R and SQL

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R and databases

Often, relational data is stored in a database managed by an RDBMS, so we need to know how to work with data in a database.

A database can also be a good solution for data which you do not want to load all into memory at once.

R and dplyr can interface with databases through the DBI package and a suitable backend:

- RSQLite works with SQLite databases
- RMySQL works with MySQL databases
- RPostgreSQL works with PostgreSQL databases

etc.

We can work with these with dplyr using the dbplyr package.

R and databases with dbplyr

Suppose we wish to work with an SQLite database.

First we need to install the necessary packages.

```
install.packages(c("DBI", "RSQLite", "dbplyr"))
library(dbplyr)
##
## Attaching package: 'dbplyr'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:dplyr':
##
       ident, sql
##
library(RSQLite)
```

Connecting to a database in R

The DBLP is a database containing bibliographic data on major computer science journals and proceedings. A subset of it has been loaded into the SQLite database file "dblp.db".

First, we need to open a *connection* to the database using dbConnect().

The first argument of dbConnect() is the backend to use (provided by the RSQLite package in this case), and the second is the filepath to the database.

Creating a tbl of the connected database

A tbl is the tidyverse's generalized notion of tabular data.

A tibble is a type of tbl. We can also create a tbl from a database.

```
dblp_main <- tbl(con, "general")
dblp_authors <- tbl(con, "authors")</pre>
```

The first argument is the data source (our database connection).

The second argument is the name of the table within the database.

Our SQLite database contains the table "general", which has information about papers published in computer science journals and proceedings.

```
## # Source:
              table<general> [?? x 10]
  # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
## #
       [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
##
              vear conf crossref
                                           de
                                                       th publi
                                     CS
                                                 se
##
     <chr>
             <int> <chr> <chr>
                                  <int> <int> <int> <int> <chr>
##
    1 conf/a~
              2013 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
                                      1
                                            0
                                                  0
                                                        O AAAI
##
   2 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI conf/aa~
                                            0
                                                  0
                                                        O AAAI
   3 conf/a~ 2014 AAAI conf/aa~
                                                        O AAAI
##
                         conf/aa~
##
   4 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                                                  0
                                                        O AAAI
##
   5 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
                                            0
                                                  0
                                                        O AAAI
                                                        O AAAI
##
   6 conf/a~ 2014 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
##
   7 conf/a~
              2015 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
                                      1
                                                  0
                                                        O AAAI
##
   8 conf/a~
              2015 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
                                            0
                                                  0
                                                        O AAAI
   9 conf/a~ 2014 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
                                            0
                                                        O AAAI
##
   10 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                         conf/aa~
                                            0
                                                        O AAAI
                                                  0
  # ... with more rows
```

dblp authors

```
## # Source: table<authors> [?? x 6]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
       [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
## #
##
         id k
                                    pos name
                                                             gende
##
      <int> <chr>
                                  <int> <chr>
                                                             <chr>>
##
   1
          1 conf/aaai/0001M13
                                      0 Chang Wang 0001
                                                             М
##
          2 conf/aaai/0001M13
                                      1 Sridhar Mahadevan
                                                             М
    3
          3 conf/aaai/0001T15
                                      0 Claudia Schulz 0001 F
##
          4 conf/aaai/0001T15
##
                                      1 Francesca Toni
          5 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
##
                                      0 Jing Zhang 0001
    6
          6 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                                      1 Jie Tang
##
##
    7
          7 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                                      2 Honglei Zhuang
          8 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                                      3 Cane Wing-ki Leung
##
    8
          9 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
##
                                      4 Juan-Zi Li
         10 conf/aaai/0001VD15
##
   10
                                      0 Bart Bogaerts 0001
                                                             M
## # ... with more rows
```

We can perform dplyr operations on the database using dplyr verbs.

```
dblp_main %>% summarise(cs_papers=sum(cs))
```

```
## Warning: Missing values are always removed in SQL.
## Use `SUM(x, na.rm = TRUE)` to silence this warning
```

```
## # Source: lazy query [?? x 1]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
```

```
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
## # [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
```

cs papers

<int>

96823

##

##

1

```
dblp_main %>%
  filter(year > 2010) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  summarise(cs_papers=sum(cs))
```

```
## Warning: Missing values are always removed in SQL.
## Use `SUM(x, na.rm = TRUE)` to silence this warning
## # Source: lazy query [?? x 2]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
```

##

##

year cs_papers

<int>

5910

<int>

1 2011 6060 ## 2 2012 5772 ## 3 2013 7391 ## 4 2014 6538

5 2015

[/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr

When working with databases, dbplyr tries to offload as much work as possible to the database itself, and delay execution until we need the result.

We can see the actual SQL commands generated using $show_query()$

```
query <- dblp main %>%
  filter(year > 2010) %>%
  group by(year) %>%
  summarise(cs papers=sum(cs))
show query(query)
## Warning: Missing values are always removed in SQL.
## Use `SUM(x, na.rm = TRUE)` to silence this warning
## <SQL>
## SELECT `year`, SUM(`cs`) AS `cs_papers`
## FROM `general`
## WHERE ('year' > 2010.0)
## GROUP BY 'year'
```

Collecting a query into R

2015

5

5910

The query is not executed until the result is needed. You can use collect() to execute the query and pull the result into R.

```
query %>% collect()
## Warning: Missing values are always removed in SQL.
## Use `SUM(x, na.rm = TRUE)` to silence this warning
## # A tibble: 5 \times 2
##
     year cs_papers
    <int>
##
              <int>
## 1 2011
               6060
## 2
     2012
               5772
## 3 2013
          7391
## 4 2014 6538
```

Pulling database data into R

A tibble: 148,521 x 10

1 conf/a~ 2013 AAAI

... with 148,511 more rows

vear conf

<chr> <int> <chr> <chr>

##

##

##

Not all databases support all dplyr data manipulation verbs, so if necessary (and the data is small enough), we can always pull the data into R as a tibble and work that way.

```
dblp main %>% collect()
```

crossref

conf/aa~

de

0

se <int> <int> <int> <int> <chr>

0

CS

1

th publi

O AAAI

```
O AAAI
##
   2 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
##
   3 conf/a~ 2014 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                                    O AAAT
##
   4 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                   1
                                         0
                                               0
                                                    O AAAT
##
   5 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                               0
                                                    O AAAI
##
   6 conf/a~ 2014 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                         0
                                               0
                                                    O AAAT
                                   1
##
   7 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                         0
                                               0
                                                    O AAAT
                                   1
##
   8 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                               0
                                                    O AAAT
                                   1
##
   9 conf/a~ 2014 AAAI
                       conf/aa~
                                         0
                                               0
                                                    O AAAI
  10 conf/a~ 2015 AAAI
                        conf/aa~
                                    1
                                         0
                                               0
                                                    O AAAI
```

SQL equivalents to dplyr functions

Most functions in dplyr are simple and flexible versions of statements in SQL.

- select() and SELECT are used to select columns from a table
- filter() and WHERE are used to subset a table by on rows based on given conditions
- arrange() and ORDER BY are used to order the rows of a table
- mutate() does not have a direct equivalent, but AS performs a similar function of returning columns (potentially transformed) with a new name
- summarise() does not have a direct equivalent, but SQL provides several summary functions such as SUM, AVG, COUNT, etc.

Let's see some ways to perform the same operations using dplyr and SQL.

select() and SELECT

```
query <- con %>%
  dbSendQuery("SELECT k, name, gender
    FROM authors")
result <- as_tibble(dbFetch(query))
dbClearResult(query)
result</pre>
```

dblp_authors %>% select(k, name, gender)

```
## # Source:
              lazy query [?? x 3]
  # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
## #
       [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
##
     k
                                              gender
                          name
##
     <chr>
                          <chr>>
                                              <chr>
   1 conf/aaai/0001M13 Chang Wang 0001
##
   2 conf/aaai/0001M13 Sridhar Mahadevan
##
##
   3 conf/aaai/0001T15 Claudia Schulz 0001 F
   4 conf/aaai/0001T15 Francesca Toni
##
                                              F
   5 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14 Jing Zhang 0001
##
##
   6 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14 Jie Tang
                                              F
   7 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14 Honglei Zhuang
##
```

8 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14 Cane Wing-ki Leung

9 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14 Juan-Zi Li ## 10 conf/aaai/0001VD15 Bart Bogaerts 0001

... with more rows

##

##

filter() and WHERE

```
## # Source:
              lazy query [?? x 6]
##
  # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
## #
       [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
##
        id k
                                  pos name
                                                        gend
##
     <int> <chr>
                                <int> <chr>
                                                        <chr
         3 conf/aaai/0001T15
                                   0 Claudia Schulz 0001 F
## 1
         4 conf/aaai/0001T15
## 2
                                   1 Francesca Toni
                                                        F
         5 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
##
   3
                                   0 Jing Zhang 0001
##
         6 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                                   1 Jie Tang
                                                        F
   5
         8 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                                   3 Cane Wing-ki Leung
##
##
   6
        17 conf/aaai/0002GYSZL14
                                   1 Hua Guo
                                                        F
        18 conf/aaai/0002GYSZL14
##
   7
                                   2 Yi Yang
                                                        F
```

29 conf/aaai/0003MGF14 2 Tovi Grossman

0 Wei Li 0002

2 Rong Jin

F

F

27 conf/aaai/0003MGF14

33 conf/aaai/0005YJZ15

##

##

10

8

... with more rows

filter() and WHERE (cont'd)

```
lazy query [?? x 6]
## # Source:
##
  # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
       [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
## #
##
         id k
                                        pos name
##
      <int> <chr>
                                      <int> <chr>
          3 conf/aaai/0001T15
                                          0 Claudia Schulz 0001
##
          4 conf/aaai/0001T15
                                                                 F
##
                                          1 Francesca Toni
##
    3
         29 conf/aaai/0003MGF14
                                          2 Tovi Grossman
##
         39 conf/aaai/Abbott88
                                          O Kathy H. Abbott
                                                                 F
    5
         52 conf/aaai/AbellaK93
                                          O Alicia Abella
                                                                 F
##
##
    6
         54 conf/aaai/AbergALS06
                                          O Cécile Aberg
```

F

F F

F

O Jennifer Abernethy

2 Elizabeth Bradley

O Farnaz Abtahi

2 Sieu Phan

58 conf/aaai/AbernethySB08

60 conf/aaai/AbernethySB08

70 conf/aaai/Abu-HakimaHP91

66 conf/aaai/AbtahiF11

##

8

##

10

7

... with more rows

arrange() and ORDER BY

```
## # Source: table<authors> [?? x 6]
## # Database:
                sqlite 3.22.0
      [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
## # Ordered by: name
##
         id k
                                                       gender
                                      pos name
##
      <int> <chr>
                                    <int> <chr>
                                                       <chr>
##
   1 134173 conf/dolap/MangisengiT98
                                        1 A Min Tjoa
##
   2 134238 conf/dolap/NguyenST05
                                       2 A Min Tjoa
##
   3 140374 conf/er/EderK86
                                       2 A Min Tjoa
                                        1 A Min Tjoa
##
   4 142860 conf/er/PernulT91
##
   5 142863 conf/er/PernulWT93
                                       2 A Min Tjoa
   6 143978 conf/er/TjoaB93
##
                                       O A Min Tjoa
   7 143980 conf/er/TjoaW79
                                       O A Min Tjoa
##
   8 181589 conf/icde/EsmayrKPPT96
                                       4 A Min Tjoa
##
```

1 A Min Tjoa

2 A-Chuan Hsueh -

9 187808 conf/icde/SchreflTW84

9495 conf/aaai/KuanPH86

... with more rows

##

mutate() and AS

```
dblp_authors %>%
  mutate(pos1 = pos + 1) %>%
  select(k, pos1, name)
```

```
## # Source:
              lazy query [?? x 3]
  # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
      [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
## #
##
     k
                          pos1 name
##
     <chr>
                         <dbl> <chr>
## 1 conf/aaai/0001M13
                             1 Chang Wang 0001
   2 conf/aaai/0001M13
                             2 Sridhar Mahadevan
##
##
   3 conf/aaai/0001T15
                           1 Claudia Schulz 0001
##
   4 conf/aaai/0001T15
                         2 Francesca Toni
##
   5 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                             1 Jing Zhang 0001
##
   6 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14
                             2 Jie Tang
```

3 Honglei Zhuang

5 Juan-Zi Li

4 Cane Wing-ki Leung

1 Bart Bogaerts 0001

##

##

##

7 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14

8 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14

9 conf/aaai/0001TZLL14

10 conf/aaai/0001VD15

... with more rows

summarise() and COUNT, AVG, SUM, etc.

```
## Warning: Missing values are always removed in SQL.
## Use `AVG(x, na.rm = TRUE)` to silence this warning
```

```
## # Source: lazy query [?? x 1]
```

```
## # Source. lazy query [:: x 1]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
## # [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
```

<dbl>

`mean(prob)`

1 1.12

##

group_by() and COUNT, AVG, SUM, etc.

```
dblp_authors %>%
  group_by(gender) %>%
  summarize(n())
```

```
## # Source: lazy query [?? x 2]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0
## # [/Users/kuwisdelu/Dropbox/Northeastern/Courses/DS5110-Spr
## gender `n()`
```

<chr>

##

1 -

2 F ## 3 M <int>

59009

69500

287936

More joins in SQL and R

SQL JOINS

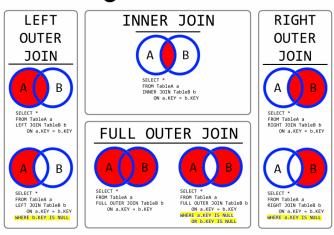


Figure 1:

```
x <- tribble(
  ~key, ~val_x,
    1, "x1",
   2, "x2",
    3, "x3"
y <- tribble(
  ~key, ~val_y,
    1, "y1",
    2, "y2",
    4, "y3"
```

```
con2 <- dbConnect(SQLite(), ":memory:")
dbWriteTable(con2, "x", x)
dbWriteTable(con2, "y", y)
x <- tbl(con2, "x")</pre>
```

y <- tbl(con2, "y")

Inner joins

```
inner_join(x, y)
## Joining, by = "key"
```

```
## # Source: lazy query [?? x 3]
```

Database: sqlite 3.22.0 [:memory:]

Inner joins (cont'd)

```
inner_join(x, y, by=c("key", "key"))
```

```
## # Source: lazy query [?? x 3]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0 [:memory:]
## key val_x val_y
```

Left joins

left join(x, y)

3 3 x3 <NA>

```
## Joining, by = "key"

## # Source: lazy query [?? x 3]
## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0 [:memory:]
## key val_x val_y
## <dbl> <chr> <chr>
## 1 1 x1 y1
## 2 2 x2 y2
```

Left excluding joins

```
x %>% left_join(y) %>% anti_join(y)
## Joining, by = "key"
## Joining, by = c("key", "val_y")
```

Source: lazy query [?? x 3] ## # Database: sqlite 3.22.0 [:memory:]

key val_x val_y ## <dbl> <chr> <chr> ## 1 3 x3 <NA>

##

Right joins

```
right_join(x, y)
```

Error in result_create(conn@ptr, statement): RIGHT and FULL 0

```
## Joining, by = "key"
```

Thoughts on SQL vs dplyr

Some basic SQL rules:

- ► SQL statements that retrieve data from the database begin with SELECT; use * to select all columns
 - You don't need to use dplyr::select() unless you're subsetting columns
- In SQL statements, you always need to specify the table(s) you are manipulating
 - ▶ In dplyr, each table will usually be a separate variable
- SQL expect clauses following SELECT to be in a particular order
 - You can apply dplyr functions in any order (though results may differ)

Thoughts on SQL vs dplyr (cont'd)

Advantages and disadvantages:

- ▶ It is easy to chain functions seperately in dplyr and see intermediate results; this may be more difficult in SQL
- Reasoning about tables and operations may be easier when you can see intermediate results like this
- Some complex SQL operations are not supported by dplyr directly
- ▶ If the data fits in memory, you can use R programming to perform more complex operations
- ▶ If the data does not fit in memory, you may need to use SQL to perform the complex operation on the database
- ▶ Use whichever is easier for you, then pull data into R for visualization and analysis.

It is always good to be familiar with all available tools. Most data science workflows will involve incorporating multiple tools

Relational data examples with DBLP

Let's go back to the DBLP dataset for more practice with dbplyr.

Calculate the total number of distinct authors in the dataset.

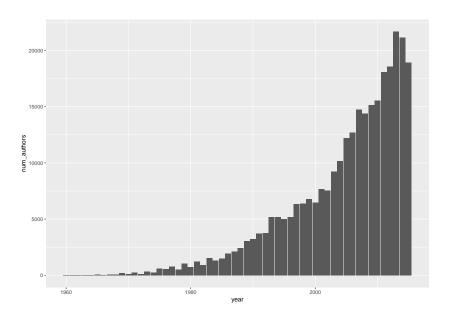
Calculate and plot the number of distinct authors published each year.

geom col(aes(x=year, y=num authors))

ggplot() +

```
dblp_authors %>%
  left_join(dblp_main) %>%
  group_by(year) %>%
  summarise(num_authors = n_distinct(name)) %>%
  collect() %>%
```

Joining, by = "k"

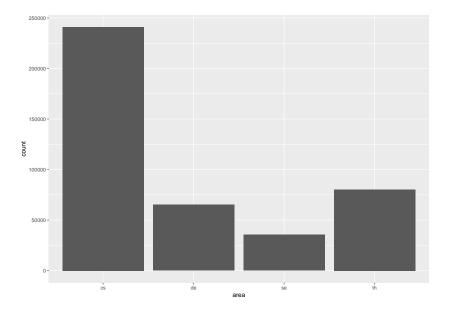


Calculate and plot the number of papers published in CS, DE, SE, and TH.

```
dblp_tidy <- dblp_authors %>%
  left_join(dblp_main) %>%
  select(k, year, conf, name, gender, prob, cs, de, se, th) %>%
  collect() %>%
  gather(key="area", value="indicator", cs, de, se, th) %>%
  filter(indicator == 1) %>%
  select(-indicator) %>%
  filter(gender %in% c('M', 'F'))
```

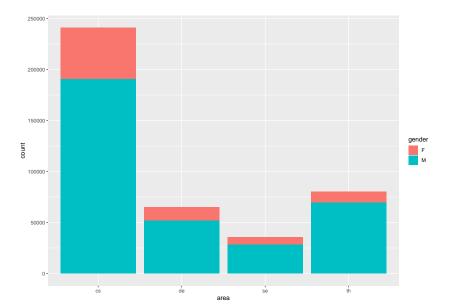
Some papers may belong to multiple areas, so we will count such a paper multiple times, once for each area. Since we are primarily interested in comparing between different areas of computer science, this is fine. However, if we wanted to count each paper only once, a different approach (adding an additional column for "interdisciplinary"?) would be required.

```
ggplot(dblp_tidy) + geom_bar(aes(x=area))
```



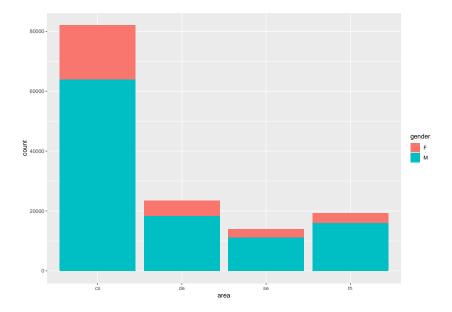
Plot the number of papers published in CS, DE, SE, and TH by gender.

ggplot(dblp_tidy) + geom_bar(aes(x=area, fill=gender))



Plot the number of distinct men and women published in CS, DE, SE, and $\mathsf{TH}.$

```
dblp_tidy %>%
  group_by(gender, area) %>%
  summarise(count = n_distinct(name)) %>%
  collect() %>%
  ggplot() +
  geom_col(aes(x=area, y=count, fill=gender))
```



Plot the proportion of distinct men and women published in CS, DE, SE, and TH.

```
auth_area <- dblp_tidy %>%
  group by (area) %>%
  summarise(total = n distinct(name))
genauth area <- dblp tidy %>%
  group by (gender, area) %>%
```

summarise(gencount = n distinct(name))

left join(genauth area, auth area) %>% mutate(genprop = gencount / total) %>%

> y=genprop, fill=gender))

ggplot() +

geom col(aes(x=area,

