

A Metadata		Data
xxxxx x machi xxxxx y machi xxxxx z machi : : n machi	ne_name date condition sex p ne_001 2016-09-01 B M p_1 ne_001 2016-09-03 A F p_3 e_002 2016-09-03 A F p_3 e_ne_n date_n condition_n sex_n p_n condition_n sex_n condition_n sex_n condition_n sex_n condition_n condition_n sex_n condition_n condition_n sex_n condition_n sex_n con	id t activity q $xxxxx x$ 1 1 $q_{1,1}$ $xxxxx x$ 2 0 $q_{1,2}$ $q_{1,2}$ $q_{1,3}$ $q_{1,3}$ $q_{1,2}$ $q_{1,3}$ $q_{1,2}$ $q_{1,3}$ $q_$
B Metadata		Data
Select	<pre># to subet the metadata only for males > male_meta <- dt[sex == "M",</pre>	# to keep only data > 5s > late_dt <- dt[t > 5] Note: metadata is updated when selection removes all data from one id.
Alter, create & delete (meta)variables	<pre>dt[, X := value, meta = TRUE] # to create a metavariable set to "wt" > dt[, genotype := "wt", meta = TRUE] # delete > dt[, sex := NULL, meta = TRUE]</pre>	<pre>dt[, Y := value] # to create t_2 (t - 1) > dt[, t_2 := t - 1] # to delete t > dt[, t := NULL] Note: update data in place. No copy of dt in memory.</pre>
Expand metavariables as variables	<pre>dt[xmv(X)] # to select data with sex > dt <- dt[xmv(sex) == "M"] # to copy a metavariable as a variable > dt[, s := xmv(sex)]</pre>	
Aggregate & summary	<pre>dt[, OPERATION, by = id] # to compute mean activity, per individual > dt <- dt[,.(</pre>	OPERATION
Join data & metadata	<pre>rejoin(dt) # to reunite data and metadata > full_table <- rejoin(dt) Note: used mostly after aggregation or preprocessing</pre>	REJOIN









