



**Karolinska
Institutet**

R workshop

Data manipulation & Rmarkdown

Bolin Wu

NEAR, Aging Research Center

2023/01/26 (updated: 2023-03-20)

About me



*Bolin Wu. Photo:
Maria Yohuang*

`.pull-left[`

- Statistician at NEAR, KI.
- MSc in Statistics, Uppsala University.
- Interests:
- R package dev
- Statistics
- Data manipulation
- guitar

workshopr package

Install

```
install.packages("remotes")  
remotes::install_github("Bolin-Wu/workshopr",  
  subdir = "rpackage",  
  force = TRUE  
)
```

Load

```
library(workshopr)  
library(tidyverse)  
library(here)
```

Data manipulation

tidyverse, assign

Introduction

This session is to share useful data manipulation skills at daily epidemiology work. My main goal is to follow the "don't repeat yourself" (DRY) principle.

It can make our code more readable and reduce our chance of making mistakes.

Note: Data frames may seem to be unfit in the slides. I do not use any html widges since the code will be pulled out for tutorial purpose. Attendants can run the code on their on machine instead to get better view.

Content

The content is selected based on data manipulation in real work scenario.

I hope by the end of the workshop, you will have them in your toolbox:

- **%>%** syntax
- **join** data frames (*join function*)
- **transform** data shape (*pivot_longer*)
- **select** variables based on name pattern (*select*)
- **extract** the label from DTA and SPSS in R (*filter & sjlabelled*)
- **check** missing values (*summarise & across*)
- **mutate data** based on column types (*mutate & across*)
- **bin** variables by percentiles (*cut*)
- **assign** function



Tidyverse

Many times we just `library(tidyverse)`. Actually Tidyverse is a huge umbrella consists of several powerful visualization and data manipulation package. For example:

- magrittr: pipeline operator `%>%`.
- ggplot2: `ggplot()`.
- dplyr: `select()`, `filter()`, `mutate()`.
- stringr: `str_detect()`, `str_subset()`.

Notes

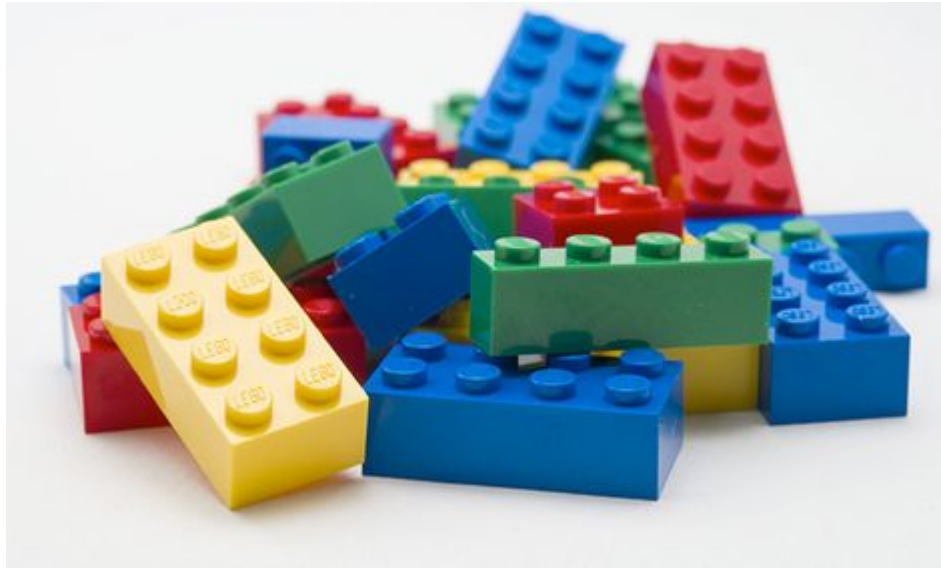
- Advantage: All at once.
- Disadvantage:
 - Slower to load the whole package.
 - Potential conflicts of function names with other packages. Example here.



picture credit: [Wikipedia of Hadley Wickham](#)

Pipeline operator %>%

Beautiful syntax with pipeline, just like playing LEGO.



Example

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(Lopnr, Date_wave1)
```

```
# A tibble: 3,000 × 2  
  Lopnr Date_wave1  
  <dbl> <date>  
1      1 2001-06-11  
2      2 2002-04-08  
3      3 2001-09-12  
4      4 2001-06-13  
5      5 2001-02-12  
6      6 2001-07-05  
7      7 2001-12-28  
8      8 2002-09-17  
9      9 2001-09-14  
10     10 2001-09-21  
# ... with 2,990 more rows
```

- In addition, filter on the date column

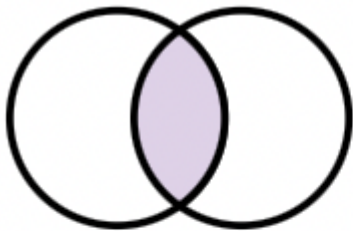
```
fake_data %>%  
  select(Lopnr, Date_wave1) %>%  
  filter(Date_wave1 > "2002-01-01") %>%  
  slice(1:5)
```

```
# A tibble: 5 × 2  
  Lopnr Date_wave1  
  <dbl> <date>  
1     2 2002-04-08  
2     8 2002-09-17  
3    13 2002-10-13  
4    15 2002-04-28  
5    19 2002-12-25
```

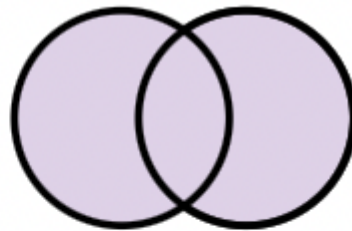
- You can further stacking group, filter, mutate, etc., with the pipeline operator.

Join data frames

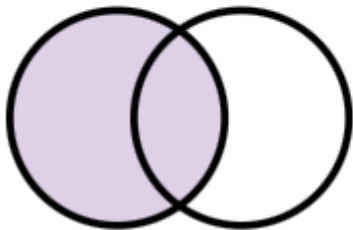
- With `.*_join()` function: There are 4 common types of joins.



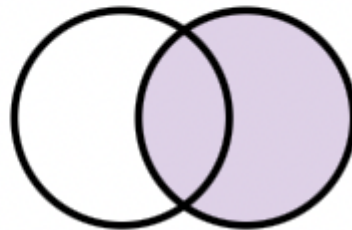
`inner_join(x, y)`



`full_join(x, y)`



`left_join(x, y)`



`right_join(x, y)`

- Take `left_join()` as an example:

```
# From `dplyr` documentation:  
df1 <- tibble(x = 1:3)  
df2 <- tibble(  
  x = c(1, 1, 2),  
  y = c("first", "second", "third")  
)  
df1 %>% left_join(df2)
```

```
# A tibble: 4 × 2
```

	x	y
	<dbl>	<chr>
1	1	first
2	1	second
3	2	third
4	3	<NA>

Transform data shape

Transform data shape is frequently used to clean data. However, for many people, including me, it sounds troublesome. In R, its relevant functions are evolving overtime as well.

In the beginning (2019), I used spread() and gather(). Every time I use `spread()` and `gather()`, it takes me a while to figure out how to fill in 'key' and 'value'. But as you can see from their documentation, their 'lifecycle' is 'superseded'.

Transform data shape

Now I only use `pivot_longer()` and `pivot_wider()` for transforming data. You can find their comprehensive documentation [here](#).

They come with better documentation, more powerful application, and better integration with tidyverse syntax.

Example

Let's assume we received a wide format data:

```
head(fake_data, n = 5)
```

```
# A tibble: 5 × 28
```

	Lopnr	Date_wave1	age_wave1	mmse_wave1	dementi... ¹	Date_wave2
	<dbl>	<date>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<date>
1	1	2001-06-11	77.6	29	0	2003-06-03
2	2	2002-04-08	72.6	18	0	2004-03-07
3	3	2001-09-12	79.9	22	0	NA
4	4	2001-06-13	79.9	26	0	2003-05-12
5	5	2001-02-12	82.6	NA	0	2003-04-20

```
# ... with 14 more variables: age_wave4 <dbl>, mmse_wave4 <dbl>
```

```
# mmse_wave5 <dbl>, dementia_wave5 <dbl>, Date_wave6 <date>
```

```
# age_base <dbl>, sex <dbl+lbl>, education <dbl+lbl>, and a
```

```
# 4dementia_wave2, 5age_wave3, 6mmse_wave3, 7dementia_wave3
```

Example

The column names are:

```
sort(colnames(fake_data))
```

```
[1] "age_base"          "age_wave1"         "age_wave2"         "age_
[8] "Date_wave1"        "Date_wave2"        "Date_wave3"        "Date
[15] "dementia_wave2"    "dementia_wave3"    "dementia_wave4"    "deme
[22] "mmse_wave1"        "mmse_wave2"        "mmse_wave3"        "mmse
```

Now, assume for some reason, e.g. merge it with other data set, we want to transform it in a long format.

There are two variables with prefix should be formatted: 'Date' and 'dementia'. For beginners, I would recommend to start small.

Example

- Select the interested columns

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(contains("Date")) %>%  
  slice(1:5)
```

A tibble: 5 × 6

	Date_wave1	Date_wave2	Date_wave3	Date_wave4	Date_wave5	Date
	<date>	<date>	<date>	<date>	<date>	<date>
1	2001-06-11	2003-06-03	2005-05-27	2007-04-22	2009-04-10	2011-03-17
2	2002-04-08	2004-03-07	2006-02-08	2008-02-19	2010-03-26	2012-03-26
3	2001-09-12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
4	2001-06-13	2003-05-12	2005-04-20	2007-03-28	2009-04-10	2011-03-17
5	2001-02-12	2003-04-20	2005-04-06	2007-03-14	2009-03-17	2011-03-17

Example

Read documentation, try to fill in the arguments.

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

- The 3 basic arguments are:
 - `cols()`: tells R what variables to pivot.
 - `names_to()`: a new name for columns in `cols()`.
 - `values_to()`: a new name for **values** under the columns in `cols()`.

Example

Let's give a first try:

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(Lopnr, contains("Date")) %>%  
  pivot_longer(  
    cols = contains("Date"),  
    names_to = "wave", values_to = "date",  
    names_prefix = "Date"  
  )
```

```
# A tibble: 18,000 × 3  
  Lopnr wave    date  
  <dbl> <chr>   <date>  
1      1 _wave1 2001-06-11  
2      1 _wave2 2003-06-03  
3      1 _wave3 2005-05-27  
4      1 _wave4 2007-04-22  
5      1 _wave5 2009-04-10  
6      1 _wave6 2011-04-01  
7      2 _wave1 2002-04-02
```

Example

The result above looks good, but 'wave' looks a bit strange. I will leave the task to audience to fix this column.

- Do the same with 'dementia' columns

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(Lopnr, contains("dementia")) %>%  
  pivot_longer(  
    cols = contains("dementia"),  
    names_to = "wave", names_prefix = "dementia",  
    values_to = "dementia"  
  )
```

```
# A tibble: 18,000 × 3  
  Lopnr wave      dementia  
  <dbl> <chr>      <dbl>  
1      1 _wave1          0  
2      1 _wave2          0  
3      1 _wave3          0
```

Data transform exercise (5 – 10 min)

- Read documentation. Change the arguments in the `pivot_longer()` function to get proper wave column.

Example result (first 5 rows):

```
# A tibble: 5 × 3
  Lopnr wave  date
  <dbl> <fct> <date>
1     1  1  2001-06-11
2     1  2  2003-06-03
3     1  3  2005-05-27
4     1  4  2007-04-22
5     1  5  2009-04-10
```

- Merge the two long pivot data sets together.

Consider: is it enough to only join on one column? Why or why not?

Select variables by name pattern

Some times you get data with specific variables. E.g.

- Each wave has its own specific prefix.
- Questionnaire/in person test has its own prefix.
- ...

In this case, the `select()` function can help you. Some useful **selection helpers** are

- `starts_with()`
- `contains()`
- `matches()`
- ...

More details please see documentation:

```
?select()
```

starts_with

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(starts_with("Date"))
```

contains

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(contains("Date") & contains("1"))
```

- If we want to select variables containing 'Date' or 'age', how to do it? Let's try it.

match

- `match()` is more advanced since it uses regular expression (regex).
- There are many regex cheatsheets online. For example this.
- One useful website to test regex is here.

```
fake_data %>%  
  select(matches("Date_wave\\d"))
```

---> Live demo

Get labels from datasets

- When we get SPSS or STATA data sets, usually they come with labels. E.g. in SPSS, one can check them in the "Variable View" tab.
- In R, one can use `view()` function. In the example data, we have:

```
view(fake_data)
```

Lopnr	sex	Date_wave1	education	Date_wave2	Date_wave3	Date_wave4	Date_wave5
ID	gender	date examination 2001–2004	education	date examination 2004–2007	date examination 2007–2010	Date examination 2010–2013	Date examination 2

- A natural question to ask: how to extract the labels in R?

If you run `str()` function, the labels are in the "label" attribute. There are multiple ways to extract the labels.

```
str(fake_data)
```

The one I use is the `sjlabelled` R package.

```
label_char <- sjlabelled::get_label(fake_data)
label_char
```

	Lopnr		Date_wave1
	"ID"	"date examination	2011-2012"
dementia_wave1			Date_wave2
"dementia at visit 2011-2012"		"date examination	2011-2012"
dementia_wave2			Date_wave3
"dementia at visit 2011-2012"		"date examination	2011-2012"
dementia_wave3			Date_wave4
"dementia at visit 2011-2012"		"date examination	2011-2012"
dementia_wave4			Date_wave5
"dementia at visit 2011-2012"		"date examination	2011-2012"

The result looks terrible, so we have to fix it by transforming it to be tibble:

```
label_df <- tibble::rownames_to_column(as.data.frame(
label_df <- tibble::as_tibble(label_df)
label_df
```

```
# A tibble: 28 × 2
  variable      label_char
  <chr>         <chr>
1 Lopnr        ID
2 Date_wave1   date examination 2011-2012
3 age_wave1    age at visit 2011-2012
4 mmse_wave1   mmse at visit 2011-2012
5 dementia_wave1 dementia at visit 2011-2012
6 Date_wave2   date examination 2011-2012
7 age_wave2    age at visit 2011-2012
8 mmse_wave2   mmse at visit 2011-2012
9 dementia_wave2 dementia at visit 2011-2012
10 Date_wave3   date examination 2011-2012
# ... with 18 more rows
```

The result looks much better! Now we can do lots of things with pipeline.

- filter the label contains 'dementia'

```
label_df %>%  
  filter(grepl("dementia", label_char))
```

```
# A tibble: 6 × 2  
  variable      label_char  
  <chr>         <chr>  
1 dementia_wave1 dementia at visit 2011-2012  
2 dementia_wave2 dementia at visit 2011-2012  
3 dementia_wave3 dementia at visit 2011-2012  
4 dementia_wave4 dementia at visit 2011-2012  
5 dementia_wave5 dementia at visit 2011-2012  
6 dementia_wave6 dementia at visit 2011-2012
```

- filter the variable contains 'wave'

```
label_df %>%  
  filter(grepl("wave", variable))
```

```
# A tibble: 24 × 2
```

	variable	label_char
	<chr>	<chr>
1	Date_wave1	date examination 2011-2012
2	age_wave1	age at visit 2011-2012
3	mmse_wave1	mmse at visit 2011-2012
4	dementia_wave1	dementia at visit 2011-2012
5	Date_wave2	date examination 2011-2012
6	age_wave2	age at visit 2011-2012
7	mmse_wave2	mmse at visit 2011-2012
8	dementia_wave2	dementia at visit 2011-2012
9	Date_wave3	date examination 2011-2012
10	age_wave3	age at visit 2011-2012
# ... with 14 more rows		

Missing values

Count the NA

- If count the NA of one column. It could something like:

```
sum(is.na(fake_data$Date_wave1))
```

```
[1] 0
```

- What if multiple columns?

Count NA in multiple columns

```
fake_data %>%  
  summarise(across(  
    where(lubridate::is.Date),  
    ~ sum(is.na(.))  
  ))
```

A tibble: 1 × 6

	Date_wave1	Date_wave2	Date_wave3	Date_wave4	Date_wave5	Date
	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	
1	0	207	489	748	983	

- You may wonder: what is this `~ sum(is.na(.))`?
- It is a purrr-style lambda function.
- You may also wonder what is `across`?
- It tells `summarise` to do what operations, on which columns.

Missing value exercise (5 – 10 min)

- Read the documentation of `across()` function.
- Count the NA of all numeric/int columns.
- Count the NA of columns contains certain strings, e.g. 'edu'

Example result

```
# A tibble: 1 × 22
  Lopnr age_wave1 mmse_w...1 demen...2 age_w...3 mmse_...4 demen...5 ag
  <int>      <int>      <int>      <int>      <int>      <int>      <int>
1      0          0      135          0      207      323      207
# ... with 6 more variables: age_wave6 <int>, mmse_wave6 <int>,
#   and abbreviated variable names 1mmse_wave1, 2dementia_wav
#   7mmse_wave3, 8dementia_wave3, 9age_wave4, xmmse_wave4, xd

# A tibble: 1 × 1
  education
```

Mutation based on column type

- Now you should have some understanding of `where()` function.
- When you apply it with `mutate()` function, you can do many manipulations. E.g. round the digits of numeric columns.

```
fake_data %>%  
  mutate(across(is.numeric, ~ round(., digits = 2)))
```

```
# A tibble: 3,000 × 28
```

	Lopnr	Date_wave1	age_wave1	mmse_wave1	dement... ¹	Date_wave2
	<dbl>	<date>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<date>
1	1	2001-06-11	77.6	29	0	2003-06-03
2	2	2002-04-08	72.6	18	0	2004-03-07
3	3	2001-09-12	80.0	22	0	NA
4	4	2001-06-13	79.9	26	0	2003-05-12
5	5	2001-02-12	82.6	NA	0	2003-04-20
6	6	2001-07-05	70.0	25	0	2003-07-02

Bin variables

- `case_when()` function can do the work for us easily, it accommodates well with pipeline syntax.
- For example, if we want to bin the education variable.

```
fake_data %>%  
  transmute(mmse_wave1,  
            mmse_wave1_bin = case_when(between(mmse_wave1, 18, 20) ~ "Mild dementia",  
                                       between(mmse_wave1, 15, 17) ~ "Moderate dementia",  
                                       between(mmse_wave1, 10, 14) ~ "Severe dementia",  
                                       mmse_wave1 >= 21 ~ NA_character_))
```

```
# A tibble: 3,000 × 2  
  mmse_wave1 mmse_wave1_bin  
    <dbl> <chr>  
1      29 Mild dementia  
2      18 Moderate dementia
```

Assign function

I would like to spend some time introduce `assign()` function in R.

- Even though it is not part of `tidyverse` family. But it is really useful! For example, when you bulk import databases into R environment; or you want to bulk change the imported data frame names.
- A simple example (run in your R studio):

```
df_names <- c()
set.seed(2023)
for (i in 1:4) {
  df_names[i] <- paste0("edu_", i)
  assign(df_names[i], sample.int(3, 10, replace = T))
  # print the result
  cat(
    "The df name is: ", df_names[i], "\n",
    "its value is: ", get(df_names[i]), "\n"
```

Messy dataframe name

- Imagine in your environment you have these dataframe.
 - Chances are that they are named this way when you get the data files from someone. They have spaces, "-", horrible!

```
objects_name <- c(
  "Cohort1_Baseline_BMI", "Cohort1_FU1_BMI", "Cohort1_FU2_BMI",
  "Cohort1_FU3_Cohort2_FU2", "Cohort2_Baseline_BMI", "Cohort2_FU1_BMI",
  "Gender data request_20230111", "Gender data request_20230112",
  "index", "NEAR_BMI-mortality", "SNAC-K C1 B-F6 cohort",
  "SNAC-K C1_B", "SNAC-K C1_F1", "SNAC-K C1_F2", "SNAC-K C1_F3",
  "SNAC-K C1_F4", "SNAC-K C1_F5"
)

for (i in 1:length(objects_name)) {
  # assign some values to these objects
  assign(objects_name[i], sample(100, 10))
}
```

- Look at your 'Environment' panel. Or `ls()` can retrieve all object names in your R environment. Do you feel familiar?

Let's fix it with `assign()` function (one possible way).

```
clean_names <- gsub(" |-", "_", objects_name)

for (i in 1:length(clean_names)) {
  assign(clean_names[i], get(objects_name[i]))
}

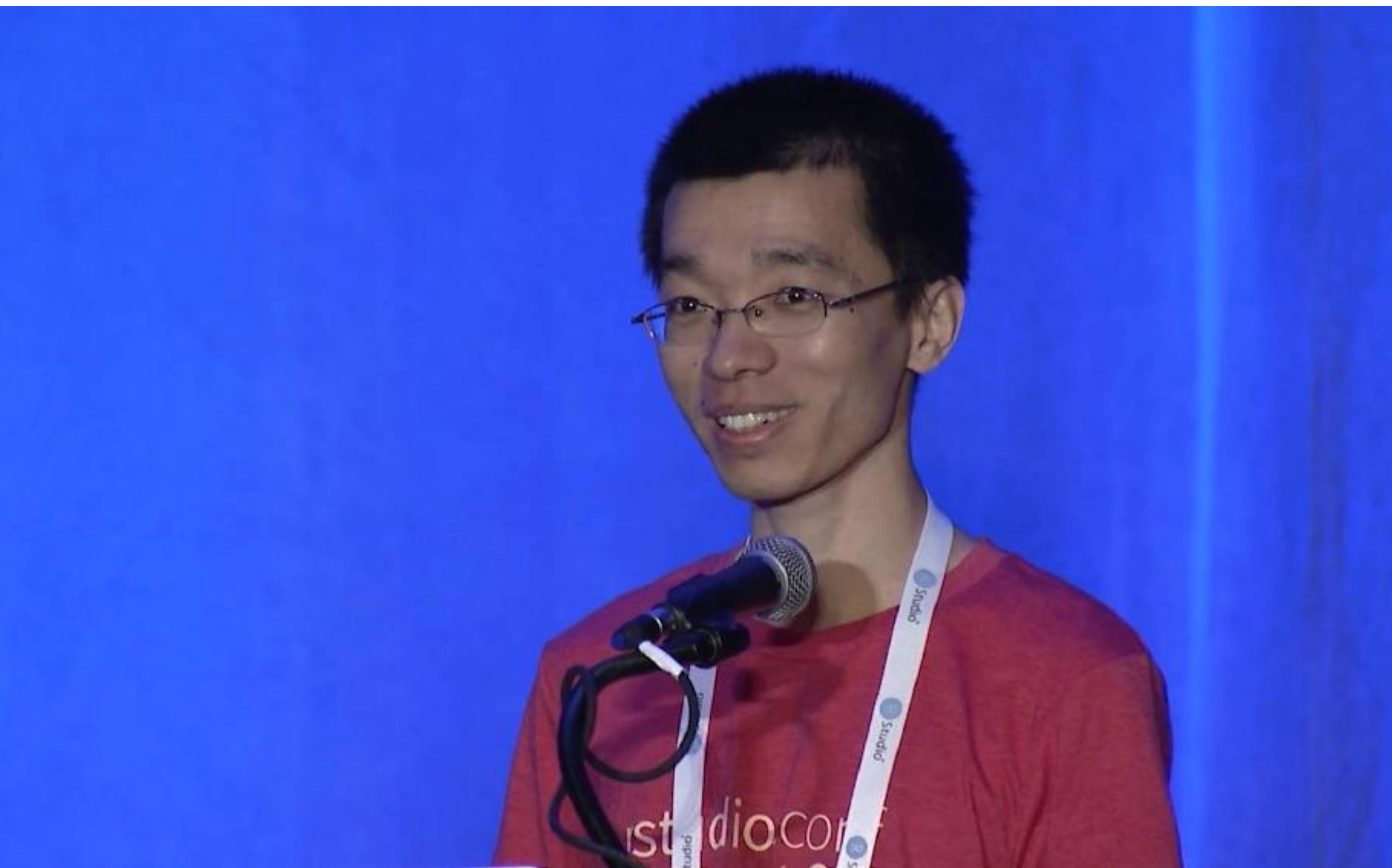
# just show the first few
clean_names[1:5]
```

```
[1] "Cohort1_Baseline_BMI"  "Cohort1_FU1_BMI"      "Cohort1_
```

- Check your 'Environment' panel again.
- The `gsub()` part can be customized with regex syntax. Basically you can fix any kind of messy dataframe names.

R markdown

Basics and daily work uses



Introduction

- A complete Rmarkdown documentation could be found [here](#).
- The key is to understand these three pillows:

Rmarkdown = markdown + yaml heading + code chunk options.

Markdown

- Markdown is a lightweight language for creating formatted text using a plain-text editor.*
- Advantage:
 - You do not need to worry about the format. Just focus on writing itself. Could be superfast.
 - Little chance of making the format consistent across the whole documentation.
- Disadvantage:
 - A steep learning curve in the beginning. * However, this disadvantage greatly remedied by many user-friendly editor, e.g. overleaf

Let me give a live example via an [online markdown editor](#)

[*] <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Markdown>

code chunk options

- Code chunk options in RMD can help you control the execution of your code in the file.
- Some useful ones are as follows:^{*}
 - `include = FALSE` prevents code and results from appearing in the finished file. R Markdown still runs the code in the chunk, and the results can be used by other chunks.
 - `echo = FALSE` prevents code, but not the results from appearing in the finished file. This is a useful way to embed figures.
 - `message = FALSE` prevents messages that are generated by code from appearing in the finished file.
 - `warning = FALSE` prevents warnings that are generated by code from appearing in the finished.

[*] <https://rmarkdown.rstudio.com/lesson-3.html>

Example

```
```{r import package, message=FALSE}  
library(tidyverse)
library(Hmisc)
```
```

```
```{r, include=FALSE}  
library(DT)
```
```

local option

```
```{r setup, include=FALSE}  
By default, all codes are hidden.
knitr::opts_chunk$set(message = FALSE, warning = FALSE, include = TRUE)
library(workshopr)
library(tidyverse)
library(DT)
```
```


RMD chunk option exercise

- Print the column names of `fake_data`, but do not show the code itself.

YAML

```
---  
title: "A Cool Presentation"  
output: html_document  
---
```

Or

```
---  
title: "A Cool Presentation"  
output:  
  word_document:  
    toc: yes  
    toc_depth: 2  
---
```

- The YAML heading basically defines the type of output file, layout, etc.

Live demo in R studio

- Get the templates of html or word output:

```
workshopr::get_rmd_2023(name = "pretty_template", out = "html")  
workshopr::get_rmd_2023(name = "pretty_template", out = "word")
```

- Let's take a look together!

Final exercise

- Calculate the NA of all columns except for id column.
- Round all decimals in numeric column.
- (optional) Read `stringr` documentation, find appropriate function to filter out 'objects_name' that contains "SNAC".
- (optional) Pivot the original 'fake_data' by using only one `pivot_longer()` function. Put wave and date after 'Lopnr' column.

Hint: check the `names_to` argument and `relocate()` function.

```
# A tibble: 3 × 9
```

| | Lopnr | wave | Date | age_base | sex | education |
|---|-------|-------|------------|----------|------------|-----------------|
| | <dbl> | <chr> | <date> | <dbl> | <dbl+lbl> | <dbl+lbl> |
| 1 | 1 | wave1 | 2001-06-11 | 77.6 | 1 [female] | 2 [high school] |
| 2 | 1 | wave2 | 2003-06-03 | 77.6 | 1 [female] | 2 [high school] |
| 3 | 1 | wave3 | 2005-05-27 | 77.6 | 1 [female] | 2 [high school] |

Wrap up

- Many times, avoiding repetitive coding can help you, also others to review your code.
- In the beginning, the Rmarkdown has steep learning curve, but once you are familiar with it, your life will be easier.
- This whole slide is written in Rmarkdown. Source code is [here](#). The R example code is pulled from Rmarkdown, I do not need to copy and paste.
- The materials are collected in Github repo: <https://github.com/Bolin-Wu/workshopr>
- Hope today's content could be an enlightenment to you. If you have any question, please contact me: bolin.wu@ki.se;