $manufacturer
## NULL
##
## $model
## NULL
##
## $displ
## [1] 3.471795
##
## $year
## [1] 2003.5
##
## $cyl
## [1] 5.888889
##
## $trans
## NULL
##
## $drv
## NULL
##
## $cty
```

Drop NULL's

• First identify which are null

```
is_null <- map_lgl(means_mpg, is.null)</pre>
is_null
## manufacturer
                        model
                                       displ
                                                      year
                                                                     cyl
##
           TRUE
                          TRUE
                                       FALSE
                                                     FALSE
                                                                   FALSE
##
              fl
                        class
##
           TRUE
                          TRUE
```

Subset

Use the is_null object to subset

means_mpg[!is_null]

```
## $displ
## [1] 3.471795
##
## $year
## [1] 2003.5
##
## $cyl
## [1] 5.888889
##
## $cty
## [1] 16.85897
##
## $hwy
## [1] 23.44017
```

Transform to a df

```
as.data.frame(means_mpg[!is_null])
```

```
## displ year cyl cty hwy
## 1 3.471795 2003.5 5.888889 16.85897 23.44017
```

Challenge

Can you wrap all of the previous into a function?

05:00

```
means_df <- function(df) {
    means <- map(df, mean2) # calculate means
    nulls <- map_lgl(means, is.null) # find null values
    means_l <- means[!nulls] # subset list to remove nulls
    as.data.frame(means_l) # return a df
}</pre>
```

head(mpg)

```
## # A tibble: 6 × 11
## manufacturer model displ year cyl trans drv cty hwy fl
## <chr> <chr
## 1 audi
                   a4
                            1.8 1999
                                            4 auto(15) f
                                                                     18
                                                                           29 p
                         1.8 1999
                                            4 manual(m5) f
                                                                           29 p
## 2 audi
                   a4
                                                                    21
                                            4 manual(m6) f
                                                                     20
## 3 audi
                         2 2008
                                                                           31 p
                   a4
## 4 audi
                   a4 2 2008
                                            4 auto(av) f
                                                                    21
                                                                           30 p
## 5 audi
                   a4 2.8 1999
                                            6 auto(15) f
                                                                    16
                                                                           26 p
## 6 audi
           a4 2.8 1999
                                            6 manual(m5) f
                                                                     18
                                                                           26 p
```

means_df(mpg)

```
## displ year cyl cty hwy
## 1 3.471795 2003.5 5.888889 16.85897 23.44017
```

We have a problem though!

head(airquality)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 41 190 7.4 67 5 1
## 2 36 118 8.0 72 5 2
## 3 12 149 12.6 74 5 3
## 4 18 313 11.5 62 5 4
## 5 NA NA 14.3 56 5 5
## 6 28 NA 14.9 66 5 6
```

means_df(airquality)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 NA NA 9.957516 77.88235 6.993464 15.80392
```

Why is this happening?

How can we fix it?

Easiest way ...

Pass the dots!

Redefine means2

```
mean2 <- function(x, ...) {
    if(is.numeric(x)) {
        mean(x, ...)
    }
    else {
        return()
    }
}</pre>
```

Redefine means_df

```
means_df <- function(df, ...) {
    means <- map(df, mean2, ...) # calculate means
    nulls <- map_lgl(means, is.null) # find null values
    means_l <- means[!nulls] # subset list to remove nulls
    as.data.frame(means_l) # return a df
}</pre>
```

means_df(airquality)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 NA NA 9.957516 77.88235 6.993464 15.80392
```

means_df(airquality, na.rm = TRUE)

```
## Ozone Solar.R Wind Temp Month Day
## 1 42.12931 185.9315 9.957516 77.88235 6.993464 15.80392
```

Break

Functions: Part 2 upcoming

Functions: Part 2

Agenda

- Purity (quickly)
- Function conditionals
 - ∘ if (condition) {}
 - embedding warnings, messages, and errors
- Return values

Learning objectives

- Understand the concept of purity, and why it is often desirable
 - And be able to define a side effect.
- Be able to change the behavior of a function based on the input
- Be able to embed warnings/messages/errors

Purity

A function is pure if

- 1. Its output depends only on its inputs
- 2. It makes no changes to the state of the world

Any behavior that changes the state of the world is referred to as a *side-effect*

Note – state of the world is not a technical term, just the way I think of it

Common side effect functions

We've talked about a few... what are they?

A couple examples

- print
- plot
- write.csv
- read.csv
- Sys.time
- options
- library
- install.packages

Conditionals

Example

From an old lab:

Write a function that takes two vectors of the same length and returns the total number of instances where the value is NA for both vectors. For example, given the following two vectors

```
c(1, NA, NA, 3, 3, 9, NA)
c(NA, 3, NA, 4, NA, NA, NA)
```

The function should return a value of 2, because the vectors are both NA at the third and seventh locations. Provide at least one additional test that the function works as expected.

How do you start to 04:00 this problem?

Start with writing a function

Solve it on a test case, then generalize!

Use the vectors to solve!

```
a \leftarrow c(1, NA, NA, 3, 3, 9, NA)
b \leftarrow c(NA, 3, NA, 4, NA, NA, NA)
```

You try first. See if you can use these vectors to find how many elements are NA in both (should be 2).

One approach

```
is.na(a)
## [1] FALSE TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE
                                        TRUE
is.na(b)
## [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
                                   TRUE
                                         TRUE
is.na(a) & is.na(b)
## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE
                                        TRUE
sum(is.na(a) & is.na(b))
## [1] 2
```

Generalize to function

```
both_na <- function(x, y) {
   sum(is.na(x) & is.na(y))
}</pre>
```

What happens if not same length?

03:00

Test it

```
both_na(a, b)
## [1] 2
 both_na(c(a, a), c(b, b))
## [1] 4
 both_na(a, c(b, b)) # ???
## [1] 4
What's going on here?
```

Recycling

R will recycle vectors if they are divisible

This will not work if they are not divisible

```
data.frame(nums = 1:3,
    lets = c("a", "b"))
```

```
## Error in data.frame(nums = 1:3, lets = c("a", "b")): arguments imply dif
```

Unexpected results

- In the **both_na** function, recycling can lead to unexpected results, as we saw
- What should we do?
- Check that they are the same length, return an error if not

Check lengths

• Stop the evaluation of a function and return an error message with **stop**, but only if a condition has been met.

Basic structure

```
both_na <- function(x, y) {
   if(condition) {
      stop("message")
   }
   sum(is.na(x) & is.na(y))
}</pre>
```

Challenge

Modify the code below to check that the vectors are of the same length. Return a *meaningful* error message if not. Test it out to make sure it works!

```
both_na <- function(x, y) {
   if(condition) {
      stop("message")
   }
   sum(is.na(x) & is.na(y))
}</pre>
```

02:00

Attempt 1

Did yours look something like this?

```
both_na <- function(x, y) {
    if(length(x) != length(y)) {
        stop("Vectors are of different lengths")
    }
    sum(is.na(x) & is.na(y))
}
both_na(a, b)</pre>
```

[1] 2

```
both_na(a, c(b, b))
```

Error in both_na(a, c(b, b)): Vectors are of different lengths

More meaningful error message?

What would make it more meaningful?

State the lengths of each

Error in both_na(a, c(b, b)): Vectors are of different lengths:x = 7, y

Clean up

• Often we don't need/want to echo the function. Set

```
call. = FALSE
```

We also can state the lengths on new lines

both_na(a, c(b, b))

```
## Error: Vectors are of different lengths: ## x = 7 ## y = 14
```

Quick error messages

- For quick checks, with usually less than optimal messages, use stopifnot
- Often useful if the function is just for you

```
z_score <- function(x) {
   stopifnot(is.numeric(x))
   x <- x[!is.na(x)]
   (x - mean(x)) / sd(x)
}
z_score(c("a", "b", "c"))

## Error in z_score(c("a", "b", "c")): is.numeric(x) is not TRUE

z_score(c(100, 115, 112))

## [1] -1.1338934  0.7559289  0.3779645</pre>
```

warnings

If you want to embed a warning, just swap out stop() for
warning()

Extension

• Let's build out a warning if the vectors are different lengths, but the ARE recyclable.

Modulo operator

%% returns the remainder in a division problem. So 8 %% 2
and 8 %% 4 both return zero (because there is no
remainder), while and 7 %% 2 returns 1 and 7 %% 4 returns
3.

One approach

Note the double condition

```
both_na <- function(x, y) {</pre>
    if(length(x) != length(y)) {
        lx <- length(x)</pre>
        lv <- length(v)</pre>
        v_{lngths} \leftarrow paste0("x = ", lx, ", y = ", ly)
        if(lx %% ly == 0 | ly %% lx == 0) {
             warning("Vectors were recycled (", v_lngths, ")")
        else {
             stop("Vectors are of different lengths and are not re
                  v_lngths)
    sum(is.na(x) \& is.na(y))
```

Test it

```
both_na(a, c(b, b))

## Warning in both_na(a, c(b, b)): Vectors were recycled (x = 7, y = 14)

## [1] 4

both_na(a, c(b, b)[-1])
```

Error in both_na(a, c(b, b)[-1]): Vectors are of different lengths and a

Refactoring

- Refactoring means changing the internals, but the output stays the same
- Next week, we'll refactor this function to make it more readable



How important is this?

- For most of the work you do? Not very
- Develop a package? Very!
- Develop functions that others use, even if not through a package? Sort of.

Return Values

Thinking more about return values

- By default the function will return the last thing that is evaluated
- Override this behavior with return
- This allows the return of your function to be conditional
- Generally the last thing evaluated should be the "default", or most common return value

Pop quiz

What will the following return?

```
add_two <- function(x) {
   result <- x + 2
}</pre>
```

Answer: Nothing! Why?

```
add_two(7)
add_two(5)
```

Specify the return value

The below are all equivalent, and all result in the same function behavior

```
add_two.1 <- function(x) {
    result <- x + 2
    result
}
add_two.2 <- function(x) {
    x + 2
}</pre>
```

```
add_two.3 <- function(x) {
    result <- x + 2
    return(result)
}</pre>
```

When to use return?

Generally reserve **return** for you're returning a value prior to the full evaluation of the function. Otherwise, use **.1** or **.2** methods from prior slide.

Thinking about function names

Which of these is most intuitive?

```
f <- function(x) {
    x \leftarrow sort(x)
    data.frame(value = x,
                 p = ecdf(x)(x)
ptile <- function(x) {</pre>
    x \leftarrow sort(x)
    data.frame(value = x,
                 ptile = ecdf(x)(x)
percentile_df <- function(x) {</pre>
    x \leftarrow sort(x)
    data.frame(value = x,
                 percentile = ecdf(x)(x))
```

Output

- The descriptive nature of the output can also help
- Maybe a little too tricky but...

```
random_vector <- rnorm(100)
tail(percentile_df(random_vector))</pre>
```

head(percentile_df(rnorm(50)))

```
## rnorm_50 percentile

## 1 -2.454277 0.02

## 2 -2.428808 0.04

## 3 -2.035993 0.06

## 4 -1.508518 0.08

## 5 -1.226605 0.10

## 6 -1.114624 0.12
```

How do we do this?

• I often debug functions and/or figure out how to do something within the function by changing the return value & re-running the function multiple times

[demo]

Thinking about dependencies

- What's the purpose of the function?
 - Just your use? Never needed again? Don't worry about it at all.
 - Mass scale? Worry a fair bit, but make informed decisions.
- What's the likelihood of needing to reproduce the results in the future?
 - If high, worry more.
- Consider using name spacing (::)

Next time

Lab 3