Congratulations, you sank my battleship! Object oriented programming in R

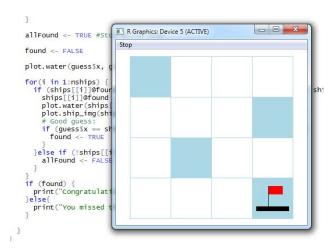
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Outline

- OOP
- OOP in R
- Battleship
- Advantages & disadvantages of OOP in R
- Other applications



Object oriented programming (OOP)

Objects

which

- have attributes
- have associated procedures (methods)
- are usually instances of classes

For example..

- A student, member of the class "Students" with attributes name, age, grade
- For different objects different methods
 (e.g. generic function "plot", different procedures for different objects)



OOP in R

- **1** S3
- S4
- R5

The S4 system

Define an S4 class with setClass():

```
#Class Student:
setClass(Class = "Student",
representation(fullname = "character", age = "numeric"),
prototype(fullname = NA_character_, age = NA_real_))
```

Class The name of the class

Representation A named list of the slots (= class attributes) indicating the class of each slot

Prototype An object with default data for the slot

Contains Names of the superclasses (For inheritance purposes, explained later)



The S4 system

Create an instance/object of the class with new():

```
1 | #New instance of the class "Student":
2 | Gerd <- new("Student", fullname = "Gerd Jansen", age = 21)
3 | Jan <- new("Student", fullname = "Jan van der Meulen", age = 19)</pre>
```

Access class slot by @ operator:

```
1 | Gerd@fullname #Prints "Gerd Jansen"
2 | Gerd@age #Prints "21"
```

Methods and Generic Functions

 Generic functions alllow different methods to be selected corresponding to the classes of the objects supplied as an argument in a call to the function

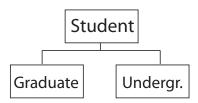
```
#Set your own generic function (e.g. How many sides has a shape?)
   setGeneric(name = "sides", def = function(object){
            standardGeneric("sides")}, valueClass = "character")
   #standarGeneric() dispatches the method defined for a generic function
   #Define different methods
   setMethod("sides", signature("Triangle"), function(object) return("3"))
   setMethod("sides", signature("Circle"), function(object) return("Infinite"))
10
   > sides(new("Triangle"))
12 [1] "3"
13 > sides(new("Circle"))
14 [1] "Infinite"
```

Inheritance

- An object or class is based on another object or class
- Example: Graduate students
 undergraduate students
 with partly same behavior

```
#Define superclass (other ways possible)
setIs("Undergraduate", "Student")

#Check relationship
extends("Undergraduate", "Student")
```



- Inheritance of methods
- 1 Use callNextMethod() in setMethod()



Battleship: An application of the S4 system

```
#New class "Ship"
setClass("Ship", representation(posX = "numeric",
posY = "numeric", found = "logical"), prototype(found = FALSE))
#New Ship:
ships <- list()
ships[1] <- new("Ship", posX = sample(1:nRow,1),
posY = sample(1:nCol,1))</pre>
```

Battleship: An application of the S4 system

```
for(i in 2:nships) {
 2
       foundPos <- FALSE
 3
       shipRow <- NA
 4
       shipCol <- NA
 5
6
       while(!foundPos){ #Loop continues until position of 1 ship is found
7
8
9
         shipRow <- sample(1:nRow,1) #Random row nr
         shipCol <- sample(1:nCol,1) #Random col nr
10
         #Check if position is available
11
         for(j in 1:length(ships)) { #Iterate over all ships in the list
12
           foundPos <- !(ships[[j]]@posX == shipRow && ships[[j]]@posY == shipCol)</pre>
13
           if(!foundPos) {
14
             break
15
16
17
18
       #New ship on available position
19
       ships[i] <- new("Ship", posX = shipRow, posY = shipCol)</pre>
20
```

Advantages & disadvantages of OOP in R

Advantages:

- Enables the use of generic functions (necessary in order to build your own R library)
- Efficiently programming, e.g. elimination of redundant code through inheritance
- Neat code

Disadvantages:

- Not always a big difference between OOP & functional programming
- Execution time may increase



Other (possible) applications

- School data
- Modelling of social networks
- Cognitive psychology (e.g. neurons in neural network)
- . . .

S4 Key functions

```
setClass() Create new class
   setIs() Define superclass of a class
 extends() Check relationship(s) between classes
 isClass() Check class name
      is() Show all subclasses of a class
getClasses Show all classes of an object
removeClass() Remove class
  @/slot() Access slots
slotNames() Show slot names
getSlots() Show slot names + their classes
setGeneric() Create new generic function
setMethod() Define new method
 methods() Show all methods of a generic function
```