data.table syntax

JOINING DATA WITH DATA.TABLE IN R



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Recap of the data.table syntax

General form of data.table syntax

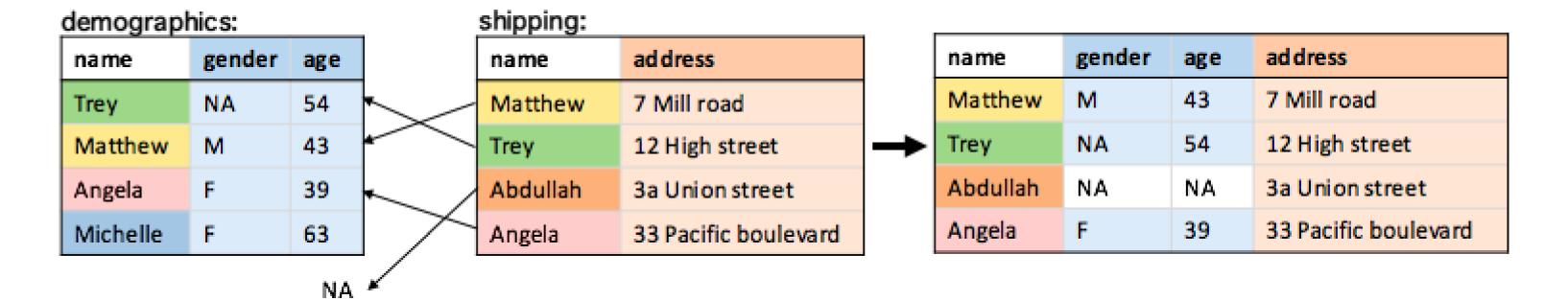
Joins

General form of data.table syntax joins

Right joins

The default join is a right join

demographics[shipping, on = .(name)]



The on argument

Variables inside list() or .() are looked up in the column names of both data.tables

```
shipping[demographics, on = list(name)]
shipping[demographics, on = .(name)]
```

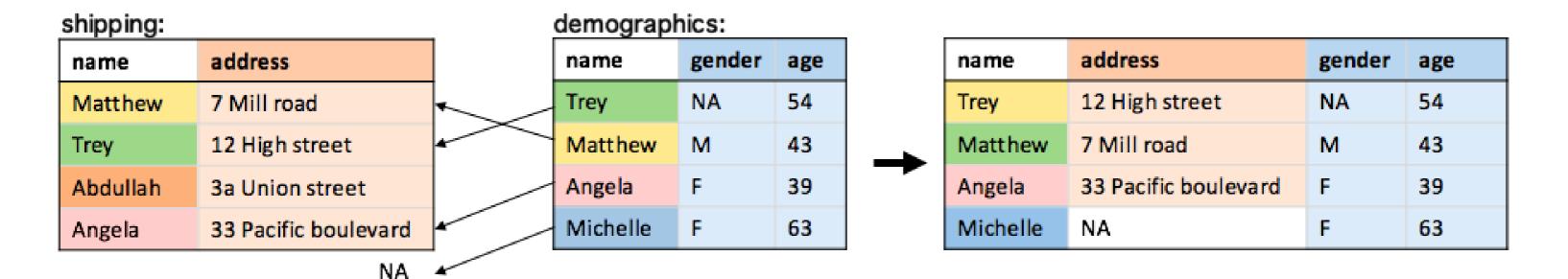
Character vectors can also be used

```
join_key <- c("name")
shipping[demographics, on = join_key]</pre>
```

Left joins

Remember, a left join is the same as a right join with the order swapped:

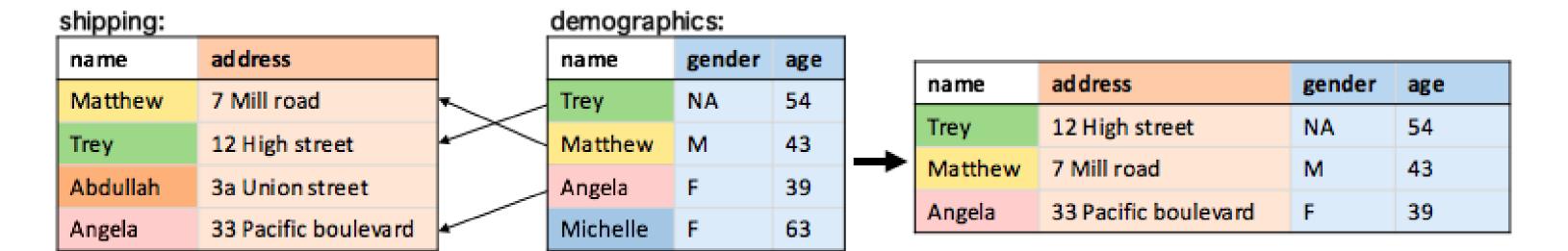
shipping[demographics, on = .(name)]



Inner joins

Set nomatch = 0 to perform an inner join:

shipping[demographics, on = .(name), nomatch = 0]



Full joins

Not possible with the data.table syntax, use the merge() function:

merge(demographics, shipping, by = "name", all = TRUE)

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name	gender	age
Trey	NA	54
Matthew	М	43
Angela	F	39
Michelle	F	63



name	ad dress
Matthew	7 Mill road
Trey	12 High street
Abdullah	3a Union street
Angela	33 Pacific boulevard

name	gender	age	address
Abdullah	NA	NA	3a Union street
Angela	F	39	33 Pacific boulevard
Matthew	М	43	7 Mill road
Michelle	F	63	NA
Trey	М	NA	12 High street

Anti-joins

Filter a data.table to rows that have no match in another data.table

demographics[!shipping, on = .(name)]

demographics:

name	sex	age
Trey	NA	54
Matthew	М	43
Angela	F	39
Michelle	F	63



shipping:

name	address
Matthew	7 Mill road
Trey	12 High street
Abdullah	3a Union street
Angela	33 Pacific boulevard



age

63

Let's practice!

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Setting and viewing data.table keys

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Setting 'data.table' keys

Setting keys means you don't need the on argument when performing a join

• Useful if you need to use a data.table in many different joins

Sorts the data.table in memory by the key column(s)

Makes filtering and join operations faster

Multiple columns can be set and used as keys

The 'setkey()' function

Key columns are passed as arguments

```
setkey(DT, ...)

setkey(DT, key1, key2, key3)
setkey(DT, "key1", "key2", "key3")

# To set all columns in DT as keys
setkey(DT)
```

The 'setkey()' function

Set the keys of both data.tables before a join

```
setkey(dt1, dt1_key)
setkey(dt2, dt2_key)
```

Perform an inner, right, and left join:

```
# Inner join dt1 and dt2
dt1[dt2, nomatch = 0]
# Right join dt1 and dt2
dt1[dt2]
# Left join dt1 and dt2
dt2[dt1]
```

Setting keys programmatically

Key columns are provided as a character vector

```
keys <- c("key1", "key2", "key3")
setkeyv(dt, keys)</pre>
```

Getting keys

haskey() checks whether you have set keys

haskey(dt1)

TRUE

key() returns the key columns you have set

key(dt1)

"dt1_key"

Getting keys

When no keys are set

haskey(dt_no_key)

FALSE

key(dt_no_key)

NULL

Viewing all 'data.tables' and their keys

tables()

```
NAME
                 NROW NCOL MB COLS
                                                           KEY
[1,] dt
                             1 key1, key2, key3, value
                                                           key1, key2, key3
[2,] dt1
                             1 dt1_key_column,value,group dt1_key
                1,000
                1,000
[3,] dt2
                             1 dt2_key_column,time
                                                           dt2_key
[4,] dt_no_key
                         2 1 id, color
Total: 4MB
```

Let's practice!

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Incorporating joins into your data.table workflow

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Chaining data.table expressions

data.table expressions can be chained in sequence:

```
demographics[...][...]
```

General form of chaining a join:

Join then compute

```
name gender age

1: Mark M 54

2: Matt M 43

3: Angela F 39

4: Michelle F 63
```

Join then compute

```
purchases <- data.table(name = c("Mark", "Matt", "Angela", "Michelle"), sales = c(1, 5, 4, 3), spent = c(41.70, 41.78, 50.77, 60.01)) purchases
```

Join then compute

```
gender avg_spent
1: M 13.91333
2: F 20.00333
```

Computation with joins

Computation with joins:

Efficient for large data.tables!

Joining and column creation

Column creation takes place in the main data.table:

```
customers[purchases, on = .(name), return_customer := sales > 1]
customers
```

```
name gender age return_customer

1: Mark M 54 FALSE

2: Matt M 43 TRUE

3: Angela F 39 TRUE

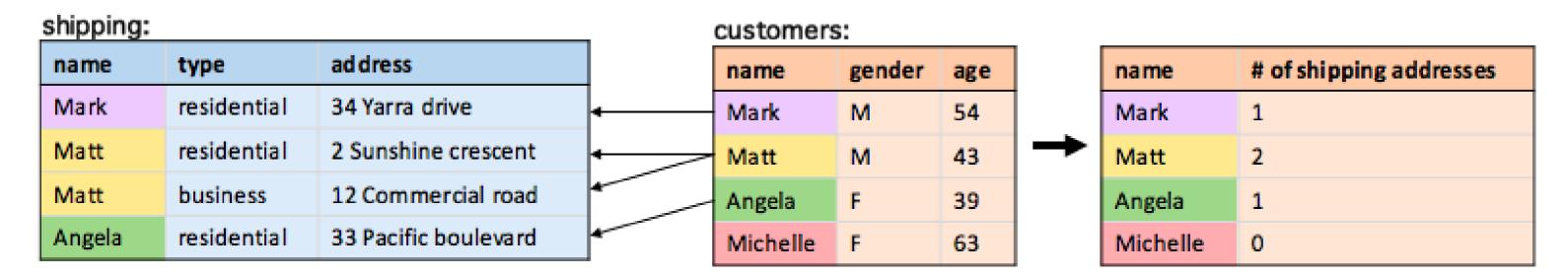
4: Michelle F 63 TRUE
```

Grouping by matches

by = .EACHI groups j by each row from DT2

Grouping by matches

```
shipping[customers, on = .(name),
    j = .("# of shipping addresses" = .N),
    by = .EACHI]
```



Grouping by columns with joins

Grouping by columns in the by restricts computation to the main data.table:

Grouping by columns with joins

Join and calculate by group in customers:

```
gender avg_age
1: M 46.66667
2: F 39.00000
```

Let's practice!

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