

# FOSE1025 — Scientific Computing

## Week 8 Lecture 1: Transforming Data

Diego Mollá

Department of Computer Science  
Macquarie University

FOSE1025 2021H1

# Programme

- 1 Dates
- 2 Long and Wide Formats

## Reading

- Lecture notes

# Programme

## 1 Dates

- Dates in Excel
- Dates in MATLAB

## 2 Long and Wide Formats

# Processing Dates

(This part belongs to “cleaning data,” really ...)

- Dates come in many formats, we need to make sure they are in the format we need.
  - dd/mm/yyyy (Australia)
  - dd.mm.yyyy (Germany)
  - mm/dd/yyyy (USA)
  - yyyy/mm/dd (Japan)
  - ...
- If input manually, check if there are errors!
  - 24 Maye 2020

# Programme

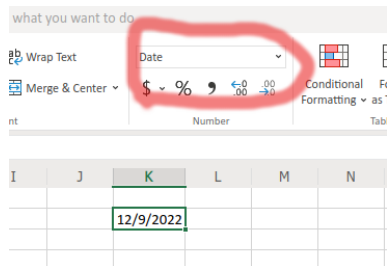
- 1 Dates
  - Dates in Excel
  - Dates in MATLAB
- 2 Long and Wide Formats

# Excel Dates Are Not Text or Numbers

Excel does not represent dates and times as text or numbers. They are called “serial numbers” and they represent the number of days since a specific date: 1st January 1900.

## Demonstration 1

Type 12/9/22 in an Excel cell and observe the format (see screenshot). Change the cell format to “Number”. You will see that the cell now display the number 44904.00

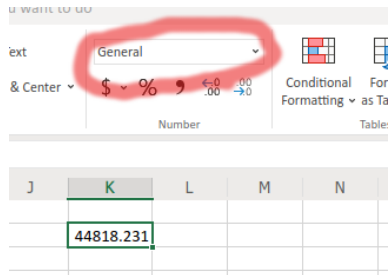


# Excel Dates Are Not Text or Numbers

Excel does not represent dates and times as text or numbers. They are called “serial numbers” and they represent the number of days since a specific date: 1st January 1900.

## Demonstration 2

Type the number 44818.231 in an Excel cell and change the format to “Short Date”. You will see the date 9/14/2022. Change the format now to “Time.” You will see the time 5:32:38 AM.



# Useful Excel Functions to Manipulate Dates

## Creating Dates and Times

`DATE(year,month,day)`: Create a date from numbers.

`TIME(hours,minutes,seconds)`: Create a time from numbers.

`DATE(year,month,day) + TIME(hours,minutes, seconds)`: Create a date with time.



# Useful Excel Functions to Manipulate Dates

## Formatting Dates to Text

`TEXT(serial_number,pattern)`

Represent a date as text using a specific pattern. For example, if cell A1 has the formula `=DATE(2020,12,23) + TIME(21,35,12)`:

`TEXT(A1, "dd/mm/yy")` returns the value "23/12/20".

`TEXT(A1, "dd/mm/yyyy hh:mm")` returns the value  
"23/12/2020 21:35".

`TEXT(A1, "dd mmm yyyy hh:mm:ss")` returns the value "23 Dec  
2020 21:35:12" (notice the three "m"?).

`TEXT(A1, "dd mmmm yyyy hh:mm AM/PM")` returns the value  
"23 December 2020 09:35 pm".

# Example 1: Dates in Different Formats

Ch-03.xlsx from <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/excel-2016-cleaning-up-your-data>

- ❶ What formula would you type in cell B2?
- ❷ What formula would you type in cell D2?

	A	B	C	D
1	Month Year	=DATE(Year, Month, Day)	Year Month	=DATE(Year, Month, Day)
2	10 2016		2016 10	
3	4 2016		2016 4	
4	5 2016		2016 5	
5	9 2015		2015 9	
6	10 2016		2016 10	
7	6 2016		2016 6	
8	4 2015		2015 4	
9	5 2016		2016 5	
10	1 2016		2016 1	
11	12 2015		2015 12	
12	12 2015		2015 10	
13	11 2015		2015 11	
14	8 2016		2016 8	
15	11 2016		2016 11	
16	8 2015		2015 8	
17	8 2015		2015 8	

## Exercise: Mixed date formats in one column

Create a blank Excel worksheet, import this CSV file, and normalise the dates so that they appear as in the screenshot.

dates.csv

```
Date , Name , Email , Consultation Times , Zoom
12/01/2020 , Diego Molla—Aliod , diego.molla—aliod@mq.edu.au , ,
12 May 2020 , Gaurav Gupta , gaurav.gupta@mq.edu.au , ,
15 April 2020 , Urvashi Khanna , urvashi.khanna@mq.edu.au , ,
2020—11—23 , Munazza Zaib , munazza—zaib@mq.edu.au , Wednesday
```

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Date	Name	Email	Consultation Times	Zoom			
2	Tuesday, December 1, 2020	Diego Molla—Aliod	diego.molla—aliod@mq.edu.au					
3	Tuesday, May 12, 2020	Gaurav Gupta	gaurav.gupta@mq.edu.au					
4	Wednesday, April 15, 2020	Urvashi Khanna	urvashi.khanna@mq.edu.au	Wed 12-1	<a href="https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/472568461">https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/472568461</a>			
5	Monday, November 23, 2020	Munazza Zaib	munazza—zaib@mq.edu.au	Wed 11-1	<a href="https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/267542550">https://macquarie.zoom.us/j/267542550</a>			

# Arithmetic with Dates in Excel

- To add 4 hours 25 minutes to a date: `=A2+TIME(4,25,0)`
- To find the difference (in days) between two dates:  
`=DATEDIF(A2,B2,"d")`
- To find the difference (in months) between two dates:  
`=DATEDIF(A2,B2,"m")`
- To find the difference (in years) between two dates:  
`=DATEDIF(A2,B2,"y")`
- `=B2-A2` can also be used to compute the time difference in days and fraction of the day. **Make sure that the result is formatted as a time.**

# Programme

- 1 Dates
  - Dates in Excel
  - Dates in MATLAB
- 2 Long and Wide Formats

# Understanding Dates in MATLAB

<https://au.mathworks.com/help/matlab/date-and-time-operations.html>

- As with Excel, MATLAB has a specific data format for date-time.
- MATLAB's `datetime` allows one to create a date-time. It accepts several formats, including:
  - year, month, day
  - year, month, day, hour, minute, second

```
hello_date = datetime(2020, 7, 3, 18, 30, 23)
hello_date = datetime(2020, 7, 3)
```

MATLAB does not try to guess the meaning of each number.

**They must be placed in the correct order.** Compare these:

```
date1 = datetime(2020, 7, 3)
date2 = datetime(2020, 3, 7)
date3 = datetime(3, 7, 2020)
```

# From Text to Dates and Back

- Sometimes we want to convert a string containing a date (and or time) into MATLAB's date-time, or vice-versa.
- MATLAB's `datetime` can convert from text (and other types) to date.

```
t = datetime('21/09/2020')
```

- MATLAB's `string` converts from date (and other types) to text.

```
w_table.StringDate = string(w_table.Date,  
                             'MM/dd/yyyy')
```

# Text Date Formats in MATLAB

<https://au.mathworks.com/help/matlab/ref/datetime.html#buhzxm1-Format>

- As with Excel, MATLAB allows to read and write dates using different formats.
- MATLAB formats are slightly different from Excel's formats.
- These formats can also be used when importing from CSV files.

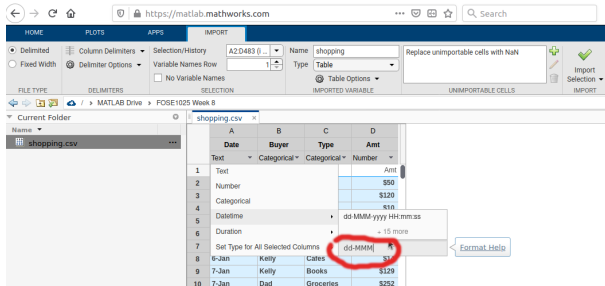
## Examples of Formats

Format	Example
dd-MMM-yyyy HH:mm:ss	01-Mar-2000 15:45:17
MM/dd/yyyy	03/01/2000
MM dd yy	03 01 00



## Example: Importing shopping.csv

- The file shopping.csv represents dates using the day and month only, using a specific format of the form “1-Jan”, “2-Jan”, etc.
- In MATLAB, specify the datetime format “dd-MMM” in the “Date” column when you use the data import wizard.



# Programme

## 1 Dates

## 2 Long and Wide Formats

- Long and Wide Formats
- Introducing Pivot Tables

# Programme

- 1 Dates
- 2 Long and Wide Formats
  - Long and Wide Formats
  - Introducing Pivot Tables

# Tables as 2D Data

- Remember that tables represent 2-dimensional information.
  - Rows indicate different records.
  - Columns indicate different types of data in the record.
- We can, for example, represent the work address (street, city, postcode, etc) of a group of people.

(file WorkAddresses.xlsx)

First Name	Last Name	Address	City	State	Post	Phone
Deane	Haag	9 Hamilton B	Sydney South	NSW	1235	02-9718-2944
Edelmira	Pedregon	50638 North	Bandy Creek	WA	6450	08-8484-3223
Andrew	Keks	51 Bridge Av	Carwarp	VIC	3494	03-5251-3153
Miesha	Decelles	457 St Sebas	Eltham	VIC	3095	03-5185-6258
Javier	Osmer	6 Ackerman	Doncaster Ea	VIC	3109	03-8369-6924
Kizzy	Stangle	8 W Lake St	Welbungin	WA	6477	08-1937-3980
Sharan	Wodicka	8454 6 17 M	Shenton Park	WA	6008	08-4712-2157
Novella	Fritch	5 Ellestad Dr	Girraween	NSW	2145	02-2612-1455
German	Dones	9 N Nevada	Woronora	NSW	2232	02-2393-3289
Robt	Blanck	790 E Wisco	Woodbury	TAS	7120	03-6517-9318
Rossana	Biler	60481 N Clar	Lee Point	NT	810	08-9855-2125

# Tables as 3D, 4D ... ?

- How would you keep information about the work **and the home address**?
- What if one person has 15 different properties, how do you store the information for all people?
- A solution: Add one column that indicates the type of address.
- (Databases can encode this information more efficiently using relational tables but this is not the topic of this unit.)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	
	First Name	Last Name	Address Type	Address	City	State	Post	Phone	
1	Deane	Haag	Work	9 Hamilton B	Sydney South	NSW	1235	02-9718-2944	
2	Edelmira	Pedregon	Work	50638 North	Bandy Creek	WA	6450	08-8484-3223	
3	Andrew	Keks	Work	51 Bridge Av	Carwarp	VIC	3494	03-5251-3153	
4	Miesha	Decelles	Work	457 St Sebas	Eltham	VIC	3095	03-5185-6258	
5	Javier	Osmer	Work	6 Ackerman	Doncaster Ea	VIC	3109	03-8369-6924	
6	Kizzy	Stangle	Work	8 W Lake St	Welbungin	WA	6477	08-1937-3980	
7	Sharan	Wodicka	Work	8454 6 17 N	Shenton Park	WA	6008	08-4712-2157	
8	Novella	Fritch	Work	5 Ellestad Dr	Girraween	NSW	2145	02-2612-1455	
9	German	Dones	Work	9 N Nevada	Woronora	NSW	2232	02-2393-3289	
10	Robt	Blanck	Work	790 E Wisco	Woodbury	TAS	7120	03-6517-9318	
11	Rossana	Biler	Work	60481 N Clar	Lee Point	NT	810	08-9855-2125	
12	Deane	Haag	Home	302 N 10th S	Oakleigh Sou	VIC	3167	03-9085-5714	
13	Edelmira	Pedregon	Home	79346 Firest	Gununa	QLD	4871	07-1217-9907	
14	Andrew	Keks	Home	37564 Grace	Salamander	NSW	2317	02-9187-4769	
15	Miesha	Decelles	Home	470 W Irving	Bundaberg N	QLD	4670	07-3963-4469	
16	Javier	Osmer	Home	6 Jefferson S	Middleton	SA	5213	08-5236-2143	

# Long and Wide Formats

- The tables that we are used to see are in the **wide format**.
  - Each column indicates a specific data: name, address, location, temperature, etc.
- For complex data we may want to use a **long format**.
  - One column indicates the type of data.
  - Another column (or columns) indicate the value.

(file weather\_data.csv)

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		data	date	param	siteid	
2	1	0	1/1/03	Precipitation	ACRE	
3	2	0	2/1/03	Precipitation	Albert Lea	
4	3	11.3199997	3/1/03	Precipitation	Ames	
5	4	0	4/1/03	Precipitation	Antigo	
6	5	3.03999996	5/1/03	Precipitation	Appleton	
7	6	0.49000001	6/1/03	Precipitation	Arlington	
8	7	0	7/1/03	Precipitation	Bean & Beet	
9	8	0	8/1/03	Precipitation	Brookings	
10	9	0	9/1/03	Precipitation	Brownstown	
11	10	0	10/1/03	Precipitation	Columbia	
12	11	0	11/1/03	Precipitation	Crookston	

# Processing Tables in Long Format

The lecturer will demonstrate how to use filters and pivot tables to process tables in long format. File: shopping.csv

- Many tables are expressed in long format for some columns.
- Excel does not have a specific tool to process these tables.
- You have seen how you can use filters to focus on specific values.
- You have also seen how you can use conditional functions to calculate values of one column based on the values of another column.
  - e.g. `=SUMIFS(D:D,G:G,"Fuel")` sums all values in column D such that the cell in row D has the value "Fuel").
- You can also use **pivot tables**.
- We will see pivot tables more in detail next week, but here we see how to use them to process tables in long format.

# Programme

- 1 Dates
- 2 Long and Wide Formats
  - Long and Wide Formats
  - Introducing Pivot Tables



# Pivot Tables: A Motivational Example

(data from <https://www.linkedin.com/learning/excel-pivottables-for-beginners>)

- Find the total shopping in each category “Fuel”, etc, of file shopping.csv.
- Find the total shopping of each month.
- What shopping per month and per category??
- Pivot tables can help you generate data for all of above and more.

Date	Buyer	Type	Amt
1-Jan	Mom	Fuel	\$50
2-Jan	Mom	Groceries	\$120
3-Jan	Dad	Cafes	\$10
4-Jan	Dad	Fuel	\$40
4-Jan	Kelly	Groceries	\$129
5-Jan	Mom	Cafes	\$12
6-Jan	Kelly	Cafes	\$14

# A Simple Pivot Table

F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
Sum of Amt	Column Labels											
Row Labels	Books	Cafes	Entertainment	Fuel	Groceries	Music	Restaurants	Grand Total				
Jan	169	36	271	209	2147	15		2847				
Feb	476	59	142	202	2820	15		3714				
Mar	160	48	51	329	2348	46	2519	5501				
Apr	418	34	307	100	2985	9	3299	7152				
May	96	63	240	288	2911	14	2136	5748				
Jun	38	145	309	198	2905	86	3352	7033				
Jul	60	33	722	228	2834	6	3419	7302				
Aug	79	38	143	138	3120	17	3651	7186				
Sep	61		163		2377	9	3783	6393				
Oct	39		165		3063	13	3492	6772				
Nov	67		927	117	2373	10	1030	4524				
Dec	328		2627	55	2786	9		5805				
Grand Total	1991	456	5739	2192	32669	249	26681	69977				

**PivotTable Fields**

FIELD NAME

☐ Date  
☐ Buyer  
☒ Type

**Filters**

**Columns**  
: Type

**Rows**  
: Months

**Values**  
Σ Sum of Amt

Drag fields between areas

# Anatomy of a Pivot Table

## Filters

- What column to use to filter values.
- Only for columns with categorical data.

## Rows

- What column to use in the rows of the pivot table.
- Only for columns with categorical data.

## Columns

- What column to use in the columns of the pivot table.
- Only for columns with categorical data.

## Values

- What value we want to aggregate.
- Only for columns with numerical data.

# Pivot Tables to Convert from Long to Wide

## Exercise 1 (weather\_data.csv)

What is the average precipitation in Antigo?

- Using AVERAGEIFS
- Using a pivot table

## Exercise 2 (weather\_data.csv)

What is the March-2013 average precipitation in Antigo?

- Using AVERAGEIFS
- Using a pivot table

	A	B	C	D	E	F
1		data	date	param	siteid	
2	1	0	1/1/03	Precipitation	ACRE	
3	2	0	2/1/03	Precipitation	Albert Lea	
4	3	11.3199997	3/1/03	Precipitation	Ames	
5	4	0	4/1/03	Precipitation	Antigo	
6	5	3.03999996	5/1/03	Precipitation	Appleton	

# Take-home Messages

- Both Excel and MATLAB have a specific data type that is used to represent Dates and times.
- Pay attention when importing files that use unconventional date and time expressions. Both Excel and MATLAB may guess the format wrong.
- Both Excel and MATLAB offer functions that can be used to create dates and convert dates to strings.
- Understand the power of Excel's pivot tables.

# What's Next

- Week 9 lecture: Summarising, Visualising and Analysing Data.
- Week 9: in-class quiz during your scheduled SGTA 1 (Friday 6-9pm for external students).
  - You can also find a practice quiz in iLearn. Complete it at your leisure.