# QTM 151 Final Project

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## Instructions

The class project is split into two parts. This is Part II - the Project. You've already completed Part I - the Proposal.

The due date is May 9th at 6:00pm U.S. ET. This is a firm, unmoveable deadline so I have enough time to grade these before grades are due. Please prepare accordingly.

For the project you will work in groups of 3-4 to prepare a brief RMarkdown report using a data set of your choice to answer at least one research question(s) you're interested in investigating. The Canvas Project module has an example of a prior project to help guide what would be appropriate research question(s) vs. something that's too broad or too narrow (though note I think it could use better headings, a bit more organization, and your project is more focused on data cleaning), as well as several possible sources for datasets.

The Project must include and will be graded as follows (20 total pts):

- 1. Make sure to load any packages you may need right at the start. (0 pts)
- 2. Ensure that no chunks have the include = FALSE or echo = FALSE option, as I want to be able to see *all* your code and output. (0 pts)
- 3. Brief but descriptive headings and document organization (answers under headings, text near relevant code, brief explanatory text as necessary to walk the reader through what you did, etc.), as well as brief bits of narrative text throughout the document to walk me through your cleaning and analytical process. (5 pts)

Look to my HW1 and RMarkdown Organization examples from QTM 150 as well as my feedback throughout both courses for how to write good headings, organize your assignment, and how much narrative text (outside of code chunks) I want. A good rule of thumb for narrative text is: explain what *you're* doing, NOT what *your code* is doing. I want to be able to easily track what you're doing as you move through the analysis, and why. I do *not* need to see a repeat, line-by-line narration of what your code does.

You can use code comments where necessary (complex code lines or blocks every few lines, or at least every chunk) for additional detail. These can not only help the reader but also help future-you when you go back to look at some code you wrote and are trying to figure out what it does and why you even wrote it in the first place.

Make sure you also provide a correct written answer to your research question(s) and interpretations of all plots and tables included in your project.

I'm really emphasizing this in the final project because I want you to be able to show this project off to future potential data science employers as part of a "portfolio." Being able not to just promise things, but to *show* your skills is incredibly helpful in getting a job. A *clean*, well-organized analytical document will go a long way in interviews, I assure you.

- 4. A description and *basic* exploration of the dataset. Hopefully you mostly already did this in the Proposal. (1 pt)
- 5. At least one research question, clearly articulated. (1 pts)
- 6. You should have chosen a dataset and question(s) that, before you can answer it/them, requires quite a bit of "real world style" data cleaning. You must demonstrate your skills in 5 of the following: (10 pts)
  - i) Data reshaping (changing the number of columns or rows by pivoting)
  - ii) Splitting or combining values across columns (separating and uniting)
  - iii) Cleaning variable names
  - iv) Identifying and cleaning missing observations or values or NA and NaN and NULL values
  - v) Re-coding variable values (for example, changing a state abbreviation to the full state name; or changing a "1" for a race variable to "White")
  - vi) Cleaning strings (anything from the stringr package; if it requires regular expressions, this counts for 2)
  - vii) Cleaning factors (anything from the forcats package)
  - viii) Cleaning or modifying dates (anything from the lubridate package)
- 7. Once your data is clean, answer your research question(s) with at least 2 visualizations of different types. (3 pts)

What's a "type?" Different geoms or combinations of geoms.

Adhere to the layout and graphic design guidance you've received throughout this course and in feed-back on your assignments. Everything on the charts should be human-readable, easily separated or laid out to allow the answering of your research questions with a quick visual scan, a good legend position, and there should be no extraneous elements.

At least one of your visualizations must be of an advanced type we learned in QTM 151 (map or interactive plotly plot).

Make sure to describe and interpret these briefly in nearby text.

Length-wise, aim for something a bit longer than the example project (data cleaning often takes up a lot of space).

## To submit this assignment:

Ideally, knit straight to PDF by changing html\_document to pdf\_document in line 5 above. Otherwise:

- 1. Knit to HTML. An HTML document should open automatically in another RStudio window.
- 2. Click "Open in Browser" in that HTML document. It should open as a webpage in your default browser (e.g. Chrome).
- 3. Click Ctrl+P/Command+P, but instead of printing a hard copy on your printer click "Save as PDF."
- 4. Save and upload that document to Canvas.

BEGIN	ANSWER	BELOW
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# Avengers Assemble!

This project is an exploration of the dataset regarding Marvel's Avengers (Avengers.csv provided by fivethirtyeight). We will explore topics such as how the numbers of appearances and deaths of the Avengers are associated with gender, honorary status and number of years they have joined.

## Load packages and import the dataset

The packages tidyverse, skimr, etc. are loaded to facilitate later data analysis and visualizations.

```
pacman::p_load(tidyverse, skimr, janitor, pander, lubridate, plotly)
avengers <- read_csv("./avengers.csv")</pre>
```

```
##
## -- Column specification -----
## cols(
##   .default = col_character(),
##   Appearances = col_double(),
##   Year = col_double(),
##   Years since joining` = col_double()
##    )
##   i Use `spec()` for the full column specifications.
```

The csv file avengers.csv is obtained from this link. It contains 173 observations of 21 variables, describing the Avengers from the Marvel Comics up until April 30, 2015.

#### Explore the dataset

Before raising our research question and getting into data cleaning, first we want to take a look at the current structure and variables of the dataset.

```
head(avengers, 10)
```

```
## # A tibble: 10 x 21
##
      TIRT.
                      `Name/Alias`
                                      Appearances `Current?` Gender `Probationary I~
##
      <chr>
                     <chr>
                                            <dbl> <chr>
                                                             <chr>
                                                                     <chr>>
##
   1 http://marvel~ "Henry Jonatha~
                                             1269 YES
                                                             MALE
                                                                     <NA>
   2 http://marvel~ "Janet van Dyn~
                                             1165 YES
                                                             FEMALE <NA>
   3 http://marvel~ "Anthony Edwar~
                                             3068 YES
                                                             MALE
                                                                     <NA>
  4 http://marvel~ "Robert Bruce ~
                                             2089 YES
                                                             MALE
                                                                     <NA>
## 5 http://marvel~ "Thor Odinson"
                                             2402 YES
                                                             MALE
                                                                     <NA>
## 6 http://marvel~ "Richard Milho~
                                              612 YES
                                                             MALE
                                                                     <NA>
## 7 http://marvel~ "Steven Rogers"
                                                             MALE
                                             3458 YES
                                                                     <NA>
  8 http://marvel~ "Clinton Franc~
                                             1456 YES
                                                             MALE
                                                                     <NA>
## 9 http://marvel~ "Pietro Maximo~
                                                             MALE
                                              769 YES
                                                                     <NA>
## 10 http://marvel~ "Wanda Maximof~
                                             1214 YES
                                                             FEMALE <NA>
## # ... with 15 more variables: Full/Reserve Avengers Intro <chr>, Year <dbl>,
       Years since joining <dbl>, Honorary <chr>, Death1 <chr>, Return1 <chr>,
       Death2 <chr>, Return2 <chr>, Death3 <chr>, Return3 <chr>, Death4 <chr>,
## #
       Return4 <chr>, Death5 <chr>, Return5 <chr>, Notes <chr>
```

From the first 10 rows of the data frame, we can see that each observation in the dataset represents an Avenger from the comic books. The variables describing an observation include the name (or alias), gender, number of comic books that character appeared in as of April 30, 2015, and most importantly, the number of deaths and returns the character experienced from their first appearance to April 30, 2015.

Next, we want to figure out each variable's data type, and have a brief idea about the locations of the missing values in the dataset.

### skim(avengers)

Table 1: Data summary

avengers
173
21
18
3
None

## Variable type: character

skim_variable	n_missing	$complete\_rate$	min	max	empty	nunique	whitespace
URL	0	1.00	36	67	0	173	0
Name/Alias	10	0.94	4	35	0	162	0
Current?	0	1.00	2	3	0	2	0
Gender	0	1.00	4	6	0	2	0
Probationary Introl	158	0.09	6	6	0	12	0
Full/Reserve Avengers Intro	14	0.92	5	6	0	93	0
Honorary	0	1.00	4	12	0	4	0
Death1	0	1.00	2	3	0	2	0
Return1	104	0.40	2	3	0	2	0
Death2	156	0.10	2	3	0	2	0
Return2	157	0.09	2	3	0	2	0
Death3	171	0.01	3	3	0	1	0
Return3	171	0.01	2	3	0	2	0
Death4	172	0.01	3	3	0	1	0
Return4	172	0.01	3	3	0	1	0
Death5	172	0.01	3	3	0	1	0
Return5	172	0.01	3	3	0	1	0
Notes	98	0.43	21	255	0	71	0

### Variable type: numeric

skim_variable	n_missing	complete_rate	mean	$\operatorname{sd}$	p0	p25	p50	p75	p100	hist
Appearances	0	1	414.05	677.99	2	58	132	491	4333	
Year	0	1	1988.45	30.37	1900	1979	1996	2010	2015	
Years since joining	0	1	26.55	30.37	0	5	19	36	115	

From skim(), we notice that except three numerical variables Appearances, Year, and Years since joining, all the other variables are in character type.

Also, it shows that most of the missing values are allocated at the variables describing the number of deaths/returns of the Avenger, and also the variable Probationary Introl. This makes sense because not

all Avengers experienced many deaths, recoveries, or were given probationary status. Some names of the Avengers are missing, but we can fill in those values since the names of Avengers are included in their URLs.

Meanwhile, from the max, min, mean, and quartiles of the three numeric variables, it seems like there is no obvious implausible values.

```
get_dupes(avengers)
## No variable names specified - using all columns.
```

## No duplicate combinations found of: URL, Name/Alias, Appearances, Current?, Gender, Probationary Int
## # A tibble: 0 x 22
## # ... with 22 variables: URL <chr>, Name/Alias <chr>, Appearances <dbl>,
## # Current? <chr>, Gender <chr>, Probationary Introl <chr>,
## # Full/Reserve Avengers Intro <chr>, Year <dbl>, Years since joining <dbl>,
## # Honorary <chr>, Death1 <chr>, Return1 <chr>, Death2 <chr>, Return2 <chr>,

## # Death3 <chr>, Return3 <chr>, Death4 <chr>, Return4 <chr>, Death5 <chr>,

## # Return5 <chr>, Notes <chr>, dupe\_count <int>

Lastly, get\_dupes() shows that there doesn't seem to be duplicated observations in the avengers dataset.

## **Data Dictionary**

To explain the variables more comprehensively, we include a data dictionary of the avengers dataset:

Variable	Definition
URL	The URL of the comic character on the Marvel Wikia
Name/Alias	The full name or alias of the character
Appearances	The number of comic books that character appeared in as of April 30, 2015
Current?	Is the member currently active on an avengers affiliated team?
Gender	The recorded gender of the character
Probationary Introl	Sometimes the character was given probationary status as an
	Avenger, this is the date that happened
Full/Reserve Avengers Intro	The month and year the character was introduced as a full or reserve member of the Avengers
Year	The year the character was introduced as a full or reserve member of the Avengers
Years since joining	2015 minus the year
	· ·
Honorary	The status of the avenger, if they were given "Honorary" Avenger status, if they are simply in the "Academy," or "Full" otherwise
Death1	Yes if the Avenger died, No if not.
Return1	Yes if the Avenger returned from their first death, No if they did not, blank if not applicable
Death2	Yes if the Avenger died a second time after their revival, No if they did not, blank if not applicable
Return2	Yes if the Avenger returned from their second death, No if they did not, blank if not applicable
Death3	Yes if the Avenger died a third time after their second revival, No if they did not, blank if not applicable

Variable	Definition
Return3	Yes if the Avenger returned from their third death, No if they did not, blank if not applicable
Death4	Yes if the Avenger died a fourth time after their third revival, No if
Return4	they did not, blank if not applicable Yes if the Avenger returned from their fourth death, No if they did
Death5	not, blank if not applicable Yes if the Avenger died a fifth time after their fourth revival, No if
Return5	they did not, blank if not applicable Yes if the Avenger returned from their fifth death, No if they did
Notes	not, blank if not applicable Descriptions of deaths and resurrections.

### Research Questions

Based on the dataset, here are some research questions we want to investigate:

- 1. Is a male Avenger more likely to appear more frequently than a female Avenger? How about the appearance frequency for different Honorary levels?
- 2. Are the number of deaths of Avengers related to the years since they've been introduced?

#### **Data Cleaning**

However, before we step into problem solving and data visualization, some clean steps need to be done to the original dataset to create a "tidy" data frame for us to work on.

```
avengers_org<-avengers #save a copy of the original dataset
avengers <-avengers %>%
  clean_names() %>%
                       #clean variable names
  mutate(gender=as.factor(gender), #change gender to factor type (unordered)
         honorary=factor(honorary, #change honorary to factor type (ordered)
                         ordered = TRUE,
                        levels = c("Full", "Honorary", "Academy", "Probationary")),
         month=as.character(str_extract_all(full_reserve_avengers_intro,"[A-Za-z]+")),
         month=match(month,month.abb),
         #split full_reserve_avengers_intro to single out the month part and
         #discard the 2 digit year value
         joining_time = case_when(is.na(month) ~ as.character(year),
                                  TRUE ~paste(year,month,sep="-")),
         #rejoin month with a complete, 4 digit year value
         #Identifying missing names from character URLs
         name_alias=case_when(is.na(name_alias) ~
         str_match(url,"http\\:\\/\\/marvel\\.wikia\\.com\\/([^\\()]+)")[,2] \%>\%
                              str_replace_all("_$","") %>%
                              str_replace_all("_"," "),
                          TRUE ~ name_alias),
```

```
total_return = return1+return2+return3+return4+return5,
         #change current to boolean type
         current=case when(current=="YES"~TRUE,
                   TRUE~FALSE))
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): strings not representable in native encoding will
## be translated to UTF-8
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00C4>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00D6>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00E4>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00F6>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00DF>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00C6>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00E6>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00D8>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00F8>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00C5>' to native encoding
## Warning in FUN(X[[i]], ...): unable to translate '<U+00E5>' to native encoding
avengers <-avengers %>%
  select(name_alias,appearances,current,gender,joining_time,honorary,total_death
         ,total_return,years_since_joining,year)%>% #select variables needed
  rename(name=name_alias)
```

 $\#summarize\ columns\ deaths1-death5,\ return1-return\ 5\ to\ 2\ columns$ 

TRUE ~ FALSE)),

across(death1:return5, ~case\_when(.x == "YES" ~ TRUE,

total death = death1+death2+death3+death4+death5,

Table 5: Data summary

skim(avengers)

Name	avengers
Number of rows	173
Number of columns	10

Column type frequency:	
character	2
factor	2
logical	1
numeric	5
Group variables	None

# Variable type: character

skim_variable	n_missing	complete_rate	min	max	empty	n_unique	whitespace
name	0	1	4	35	0	172	0
$joining\_time$	0	1	4	7	0	94	0

# Variable type: factor

skim_variable	n_missing	$complete\_rate$	ordered	n_unique	top_counts
gender	0	1	FALSE	2	MAL: 115, FEM: 58
honorary	0	1	TRUE	4	Ful: 138, Aca: 17, Hon: 16, Pro: 2

# Variable type: logical

skim_variable	n_missing	complete_rate	mean	count
current	0	1	0.47	FAL: 91, TRU: 82

# Variable type: numeric

skim_variable	n_missing	complete_rate	mean	sd	p0	p25	p50	p75	p100	hist
appearances	0	1	414.05	677.99	2	58	132	491	4333	
$total\_death$	0	1	0.51	0.75	0	0	0	1	5	
$total\_return$	0	1	0.33	0.65	0	0	0	1	5	
years_since_joining	0	1	26.55	30.37	0	5	19	36	115	
year	0	1	1988.45	30.37	1900	1979	1996	2010	2015	

# head(avengers)

## :	# A tibble: 6 x 10						
##	name	appearances	current	gender	joining_time	honorary	total_death
##	<chr></chr>	<dbl></dbl>	<lg1></lg1>	<fct></fct>	<chr></chr>	<ord></ord>	<int></int>
##	1 "Henry Jonathan ~	1269	TRUE	MALE	1963-9	Full	1
## :	2 "Janet van Dyne"	1165	TRUE	FEMALE	1963-9	Full	1
##	3 "Anthony Edward ~	3068	TRUE	MALE	1963-9	Full	1
##	4 "Robert Bruce Ba~	2089	TRUE	MALE	1963-9	Full	1
##	5 "Thor Odinson"	2402	TRUE	MALE	1963-9	Full	2

```
## 6 "Richard Milhous~ 612 TRUE MALE 1963-9 Honorary 0
## # ... with 3 more variables: total_return <int>, years_since_joining <dbl>,
## # year <dbl>
```

In order to analyze the data, we do the following data cleaning:

- 1. Use clean\_names() to change all variable names to snack case.
- 2. Change gender and honorary from character type to factor type. gender is an unordered factor, and honorary is an ordered factor with levels "Full," "Honorary," "Academy," and then "Probationary."
- 3. Use regular expression to extract month from full\_reserve\_avengers\_intro, change the month value from abbreviation to numeric type, and then combined with year. For 14 observations that have a joining year but not a joining month, we copy year to joining\_time.
- 4. For the observations that have a NA value for name\_alies, we use regular expression to extract the name part from the url and fill that into name alies.
- 5. Variable death1-5, return1-5 and current has character value "YES" and missing value NA. We convert 'YES' to TRUE and NA to FALSE.
- 6. Compute the total\_death by plus death1 to death5. Same for total\_return.
- 7. Select the variable we might use in research questions and do the final variable name cleaning.

After the data cleaning, the data contains 173 observations of 10 variables. There are 2 character type (name, joining\_time), 2 factor type (gender, honorary), 1 logical type (current) and 5 numeric type (appearances, total\_death, total\_return, years\_since\_joining, year). The data contains no missing value, and the only unusual data appears in joining\_time. There are 14 observations with joining\_time of 1900 and don't have a joining month, while all other avengers joined after 1963. Since Marvel's first comic book was published in 1939, we infer that the joining year for these 14 Avengers might be missing, and so fivethirtyeight decided to fill in these impossible years instead.

#### Question 1: Appearance Frequency Across Genders and Honorary Statuses

Based on the dataset, we are interested in knowing if the gender and honorary status of an avenger have any relationship with their appearance frequency in the comics.

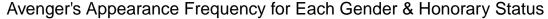
To achieve that, we first create the appearance\_frequency column by calculating appearance/years\_since\_joining and applying mutate. Before the visualization, let's first look over the numerical values.

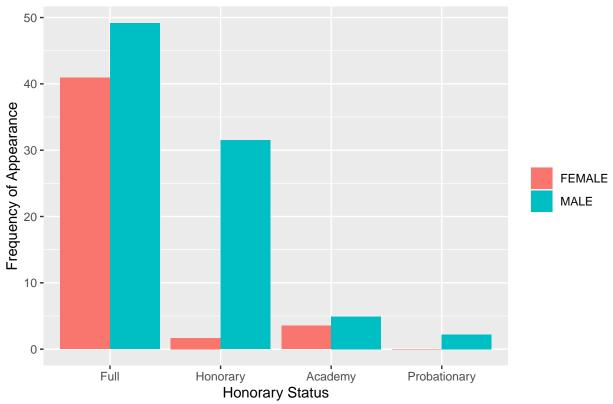
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'gender'. You can override using the `.groups` argument.

#### freq\_difference

```
## # A tibble: 8 x 3
    gender honorary
##
                        mean_freq
    <chr> <ord>
                            <dbl>
## 1 FEMALE Full
                            40.9
## 2 FEMALE Honorary
                             1.67
## 3 FEMALE Academy
                             3.51
## 4 FEMALE Probationary
                             0
## 5 MALE
          Full
                            49.2
## 6 MALE
          Honorary
                            31.5
## 7 MALE
          Academy
                             4.93
## 8 MALE
          Probationary
                             2.23
```

Then a bar chart is plotted to display the frequency of appearance for Avengers of all possible combinations of genders and honorary statuses.





The result reflects that within all honorary statuses, on average, male Avengers appear more frequently that female avengers. This gap is especially significant for Avengers in the Honorary status, with a appearance frequency difference of almost 30. The bar for female Avengers with Probationary status is empty because there is no female Avenger with such honorary status.

The appearance frequencies for different honorary status also have clear patterns. Avengers with Full and Honorary statuses appear much more frequent than those with Academy and Probationary statuses.

#### Question 2: Avengers vs Death

A special set of magical variables in this dataset includes information about the number of deaths and returns experienced by each Avenger. As a result, we are interested about if the number of deaths of Avengers are related to the years since they've been introduced.

First, we create a table to see the distribution of deaths among Avengers.

```
avengers %>%
  select(total_death, year) %>%
  group_by(total_death) %>%
  summarise(count = n())
```

```
## # A tibble: 5 x 2
## total_death count
## <int> <int> (int> (int> )
## 1 0 104
## 2 1 53
```

```
## 3 2 14
## 4 3 1
## 5 5 1
```

Clearly (and luckily), most Avengers have died zero times. The number of Avengers decreases as the number of death increments, which is similar to what we would have expected.

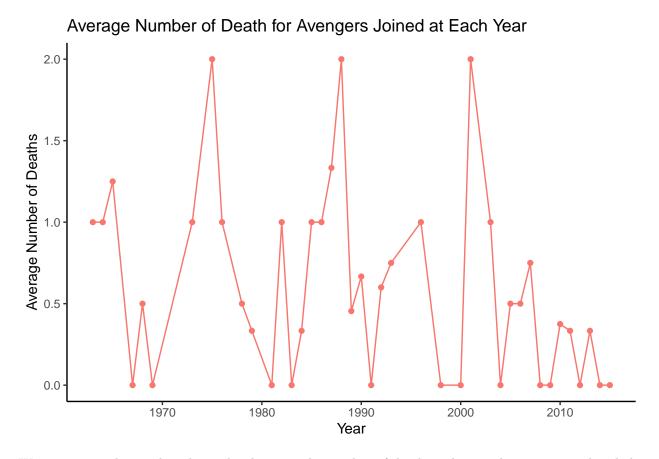
We then create an interactive plot, where the readers can hover over the points to see which Avenger the data pertains to, if they are interested.

## PhantomJS not found. You can install it with webshot::install\_phantomjs(). If it is installed, pleas

This is a scatter plot with the function jitter so that none of the data points overlap. From this scatter plot, it can be noticed that except a few outliers, most Avengers have died zero to two times.

If we go through the plot from right to left along the x-axis, it can be found that a larger proportion of the scattered points are crowed near the x-axis. Meanwhile, the proportion of Avengers with 2 deaths is also decreasing over time. We can conclude that in general, the newer members of the Avengers are more likely to have experienced fewer deaths.

Let's investigate it further with another static line graph.



We are now exploring the relationship between the number of deaths a Avenger has experienced and the year the Avenger joined the team. This plot shows that the risk of deaths is not linearly related to the year joined. We would expect that the line is downward sloping, where higher number of deaths would pertain to earlier year joined. The truth is, however, that there are random years that are "safer" to have joined in, where the average number of deaths in that year is 0.

In conclusion, while the number of deaths is related to the number of years one have joined the Avengers, there is not a linear relationship between the two variables. Further investigation could be warranted for the number of deaths versus appearances, and see whether those two are related. We would also assume that this would be close to a linear relationship, but this is to be seen!

#### Conclusion

In this project, we take a close look at the dataset Avengers.csv provided by fivethirtyeight. To answer our research questions, we employ various data cleaning skills to modify the data type, shape, variable names, and some contents of the dataset.

For Question 1, the table and bar chart display some hidden preferences of gender and honorary status by the producers of the comics, showing that overall, male Avengers seem to appear more than their female counterparts.

In Question 2, the relationship between the number of years in the Avengers and the risk of experiencing deaths is studied to reveal the interesting pattern that death risk actually fluctuates drastically depending on the year the Avenger joined the team.