



# Merge/Append using R

(v0.1, draft)

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# Intro

**Merge** – adds variables to a dataset. This document will use –merge– function.

Merging two datasets require that both have *at least* one variable in common (either string or numeric). If string make sure the categories have the same spelling (i.e. country names, etc.).

Explore each dataset separately before merging. Make sure to use all possible common variables (for example, if merging two panel datasets you will need country and years).

**Append** – adds cases/observations to a dataset. This document will use the –rbind–function.

Appending two datasets require that both have *exactly* the same number of variables with *exactly* the same name. If using categorical data make sure the categories on both datasets refer to *exactly* the same thing (i.e. 1 "Agree", 2"Disagree", 3 "DK" on both).

If datasets do not have the same number of variables you can either drop or create them so both match.

#### MERGE - EXAMPLE 1

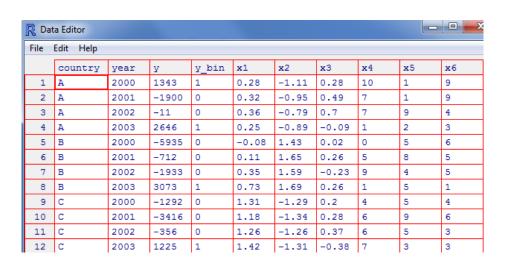
#### mydata1 mydata2

R Dat	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3		
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28		
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49		
3	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7		
4	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09		
5	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02		
6	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26		
7	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23		
8	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26		
9	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2		
10	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28		
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37		
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38		



R Dat	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	country year x4 x5 x6								
1	A	2000	10	1	9				
2	A	2001	7	1	9				
3	A	2002	7	9	4				
4	A	2003	1	2	3				
5	В	2000	0	5	6				
6	В	2001	5	8	5				
7	В	2002	9	4	5				
8	В	2003	1	5	1				
9	С	2000	4	5	4				
10	С	2001	6	9	6				
11	С	2002	6	5	3				
12	С	2003	7	3	3				

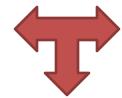
mydata <- merge(mydata1, mydata2, by=c("country", "year"))</pre>



# MERGE – EXAMPLE 2 (one dataset missing a country)

#### mydata1 mydata3

R Dat	R Data Editor							
File	File Edit Help							
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3	
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28	
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49	
3	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7	
4	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09	
5	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02	
6	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26	
7	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23	
8	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26	
9	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2	
10	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28	
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37	
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38	



R Dat	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	country year x4 x5 x6								
1	A	2000	10	1	9				
2	A	2001	7	1	9				
3	A	2002	7	9	4				
4	A	2003	1	2	3				
5	В	2000	0	5	6				
6	В	2001	5	8	5				
7	В	2002	9	4	5				
8	В	2003	1	5	1				

Merge merges only common cases to both datasets

mydata <- merge(mydata1, mydata3, by=c("country", "year"))</pre>

edit(mydata)



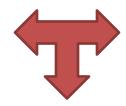
PU/DSS/OTR

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# MERGE – EXAMPLE 2 (cont.) – including all data from both datasets

#### mydata1 mydata3

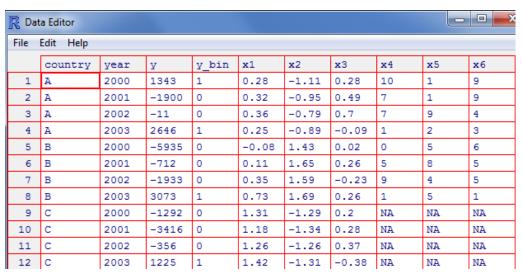
R Dat	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3		
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28		
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49		
3	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7		
4	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09		
5	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02		
6	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26		
7	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23		
8	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26		
9	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2		
10	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28		
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37		
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38		



R Dat	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	<b>x</b> 6								
1	A	2000	10	1	9				
2	A	2001	7	1	9				
3	A	2002	7	9	4				
4	A	2003	1	2	3				
5	В	2000	0	5	6				
6	В	2001	5	8	5				
7	В	2002	9	4	5				
8	В	2003	1	5	1				

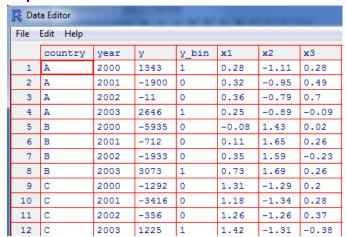
Adding the option "all=TRUE" includes all cases from both datasets.

mydata <- merge(mydata1, mydata3, by=c("country", "year"), all=TRUE)</pre>



#### MERGE – EXAMPLE 3 (many to one)

#### mydata1





#### mydata4

R Data Editor								
File Edit Help								
country x7								
1	A	100						
2	В	200						
3	С	300						

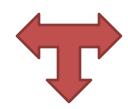
mydata <- merge(mydata1, mydata4, by=c("country"))</pre>



### MERGE – EXAMPLE 4 (common ids have different name)

#### mydata1 mydata5

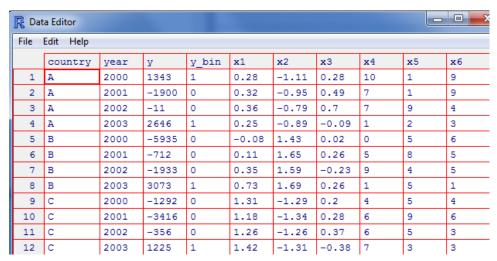
R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help							
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3	
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28	
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49	
3	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7	
4	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09	
5	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02	
6	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26	
7	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23	
8	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26	
9	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2	
10	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28	
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37	
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38	



R Dat	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	nations time x4 x5 x6								
1	A	2000	10	1	9				
2	A	2001	7	1	9				
3	A	2002	7	9	4				
4	A	2003	1	2	3				
5	В	2000	0	5	6				
6	В	2001	5	8	5				
7	В	2002	9	4	5				
8	В	2003	1	5	1				
9	С	2000	4	5	4				
10	С	2001	6	9	6				
11	С	2002	6	5	3				
12	С	2003	7	3	3				

When common ids have different names use by . x and by . y to match them. R will keep the name of the first dataset (by . x)

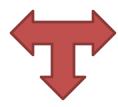
mydata <- merge(mydata1, mydata5, by.x=c("country", "year"), by.y=c("nations", "time"))
edit(mydata)</pre>



#### MERGE – EXAMPLE 5 (different variables, same name)

#### mydata1

R Da	R Data Editor								
File	File Edit Help								
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3		
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28		
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49		
3	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7		
4	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09		
5	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02		
6	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26		
7	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23		
8	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26		
9	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2		
10	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28		
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37		
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38		

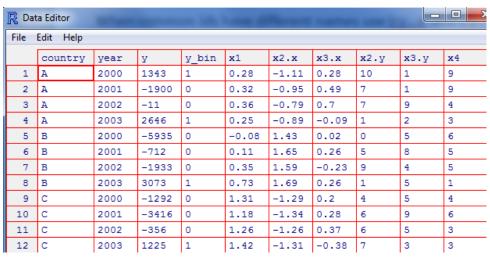


<u></u>									
R Data Editor									
File	File Edit Help								
	nations time x2 x3 x4								
1	A	2000	10	1	9				
2	A	2001	7	1	9				
3	A	2002	7	9	4				
4	A	2003	1	2	3				
5	В	2000	0	5	6				
6	В	2001	5	8	5				
7	В	2002	9	4	5				
8	В	2003	1	5	1				
9	С	2000	4	5	4				
10	С	2001	6	9	6				
11	С	2002	6	5	3				
12	С	2003	7	3	3				

mvdata6

When common ids have different names use by .x and by .y to match them. R will keep the name of the first dataset (by .x) When different variables from two different dataset have the same name, R will assign a suffix .x or .y to make them unique and to identify which dataset they are coming from.

mydata <- merge(mydata1, mydata6, by.x=c("country", "year"), by.y=c("nations", "time"))</pre>



# **APPEND**

# APPEND-EXAMPLE 1 (using rbind)

#### mydata7

	R Data Editor								
	File Edit Help								
		country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3	
	1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28	
	2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49	
	3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02	
1	4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26	
	5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2	
	6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28	



# mydata8

R Data Editor											
File Edit Help											
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3				
1	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7				
2	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09				
3	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23				
4	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26				
5	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37				
6	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38				

mydata <- rbind(mydata7, mydata8)
edit(mydata)</pre>

R Dat	ta Editor		-	-	tion of the	-					
File	File Edit Help										
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3				
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28				
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49				
3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02				
4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26				
5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2				
6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28				
7	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7				
8	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09				
9	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23				
10	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26				
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37				
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38				

# APPEND-EXAMPLE 1 (using smartbind() from package gtools\*)

#### mydata7

R Data Editor										
File Edit Help										
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	x2	<b>x</b> 3			
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28			
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49			
3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02			
4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26			
5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2			
6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28			



# mydata8

R Data Editor											
File Edit Help											
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1 x2		<b>x</b> 3				
1	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7				
2	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09				
3	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23				
4	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26				
5	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37				
6	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38				

install.packages("gtools") #If not installed

library(gtools)

mydata <- smartbind(mydata7, mydata8)</pre>

R Dat	R Data Editor									
File Edit Help										
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3			
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28			
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49			
3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02			
4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26			
5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2			
6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28			
7	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7			
8	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09			
9	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23			
10	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26			
11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37			
12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38			

# APPEND – EXAMPLE 1 (cont.) – sorting by country/year

#### Notice the square brackets and parenthesis

```
attach(mydata)
mydata_sorted <- mydata[order(country, year),]
detach(mydata)
edit(mydata_sorted)</pre>
```

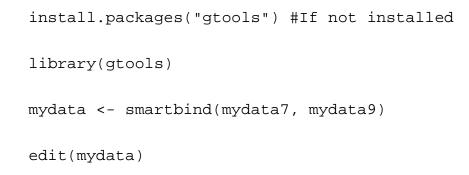
# mydata\_sorted

R Dat	R Data Editor										
File	File Edit Help										
	row.names	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3			
1	1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28			
2	2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49			
3	7	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	0.7			
4	8	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	-0.09			
5	3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02			
6	4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26			
7	9	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	-0.23			
8	10	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	0.26			
9	5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2			
10	6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28			
11	11	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	0.37			
12	12	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	-0.38			

# APPEND— EXAMPLE 2 — one dataset missing one variable using smartbind()

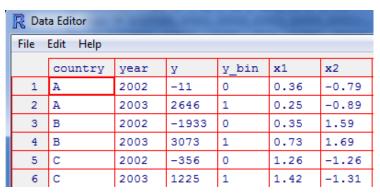
# mydata7

2.0	R Data Editor File Edit Help										
riie	rile Edit Help										
	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3				
1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28				
2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49				
3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02				
4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26				
5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2				
6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28				





#### mydata9



R Dat	R Data Editor											
File	File Edit Help											
	row.names	country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3				
1	1.1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28				
2	1.2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49				
3	1.3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02				
4	1.4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26				
5	1.5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2				
6	1.6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28				
7	2.1	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79	NA				
8	2.2	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89	NA				
9	2.3	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59	NA				
10	2.4	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69	NA				
11	2.5	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26	NA				
12	2.6	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31	NA				

# APPEND— EXAMPLE 2 — one dataset missing one variable using rbind() won't work

#### mydata7 mydata9

I	R Data Editor										
File Edit Help											
		country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2	<b>x</b> 3			
L	1	A	2000	1343	1	0.28	-1.11	0.28			
L	2	A	2001	-1900	0	0.32	-0.95	0.49			
L	3	В	2000	-5935	0	-0.08	1.43	0.02			
ı	4	В	2001	-712	0	0.11	1.65	0.26			
	5	С	2000	-1292	0	1.31	-1.29	0.2			
	6	С	2001	-3416	0	1.18	-1.34	0.28			

[	R Data Editor										
	File Edit Help										
		country	year	У	y_bin	x1	<b>x</b> 2				
	1	A	2002	-11	0	0.36	-0.79				
	2	A	2003	2646	1	0.25	-0.89				
	3	В	2002	-1933	0	0.35	1.59				
Ì	4	В	2003	3073	1	0.73	1.69				
	5	С	2002	-356	0	1.26	-1.26				
	6	С	2003	1225	1	1.42	-1.31				

If one variable is missing in one dataset you will get an error message

mydata <- rbind(mydata7, mydata9)</pre>

```
Error in rbind(deparse.level, ...) :
   numbers of columns of arguments do not match
```

Possible solutions:

Option A) Drop the extra variable from one of the datasets (in this case mydata7)

mydata7\$x3 <- NULL

Option B) Create the variable with missing values in the incomplete dataset (in this case mydata9)

mydata9\$x3 <- NA

# **References/Useful links**

- Main references for this document:
  - UCLA R class notes: <a href="http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/notes/managing.htm">http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/r/notes/managing.htm</a>
  - Quick-R: <a href="http://www.statmethods.net/management/merging.html">http://www.statmethods.net/management/merging.html</a>
- DSS Online Training Section <a href="http://dss.princeton.edu/training/">http://dss.princeton.edu/training/</a>
- Princeton DSS Libguides <a href="http://libguides.princeton.edu/dss">http://libguides.princeton.edu/dss</a>
- John Fox's site <a href="http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/jfox/">http://socserv.mcmaster.ca/jfox/</a>
- Quick-R <a href="http://www.statmethods.net/">http://www.statmethods.net/</a>
- UCLA Resources to learn and use R <a href="http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/R/">http://www.ats.ucla.edu/stat/R/</a>
- DSS R <a href="http://dss.princeton.edu/online">http://dss.princeton.edu/online</a> help/stats packages/r

# **References/Recommended books**

- An R Companion to Applied Regression, Second Edition / John Fox , Sanford Weisberg, Sage Publications, 2011
- Data Manipulation with R / Phil Spector, Springer, 2008
- Applied Econometrics with R / Christian Kleiber, Achim Zeileis, Springer, 2008
- Introductory Statistics with R / Peter Dalgaard, Springer, 2008
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