Week 6: Data Wrangling in R

POP77001 Computer Programming for Social Scientists

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17 October 2022

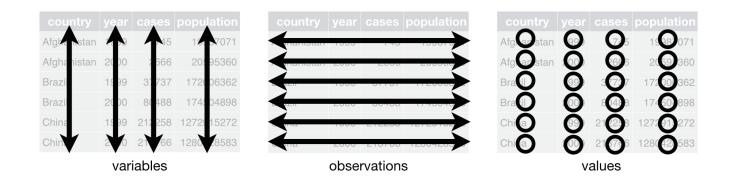
Module website: tinyurl.com/POP77001

Overview

- Data frames in base R
- Alternatives to data frames
- tidyverse packages
- Working with tabular data
- Data input and output
- Summary statistics

Tidy data

- Tidy data is a specific subset of rectangular data, where:
 - Each variable is in a column
 - Each observation is in a row
 - Each value is in a cell



Source: R for Data Science

Data frames

- Data frame is one of the object types available in base R.
- Despite their matrix-like appearance, data frames are lists of equal-sized vectors.
- Data frames can be created with data.frame() function with named vectors as input.

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- Data frames can be created with data.frame() function with named vectors as input.

```
x y z
1 1 a TRUE
2 2 b FALSE
3 3 c FALSE
4 4 d TRUE
```

```
In [3]: # str() function applied to data frame is useful in determining variable
str(df)

'data.frame': 4 obs. of 3 variables:
   $ x: int 1 2 3 4
   $ y: chr "a" "b" "c" "d"
   $ z: logi TRUE FALSE TRUE
```

```
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$ x: int 1 2 3 4
$ y: chr "a" "b" "c" "d"
$ z: logi TRUE FALSE TRUE
In [4]: # dim() function behaves similar to matrix, showing N rows and N column dim(df)

[1] 4 3
```

```
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         'data.frame': 4 obs. of 3 variables:
          $ x: int 1 2 3 4
          $ y: chr "a" "b" "c" "d"
          $ z: logi TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE
In [4]: # dim() function behaves similar to matrix, showing N rows and N column
        dim(df)
         [1] 4 3
In [5]: # In contrast to matrix length() of data frame displays the length of \iota
        length(df)
         [1] 3
```

```
In [6]: l \leftarrow list(x = 1:5, y = letters[1:5], z = rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), length.out)
         $x
         [1] 1 2 3 4 5
         $y
         [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e"
         $z
         [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
In [7]: df <- data.frame(l)</pre>
         df
           X Y Z
         1 1 a TRUE
         2 2 b FALSE
         3 3 c TRUE
         4 4 d FALSE
         5 5 e TRUE
```

```
In [6]: l \leftarrow list(x = 1:5, y = letters[1:5], z = rep(c(TRUE, FALSE), length.out)
         $x
         [1] 1 2 3 4 5
         $y
         [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e"
         $z
         [1] TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE
In [7]: df <- data.frame(l)</pre>
        df
           X Y Z
         1 1 a TRUE
         2 2 b FALSE
         3 3 c TRUE
         4 4 d FALSE
         5 5 e TRUE
In [8]: str(df)
         'data.frame': 5 obs. of 3 variables:
```

- \$ x: int 1 2 3 4 5
 \$ y: chr "a" "b" "c" "d" ...
 \$ z: logi TRUE FALSE TRUE FALSE TRUE

Subsetting data frame

- In subsetting data frames the techniques of subsetting matrices and lists are combined
- If you subset with a single vector, it behaves as a list
- If you subset with two vectors, it behaves as a matrix

```
In [9]: # Like a list
         df[c("x", "z")]
           ΧZ
         1 1 TRUE
         2 2 FALSE
         3 3 TRUE
         4 4 FALSE
         5 5 TRUE
In [10]: # Like a matrix
         df[,c("x", "z")]
           ΧZ
         1 1 TRUE
         2 2 FALSE
         3 3 TRUE
         4 4 FALSE
         5 5 TRUE
```

```
In [9]: # Like a list
         df[c("x", "z")]
           ΧZ
         1 1 TRUE
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         3 3 TRUE
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         5 5 TRUE
In [10]: # Like a matrix
         df[,c("x", "z")]
          ΧZ
         1 1 TRUE
         2 2 FALSE
         3 3 TRUE
         4 4 FALSE
         5 5 TRUE
In [11]: df[df$y == "b",]
          x y z
         2 2 b FALSE
```

Building data frame

- rbind() (row bind) appends a row to data frame
- cbind() (column bind) appends a column to data frame
- Both require compatible sizes (number of rows/columns)

Building data frame examples

• Adding columns

Building data frame examples

• Adding columns

```
In [12]: rand <- rnorm(5) rand

[1] -1.6395385 -0.6401171 1.4880066 -0.4978420 -1.3442429
```

Building data frame examples

Adding columns

Building data frame examples continued

• Adding rows

Building data frame examples continued

Adding rows

```
In [14]: # Note that a row has to be a list as it contains different data types
r <- list(6, letters[6], FALSE, rnorm(1))
r

[[1]]
[1] 6

[[2]]
[1] "f"

[[3]]
[1] FALSE

[[4]]
[1] -0.2291225</pre>
```

Building data frame examples continued

Adding rows

```
In [14]:
        # Note that a row has to be a list as it contains different data types
         r <- list(6, letters[6], FALSE, rnorm(1))
         r
          [[1]]
          [1] 6
          [[2]]
          [1] "f"
          [[3]]
          [1] FALSE
          [[4]]
          [1] -0.2291225
In [15]:
        df <- rbind(df, r)</pre>
         df
            x y z rand
          1 1 a TRUE -1.6395385
          2 2 b FALSE -0.6401171
          3 3 c TRUE 1.4880066
```

4 4 d FALSE -0.4978420

5 5 e TRUE -1.3442429

6 6 f FALSE -0.2291225

Issues with data frame

- While very versatile (and available out-of-the-box) data frames have their drawbacks:
 - Individual cells (observations) cannot themselves be lists;
 - Somewhat limited (and inconsistent) data manipulation functions;
 - Memory inefficient (copy-on-modify semantics);
 - No parallelisation.

Alternatives to data frame

- Two major alternatives to/enhanced versions of data frames are:
 - tibble from tibble package (part of tidyverse package ecosystem)
 - data.table from data.table
- tibble provides features enhancing user experience (readability, ease of manipulation)
- data.table provides speed

Data table - fast data frame

- As opposed to data frames, data tables are updated by reference.
- This frees up a lot of RAM for big data!
- It provides low-level parallelism.
- SQL-like operations for data manipulation.
- Has no external dependencies (other than base R itself)

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4 4 d TRUE
```

tidyverse packages

- tidyverse package ecosystem rich collection of data science packages
- Designed with consistent interfaces and generally higher usability than base R function
- Notable packages:
 - readr data input/output (also readxl for spreadsheets, haven for SPSS/Stata)
 - dplyr data manipulation (also tidyr for pivoting)
 - ggplot2 data visualisation
 - lubridate working with dates and time
 - tibble enhanced data frame

install.packages("tidyverse")

Tibble - user-friendly data frame

- Tibbles are designed to be backward compatible with base R data frames
- Console printing of tibbles is cleaner (prettified, only first 10 rows by default)
- Tibbles can have columns that themselves contain lists as elements
- Tibbles can be created with tibble::tibble() function
- Or objects can be coerced into a tibble using tibble::as_tibble() function

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```
x y z
1 1 a TRUE
2 2 b FALSE
3 3 c FALSE
4 4 d TRUE
```

```
In [18]: str(tb)

    tibble [4 × 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
        $ x: int [1:4] 1 2 3 4
        $ y: chr [1:4] "a" "b" "c" "d"
        $ z: logi [1:4] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE

In [19]: dim(tb)
    [1] 4 3
```

```
In [18]:
         str(tb)
          tibble [4 \times 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
           $ x: int [1:4] 1 2 3 4
           $ y: chr [1:4] "a" "b" "c" "d"
           $ z: logi [1:4] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE
In [19]:
         dim(tb)
          [1] 4 3
In [20]:
         tb[c("x", "z")]
            ΧZ
          1 1 TRUE
          2 2 FALSE
          3 3 FALSE
          4 4 TRUE
```

```
In [18]: str(tb)
           tibble [4 \times 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
            $ x: int [1:4] 1 2 3 4
$ y: chr [1:4] "a" "b" "c" "d"
            $ z: logi [1:4] TRUE FALSE FALSE TRUE
In [19]:
          dim(tb)
           [1] 4 3
In [20]:
         tb[c("x", "z")]
             ΧZ
           1 1 TRUE
           2 2 FALSE
           3 3 FALSE
           4 4 TRUE
In [21]:
         tb[tb$y == "b",]
             x y z
           1 2 b FALSE
```

Manipulating columns in base R

• Adding/modifying columns

Manipulating columns in base R

Adding/modifying columns

Manipulating columns in base R

Adding/modifying columns

```
In [22]: # New columns can also be created/modified by assignment (if the RHS of
         tb["r"] <- rnorm(4)
         tb
           X V Z
          1 1 a TRUE -0.63905096
          2 2 b FALSE -0.40466580
          3 3 c FALSE 0.49230918
          4 4 d TRUE 0.09646717
In [23]: # Individual columns can also be selected with $ operator
         tb$r <- tb$r + 5
         tb
          1 1 a TRUE 4.360949
          2 2 b FALSE 4.595334
          3 3 c FALSE 5.492309
          4 4 d TRUE 5.096467
```

Manipulating columns in base R continued

• Renaming columns

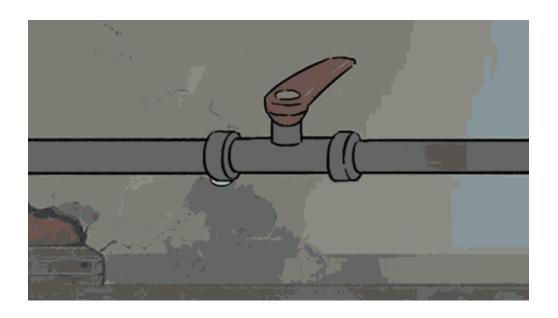
Manipulating columns in base R continued

Renaming columns

Manipulating columns in base R continued

Renaming columns

Data preparation



Source: Tenor

Data manipulation with dplyr

- dplyr is one of the core packages for data manipulation in tidyverse
- Its principal functions are:
 - filter() subset rows from data
 - mutate() add new/modify existing variables
 - rename() rename existing variable
 - select() subset columns from data
 - arrange() order data by some variable
- For data summary:
 - group_by() aggregate data by some variable
 - summarise() create a summary of aggregated variables

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 - select() subset columns from data
 - arrange() order data by some variable
- For data summary:
 - group by() aggregate data by some variable
 - summarise() create a summary of aggregated variables

```
In [26]: library("dplyr")

Attaching package: 'dplyr'

The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
```

```
filter, lag

The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
   intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
```

```
In [27]: dplyr::filter(tb, y == 'b', z == FALSE)
           x y z rand
          1 2 b FALSE 4.595334
        # Note that dplyr functions do not require enquoted variable names
         dplyr::select(tb, x, z)
           ΧZ
         1 1 TRUE
         2 2 FALSE
         3 3 FALSE
         4 4 TRUE
         # We can also use helpful tidyselect functions for more complex rules
         dplyr::select(tb, tidyselect::starts_with('r'))
           rand
         1 4.360949
         2 4.595334
         3 5.492309
         4 5.096467
```

Data manipulation with **dplyr** examples continued

• Renaming/modifying columns

Data manipulation with **dplyr** examples continued

• Renaming/modifying columns

```
In [30]: # Data is not modified in-place, you need to re-assign the results
tb <- dplyr::rename(tb, random = rand)</pre>
```

Data manipulation with **dplyr** examples continued

Renaming/modifying columns

%>% operator

- Users of tidyverse packages are encouraged to use pipe operator %>%
- It allows to chain data transformations without creating intermidate variables
- It passes the result of the previous operation as a first first argument to the next
- Base R now also includes its own pipe operator |> but it is still relatively uncommon

```
x y z random
1 1 a TRUE 4.360949
2 2 b FALSE 4.595334
3 3 c FALSE 5.492309
4 4 d TRUE 5.096467
```

In [32]: tb

```
In [32]: tb

x y z random
1 1 a TRUE 4.360949
2 2 b FALSE 4.595334
3 3 c FALSE 5.492309
4 4 d TRUE 5.096467

In [33]: tb <- tb %>%
    dplyr::mutate(random_2 = rnorm(4)) %>%
    dplyr::filter(z == FALSE)
```

```
In [32]: tb
           x y z random
         1 1 a TRUE 4.360949
         2 2 b FALSE 4.595334
         3 3 c FALSE 5.492309
         4 4 d TRUE 5.096467
In [33]: tb <- tb %>%
           dplyr::mutate(random 2 = rnorm(4)) %>%
           dplyr::filter(z == FALSE)
In [34]: tb
           x y z random random 2
         1 2 b FALSE 4.595334 -0.9099916
         2 3 c FALSE 5.492309 -0.1632015
```

%>% operator vs built-in |> operator

• Since R version 4.1.0 (mid-2021), there is a built-in |> pipe operator

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```
In [35]: # Pipe %>% can also be used with non-dplyr functions
tb$x %>% .[2]
```

[1] 3

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• Since R version 4.1.0 (mid-2021), there is a built-in |> pipe operator

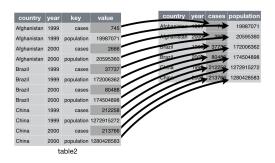
```
In [35]: # Pipe %>% can also be used with non-dplyr functions
    tb$x %>% .[2]

[1] 3
In [36]: # Base R pipe operator |> is more restrictive (e.g. tb$x |> `[`(2) does
    tb |> nrow()
```

Pivoting data

- Sometimes you want to pivot you data by:
 - Spreading some variable across columns (tidyr::pivot_wider())
 - Gathering some columns in a variable pair

```
(tidyr::pivot_longer())
```





pivot_wider()

pivot_longer()

Source: R for Data Science

Pivoting data example

Pivoting data example

```
In [37]: tb2 <- tibble::tibble(
    country = c("Afghanistan", "Brazil"),
    `1999` = c(745, 2666),
    `2000` = c(37737, 80488)
)
tb2</pre>
```

```
country 1999 2000
1 Afghanistan 745 37737
2 Brazil 2666 80488
```

Pivoting data example

```
In [37]: tb2 <- tibble::tibble(</pre>
           country = c("Afghanistan", "Brazil"),
          1999 = c(745, 2666)
           2000 = c(37737, 80488)
         tb2
           country 1999 2000
         1 Afghanistan 745 37737
         2 Brazil 2666 80488
In [38]: tb2 <- tb2 %>%
          # Note that pivoting functions come 'tidyr' package
          tidyr::pivot longer(cols = c("1999", "2000"), names to = "year", valu
         tb2
           country year cases
         1 Afghanistan 1999 745
         2 Afghanistan 2000 37737
         3 Brazil 1999 2666
         4 Brazil 2000 80488
```

Pivoting data example

```
In [37]: tb2 <- tibble::tibble(</pre>
           country = c("Afghanistan", "Brazil"),
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In [38]: tb2 <- tb2 %>%
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         tb2
           country year cases
         1 Afghanistan 1999 745
         2 Afghanistan 2000 37737
         3 Brazil 1999 2666
         4 Brazil 2000 80488
In [39]: tb2 <- tb2 %>%
           tidyr::pivot wider(names from = "year", values from = "cases")
         tb2
```

country 1999 2000 1 Afghanistan 745 37737 2 Brazil 2666 80488

Data formats in R

- .csv (Comma-separated value) files for storing tabular data
 - Standard file format for storing data that is highly interoperable across systems
 - Human-readable and can be opened in a simple text processor
- rds (R data serialization) files allow to store single R object
 - Can store arbitrary R objects (e.g. fitted model), similar to Python pickle
 - Offers data compression
 - Only works within R
- rda (R data) files for saving and loading multiple R objects
 - Offers data compression
 - Compares unfavourably to rds and, generally, should be avoided
- feather / .parquet big data formats associated with Apache Hadoop ecosystem
 - Cutting-edge performance (compression and read/write access)
 - Not human-readable
 - Relatively new, could be an overkill for some tasks

Functions for data I/O

- .csv (Comma-separated value)
 - read.csv()/write.csv() base R functions
 - readr::read_csv() / readr::write_csv() functions from readr package in tidyverse
- . rds (R data serialization)
 - readRDS()/writeRDS() base R functions
 - readr::read_rds() / readr::write_rds() functions from readr (no default compression)
- .rda (R data)
 - save() / load() base R functions
- .feather/.parquet
 - arrow::read_feather()/arrow::write_feather() functions
 from
 - arrow::read_parquet() / arrow::write_parquet() arrow
 package in Apache Arrow

Reading data in R example

Reading data in R example

```
In [41]: # We are skipping the first row as this dataset has a composite header
         kaggle2021 <- readr::read csv('../data/kaggle survey 2021 responses.csv</pre>
          Rows: 25973 Columns: 369
          — Column specification
          Delimiter: "."
          chr (360): What is your age (# years)?, What is your gender? -
           Selected Choi...
          dbl (1): Duration (in seconds)
          lgl (8): In the next 2 years, do you hope to become more fami
          liar with anv...
          i Use `spec()` to retrieve the full column specification for thi
          s data.
          i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to qu
          iet this message.
```

Reading data in R example

head(kaggle2021[,1:10])

```
In [41]: # We are skipping the first row as this dataset has a composite header
         kaggle2021 <- readr::read csv('../data/kaggle survey 2021 responses.csv</pre>
          Rows: 25973 Columns: 369
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          s data.
          i Specify the column types or set `show_col_types = FALSE` to qu
          iet this message.
In [42]:
```

A tibble: 6 × 10

you be writing cc	Select the title most similar to your current role (or most recent title if retired): - Selected Choice	What is the highest level of formal education that you have attained or plan to attain within the next 2 years?	In which country do you currently reside?	What is your gender? - Selected Choice	What is your age (# years)?	Duration (in seconds)
<cl< th=""><th><chr></chr></th><th><chr></chr></th><th><chr></chr></th><th><chr></chr></th><th><chr></chr></th><th><dbl></dbl></th></cl<>	<chr></chr>	<chr></chr>	<chr></chr>	<chr></chr>	<chr></chr>	<dbl></dbl>
5-10 ye	Other	Bachelor's degree	India	Man	50-54	910
	Program/Project Manager	Master's degree	Indonesia	Man	50-54	784
1-3 ye	Software Engineer	Master's degree	Pakistan	Man	22-24	924
20+ ye	Research Scientist	Doctoral degree	Mexico	Man	45-49	575
< 1 ye	Other	Doctoral degree	India	Man	45-49	781

Summarizing numeric variables

Summarizing numeric variables

```
In [43]: # Note that summary() as opposed to pandas' describe() gives summary for
         summary(kaggle2021[,1:10])
          Duration (in seconds) What is your age (# years)?
                               Length: 25973
          Min.
                      120
                               Class :character
          1st Ou.: 443
          Median: 656
                                Mode :character
          Mean : 11055
          3rd Qu.: 1038
          Max. :2488653
          What is your gender? - Selected Choice
          Length: 25973
          Class : character
          Mode :character
          In which country do you currently reside?
          Length: 25973
          Class : character
          Mode :character
```

What is the highest level of formal education that you have at tained or plan to attain within the next 2 years?

Length: 25973 Class : character Mode : character

Select the title most similar to your current role (or most recent title if retired): - Selected Choice Length: 25973

Class :character
Mode :character

For how many years have you been writing code and/or programming?

Length: 25973

Class :character
Mode :character

What programming languages do you use on a regular basis? (Sel ect all that apply) - Selected Choice - Python

Length: 25973

Class :character
Mode :character

What programming languages do you use on a regular basis? (Sel

ect all that apply) - Selected Choice - R

Length: 25973

Class :character Mode :character

What programming languages do you use on a regular basis? (Sel ect all that apply) - Selected Choice - SQL

Length: 25973

Class :character
Mode :character

In [44]: # table() function is rather flexible in allowing to tabulate a single table(kaggle2021[3])

t to say	Man	Nonbinary	Prefer no
355	20598	88	
Prefer to self-	describe 42	Woman 4890	

```
In [44]:
         # table() function is rather flexible in allowing to tabulate a single
         table(kaggle2021[3])
                                                 Nonbinary
                                                                 Prefer no
                              Man
          t to say
                            20598
                                                        88
          355
          Prefer to self-describe
                                                     Woman
                                                      4890
                                42
In [45]:
         # Wrapping it inside prop.table() gives proportions of each category
         prop.table(table(kaggle2021[3]))
                              Man
                                                 Nonbinary
                                                                 Prefer no
          t to say
                      0.793054326
                                               0.003388134
                                                                        0.0
          13668040
          Prefer to self-describe
                                                     Woman
                      0.001617064
                                               0.188272437
```

Man: 20598

```
In [44]: # table() function is rather flexible in allowing to tabulate a single
         table(kaggle2021[3])
                                                                 Prefer no
                                                 Nonbinary
                              Man
          t to say
                            20598
                                                        88
          355
          Prefer to self-describe
                                                     Woman
                                                      4890
                                42
In [45]:
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                                                 Nonbinary
                                                                 Prefer no
                              Man
          t to say
                      0.793054326
                                               0.003388134
                                                                       0.0
          13668040
          Prefer to self-describe
                                                     Woman
                      0.001617064
                                               0.188272437
In [46]:
         # Wrapping it inside sort() gives value sorting, as opposed to alphabet
         sort(table(kaggle2021[3]), decreasing = TRUE)[1]
```

Next

- Tutorial: Working with data in R
- Assignment 2: Due at 12:00 on Monday, 24th October (submission on Blackboard)
- Next week: Reading week
- After reading week: Python