

Four Page dplyr

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1 Background

dplyr is a very powerful R library for managing and processing data.¹

While dplyr is very powerful, learning to use dplyr can be very confusing. This guide aims to present some of the most common dplyr functions and commands in the form of a brief cheatsheet.

¹ The origins of the name dplyr seem somewhat obscure, but I sometimes think of this package as the *data plyers*.

```
library(dplyr)
```

2 Simulated Data

year	x	y	z
2001	NA	Group A	102.3
2006	36.85	Group C	97.27
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19
2005	38.57	Group A	89.25
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19

3 Piping

Pipes `%>%` connect pieces of a command e.g. *data to data wrangling to a graph command*.

4 Select A Subset of Variables: `select()`

```
mynewdata <- mydata %>% select(x, y) # select only x and y
```

x	y
NA	Group A
36.85	Group C
37.89	Group B
38.57	Group A
54.81	Group B

5 Filter A Subset of Rows: `filter()`

```
mynewdata <- mydata %>% filter(year > 2010) # filter on year
```

year	x	y	z
------	---	---	---

6 Create New Variables: `mutate()`

```
mynewdata <- mydata %>% mutate(myscale = x + z) # create a new variable e.g. a scale
```

year	x	y	z	myscale
2001	NA	Group A	102.3	NA
2006	36.85	Group C	97.27	134.1
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19	134.1
2005	38.57	Group A	89.25	127.8
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19	151

7 Recode Variables: `mutate()`

7.1 Continuous Into Categorical: `mutate()` & `cut()`

```
mynewdata <- mydata %>%
  mutate(zcategorical = cut(z, # cut at breaks
```

```
breaks=c(-Inf, 100, Inf),
labels = c("low", "high"))
```

year	x	y	z	zcategory
2001	NA	Group A	102.3	high
2006	36.85	Group C	97.27	low
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19	low
2005	38.57	Group A	89.25	low
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19	low

7.2 Categorical Into Categorical: mutate() & recode()

```
mynewdata <- mydata %>%
  mutate(yrecoded = dplyr::recode(y, # recode values
    "Group A" = "Red Group",
    "Group B" = "Blue Group",
    .default = "Other"))
```

year	x	y	z	yrecoded
2001	NA	Group A	102.3	Red Group
2006	36.85	Group C	97.27	Other
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19	Blue Group
2005	38.57	Group A	89.25	Red Group
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19	Blue Group

8 Rename Variables: rename()

```
newdata <- mydata %>%
  rename(age = x, # rename
    mental_health = z)
```

year	age	y	mental_health
2001	NA	Group A	102.3
2006	36.85	Group C	97.27
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19
2005	38.57	Group A	89.25
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19

9 Drop Missing Values: filter()

```
newdata <- mydata %>% filter(!is.na(x)) # filter by x is not missing
```

year	x	y	z
2006	36.85	Group C	97.27
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19
2005	38.57	Group A	89.25
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19

10 Random Sample

```
newdata <- mydata %>% sample_frac(0.5) # fraction of data to sample
```

year	x	y	z
2001	54.81	Group B	96.19
2006	37.89	Group B	96.19

11 Connecting To Other Packages Like ggplot

Notice how, in the code below, I never actually create the new data set mynewdata. I simply pipe mydata into a dplyr command, and pipe the result directly to ggplot2.

```
library(ggplot2)
```

```
mydata %>% # my data
  mutate(myscale = x + z) %>% # dplyr command to make new variable
  ggplot(aes(x = year, # the rest is ggplot
             y = myscale)) +
  geom_point() + # points
  geom_smooth(se = FALSE) + # smoother without confidence interval
  labs(title = "My Scale By Year") + # labels
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(size = 10, # tweak theme
                                     angle = 90))
```

