Women in Parliament – data.table

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We will use the World Bank's indicator data for "Women in Parliament" as a case study when working with the data.table R package. We will guide you through the geographical and time trends for the percentage of women in national parliaments. We will start by learning about and understanding the raw data, which we will then process ("wrangle") in preparation for some exploratory analysis.

Women in Parliament | World Bank Indicator | data.table | Tinyverse

1. Preface

We present a real-life case study for the data.table[1] package using the World Bank's "Women in Parliament" indicator data. To get the most out of this case-study guide, repeat the examples and do the exercises whilst reading it.

Guide materials. You can download materials for this guide from this link:

- https://ilustat.com/shared/WiP-rdatatable.zip

Unzip the file, which contains the data, this guide and an R script exercise file. We advise you to work with "WiP-Exercise.R" file to follow the examples and do the exercises. If you are using RStudio, you can double click on "WiP-dt.Rproj" to get started.

2. Objectives

Explore the geographical and time trends for the percentage of women[2] in national parliaments.

3. Understanding the Data

The World Bank Data. The raw data for *"Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments"* includes the percentage of women in parliament (*"single or lower parliamentary chambers only"*) by country (region) and year. It can be downloaded from:[3]

- https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SG.GEN.PARL.ZS

As part of its "open data" mission the World Bank offers *"free and open access to global development data"* kindly licensed under the "Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 (CC-BY 4.0)".[4]

Source Data. The data originates from the "Inter-Parliamentary Union" (IPU)[5] which provides an "Archive of statistical data on the percentage of women in national parliaments" going back to 1997 on a monthly basis:

- http://archive.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif-arc.htm

The World Bank data is for "single or lower parliamentary chambers only", while the IPU also presents data for "Upper Houses or Senates". Moreover, the IPU provides the actual numbers used to calculate the percentages (which the World Bank does not).

Data limitations. Take caution when interpreting these data, as parliamentary systems vary from country to country, and in some cases over time. Some of the issues to consider include:

- Who has, and who does not have, the right to become a Member of Parliament (MP)?
- How does someone become an MP? Through democratic elections? How is "democratic election" defined?
- What is the real power of MPs and their parliament? Can MPs make a difference?

Data definitions & assumptions.

"Women". The definition for "women" is not given, so we will assume that it refers to a binary classification for gender (sex).

"Country (Region)". The definition of countries and regions can change over time. (e.g. formation of new countries after conflicts, new member states joining a pre-existing collective). How are these changes reflected in the data? How do they affect the interpretation?

Pro tip. Understand the limitations of your data before anybody else points them out to you.

4. About the data file

The data is stored in a file called:

- API_SG.GEN.PARL.ZS_DS2_en_csv_v2_10515251.csv

To simplify things we have copied it to WB-WiP.csv (which also allows us to maintain the original file in case something goes wrong).

Pro tip. Always keep a backup copy of the data. Alternatively, set the data file(s) to "read-only" to protect it from being overwritten or modified.

Exercise. It is important to look at and understand the contents of the file before you start using it. Using a text editor or a spreadsheet software, open the WB-WiP.csv file (in the data directory). What do you observe in the contents of this file?

Content and Structure. The first four lines of WB-WiP.csv can be ignored, since they contain two lines of meta-information and two blank lines, as follows:

```
1  "Data Source","World Development Indicators",
2
3  "Last Updated Date","2019-03-21",
4
```

The fifth line contains the column (variable) names and the body of data starts in the sixth line. It is important to note that there was no collection of data for a majority of the years, which means that it is "missing".

5. Importing the data

Based on our findings above, we can "skip" the first four lines and treat the fifth line as column (variable) names.

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[1] For more information on the `data.table` package see http://r-datatable.com/.
[2] The objective could be termed neutrally as "gender trends" but we will keep it per the World Bank data.
[3] The `wbstats` R package (https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/wbstats/) gives access to a "tidier" version of the World Bank indicator data.
[4] https://datacatalog.worldbank.org/public-licenses#cc-by.
[5] Inter-Parliamentary Union: https://www.ipu.org/.

```
library(data.table)
library(here)
wip <- fread(here("data", "WB-WiP.csv"),
             skip = 4, header = TRUE)
```

Exercise. Check what you have read by typing "wip" in the console window. What do you observe? Type "class(wip)" and "str(wip)" to confirm that "wip" is of class "data.table".

"Fix" column names. Some of the column names contain spaces while others are numeric:

```
head(names(wip))
#  [1] "Country Name"   "Country Code"
#  [3] "Indicator Name" "Indicator Code"
#  [5] "1960"           "1961"
tail(names(wip))
#  [1] "2014" "2015" "2016" "2017" "2018" "V64"
```

By using the make.names() function we don't need to use back ticks (`) around the column names (e.g. `col name`).

```
names(wip) <- make.names(names(wip))
head(names(wip))
#  [1] "Country.Name"   "Country.Code"
#  [3] "Indicator.Name" "Indicator.Code"
#  [5] "X1960"          "X1961"
tail(names(wip))
#  [1] "X2014" "X2015" "X2016" "X2017" "X2018"
#  [6] "V64"
```

6. Data Wrangling Aims

We can simplify the production of summaries and plots by restructuring the current wip dataset (which has 64 columns) to the following format:

```
Country       Year    pctWiP
Country AAA   1997    ##.#
Country AAA   1998    ##.#
Country AAA   1999    ##.#
...
```

pctWiP refers to the percentage of women in parliament.

Key information retained. These three columns will contain the same information as the wip dataset but in a more usable format. We will also add a variable for the ratio of male to female MPs.

Superfluous columns. We will start by removing columns V64, Indicator.Name and Indicator.Code. There are years without any data but they will be removed automatically later (when restructuring from "wide" to "long" format).

Column V64 is created automatically due to an extra comma at the end of the column names (fifth) line of WB-WiP.csv:

```
... ,"2015","2016","2017","2018",
```

Check. Before removing it check that all values are NA.

```
wip[, .N, by=.(V64)]
#     V64    N
#  1:  NA 264
```

Column Indicator.Name has the unique value *"Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)"* and in Indicator.Code it is *"SG.GEN.PARL.ZS"*. As there is only one indicator in this dataset we will remove these two columns.

Exercise. Confirm that both Indicator.Name and Indicator.Code have the same values for all observations. Hint: Use the approach above for variable V64

Removing columns. The indicator and V64 columns can be removed. We will also rename "Country.Name" as "Country" and "Country.Code" as "Code".

```
wip[, c("Indicator.Name", "Indicator.Code",
        "V64"):=NULL]
setnames(wip, c("Country.Name", "Country.Code"),
         c("Country", "Code"))
head(names(wip))
#  [1] "Country" "Code"    "X1960"   "X1961"
#  [5] "X1962"   "X1963"
tail(names(wip))
#  [1] "X2013" "X2014" "X2015" "X2016" "X2017"
#  [6] "X2018"
```

Reshape to long format. We want to transform the data so that for each country the year (column) data becomes a row. At the same time we will remove the missing data (with the na.rm option).

```
WP <- melt(wip,
           id.vars = c("Country", "Code"),
           measure = patterns("^X"),
           variable.name = "YearC",
           value.name = c("pctWiP"),
           na.rm = TRUE)
WP
#           Country Code  YearC pctWiP
#     1:  Afghanistan  AFG  X1990   3.70
#     2:       Angola  AGO  X1990  14.50
#     3:      Albania  ALB  X1990  28.80
#     4:    Arab World  ARB  X1990   3.89
#     ---
#  5107:   Yemen, Rep.  YEM  X2018   0.00
#  5108: South Africa  ZAF  X2018  42.30
#  5109:        Zambia  ZMB  X2018  18.00
#  5110:      Zimbabwe  ZWE  X2018  31.50
```

Final tweaks to WP. Create a numeric Year variable and a Ratio of men to women in parliament.

```
WP[, ':='(Year=as.numeric(gsub("[^[:digit:].]",
                               "",  YearC)),
          Ratio = (100-pctWiP)/pctWiP)][
          , YearC:=NULL]
setcolorder(WP, c("Country", "Code", "Year",
                  "pctWiP", "Ratio"))
# Look at the contents of WP
WP
#           Country Code Year pctWiP Ratio
#     1:  Afghanistan  AFG 1990   3.70 26.03
#     2:       Angola  AGO 1990  14.50  5.90
#     3:      Albania  ALB 1990  28.80  2.47
#     4:    Arab World  ARB 1990   3.89 24.70
#     ---
#  5107:   Yemen, Rep.  YEM 2018   0.00   Inf
#  5108: South Africa  ZAF 2018  42.30  1.36
#  5109:        Zambia  ZMB 2018  18.00  4.56
#  5110:      Zimbabwe  ZWE 2018  31.50  2.17
```

7. Questions

The objective is to look at the geographical and time trends in the data. We will answer the following questions.

- What are the time trends for Portugal?
- How does Portugal compare to other countries?
- Which countries have the highest percentage of women in parliament by year?
- How do continents compare?
- What are the global trends over time?

Exercise.

- Which country do you think has the highest percentage of women in parliament?
- In each continent (i.e. Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe and Oceania), which country has the highest percentage of women in parliament?
- What is the world percentage of women in parliament in 2018?

8. Exploratory Analysis

Select a country. This guide explores how Portugal performs over time and compared to other countries. Before continuing, select another country for yourself to repeat the examples and do the exercises.

Time trends for Portugal. First look at the raw data.

```
WP[Country %in% "Portugal"]
#       Country Code Year pctWiP Ratio
#  1: Portugal  PRT 1990    7.6 12.16
#  2: Portugal  PRT 1997   13.0  6.69
#  3: Portugal  PRT 1998   13.0  6.69
#  4: Portugal  PRT 1999   18.7  4.35
#  5: Portugal  PRT 2000   17.4  4.75
#  6: Portugal  PRT 2001   18.7  4.35
#  7: Portugal  PRT 2002   19.1  4.24
#  8: Portugal  PRT 2003   19.1  4.24
#  9: Portugal  PRT 2004   19.1  4.24
# 10: Portugal  PRT 2005   21.3  3.69
# 11: Portugal  PRT 2006   21.3  3.69
# 12: Portugal  PRT 2007   28.3  2.53
# 13: Portugal  PRT 2008   28.3  2.53
# 14: Portugal  PRT 2009   27.4  2.65
# 15: Portugal  PRT 2010   27.4  2.65
# 16: Portugal  PRT 2011   28.7  2.48
# 17: Portugal  PRT 2012   28.7  2.48
# 18: Portugal  PRT 2013   28.7  2.48
# 19: Portugal  PRT 2014   31.3  2.19
# 20: Portugal  PRT 2015   34.8  1.87
# 21: Portugal  PRT 2016   34.8  1.87
# 22: Portugal  PRT 2017   34.8  1.87
# 23: Portugal  PRT 2018   34.8  1.87
#       Country Code Year pctWiP Ratio
```

Visualisation. It is easier to find trends within a plot.

```
library(ggplot2)
library(magrittr)
WP[Country %in% "Portugal"] %>%
ggplot(aes(Year, pctWiP)) +
  geom_line() + geom_point() +
  scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 50)) +
  ylab("% Women in Parliament")
```
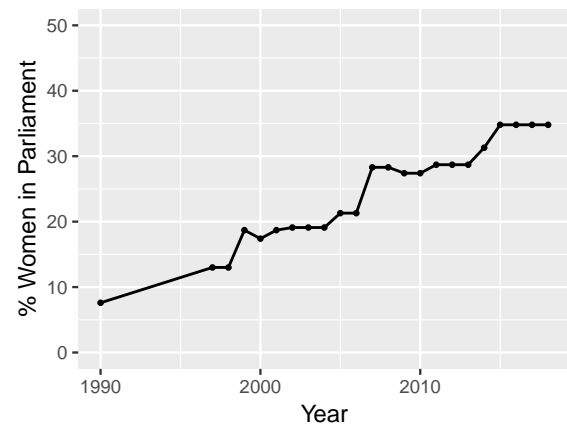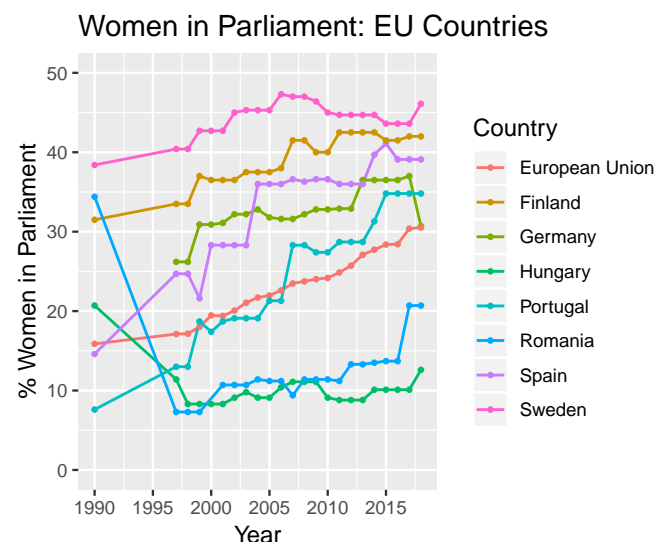

Interpretation. In 1990 Portugal had 7.6% women in parliament (i.e. 12.2 men for each woman), which increased to 34.8% (i.e. 1.87 men for each woman) in 2018. This still falls short of 50% (i.e. point of gender parity in parliament).

Exercise. For your chosen country look at the time trend data and the plot. What is your interpretation? How does it compare to Portugal?

Portugal versus European Union (EU) countries. We selected six EU countries (due to space limitations) for comparison. It would be better to compare all EU and/or all European countries.

```
WP[Country %in% c("Portugal", "Sweden", "Spain",
    "Hungary", "Romania", "Finland", "Germany",
                        "European Union")] %>%
  ggplot(aes(Year, pctWiP, colour=Country)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks=seq(1990, 2020, 5)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 50),
                     breaks=seq(0, 50, by=10)) +
  ggtitle("Women in Parliament: EU Countries") +
  ylab("% Women in Parliament")
```


Interpretation. Since 2012 Portugal has had more women in parliament than the European Union average. Hungary and Romania both had a higher percentage of women in parliament in 1990 (around the end of the Cold War) than they have had since. The key point to note is that none of these countries reaches equality between males and females in parliament, although Sweden and Finland come closest.

A couple of points to note.

"Germany". In October 1990, the process of "German reunification" lead to the creation of Germany, which united the former "German Democratic Republic" (East Germany) and the "Federal Republic of Germany" (West Germany). Therefore, since reunification, the data is presented for the reunified "Germany" only. Careful thought should be given to handling, analysing and interpreting any pre-reunification data (if available).

"European Union". The "European Union" has changed over time (unlike the "continent of Europe"). It started in the 1950s as a block of six European countries (known as the "European Community") and has expanded over the years to 28 countries (with the United Kingdom about to depart). This raises the question of how the European Union average is calculated. For a given year, is it calculated based on the actual member states in that year or on all of the current member states?

Exercises.
Compare the country of your choice to four or five other countries by plotting a line graph similar to the one above.

Countries with the highest percentage of women in parliament.
A quick answer can be obtained by looking at the highest percentages.

```
WP[order(-pctWiP), head(.SD, 10)]
#       Country Code Year pctWiP Ratio
#  1:   Rwanda  RWA 2013   63.8 0.567
#  2:   Rwanda  RWA 2014   63.8 0.567
#  3:   Rwanda  RWA 2015   63.8 0.567
#  4:   Rwanda  RWA 2016   63.8 0.567
#  5:   Rwanda  RWA 2017   61.3 0.631
#  6:   Rwanda  RWA 2018   61.3 0.631
#  7:   Rwanda  RWA 2008   56.3 0.776
#  8:   Rwanda  RWA 2009   56.3 0.776
#  9:   Rwanda  RWA 2010   56.3 0.776
# 10:   Rwanda  RWA 2011   56.3 0.776
```

Data speaks.
Are you surprised? Data can be very enlightening.

Highest percentage by year.
Which countries have the highest percentage of women in parliament by year?

```
WP[order(Year, -pctWiP), head(.SD, 1), by = Year]
#       Year Country Code pctWiP Ratio
#  1: 1990  Sweden  SWE   38.4 1.604
#  2: 1997  Sweden  SWE   40.4 1.475
#  3: 1998  Sweden  SWE   40.4 1.475
#  4: 1999  Sweden  SWE   42.7 1.342
#  5: 2000  Sweden  SWE   42.7 1.342
#  6: 2001  Sweden  SWE   42.7 1.342
#  7: 2002  Sweden  SWE   45.0 1.222
#  8: 2003  Rwanda  RWA   48.8 1.049
#  9: 2004  Rwanda  RWA   48.8 1.049
# 10: 2005  Rwanda  RWA   48.8 1.049
# 11: 2006  Rwanda  RWA   48.8 1.049
# 12: 2007  Rwanda  RWA   48.8 1.049
# 13: 2008  Rwanda  RWA   56.3 0.776
# 14: 2009  Rwanda  RWA   56.3 0.776
# 15: 2010  Rwanda  RWA   56.3 0.776
# 16: 2011  Rwanda  RWA   56.3 0.776
# 17: 2012  Rwanda  RWA   56.3 0.776
# 18: 2013  Rwanda  RWA   63.8 0.567
# 19: 2014  Rwanda  RWA   63.8 0.567
# 20: 2015  Rwanda  RWA   63.8 0.567
# 21: 2016  Rwanda  RWA   63.8 0.567
```

```
# 22: 2017  Rwanda  RWA   61.3 0.631
# 23: 2018  Rwanda  RWA   61.3 0.631
#      Year Country Code pctWiP Ratio
```

Merging continent.
The variable `Country` in the WP dataset is a mix of countries and regions (e.g. "European Union", "South Asia" and "World"). To present the highest percentages grouped by continent we need to add it. Luckily, given the large number of R packages available, we can merge the "`continent`" from the "`codelist`" dataset in the "`countrycode`" package.

```
# Ensure that 'countrycode' package is installed.
# install.packages("countrycode")
library(countrycode)
cl <- as.data.table(codelist)[, .(continent, wb)]
setnames(cl, c("continent", "wb"),
            c("Continent", "Code"))
cWP <- cl[WP, on="Code"]
```

Highest percentages by year and continent.
Which countries have the highest percentages in 1990 and 2018?

```
cWP[Year %in% c(1990, 2018) & !is.na(Continent)][
    order(Year, -pctWiP), head(.SD, 1),
    by = .(Year, Continent)][
    order(Continent, Year),
    .(Continent, Year, Country, pctWiP)]
#       Continent Year        Country pctWiP
#  1:      Africa 1990 Guinea-Bissau   20.0
#  2:      Africa 2018        Rwanda   61.3
#  3:    Americas 1990        Guyana   36.9
#  4:    Americas 2018          Cuba   53.2
#  5:        Asia 1990       Armenia   35.6
#  6:        Asia 2018   Timor-Leste   33.8
#  7:      Europe 1990        Sweden   38.4
#  8:      Europe 2018        Sweden   46.1
#  9:     Oceania 1990   New Zealand   14.4
# 10:     Oceania 2018   New Zealand   38.3
```

Decline in percentage.
Which countries have had a decline in percentage since their first measurement (not always 1990)?

```
dWP <- cWP[
  order(Country, Year), .SD[c(1,.N)],
  by=Country][,
  pctDiff := pctWiP - shift(pctWiP), by=Country][
  pctDiff<0][
  order(pctDiff)]
dWP[!is.na(Continent),
    .(Country, pctWiP, pctDiff)]
#                     Country pctWiP pctDiff
#  1:                 Armenia   18.1   -17.5
#  2:                 Romania   20.7   -13.7
#  3:                 Hungary   12.6    -8.1
#  4:                Mongolia   17.1    -7.8
#  5:           Guinea-Bissau   13.7    -6.3
#  6:                  Guyana   31.9    -5.0
#  7: Korea, Dem. Peoples Rep.  16.3    -4.8
#  8:                 Vanuatu    0.0    -4.3
#  9:             Yemen, Rep.    0.0    -4.1
# 10:                    Mali    8.8    -3.4
# 11:             Congo, Rep.   11.3    -3.0
# 12:                    Oman    1.2    -1.2
# 13:            Turkmenistan   24.8    -1.2
# 14:                   Haiti    2.5    -1.1
# 15:                  Tuvalu    6.7    -1.0
```

```
#  16:                       Albania   27.9   -0.9
#  17:                       Maldives   5.9   -0.4
```

Visualisation. We will plot the trend lines for countries with at least a 5% decline. Note that the "5%" is arbitrarily selected.

```
# Select the countries to plot
dclpct <- unique(dWP[!is.na(Continent) &
                     pctDiff <= -5]$Country)

WP[Country %in% dclpct] %>%
  ggplot(aes(Year, pctWiP, colour=Country)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks=seq(1990, 2020, 5)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 40),
  breaks=seq(0, 40, by=10)) +
  ggtitle("Women in Parliament: Decline >=5%") +
  ylab("% Women in Parliament")
```
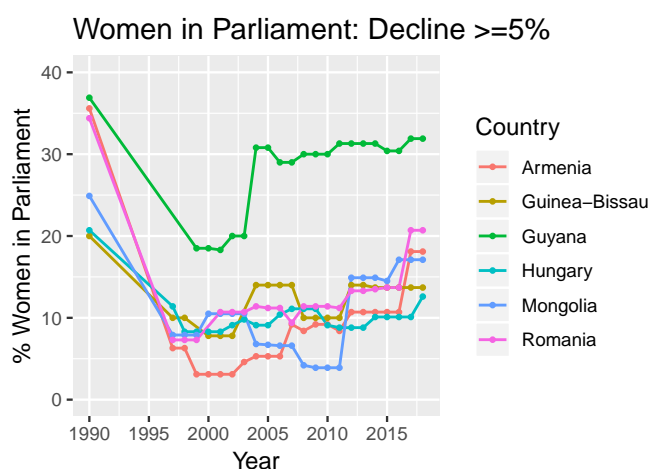

Interpretation. There is a consistent decline between 1990 and 1997 that should be investigated in collaboration with a subject matter expert to understand the potential causes.

Ranked status. Another way to look at the data is to look at the ranking of countries, which could be done at a global level or by continent. Nonetheless, the results should be interpreted with caution and an understanding of the actual percentages. For example, if most countries were around the 50% mark, rankings could be misleading and subject to random fluctuations.

Global ranks by year. We will rank the countries by year based on the percentage of women in parliaments. The countries with the highest percentage will be ranked first and the lowest last. A total for the number of countries with data is included as it varies by year.

```
cWP[!is.na(Continent),
    ':='(RankG = rank(-pctWiP), TotalG = .N),
        by = .(Year)]
```

Global ranking – Portugal.

```
cWP[Country=="Portugal",
  .(Country, Year, pctWiP, Ratio, RankG, TotalG)][
  order(Year)]
#       Country Year pctWiP Ratio  RankG  TotalG
#   1: Portugal 1990    7.6 12.16   66.0     138
#   2: Portugal 1997   13.0  6.69   41.5     161
```

```
#   3: Portugal 1998   13.0  6.69   49.5     163
#   4: Portugal 1999   18.7  4.35   24.0     154
#   5: Portugal 2000   17.4  4.75   34.0     158
#   6: Portugal 2001   18.7  4.35   33.0     168
#   7: Portugal 2002   19.1  4.24   41.0     161
#   8: Portugal 2003   19.1  4.24   46.0     175
#   9: Portugal 2004   19.1  4.24   54.0     182
#  10: Portugal 2005   21.3  3.69   45.5     185
#  11: Portugal 2006   21.3  3.69   49.5     189
#  12: Portugal 2007   28.3  2.53   28.0     188
#  13: Portugal 2008   28.3  2.53   28.0     187
#  14: Portugal 2009   27.4  2.65   33.0     187
#  15: Portugal 2010   27.4  2.65   34.0     187
#  16: Portugal 2011   28.7  2.48   31.0     188
#  17: Portugal 2012   28.7  2.48   35.0     188
#  18: Portugal 2013   28.7  2.48   39.0     186
#  19: Portugal 2014   31.3  2.19   35.0     187
#  20: Portugal 2015   34.8  1.87   29.0     188
#  21: Portugal 2016   34.8  1.87   27.0     191
#  22: Portugal 2017   34.8  1.87   28.0     192
#  23: Portugal 2018   34.8  1.87   29.0     192
#       Country Year pctWiP Ratio  RankG  TotalG
```

Interpretation. Portugal has generally been ranked in the first quartile (25%) of countries in the world, with the fluctuations of its ranking most likely due to random variation.

Exercise. For your chosen country, interpret its ranking over the years. How does it compare to Portugal?

Continent ranks by year. We will rank the countries by year within a continent based on the percentage of women in parliaments. The countries with the highest percentage will be ranked first and the lowest last. A total for the number of countries with data, within each continent, is included as it varies by year.

```
cWP[!is.na(Continent),
    ':='(RankC = rank(-pctWiP), TotalC = .N),
        by = .(Continent, Year)]
```
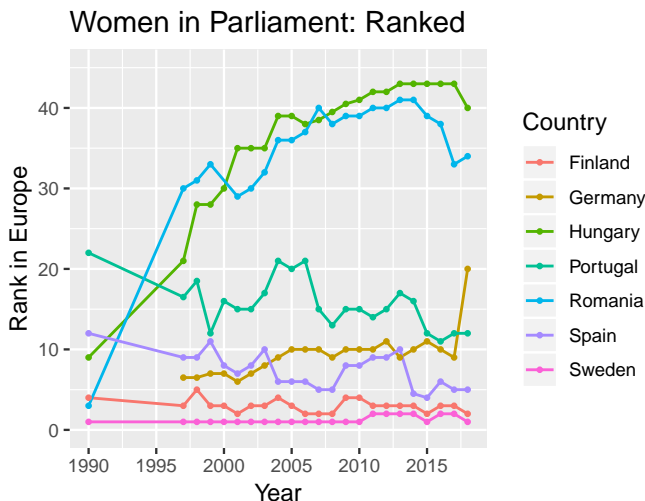
Portugal's ranking in Europe.

```
cWP[Country=="Portugal",
  .(Country, Year, pctWiP, Ratio, RankC, TotalC)][
  order(Year)]
#       Country Year pctWiP Ratio  RankC  TotalC
#   1: Portugal 1990    7.6 12.16   22.0      28
#   2: Portugal 1997   13.0  6.69   16.5      39
#   3: Portugal 1998   13.0  6.69   18.5      37
#   4: Portugal 1999   18.7  4.35   12.0      38
#   5: Portugal 2000   17.4  4.75   16.0      38
#   6: Portugal 2001   18.7  4.35   15.0      41
#   7: Portugal 2002   19.1  4.24   15.0      39
#   8: Portugal 2003   19.1  4.24   17.0      41
#   9: Portugal 2004   19.1  4.24   21.0      42
#  10: Portugal 2005   21.3  3.69   20.0      42
#  11: Portugal 2006   21.3  3.69   21.0      44
#  12: Portugal 2007   28.3  2.53   15.0      44
#  13: Portugal 2008   28.3  2.53   13.0      44
#  14: Portugal 2009   27.4  2.65   15.0      44
#  15: Portugal 2010   27.4  2.65   15.0      44
#  16: Portugal 2011   28.7  2.48   14.0      44
#  17: Portugal 2012   28.7  2.48   15.0      43
#  18: Portugal 2013   28.7  2.48   17.0      43
#  19: Portugal 2014   31.3  2.19   16.0      43
#  20: Portugal 2015   34.8  1.87   12.0      43
```

```
#  21: Portugal 2016   34.8  1.87  11.0    43
#  22: Portugal 2017   34.8  1.87  12.0    43
#  23: Portugal 2018   34.8  1.87  12.0    43
#        Country Year pctWiP Ratio RankC TotalC
```

Plot of Portugal's ranking in Europe. Below we reproduce the percentage plot to show how Portugal ranks in relation to six other European countries. Note that the highest percentage is ranked first and the lowest last.

```
cWP[Country %in% c("Portugal", "Sweden", "Spain",
  "Hungary", "Romania", "Finland", "Germany")] %>%
  ggplot(aes(Year, RankC, colour=Country)) +
  geom_line() +
  geom_point() +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks=seq(1990, 2020, 5)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 45),
                     breaks=seq(0, 45, by=10)) +
  ggtitle("Women in Parliament: Ranked") +
  ylab("Rank in Europe")
```

Women in Parliament: Ranked

Interpretation. A total of 28 European countries had data in 1990, 39 in 1997 and 43 in 2018. Within Europe, Portugal was typically ranked in the second quartile (25-50%) with the fluctuations of its ranking most likely due to random variation.

**Exercise.** How does your chosen country rank within its continent?

Highest rank by year and continent. Which countries have the highest rank in 1990 and 2018? The answer will coincide with the highest percentages (see above).

```
cWP[Year %in% c(1990, 2018) & RankC==1][
    order(Continent, Year),
    .(Continent, Year, Country, pctWiP, RankC)]
#  Continent Year        Country pctWiP RankC
#     Africa 1990  Guinea-Bissau   20.0     1
#     Africa 2018         Rwanda   61.3     1
#   Americas 1990         Guyana   36.9     1
#   Americas 2018           Cuba   53.2     1
#       Asia 1990        Armenia   35.6     1
#       Asia 2018    Timor-Leste   33.8     1
#     Europe 1990         Sweden   38.4     1
#     Europe 2018         Sweden   46.1     1
#    Oceania 1990    New Zealand   14.4     1
#    Oceania 2018    New Zealand   38.3     1
```

Overall picture. What are the trends globally? There are various regions defined in the World Bank data. We can plot them and highlight the world "average".

```
library(gghighlight)
cWP[is.na(Continent)] %>%
  ggplot(aes(Year, pctWiP, group=Country)) +
  geom_line() +
  gghighlight(Country=="World",
              use_direct_label = FALSE) +
  scale_x_continuous(breaks=seq(1990, 2020, 5)) +
  scale_y_continuous(limits=c(0, 40),
                     breaks=seq(0, 40, by=10)) +
  ggtitle("Women in Parliament: Global Trends") +
  ylab("% Women in Parliament")
```

Women in Parliament: Global Trends
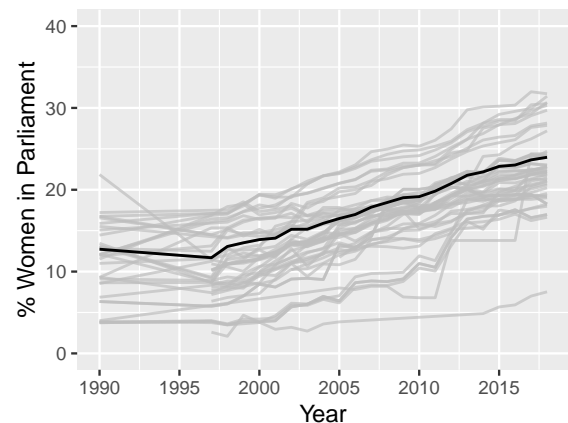
Interpretation. The grey lines show that regardless of how we define region the general trends are upwards. The "World" percentage (black line) increased between 1997 and 2018. In 2018, women in parliament represented 24% (i.e. a ratio of 3.17 men to each woman), which is still less than half the level before gender parity can be claimed.

9. Conclusion

This guide presented an analysis of the percentage of women in parliament as a real-life case study for the data.table package. Although the format limited what could be presented, we can conclude that the percentage of women in parliament is increasing but that gender parity in parliaments is still far-off.

There is a lot more that can be said and discussed about the limitations, interpretation and potential impact of this data which the World Bank has nicely summarised.[6] You are strongly encouraged to read their discussion for a more complete understanding.

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[6] https://databank.worldbank.org/data/reports.aspx?source=2&type=metadata&series=SG.GEN.PARL.ZS.