Data Wrangling with R

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Prerequisites and Preparations

- You should have some **basic knowledge** of R, and be familiar with the topics covered in the Introduction to R.
- Have a recent version of R and RStudio installed.
- Install and load the tidyverse package.
- Download MS_trafficstops_bw.csv from here: https://github.com/cengel/R-data-wrangling/raw/master/data/MS_trafficstops_bw_age.csv
- Recommended: Create a new RStudio project R-data-ws in a new folder R-data-ws and download MS_trafficstops_bw.csv into a subdirectory called data.
- Optional: Download the Code Handout from here...

Next workshop: Thu, November 16, 2017, 1:30-4pm, Green Library, Room 121A

References

Boehmke, Bradley C. (2016) Data Wrangling with R http://link.springer.com/book/10.1007%2F978-3-319-45599-0 Wickham, H. (2014): Tidy Data https://www.jstatsoft.org/article/view/v059i10 Grolemund, G & Wickham, H (2017): R for Data Science http://r4ds.had.co.nz

Acknowledgements

Part of the materials for this tutorial are adapted from http://datacarpentry.org and http://softwarecarpentry.org.

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Chapter 1

Data Manipulation using dplyr

Learning Objectives

- Select columns in a data frame with the dplyr function select.
- Select rows in a data frame according to filtering conditions with the dplyr function filter.
- Direct the output of one **dplyr** function to the input of another function with the 'pipe' operator %>%.
- Add new columns to a data frame that are functions of existing columns with mutate.
- Understand the split-apply-combine concept for data analysis.
- Use summarize, group_by, and tally to split a data frame into groups of observations, apply a summary statistics for each group, and then combine the results.

We will be working a small subset of the data from the Stanford Open Policing Project. It contains information about traffic stops for blacks and whites in the state of Mississippi during January 2013 to mid-July of 2016.

Let's begin with loading our sample data into a data frame.

```
trafficstops <- read.csv("data/MS_trafficstops_bw_age.csv")</pre>
```

Manipulation of dataframes is a common task when you start exploring your data. We might select certain observations (rows) or variables (columns), group the data by a certain variable(s), or calculate summary statistics.

If we were interested in the mean age of the driver in different counties we can do this using the normal base R operations:

```
mean(trafficstops[trafficstops$county_name == "Tallahatchie County", "driver_age"])
#> [1] NA
mean(trafficstops[trafficstops$county_name == "Walthall County", "driver_age"])
#> [1] 34.3326
```

```
#> [1] NA
```

Bracket subsetting is handy, but it can be cumbersome and difficult to read, especially for complicated operations. Furthermore, there is a fair amount of repetition. Repeating yourself will cost you time, both now and later, and potentially introduce some nasty bugs.

mean(trafficstops[trafficstops\$county_name == "Oktibbeha County", "driver_age"])

dplyr is a package for making tabular data manipulation easier.

Brief recap: Packages in R are sets of additional functions that let you do more stuff. Functions like str() or data.frame(), come built into R; packages give you access to more of them. Before you use a package for the first time you need to install it on your machine, and then you should import it in every subsequent R session when you need it.

If you haven't, please installe the tidyverse package.

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

tidyverse is an "umbrella-package" that installs a series of packages useful for data analysis which work together well. Some of them are considered **core** packages (among them tidyr, dplyr, ggplot2), because you are likely to use them in almost every analysis. Other packages, like lubridate or stringr that you are likely to use not for every analysis are also installed.

If you type the following command, it will load the core tidyverse packages.

```
library("tidyverse") ## load the core tidyverse packages, incl. dplyr
```

If you need to use functions from tidyverse packages other than the core packages, you will need to load them separately.

1.1 What is dplyr?

dplyr is one part of a larger tidyverse that enables you to work with data in tidy data formats. "Tidy datasets are easy to manipulate, model and visualise, and have a specific structure: each variable is a column, each observation is a row, and each type of observational unit is a table." (From Wickham, H. (2014): Tidy Data https://www.jstatsoft.org/article/view/v059i10)

The package dplyr provides convenient tools for the most common data manipulation tasks. It is built to work directly with data frames, with many common tasks optimized by being written in a compiled language (C++). An additional feature is the ability to work directly with data stored in an external database. The benefits of doing this are that the data can be managed natively in a relational database, queries can be conducted on that database, and only the results of the query are returned.

This addresses a common problem with R in that all operations are conducted in-memory and thus the amount of data you can work with is limited by available memory. The database connections essentially remove that limitation in that you can have a database of many 100s GB, conduct queries on it directly, and pull back into R only what you need for analysis.

To learn more about dplyr after the workshop, you may want to check out the handy data transformation with dplyr cheatsheet.

1.2 Subsetting columns and rows

To select columns of a data frame with dplyr, use select(). The first argument to this function is the data frame (trafficstops), and the subsequent arguments are the columns to keep.

```
select(trafficstops, police_department, officer_id, driver_race)
```

```
police_department officer_id driver_race
#> 1 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                       J042
                                                  Black
#> 2 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                       B026
                                                  Black
#> 3 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                       M009
                                                  Black
#> 4 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                       K035
                                                  White
#> 5 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                       D028
                                                  White
#> 6 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                       K023
                                                  White
```

It is worth knowing that dplyr comes with a number of "select helpers", which are functions that allow you to select columns based on their names. For example:

```
select(trafficstops, starts_with("driver"))
```

```
#>
     driver_gender driver_birthdate driver_race driver_age
#> 1
                          1950-06-14
                                            Black
              male
#> 2
                          1967-04-06
                                            Black
                                                           46
              male
#> 3
                                                           39
              male
                          1974-04-15
                                            Black
#> 4
                                                           32
              male
                          1981-03-23
                                            White
              male
#> 5
                          1992-08-03
                                            White
                                                           20
#> 6
            female
                          1960-05-02
                                            White
                                                           53
```

To choose rows based on specific criteria, use filter():

```
filter(trafficstops, county_name == "Tallahatchie County")
```

```
#>
               id state stop date
                                           county_name county_fips
#> 1 MS-2013-00473
                    MS 2013-01-03 Tallahatchie County
                                                            28135
#> 2 MS-2013-00474
                     MS 2013-01-03 Tallahatchie County
                                                            28135
#> 3 MS-2013-00503
                   MS 2013-01-03 Tallahatchie County
                                                            28135
28135
#> 5 MS-2013-00715 MS 2013-01-04 Tallahatchie County
                                                            28135
#> 6 MS-2013-00765
                     MS 2013-01-04 Tallahatchie County
                                                            28135
#>
             police_department driver_gender driver_birthdate driver_race
#> 1 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                      female
                                                  1983-03-23
                                                                   Black
                                                  1993-02-17
                                                                   White
#> 2 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                      female
#> 3 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                      female
                                                  1989-03-18
                                                                   Black
#> 4 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                      female
                                                  1989-03-18
                                                                   Black
#> 5 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        male
                                                  1992-07-20
                                                                   Black
#> 6 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                                  1977-07-29
                                        male
                                                                   Black
#>
                                                 violation_raw officer_id
#> 1 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                     E028
                                         Following too closely
                                                                     E039
#> 3 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                     E028
#> 4
                                Driving while license suspended
                                                                     E028
#> 5
                        Seat belt not used properly as required
                                                                     E029
               Failure to maintain required liability insurance
#> 6
                                                                     E009
#>
    driver_age
                              violation
#> 1
            30
                               Speeding
#> 2
            20
                       Careless driving
#> 3
            24
                               Speeding
#> 4
            24 License-Permit-Insurance
#> 5
                              Seat belt
            20
            35 License-Permit-Insurance
```

Here are some other ways to select rows:

- select certain rows by row number: slice(trafficstops, 1:3) # rows 1-3
- select random rows:

```
- sample_n(trafficstops, 5) # number of rows to select
```

- sample_frac(trafficstops, .01) # fraction of rows to select

To sort rows by variables use the arrange function: arrange(trafficstops, county_name, stop_date)

```
#> id state stop_date county_name county_fips

#> 1 MS-2013-07659 MS 2013-02-09 Adams County 28001

#> 2 MS-2013-11819 MS 2013-03-02 Adams County 28001
```

```
#> 3 MS-2013-14647
                      MS 2013-03-16 Adams County
                                                        28001
                      MS 2013-03-20 Adams County
#> 4 MS-2013-15430
                                                        28001
                      MS 2013-04-06 Adams County
#> 5 MS-2013-18581
                                                        28001
#> 6 MS-2013-20016
                      MS 2013-04-13 Adams County
                                                        28001
              police_department driver_gender driver_birthdate driver_race
#> 1 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                          male
                                                     1989-06-12
                                                                       Black
#> 2 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        female
                                                     1974-10-16
                                                                       Black
#> 3 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        female
                                                     1977-07-15
                                                                       Black
#> 4 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        female
                                                     1991-06-15
                                                                       Black
#> 5 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        female
                                                     1980-04-18
                                                                       White
#> 6 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        female
                                                     1996-01-14
                                                                       Black
#>
                                                    violation_raw officer_id
#> 1 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         M004
                                                                         M042
#> 2
                                  Driving while license suspended
#> 3 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         M049
#> 4
                Failure to maintain required liability insurance
                                                                         M049
#> 5
                Failure to maintain required liability insurance
                                                                         M010
#> 6 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         M024
#>
     driver_age
                                violation
#> 1
             24
                                 Speeding
#> 2
             38 License-Permit-Insurance
#> 3
                                 Speeding
#> 4
             22 License-Permit-Insurance
#> 5
             33 License-Permit-Insurance
#> 6
             17
                                 Speeding
```

1.3 Pipes

What if you wanted to select and filter at the same time? There are three ways to do this: use intermediate steps, nested functions, or pipes.

• Intermediate steps:

With intermediate steps, you essentially create a temporary data frame and use that as input to the next function. This can clutter up your workspace with lots of objects.

```
tmp_df <- filter(trafficstops, driver_age > 85)
select(tmp_df, violation_raw, driver_gender, driver_race)
```

• Nested functions

You can also nest functions (i.e. one function inside of another). This is handy, but can be difficult to read if too many functions are nested as things are evaluated from the inside out.

```
select(filter(trafficstops, driver_age > 85), violation_raw, driver_gender, driver_race)
```

• Pipes!

The last option, pipes, are a fairly recent addition to R. Pipes let you take the output of one function and send it directly to the next, which is useful when you need to do many things to the same dataset. Pipes in R look like %>% and are made available via the magrittr package, installed automatically with dplyr. If you use RStudio, you can type the pipe with Ctrl + Shift + M if you have a PC or Cmd + Shift + M if you have a Mac.

```
trafficstops %>%
  filter(driver_age > 85) %>%
  select(violation_raw, driver_gender, driver_race)
```

In the above, we use the pipe to send the trafficstops dataset first through filter() to keep rows where driver_race is Black, then through select() to keep only the officer_id and stop_date columns. Since %>% takes the object on its left and passes it as the first argument to the function on its right, we don't need to explicitly include it as an argument to the filter() and select() functions anymore.

If we wanted to create a new object with this smaller version of the data, we could do so by assigning it a new name:

```
senior_drivers <- trafficstops %>%
  filter(driver_age > 85) %>%
  select(violation_raw, driver_gender, driver_race)
senior_drivers
```

```
#>
                                                    violation_raw
#> 1
                         Seat belt not used properly as required
#> 2 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                         Seat belt not used properly as required
#>
     driver_gender driver_race
#> 1
                         White
              male
              male
#> 2
                         White
#> 3
              male
                         Black
```

Note that the final data frame is the leftmost part of this expression.

Challenge

Using pipes, subset the trafficstops data to include stops in Tunica County only and retain the columns stop_date, driver_race, driver_gender, and violation_raw.

1.4 Add new columns

Frequently you'll want to create new columns based on the values in existing columns. For this we'll use mutate().

To create a new column with the year the driver was born we will use the lubridate library, which is installed with tidyverse. We use ymd() to convert the date column into a date object and then use year() to extract the year only.

```
library(lubridate)

trafficstops %>%
  mutate(birth_year = year(ymd(driver_birthdate)))
```

If this runs off your screen and you just want to see the first few rows, you can use a pipe to view the head() of the data. (Pipes work with non-dplyr functions, too, as long as the dplyr or magrittr package is loaded). When piping into a function with no additional arguments, you can call the function with or without parentheses (e.g. head or head()). (I like to add the parentheses to remind myself that it is a function and not a variable.)

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(birth_year = year(ymd(driver_birthdate))) %>%
  head()
```

You can also create a second new column based on the first new column within the same call of mutate():

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(birth_year = year(ymd(driver_birthdate)),
```

```
birth_cohort = round(birth_year/10)*10) %>%
head()
```

We are beginning to see the power of piping. Here is a slightly expanded example, where we select the column birth cohort that we have created and send it to plot:

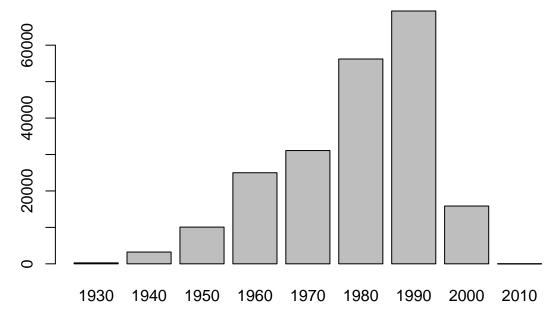


Figure 1.1: Driver Birth Cohorts

Challenge

Create a new data frame from the trafficstops data that meets the following criteria: contains only the violation_raw column for female drivers of age 50 that were stopped on a Sunday. For this add a new column to your data frame called weekday_of_stop containing the number of the weekday when the stop occurred. Use the wday() function from lubridate (Sunday = 1).

Think about how the commands should be ordered to produce this data frame!

1.5 What is split-apply-combine?

Many data analysis tasks can be approached using the *split-apply-combine* paradigm: split the data into groups, apply some analysis to each group, and then combine the results.

dplyr makes this very easy through the use of the group_by() function.

group_by() is often used together with summarize(), which collapses each group into a single-row summary of that group. group_by() takes as arguments the column names that contain the categorical variables for which you want to calculate the summary statistics. So to view the mean age for black and white drivers:

data_frame %>% group_by(a) %>% summarize(mean_b=mean(b))

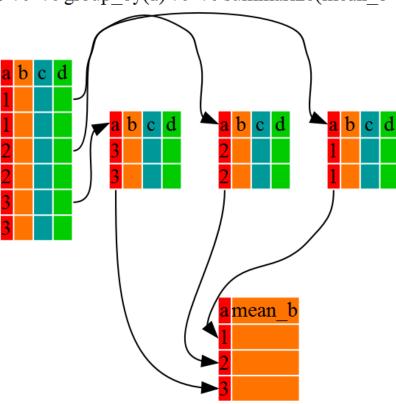


Figure 1.2: Split - Apply - Combine

```
trafficstops %>%
  group_by(driver_race) %>%
  summarize(mean_age = mean(driver_age, na.rm=TRUE))

#> # A tibble: 3 x 2

#> driver_race mean_age

#> <fctr> <dbl>
#> 1 Black 34.2485

#> 2 White 36.2140

#> 3 NA 34.5000
```

If we wanted to remove the line with NA we could insert a filter() in the chain:

```
trafficstops %>%
  filter(!is.na(driver_race)) %>%
  group_by(driver_race) %>%
  summarize(mean_age = mean(driver_age, na.rm=TRUE))
```

Recall that is.na() is a function that determines whether something is an NA. The ! symbol negates the result, so we're asking for everything that is not an NA.

You may have noticed that the output from these calls looks a little different. That's because dplyr has changed our data.frame object to an object of class tbl_df, also known as a "tibble". Tibble's data structure is very similar to a data frame. For our purposes the only differences are that (1) columns of class character are never converted into factors, and (2) in addition to displaying the data type of each column under its name, it only prints the first few rows of data and only as many columns as fit on one screen. If we wanted to print all columns we can use the print command, and set the width parameter to Inf. To print the first 6 rows for example we would do this: print(my_tibble, n=6, width=Inf).

You can also group by multiple columns:

```
trafficstops %>%
  filter(!is.na(driver_race)) %>%
  group_by(driver_race, driver_gender) %>%
  summarize(mean_age = mean(driver_age, na.rm=TRUE))
```

```
#> # A tibble: 4 x 3
             driver_race [?]
#> # Groups:
#>
     driver_race driver_gender mean_age
          <fctr>
                         <fctr>
                                   <dbl>
#>
#> 1
           Black
                         female 33.14806
#> 2
                          male 35.17587
           Black
                        female 35.68603
#> 3
           White
           White
#> 4
                          male 36.54476
```

Once the data are grouped, you can also summarize multiple variables at the same time (and not necessarily on the same variable). For instance, we could add a column indicating the minimum age:

1.6. TALLYING

```
#> # A tibble: 4 x 4
               driver_race [?]
#> # Groups:
     driver_race driver_gender mean_age min_age
#>
          <fctr>
                         <fctr>
                                   <dbl>
                                            <dbl>
#> 1
           Black
                         female 33.14806
                                               16
#> 2
           Black
                           male 35.17587
                                                7
#> 3
           White
                         female 35.68603
                                               15
#> 4
           White
                           male 36.54476
                                               15
```

1.6 Tallying

Add in count and n()

When working with data, it is also common to want to know the number of observations found for each factor or combination of factors. For this, **dplyr** provides **tally()**. For example, if we wanted to see how many traffic stops each officer recorded we would do:

```
trafficstops %>%
  group_by(officer_id) %>%
  tally()
```

Here, tally() is the action applied to the groups created by group_by() and counts the total number of records for each category.

Alternatives:

```
trafficstops %>%
  count(officer_id) # count() calls group_by automatically, then tallies

trafficstops %>%
  group_by(officer_id) %>%
  summarize(n = n()) # n() is useful when count is needed for a calculation
```

We can optionally sort the results in descending order by adding sort=TRUE:

```
trafficstops %>%
  group_by(officer_id) %>%
  tally(sort=TRUE)
```

Challenge

Which 5 counties were the ones with the most stops in 2013?

1.7 Joining two tables

It is not uncommon that we have our data spread out in different tables and need to bring those together for analysis. For example, to calculate the proportion of stopped black and white drivers in relation to the entire populations of white and black persons in each county we introduce another table with that demographic information. These are the estimated values of the 5 year average of the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS):

```
MS_bw_pop <- read.csv("data/MS_acs2015_bw.csv")
head(MS_bw_pop)</pre>
```

```
#>
      FIPS black_pop white_pop
#> 1 28001
                17757
                          12856
#> 2 28003
                 4281
                          31563
#> 3 28005
                           7395
                 5416
#> 4 28007
                 8194
                           10649
#> 5 28009
                 3078
                           5166
#> 6 28011
                21648
                           11197
```

As unique ID, which uniquely identifies the corresponding records in each table we use the FIPS code. It is stored in the county_fips column in the trafficstops data frame and in the FIPS column in MS_bw_pop). dplyr makes it very easy to bring the two tables together. We will use left_join to bring the two tables together into one:

```
trafficstops %>%
  left_join(MS_bw_pop, by = c("county_fips" = "FIPS")) %>%
  head()
```

```
#>
                id state stop_date
                                           county_name county_fips
#> 1 MS-2013-00001
                      MS 2013-01-01
                                          Jones County
                                                              28067
#> 2 MS-2013-00002
                      MS 2013-01-01 Lauderdale County
                                                              28075
#> 3 MS-2013-00003
                      MS 2013-01-01
                                           Pike County
                                                              28113
#> 4 MS-2013-00004
                      MS 2013-01-01
                                        Hancock County
                                                              28045
#> 5 MS-2013-00005
                      MS 2013-01-01
                                        Holmes County
                                                              28051
#> 6 MS-2013-00006
                      MS 2013-01-01
                                        Jackson County
                                                              28059
#>
              police_department driver_gender driver_birthdate driver_race
#> 1 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                          male
                                                     1950-06-14
                                                                       Black
#> 2 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                          male
                                                     1967-04-06
                                                                       Black
#> 3 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                          male
                                                     1974-04-15
                                                                       Black
#> 4 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                          male
                                                     1981-03-23
                                                                       White
#> 5 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                          male
                                                     1992-08-03
                                                                       White
#> 6 Mississippi Highway Patrol
                                        female
                                                     1960-05-02
                                                                       White
#>
                                                    violation_raw officer_id
#> 1
                         Seat belt not used properly as required
                                                                         J042
#> 2
                                                 Careless driving
                                                                         B026
#> 3 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         M009
#> 4 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         K035
#> 5 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         D028
#> 6 Speeding - Regulated or posted speed limit and actual speed
                                                                         K023
#>
     driver_age
                       violation black_pop white_pop
#> 1
                       Seat belt
                                      19711
                                                47154
             63
#> 2
             46 Careless driving
                                      33893
                                                43482
#> 3
                        Speeding
                                      21028
             39
                                                18282
#> 4
             32
                         Speeding
                                       4172
                                                39686
#> 5
             20
                        Speeding
                                      15498
                                                 3105
             53
                        Speeding
                                      30704
                                               101686
```

dplyr join functions are generally equivalent merge from the base command, but there are a few advantages:

- rows are kept in existing order
- much faster
- tells you what keys you're merging by (if you don't supply)
- also work with database tables.

https://groups.google.com/d/msg/manipulatr/OuAPC4VyfIc/Qnt8mDfq0WwJ

See ?dplyr::join for all the possible joins.

Now that we got a little bit of an odd table, lets see how we can reshape it to make more sense of it.

Chapter 2

Data Manipulation using tidyr

Learning Objectives

- Understand the concept of a wide and a long table format and for which purpose those formats are useful.
- Understand what key-value pairs are.
- Reshape a data frame from long to wide format and back with the spread and gather commands from the tidyr package.
- Export a data frame to a .csv file.

dplyr pairs nicely with tidyr which enables you to swiftly convert between different data formats for plotting and analysis.

The package **tidyr** addresses the common problem of wanting to reshape your data for plotting and use by different R functions. Sometimes we want data sets where we have one row per observation. Sometimes we want a data frame where each observation type has its own column, and rows are instead more aggregated groups - like surveys, where each column represents an answer. Moving back and forth between these formats is nontrivial, and **tidyr** gives you tools for this and more sophisticated data manipulation.

To learn more about tidyr after the workshop, you may want to check out this cheatsheet about tidyr.

2.1 About long and wide table format

The 'long' format is where:

- each column is a variable
- each row is an observation

In the 'long' format, you usually have 1 column for the observed variable and the other columns are ID variables.

For the 'wide' format each row is often a site/subject/patient and you have multiple observation variables containing the same type of data. These can be either repeated observations over time, or observation of multiple variables (or a mix of both). You may find data input may be simpler or some other applications may prefer the 'wide' format. However, many of R's functions have been designed assuming you have 'long' format data. This tutorial will help you efficiently transform your data regardless of original format.

The choice of data format affects readability. For humans, the wide format is often more intuitive, since we can often see more of the data on the screen due to its shape. However, the long format is more machine readable and is closer to the formatting of databases. The ID variables in our dataframes are similar to the fields in a database and observed variables are like the database values.

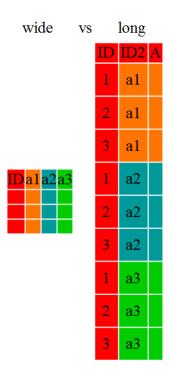


Figure 2.1: Wide vs. Long Table Format

Challenge 1

Is trafficstops in a long or wide format?

2.2 Long to Wide with spread

Now let's see this in action. First, using dplyr, let's create a data frame with the mean age of each driver by gender and county:

```
trafficstops_ma <- trafficstops %>%
    filter(!is.na(driver_gender)) %>%
    group_by(county_name, driver_gender) %>%
    summarize(mean_age = mean(driver_age, na.rm = TRUE))

head(trafficstops_ma)

#> # A tibble: 6 x 3

#> # Groups: county_name [3]
```

```
#> # Groups: county_name [3]
#>
      county_name driver_gender mean_age
           <fctr> <fctr>
#>
                                  <dbl>
#> 1 Adams County
                       female 36.73176
#> 2 Adams County
                         male 38.39265
#> 3 Alcorn County female 33.28516
                         male 34.06153
#> 4 Alcorn County
#> 5 Amite County
#> 6 Amite County
                       female 38.29559
                         male 40.27757
```

Now, to make this long data wide, we use **spread** from **tidyr** to spread out the driver gender into columns. **spread** takes three arguments - the data, the *key* column, or column with identifying information, the *values* column - the one with the numbers. We'll use a pipe so we can ignore the data argument.

```
trafficstops_ma_wide <- trafficstops_ma %>%
  spread(driver_gender, mean_age)
head(trafficstops_ma_wide)
#> # A tibble: 6 x 3
#> # Groups:
               county_name [6]
#>
                      female
        county_name
                                 male
#>
             <fctr>
                       <dbl>
                                 <dbl>
       Adams County 36.73176 38.39265
#> 1
#> 2 Alcorn County 33.28516 34.06153
      Amite County 38.29559 40.27757
#> 4 Attala County 36.66609 38.12115
#> 5 Benton County 32.07792 34.36496
#> 6 Bolivar County 33.19608 36.26228
```

We can now do things like compare the mean age of men against women drivers. As example we use the age difference to find the counties with the largest and with the smallest number. (A negative number means that female drivers are on average older than male drivers, a positive number means that male drivers are on average older than women drivers.)

```
trafficstops_ma_wide %>%
  mutate(agediff = male - female) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  filter(agediff %in% range(agediff))
#> # A tibble: 2 x 4
#>
          county_name
                         female
                                    male
                                           agediff
#>
                          <dbl>
                                              <dbl>
               <fctr>
                                   <dbl>
       Neshoba County 35.08824 31.14634 -3.941894
#> 2 Yalobusha County 33.42958 39.42222 5.992645
```

Note that trafficstops_ma_wide is derived from trafficstops_ma, and is a "grouped" data frame, which was created with the group_by function above. (Check class(trafficstops_ma) and class(trafficstops_ma_wide)). That means that any instruction that follows will operate on each group (in this case county) separately. That may be ok for some instances (like mutate), but if we are interested in retreiveing the max and the min age difference over all counties we need to ungroup the tibble to have the filter command operate on the entire dataset.

2.3 Wide to long with gather

What if we had the opposite problem, and wanted to go from a wide to long format? For that, we use gather to sweep up a set of columns into one key-value pair. We give it the arguments of a new key and value column name, and then we specify which columns we either want or do not want gathered up. So, to go backwards from trafficstops_ma_wide, and exclude plot_id from the gathering, we would do the following:

```
trafficstops_ma_long <- trafficstops_ma_wide %>%
  gather(gender, mean_age, -county_name)
head(trafficstops_ma_long)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 x 3
#> # Groups: county_name [6]
#> county_name gender mean_age
#> <fctr> <chr> <dbl> #> 1 Adams County female 36.73176
#> 2 Alcorn County female 33.28516
#> 3 Amite County female 38.29559
#> 4 Attala County female 36.66609
#> 5 Benton County female 32.07792
#> 6 Bolivar County female 33.19608
```

We could also have used a specification for what columns to include. This can be useful if you have a large number of identifying columns, and it's easier to specify what to gather than what to leave alone. And if the columns are in a row, we don't even need to list them all out – just use the : operator!

```
trafficstops_ma_wide %>%
  gather(gender, mean_age, female:male) %>%
  head()
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 x 3
#> # Groups: county_name [6]
#> county_name gender mean_age
#> <fctr> <chr> <dbl>
#> 1 Adams County female 36.73176
#> 2 Alcorn County female 33.28516
#> 3 Amite County female 38.29559
#> 4 Attala County female 36.66609
#> 5 Benton County female 32.07792
#> 6 Bolivar County female 33.19608
```

Challenge

- 1. Make a wide data frame with year as columns, violation_raw as rows, and the values are the number of traffic stops per each violation. Use year() from the lubridate package. You will need to summarize before reshaping
- 2. Now take that data frame, and make it long again, so each row is a unique violation_raw year combination.

Now that you have those commands under your belt, let's go back to our table from before and reshape it so we can easily calculate the percentage of black and white. To clean things up a little, we remove rows where driver race is unknown.

We then make sure that we count our NAs as 0. We know from earlier that in Tunica County all reported stops are for black drivers (Check again with: trafficstops %>% filter(county_name == "Tunica County")). By default spread would set the value for white stops to NA. Sometimes it is fine to leave those as NA. Sometimes we want to fill them as zeros, in which case we would add the argument fill = 0. In our case we prefer to count this a 0.

Lastly, we introduce a separator (sep) as parameter to the spread command. If sep is not NULL, the column names will be given by "<key_name><sep><key_value>" and make them more explicit, easier for you to interpret, and for anyone who might use your data.

```
trafficstops %>%
  filter(!is.na(driver_race)) %>%
  count(county_name, county_fips, driver_race) %>%
  spread(driver_race, n, fill = 0, sep = "_") %>%
  head()
```

Now we can pipe this into our left join and calculate the percentages:

2.4. EXPORTING DATA 21

```
#> # A tibble: 82 x 8
#>
     county_name county_fips driver_race_Black driver_race_White black_pop white_pop pct_black pct_white
#>
         <fctr>
                     <int>
                                    <dbl>
                                                   <dbl>
                                                            <int>
                                                                     <int>
                                                                               <dbl>
                                                                                         <dbl>
                      28001
                                      583
                                                    359
                                                          17757
                                                                   12856 0.03283212 0.02792470
#> 1 Adams County
#> 2 Alcorn County
                      28003
                                      468
                                                   2877
                                                            4281
                                                                   31563 0.10932025 0.09115103
                                                   1331
                                                            5416
                                                                    7395 0.29338996 0.17998648
#> 3 Amite County
                      28005
                                     1589
#> 4 Attala County
                       28007
                                      2096
                                                    2107
                                                            8194
                                                                    10649 0.25579692 0.19785895
#> 5 Benton County
                                                     93
                                                           3078
                                                                   5166 0.03931124 0.01800232
                      28009
                                      121
#> # ... with 77 more rows
```

Terrific.

Now let's use some visualization to help us understand our data. Before we do this though, let's save this table out.

2.4 Exporting data

Instead of printing the above output to the screen we will pipe it into another command. Similar to the read.csv() function used for reading CSV files into R, there is a write.csv() function that generates CSV files from data frames.

Before using write.csv(), we are going to create a new folder, data_output, in our working directory that will store this generated dataset. We don't want to write generated datasets in the same directory as our raw data. It's good practice to keep them separate. The data folder should only contain the raw, unaltered data, and should be left alone to make sure we don't delete or modify it. In contrast, our script will generate the contents of the data_output directory, so even if the files it contains are deleted, we can always re-generate them.

We can save the table generated by the join as a CSV file in our data_output folder. By default, write.csv() includes a column with row names (in our case the names are just the row numbers), so we need to add row.names = FALSE so they are not included:

Chapter 3

Data Visualization with ggplot2

Learning Objectives

- Bind a data frame to a plot
- Select variables to be plotted and variables to define the presentation such as size, shape, color, transparency, etc. by defining aesthetics (aes)
- Add a graphical representation of the data in the plot (points, lines, bars) adding "geoms" layers
- Produce scatter plots, barplots, boxplots, and line plots using ggplot.
- Modify the aesthetics for the entire plot as well as for individual "geoms" layers
- Modify plot elements (labels, text, scale, orientation)
- Group observations by a factor variable
- Break up plot into multiple panels (facetting)
- Apply ggplot themes and create and apply customized themes

_

3.1 Save a plot created by ggplot as an image

We start by loading the required packages. ggplot2 is included in the tidyverse package.

library(tidyverse)

If not still in the workspace, load the data we saved in the previous lesson.

MS_demographic <- read.csv('data_output/MS_demographic.csv')</pre>

3.2 Plotting with ggplot2

ggplot2 is a plotting package that makes it simple to create complex plots from data in a data frame. It provides a more programmatic interface for specifying what variables to plot, how they are displayed, and general visual properties, so we only need minimal changes if the underlying data change or if we decide to change from a bar plot to a scatterplot. This helps in creating publication quality plots with minimal amounts of adjustments and tweaking.

ggplot generally likes data in the 'long' format: i.e., a column for every dimension, and a row for every observation. Well structured data will save you lots of time when making figures with ggplot.

ggplot graphics are built step by step by adding new elements using the + sign.

To build a ggplot we need to:

• bind the plot to a specific data frame using the data argument

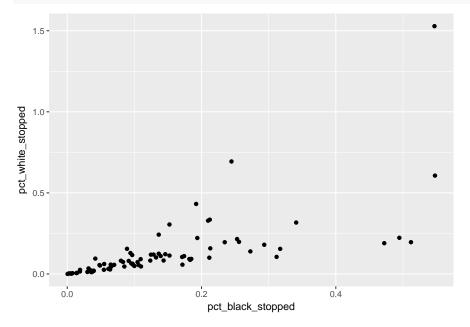
```
ggplot(data = MS_demographic)
```

• define aesthetics (aes), by selecting the variables to be plotted and the variables to define the presentation such as plotting size, shape color, etc.

```
ggplot(data = MS_demographic, aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped))
```

• add "geoms" – a graphical representation of the data in the plot (points, lines, bars). To add a geom to the plot use + operator

```
ggplot(data = MS_demographic, aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
   geom_point()
```



The + in the ggplot2 package is particularly useful because it allows you to modify existing ggplot objects. This means you can easily set up plot "templates" and conveniently explore different types of plots, so the above plot can also be generated with code like this:

```
# Assign plot to a variable
MS_plot <- ggplot(data = MS_demographic, aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped))
# Draw the plot
MS_plot + geom_point()</pre>
```

Notes:

- Any parameters you set in the ggplot() function can be seen by any geom layers that you add (i.e., these are universal plot settings). This includes the x and y axis you set up in aes().
- Any parameters you set in the geom_*() function are treated independently of (and override) the settings defined globally in the ggplot() function.
- Geoms are plotted in the order they are added after each +, that means geoms last added will display on top of prior geoms.

• The + sign used to add layers must be placed at the end of each line containing a layer. If, instead, the + sign is added in the line before the other layer, ggplot2 will not add the new layer and will return an error message.

```
# this is the correct syntax for adding layers
MS_plot +
    geom_point()

# this will not add the new layer and will return an error message
MS_plot
    + geom_point()
```

To learn more about ggplot after the workshop, you may want to check out this cheatsheet about ggplot.

3.3 Building your plots iteratively

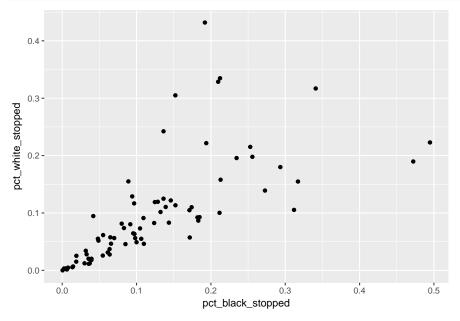
Building plots with ggplot can be of great help when you engage in exploratory data analysis. It is typically an iterative process, where you go back and forth between your data and their graphical representation, which helps you in the process of getting to know your data better.

Conveniently, ggplot works with pipes. The code below does the same thing as above:

```
MS_demographic %>%
   ggplot(aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
   geom_point()
```

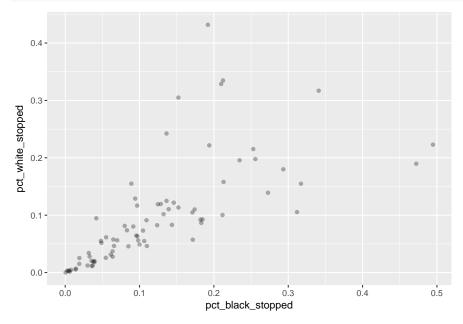
We pipe the content of the table into ggplot(), so we can omit the first (data = argument). Now let's use this to clean up a few odd outliers in our data before we pass them to ggplot.

```
MS_demographic %>%
  filter(pct_white_stopped < 0.5 & pct_black_stopped < 0.5) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
  geom_point()
```



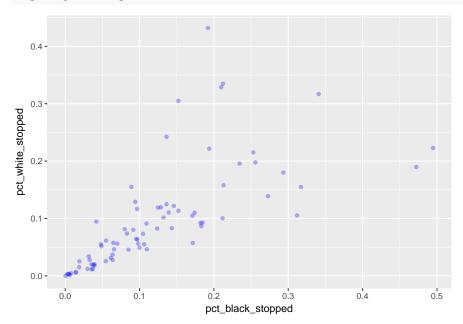
Then we can start modifying this plot to extract more information from it. For instance, we can add transparency (alpha) to avoid overplotting:

```
MS_demographic %>%
filter(pct_white_stopped < 0.5 & pct_black_stopped < 0.5) %>%
ggplot(aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
geom_point(alpha = 0.3)
```



We can also add a color for all the points:

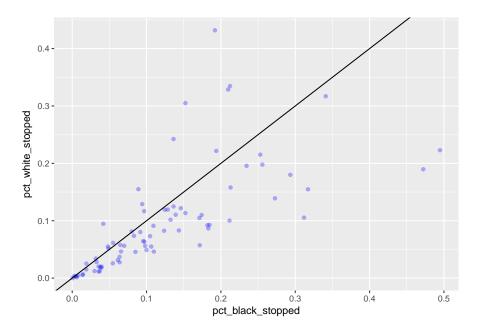
```
MS_demographic %>%
filter(pct_white_stopped < 0.5 & pct_black_stopped < 0.5) %>%
ggplot(aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
geom_point(alpha = 0.3, color= "blue")
```



We can add another layer to the plot with +:

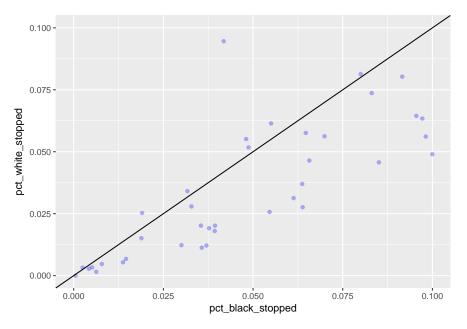
```
MS_demographic %>%
filter(pct_white_stopped < 0.5 & pct_black_stopped < 0.5) %>%
```

```
ggplot(aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
geom_point(alpha = 0.3, color= "blue") +
geom_abline(intercept = 0)
```



If we wanted to "zoom" into the plot, we could filter to a smaller range of values before passing them to ggplot, but we can also tell ggplot to only plot the x and y values for certain ranges. For this we use $scale_x_continuous$ and $scale_y_continuous$. You will receive a message from ggplot telling you how many rows it has removed from the plot.

```
MS_demographic %>%
  filter(pct_white_stopped < 0.5 & pct_black_stopped < 0.5) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = pct_black_stopped, y = pct_white_stopped)) +
  geom_point(alpha = 0.3, color= "blue") +
  geom_abline(intercept = 0) +
  scale_x_continuous(limits = c(0, 0.1)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits = c(0, 0.1))
```



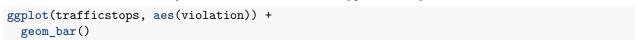
Challenge

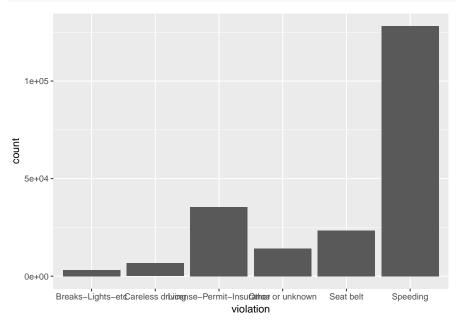
Modify the plot above to display different color for both points and abline, and show a different range of data. How might you change the size of the dots?

3.4 Barplot

There are two types of bar charts in ggplot, geom_bar and geom_col. geom_bar makes the height of the bar proportional to the number of cases in each group and counts the number of cases at each x position.

If we wanted to see how many violations we have of each type could say:

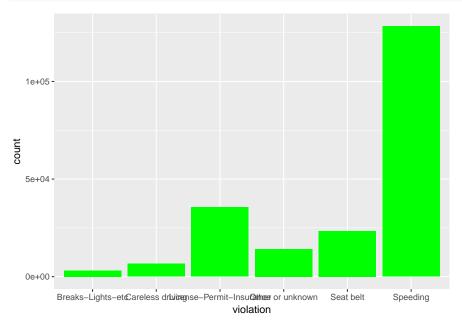




3.4. BARPLOT 29

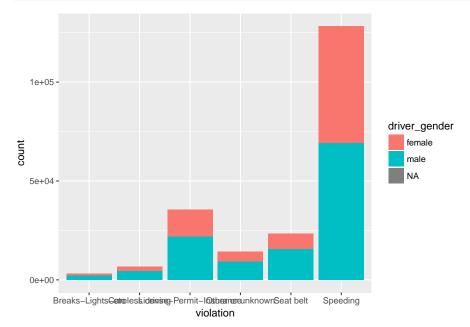
As we have seen we could color the bars, but instead of color we use fill. (What happens when you use color?)

```
ggplot(trafficstops, aes(violation)) +
geom_bar(fill = "green")
```



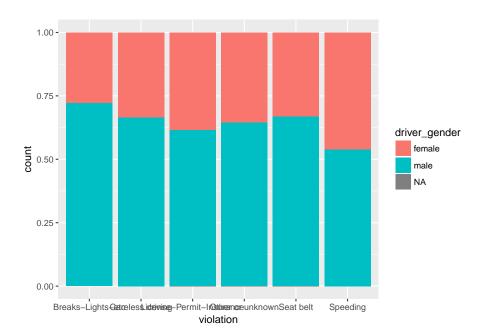
Instead of coloring everything the same we could also color by another category, say gender. For this we have to set the parameter within the aes() function, which takes care of mapping the values to different colors:

```
ggplot(trafficstops, aes(violation)) +
geom_bar(aes(fill = driver_gender))
```



If we wanted to see the proportions within each category we can tell ggplot to stretch the bars between 0 and 1, we can set the position parameter to 'fill':

```
ggplot(trafficstops, aes(violation)) +
  geom_bar(aes(fill = driver_gender), position = "fill")
```

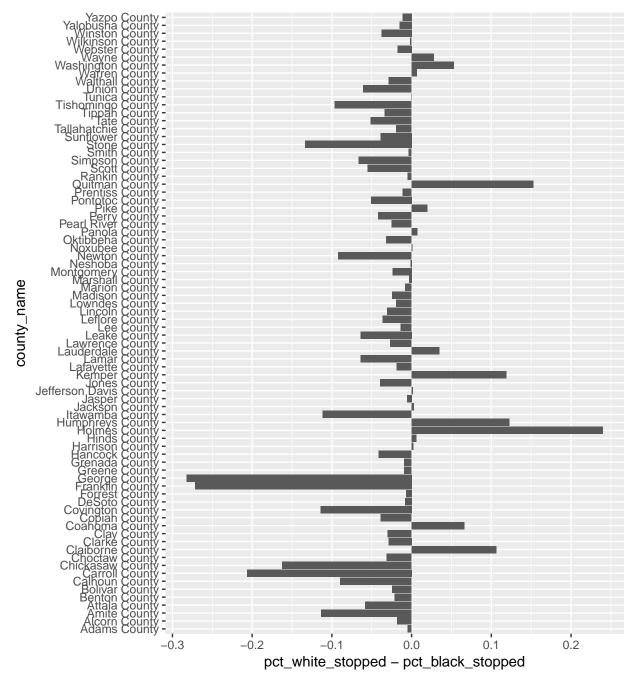


The other type of barchart, geom_col, is used if you want the heights of the bars to represent values in the data. It leaves the data as is.

For example, we can use <code>geom_col</code> for a different way of visualizing the data shown in the scatterplot above. For readability I have also flipped the coordinates:

```
MS_demographic %>%
filter(pct_white_stopped < 0.5 & pct_black_stopped < 0.5) %>%
ggplot(aes(x = county_name, y = pct_white_stopped - pct_black_stopped)) +
    geom_col() +
    coord_flip()
```

3.5. BOXPLOT



Challenge

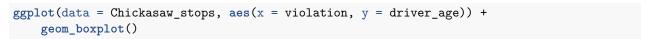
Make a plot that shows for each race the proportion of stops for male and female drivers. How could you get rid of the NAs?

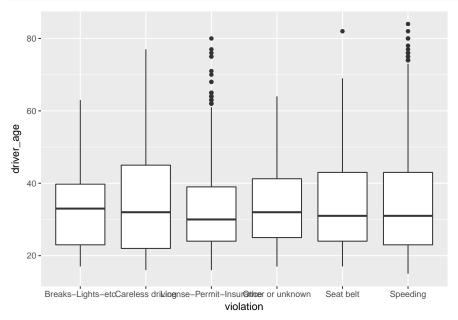
3.5 Boxplot

For this segment let's extract and work with the stops for Chickasaw County only.

Chickasaw_stops <- filter(trafficstops, county_name == "Chickasaw County")</pre>

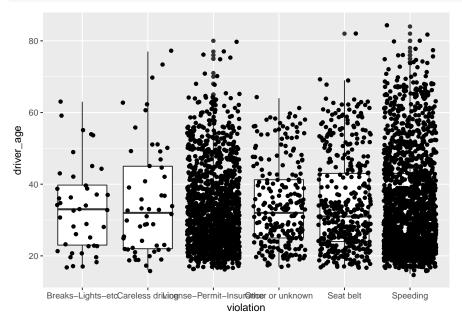
We can use boxplots to visualize the distribution of driver age within each violation:





By adding points to boxplot, we can have a better idea of the number of measurements and of their distribution.

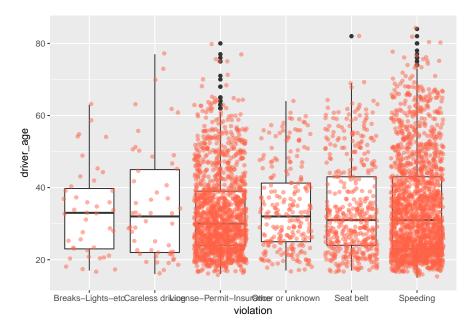
```
ggplot(data = Chickasaw_stops, aes(x = violation, y = driver_age)) +
    geom_boxplot() +
    geom_jitter()
```



That looks quite messy. Let's clean it up by using the alpha parameter to make the dots more transparent and also change their color:

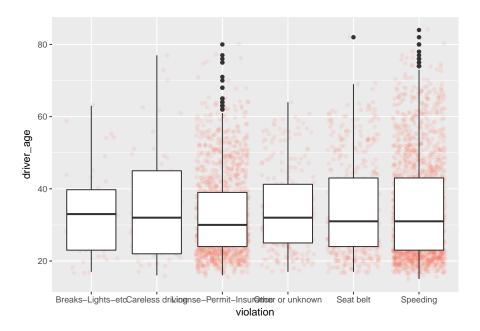
```
ggplot(data = Chickasaw_stops, aes(x = violation, y = driver_age)) +
    geom_boxplot() +
    geom_jitter(alpha = 0.5, color = "tomato")
```

3.5. BOXPLOT



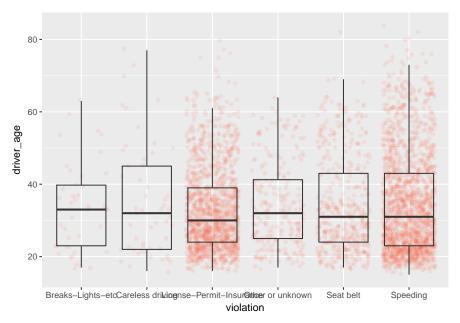
Notice how the boxplot layer is behind the jitter layer. We will change the plotting order to keep the boxplot visible.

```
ggplot(data = Chickasaw_stops, aes(x = violation, y = driver_age)) +
   geom_jitter(alpha = 0.1, color = "tomato") +
   geom_boxplot()
```



And finally we will change the transparency of the box plot so it does not cover the points:

```
ggplot(data = Chickasaw_stops, aes(x = violation, y = driver_age)) +
    geom_jitter(alpha = 0.1, color = "tomato") +
    geom_boxplot(alpha = 0)
```



Challenge

Boxplots are useful summaries, but hide the *shape* of the distribution. For example, if there is a bimodal distribution, it would not be observed with a boxplot. An alternative to the boxplot is the violin plot (sometimes known as a beanplot), where the shape (of the density of points) is drawn.

• Replace the box plot with a violin plot; see geom_violin().

So far, we've looked at the distribution of age within violations Try making a new plot to explore the distribution of age for another variable:

• Create the age box plot for driver_race. Overlay the boxplot layer on a jitter layer to show actual measurements.

3.6 Plotting time series data

To make things a little easer we first convert the date column we plan to use to Date format.

```
library(lubridate)
class(trafficstops$stop_date)
trafficstops$stop_date <- ymd(trafficstops$stop_date)
class(trafficstops$stop_date)</pre>
```

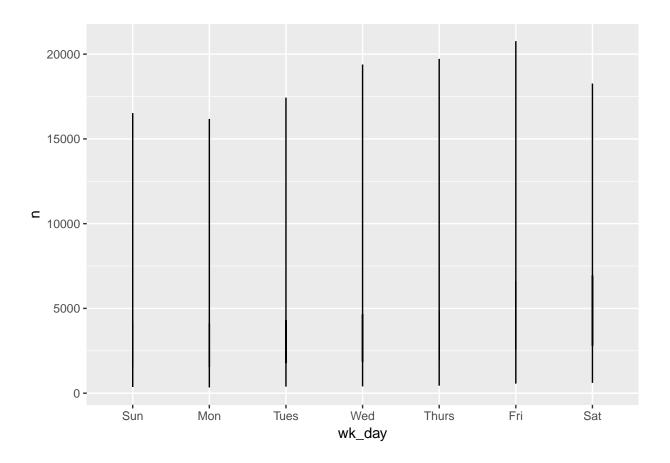
Let's calculate number of counts per weekday for each violation. For better understanding we will label the weekdays. First we need to group the data and count records within each group:

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label = TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation) %>%
  tally
```

Timelapse data can be visualized as a line plot (with – you guessed it – geom_line()) mapping the days to the x axis and counts to the y axis. So we pipe the output from above into ggplot like this:

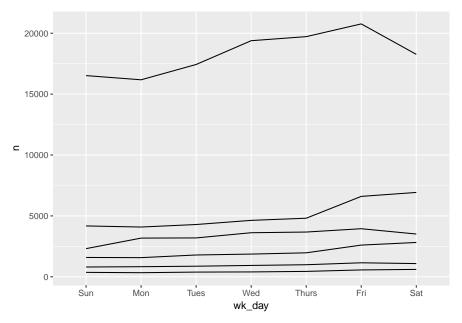
```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label = TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation) %>%
```

```
tally %>%
ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n)) +
  geom_line()
```



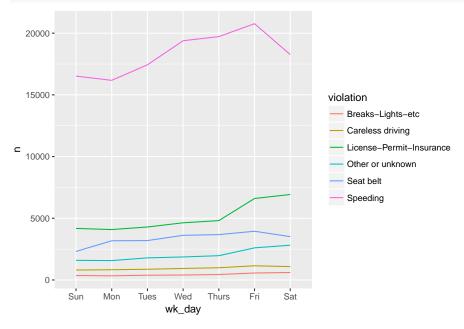
Unfortunately, this does not work because we plotted data for all the violations together. So what ggplot displays is the range of all values for each year in a vertial line. We need to tell ggplot to draw a line for each violation by modifying the aesthetic function to include group = violation:

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label = TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation) %>%
  tally %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n, group = violation)) +
    geom_line()
```



We will be able to distinguish violations in the plot if we add colors. (Colors groups automatically if the variable is numeric).

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label = TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation) %>%
  tally %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n, group = violation, color = violation)) +
    geom_line()
```

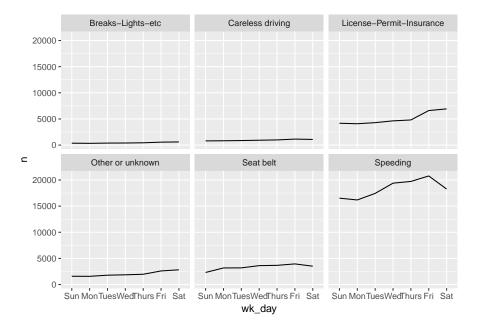


3.7 Faceting

ggplot has a special technique called *faceting* that allows to split one plot into multiple plots based on a factor included in the dataset. We will use it to make a time series plot for each violation:

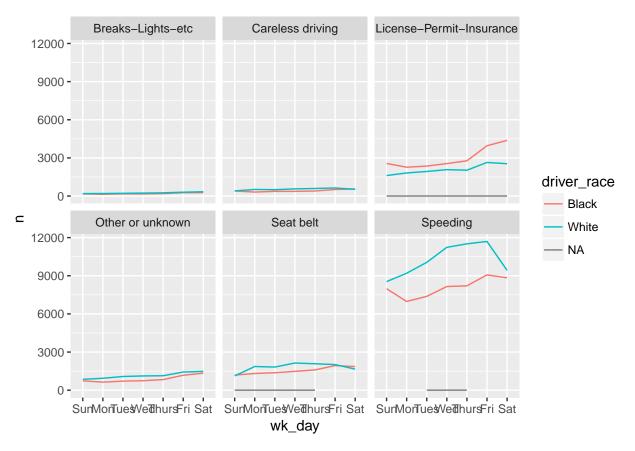
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```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label = TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation) %>%
  tally %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n, group = violation)) +
      geom_line() +
      facet_wrap(~ violation)
```



Now we would like to split the line in each plot by the race of the driver. To do that we need to make counts in the data frame grouped by day, violation, and driver_race. We then make the faceted plot by splitting further by race using color and group (within a single plot):

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label=TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation, driver_race) %>%
  tally %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n, color = driver_race, group = driver_race)) +
  geom_line() +
  facet_wrap(~ violation)
```



Note that there is an alternative, the facet_grid geometry, which allows you to explicitly specify how you want your plots to be arranged via formula notation (rows ~ columns; a . can be used as a placeholder that indicates only one row or column).

Challenge

Use what you just learned to create a plot that depicts how the average age of each driver for the two recorded ethnicities changes through the week. Hint: make sure you just use records where driver_age > 16. How would you go about visualizing both lines and points on the plot?

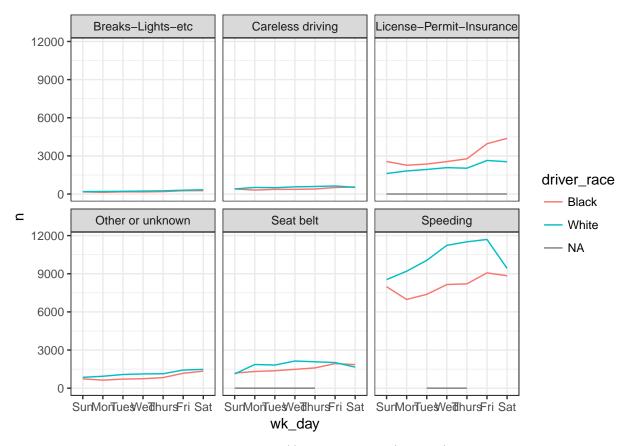
->

3.8 ggplot2 themes

ggplot2 comes with several other themes which can be useful to quickly change the look of your visualization, for example theme_bw() changes the plot background to white:

```
trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label=TRUE, abbr=TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation, driver_race) %>%
  tally %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n, color = driver_race, group = driver_race)) +
  geom_line() +
  facet_wrap(~ violation) +
  theme_bw()
```

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The complete list of themes is available at http://docs.ggplot2.org/current/ggtheme.html. theme_minimal() and theme_light() are popular, and theme_void() can be useful as a starting point to create a new hand-crafted theme.

The ggthemes package provides a wide variety of options (including an Excel 2003 theme). The ggplot2 extensions website provides a list of packages that extend the capabilities of ggplot2, including additional themes.

3.9 Customization

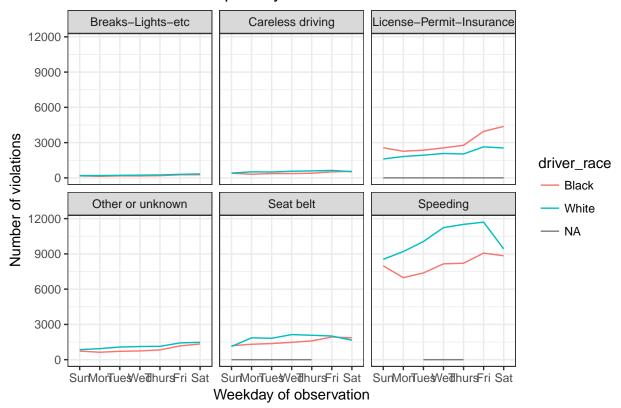
There are endless possibilities to customize your plot, particularly when you are ready for publication or presentation. Let's look into just a few examples. Before we do that we will assign our plot above to a variable.

```
stops_facet_plot <- trafficstops %>%
  mutate(wk_day = wday(stop_date, label=TRUE, abbr=TRUE)) %>%
  group_by(wk_day, violation, driver_race) %>%
  tally %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = wk_day, y = n, color = driver_race, group = driver_race)) +
  geom_line() +
  facet_wrap(~ violation)
```

Now, let's change names of axes to something more informative than 'wk_day' and 'n' and add a title to the figure:

```
y = 'Number of violations') +
theme_bw()
```

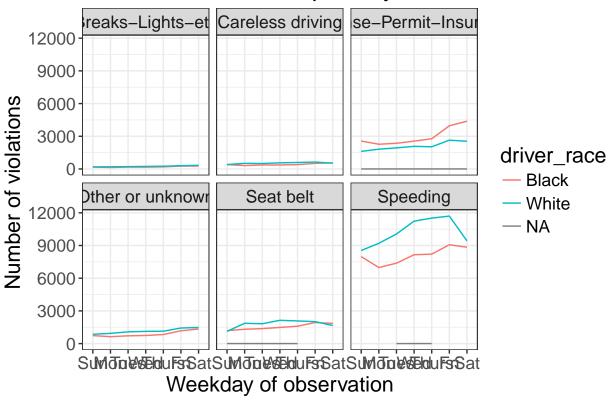
Observed violations per day of week



The axes have more informative names, but their readability can be improved by increasing the font size:

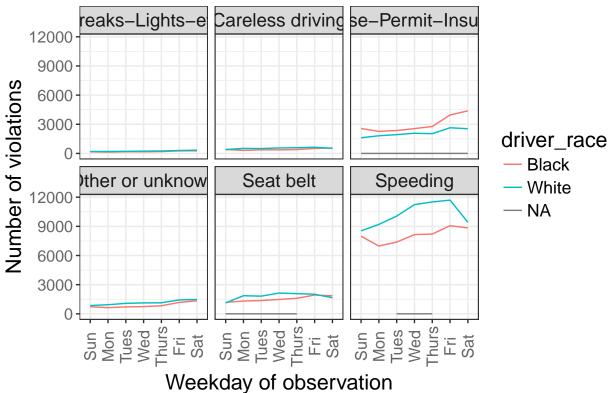
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Observed violations per day of week



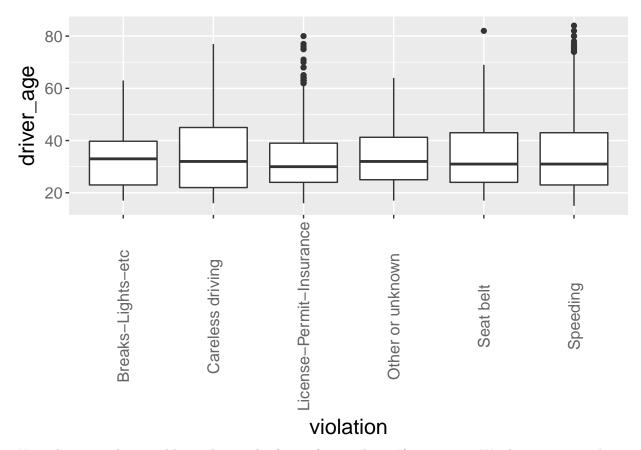
After our manipulations, you may notice that the values on the x-axis are still not properly readable. Let's change the orientation of the labels and adjust them vertically and horizontally so they don't overlap. You can use a 90 degree angle, or experiment to find the appropriate angle for diagonally oriented labels:

Observed violations per day of week



If you like the changes you created better than the default theme, you can save them as an object to be able to easily apply them to other plots you may create:

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Note that it is also possible to change the fonts of your plots. If you are on Windows, you may have to install the **extrafont** package, and follow the instructions included in the README for this package.

Challenge

With all of this information in hand, please take another five minutes to either improve one of the plots generated in this exercise or create a beautiful graph of your own. Use the RStudio ggplot2 cheat sheet for inspiration.

Here are some ideas:

- See if you can change the thickness of the lines.
- Can you find a way to change the name of the legend? What about its labels?
- Try using a different color palette (see http://www.cookbook-r.com/Graphs/Colors_(ggplot2)/).

After creating your plot, you can save it out to a file in your preferred format. You can change the dimension (and resolution) of your plot by adjusting the appropriate arguments (width, height and dpi):

Note: The parameters width and height also determine the font size in the saved plot.

Bibliography