#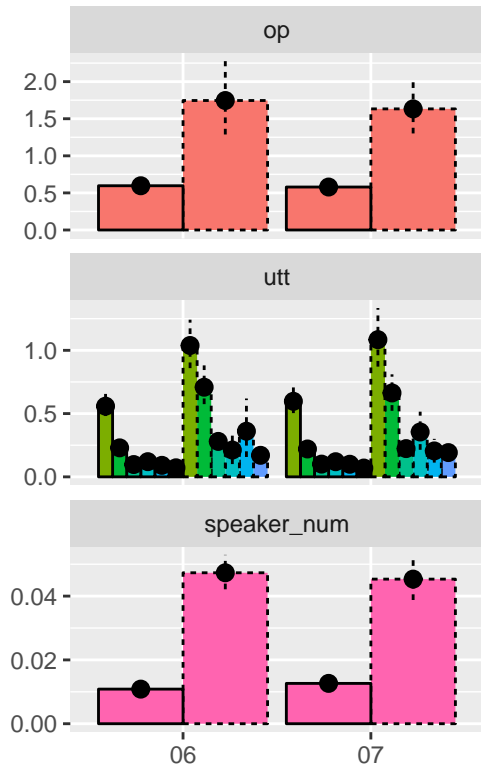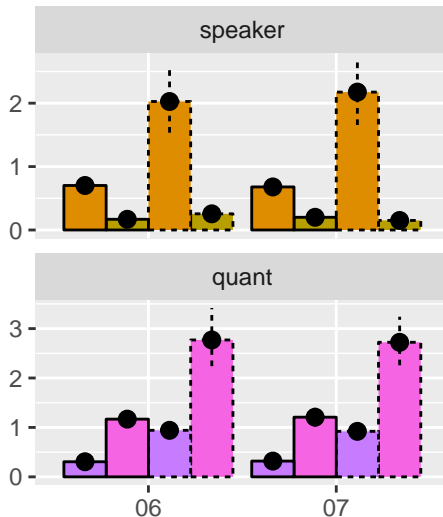 normcount variables