







# KOSTAT-UNFPA Summer Seminar on Population

# Workshop 1. Demography in R

# Day 2: The tidy data approach

Instructor: Tim Riffe
tim.riffe@gmail.com

Assistant: Rustam Tursun-Zade rustam.tursunzade@gmail.com

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# 1 Tidy data

#### 1.1 Definition

Tidy data follows a standard structure where each column is a variable, each row is an observation, and each cell is a value. Anything else is messy. It's literally that straightforward. A more complete definition can be found here: https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/tidyr/vignettes/tidy-data.html Demographic data is often delivered in a tidy format. When it is not, then it can be reshaped into a tidy format.

Tidyverse packages work well together because they share a standard approach to formatting and working with datasets. Tidy datasets processed using tidyverse tools allow for fast and understandable analyses that in many cases require no *programming*, whereas it often takes a certain amount of head-scratching (programming) to analyze not-tidy datasets.

Tidy datasets can also be visualized without further ado using a systematic grammar (Wilkinson 2012) implemented in the ggplot2 package (Wickham (2016), this loads automatically with tidyverse). Today we will do just basic examples, but this will be made more explicit on Thursday.

## 1.2 Example of not-tidy data

The following layout (screenshot from Excel) is not tidy. This example data was manually extracted from here: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=demo\_fasec&l ang=en, and the given format was concocted with EUROSTAT's online data widget.

	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н			
1	Live births t	ve births by mother's age and newborn's sex [demo_fasec]									
2											
3	Last update	28.06.21									
4	Extracted &	20.07.21									
5	Source of &	Eurostat									
6											
7	SEX Total										
8	UNIT	Number									
9											
10	AGE	GEO/TIME	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
11	Total	Belgium	128,705	128,051	125,606	125,014	122,274	121,896			
12	Total	Czechia	108,673	108,576	106,751	109,860	110,764	112,663			
13	Total	Spain	470,553	453,348	424,440	426,076	418,432	408,734			
14	Total	Croatia	41,197	41,771	39,939	39,566	37,503	37,537			
15	15 years	Belgium	74	72	48	52	47	37			
16	15 years	Czechia	67	53	55	62	66	47			
17	15 years	Spain	414	379	391	375	390	341			
18	15 years	Croatia	35	36	42	27	24	18			
19	16 years	Belgium	171	161	183	180	130	119			
20	16 years	Czechia	224	225	204	230	177	223			
21	16 years	Spain	930	896	855	878	806	813			
22	16 years	Croatia	97	102	92	98	86	75			
23	17 years	Belgium	436	417	338	346	303	292			
24	17 years	Czechia	511	483	422	412	447	417			
25	17 years	Spain	1,784	1,677	1,581	1,489	1,493	1,394			
26	17 years	Croatia	228	191	172	182	182	158			
27	18 years	Belgium	822	753	606	621	559	523			
28	18 years	Czechia	818	952	801	771	752	744			
29	18 years	Spain	2,914	2,699	2,397	2,309	2,217	2,182			
30	18 years	Croatia	428	360	365	356	308	314			
31	19 years	Belgium	1,470	1,346	1,056	1,027	967	917			
32	19 years	Czechia	1,434	1,338	1,334	1,253	1,164	1,192			
33		Spain	4,160	3,866	3,529	3,365	3,220	3,113			

The main thing that makes it not-tidy are the years spread over columns. These should be stacked into to columns: TIME (per the original codes) and Births, which are the values in the cells. The fact that AGE is coded as an arithmetically unusable character string is something we'll want to recode, but it is orthogonal to the *tidiness* of the data. Finally, we will ensure that age-specific births sum up to the stated total births per year and country.

# 2 Introducing tidyverse: a worked example

Today's entire session will be working with this smallish births dataset.

#### 2.1 Reshape, Rescale, Recode it

We'll use the read\_excel() function from the readxl package to get the data in. First let's look at the help file using ?read\_excel. Visual inspection of the data shows us that we need to skip several rows, plus there's a note at the bottom of the sheet that we want to ignore. We specify an explicit cell range using the argument range and giving spreadsheet coordinates range = "A10:H158"

library(tidyverse)
library(readxl)

```
?read_excel
Wide <- read_excel(</pre>
           path = "Data/demo fasec.xlsx",
           range = "A10:H158")
glimpse(Wide)
## Rows: 148
## Columns: 8
                <chr> "Total", "Total", "Total", "Total", "15 years", "15 years", "
## $ AGE
## $ `GEO/TIME` <chr> "Belgium", "Czechia", "Spain", "Croatia", "Belgium", "Czech~
                <dbl> 128705, 108673, 470553, 41197, 74, 67, 414, 35, 171, 224, 9~
## $ `2011`
## $ `2012`
                <dbl> 128051, 108576, 453348, 41771, 72, 53, 379, 36, 161, 225, 8~
## $ `2013`
                <dbl> 125606, 106751, 424440, 39939, 48, 55, 391, 42, 183, 204, 8~
                <dbl> 125014, 109860, 426076, 39566, 52, 62, 375, 27, 180, 230, 8~
## $ `2014`
## $ `2015`
                <dbl> 122274, 110764, 418432, 37503, 47, 66, 390, 24, 130, 177, 8~
## $ `2016`
                <dbl> 121896, 112663, 408734, 37537, 37, 47, 341, 18, 119, 223, 8~
```

#### 2.1.1 pivot\_longer() (pivot\_wider())

## \$ Births

These data are not tidy because TIME is spread over columns. Instead we should have a column called TIME, containing the years, and the cell values currently in the columns 2011 to 2016 should be in a column called births. The function pivot\_longer() will do this for us. See <code>?pivot\_longer</code>.

The opposite of pivot\_longer() is pivot\_wider(). If ever you have the need to go back in the other direction, you can do so like this:

<dbl> 128705, 128051, 125606, 125014, 122274, 121896, 108673, 108~

```
## # A tibble: 148 x 8
##
      AGE
               `GEO/TIME` `2011` `2012` `2013` `2014` `2015` `2016`
      <chr>
               <chr>
##
                           <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
                                                <dbl> <dbl>
##
    1 Total
               Belgium
                          128705 128051 125606 125014 122274 121896
                          108673 108576 106751 109860 110764 112663
##
    2 Total
               Czechia
                          470553 453348 424440 426076 418432 408734
##
   3 Total
               Spain
```

```
##
    4 Total
                Croatia
                              41197
                                      41771
                                              39939
                                                      39566
                                                             37503
                                                                     37537
                                         72
##
    5 15 years Belgium
                                 74
                                                 48
                                                         52
                                                                 47
                                                                         37
##
    6 15 years Czechia
                                 67
                                         53
                                                 55
                                                         62
                                                                 66
                                                                         47
    7 15 years Spain
                                414
                                        379
                                                391
                                                        375
                                                                390
                                                                        341
##
##
    8 15 years Croatia
                                 35
                                         36
                                                 42
                                                         27
                                                                 24
                                                                         18
    9 16 years Belgium
                                171
                                        161
                                                183
                                                        180
                                                                130
                                                                        119
## 10 16 years Czechia
                                224
                                        225
                                                204
                                                        230
                                                                177
                                                                        223
## # ... with 138 more rows
```

Pivoting between columns and rows has some more options that we will surely make use of as this course progresses. The arguments names\_to (names\_from) and values\_to (values\_from) are designed to be easy to understand and remember. A nice thing about pivot\_longer is you can specify column ranges using names (see how we put back-ticks on years? That's so that 2011 doesn't get interpreted at the 2011th column!). Integer ranges will also do, as would listing out the columns by name or position. There are other tricks for intelligently picking out columns, see ?tidyr\_tidy\_select. From that help file, we see other things would have worked in our case, for example where(is.double), which is handy.

#### 2.1.2 select() columns

Note, some of these columns are clean and ready to use (TIME and Births), but GEO/TIME is not a useful column name, and the values in AGE might not be useful in practice. Instead, maybe we want AGE to be an integer value so that we can sort on it. Maybe also we don't want to have a Total value for AGE, but instead we want to ensure that the age-specific births add up to the total? This will give us a chance to showcase some more tidyverse tools:

Select, rearrange, and rename **columns** using **select()**. Notice that i) the left side of each = is the new column name, ii) the order you list the columns is the new order, iii) if you forget to list a column you lose it! iv) when in doubt, but back-ticks on the column name to ensure it won't be misinterpreted. **GEO/TIME** looks like math, so stick it in back-ticks...

```
Long <- select(
   .data = Long,
   Country = `GEO/TIME`,
   Age = AGE,
   Year = TIME,
   Births
)
head(Long)</pre>
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##
     Country Age
                   Year
                         Births
##
     <chr>
             <chr> <chr>
                           <dbl>
## 1 Belgium Total 2011
                          128705
## 2 Belgium Total 2012
                          128051
## 3 Belgium Total 2013
                          125606
## 4 Belgium Total 2014
                          125014
```

```
## 5 Belgium Total 2015 122274
## 6 Belgium Total 2016 121896
```

#### 2.1.3 pipes, %>%

Now seems a natural-enough place to demonstrate piping. Pipes allow us to string together data operations into a single sequence to be executed at once. Thus far we have read in the data, reshaped it, and re-specified columns. All together, this becomes:

```
Long <-
  read_excel(
  path = "Data/demo_fasec.xlsx",
    range = "A10:H158") %>%

pivot_longer(
  cols = `2011`:`2016`,
  names_to = "Year",
  values_to = "Births") %>%

select(
  Country = `GEO/TIME`,
  Year,
  Age = AGE,
  Births)
```

This reads as "first read\_excel(), then pivot\_longer(), then select() columns." Notice how the functions can be read as verbs, and the pipes allow them to be combined into a rote kind of sentence. Indeed, it can help to add notes using #: don't worry: it won't break the chain! As the dataset goes down the pipeline, by default it becomes the first argument to the next function to be executed. Each of these functions has a first argument called either data or .data, which doesn't need to be specified because the incoming data is passed to it.

```
Long <-
  # first read in from Excel
  read_excel(
    path = "Data/demo_fasec.xlsx",
    range = "A10:H158") %>%
  # stack years
  pivot_longer(
    cols = `2011`:`2016`,
    names_to = "Year",
    values_to = "Births") %>%
  # pick out the columns
  select(
     Country = `GEO/TIME`,
     Year,
     Age = AGE,
     Births)
```

Note: you can run this code by simply placing the cursor anywhere in the pipeline and pressing Ctrl + Enter. There is no need to select the whole statement before running, although this also works (you could in this case also click the green play arrow).

We will augment this pipeline step by step and then recompose it in its entirety at the end.

#### 2.1.4 filter(), mutate(), group\_by()

So what age classes to we have? unique() picks out just the unique values present in a vector.

```
# selecting a column with $
unique(Long$Age)
                   "15 years" "16 years" "17 years" "18 years" "19 years"
    [1] "Total"
    [7] "20 years" "21 years" "22 years" "23 years" "24 years" "25 years"
## [13] "26 years" "27 years" "28 years" "29 years" "30 years" "31 years"
## [19] "32 years" "33 years" "34 years" "35 years" "36 years" "37 years"
## [25] "38 years" "39 years" "40 years" "41 years" "42 years" "43 years"
## [31] "44 years" "45 years" "46 years" "47 years" "48 years" "49 years"
## [37] "Unknown"
# same thing using tidy:
Long %>%
  pull(Age) %>% # pull() extracts column as vector
  unique()
                   "15 years" "16 years" "17 years" "18 years" "19 years"
##
    [1] "Total"
   [7] "20 years" "21 years" "22 years" "23 years" "24 years" "25 years"
## [13] "26 years" "27 years" "28 years" "29 years" "30 years" "31 years"
## [19] "32 years" "33 years" "34 years" "35 years" "36 years" "37 years"
## [25] "38 years" "39 years" "40 years" "41 years" "42 years" "43 years"
## [31] "44 years" "45 years" "46 years" "47 years" "48 years" "49 years"
## [37] "Unknown"
```

The Age column should be changed to consist in just integers. But this raises another issue: what to do with the Total and Unknown ages? My preference is usually to redistribute unknowns proportional to the distribution of any *knowns*:

$$\widehat{Y_x} = Y_x + Y_{unknown} * \frac{Y_x}{\sum Y_x}$$

where the denominator excludes unknowns... This is just the same as rescaling the distributions of known ages to sum to the stated total

$$\widehat{Y_x} = Y * \frac{Y_x}{\sum Y_x}$$

(where x excludes unknowns)

Once we do one or the other of these operations, we'll end up with just ages 15 years through 49 years, and can convert using string operators. We can throw out either Total or Unknown using filter() to select rows. Calculations to redistribute can be done using the function mutate(). The basic structure of said operation would be something similar to:

```
# don't run this
Long %>%
# 1
mutate(TOT = Births[Age == "Total"]) %>%
# 2
filter(! Age %in% c("Total", "Unknown")) %>%
# 3
mutate(Births = Births / sum(Births) * TOT)
```

I'll first explain the basic logic, then why it won't yet work as expected. In step 1, we use mutate() to create a new column called TOT, which just repeats the respective value for each row of the data.

Now for the filter() statement.

#### 2.1.5 Time out for logicals

Each value of TOT is intended to be the value of Births where Age is equal to "Total". Note == is a *logical* equals, meaning you're asking if values are equal. The result will be TRUE, FALSE, or NA if pertinent.

Example:

```
1:5 == 5
```

#### ## [1] FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE TRUE

Other useful logical operators include != (inequality), <, >, <=, >=. Further logical functions include: is.na(), any(), all(). Each of these operators and functions is vectorized, meaning they can evaluate long vectors of expressions element-wise.

Here we want to use this logical vector to select values:

```
abcde <- c("a","b","c","d","e")
abcde[1:5 == 5]
## [1] "e"
```

Namely, we get back the values where the logical vector evaluates to TRUE.

Given a columns TOT, we can remove age classes equal to "Total" or "Unknown" with filter(). %in% is a logical operator for set membership.

```
c("a","d","k") %in% abcde
```

```
## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE
```

Finally, mutate() can be used to do the rescale operation using our basic arithmetic.

#### 2.1.6 group\_by() (ungroup())

An issue that you may foresee at this point is that either of the above formulas is independent within each Country and Year. We can deal with this by declaring each combination of these two variables as an *independent* group using group\_by(), and then removing groups when no longer needed using ungroup(). That's just good housekeeping, but it keeps the pipeline rigorous: You can assume group declarations will persist until explicitly removed.

```
Long %>%

# add group metadata
group_by(Country, Year) %>%

# raise Total count to column for element-wise rescale
mutate(TOT = Births[Age == "Total"]) %>%

# throw out Total and Unknown ages
filter(! Age %in% c("Total", "Unknown")) %>%

# rescale proportions known to stated total
```

```
mutate(Births = Births / sum(Births) * TOT) %>%
# groups no longer needed, let's remove them:
ungroup()
```

Finally, we can clean up the Age column! Here I'll take the string substitution strategy, although other options would also work. gsub() looks for a pattern in the string " years" and replaces it. In this case, I replace with an empty string "", so "15 years" becomes "15", still a character string. We can then modify it in the same mutate() call: comma-separated statements in mutate() are evaluated in sequence, and they can be sequentially dependent!

```
## # A tibble: 840 x 5
##
      Country Year
                       Age Births
                                      TOT
##
                     <int>
                             <dbl>
                                    <dbl>
      <chr>
              <chr>>
##
    1 Belgium 2011
                        15
                              74.1 128705
    2 Belgium 2012
                        15
                              72.1 128051
##
    3 Belgium 2013
                        15
                              48.5 125606
##
    4 Belgium 2014
                        15
                              52.0 125014
                        15
                              47.5 122274
##
    5 Belgium 2015
##
    6 Belgium 2016
                        15
                              37.4 121896
##
    7 Czechia 2011
                        15
                              67.0 108673
##
    8 Czechia 2012
                        15
                              53.0 108576
    9 Czechia 2013
                        15
                              55.0 106751
## 10 Czechia 2014
                              62.0 109860
                        15
## # ... with 830 more rows
```

Note, you can also use pipes inside function calls, like mutate(), so the above could become:

```
##
  # A tibble: 840 x 5
##
      Country Year
                       Age Births
                                      TOT
##
      <chr>
               <chr> <int>
                             <dbl>
                                    <dbl>
##
    1 Belgium 2011
                        15
                              74.1 128705
##
    2 Belgium 2012
                        15
                              72.1 128051
##
    3 Belgium 2013
                        15
                              48.5 125606
##
                        15
    4 Belgium 2014
                              52.0 125014
    5 Belgium 2015
                              47.5 122274
##
                        15
##
    6 Belgium 2016
                        15
                              37.4 121896
    7 Czechia 2011
                        15
                              67.0 108673
    8 Czechia 2012
##
                        15
                              53.0 108576
    9 Czechia 2013
                        15
                              55.0 106751
## 10 Czechia 2014
                        15
                              62.0 109860
## # ... with 830 more rows
```

Depending on what you're doing, one or the other of these could be more *legible*. Human-legible code is more robust than illegible code, can we agree on this point?

#### 2.1.7 Bringing it all together

There are times when it may make sense to keep steps separate, in separate data objects, but our first example is a case of wanting to keep all steps contained in a single pipeline. That's because the intermediate pieces are redundant and add no value. Combined into a single pipeline, we'd end up with something like this:

```
Births <-
  # first read in from Excel
  read_excel(
    path = "Data/demo_fasec.xlsx",
    range = "A10:H158") %>%
  # stack years
  pivot longer(
    cols = `2011`:`2016`,
    names_to = "Year",
    values_to = "Births") %>%
  # pick out the columns
  select(
     Country = `GEO/TIME`,
     Year,
     Age = AGE,
     Births) %>%
  # add group metadata
  group_by(Country, Year) %>%
  # raise Total count to column for element-wise rescale
  mutate(TOT = Births[Age == "Total"]) %>%
  # throw out Total and Unknown ages
  filter(! Age %in% c("Total", "Unknown")) %>%
  # rescale proportions known to stated total
  mutate(Births = Births / sum(Births) * TOT) %>%
  # groups no longer needed, let's remove them:
  ungroup() %>%
  # clean up Age
  mutate(Age = Age %>%
                  pattern = " years",
                  replacement = "") %>%
                as.integer(),
         Year = as.integer(Year)) %>%
  # sort rows
  arrange(Country, Year, Age) %>%
  # remove TOT column, no longer needed
  select(-TOT)
# have a look
glimpse(Births)
```

## Rows: 840

```
## Columns: 4
## $ Country <chr> "Belgium", "Belgi
```

This is a tidy pipeline. And tidy code, no matter who writes it, usually ends up looking something like this. To finish off the pipeline, I've sorted the rows. arrange(Country, Year, Age) sorts Age within Year within Country), and we delete the TOT column with subtraction inside select().

You see all those annotations between many of the pipe steps? That's not just for you, the reader. It's good practice to do that. Possibly because someone else might like to interpret your code, so why not make it easier, but also you should comment your code out of respect for future you, because future you won't remember what you were thinking when you wrote it.

### 2.2 Aggregate with summarize()

Aggregation typically implies a reduction in the number of rows in a data set. Let's see examples of grouping countries, grouping ages, and calculating marginal sums.

#### 2.2.1 Group to 5-year ages

Grouping ages or years often follows a similar logic. We will exploit to the *modulo* operator, %%, which tells us the remainder after Euclidean division. Example:

```
a <- 1:10

a %% 2

## [1] 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 1 0

a %% 5

## [1] 1 2 3 4 0 1 2 3 4 0
```

That is the divisor (2 or 5) is subtracted away an integer number of times until what remains is smaller than the divisor. This is useful for redefining Age, see:

```
Age <- 0:20
Age - Age %% 5
```

```
## [1] 0 0 0 0 0 5 5 5 5 5 10 10 10 10 10 15 15 15 15 15 20
```

That is, subtracting Age modulo 5 from a vector of single ages tells you the lower bound of the five year age group that each single age lays within. We can then use this new age vector to group data, and finally we aggregate Births using summarize().

```
## # A tibble: 168 x 4
## Country Year Age Births
## <chr> <int> <dbl> <dbl>
```

```
##
   1 Belgium
               2011
                        15 2977.
##
   2 Belgium
               2011
                        20 18239.
##
   3 Belgium
               2011
                        25 44498.
##
   4 Belgium
               2011
                       30 41905.
##
    5 Belgium
               2011
                        35 17368.
   6 Belgium
                            3542.
##
               2011
                        40
##
   7 Belgium
               2011
                        45
                             175.
   8 Belgium
               2012
                        15
                          2751.
   9 Belgium
               2012
                        20 17631.
## 10 Belgium
                        25 43746.
              2012
## # ... with 158 more rows
```

Births = sum(Births) might look strange. The left side is a single outgoing row, whereas the right side is a vector with five values. Our dataset of 840 rows is in this way reduced to 840/5 = 168 rows. This works out cleanly in our case because the age groups were cleanly divisible. Not the argument .groups = "drop" at the end of summarize(), this is just the same as adding %>% ungroup() at the end of the pipeline.

#### 2.2.2 Marginal sums

The result of a summary statement could be just a single row, in this case a probably not-useful result.

```
Births %>%
  summarize(Births = sum(Births))
## # A tibble: 1 x 1
##
      Births
##
       <dbl>
## 1 4247929
To get totals by Country and Year, once again we apply groups:
Births %>%
  group_by(Country, Year) %>%
  summarize(Births = sum(Births),
            .groups = "drop")
## # A tibble: 24 x 3
##
      Country Year Births
```

```
<chr>
##
              <int> <dbl>
   1 Belgium 2011 128705
##
##
    2 Belgium 2012 128051
##
    3 Belgium
              2013 125606
   4 Belgium
##
               2014 125014
    5 Belgium
##
              2015 122274
##
   6 Belgium
              2016 121896
##
   7 Croatia
              2011
                    41197
   8 Croatia
              2012
                    41771
   9 Croatia
              2013
                     39939
## 10 Croatia 2014 39566
## # ... with 14 more rows
```

Likewise, we could group countries using case\_when(). First we use case\_when() then I'll

explain how it works.

```
## # A tibble: 12 x 3
##
      Country_Group Year Births
##
      <chr>
                     <int> <dbl>
##
    1 A
                      2011 579226
    2 A
##
                      2012 561924
##
    3 A
                      2013 531191
##
    4 A
                      2014 535936
##
    5 A
                      2015 529196
##
    6 A
                      2016 521397
    7 B
##
                      2011 169902
##
    8 B
                      2012 169822
##
    9 B
                      2013 165545
## 10 B
                      2014 164580
## 11 B
                      2015 159777
## 12 B
                      2016 159433
```

#### 2.2.3 case\_when()

This helper function is a generalization of ifelse() or if\_else(), as may be familiar from other programs such as Excel. case\_when() is premised on you being able to delimit all cases given in your data exhaustively. Each case is comma separated and defined in formula notation, where ~ separates a left and a right side. On the left of ~ you define the case with a logical statement and on the right side you specify what to assign for that case. By the end of the case\_when() statement all cases must be handled. Further, cases are handled in the order specified, so where pertinent it makes sense to list cases ordered from specific to general. If there is a most general case meaning something like everything else, then you can end case\_when() with TRUE ~ 1 (or whatever value you want).

For example, just to demonstrate the concepts, say I have an algorithm where you start with an integer. If the integer is: 1. divisible by 6 then divide by 2 and add 1 2. divisible by 3 then multiply by  $2 \, 3$ . odd add  $1 \, 4$ . even add 2

This is a silly algorithm, I admit. Note only the first condition produces an *odd* result. Note, all integers are handled by conditions 1-4. Note that conditions 3 and 4 handle more cases than conditions 1 and 2. Note also that condition 1 is more specific than 2, because all numbers divisible by 6 are also divisible by 3, but not vice versa. Using case\_when() and exercising our new modulo skills, an example would be:

```
a <- 1:17

case_when(a %% 6 == 0 ~ a / 2 + 1,

a %% 3 == 0 ~ a * 2,

a %% 2 == 1 ~ a + 1,
```

```
a %% 2 == 0 ~ a + 2)
```

```
## [1] 2 4 6 6 6 4 8 10 18 12 12 7 14 16 30 18 18
```

If we write the same cases but changing the order of the first two conditions, we see that condition (1) from the initial algorithm is never activated, because divisibility by 3 handles the case earlier.

```
case_when(a %% 3 == 0 ~ a * 2,
    a %% 6 == 0 ~ a / 2 + 1,
    a %% 2 == 1 ~ a + 1,
    a %% 2 == 0 ~ a + 2)
```

```
## [1] 2 4 6 6 6 12 8 10 18 12 12 24 14 16 30 18 18
```

#### 2.2.4 Weighted means

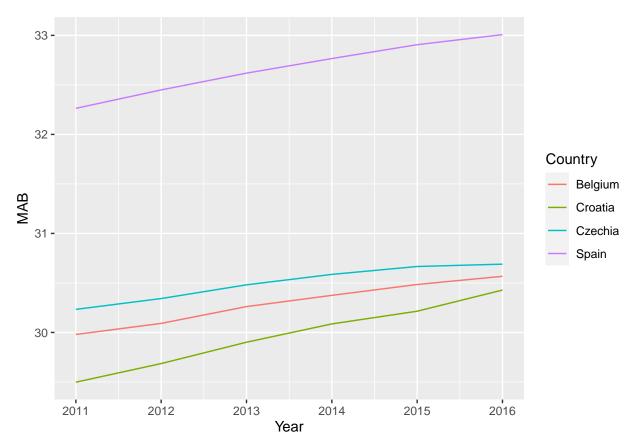
Our main use of summarize() today will be for evaluating weighted means. More specifically, we'll calculate the mean age at childbearing.

In general a weighted mean is defined as

$$\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i * w_i}{\sum w_i}$$

For the mean age at childbearing, x is age (exact age at mid-interval we prefer), and w should be either birth counts or age-specific fertility. Since we don't have exposures (yet) to calculate fertility rates, we'll just use raw births by age as the weights.

While we're here, how about a plot teaser, even though we don't get serious about ggplot2 until Thursday:



Allow me to pose a question: All of these lines are increasing. These mean ages are based on observed births in each mother age group, which are a product of fertility rates and population size in each age group. How much of this trend do you suppose is due to changes in age-specific fertility rates versus changes in underlying population structure? To answer this question, we will need to obtain, harmonize, and merge population data to the birth counts data we've been working with. Let's get to it!

# 3 Process population data

Often we get data from different sources that needs to be merged (or joined) into a single merged dataset in order to carry out an analysis. In this case, I've pulled January 1st female population counts data from EUROSTAT, and to make things interesting it's formatted differently and has its own challenges.

	A	В	С	D	Е	F	G	Н		J	K	L
1	Population of	n 1 January	by age and	sex [demo	pian1							
2			, Ly ago ama	oun [aumo_	ELSOI .							
3	Last update	05.07.21										
4	Extracted &	21.07.21										
5	Source of d	Eurostat										
6		~~~~										
7	SEX	Total										
8	UNIT	Number										
9												
10	TIME	GEO/AGE	Less than >	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6 years	7 years	8 years	9 year
11	2012	Belgium	128,701	131,406	130,525	131,088	128,720	128,016	125,150	123,401		
12	2012	Bulgaria	66,214	69,093	72,786	70,163	67,761	66,918	65,285	64,906	62,602	6
13	2012	Czechia	108,753	119,389	121,285	122,912	118,351	108,766	102,953	98,187	94,357	9
14	2012	Denmark	59,306	64,168	63,842	66,358	65,529	66,506	65,597	65,693	65,667	6
15	2012	Germany in	658,332	679,236	669,579	689,691	689,748	677,338	687,268	705,953	706,644	72
16	2012	Estonia	14,728	15,945	15,765	15,940	15,588	-	14,097	13,625	-	
17		Ireland	73,041	71,754	72,015	71,481	69,861	66,438	64,950	65,078	63,891	
18	2012	Greece	105,955	110,528	115,191	112,981	108,392	110,138	106,916	105,638	105,963	10
19	2012	Spain	475,603	483,549	494,158	521,121	502,163	498,183	487,772	482,425	473,952	45
20	2012	France	789,537	808,857	803,643	809,817	808,910		809,663	805,752	803,913	81
21	2012	France (me	763,531	781,550	775,094	780,356	778,613	_	778,941	775,211	773,146	
22	2012	Croatia	40,948	43,350	44,149	43,130	41,278		42,435		-	
23		Italy	531,372	544,814	554,608		560,099		556,531	561,023		_
24	2012	Cyprus	9,737	10,112	10,058	9,757	9,217	9,415	8,960	9,060	8,868	_
25	2012	Latvia	18,573	19,333	21,175	,	22,253	21,073	20,283		-	_
26	2012	Lithuania	30,194	30,534	31,190	29,502	27,564	27,133				
27	2012	Luxembour		6,049	5,894	5,904	5,872	5,917	5,881	5,865	_	
28		Hungary	87,680	89,906	96,679	99,423	97,391	100,953	97,693			
29		Malta	4,161	3,948	4,068	4,101	3,842	3,830	3,860		_	_
30		Netherland?		184,741	185,690	185,962	182,690	185,808	187,772	-	_	_
31		Austria	77,562	80,080	77,993	79,552	78,512		80,685	,	,	_
32	2012	Poland	380,668	412,836	429,002	427,212	399,979		366,058	-	_	
33		Portugal	95,703	99,519	96,085	100,281	98,361	101,075		-	_	
34	2012	Romania	185,286	207,241	215,521	216,015	212,002	213,127	215,766		_	
35	2012	Slovenia	22,003	22,576	22,057	22,297	20,477	19,543	18,605	_	_	
36		Slovakia	60,598	57,712	59,722	57,077	54,439		54,527	54,020	_	_
37	2012	Finland	60,074	61,504	61,109	60,486	59,804	60,185	58,901	59,077	-	
38	2012	Sweden	112,114	117,242	114,285	112,444	111,284	110,630	106,635		_	
39	2012	Iceland	4,486	4,859	4,880	4,720	4,543	4,423	4,339			_
40	2012	Liechtenste		333	411	353	366		387	387		_
41	2012	Norway	60,466	62,521	63,713	62,810	61,257	61,671	60,120	-	-	
42	2012	Switzerland		81,663	80,196	79,522	78,288		77,450			
45	2012	United Kind	8∩8 517	707 560	797 737	788 447	770 3/11	758 633	735 8/10	71/ 606	607 812	S.S.

## 3.1 Read in population data

Source: https://appsso.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/nui/show.do?dataset=demo\_pjan&lang=en

```
## [1] 500 104
```

When we read this in, some rows are entirely NA values for population. It will be easier to filter() these out a after the population values are stacked in a single column.

# 3.2 Reformat for joining

To be able to join, we must be able to exactly match on each of our structural criteria: Country names, Year and Age categories.

#### 3.2.1 Reshape to tidy

```
# check first and last age classes
 # colnames(Pop)
Pop <-
         Pop %>%
         pivot_longer(`Less than 1 year`:`Unknown`,
                                                                    names to = "AGE",
                                                                   values_to = "Population") %>%
         rename(Country = `GEO/AGE`) %>%
         filter(!is.na(Population))
glimpse(Pop)
## Rows: 39,423
## Columns: 4
                                                                         <chr> "2012", "2012", "2012", "2012", "2012", "2012", "2012", "2012", "20~
## $ TIME
                                                                        <chr> "Belgium", 
## $ Country
## $ AGE
                                                                        <chr> "Less than 1 year", "1 year", "2 years", "3 years", "4 year~
## $ Population <dbl> 62808, 64238, 63685, 63823, 62920, 62733, 61007, 60190, 588~
```

#### 3.2.2 Recode Age classes

What age classes to we have?

```
Pop %>%

pull(AGE) %>%

unique()
```

```
"2 years"
##
     [1] "Less than 1 year"
                                  "1 year"
##
     [4] "3 years"
                                  "4 years"
                                                          "5 years"
##
     [7] "6 years"
                                  "7 years"
                                                          "8 years"
    [10] "9 years"
                                  "10 years"
                                                          "11 years"
##
##
    [13] "12 years"
                                  "13 years"
                                                          "14 years"
    [16] "15 years"
                                  "16 years"
                                                          "17 years"
##
##
    [19] "18 years"
                                  "19 years"
                                                          "20 years"
##
    [22] "21 years"
                                  "22 years"
                                                          "23 years"
                                  "25 years"
                                                          "26 years"
##
    [25] "24 years"
##
    [28] "27 years"
                                  "28 years"
                                                          "29 years"
    [31] "30 years"
                                  "31 years"
                                                          "32 years"
##
##
    [34] "33 years"
                                  "34 years"
                                                          "35 years"
##
    [37] "36 years"
                                  "37 years"
                                                          "38 years"
    [40] "39 years"
                                  "40 years"
                                                          "41 years"
##
##
    [43] "42 years"
                                  "43 years"
                                                          "44 years"
                                  "46 years"
                                                          "47 years"
##
    [46] "45 years"
##
    [49] "48 years"
                                  "49 years"
                                                          "50 years"
    [52] "51 years"
                                  "52 years"
                                                          "53 years"
##
##
    [55] "54 years"
                                  "55 years"
                                                          "56 years"
##
    [58] "57 years"
                                  "58 years"
                                                          "59 years"
                                  "61 years"
                                                          "62 years"
##
    [61] "60 years"
                                  "64 years"
                                                          "65 years"
##
    [64] "63 years"
                                  "67 years"
                                                          "68 years"
## [67] "66 years"
```

```
##
    [70] "69 years"
                                  "70 years"
                                                           "71 years"
##
    [73] "72 years"
                                  "73 years"
                                                           "74 years"
##
    [76] "75 years"
                                  "76 years"
                                                           "77 years"
##
    [79] "78 years"
                                  "79 years"
                                                           "80 years"
##
    [82] "81 years"
                                  "82 years"
                                                           "83 years"
    [85] "84 years"
                                                           "86 years"
##
                                  "85 years"
##
    [88] "87 years"
                                  "88 years"
                                                           "89 years"
##
    [91] "90 years"
                                  "91 years"
                                                           "92 years"
    [94] "93 years"
                                  "94 years"
                                                           "95 years"
##
                                  "97 years"
                                                           "98 years"
##
    [97] "96 years"
## [100] "99 years"
                                  "Open-ended age class" "Unknown"
```

Now what would be the easiest way to code this to integer? I'd say: we have special cases for ages 0, 1, the open age group (100) and unknown ages. Every other age follows an exact pattern. Therefore, I propose we treat this with <code>case\_when()</code> handling all special cases first, then doing some sort of string operation to handle all other cases that follow the pattern "n years". This latter operation could either be a string operation that extracts digits, or a string substitution that deletes "years".

Check:

),

a <- c("10 years","11 years")</pre>

```
# standard
a %>% gsub(pattern = " years", replacement = "") %>% as.integer()
## [1] 10 11
# terse regular expression
a %>% gsub(pattern = "([0-9]+).*$", replacement = "\\1") %>% as.integer()
## [1] 10 11
# or a handy helper function from the readr package:
parse_number(a)
## [1] 10 11
Any of these checks would work to handle "everything else" at the end of our case_when()
Pop <-
  Pop %>%
  mutate(Age = case_when(
    AGE == "Less than 1 year" ~ 0,
    AGE == "Open-ended age class" ~ 100,
    AGE == "Unknown" ~ NA real ,
```

#### 3.2.3 Redistribute unknown ages

TRUE ~ parse\_number(AGE)

Year = as.integer(TIME)) %>%

select(-TIME, -AGE)

Here, rather than rescaling to the stated total as we did for Births, we take the other formula that applies the same principle, but framed in terms of redistributing counts with unknown age:

$$\hat{P}_x = P_x + \frac{P_x}{\sum P_x} * P_{Unkown}$$

where the denominator excludes  $P_{Unkown}$ . Once again, this operation is done inside mutate(). Note, we're using is.na() three different times as a logical selector! Here, ifelse() is used rather than case\_when() because there is only one condition and it is faster to type out.

```
Pop <-
  Pop %>%
  # declare groups
  group_by(Country, Year) %>%
  # 1. move Unknown age up to column
  # 2. replace NAs w Os in the new UNK column
  mutate(UNK = Population[is.na(Age)],
         UNK = ifelse(is.na(UNK), 0, UNK)) %>%
  # remove rows with Unknown age
  filter(!is.na(Age)) %>%
  # do the redistribution
  mutate(Population = Population + Population / sum(Population) * UNK) %>%
  # remove groups
  ungroup() %>%
  # remove column no longer needed
  select(-UNK)
```

#### 3.3 Calculate exposures

Probably we'd rather join exposures to Births than January 1st population counts. One final calculating will allow us to introduce a join operation. The approximation we'd like to do is:

$$Exposure_x = \frac{P_x^{Jan1} + P_x^{Dec31}}{2}$$

In other words, just take the average of the population at the start and end of the year. We can approximate the end-of-year population using the following year's January 1st population. Our goal is to do this arithmetic like so mutate(Exposure = (P1 + P2) / 2), so the trick is to create a second Population column, consisting in the same Population column we already have, but back-dated one year.

To do this we create a copy of Pop, then reduce Year by one in that copy, then merge it back to the original Pop that we started with. In the process we'll also rename both versions of Population to P1 and P2 so that we don't get confused. The year-range for P2 will lose the most recent year, and it will also have one extra year on the lower end, due to the shift. When we join the objects together we want to do so only where we have overlapping combinations of Year (and Age and Country need to match too, but these will match exactly in our case).

### 3.3.1 Time out for join varieties

There are different kinds of joining. Joins have a *left* and *right* side data object. Here are the basic ones, with some example data to make concepts clear:

```
C = 1:3
y \leftarrow tibble(A = c("a","b","d"),
             B = c("t", "u", "w"),
             D = 3:1)
Х
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
##
            В
##
     <chr> <chr> <int>
## 1 a
            t
                       1
                       2
## 2 b
            u
## 3 c
                       3
у
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
##
            В
     <chr> <chr> <int>
## 1 a
            t
                       3
## 2 b
                       2
            u
## 3 d
                       1
```

1. left\_join() the left object is primary and the right object is secondary. (left side row count unchanged, but right side could grow or shrink)

```
left_join(x,y)
```

```
## Joining, by = c("A", "B")
## # A tibble: 3 x 4
##
     Α
           В
                            D
     <chr> <chr> <int> <int>
## 1 a
                      1
           t
## 2 b
                      2
                            2
           u
## 3 c
                           NA
```

2. right\_join() the right object is primary and the left object is secondary. (right side row count unchanged, but left side could grow or shrink)

### right\_join(x,y)

```
## Joining, by = c("A", "B")
## # A tibble: 3 x 4
                             D
##
           В
     <chr> <chr> <int> <int>
## 1 a
           t
                             3
                      1
## 2 b
                      2
                             2
           u
## 3 d
                     NA
                             1
           W
```

3. inner\_join() only keep combinations present in both the left and right. (row count can stay same or shrink)

```
inner_join(x,y)
```

```
## Joining, by = c("A", "B")
## # A tibble: 2 x 4
```

```
## A B C D
## <chr> <chr> <int> <int > <i
```

4. full\_join() keep all combinations (row count can stay same or grow)

```
full_join(x,y)

## Joining, by = c("A", "B")

## # A tibble: 4 x 4

## # A tibble: 4 x 4
```

```
##
     Α
            В
                               D
##
     <chr> <chr> <int> <int>
## 1 a
             t
                        1
## 2 b
            u
                        2
                                2
## 3 c
             V
                        3
                              NA
## 4 d
                                1
                       NA
            W
```

You see in each of these examples that we're politely told in the console which variables were used to determine structural combinations? In these examples, it made good default choices, but in general, we should specify which columns to consider, using the by argument:

```
left_join(x, y, by = c("A", "B"))
right_join(x, y, by = c("A", "B"))
inner_join(x, y, by = c("A", "B"))
full_join(x, y, by = c("A", "B"))
```

In our case, we want inner\_join(by = c("Country", "Year", "Age)), make sense?

There are other kinds of joining too! Check out this Rstudio cheat sheet for data reshaping possibilities with dplyr: https://github.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/raw/master/data-transformati on.pdf Here we're interested in the section called Combine Tables on page 2. These cheat sheets are pure gold when you're trying to think through something like this. Now, back to our beloved pipeline!

```
Pop <- Pop %>%

# jan 1 of this year = dec 31 of last year

mutate(Year = Year - 1) %>%

# back-dated, this becomes P2 of the previous year

rename(P2 = Population) %>%

# Join together where Year overlaps

inner_join(Pop, by = c("Country", "Year", "Age")) %>%

rename(P1 = Population) %>%

# Exposure calc averaging within-age

mutate(Exposure = (P1 + P2) / 2)
```

#### 3.4 Bring it all together

The above steps accentuate how designing a processing pipeline happens in stages, and sometimes needs to be mapped out in advance. When doing this sort of work, we always check the results as we go to ensure things are processing as expected. When complete, we can clean up everything into a parsimonious pipeline. This allows you (and others) to think through all the steps in a glance: because tidyverse verbs string together into sentences! We therefore now paste all the above Pop processing code into a minimal pipeline:

```
Pop <- read_excel("Data/demo_pjan.xlsx",</pre>
           # cell range from visual inspection
           range = "A10:CZ510",
           # NA character also from visual inspection
           na = ":") %>%
  # stack ages
  pivot_longer(`Less than 1 year`:`Unknown`,
              names_to = "Age",
              values_to = "Population") %>%
  filter(!is.na(Population)) %>%
  rename(Country = `GEO/AGE`) %>%
  # recode age
  mutate(Age = case_when(
    Age == "Less than 1 year" ~ 0,
    Age == "Open-ended age class" ~ 100,
    Age == "Unknown" ~ NA_real_,
    TRUE ~ parse_number(Age)
  ),
  Year = as.integer(TIME)) %>%
  select(-TIME) %>%
  # Begin redistribution of pop with unknown age
  group_by(Country, Year) %>%
  mutate(UNK = Population[is.na(Age)],
         # Not each Country / Year has an Unknown age category
        UNK = ifelse(is.na(UNK), 0, UNK)) %>%
  filter(!is.na(Age)) %>%
  # The redistribution (only affects some subsets)
  mutate(Population = Population + Population / sum(Population, na.rm = TRUE) * UNK) %>%
  select(-UNK) %>%
  ungroup()
## Warning: 783 parsing failures.
## row col expected
                                 actual
## 101 -- a number Open-ended age class
## 102 -- a number Unknown
## 203 -- a number Open-ended age class
## 204 -- a number Unknown
## 305 -- a number Open-ended age class
## See problems(...) for more details.
# Need to cut pipe here because doing a self-join
Pop <-
  Pop %>%
  # jan 1 of this year = dec 31 of last year
  mutate(Year = Year - 1) %>%
  rename(P2 = Population) %>%
  # join together left and right-side pops
  inner_join(Pop, by = c("Country", "Year", "Age")) %>%
  rename(P1 = Population) %>%
  # simple exposure calc
  mutate(Exposure = (P1 + P2) / 2)
```

See how this pipeline is into two pieces? This is because we need to do the self-join part way through to do the exposure calculation.

# 4 Work with merged data

#### 4.1 Join Pop and Births

Note Pop has more Year (2012-2019), Age (0-100), and Country (41) values than does Births. However, Births has one year that Pop does not (2011). If we did left\_join(Pop,Births) that would be clearly too much. If we did left\_join(Births, Year) then we'd be closer, but still have an extra year (2011) with no exposure available. Either of these (and by extension a full\_join()) would still work, but would require extra filter() operations in order to get the data down to just the valid combinations of Country, Year, and Age. Hence, we use inner\_join() again to create our new object, Dat.

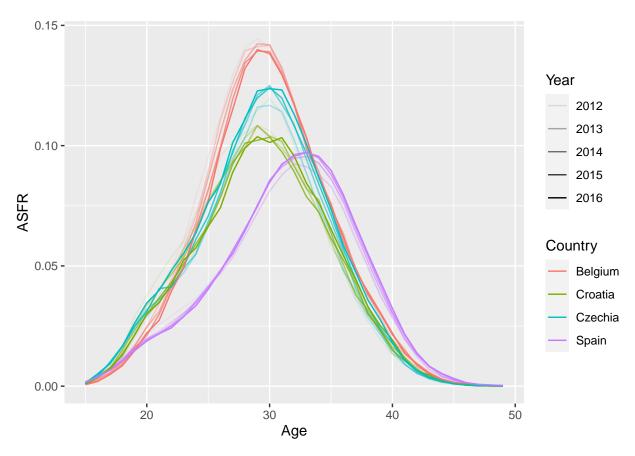
```
Dat <-
Births %>%
inner_join(Pop, by = c("Country", "Year", "Age"))
```

#### 4.2 Calculate rates

Rate calculation is a straightforward mutate() statement. There is no need to apply groups, as age-specific fertility is done row-wise.

```
Dat <-
  Dat %>%
  mutate(ASFR = Births / Exposure)
```

Now a brief detour to examine the fertility curves and do a quick sanity check that TFR is as expected. A brief explanation: everything inside <code>aes()</code> is a mapping of our data to coordinate or aesthetic properties. Since <code>ggplots</code> are composed of additive layers, we can keep adding layers using <code>+. geom\_line()</code> is the geometric form that that mapping is translated to. other geometric mappings are also possible. We'll breeze through several other low-key <code>ggplot</code> examples before more explicitly explaining things on Thursday.



I can't visually integrate those curves, can you? So let's just do a quick check of TFR:

```
Dat %>%
  group_by(Country, Year) %>%
  summarize(TFR = sum(ASFR),
             .groups = "drop") %>%
  pivot_wider(names_from = Country, values_from = TFR)
## # A tibble: 5 x 5
##
      Year Belgium Croatia Czechia Spain
##
     <dbl>
              <dbl>
                       <dbl>
                               <dbl> <dbl>
      2012
               1.80
                        1.51
                                      1.32
##
                                1.45
   1
##
   2
      2013
               1.76
                        1.46
                                1.46
                                      1.27
##
   3
      2014
               1.74
                        1.46
                                1.53
                                      1.32
## 4
      2015
               1.70
                        1.40
                                1.57
                                      1.33
```

Full disclosure: When setting up this exercise I at first downloaded Total population by Country, Year, and Age, and I literally didn't realize it until checking the TFRs. They were too small, so I re-downloaded denominators to be sure and that was the problem! Lesson: always do these side checks! If you script is cluttered with this sort of thing, then put them aside in a supplementary script.

1.34

#### 4.3 Recalculate mean age at birth using rates

1.42

1.63

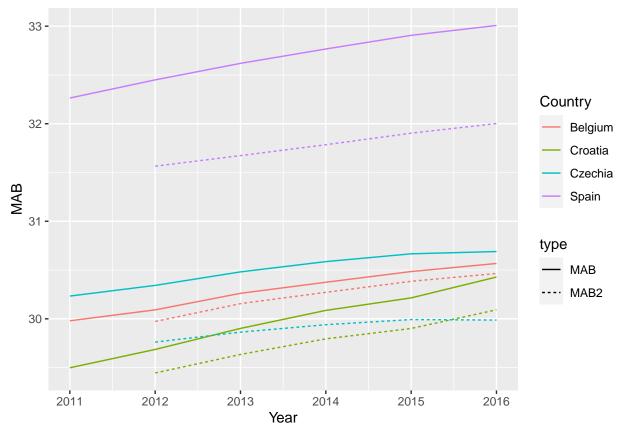
## 5

2016

1.68

Now we can calculate the MAB using fertility rates rather than birth counts, which ought to reduce the effects of population structure.

```
Dat %>%
  # age midpoint
  mutate(Age = Age + .5) \%
  # independent groups
  group_by(Country, Year) %>%
  # weighted mean for MAB
  summarize(MAB2 = sum(ASFR * Age) / sum(ASFR),
            .groups = "drop") %>%
  # join to previous estimate. We do full
  # because year range different, but we can plot everything
  full_join(MAB, by = c("Country", "Year")) %>%
  # stack
  pivot_longer(MAB2:MAB, names_to = "type", values_to = "MAB") %>%
  # remove NAs from asfr-weighted MAB (no 2011 info)
  filter(!is.na(MAB)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = Year,
             y = MAB,
             linetype = type,
             color = Country,
             group = interaction(Country, type))) +
  geom_line()
```



From this we see that trends are mostly the same, but not levels, and sometimes slopes are different. One could easily imagine a situation in which ASFR-weighted MAB gives a different trend than Birth-weighted MAB. One senses Czechia is close this case. Certainly levels can be quite different, and any discrepancy is due to departures from non-uniformity in population structure, which is an odd but precise way of putting it.

# 5 Excercises

- 1. Choose either rate-weighted MAB or birth-weighted MAB, but redo the calculations in terms of 5-year age groups. Assume that the average age within the interval is simply the midpoint (Age + 2.5). Does this change MAB much?
- 2. The exposure calculation we did could also be framed in terms of a bind\_rows() followed by a pivot\_wider() two-step. Can you figure out how to set it up that way? Doing so would produce the same result, and would serve to practice your dplyr fluency. Remember, pivot\_wider() wants names\_from and values\_from arguments. names\_from should be a new column specifying whether Population refers to P1 or P2, and values\_from could just be Population.

Wickham, Hadley. 2016. Ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis. Springer.

Wilkinson, Leland. 2012. "The Grammar of Graphics." In *Handbook of Computational Statistics*, 375–414. Springer.