Jackson Holian

Spreadsheet Mending

1.
- Problem: Unknown variable “W.” Vague dating “⅙.”
- Fix: Add variable value for “W” or change to “NA.” Add the year after “⅙.”

2.
- Problem: Lots of empty date space. “Pit A” and “Pit B” out of alignment. “Yr” should not be in the same boxes at the numbers.
- Fix: Make “yr” a category. Fill empty date space. Align Pits.

3.
- Problem: A lot of empty space. Unclear variables due to lack of capitalization. Category names could be combined (?).
- Fix: Fill or get rid of the unused space. Capitalize sex names. Combine Skeleton and Transect.

4.
- Problem: “Date” label for the category is not all capitalized (There is probably more, but I’m not sure what it is).
- Fix: Capitalize “date”

Assessment

1. How can you apply ‘clean’ spreadsheet techniques to other work you do?
- I think it’s generally a good idea to build a habit of keeping things neat. The comic you showed us with the flabbergasted co-author encapsulates why you should be doing it. Even if you aren’t showing it to others, being able to

quickly navigate your own work instead of scrolling through hodge podged line after line is good practice.

2. After doing this lab, what sorts of reasons might you give for the importance of good data organization?
- By properly organizing data, one will be able to convey the gathered data to others besides themselves.

3. “Reading in” data to R, especially *messy* data, is one of the most frustrating parts of data analysis. Do you think you are getting the hang of it? What could make this easier?
- I still have a while to go before I get the hang of this. R is like the manifestation of unorganized, messy data. Trying to constantly input variables with little leeway is, frankly, frustrating.
- An R cheat sheet would be helpful. Starting from the list of simple commands, then moving onto more complex navigations. Seeing the codes we’re supposed to input in the homework combined with your helpful tidbits, feels a bit like deciphering eldritch runes.

4. Next week we are starting to think about data visualization. For your dataset what sorts of figures might you want to make?
- I’ll probably start with a basic bar graph, and start switching it to a different style as the data demands.