Data sets come in many formats

...but R prefers just one.

storms

Tidy data

- Each variable is saved in its own column.
- Each observation is saved in its own row.
- Each "type" of observation stored in a **single table** (here, storms).

Country	2011	2012	2013
FR	7000	6900	7000
DE	5800	6000	6200
US	15000	14000	13000

Country	2011	2012	2013
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US	15000	14000	13000



Country	Year	n
FR	2011	7000
DE	2011	5800
US	2011	15000
FR	2012	6900
DE	2012	6000
US	2012	14000
FR	2013	7000
DE	2013	6200
US	2013	13000

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FR	2011	7000
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FR	2013	7000
	2013	6200
	2013	13000

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FR	2012	6900
DE	2012	6000
US	2012	14000
FR	2013	7000
DE	2013	6200
US	2013	13000

Country FR DE US

key (former column names)

Country	Year	n
FR	2011	7000
DE	2011	5800
US	2011	15000
FR	2012	6900
DE	2012	6000
US	2012	14000
FR	2013	7000
DE	2013	6200
US	2013	13000

Country FR DE US

key value (former cells)

Country	Year	n
FR	2011	7000
DE	2011	5800
US	2011	15000
FR	2012	6900
DE	2012	6000
US	2012	14000
FR	2013	7000
DE	2013	6200
US	2013	13000

Collapses multiple columns into two columns:

- 1. a key column that contains the former column names
- 2. a value column that contains the former column cells

```
gather(cases, "year", "n", 2:4)
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data frame to reshape

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name of the new value column (a character string)

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- 1. a key column that contains the former column names
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gather(cases, "year", "n", 2:4)

data frame to reshape name of the new key column (a character string)

name of the new value column (a character string)

names or numeric indexes of columns to collapse

city	size	amount
New York	large	23
New York	small	14
London	large	22
London	small	16
Beijing	large	121
Beijing	small	56

city	size	amount
New York	large	23
New York	small	14
London	large	22
London	small	16
Beijing	large	121
Beijing	small	56



city	large	small
New York	23	14
London	22	16
Beijing	121	56

key (new column names)

city	size	amount
New York	large	23
New York	small	14
London	large	22
London	small	16
Beijing	large	121
Beijing	small	56

city	large	small
New York	23	14
London	22	16
Beijing	121	56

key value (new cells)

city	size	amount
New York	large	23
New York	small	14
London	large	22
London	small	16
Beijing	large	121
Beijing	small	56

city	large	small
New York	23	14
London	22	16
Beijing	121	56

Generates multiple columns from two columns:

- 1. each unique value in the key column becomes a column name
- 2. each value in the value column becomes a cell in the new columns

```
spread(pollution, size, amount)
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```
spread(pollution, size, amount)
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data frame to reshape

Generates multiple columns from two columns:

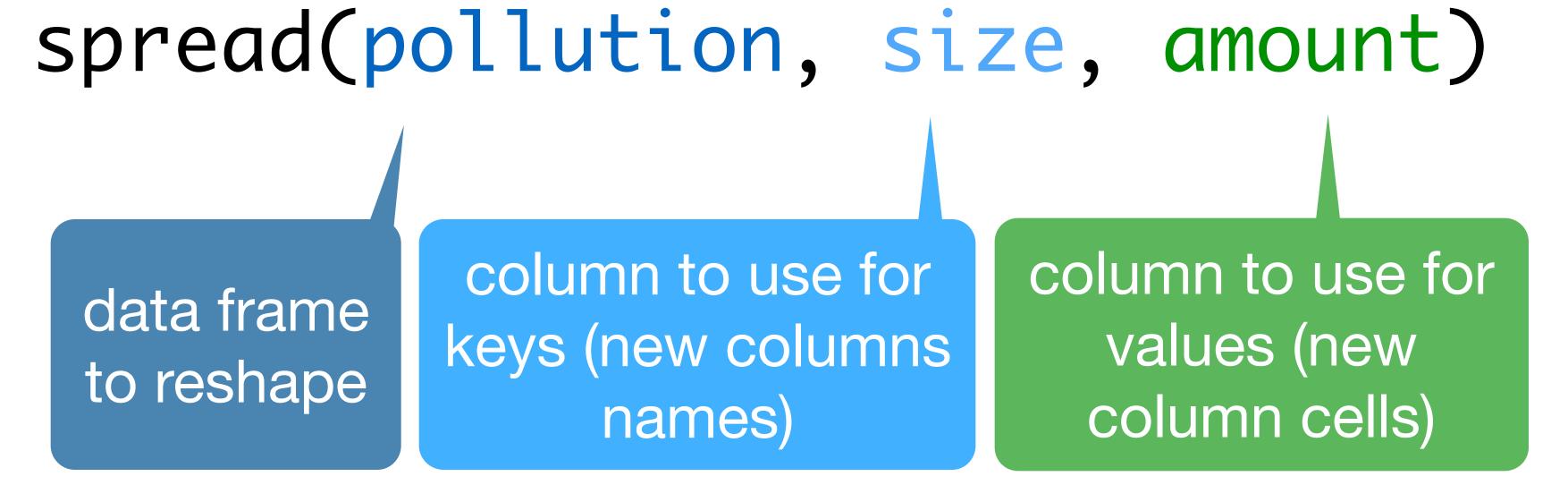
- 1. each unique value in the key column becomes a column name
- 2. each value in the value column becomes a cell in the new columns

spread(pollution, size, amount)

data frame to reshape column to use for keys (new columns names)

Generates multiple columns from two columns:

- 1. each unique value in the key column becomes a column name
- 2. each value in the value column becomes a cell in the new columns



city	size	amount
New York	large	23
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city	large	small
New York	23	14
London	22	16
Beijing	121	56

unite() and separate()

There are three more variables hidden in storms:

storms

storm	wind	pressure	date
Alberto	110	1007	2000-08-12
Alex	45	1009	1998-07-30
Allison	65	1005	1995-06-04
Ana	40	1013	1997-07-01
Arlene	50	1010	1999-06-13
Arthur	45	1010	1996-06-21

- Year
- Month
- Day

separate()

Separate splits a column by a character string separator.

separate(storms, date, c("year", "month", "day"), sep = "-")

storms

storm	wind	pressure	date
Alberto	110	1007	2000-08-12
Alex	45	1009	1998-07-30
Allison	65	1005	1995-06-04
Ana	40	1013	1997-07-01
Arlene	50	1010	1999-06-13
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storm	wind	pressure	year	month	day
Alberto	110	1007	2000	08	12
Alex	45	1009	1998	07	30
Allison	65	1005	1995	06	04
Ana	40	1013	1997	07	1
Arlene	50	1010	1999	06	13
Arthur	45	1010	1996	06	21

storms2

unite()

Unite unites columns into a single column.

unite(storms2, "date", year, month, day, sep = "-")

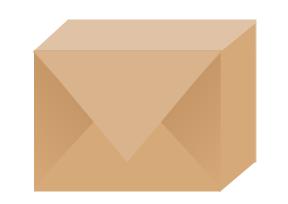
storms2

storm	wind	pressure	year	month	day
Alberto	110	1007	2000	08	12
Alex	45	1009	1998	07	30
Allison	65	1005	1995	06	04
Ana	40	1013	1997	07	1
Arlene	50	1010	1999	06	13
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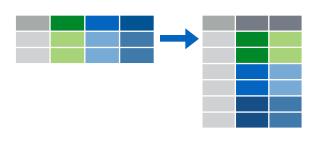
storms

storm	wind	pressure	date
Alberto	110	1007	2000-08-12
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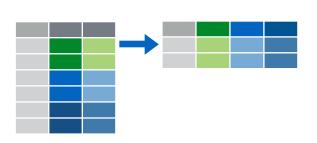
Recap: tidyr



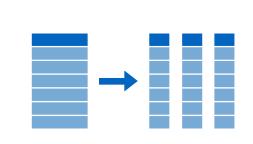
A package that reshapes the layout of data sets.



Make observations from variables with gather()



Make variables from observations with spread()



Split and merge columns with unite() and separate()



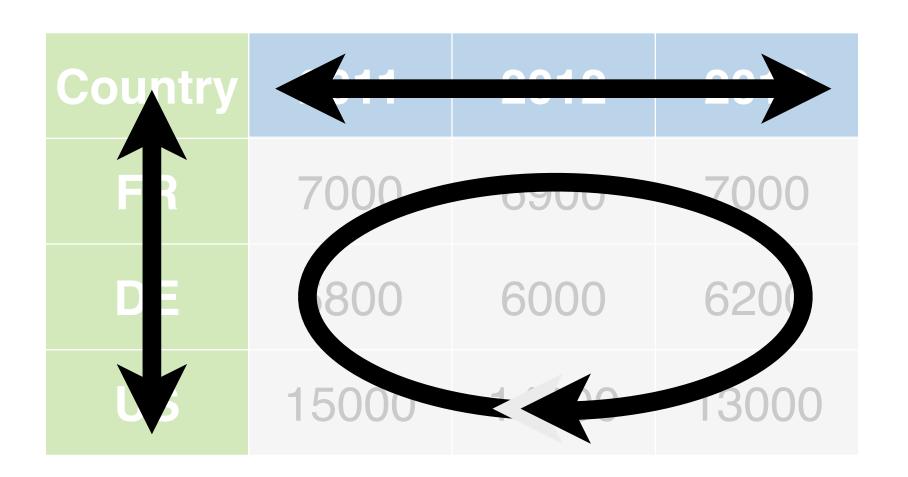
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Data Wrangling with R

How to work with the structures of your data

Slides at:

bit.ly/wrangling-webinar



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