#### CSSS508, Week 5

Importing, Exporting, and Cleaning

Data

Chuck Lanfear

Oct 23, 2019

**Updated: Oct 22, 2019** 



#### Today's Theme:

"Data Custodian Work"

Issues around getting data in and out of R and making it analytically ready:

- Working directories and projects
- Importing and exporting data: readr and haven
- Cleaning and reshaping data: tidyr
- Dates and times: lubridate
- Controlling factor variables: forcats



-UW CS&SS

## Working Directory

You may recall that the **working directory** is where R will look for and save things by default.

You can find out what it is using the function getwd().

On my computer when I knitted these slides, it happened to be:

```
getwd()
```

```
## [1] "C:/Users/cclan/OneDrive/GitHub/CSSS508/Lectures/Week5"
```

# Changing Your Working Directory

You can use setwd(dir = "C:/path/to/new/working/directory") to change the working directory.

Working Directory Suggestions:

- .Rmd files use their current directory as a working directory: Just put everything you need in there!
- For larger projects, instead of setting a working directory, it is usually better to use <u>RStudio projects</u> to manage working directories.
- Windows users: If you copy a path from Explorer, make sure to change back slashes (\) to forward slashes (/) for the filepaths
- If you need to set a working, put setwd() at the start of your file so that someone using another computer knows they need to modify it

#### Projects in RStudio

A better way to deal with working directories: RStudio's **project** feature in the top-right dropdown. This has lots of advantages:

- Sets your working directory to be the project directory.
- Remembers objects in your workspace, command history, etc. next time you re-open that project.
- Reduces risk of intermingling different work using the same variable names (e.g. n) by using separate RStudio instances for each project.
- Easy to integrate with version control systems (e.g. git)
  - I usually make each RStudio project its own GitHub repository.

If you're interested in advanced project management, ask me after class or check out my presentation on reproducible research with rrtools.

#### Relative Paths

Once you've set the working directory—or you're in an RStudio project—you can refer to folders and files within the working directory using relative paths.

```
library(ggplot2)
a_plot <- ggplot(data = cars, aes(x = speed, y = dist)) +
    geom_point()
ggsave("graphics/cars_plot.png", plot = a_plot)</pre>
```

The above would save an image called "cars\_plot.png" inside an existing folder called "graphics" within my working directory.

Relative paths are nice, because all locations of loaded and saved files can be changed just by altering the working directory.

Relative paths also allow others to download your files or entire project and use them on their computer without modifying all the paths!



-UW CS&SS

### Special Data Access Packages

If you are working with a popular data source, try Googling to see if it has a devoted R package on *CRAN* or *Github* (use

devtools::install\_github("user/repository") for these). Examples:

- WDI: World Development Indicators (World Bank)
- WHO: World Health Organization API
- tidycensus: Census and American Community Survey 1
- quantmod: financial data from Yahoo, FRED, Google

[1] We'll use this in our lecture on geographical data!

#### Delimited Text Files

Besides a package, the easiest way to work with external data is for it to be stored in a *delimited* text file, e.g. comma-separated values (.csv) or tabseparated values (.tsv). Here is .csv data:

```
"Subject", "Depression", "Sex", "Week", "HamD", "Imipramine" 101, "Non-endogenous", "Male", 0, 26, NA 101, "Non-endogenous", "Male", 1, 22, NA 101, "Non-endogenous", "Male", 2, 18, 4.04305 101, "Non-endogenous", "Male", 3, 7, 3.93183 101, "Non-endogenous", "Male", 4, 4, 4.33073 101, "Non-endogenous", "Male", 5, 3, 4.36945 103, "Non-endogenous", "Female", 0, 33, NA 103, "Non-endogenous", "Female", 1, 24, NA 103, "Non-endogenous", "Female", 2, 15, 2.77259
```

#### readr

R has a variety of built-in functions for importing data stored in text files, like read.table() and read.csv(). I recommend using the versions in the readr package instead: read\_csv(), read\_tsv(), and read\_delim():

#### readr function features:

- Faster!
- Better defaults (e.g. doesn't automatically convert character data to factors)
- A *little* smarter about dates and times
- Handy function problems() you can run if there are errors
- Loading bars for large files

library(readr)

# readr Importing Example

Let's import some data about song ranks on the Billboard Hot 100 in 2000:

billboard\_2000\_raw <- read\_csv(file = "https://github.com/clanfear/CSSS508/raw/master/Lecture

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
##
     .default = col double(),
     artist = col character().
##
    track = col character(),
##
     time = col time(format = ""),
##
     date.entered = col date(format = "").
##
    wk66 = col logical().
##
    wk67 = col logical(),
##
    wk68 = col logical(),
##
##
    wk69 = col logical().
    wk70 = col logical().
##
    wk71 = col logical(),
##
    wk72 = col logical(),
##
    wk73 = col logical(),
##
    wk74 = col logical(),
    wk75 = col logical(),
##
    wk76 = col logical()
## )
## See spec(...) for full column specifications.
```

#### Did It Load?

Look at the data types for the last few columns:

#### str(billboard\_2000\_raw[, 65:ncol(billboard\_2000\_raw)])

```
## Classes 'tbl df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':
                                             317 obs. of 17 variables:
   $ wk60: num NA ...
   $ wk61: num
               NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk62: num
               NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk63: num
               NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk64: num
               NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk65: num
               NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk66: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk67: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk68: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk69: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk70: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk71: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk72: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk73: logi
               NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk74: logi
                NA NA NA NA NA ...
   $ wk75: logi
                NA NA NA NA NA ...
##
   $ wk76: logi NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
```

### What Went Wrong?

readr uses the values in the first 1000 rows to guess the type of the column (integer, logical, numeric, character). There are not many songs in the data that charted for 60+ weeks—and none in the first 1000 that charted for 66+ weeks!

Since it encountered no values, readr assumed the wk66-wk76 columns were *character* to be sure nothing would be lost. Use the col\_types argument to fix this:

#### Alternate Solutions

You could also deal with this by adjusting the maximum rows used by readr to guess column types:

```
read_csv(file, guess_max=5000) # Default is 1000
```

Or you could use read.csv() in the foreign package. This is a base R alternative that is slower and a bit dumber.

With read.csv() you will need to specify if the data have column names (header=TRUE) and you'll want to use stringsAsFactors=FALSE to prevent character columns from becoming factors. read csv() does this for us!

#### **Excel Files**

The simplest thing to do with Excel files (.xls or .xlsx) is open them up, export to CSV, then import in R—and compare carefully to make sure everything worked!

For Excel files that might get updated and you want the changes to flow to your analysis, I recommend using an R package such as readxl or openxlsx. For Google Docs Spreadsheets, there's the googlesheets package.

You won't keep text formatting, color, comments, or merged cells so if these mean something in your data (*bad!*), you'll need to get creative.

#### Writing Delimited Files

Getting data out of R into a delimited file is very similar to getting it into R:

```
write_csv(billboard_2000_raw, path = "billboard_data.csv")
```

This saved the data we pulled off the web in a file called billboard\_data.csv in my working directory.

#### Saving in R Formats

Exporting to a .csv drops R metadata, such as whether a variable is a character or factor. You can save objects (data frames, lists, etc.) in R formats to preserve this.

- .Rds format:
  - Used for single objects, doesn't save original the object name
  - Save: write rds(old object name, "path.Rds")
  - o Load: new\_object\_name <- read\_rds("path.Rds")</pre>
- .Rdata or .Rda format:
  - Used for saving multiple files where the original object names are preserved
  - o Save: save(object1, object2, ..., file = "path.Rdata")
  - Load: load("path.Rdata") without assignment operator

I pretty much always just save as .Rdata.

# dput()

dput(head(cars, 8))

For asking for help, it is useful to prepare a snippet of your data with dput():1

The output of dput() can be copied and assigned to an object in R:

```
## structure(list(speed = c(4, 4, 7, 7, 8, 9, 10, 10), dist = c(2,
```

## 10, 4, 22, 16, 10, 18, 26)), row.names = c(NA, 8L), class = "data.frame"

[1] A <u>reprex</u> is even better!

# Reading in Data from Other Software

Working with **Stata** or **SPSS** users? You can use a package to bring in their saved data files:

- haven for Stata, SPSS, and SAS.
  - Part of the tidyverse family
- foreign for Stata, SPSS, Minitab
  - Part of base R

For less common formats, Google it. I've yet to encounter a data format without an R package to handle it (or at least a clever hack).

If you encounter a mysterious file extension (e.g. .dat), try opening it with a good text editor first (e.g. Atom or Sublime); there's a good chance it is actually raw text with a delimiter or fixed format that R can handle!



-UW CS&SS

#### Initial Spot Checks

First things to check after loading new data:

- Did the last rows/columns from the original file make it in?
  - May need to use different package or manually specify range
- Are the column names in good shape?
  - Modify a col\_names= argument or fix with rename()
- Are there "decorative" blank rows or columns to remove?
  - filter() or select() out those rows/columns
- How are missing values represented: NA, " " (blank), . (period), 999?
  - Use mutate() with ifelse() to fix these (perhaps en masse with looping)
- Are there character data (e.g. ZIP codes with leading zeroes) being incorrectly represented as numeric or vice versa?
  - Modify col\_types= argument, or use mutate() and as.numeric()

# Slightly Messy Data

Program	Female	Male
Evans School	10	6
Arts & Sciences	5	6
Public Health	2	3
Other	5	1

- What is an observation?
  - A group of students from a program of a given gender
- What are the variables?
  - o Program, gender
- What are the values?
  - o Program: Evans School, Arts & Sciences, Public Health, Other
  - Gender: Female, Male -- in the column headings, not its own column!
  - Count: spread over two columns!

## Tidy Version

Program	Gender	Count
Evans School	Female	10
Evans School	Male	6
Arts & Sciences	Female	5
Arts & Sciences	Male	6
Public Health	Female	2
Public Health	Male	3
Other	Female	5
Other	Male	1

Each variable is a column.

Each observation is a row.

Ready to throw into ggplot()!

## Billboard is Just Ugly-Messy

year	artist	track	time	date.entered	wk1	wk2	wk3	wk4	wk5
2000	2 Pac	Baby Don't Cry (Keep	4:22	2000-02-26	87	82	72	77	87
2000	2Ge+her	The Hardest Part Of	3:15	2000-09-02	91	87	92	NA	NA
2000	3 Doors Down	Kryptonite	3:53	2000-04-08	81	70	68	67	66
2000	3 Doors Down	Loser	4:24	2000-10-21	76	76	72	69	67
2000	504 Boyz	Wobble Wobble	3:35	2000-04-15	57	34	25	17	17
2000	98^0	Give Me Just One Nig	3:24	2000-08-19	51	39	34	26	26
2000	A*Teens	Dancing Queen	3:44	2000-07-08	97	97	96	95	100
2000	Aaliyah	I Don't Wanna	4:15	2000-01-29	84	62	51	41	38
2000	Aaliyah	Try Again	4:03	2000-03-18	59	53	38	28	21
2000	Adams, Yolanda	Open My Heart	5:30	2000-08-26	76	76	74	69	68
2000	Adkins, Trace	More	3:05	2000-04-29	84	84	75	73	73
2000	Aguilera, Christina	Come On Over Baby (A	3:38	2000-08-05	57	47	45	29	23

Week columns continue up to wk76!

#### Billboard

- What are the **observations** in the data?
  - Week since entering the Billboard Hot 100 per song
- What are the **variables** in the data?
  - Year, artist, track, song length, date entered Hot 100, week since first entered Hot 100 (spread over many columns), rank during week (spread over many columns)
- What are the **values** in the data?
  - e.g. 2000; 3 Doors Down; Kryptonite; 3 minutes 53 seconds; April 8, 2000; Week 3 (stuck in column headings); rank 68 (spread over many columns)

### Tidy Data

Tidy data (aka "long data") are such that:

- 1. The values for a single observation are in their own row.
- 2. The values for a single variable are in their own column.
- 3. There is only one value per cell.

Why do we want tidy data?

- Easier to understand many rows than many columns
- Required for plotting in ggplot2
- Required for many types of statistical procedures (e.g. hierarchical or mixed effects models)
- Fewer confusing variable names
- Fewer issues with missing values and "imbalanced" repeated measures data

# tidyr

The tidyr package provides functions to tidy up data, similar to reshape in Stata or varstocases in SPSS. Key functions:

- pivot\_longer(): takes a set of columns and pivots them down to make
  two new columns (which you can name yourself):
  - A name column that stores the original column names
  - A value with the values in those original columns
- pivot\_wider(): inverts pivot\_longer() by taking two columns and
  pivoting them up into multiple columns
- **separate()**: pulls apart one column into multiple columns (common after pivot\_longer() where values are embedded in column names)
  - extract\_numeric() does a simple version of this for the common case when you just want grab the number part
- extract() for pivoting a column into multiple sets of columns.
  - See <u>Hadley's response to this question</u> for an example.

28 / 66

-UW CS&SS

# pivot\_longer()

Let's use pivot\_longer() to get the week and rank variables out of their current layout into two columns (big increase in rows, big drop in columns):

```
## [1] 24092 7
```

starts\_with() and other helper functions from dplyr::select() work
here too.

We could instead use: pivot\_longer(wk1:wk76, names\_to = "week",
values\_to = "rank") to pull out these contiguous columns.

### pivoted Weeks

#### head(billboard\_2000)

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 7
     vear artist track
                                               date.entered week
##
                                         time
                                                                   rank
     <int> <chr> <chr>
                                         <chr> <date>
                                                            <chr> <int>
##
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
## 1
                                               2000-02-26
                                                            wk1
                                                                     87
## 2
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
                                               2000-02-26
                                                            wk2
                                                                     82
## 3
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
                                               2000-02-26
                                                            wk3
                                                                     72
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22 2000-02-26
## 4
                                                           wk4
                                                                     77
                 Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22 2000-02-26
## 5
     2000 2 Pac
                                                            wk5
                                                                     87
## 6
     2000 2 Pac
                 Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
                                               2000-02-26
                                                                     94
                                                            wk6
```

Now we have a single week column!

#### Pivoting Better?

#### summary(billboard\_2000\$rank)

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. NA's
## 1.00 26.00 51.00 51.05 76.00 100.00 18785
```

This is an improvement, but we don't want to keep the 18785 rows with missing ranks (i.e. observations for weeks since entering the Hot 100 that the song was no longer on the Hot 100).

#### Pivoting Better: values\_drop\_na

The argument values\_drop\_na = TRUE to pivot\_longer() will remove rows with missing ranks.

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 1.00 26.00 51.00 51.05 76.00 100.00
```

### parse\_number()

tidyr provides a convenience function to grab just the numeric information from a column that mixes text and numbers:

```
billboard_2000 <- billboard_2000 %>%
    mutate(week = parse_number(week))
summary(billboard_2000$week)
```

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 1.00 5.00 10.00 11.47 16.00 65.00
```

For more sophisticated conversion or pattern checking, you'll need to use string parsing (to be covered in week 8).

#### Or use names\_prefix

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 7
##
   year artist track
                                    time
                                         date.entered week rank
    <int> <chr> <chr>
                                    ##
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
## 1
                                         2000-02-26
                                                       1
                                                            87
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22 2000-02-26
                                                       2
                                                            82
## 2
## 3
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22 2000-02-26
                                                       3 72
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22 2000-02-26
                                                            77
## 4
     2000 2 Pac Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
                                                       5
                                                            87
## 5
                                         2000-02-26
               Baby Don't Cry (Keep... 4:22
                                         2000-02-26
                                                            94
## 6
     2000 2 Pac
```

## separate()

The track length column isn't analytically friendly. Let's convert it to a number rather than the character (minutes:seconds) format:

```
## Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max.
## 2.600 3.667 3.933 4.031 4.283 7.833
```

sep = : tells separate() to split the column into two where it finds a colon
(:).

Then we add seconds / 60 to minutes to produce a numeric length in minutes.

# pivot\_wider() Motivation

pivot\_wider() is the opposite of pivot\_longer(), which you use if you
have data for the same observation taking up multiple rows.

Example of data that we probably want to pivot wider (unless we want to plot each statistic in its own facet):

Group	Statistic	Value
A	Mean	1.28
A	Median	1.0
A	SD	0.72
В	Mean	2.81
В	Median	2
В	SD	1.33

A common cue to use pivot\_wider() is having measurements of different quantities in the same column.

# Before pivot\_wider()

# After pivot\_wider()

(just right data <- too long data %>%

```
pivot_wider(names_from = Statistic, values_from = Value))

## # A tibble: 2 x 4

## Group Mean Median SD

## <fct> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 A 1.28 1 0.72

## 2 B 2.81 2 1.33
```

# Charts of 2000: Data Prep

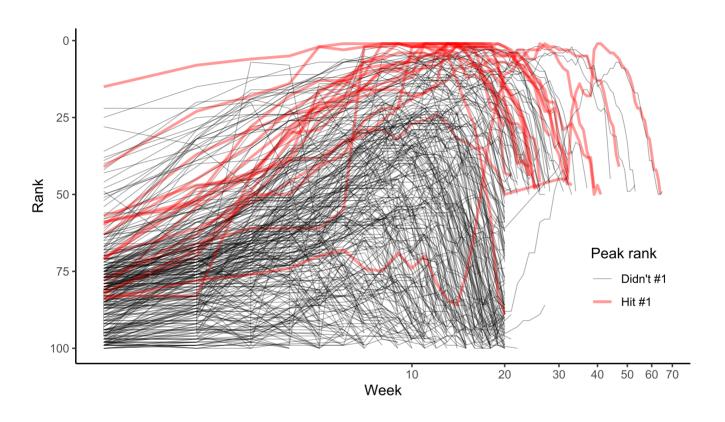
Let's look at songs that hit #1 at some point and look how they got there versus songs that did not:

Note that because the "highest" rank is *numerically lowest* (1), we are summarizing with min().

# Charts of 2000: ggplot2

```
library(ggplot2)
billboard trajectories <-</pre>
 ggplot(data = billboard 2000,
        aes(x = week, y = rank, group = track,
            color = `Peak rank`)
 geom_line(aes(size = `Peak rank`), alpha = 0.4) +
   # rescale time: early weeks more important
 scale_x = seq(0, 70, 10) +
 scale_y_reverse() + # want rank 1 on top, not bottom
 theme classic() +
 xlab("Week") + ylab("Rank") +
 scale color manual(values = c("black", "red")) +
 scale_size_manual(values = c(0.25, 1)) +
 theme(legend.position = c(0.90, 0.25),
       legend.background = element_rect(fill="transparent"))
```

# Charts of 2000: Beauty!



Observation: There appears to be censoring around week 20 for songs falling out of the top 50 that I'd want to follow up on.

### Which Were #1 the Most Weeks?

```
billboard_2000 %>%
    select(artist, track, weeks_at_1) %>%
    distinct(artist, track, weeks_at_1) %>%
    arrange(desc(weeks_at_1)) %>%
    head(7)
```

```
## # A tibble: 7 x 3
##
    artist
                        track
                                               weeks at 1
                                                    <int>
    <chr>
                        <chr>
##
## 1 Destiny's Child Independent Women Pa...
                                                       11
## 2 Santana
                        Maria, Maria
                                                       10
## 3 Aguilera, Christina Come On Over Baby (A...
## 4 Madonna
                        Music
## 5 Savage Garden I Knew I Loved You
## 6 Destiny's Child Say My Name
                                                        3
## 7 Iglesias, Enrique Be With You
```



-UW CS&SS

# Getting Usable Dates

We have the date the songs first charted, but not the dates for later weeks. We can calculate these now that the data are tidy:

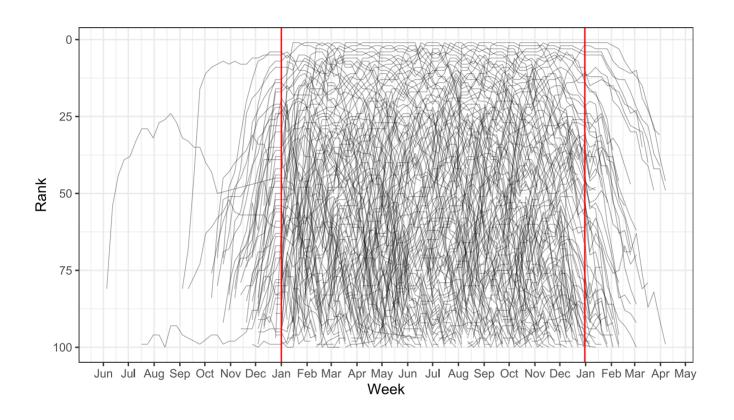
```
billboard_2000 <- billboard_2000 %>%
    mutate(date = date.entered + (week - 1) * 7)
billboard_2000 %>% arrange(artist, track, week) %>%
    select(artist, date.entered, week, date, rank) %>% head(4)
```

```
## # A tibble: 4 x 5
    artist date.entered week date
                                   rank
##
    <chr> <date> <dbl> <date> <int>
##
## 1 2 Pac 2000-02-26
                       1 2000-02-26
                                     87
## 2 2 Pac 2000-02-26
                       2 2000-03-04 82
## 3 2 Pac 2000-02-26
                       3 2000-03-11 72
## 4 2 Pac 2000-02-26
                       4 2000-03-18
                                     77
```

This works because date objects are in units of days—we just add 7 days per week to the start date.

# Preparing to Plot Over Calendar Time

# Calendar Time Plot!



We see some of the entry dates are before 2000---presumably songs still charting during 2000 that came out earlier.

## Dates and Times

To practice working with finer-grained temporal information, let's look at one day of Seattle Police response data obtained from <u>data.seattle.gov</u>:

spd\_raw <- read\_csv("https://raw.githubusercontent.com/clanfear/CSSS508/master/Seattle\_Police\_Department\_911\_Incide</pre>

```
## Parsed with column specification:
## cols(
     `CAD CDW ID` = col double(),
    `CAD Event Number` = col double(),
    `General Offense Number` = col double(),
    `Event Clearance Code` = col character().
     `Event Clearance Description` = col character().
     `Event Clearance SubGroup` = col character().
##
     `Event Clearance Group` = col character(),
     `Event Clearance Date` = col character(),
     `Hundred Block Location` = col_character(),
##
     `District/Sector` = col character(),
     `Zone/Beat` = col character(),
    `Census Tract` = col double(),
    Longitude = col double().
    Latitude = col double(),
    `Incident Location` = col character(),
    `Initial Type Description` = col character(),
##
     `Initial Type Subgroup` = col character(),
    `Initial Type Group` = col character(),
     `At Scene Time` = col character()
## )
```

### SPD Data

#### glimpse(spd\_raw)

```
## Observations: 706
## Variables: 19
## $ `CAD CDW ID`
                                   <dbl> 1701856, 1701857, 1701853, 17018...
## $ `CAD Event Number`
                                   <dbl> 16000104006, 16000103970, 160001...
## $ `General Offense Number`
                                   <dbl> 2016104006, 2016103970, 20161041...
## $ `Event Clearance Code`
                                   <chr> "063", "064", "161", "245", "202...
                                   <chr> "THEFT - CAR PROWL", "SHOPLIFT",...
## $ `Event Clearance Description`
                                   <chr> "CAR PROWL", "THEFT", "TRESPASS"...
## $ `Event Clearance SubGroup`
                                   <chr> "CAR PROWL", "SHOPLIFTING", "TRE...
## $ `Event Clearance Group`
                                   <chr> "03/25/2016 11:58:30 PM", "03/25...
## $ `Event Clearance Date`
## $ `Hundred Block Location`
                                   <chr> "S KING ST / 8 AV S", "92XX BLOC...
                                   <chr> "K", "S", "D", "M", "M", "B", "B...
## $ `District/Sector`
## $ `Zone/Beat`
                                   <chr> "K3", "S3", "D2", "M1", "M3", "B...
## $ `Census Tract`
                                   <dbl> 9100.102. 11800.602, 7200.106, 8...
## $ Longitude
                                   <dbl> -122.3225, -122.2680, -122.3420,...
## $ Latitude
                                   <dbl> 47.59835, 47.51985, 47.61422, 47...
## $ `Incident Location`
                                   <chr> "(47.598347, -122.32245)", "(47....
## $ `Initial Type Description`
                                   <chr> "THEFT (DOES NOT INCLUDE SHOPLIF...
## $ `Initial Type Subgroup`
                                   <chr> "OTHER PROPERTY", "SHOPLIFTING",...
                                   <chr> "THEFT", "THEFT", "TRESPASS", "C...
## $ `Initial Type Group`
## $ `At Scene Time`
                                   <chr> "03/25/2016 10:25:51 PM", "03/25...
```

# lubridate

```
str(spd_raw$`Event Clearance Date`)
```

```
## chr [1:706] "03/25/2016 11:58:30 PM" "03/25/2016 11:57:22 PM" ...
```

We want this to be in a date/time format ("POSIXct"), not character. We will work with dates using the lubridate package.

## POSIXct[1:706], format: "2016-03-25 23:58:30" "2016-03-25 23:57:22" ..

mdy\_hms() automatically processes datetimes in month-day-year, hour-minute-second format. It figures out separators for you!

## An Aside on Time

Time data are a bit weird.

R uses two primary formats for storing data on times and dates:

- POSIXct: Numeric vector of seconds since the beginning of 1970.
- POSIXlt: Named list of vectors containing lots of date/time information.

We usually work with POSIXct.

lubridate gives us many convenience functions for dealing with date/time data.

It is often easiest to just convert time to standard numeric values and work with it that way, however, particularly if it will be used as a variable in a statistical model.

# Useful Date/Time Functions

```
demo_dts <- spd$`Event Clearance Date`[1:2]
  (date_only <- as.Date(demo_dts, tz = "America/Los_Angeles"))

## [1] "2016-03-25" "2016-03-25"

  (day_of_week_only <- weekdays(demo_dts))

## [1] "Friday" "Friday"

  (one_hour_later <- demo_dts + dhours(1))

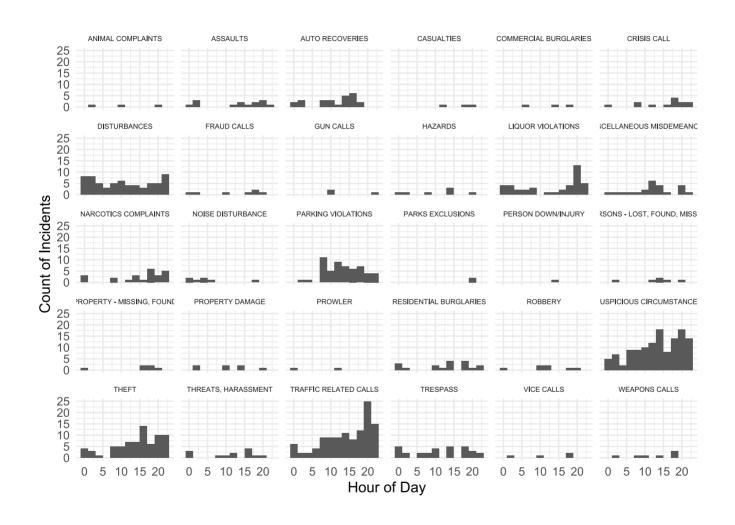
## [1] "2016-03-26 00:58:30 PDT" "2016-03-26 00:57:22 PDT"</pre>
```

# What Time of Day were Incidents Cleared?

```
spd_times <- spd %>%
    select(`Initial Type Group`, `Event Clearance Date`) %>%
    mutate(hour = hour(`Event Clearance Date`))

time_spd_plot <- ggplot(spd_times, aes(x = hour)) +
    geom_histogram(binwidth = 2) +
    facet_wrap( ~ `Initial Type Group`) +
    theme_minimal() +
    theme(strip.text.x = element_text(size = rel(0.6))) +
    ylab("Count of Incidents") + xlab("Hour of Day")</pre>
```

## SPD Event Clearances, March 25



# Managing Factor Variables

-UW CS&SS

# Factor Variables

Factors are such a common (and fussy) vector type in R that we need to get to know them a little better when preparing data:

- The order of factor levels controls the order of categories in tables, on axes, in legends, and in facets in ggplot2.
  - Often we want to plot in interpretable/aesthetically pleasing order,
     e.g. from highest to lowest values—not "Alabama first".
- The lowest level of a factor is treated as a reference for regression, and the other levels get their own coefficients.
  - Reference levels are by default alphabetical, which doesn't necessarily coincide with the easiest to understand baseline category.

# forcats

The tidyverse family of packages includes the package forcats (an anagram of "factors") that is "for cat(egorical)s".

This package supersedes the functionality of the base factor functions with somewhat more logical and uniform syntax.

To find more, <u>look at the forcats manual</u>.

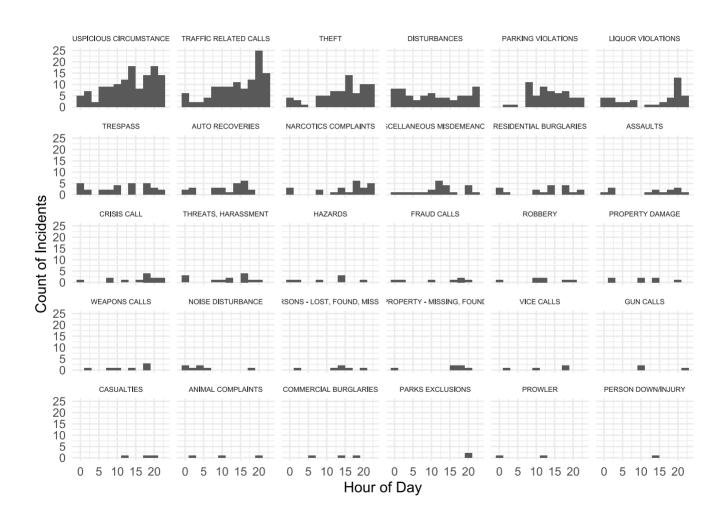
## Character to Factor

```
# install.packages("forcats")
library(forcats)
str(spd times$`Initial Type Group`)
## chr [1:706] "THEFT" "THEFT" "TRESPASS" "CRISIS CALL" ...
spd times$`Initial Type Group` <-</pre>
  parse factor(spd times$`Initial Type Group`, levels=NULL)
str(spd times$`Initial Type Group`)
   Factor w/ 30 levels "THEFT", "TRESPASS", ...: 1 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 5 ...
head(as.numeric(spd_times$`Initial Type Group`))
## [1] 1 1 2 3 4 5
```

# Releveling by Frequency

```
spd vol <- spd times %>%
 group by(`Initial Type Group`) %>%
 summarize(n events = n()) %>%
 arrange(desc(n events))
# set levels using order from sorted frequency table
spd_times_2 <- spd_times %>%
 mutate(`Initial Type Group` =
         factor(`Initial Type Group`,
                      levels = spd vol$`Initial Type Group`))
# replot
time_spd_plot_2 <- ggplot(spd_times_2, aes(x = hour)) +</pre>
 geom histogram(binwidth = 2) +
 facet wrap( ~ `Initial Type Group`) +
 theme minimal() +
 theme(strip.text.x = element_text(size = rel(0.6))) +
 ylab("Count of Incidents") + xlab("Hour of Day")
```

# Better Ordered Plot



# Other Ways to Reorder

Another way to reorder a factor is through the fct\_reorder() function:

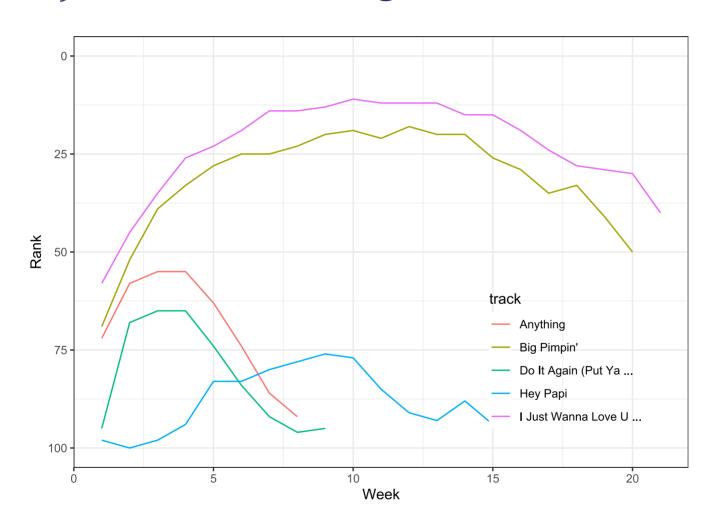
This is especially useful for making legends go from highest to lowest value visually using max() as your function, or making axis labels go from lowest to highest value using mean().

Use fct\_relevel() and use the ref= argument to change the reference category

• Good when fitting regressions where you don't care about the overall ordering, just which level is the reference

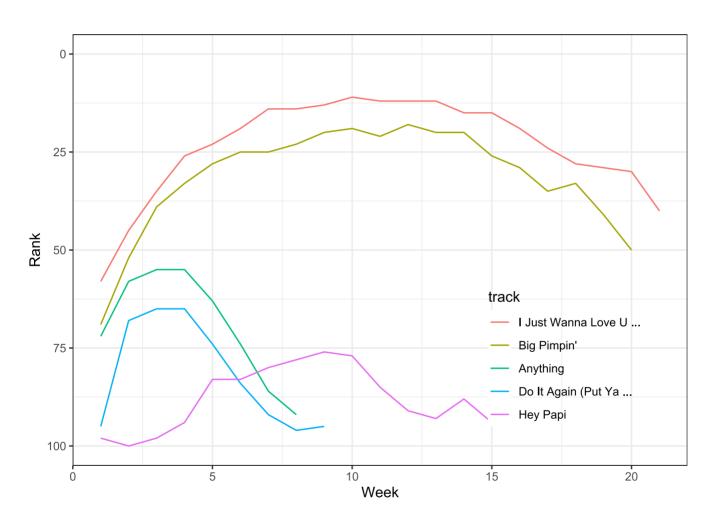
# Reorder Example: Jay-Z

# Jay-Z with Bad Legend Order



## Better Ordering for Jay-Z

# Jay-Z with Good Legend Order



# Dropping Unused Levels

After subsetting you can end up with fewer *realized* levels than before, but old levels remain linked and can cause problems for regressions. Drop unused levels from variables or your *entire data frame* using droplevels().

```
jayz_biggest <- jayz %>%
  filter(track %in% c("I Just Wanna Love U ...", "Big Pimpin'"))
levels(jayz_biggest$track)

## [1] "I Just Wanna Love U ..." "Big Pimpin'"

## [3] "Anything" "Do It Again (Put Ya ..."

## [5] "Hey Papi"

jayz_biggest <- jayz_biggest %>% droplevels(.)
levels(jayz_biggest$track)

## [1] "I Just Wanna Love U ..." "Big Pimpin'"
```

## Homework

Vote tallies in King County from the 2016 general election are in a 60 MB comma-delimited text file downloaded from <u>King County</u>. They can be found on the course website.

The data have no documentation (aside from what I provide), so show your detective work to answer questions about the data and clean them up in the R Markdown template on the course website. Use  $\mathcal{H}$ -Click on Mac or Right-Click on Windows to download the .Rmd to the folder you plan to work from, then open it in RStudio.

This homework is two parts to be completed in each of the next two weeks. It can be daunting, so do not wait until Monday to start. I recommend reading instructions closely, working with others, and using the mailing list and Slack.

PART 1 DUE: 11:59 PM, May 7th PART 2 DUE: 11:59 PM, May 14th

-UW CS&SS