Programming Camp Day 2

Augustus Kmetz

2025-09-11

Welcome back!

Plans for today:

- Importing data
- Transforming data
- Tidy data

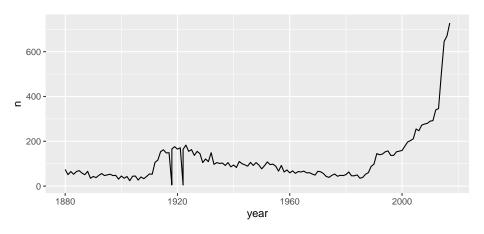
babynames.csv

babynames.csv

- names and sex of babies born in the US from 1880 to 2017
- data compiled by the Social Security Administration
- 1.9M rows

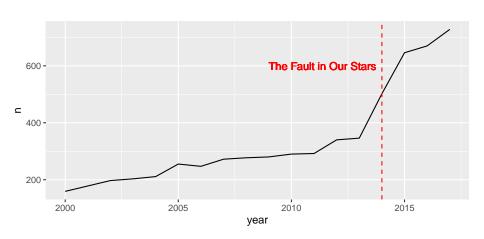


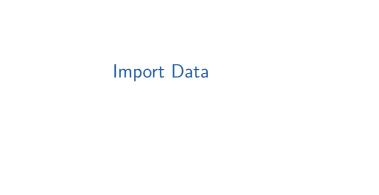
Number of children with the name Augustus



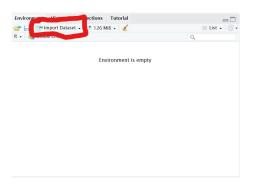
Q: Why was there a spike in children with the name Augustus?

Plausible Explanation: Release of the movie "The Fault in Our Stars"

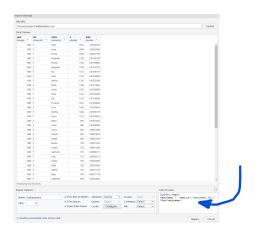




Import a dataset (the wrong way)



Import a dataset (the wrong way)



Q: But is this reproducible?

Working directory

- The current working directory is the location which R is currently pointing to
- Whenever you try to read or save a file without specifying the path explicitly that is where R will "look"
- To see the current working directory use getwd()
- To change the working directory use setwd("path/to/directory")
- When you open a R file that folder automatically becomes the wd
- Best practice is to specify files paths relative to the main folder of a project

Paths and directory names

- R inherits its file and folder naming conventions from UNIX and uses forward slashes for the directories, e.g. /data/raw/FEMA/
- Backslashes serve a different purpose they are used as escape characters and to isolate special characters
- To avoid problems, directory names should NOT contain spaces and special characters

Back to babynames

- A common text file format is a comma delimited text file: .csv
- These files use comma as a column separator

```
year,sex,name,n,prop
1880,F,Mary,7065,0.0724
1880,F,Anna,2604,0.0267
```

To read these files use the following command

```
my_data <- read_csv("path/to/filename.csv")</pre>
```

The readr package

- readr is for reading rectangular text data into R
- Very fast and easy to customize how file is parsed
- readr supports several file formats with general read_<...>()
 functions:
 - read_csv(): comma-separated files
 - read_tsv(): tab-separated files
 - read_delim(): general delimited files
 - read_fwf(): fixed-width files
 - read_table(): tabular files where columns are separated by white-space
 - read_log(): web log files

Importing other types of data

Rectangular data:

- package haven reads SPSS, Stata and SAS files
- package readxl reads excel files (both .xls and .xlsx)

Hierarchical data:

- jsonlite for json (common for browser-server communications)
- xm12 for XML (common for textual data in web services)

And many many more...

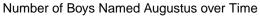
Back to babynames

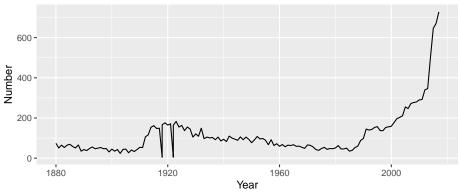
```
babynames <- read_csv("data/babynames.csv")</pre>
```

babynames

```
A tibble: 1,924,665 x 5
   year sex
              name
                            n
                                prop
  <dbl> <chr> <chr>
                               <dbl>
                        <int>
   1880 F
              Mary
                         7065 0.0724
   1880 F
              Anna
                         2604 0.0267
3
   1880 F
              Emma
                      2003 0.0205
4
   1880 F
              Elizabeth 1939 0.0199
5
   1880 F
              Minnie
                         1746 0.0179
6
   1880 F
              Margaret 1578 0.0162
   1880 F
              Tda
                         1472 0.0151
8
   1880 F
              Alice
                         1414 0.0145
9
   1880 F
              Bertha
                         1320 0.0135
10
   1880 F
              Sarah
                         1288 0.0132
   1,924,655 more rows
```

Back to babynames



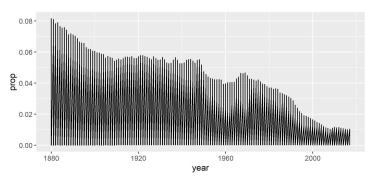


Q: Which geom?

Plotting babynames

What happens if we plot the data?

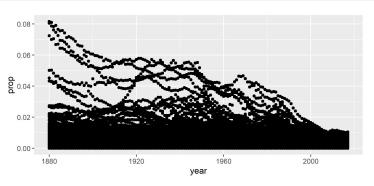
```
ggplot(babynames) +
geom_line(mapping = aes(x = year, y = prop))
```



Plotting babynames

Try a different geom?

```
ggplot(babynames) +
geom_point(mapping = aes(x = year, y = prop))
```



How to isolate?

babynames

year	sex	name	n	prop
1880	М	John	9655	0.0815
1880	М	William	9532	0.0805
1880	М	James	5927	0.0501
1880	М	Charles	5348	0.0451
1880	М	Garrett	13	0.0001
1881	М	John	8769	0.081

	year	sex	name	n	prop
•	1880	М	Garrett	13	0.0001
	1881	М	Garrett	7	0.0001
			Garrett		



Transforming data

The dplyr package is part of the tidyverse which:

- introduces a grammar for transforming tabular data
- is fast on data frames (written in C++) speed of C with ease of R
- intuitive to write and easy to read esp when using chaining syntax

dplyr verbs (functions)

dplyr verbs handle the vast majority of your data needs:

- filter() for picking observations by their values
- select() for picking variables by their names
- arrange() for reordering rows
- mutate() for creating new variables with functions on existing variables
- summarise() for collapsing many values down to a single summary

All of the above can be done using ugly and slow base R functions

The structure of dplyr functions

All verbs work similarly:

- The first argument is a tibble (or data frame)
- The subsequent ones describe what to do, using the variable names
- The results is a new tibble

select()

Extract columns by name

```
select(.data, name_col_1, name_col_2, ...)
select(babynames, name, prop)
```

babynames

year	sex	name	n	prop		name	prop
1880	М	John	9655	0.0815	\rightarrow	John	0.0815
1880	М	William	9532	0.0805		William	0.0805
1880	М	James	5927	0.0501		James	0.0501
1880	М	Charles	5348	0.0451		Charles	0.0451
1880	М	Garrett	13	0.0001		Garrett	0.0001
1881	М	John	8769	0.081		John	0.081

select() helpers

And many more!

: - select range of columns

```
select(babynames, year:name)
- - select every column but ...
select(babynames, -prop)
starts_with() - select columns that start with...
select(babynames, starts with("n"))
ends_with() - select every column that ends with ...
select(babynames, ends_with("e"))
```

Quiz

```
Which of these is NOT a way to select the name and n columns together?

select(babynames, -c(year, sex, prop))

select(babynames, starts_with("n"))

select(babynames, ends_with("n"))
```

filter()

Extract rows that meet logical criteria

```
filter(.data, condition_1, condition_2, ...)
```

```
filter(babynames, name == "Garrett")
```

hahvnames

year	sex	name	n	prop
1880	М	John	9655	0.0815
1880	М	William	9532	0.0805
1880	М	James	5927	0.0501
1880	М	Charles	5348	0.0451
1880	М	Garrett	13	0.0001
1881	М	John	8769	0.081

year	sex	name	n	prop
1880	М	Garrett	13	0.0001
1881	М	Garrett	7	0.0001
		Garrett		

Logical tests

x < y	Less than
x > y	Greater than
x == y	Equal to
x <= y	Less than or equal to
x >= y	Greater than or equal to
x != y	Not equal to
x %in% y	Group membership

Logical tests

[1] FALSE TRUE TRUE

```
x <- 1
x >= 2
[1] FALSE
x <- c(1,2,3)
x >= 2
```

Missing Values

NA stands for a missing value

Handling missing/infinite/divide by 0 values can be a bit tricky.

What is the result?

```
1 == 1
1 == NA
NA == NA
1 + Inf
1 + NaN
Inf == Inf
```

Logical tests

x < y	Less than
x > y	Greater than
x == y	Equal to
x <= y	Less than or equal to
x >= y	Greater than or equal to
× != y	Not equal to
x %in% y	Group membership
is.na(x)	Is NA
!is.na(x)	Is not NA

Same syntax works for Inf and NaN: is.inf(), is.nan()

Your turn!

Use filter, babynames and the logical operators to:

- Make a plot of your name's popularity over time (or linguistically similar name)
- Which name had the highest ever number/proportion of babies?

Two common mistakes

1. Using = instead of ==

```
filter(babynames, name = "Augustus")
filter(babynames, name =="Augustus")
```

2. Forgetting quotes

```
filter(babynames, name == Augustus)
filter(babynames, name == "Augustus")
```

Boolean operators

a & b	and
a I b	or
xor(a,b)	exactly or
! a	not
()	To group tests . & evaluates before

Your turn!

Use Boolean operators to alter the code below to return only the rows that contain:

- Boys named Leslie
- Names that were used by exactly 5 or 6 children in 1880
- Names that are one of Anakin, Leia, Luke

```
filter(babyname, name == "Sea" | name == "Anemone")
```

Two more common mistakes

3. Collapsing multiple tests into one

```
filter(babynames, 10 < n < 20)
filter(babynames, 10 < n, n < 20)
```

4. Stringing together many tests (when you use %in%)

```
filter(babynames, n == 5 \mid n == 6 \mid n == 7)
filter(babynames, n \% in\% c(5, 6, 7))
```

arrange()

Order rows from smallest to largest values

```
arrange(.data, order_first, order_second, ...)
arrange(babynames, n)
```

order rows from largest to smallest values

```
arrange(babynames, desc(n))
```

Q: INSERT QUESTION HERE

Steps

Goal: create a data set called $top_5_M_2015$ that contains the 5 most popular boy baby names from 2015

Steps

- 1. filter to boys born in 2015
- 2. select the name and n columns
- 3. arrange these columns so that the most popular names appear near the top
- 4. use head to take the top 5

Steps

```
top_5_M_2015 <- filter(babynames, year == 2015, sex == "M")
top_5_M_2015 <- select(top_5_M_2015, name, n)
top_5_M_2015 <- arrange(top_5_M_2015, desc(n))
top_5_M_2015 <- head(top_5_M_2015, n = 5)

top_5_M_2015 <- head(arrange(select(filter(babynames, year == 2015, sex == name, n), desc(n)), n = 5)</pre>
```

The pipe operator %>%

```
filter(babynames, year == 2015, sex == "M")
babynames %>% filter(year == 2015, sex == "M")
```

Passes results on left into first argument of function on right In pipe notation you use:

- x %>% f(y) rather than f(x, y)
- x %% f(y) %% h(z) rather than h(f(x,y),z)

This is similar to Unix pipes

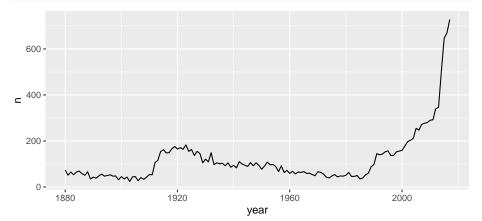
Pipes

```
top_5_M_2015 <-
babynames %>%
filter(year == 2015, sex == "M") %>%
select(name, n) %>%
arrange(desc(n)) %>%
head(n = 5)
```

Try to use %>% to write a sequence of functions that make a plot of your name's popularity over time (or linguistically similar name)

Pipes

```
babynames %>%
  filter(name == "Augustus", sex == "M") %>%
  ggplot() +
  geom_line(aes(x = year, y = n))
```



What are the most popular names?

Do we have tools to:

- 1. Calculate the total number of children with each name?
- 2. Calculate the number of unique names over time?
- 3. Calculate the share of babies captured by the top 10 names?

...not quite yet

summarise()

compute table of summaries

Q: How can we do this for each name?

```
group_by()
```

Groups cases by common values

```
group_by(.data, first_variable, second_variable, ...)
babynames %>%
  group_by(sex) %>%
  summarise(total = sum(n))
```

ungroup() - removes grouping criteria from a data frame

```
babynames %>%
  group_by(sex) %>%
  ungroup() %>%
  summarise(total = sum(n))
```

Elementary but useful summary functions

Aggregation functions return one value per group

- min(x), median(x), max(x), quantile(x, p)
- n(), n_distinct(), sum(x), mean(x)
- sum(x > 10), mean(x > 0)
- sd(x), var(x)

Window functions return multiple values per group

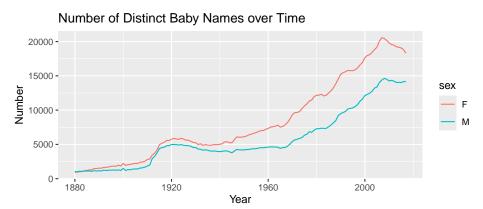
- top_n()
- lead(), lag()

Your turn!

Partner up

- 1. For each year calculate the number of distinct names by sex. Plot these time series.
- 2. Plot the share of babies with a name among the top 10 names over time by sex

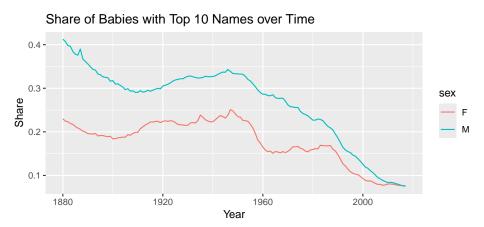
Distinct names Over time



Note: Only names with at least five records are included in the SSA data.

Distinct names Over time

Top share over time



Top share over time

```
babynames %>%
  group_by(year, sex) %>%
  arrange(prop) %>%
  top_n(10, wt = prop) \%
  summarise(total_prop = sum(prop)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = year, y = total_prop, color = sex)) +
  geom_line() +
  labs(x = "Year",
       y = "Share",
       title = "Share of Babies with Top 10 Names over Time")
```

mutate()

Create new columns

```
babynames %>%
mutate(percent = round(prop * 100, 2))
```

Any vectorized function can be used with mutate() including:

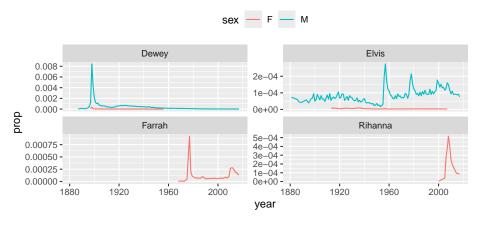
- arithmetic operators (+, -, /, *, etc)
- logical operators (<, <=, >=, ==, !=)
- logarithmic and exponential transformations (log, log10, exp)
- offsets (lead, lag)
- cumulative rolling aggregates (cumsum, cumprod, cummin, cummax)
- ranking (min_rank, percent_rank)

Other useful dplyr functions

- rename() change the name of variables
- count() shortcut for group_by() %>% summarise(n = n())
- distinct() 1 row for each variable value
- sample_n(), sample_frac() random sample of tibble
- pull() extract a single column as a vector
- slice() subset rows using their position

Names that "flash in the pan"

What names experience a dramatic rise/fall in popularity?



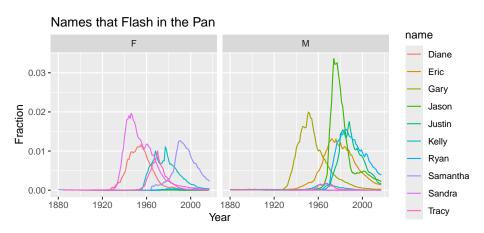
Your turn

Step 1: find the names that experience a collapse in popularity

- Filter to names that have at least 1% babies with that name (for a sex)
- 2. For each name calculate the percent change in prop over time
- 3. Take the top 10 most dramatic collapses over time

Step 2: plot the popularity over time for those names

Names that "flash in the pan"

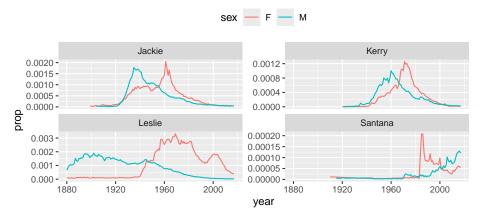


Names that "flash in the pan"

```
babynames_flash <-
  babynames %>%
  group_by(name, sex) %>%
  mutate(max_prop = max(prop)) %>%
  filter(max_prop > 0.01) %>%
  mutate(change_in_pop = (prop/lag(prop, 1) - 1)) %>%
  summarise(min_change = min(change_in_pop, na.rm = T)) %>%
  group_by(sex) %>%
  arrange(min_change) %>%
  slice(1:5) %>%
  pull(name)
```

Names that "switch" - optional homework

Challenge: Come up with a way to identify names that "switch"



dplyr recap

