# Day Two: Data Cleaning

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### Review

### Inspecting objects

we'll start by using some data that is already in R

```
data(state)
str(state.x77)
```

#### Inspecting variables

We should see 50 levels in this division variable

#### state.division

```
[1] East South Central Pacific
                                             Mountain
   [4] West South Central Pacific
                                            Mountain
## [7] New England
                          South Atlantic
                                            South Atlantic
## [10] South Atlantic
                          Pacific
                                            Mountain
## [13] East North Central East North Central West North Central
## [16] West North Central East South Central West South Central
## [19] New England
                          South Atlantic
                                           New England
## [22] East North Central West North Central East South Central
## [25] West North Central Mountain
                                            West North Central
## [28] Mountain New England
                                            Middle Atlantic
                         Middle Atlantic
## [31] Mountain
                                            South Atlantic
## [34] West North Central East North Central West South Central
## [37] Pacific
                   Middle Atlantic
                                            New England
## [40] South Atlantic
                          West North Central East South Central
## [43] West South Central Mountain
                                            New England
## [46] South Atlantic
                                            South Atlantic
                          Pacific
## [49] East North Central Mountain
## 9 Levels: New England Middle Atlantic ... Pacific
length(state.division)
```

## [1] 50

#### levels(state.division)

```
## [1] "New England" "Middle Atlantic" "South Atlantic"
## [4] "East South Central" "West South Central" "East North Central"
## [7] "West North Central" "Mountain" "Pacific"
```

#### Inspecting data frames

recall, a dataframe is a list of vectors, where each vector is one variable with all of its measurements R expects dataframes to be rectangular

```
state <- state.x77
rm(state.x77)</pre>
```

```
state <- as.data.frame(state)
head(state)</pre>
```

```
Population Income Illiteracy Life Exp Murder HS Grad Frost
##
## Alabama
                                         2.1
                                                69.05
                    3615
                            3624
                                                        15.1
                                                                 41.3
                                                                         20
## Alaska
                      365
                            6315
                                         1.5
                                                69.31
                                                        11.3
                                                                 66.7
                                                                        152
## Arizona
                    2212
                            4530
                                        1.8
                                                70.55
                                                         7.8
                                                                 58.1
                                                                         15
## Arkansas
                    2110
                            3378
                                        1.9
                                                70.66
                                                        10.1
                                                                 39.9
                                                                         65
                    21198
                                                71.71
                                                                 62.6
                                                                         20
## California
                            5114
                                        1.1
                                                        10.3
## Colorado
                    2541
                            4884
                                         0.7
                                                72.06
                                                         6.8
                                                                 63.9
                                                                        166
##
                Area
## Alabama
               50708
## Alaska
              566432
## Arizona
              113417
## Arkansas
               51945
## California 156361
## Colorado
              103766
```

## Warning in rm(state.x77): object 'state.x77' not found

#### Introduction

Today's class will be essentially be split into two components: CRUD operations in R and TIDY data. For more on tidiness in data, see Hadley Wickham's paper. We will also touch on missingness - for an accessible introduction, you can read this very old and no longer state-of-the-art paper.

yesterday we saw how to create dataframes in R

remember, you can learn about dataframes with

in practice, you will only rarely create dataframes by hand, because creating tables in a text editor is both boring and prone to error

# Reading dataframes from file

#### why read data from text files?

they are human-readable and highly interoperable

#### R has convenience wrappers for reading in tables

```
## n c b d really.long.and.complicated.variable.name
## 1 1 one TRUE 2015-07-27 999
## 2 2 two TRUE 2015-08-03 999
## 3 3 three FALSE 2015-07-20 999
```

note that we are only reading the files by doing this

#### R also has its own kind of data file

```
load("data/mydata.Rda")
```

the load function does actually put the file into memory, and with the name you originally gave it when you saved it

this is typically a bad thing, and there is currently no easy workaround

#### to read in tables from excel, use the xlsx package

if you are exporting data from excel, be sure to export datetimes as strings, as excel does not store dates internally the same way Unix does

```
install.packages("xlsx")
library(xlsx)
read.xlsx("data/cpds_excel_new.xlsx")
```

But it may be better to save your .xlsx file as a csv. format in Excel first, and then read the csv file into R.

#### you can also use R to read in data from proprietary software

```
# examples of these?
install.packages("foreign")
library(foreign)
read.dta("data/cpds_stata.dta")
read.spss()
read.octave()
```

# Cleaning data

there are two major steps to data cleaning, which we will call 'sanitizing' and 'tidying'

in sanitizing, our goal is to take each variable and force its values to be honest representations of its levels

in tidying, we are arranging our data structurally such that each row contains exactly one observation, and each column contains exactly one kind of data about that observation (this is sometimes expressed in SQL terms as "An attribute must tell something about the key, the whole key, and nothing but the key, so help me Codd")

#### exporting data from other software can do weird things to numbers and factors

#### it's usually better to DISABLE R's intuition about data types

unless you already know the data is clean and has no non-factor strings in it (i.e. you are the one who created it)

```
dirty <- read.csv('data/dirty.csv',stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
str(dirty)</pre>
```

#### let's start by removing the empty rows and columns

```
tail(dirty)
##
              Timestamp How.tall.are.you. What.department.are.you.in.
## 1 7/25/2015 10:08:41
                                      very
                                                              Geology
## 2 7/25/2015 10:10:56
                                        70
                                                                     999
## 3 7/25/2015 10:11:20
                                       5'9
                                                                 geology
## 4 7/25/2015 10:11:25
                                       2.1
                                                                 goelogy
## 5 7/25/2015 10:11:29
                                       156
                                                                  anthro
     Are.you.currently.enrolled. What.is.your.birth.order.
## 1
                              Yes
## 2
                              Yes
                                                           1
## 3
                              999
                                                           2
## 4
                               No
                                                       9,000
## 5
                              999
dirty <- dirty[1:5,-6]
dim(dirty)
```

```
## [1] 5 5
```

#### you can replace variable names

and you should, if they are uninformative or long

#### it's common for hand-coded data to have a signifier for subject-missingness

(to help differentiate it from your hand-coder forgetting to do something)

```
dirty$enrollment
```

## NULL

you should replace all of these values in your dataframe with R's missingness signifier, NA

```
##
## 999 No Yes
## 2 1 2

dirty$enroll[dirty$enroll=="999"] <- NA
table(dirty$enroll, useNA = "ifany")

##
## No Yes <NA>
## 1 2 2
```

side note - read.table() has an option to specify field values as NA as soon as you import the data, but this is a BAAAAD idea because R automatically encodes blank fields as missing too, and thus you lose the ability to distinguish between user-missing and experimenter-missing

### that timestamp variable is not in a format R likes

base R doesn't handle time well, so we need to get rid of the time part of the timestamp

```
dirty$time

## [1] "7/25/2015 10:08:41" "7/25/2015 10:10:56" "7/25/2015 10:11:20"

## [4] "7/25/2015 10:11:25" "7/25/2015 10:11:29"

dirty$time <- sub(' [0-9]+:[0-9]+','',dirty$time)

dirty$time

## [1] "7/25/2015" "7/25/2015" "7/25/2015" "7/25/2015"</pre>
```

#### the height variable is in four different units

we can fix this with a somewhat complicated loop (since R started as a functional language, there are not easy ways to conditionally modify structures in place)

OR

we can do the same task line-by-line, since the number of observations is small

```
class(dirty$height)
## [1] "character"
```

```
as.numeric(dirty$height)
## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion
## [1]
          NA 70.0
                      NA
                           2.1 156.0
because there are apostrophes and quotation marks, R thinks these are strings
dirty$height[grep("'", dirty$height, perl=TRUE)] <- 5*30.48 + 9*2.54
dirty$height[2] <- 70*2.54
dirty$height[3] <- 2.1*100
let's fix some of those department spellings
first, let's make this all lowercase
dirty$dept
                                " geology" "goelogy"
## [1] "Geology " "999"
                                                         "anthro"
dirty$dept <- tolower(dirty$dept)</pre>
dirty$dept <- gsub(' ', '', dirty$dept) # what did we just do?</pre>
dirty$dept[4] <- "geology"</pre>
dirty[dirty == "999"] <- NA
then, you can coerce the data into the types they should be
dirty$time <- as.Date(dirty$time,'%m/%d/%Y')</pre>
dirty$height <- as.numeric(dirty$height)</pre>
## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion
dirty$dept <- as.factor(dirty$dept)</pre>
dirty$enroll <- as.factor(dirty$enroll)</pre>
dirty$birth.order <- as.numeric(dirty$birth.order)</pre>
## Warning: NAs introduced by coercion
str(dirty)
## 'data.frame':
                    5 obs. of 5 variables:
## $ time : Date, format: "2015-07-25" "2015-07-25" ...
## $ height
               : num NA 177.8 210 2.1 156
                 : Factor w/ 2 levels "anthro", "geology": 2 NA 2 2 1
## $ dept
## $ enroll
               : Factor w/ 2 levels "No", "Yes": 2 2 NA 1 NA
```

## \$ birth.order: num 1 1 2 NA 2

# Missingness

there are many reasons why you might have missing data  $AS\ LONG\ AS\ MISSINGNESS\ IS\ NOT\ CAUSED\ BY\ YOUR\ INDEPENDENT\ VARIABLE\ this is fine deleting those observations is wasteful, but easy (listwise deletion) ignoring the individual missing data points is typical (casewise deletion) imputing mean values for missing data is possibly the worst thing you can do imputing via MI + error is currently the best option$ 

#### listwise deletion is wasteful

```
na.omit(dirty)

## [1] time height dept enroll birth.order
## <0 rows> (or 0-length row.names)
```

#### casewise deletion is what R does internally

```
nrow(dirty)
## [1] 5
sum(is.na(dirty$height))
## [1] 1
sum(is.na(dirty$birth.order))
## [1] 1
length(lm(height ~ birth.order,data=dirty)$fitted.values)
```

## [1] 3

this is usually the default strategy

#### remember how we talked about the extensibility of R?

amelia is a package that makes a complicated MI approach work without you knowing anything about its implementation

#### library(Amelia) ## Loading required package: Rcpp ## ## ## ## Amelia II: Multiple Imputation ## ## (Version 1.7.3, built: 2014-11-14) ## ## Copyright (C) 2005-2015 James Honaker, Gary King and Matthew Blackwell ## ## Refer to http://gking.harvard.edu/amelia/ for more information let's use this large dataset as an example large <- read.csv('data/large.csv')</pre> summary(large) ## b С :-13.4 Min. ## Min. :-33.98426 Min. :-249998.64 ## 1st Qu.: -6.71903 1st Qu.:128.6 1st Qu.:-141005.65 ## Median : 0.41681 Median: 256.9 Median: -63498.56 ## Mean : 0.00176 Mean :252.2 Mean : -83954.09 ## 3rd Qu.: 7.00630 3rd Qu.:377.5 3rd Qu.: -15748.98 ## Max. : 35.33306 Max. :513.3 Max. : 11.77 ## NA's :45 NA's :45 NA's :45 nrow(na.omit(large)) ## [1] 871 for it to work you need low missingness and large N a <- amelia(large,m = 1) ## -- Imputation 1 --## ## 1 2 3 print(a) ## Amelia output with 1 imputed datasets. ## Return code: 1 ## Message: Normal EM convergence. ##

## Chain Lengths:

## Imputation 1: 3

### amelia returns a list, where the first item is a list of your imputations

we only did one, so here it is

```
large.imputed <- a[[1]][[1]]
summary(large.imputed)</pre>
```

```
##
##
  Min.
           :-33.98426
                                :-13.4
                                         Min.
                                                :-249999
                        \mathtt{Min}.
## 1st Qu.: -6.85556
                        1st Qu.:126.1
                                         1st Qu.:-139926
## Median : 0.32785
                        Median :251.9
                                         Median : -63257
## Mean
           : -0.03986
                        Mean
                               :249.6
                                               : -83126
## 3rd Qu.: 6.98181
                        3rd Qu.:373.9
                                         3rd Qu.: -15561
          : 35.33306
                        Max.
                               :560.1
                                         {\tt Max.}
                                                   65564
```

if you give it a tiny dataset, it will fuss at you

# Reshaping

now that our data is clean, it's time to put it in a tidy format. this is a way of storing data that makes it easy to:

- 1. make graphs
- 2. run tests
- $3. \ {\rm summarize}$
- 4. transform into other formats

we are basically trying to organize ourselves such that:

- 1. any grouping is made on rows
- 2. any testing is done between columns

# an aside on testing

in R, you use double symbols for testing

```
1 == 2

## [1] FALSE

1 != 1

## [1] FALSE

1 >= 1

## [1] TRUE
```

#### tests return boolean vectors

(you've already seen a couple of these)

```
1 \ge c(0,1,2)
```

## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE

#### recall that boolean vectors need to be the same length or a divisor

if your vectors are not multiples of each other, R will fuss at you

```
c(1,2) >= c(1,2,3)

## Warning in c(1, 2) >= c(1, 2, 3): longer object length is not a multiple of
## shorter object length

## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE

c(1,2) >= c(1,2,3,4)  # why no warning this time? R recycles!
```

## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE

the combination of the length requirement, the lack of support in R for proper indexing, and missingness in your data will cause many headaches later on

#### subsetting data frames

subsetting your data is where you will use this regularly

```
my.data$numeric == 2

## logical(0)

my.data[my.data$numeric == 2,]

## [1] n

## [2] c

## [3] b

## [4] d

## [5] really.long.and.complicated.variable.name

## <0 rows> (or 0-length row.names)
```

# boolean variables can act as filters right out of the box

```
my.data[my.data$b,]

## n c b d really.long.and.complicated.variable.name

## 1 1 one TRUE 2015-07-27 999

## 2 2 two TRUE 2015-08-03 999
```

you see the empty space after the comma? that tells R to grab all the columns

### you can also select columns

```
my.data[,'d']
## [1] "2015-07-27" "2015-08-03" "2015-07-20"
```

#### you can also match elements from a vector

that empy space **before** the comma? that tells R to grab all the rows

```
good.things <- c("three", "four", "five")
my.data[my.data$character %in% good.things, ]

## [1] n
## [2] c
## [3] b
## [4] d
## [5] really.long.and.complicated.variable.name
## <0 rows> (or 0-length row.names)
```

#### most subsetting operations on dataframes also return a dataframe

#### subsets that are a single column return a vector

```
str(my.data$numeric)
```

## NULL

#### most tidying can be done with two R packages

(plus a wrapper around the base string functions)

```
install.packages('reshape2')
install.packages('stringr')
install.packages('plyr')
```

```
library(reshape2)
library(stringr)
library(plyr)
```

#### reshaping

our goal here is to arrange our data such that each table is about one kind of thing: whether it is everything about a measurement, everything about a person, or everything about a group of people

```
abnormal <- data.frame(name = c('Alice', 'Bob', 'Eve'),
time1 = c(90,90,150),
time2 = c(100,95,100))
```

this table is not tidy - why not?

the table is about measurements, but each measurement does not have its own row, and each type of measurement value is represented by more than one column

```
normal <- melt(data = abnormal, id.vars = 'name')
normal</pre>
```

```
name variable value
## 1 Alice
               time1
                        90
## 2
       Bob
               time1
                        90
## 3
       Eve
               time1
                       150
## 4 Alice
               time2
                       100
## 5
       Bob
               time2
                        95
## 6
               time2
                       100
       Eve
```

we can melt this dataframe down into a long format, which makes each row a unique observation, and then clean up the dataframe a bit

```
normal$id <- seq(1:nrow(normal))
names(normal) <- c('name','time','value','id')
normal$time <- str_replace(normal$time,'time','')</pre>
```

now that we are in a tidy format, see how easy it is to subset

```
normal[normal$time == 1,]
##
      name time value id
## 1 Alice
              1
                   90
## 2
                   90 2
       Bob
              1
## 3
       Eve
                  150 3
normal[normal$name == 'Alice',]
##
      name time value id
## 1 Alice
                   90 1
              1
## 4 Alice
              2
                  100 4
and test
```

side note - don't worry about how this works yet - we'll talk about it tomorrow

```
t.test(value ~ time, data=normal)
```

```
##
## Welch Two Sample t-test
##
## data: value by time
## t = 0.58132, df = 2.0278, p-value = 0.6191
## alternative hypothesis: true difference in means is not equal to 0
## 95 percent confidence interval:
## -73.56101 96.89434
## sample estimates:
## mean in group 1 mean in group 2
## 110.00000 98.33333
```

it's easy to combine tidy tables to compare different levels of information simultaneously

# Merging data frames

# flexibly join dataframes with merge

imagine you have two datasets that you want to merge

```
data.1 <- read.csv('data/merge_practice_1.csv')</pre>
data.2 <- read.csv('data/merge_practice_2.csv')</pre>
## Warning in read.table(file = file, header = header, sep = sep, quote
## = quote, : incomplete final line found by readTableHeader on 'data/
## merge_practice_2.csv'
str(data.1)
## 'data.frame':
                    5 obs. of 4 variables:
## $ id
             : int 12345
              : Factor w/ 5 levels "Alice", "Bob", ...: 1 2 3 4 5
   $ name
              : Factor w/ 3 levels "communications",..: 1 1 2 1 3
## $ location: Factor w/ 3 levels "Berkeley", "Cambridge",...: 3 2 3 1 2
str(data.2)
## 'data.frame':
                    4 obs. of 4 variables:
              : int 1456
              : Factor w/ 4 levels "Alice", "Dave", ...: 1 2 3 4
              : Factor w/ 3 levels "hacker", "handler", ...: 1 3 2 1
## $ location: Factor w/ 4 levels "berkeley", "cambridge", ...: 2 4 3 1
sometimes the same people have different jobs in different locations
you can do an inner join using merge
merge(data.1, data.2, by = 'id')
                        job.x location.x name.y
                                                  job.y location.y
     id name.x
## 1 1 Alice communications
                                New York Alice hacker
                                                         cambridge
        Dave communications
## 2 4
                                Berkeley
                                           Dave
                                                   tree palo alto
## 3 5
          Eve
                                                          new york
                          spy Cambridge
                                            Eve handler
that's no good - we lost half of our people!
inner joins are mostly used when you only want records that appear in both tables
if you want the union, you can use an outer join
merge(data.1, data.2, by = 'id', all = TRUE)
     id name.x
                                                  job.y location.y
##
                        job.x location.x name.y
## 1 1 Alice communications New York Alice hacker cambridge
## 2 2
        Bob communications Cambridge
                                           <NA>
                                                   <NA>
                                                              <NA>
## 3 3 Chuck
                      hacker New York
                                           <NA>
                                                   <NA>
                                                              <NA>
## 4 4 Dave communications Berkeley Dave
                                                   tree palo alto
## 5 5 Eve
                  spy Cambridge
                                          Eve handler new york
## 6 6 <NA>
                        <NA>
                                    <NA> Faith hacker
                                                          berkeley
```

this works basically the same as join in SQL running merges is particularly useful when:

```
a. your data is tidy; and,
```

b. you want to add information with a lookup table

in this case, you can store your lookup table as a dataframe, then merge it

```
lookup <- read.csv('data/merge_practice_3.csv')
str(lookup)</pre>
```

```
## 'data.frame': 5 obs. of 2 variables:
## $ location : Factor w/ 5 levels "Berkeley", "Cambridge",..: 2 3 1 4 5
## $ population: int 107289 8406000 116768 66642 233294
```

this lookup table gives us the population for each location we can add this to our people table with

```
merge(data.1, lookup, by = "location")
```

```
## I location id name job population
## 1 Berkeley 4 Dave communications 116768
## 2 Cambridge 2 Bob communications 107289
## 3 Cambridge 5 Eve spy 107289
## 4 New York 1 Alice communications 8406000
## 5 New York 3 Chuck hacker 8406000
```

note that Reno was in our lookup table

```
lookup[lookup$location == 'Reno', ]
```

```
## location population
## 5 Reno 233294
```

but doesn't show up when we merge - why do you think this is?

#### **Practice**

#### Grab some data from Pew

```
and sanitize/tidy it
this will be hard
```

```
library(foreign)
pew <- as.data.frame(read.spss("data/pew.sav"))</pre>
```

```
## re-encoding from CP1252
```

```
## Warning in `levels<-`(`*tmp*`, value = if (nl == nL) as.character(labels)
## else pasteO(labels, : duplicated levels in factors are deprecated

religion <- pew[c("q16", "reltrad", "income")]
rm(pew)</pre>
```

### we'll start by cleaning up the factor variables

```
religion$reltrad <- as.character(religion$reltrad)</pre>
religion$reltrad <- str replace(religion$reltrad, " Churches", "")</pre>
religion$reltrad <- str_replace(religion$reltrad, " Protestant", " Prot")
religion$reltrad[religion$q16 == " Atheist (do not believe in God) "] <- "Atheist"</pre>
religion$reltrad[religion$q16 == " Agnostic (not sure if there is a God) "] <- "Agnostic"
religion$reltrad <- str_trim(religion$reltrad)</pre>
religion$reltrad <- str_replace_all(religion$reltrad, " \\(.*?\\)", "")</pre>
religion$income <- c("Less than $10,000" = "<$10k",
  "10 to under 20,000" = "10-20k",
  "20 to under $30,000" = "$20-30k",
  "30 to under $40,000" = "$30-40k",
  "40 to under $50,000" = "$40-50k",
  "50 to under $75,000" = "$50-75k",
  "75 to under $100,000" = "$75-100k",
  "100 to under $150,000" = "$100-150k",
  "$150,000 or more" = ">150k",
  "Don't know/Refused (VOL)" = "Don't know/refused")[religion$income]
religion$income <- factor(religion$income, levels = c("<$10k", "$10-20k", "$20-30k", "$30-40k", "$40-500
  "$75-100k", "$100-150k", ">150k", "Don't know/refused"))
```

now we can reduce this down to three columns for three variables

```
religion <- count(religion, c("reltrad", "income"))
names(religion)[1] <- "religion"</pre>
```

# Acknowledgements

#### Materials taken from:

Chris Krogslund

Hadley Wickham