Tidy data

PS239T

Spring 2019

- I adapted the following content from Wickham's R data science book (2017) chapter: https://r4ds.had.co.nz/tidy-data.html and his earlier paper (2014) published in the Journal of Statistical Software: http://www.jstatsoft.org/v59/i10/paper.
- Wickham created many essential R packages for data science. For more information, please see the following website: http://hadley.nz/

1. What're tidy principles

1. The dataset: strucure (physical layout) + semantics (meaning)

1.1. Data structure

- rows and columns

1.2. Data semantics

- variables > values (numbers or strings)

2. Tidy tada: "provide a standard way to organize data values within a dataset."

2.1 Tidy principles

- 1. Each variable forms a column.
- 2. Each observation forms a row.
- 3. Each type of observational unit forms a table.

```
# load library
library(tidyverse)
```

```
## -- Attaching packages ------------------------------- tidyverse 1.2.1 --

## v ggplot2 3.1.0     v purrr   0.2.5
## v tibble  2.0.1     v dplyr   0.7.8
## v tidyr   0.8.2     v stringr 1.3.1
## v readr   1.3.1     v forcats 0.3.0

## -- Conflicts ---------------------------------- tidyverse_conflicts() --
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()    masks stats::lag()
```

```
# tidy data example
table1
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##   country      year  cases population
##   <chr>       <int>  <int>      <int>
## 1 Afghanistan  1999    745   19987071
## 2 Afghanistan  2000   2666   20595360
## 3 Brazil       1999  37737  172006362
## 4 Brazil       2000  80488  174504898
## 5 China        1999 212258 1272915272
## 6 China        2000 213766 1280428583
```

Practically, this approach is good because you're going to have consistency in the format of data across all the projects you're working on. Also, tidy data works well with key packages (e.g., dplyr, ggplot2) in R.

Computationally, this approach is useful for vectorized programming because "different variables from the same observation are always paired".

3. Messay datasets

3.1. Signs of messy datasets

- 1. Column headers are values, not variable names.
- 2. Multiple variables are not stored in one column.
- 3. Variables are stored in both rows and columns.
- 4. Multiple types of observational units are stored in the same table.
- 5. A single observational unit is stored in multiple tables.

4. Tidy tools

Either input or output or both of them can be messy. Tidy tools can fix these problems.

4.1. Manipulation

- Filter
- Transform
- Aggregate
- Sort

4.1.1. Gather (from wide to long)

```r
table4a
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
##   country     `1999` `2000`
## * <chr>        <int>  <int>
## 1 Afghanistan    745   2666
## 2 Brazil       37737  80488
## 3 China       212258 213766
```

```r
# from long to wide
table4a %>%
  gather('1999', '2000', key = "year", value = "population")
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##   country     year  population
##   <chr>       <chr>      <int>
## 1 Afghanistan 1999         745
## 2 Brazil      1999       37737
## 3 China       1999      212258
## 4 Afghanistan 2000        2666
## 5 Brazil      2000       80488
## 6 China       2000      213766
```

```
# save the file
table4a_wide <- table4a %>%
  gather('1999', '2000', key = "year", value = "population")
```

4.1.2. Spread (from wide to long)

```
table4a_wide %>%
  spread(key = "year", value = "population")
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
##   country     `1999` `2000`
##   <chr>        <int>  <int>
## 1 Afghanistan    745   2666
## 2 Brazil       37737  80488
## 3 China       212258 213766
```

4.1.3. Separate (split one into many columns)

```
table3
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##   country      year rate
## * <chr>       <int> <chr>
## 1 Afghanistan  1999 745/19987071
## 2 Afghanistan  2000 2666/20595360
## 3 Brazil       1999 37737/172006362
## 4 Brazil       2000 80488/174504898
## 5 China        1999 212258/1272915272
## 6 China        2000 213766/1280428583
```

```
table3 %>%
  separate(rate, into = c("cases" , "population"))
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 4
##   country      year cases  population
##   <chr>       <int> <chr>  <chr>
## 1 Afghanistan  1999 745    19987071
## 2 Afghanistan  2000 2666   20595360
## 3 Brazil       1999 37737  172006362
## 4 Brazil       2000 80488  174504898
## 5 China        1999 212258 1272915272
## 6 China        2000 213766 1280428583
```

```
table3_separated <- table3 %>%
  separate(rate, into = c("cases" , "population"))
```

4.1.4. Unite (multiple columns into one column)

```
table3_separated %>%
  unite(rate, cases, population)
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3
##   country      year rate
##   <chr>       <int> <chr>
## 1 Afghanistan  1999 745_19987071
## 2 Afghanistan  2000 2666_20595360
## 3 Brazil       1999 37737_172006362
## 4 Brazil       2000 80488_174504898
## 5 China        1999 212258_1272915272
## 6 China        2000 213766_1280428583
```

4.2. Visualization

Will be covered in the future session.

4.3. Modeling

Will not be extensively covered in this course.