



CLEANING DATA IN R

**Time to put
it all together!**

The challenge

- Historical weather data from Boston, USA
- 12 months beginning Dec 2014
- The data are dirty
 - Column names are values
 - Variables coded incorrectly
 - Missing and extreme values
 - ...
- Clean the data!

Understanding the structure of your data

- `class()` - Class of data object
- `dim()` - Dimensions of data
- `names()` - Column names
- `str()` - Preview of data with helpful details
- `glimpse()` - Better version of `str()` from dplyr
- `summary()` - Summary of data

Looking at your data

- `head()` - View top of dataset
- `tail()` - View bottom of dataset
- `print()` - View entire dataset (not recommended!)

Visualizing your data

- `hist()` - View histogram of a single variable
- `plot()` - View plot of two variables



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Let's practice!



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Let's tidy the data

Column names are values

```
> head(weather)
  X year month      measure X1 X2 X3 X4 X5 X6 X7 X8 X9 ...
1 1 2014     12 Max.TemperatureF 64 42 51 43 42 45 38 29 49 ...
2 2 2014     12 Mean.TemperatureF 52 38 44 37 34 42 30 24 39 ...
3 3 2014     12 Min.TemperatureF 39 33 37 30 26 38 21 18 29 ...
4 4 2014     12   Max.Dew.PointF 46 40 49 24 37 45 36 28 49 ...
5 5 2014     12 MeanDew.PointF 40 27 42 21 25 40 20 16 41 ...
6 6 2014     12   Min.DewpointF 26 17 24 13 12 36 -3  3 28 ...
```


Values are variable names

```
> head(weather2)
```

	X	year	month	measure	day	value
1	1	2014	12	Max.TemperatureF	X1	64
2	2	2014	12	Mean.TemperatureF	X1	52
3	3	2014	12	Min.TemperatureF	X1	39
4	4	2014	12	Max.Dew.PointF	X1	46
5	5	2014	12	MeanDew.PointF	X1	40
6	6	2014	12	Min.DewpointF	X1	26



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Prepare the data for analysis

Dates with lubridate

```
# Load the lubridate package
> library(lubridate)

# Experiment with basic lubridate functions
> ymd("2015-08-25")
[1] "2015-08-25 UTC"      year-month-day

> ymd("2015 August 25")
[1] "2015-08-25 UTC"      year-month-day

> mdy("August 25, 2015")
[1] "2015-08-25 UTC"      month-day-year

> hms("13:33:09")
[1] "13H 33M 9S"          hour-minute-second

> ymd_hms("2015/08/25 13.33.09")
[1] "2015-08-25 13:33:09 UTC" year-month-day hour-minute-second
```

Type conversions

```
> as.character(2016)
[1] "2016"
```

```
> as.numeric(TRUE)
[1] 1
```

```
> as.integer(99)
[1] 99
```

```
> as.factor("something")
[1] something
Levels: something
```

```
> as.logical(0)
[1] FALSE
```



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Missing, extreme, and unexpected values

Finding missing values

```
# Create a small dataset
> x <- data.frame(a = c(2, 5, NA, 8),
                  b = c(NA, 34, 9, NA))

# Return data frame of TRUEs and FALSEs
> is.na(x)
      a      b
[1,] FALSE TRUE
[2,] FALSE FALSE
[3,]  TRUE FALSE
[4,] FALSE TRUE

# Count number of TRUEs
> sum(is.na(x))
[1] 3

# Find indices of missing values in column b
> which(is.na(x$b))
[1] 1 4
```


Identifying errors

- Context matters!
- Plausible ranges
- Numeric variables in weather data
 - Percentages (0-100)
 - Temperatures (Fahrenheit)
 - Wind speeds (miles per hour)
 - Pressures (inches of mercury)
 - Distances (miles)
 - Eighths (of cloud cover)



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Your data are clean!

Clean weather data

```
# View head of clean data
```

```
> head(weather6)
```

	date	events	cloud_cover	max_dew_point_f	...
1	2014-12-01	Rain	6	46	...
2	2014-12-02	Rain-Snow	7	40	...
3	2014-12-03	Rain	8	49	...
4	2014-12-04	None	3	24	...
5	2014-12-05	Rain	5	37	...
6	2014-12-06	Rain	8	45	...

```
# View tail of clean data
```

	date	events	cloud_cover	max_dew_point_f	...
361	2015-11-26	None	6	49	...
362	2015-11-27	None	7	52	...
363	2015-11-28	Rain	8	50	...
364	2015-11-29	None	4	33	...
365	2015-11-30	None	6	26	...
366	2015-12-01	Rain	7	43	...

Summary of your accomplishments

- Inspected the data
- Tidied the data
- Improved date representations
- Dealt with incorrect variable codings
- Found and dealt with missing data
- Identified and corrected errors
- Visualized the result



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Congratulations!