Exploratory Data Analysis

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Exploratory Data Analysis

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 - Statistical Functions
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 - Data Transformation

Exploratory Data Analysis¹

"In statistics, exploratory data analysis (EDA) is an approach to analyzing data sets to summarize their main characteristics, often with visual methods."

¹Source:

Definition

"In statistics, exploratory data analysis (EDA) is an approach to analyzing data sets to summarize their main characteristics, often with visual methods."

Goals

- Suggest hypotheses about the causes of observed phenomena
- Assess assumptions on which statistical inference will be based
- Support the selection of appropriate statistical tools and techniques
- Provide a basis for further data collection through surveys or experiments

¹Source:

Data-centric approach

- Informal—no defined model or assumptions
- Learn about the data, underlying structure
- Gather information to inform modelling choices
- Generate questions

Confirmatory Analysis

Model-centric approach

- Formal–rigorous statistical methods
- Dependent on assumptions (random, normal, iid, linear, etc.)
- Model Specification (regressions, ANOVA)
- Parameter estimation & hypothesis testing

Motivating Example

"Anscombe's quartet comprises four data sets that have nearly identical simple descriptive statistics, yet appear very different when graphed. Each data set consists of eleven (x,y) points. They were constructed in 1973 by the statistician Francis Anscombe to demonstrate both the importance of graphing data before analyzing it and the effect of outliers on statistical properties."²

²Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anscombe's_quartet = >

```
Access built-in data sets<sup>3</sup>
```

- > data("anscombe")
- > head(anscombe)

```
x1 x2 x3 x4
             y1
                  y2
                          yЗ
                              y4
  10
    10 10
           8 8.04 9.14 7.46 6.58
                        6.77 5.76
  8
    8
        8
           8 6.95 8.14
           8 7.58 8.74 12.74 7.71
 13 13 13
           8 8.81 8.77 7.11 8.84
    11 11
           8 8 3 9 2 6 7 8 1 8 4 7
6 14 14 14
           8 9.96 8.10 8.84 7.04
```



³?datasets for more

```
x1
                      y1
Min.
        : 4.0
                Min.
                     : 4.260
 1st Qu.: 6.5
                1st Qu.: 6.315
 Median: 9.0
                Median: 7.580
 Mean
        : 9.0
                Mean : 7.501
 3rd Qu.:11.5
                3rd Qu.: 8.570
 Max.
        :14.0
                Max. :10.840
            x1
                     y1
var: 11.000000 4.127269
sd:
      3.316625 2.031568
 correlation
   0.8164205
```

```
x2.
                      y2
Min.
        : 4.0
                Min.
                    :3.100
 1st Qu.: 6.5
                1st Qu.:6.695
                Median :8.140
 Median: 9.0
 Mean
        : 9.0
                Mean :7.501
 3rd Qu.:11.5
                3rd Qu.:8.950
 Max.
      :14.0
                Max. :9.260
            x2
                     y2
var: 11.000000 4.127629
sd:
      3.316625 2.031657
 correlation
   0.8162365
```

```
x3
                      у3
Min.
        : 4.0
                Min.
                    : 5.39
 1st Qu.: 6.5
                1st Qu.: 6.25
 Median: 9.0
                Median : 7.11
 Mean
        : 9.0
                Mean : 7.50
 3rd Qu.:11.5
                3rd Qu.: 7.98
 Max.
        :14.0
                Max. :12.74
            xЗ
                     у3
var: 11.000000 4.122620
sd:
      3.316625 2.030424
 correlation
   0.8162867
```

```
x4
                    у4
Min.
              Min.
                   : 5.250
 1st Qu.: 8
              1st Qu.: 6.170
 Median: 8
              Median: 7.040
 Mean
              Mean : 7.501
 3rd Qu.: 8
              3rd Qu.: 8.190
Max.
        :19
              Max. :12.500
            x4
                     v4
var: 11.000000 4.123249
sd:
      3.316625 2.030579
 correlation
   0.8165214
```

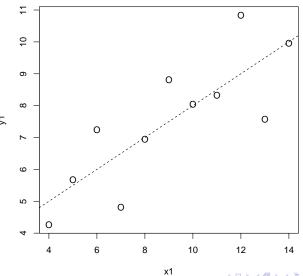
Anscombe's Quartet⁴

Table: Statistical Similarities (for all four data sets)

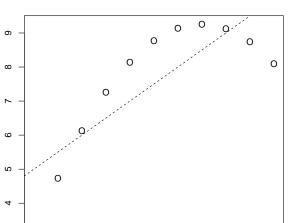
Property	Value	Accuracy
mean(x)	9	exact
var(x)	11	exact
mean(y)	7.50	to 2 decimal places
var(y)	4.125	plus/minus 0.003
cor(x, y)	0.816	to 3 decimal places
regression	y = 3.00 + 0.500x	2 and 3 decimals

⁴Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anscombe/s_quartet=>

Scatterplot of Anscombe's Quartet: 1 of 4



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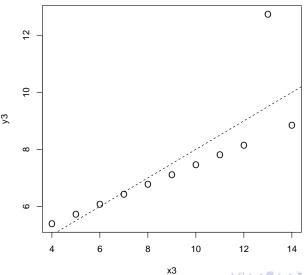
6

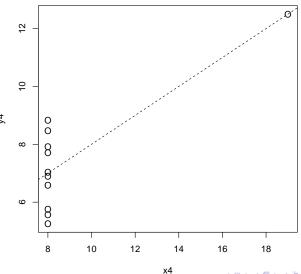
10

12

14

Scatterplot of Anscombe's Quartet: 3 of 4

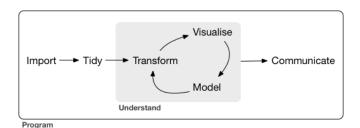




Takeaways

- ullet Statistical similarity eq Data similarity
- Look at your data, visualize
- CYA: check your assumptions

The Data Analysis Process⁵



- Have a question in mind
- Write code to carry out each step
- Save the code so you can reproduce (and share) your work

TOOIDOX

- Statistical Summaries
 - Extremes: range, minimum, maximum
 - Location: median, mean
 - Spread: quartiles, variance, standard deviation
 - Shape: skew, modality
 - Interactions: tables, correlations
- Visualizations
 - Box plot
 - Scatter plot
 - Line plot
 - Bar plot
 - Histogram
- Transformations
 - Subset / Select
 - Create Variables
 - Aggregate
 - Merge



Statistical Functions

- min(), max()
- mean(), median()
- sd(), var()
- quantile(), IQR()
- cov(), cor()
- summary()
- table()
- etc., see ?stats for more

Review using functions: unnamed arguments

```
> sum(1, 2, 3)
                      # correct
[1] 6
```

```
> sum(1, 2, 3)  # correct
[1] 6
> mean(1, 2, 3)  # incorrect
[1] 1
```

```
> sum(1, 2, 3)  # correct
[1] 6
> mean(1, 2, 3)  # incorrect
[1] 1
> mean(c(1, 2, 3))  # correct, but why?
[1] 2
```

Review using functions: unnamed arguments

```
> sum(1, 2, 3)
                     # correct
[1] 6
> mean(1, 2, 3)
                     # incorrect
[1] 1
> mean(c(1, 2, 3)) # correct, but why?
[1] 2
```

The first unnamed argument of mean() is assumed to be an input vector, the rest are considered options. All of the unnamed arguments to sum() are assumed to be input vectors.

- > ?sum
- > ?mean

```
> # missing values are "contagious"
> 1 + 2 + 3 + NA
Γ17 NA
> sum(1, 2, 3, NA)
Γ17 NA
> mean(c(1, 2, 3, NA))
[1] NA
```

Review using functions: named arguments

```
> # missing values are "contagious"
> 1 + 2 + 3 + NA
Γ17 NA
> sum(1, 2, 3, NA)
Γ17 NA
> mean(c(1, 2, 3, NA))
[1] NA
> # cure: exclude missing values
> sum(1, 2, 3, NA, na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 6
> mean(c(1, 2, 3, NA), na.rm = TRUE)
[1] 2
```

Data: Motor Trend Car Road Tests

```
> data(mtcars) # load built-in data
> str(mtcars) # view structure
'data.frame':
                     32 obs. of 11 variables:
$ mpg : num 21 21 22.8 21.4 18.7 18.1 14.3 24.4 22.8 19.5
$ cyl : num
             6 6 4 6 8 6 8 4 4 6 ...
$ disp: num
             160 160 108 258 360 ...
              110 110 93 110 175 105 245 62 95 123 ...
$ hp : num
$ drat: num
             3.9 3.9 3.85 3.08 3.15 2.76 3.21 3.69 3.92 3
$ wt : num
             2.62 2.88 2.32 3.21 3.44 ...
$ qsec: num
              16.5 17 18.6 19.4 17 ...
                0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 ...
$ vs
      : num
              1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
$ am : num
$ gear: num
             4 4 4 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 ...
             4 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 4 ...
$ carb: num
```

Toolhox

Example Data: Motor Trend Car Road Tests

```
> ?mtcars
              # view documentation
A data frame with 32 observations on 11 variables.
[, 1]
      mpg Miles/(US) gallon
[, 2] cyl Number of cylinders
[, 3] disp Displacement (cu.in.)
[, 4] hp
              Gross horsepower
[. 5] drat Rear axle ratio
[, 6] wt
             Weight (1000 lbs)
[, 7] qsec 1/4 mile time
[. 8]
      vs V/S
Γ, 9]
              Transmission (0 = automatic, 1 = manual)
      am
[,10] gear Number of forward gears
[,11] carb Number of carburetors
```

Try it

```
> data(mtcars) # load bult-in data
```

- > str(mtcars) # view structure
- > head(mtcars)
- > ?mtcars

15.425 22.800

Running individual summary functions

```
> min(mtcars$mpg)
[1] 10.4
> mean(mtcars$mpg)
[1] 20.09062
> median(mtcars$mpg)
[1] 19.2
> max(mtcars$mpg)
[1] 33.9
> quantile(mtcars$mpg)
   0% 25% 50% 75% 100%
10.400 15.425 19.200 22.800 33.900
> quantile(mtcars$mpg, probs = c(0.25, 0.75)) # use option
  25%
      75%
```

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Shortcut: the summary() function

- > # Input a vector
- > summary(mtcars\$mpg)

```
Min. 1st Qu. Median Mean 3rd Qu. Max. 10.40 15.42 19.20 20.09 22.80 33.90
```

Shortcut: the summary() function

- > # Input a data frame
- > summary(mtcars[, 1:3])

```
cyl
                                   disp
    mpg
Min.
       :10.40
               Min.
                      :4.000
                              Min. : 71.1
1st Qu.:15.43
               1st Qu.:4.000
                               1st Qu.:120.8
Median :19.20
               Median :6.000
                               Median :196.3
Mean :20.09
               Mean :6.188
                               Mean :230.7
3rd Qu.:22.80
               3rd Qu.:8.000
                               3rd Qu.:326.0
Max. :33.90
               Max. :8.000
                               Max. :472.0
```

Try it

> summary(mtcars)

<u>Tabulate</u> counts with table()

```
> table(mtcars$cyl)
```

11 7 14

input 1 vector

Tabulate counts with table()

Tabulate counts with table()

```
> table(mtcars$cyl)
                                 # input 1 vector
11 7 14
> table(mtcars$cyl, mtcars$am)
                                 # input 2 vectors
 4 3 8
  6 4 3
 8 12 2
> table(Cylinders = mtcars$cyl,  # input 2 vectors
       Manual = mtcars$am)
                                 # set labels
+
        Manual
Cylinders 0 1
       4 3 8
                                  4□ → 4周 → 4 = → 4 = → 9 0 ○
```

```
Tabulate counts with table()
```

```
> table(mtcars[, c("cyl", "am")]) # input data frame
```

```
am
cyl 0 1
4 3 8
6 4 3
8 12 2
```

Plotting Functions

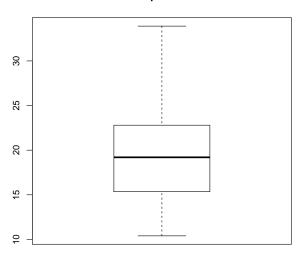
R has several distinct plotting systems

- Base R functions
 - hist()
 - barplot()
 - boxplot()
 - plot()
- lattice package
- ggplot2 package

Boxplot

```
> boxplot(mtcars$mpg,
          main = "Miles per Gallon")
+
```

Miles per Gallon



Boxplot Interpretation

Compare:

- > boxplot(mtcars\$mpg)
- VS -
- > summary(mtcars\$mpg)

```
Min. 1st Qu. Median
                        Mean 3rd Qu.
                                        Max.
10.40
       15.42 19.20
                       20.09
                               22.80
                                       33.90
```

+

The boxplot function can also take a formula⁶ as an argument $mpg \sim cyl$ "mpg conditional on cyl"

ylab = "Miles per Gallon")

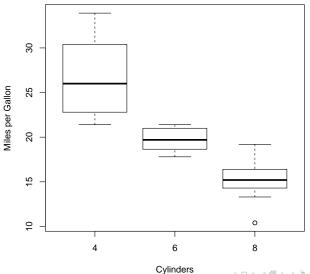
```
> boxplot(mpg ~ cyl,
+
          data = mtcars,
+
          main = "Miles per Gallon by Number of Cylinders"
+
          xlab = "Cylinders",
```

 $^{^6}$ an expression using vectors and the \sim operator. See ?formula or ? \sim for more ◆ロ → ◆回 → ◆ 三 → ◆ 三 ・ り へ ○

Try it

```
> boxplot(mpg ~ cyl,
+
          data = mtcars,
          main = "Miles per Gallon by Number of Cylinders"
+
          xlab = "Cylinders",
+
+
          ylab = "Miles per Gallon")
```

Miles per Gallon by Number of Cylinders

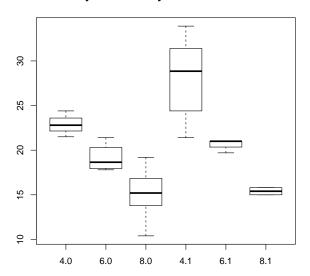


> # Expand the formula

```
Plotting Functions
```

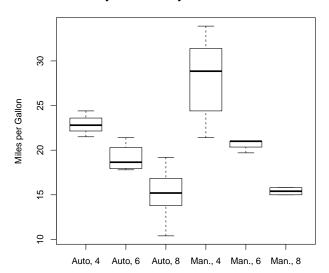
```
> boxplot(mpg ~ cyl + am,
          data = mtcars,
+
          main = "MPG by Number of Cyliinders & Transmissic
+
```

MPG by Number of Cylinders & Transmission



```
> # Relabel the x axis
>
> xaxis <- c("Auto, 4", "Auto, 6", "Auto, 8",
             "Man., 4", "Man., 6", "Man., 8")
+
> boxplot(mpg ~ cyl + am,
          data = mtcars,
+
+
          main = "MPG by Number of Cylinders & Transmission
          xlab = " ",
+
          ylab = "Miles per Gallon",
+
          names = xaxis)
+
```

MPG by Number of Cylinders & Transmission



Try it

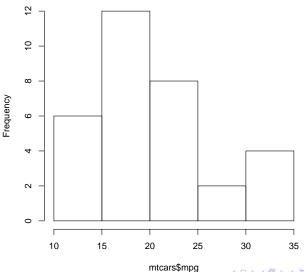
```
> boxplot(mpg ~ cyl,
+
          data = mtcars,
          main = "Miles per Gallon by Number of Cylinders"
+
          xlab = "Cylinders",
+
+
          ylab = "Miles per Gallon")
```

Histogram

Takes a vector, and plots the distribution of values

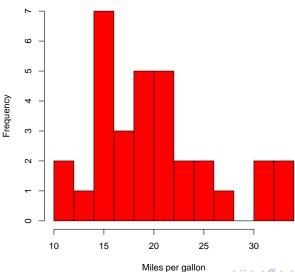
> hist(mtcars\$mpg)

Histogram of mtcars\$mpg



```
> # Add options
> hist(mtcars$mpg,
       breaks = 10,
+
+
       main = "Histogram of Miles per Gallon",
       xlab = "Miles per gallon",
+
       col = "red")
+
```

Histogram of Miles per Gallon



Try it

```
> hist(mtcars$mpg,
       breaks = 10.
+
+
       main = "Histogram of Miles per Gallon",
       xlab = "Miles per gallon",
+
       col = "red")
+
```

Bar Plot

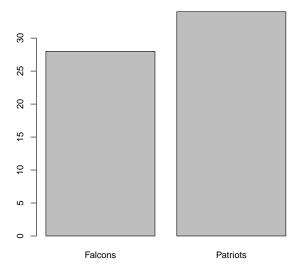
Takes a named vector and plots it

```
> scores <- c(Falcons = 28,
              Patriots = 34)
+
```

Bar Plot

Takes a named vector and plots it

> barplot(scores)

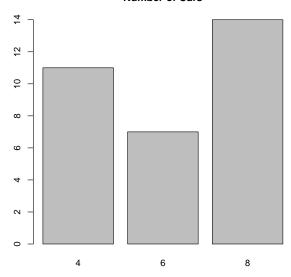


Bar Plot⁷

Use the table function create named vector with counts

```
> counts <- table(mtcars$cyl)</pre>
> counts
11 7 14
  barplot(counts,
       main = "Number of Cars",
+
       xlab = "Cylinders")
+
```



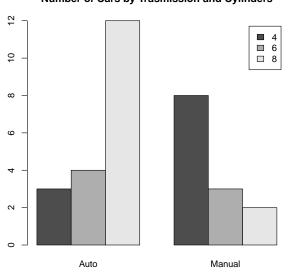


Cylinders

>

Use the table function to create a two-way frequency table, and plotting options to group bars

```
> counts <- table(mtcars$cyl, mtcars$am)</pre>
> colnames(counts) <- c("Auto", "Manual")</pre>
  barplot(counts,
+
       main = "Number of Cars by Trasmission and Cylinders
+
       xlab = "Trasmission",
       beside = TRUE.
+
+
       legend = rownames(counts))
```

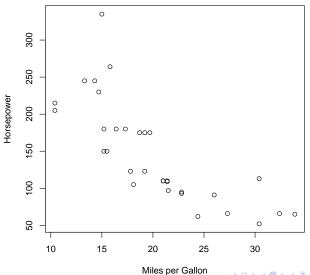


Try it

```
> # Tabulate
> counts <- table(mtcars$cyl, mtcars$am)
> colnames(counts) <- c("Auto", "Manual")
> # Plot
> barplot(counts,
+ main = "Number of Cars by Trasmission and Cylinders
+ xlab = "Trasmission",
+ beside = TRUE,
+ legend = rownames(counts))
```

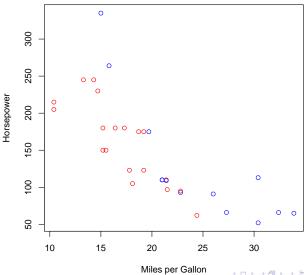
Scatterplot

```
> plot(mtcars$mpg,
+     mtcars$hp,
+     xlab = "Miles per Gallon",
+     ylab = "Horsepower")
```



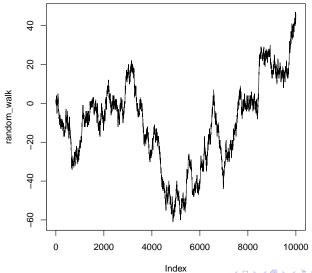
Try it

```
> # create a vector for conditional color coding
> colorcode <- ifelse(mtcars$am == 0, "red", "blue")</pre>
> plot(mtcars$mpg,
       mtcars$hp,
       xlab = "Miles per Gallon",
       ylab = "Horsepower",
+
       col = colorcode)
+
```



Line Plot

```
> set.seed(2017)
> random_step <- sample(c(-1, 0, 1), 10000, replace = TRUE)
> head(random_step)
   1 0 0 -1 1 1
> random_walk <- cumsum(random_step)</pre>
> head(random_walk)
[1] 1 1 1 0 1 2
> plot(random_walk,
       tvpe = "1")
```



Data Transformation

- subset rows
- subset columns
- make new variables
- aggregate rows
- merge data sets

Subset Rows: subset()

> big_block <- subset(mtcars, disp > 328)

Subset Rows: subset()

```
> big_block <- subset(mtcars, disp > 328)
> dim(mtcars)
[1] 32 11
> dim(big_block)
[1] 8 11
```

Subset Columns: subset()

```
> size_metrics <- subset(mtcars,
+ select = c("disp", "cyl", "wt"))</pre>
```

Subset Columns: subset()

Make New Variables: <-

- Use subset operators to isolate the column,
- Use the assignment operator to give it a new value.
- If the target variable doesn't exist yet, it will be added.
- > mtcars\$power_wt_ratio <- mtcars\$hp / mtcars\$wt

Make New Variables: <-

- Use subset operators to isolate the column.
- Use the assignment operator to give it a new value.
- If the target variable doesn't exist yet, it will be added.

```
> mtcars$power_wt_ratio <- mtcars$hp / mtcars$wt
```

> dim(mtcars)

[1] 32 12

> head(mtcars[, c("hp", "wt", "power_wt_ratio")])

	hp	wt	<pre>power_wt_ratio</pre>
Mazda RX4	110	2.620	41.98473
Mazda RX4 Wag	110	2.875	38.26087
Datsun 710	93	2.320	40.08621
Hornet 4 Drive	110	3.215	34.21462
Hornet Sportabout	175	3.440	50.87209
Valiant	105	3.460	30.34682

Make New Variables

Three styles to choose from. All of the subset operators work for this purpose.

```
> mtcars$power_wt_ratio <- mtcars$hp / mtcars$wt
```

```
> mtcars[["power_wt_ratio"]] <- mtcars$hp / mtcars$wt
```

```
> mtcars[, "power_wt_ratio"] <- mtcars$hp / mtcars$wt
```

Try it

Compute horsepower to weight ratio

- > mtcars\$power_wt_ratio <- mtcars\$hp / mtcars\$wt
- > head(mtcars[, c("hp", "wt", "power_wt_ratio")])

Make New Variables: examples

How might we go about creating variables to identify:

- fast cars (low 0-to-60 times)
- heavy cars (above average weight)
- domestic vs import (based on make & model name)

Make New Variables: Assigning to a subset

Use the [i, j] format to subset rows. Only the observations specified by the i expression are affected. Repeat as necessary

Make New Variables: Assigning to a subset

Use the [i, j] format to subset rows. Only the observations specified by the i expression are affected. Repeat as necessary

- > # quantile threshold values
- > q20 <- quantile(mtcars\$qsec, probs = .20)</pre>
- > q80 <- quantile(mtcars\$qsec, probs = .80)

Use the [i, j] format to subset rows. Only the observations specified by the i expression are affected. Repeat as necessary

- > # quantile threshold values
- $> q20 \leftarrow quantile(mtcars$qsec, probs = .20)$
- $> q80 \leftarrow quantile(mtcars$qsec, probs = .80)$
- > # pick rows for fast cars
- > # write to the new variable "quickness"
- > mtcars[mtcars\$qsec <= q20, "quickness"] <- "fast"</pre>

Hannat Chantahaut

4 D > 4 P > 4 B > 4 B > B 9 Q P

Make New Variables: Assigning to a subset

```
Use the [i, j] format to subset rows. Only the observations
specified by the i expression are affected. Repeat as necessary
> # quantile threshold values
> q20 <- quantile(mtcars$qsec, probs = .20)</pre>
> q80 <- quantile(mtcars$qsec, probs = .80)</pre>
> # pick rows for fast cars
> # write to the new variable "quickness"
> mtcars[mtcars$gsec <= q20, "quickness"] <- "fast"</pre>
> # only fast cars affected
> head(subset(mtcars, select = "quickness"))
                   quickness
Mazda RX4
                         fast
Mazda RX4 Wag
                         <NA>
Datsun 710
                         <NA>
Hornet 4 Drive
                         <NA>
```

✓ NT A <</p>

Repeat for remaining subsets

- > # pick rows for moderate cars
- > # write to the existing variable "quickness"
- > i <- q20 < mtcars\$qsec & mtcars\$qsec <= q80</pre>
- > mtcars[i, "quickness"] <- "normal"</pre>

Assigning to a subset of rows

Repeat for remaining subsets

```
> # pick rows for moderate cars
```

```
> # write to the existing variable "quickness"
```

$$>$$
 i <- q20 < mtcars\$qsec & mtcars\$qsec <= q80

```
> mtcars[i, "quickness"] <- "normal"</pre>
```

```
> # only moderate cars are affected
```

> head(subset(mtcars, select = "quickness"))

quickness

```
Mazda RX4 fast
Mazda RX4 Wag normal
Datsun 710 normal
Hornet 4 Drive <NA>
Hornet Sportabout normal
Valiant <NA>
```

Make New Variables: Assigning to a subset

Repeat for last subset

```
> mtcars[mtcars$qsec > q80, "quickness"] <- "slow"</pre>
```

> head(subset(mtcars, select = "quickness"))

```
quickness
Mazda RX4 fast
Mazda RX4 Wag normal
Datsun 710 normal
Hornet 4 Drive slow
Hornet Sportabout normal
Valiant slow
```

Valiant

Make New Variables: vectorized condition

3.460

```
Alternate approach: ifelse() function
> mean wt <- mean(mtcars$wt)</pre>
> mtcars$weight_class <- ifelse(mtcars$wt <= mean_wt,
                                 "light", # true cases
+
                                 "heavy") # false cases
+
> # result assigned conditionally
> head(subset(mtcars, select = c("wt", "weight_class")))
                     wt weight_class
                  2.620
Mazda RX4
                                light
Mazda RX4 Wag
                  2.875
                                light
                2.320
Datsun 710
                                light
Hornet 4 Drive 3.215
                                light
Hornet Sportabout 3.440
                                heavy
```

heavy

Aggregation: aggregate()

aggregate(): Splits the data into subsets, computes summary statistics for each, and returns the result⁸

```
aggregate(mtcars$mpg,
                                     # data
            by = list(mtcars$cyl), # grouping variables
+
+
            mean)
                                     # function
  Group.1
                 X
1
        4 26,66364
       6 19.74286
        8 15.10000
3
```

⁸R documentation: ?aggregate()

Aggregation: aggregate()

Multiple grouping variables can be used.

```
> df <- aggregate(mtcars$mpg,</pre>
                   by = list(mtcars$cyl, mtcars$am),
+
+
                   mean)
> names(df) <- c("cyl", "am", "avg_mpg")
> df
  cyl am avg_mpg
    4 0 22.90000
2
    6 0 19.12500
3
       0 15.05000
4
    4 1 28.07500
5
    6 1 20.56667
6
    8 1 15.40000
```

Combine data frames based on shared values

Combine data frames based on shared values

```
> # Sample Data
```

> print(A)

x1 x2

1 a 1

2 b 2

3 c 3

> print(B)

x1 x3

1 a TRUE

2 b FALSE

3 d TRUE

Shared values of x1 only

$$> df \leftarrow merge(A, B, by = "x1")$$

```
Shared values of x1 only
> df \leftarrow merge(A, B, by = "x1")
> print(df)
  x1 x2
            x3
  a 1 TRUE
   b 2 FALSE
```

All values of x1 from both/either

$$> df \leftarrow merge(A, B, by = "x1", all = TRUE)$$

```
All values of x1 from both/either

> df <- merge(A, B, by = "x1", all = TRUE)

> print(df)

x1 x2 x3

1 a 1 TRUE

2 b 2 FALSE

3 c 3 NA

4 d NA TRUE
```

All values of x1 in A

$$> df \leftarrow merge(A, B, by = "x1", all.x = TRUE)$$

```
All values of x1 in A
> df \leftarrow merge(A, B, by = "x1", all.x = TRUE)
> print(df)
  x1 x2
           x3
         TRUE
   a 1
2 b 2 FALSE
3
 c 3
           NA
```

All values of x1 in B

$$> df \leftarrow merge(A, B, by = "x1", all.y = TRUE)$$

```
All values of x1 in B

> df <- merge(A, B, by = "x1", all.y = TRUE)

> print(df)

x1 x2 x3

1 a 1 TRUE

2 b 2 FALSE

3 d NA TRUE
```

Merging: insert rows

rbind() "Stacks" one data frame on top of the other. Required: same column names in both

Merging: insert rows

rbind() "Stacks" one data frame on top of the other. Required: same column names in both

add x3 column to A

add X2 column to B

```
> A$x3 <- NA
> B$x2 <- NA
> df <- rbind(A, B)
> print(df)
 x1 x2 x3
        NΑ
  b 2
       NA
3
     3
          NΑ
  a NA
        TRUE
5
 b NA FALSE
6
  d NA
        TRUE
```

Get Data

read.table() family of functions: read raw data saved in delimited text files, and return a data frame object.

- > ?read.table()
- > ?read.csv()
- > ?read.delim()