

Data Import

with readr, tibble, and tidyr

Cheat Sheet



R's **tidyverse** is built around **tidy data** stored in **tibbles**, an enhanced version of a data frame.



The front side of this sheet shows how to read text files into R with **readr**.



The reverse side shows how to create tibbles with **tibble** and to layout tidy data with **tidyr**.

Other types of data

Try one of the following packages to import other types of files

- **haven** - SPSS, Stata, and SAS files
- **readxl** - excel files (.xls and .xlsx)
- **DBI** - databases
- **jsonlite** - json
- **xml2** - XML
- **httr** - Web APIs
- **rvest** - HTML (Web Scraping)

Write functions

Save **x**, an R object, to **path**, a file path, with:

write_csv(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE, col_names = !append)

Tibble/df to comma delimited file.

write_delim(x, path, delim = " ", na = "NA", append = FALSE, col_names = !append)

Tibble/df to file with any delimiter.

write_excel_csv(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE, col_names = !append)

Tibble/df to a CSV for excel

write_file(x, path, append = FALSE)

String to file.

write_lines(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE)

String vector to file, one element per line.

write_rds(x, path, compress = c("none", "gz", "bz2", "xz", ...))

Object to RDS file.

write_tsv(x, path, na = "NA", append = FALSE, col_names = !append)

Tibble/df to tab delimited files.

Read functions

Read tabular data to tibbles

These functions share the common arguments:

```
read_* (file, col_names = TRUE, col_types = NULL, locale = default_locale(), na = c("", "NA"),
quoted_na = TRUE, comment = "", trim_ws = TRUE, skip = 0, n_max = Inf, guess_max =
min(1000, n_max), progress = interactive())
```

a,b,c
1,2,3
4,5,NA

A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

read_csv()

Reads comma delimited files.

read_csv("file.csv")

a;b;c
1;2;3
4;5;NA

A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

read_csv2()

Reads Semi-colon delimited files.

read_csv2("file2.csv")

a|b|c
1|2|3
4|5|NA

A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

read_delim(delim, quote = "\"", escape_backslash = FALSE, escape_double = TRUE) Reads files with any delimiter.

read_delim("file.txt", delim = "|")

a b c
1 2 3
4 5 NA

A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

read_fwf(col_positions)

Reads fixed width files.

read_fwf("file.fwf", col_positions = c(1, 3, 5))

read_tsv()

Reads tab delimited files. Also **read_table()**.

read_tsv("file.tsv")

Useful arguments

a,b,c
1,2,3
4,5,NA

Example file

*write_csv (path = "file.csv",
x = read_csv("a,b,c\n1,2,3\n4,5,NA"))*

1	2	3
4	5	NA

Skip lines

*read_csv("file.csv",
skip = 1)*

A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

No header

*read_csv("file.csv",
col_names = FALSE)*

A	B	C
1	2	3

Read in a subset

*read_csv("file.csv",
n_max = 1)*

x	y	z
A	B	C
1	2	3
4	5	NA

Provide header

*read_csv("file.csv",
col_names = c("x", "y", "z"))*

A	B	C
1	2	3
NA	NA	NA

Missing Values

*read_csv("file.csv",
na = c("4", "5", "!"))*

Read non-tabular data

read_file(file, locale = default_locale())

Read a file into a single string.

read_file_raw(file)

Read a file into a raw vector.

read_lines(file, skip = 0, n_max = -1L, locale = default_locale(), na = character(), progress = interactive())

Read each line into its own string.

read_lines_raw(file, skip = 0, n_max = -1L, progress = interactive())

Read each line into a raw vector.

read_log(file, col_names = FALSE, col_types = NULL, skip = 0, n_max = -1, progress = interactive())

Apache style log files.

Parsing data types

readr functions guess the types of each column and convert types when appropriate (but will NOT convert strings to factors automatically).

A message shows the type of each column in the result.

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##   age = col_integer(),
##   sex = col_character(),
##   earn = col_double()
## )
```

age is an integer
sex is a character
earn is a double (numeric)

1. Use **problems()** to diagnose problems

x <- read_csv("file.csv"); problems(x)

2. Use a col_ function to guide parsing

- **col_guess()** - the default
- **col_character()**
- **col_double()**
- **col_euro_double()**
- **col_datetime**(format = "") Also **col_date**(format = "") and **col_time**(format = "")
- **col_factor**(levels, ordered = FALSE)
- **col_integer()**
- **col_logical()**
- **col_number()**
- **col_numeric()**
- **col_skip()**

*x <- read_csv("file.csv", col_types = cols(
A = col_double(),
B = col_logical(),
C = col_factor()
))*

3. Else, read in as character vectors then parse with a parse_ function.

- **parse_guess**(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())
- **parse_character**(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())
- **parse_datetime**(x, format = "", na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale()) Also **parse_date()** and **parse_time()**
- **parse_double**(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())
- **parse_factor**(x, levels, ordered = FALSE, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())
- **parse_integer**(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())
- **parse_logical**(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())
- **parse_number**(x, na = c("", "NA"), locale = default_locale())

x\$A <- parse_number(x\$A)

Tibbles - an enhanced data frame

The **tibble** package provides a new S3 class for storing tabular data, the tibble. Tibbles inherit the data frame class, but improve two behaviors:

- **Display** - When you print a tibble, R provides a concise view of the data that fits on one screen.
- **Subsetting** - `[` always returns a new tibble, `[[` and `$` always return a vector.
- **No partial matching** - You must use full column names when subsetting

```
# A tibble: 234 × 6
  manufacturer <chr> model <chr> displ <dbl>
1      audi    a4      1.8
2      audi    a4      1.8
3      audi    a4      2.0
4      audi    a4      2.0
5      audi    a4      2.8
6      audi    a4      2.8
7      audi    a4      3.1
8      audi    a4 quattro 1.8
9      audi    a4 quattro 1.8
10     audi    a4 quattro 2.0
# ... with 224 more rows, and 3
# more variables: year <int>,
#   cyl <int>, trans <chr>
```

tibble display

```
156 1999    6 auto(l4)
157 1999    6 auto(l4)
158 2008    6 auto(l4)
159 2008    8 auto(s4)
160 1999    4 manual(m5)
161 1999    4 auto(l4)
162 2008    4 manual(m5)
163 2008    4 manual(m5)
164 2008    4 auto(l4)
165 2008    4 auto(l4)
166 1999    4 auto(l4)
# reached getOption("max.print")
# -- omitted 68 rows --
```

data frame display

A large table to display

- Control the default appearance with options:
`options(tibble.print_max = n, tibble.print_min = m, tibble.width = Inf)`
- View entire data set with **View**(x, title) or **glimpse**(x, width = NULL, ...)
- Revert to data frame with **as.data.frame**() (required for some older packages)

Construct a tibble in two ways

tibble(...)
Construct by columns.
`tibble(x = 1:3, y = c("a", "b", "c"))`

Both make this tibble

tribble(...)
Construct by rows.
`tribble(~x, ~y, 1, "a", 2, "b", 3, "c")`

```
A tibble: 3 × 2
  x     y
<int> <dbl>
1     1  a
2     2  b
3     3  c
```

as_tibble(x, ...) Convert data frame to tibble.

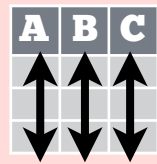
enframe(x, name = "name", value = "value")
Converts named vector to a tibble with a names column and a values column.

is_tibble(x) Test whether x is a tibble.

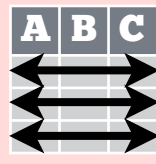
Tidy Data with tidyr

Tidy data is a way to organize tabular data. It provides a consistent data structure across packages.

A table is tidy if:

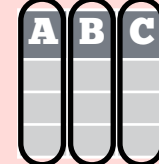


Each **variable** is in its own **column**

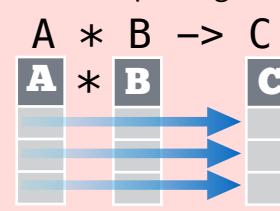


Each **observation**, or **case**, is in its own **row**

Tidy data:



Makes variables easy to access as vectors



Preserves cases during vectorized operations

Reshape Data - change the layout of values in a table

Use **gather()** and **spread()** to reorganize the values of a table into a new layout. Each uses the idea of a key column: value column pair.

gather(data, key, value, ..., na.rm = FALSE, convert = FALSE, factor_key = FALSE)

Gather moves column names into a key column, gathering the column values into a single value column.

table4a

country	1999	2000
A	0.7K	2K
B	37K	80K
C	212K	213K

→

country	year	cases
A	1999	0.7K
B	1999	37K
C	1999	212K
A	2000	2K
B	2000	80K
C	2000	213K

key value

`gather(table4a, `1999`, `2000`, key = "year", value = "cases")`

spread(data, key, value, fill = NA, convert = FALSE, drop = TRUE, sep = NULL)

Spread moves the unique values of a key column into the column names, spreading the values of a value column across the new columns that result.

table2

country	year	type	count
A	1999	cases	0.7K
A	1999	pop	19M
A	2000	cases	2K
A	2000	pop	20M
B	1999	cases	37K
B	1999	pop	172M
B	2000	cases	80K
B	2000	pop	174M
C	1999	cases	212K
C	1999	pop	1T
C	2000	cases	213K
C	2000	pop	1T

key value

`spread(table2, type, count)`

Handle Missing Values

drop_na(data, ...)

Drop rows containing NA's in ... columns.

x

x1	x2
A	1
B	NA
C	NA
D	3
E	NA

→

x1	x2
A	1
D	3

`drop_na(x, x2)`

fill(data, ..., .direction = c("down", "up"))

Fill in NA's in ... columns with most recent non-NA values.

x

x1	x2
A	1
B	NA
C	NA
D	3
E	NA

→

x1	x2
A	1
B	1
C	1
D	3
E	3

`fill(x, x2)`

replace_na(data, replace = list(), ...)

Replace NA's by column.

x

x1	x2
A	1
B	NA
C	NA
D	3
E	NA

→

x1	x2
A	1
B	2
C	2
D	3
E	2

`replace_na(x, list(x2 = 2), x2)`

Expand Tables - quickly create tables with combinations of values

complete(data, ..., fill = list())

Adds to the data missing combinations of the values of the variables listed in ...

`complete(mtcars, cyl, gear, carb)`

expand(data, ...)

Create new tibble with all possible combinations of the values of the variables listed in ...

`expand(mtcars, cyl, gear, carb)`

Split and Combine Cells

Use these functions to split or combine cells into individual, isolated values.

separate(data, col, into, sep = "[^:alnum:]]+", remove = TRUE, convert = FALSE, extra = "warn", fill = "warn", ...)

Separate each cell in a column to make several columns.

table3

country	year	rate
A	1999	0.7K/19M
A	2000	2K/20M
B	1999	37K/172M
B	2000	80K/174M
C	1999	212K/1T
C	2000	213K/1T

→

country	year	cases	pop
A	1999	0.7K	19M
A	2000	2K	20M
B	1999	37K	172
B	2000	80K	174
C	1999	212K	1T
C	2000	213K	1T

`separate(table3, rate, into = c("cases", "pop"))`

separate_rows(data, ..., sep = "[^:alnum:]]+", convert = FALSE)

Separate each cell in a column to make several rows. Also **separate_rows**()

table3

country	year	rate
A	1999	0.7K/19M
A	2000	2K/20M
B	1999	37K/172M
B	2000	80K/174M
C	1999	212K/1T
C	2000	213K/1T

→

country	year	rate
A	1999	0.7K
A	1999	19M
A	2000	2K
A	2000	20M
B	1999	37K
B	1999	172M
B	2000	80K
B	2000	174M
C	1999	212K
C	1999	1T
C	2000	213K
C	2000	1T

`separate_rows(table3, rate)`

unite(data, col, ..., sep = "_", remove = TRUE)

Collapse cells across several columns to make a single column.

table5

country	century	year
Afghan	19	99
Afghan	20	0
Brazil	19	99
Brazil	20	0
China	19	99
China	20	0

→

country	year
Afghan	1999
Afghan	2000
Brazil	1999
Brazil	2000
China	1999
China	2000

`unite(table5, century, year, col = "year", sep = "")`