tidyverse

Randy Johnson based on a talk to the Davis R-Users' Group by Michael Levy January 17, 2017

What is the tidyverse?

The tidyverse is a suite of R tools that follow a tidy philosophy:

Tidy data

Put data in data frames

- Each dataset gets a data frame
- Each variable gets a column
- Each observation gets a row

Reuse existing data structures whenever possible!

Tidy APIs

Functions should be consistent and easily (human) readable

- Take one step at a time
- Connect simple steps with the pipe

Okay but really, what is it?

Suite of \sim 20 packages that provide consistent, user-friendly, smart-default tools to do most of what most people do in R.

- Core packages: ggplot2, dplyr, tidyr, readr, purrr, tibble
- Specialized data manipulation: hms, stringr, lubridate, forcats
- Data import: DBI, haven, httr, jsonlite, readxl, rvest, xml2
- Modeling: modelr, broom

install.packages(tidyverse) installs all of the above packages.

library(tidyverse) attaches only the core packages.

Why tidyverse?

- Consistency
 - e.g. All stringr functions take string first
 - e.g. Many functions take data.frame first -> piping
 - * Faster to write
 - * Easier to read
 - Tidy data: Imposes good practices
 - Type specificity
- Implements simple solutions to common problems (e.g. purrr::transpose)
- Smarter defaults

```
- e.g. utils::write.csv(row.names = FALSE) = readr::write_csv()
```

- Runs fast (thanks to Rcpp)
- Interfaces well with other tools (e.g. Spark with dplyr via sparklyr)

tibble

A modern reimagining of data frames.

```
library(tidyverse)
## Loading tidyverse: ggplot2
## Loading tidyverse: tibble
## Loading tidyverse: tidyr
## Loading tidyverse: readr
## Loading tidyverse: purrr
## Loading tidyverse: dplyr
## Conflicts with tidy packages ------
## filter(): dplyr, stats
## lag():
            dplyr, stats
tdf \leftarrow tibble(x = 1:1e4, y = rnorm(1e4)) # == data_frame(x = 1:1e4, y = rnorm(1e4))
class(tdf)
## [1] "tbl_df"
                    "tbl"
                                 "data.frame"
Tibbles print politely.
tdf
## # A tibble: 10,000 \times 2
##
         x
                    У
##
      <int>
                 <dbl>
## 1
         1 -0.7642070
## 2
         2 -1.1029780
## 3
         3 -1.1207650
## 4
         4 0.3821556
## 5
         5 1.7839275
## 6
         6 -0.6526629
## 7
         7 2.7817024
## 8
         8 -1.4070495
         9 0.6643505
## 9
## 10
        10 -1.2881764
## # ... with 9,990 more rows
  • Can customize print methods with print(tdf, n = rows, width = cols)
  • Set default with options(tibble.print_max = rows, tibble.width = cols)
```

Tibbles have some convenient and consistent defaults that are different from base R data.frames.

strings as factors

```
## df tbl
## "factor" "character"
```

partial matching of names

```
sapply(dfs, function(d) d$a)

## Warning: Unknown column 'a'

## $df

## [1] a b c

## Levels: a b c

##

## $tbl

## NULL

type consistency

sapply(dfs, function(d) class(d[, "abc"]))
```

```
## $df
## [1] "factor"
##
## $tbl
## [1] "tbl_df" "tbl" "data.frame"
```

Note that tidyverse import functions (e.g. readr::read_csv) default to tibbles and that this can break existing code.

List-columns!

```
tibble(ints = 1:5,
       powers = lapply(1:5, function(x) x^(1:x)))
## # A tibble: 5 \times 2
##
      ints
              powers
##
     <int>
              t>
## 1
         1 <dbl [1]>
## 2
         2 <dbl [2]>
## 3
         3 <dbl [3]>
         4 <dbl [4]>
## 4
         5 <dbl [5]>
```

The pipe %>%

Sends the output of the LHS function to the first argument of the RHS function.

```
sum(1:8) %>%
sqrt()
```

[1] 6

dplyr

#

#

Romance <int>, Short <int>

Common data(frame) manipulation tasks.

Four core "verbs": filter, select, arrange, group_by + summarize, plus many more convenience functions.

```
library(ggplot2movies)
str(movies)
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':
                                                 58788 obs. of 24 variables:
                 : chr
                         "$" "$1000 a Touchdown" "$21 a Day Once a Month" "$40,000" ...
                         1971 1939 1941 1996 1975 2000 2002 2002 1987 1917 ...
##
    $ year
                 : int
##
    $ length
                         121 71 7 70 71 91 93 25 97 61 ...
                 : int
##
    $ budget
                 : int
                        NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA ...
##
                         6.4 6 8.2 8.2 3.4 4.3 5.3 6.7 6.6 6 ...
    $ rating
                 : num
##
    $ votes
                 : int
                         348 20 5 6 17 45 200 24 18 51 ...
##
   $ r1
                        4.5 0 0 14.5 24.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 ...
                 : num
   $ r2
##
                        4.5 14.5 0 0 4.5 4.5 0 4.5 4.5 0 ...
                 : num
   $ r3
                        4.5 4.5 0 0 0 4.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 ...
##
                 : num
##
    $ r4
                        4.5 24.5 0 0 14.5 14.5 4.5 4.5 0 4.5 ...
                 : num
##
   $ r5
                        14.5 14.5 0 0 14.5 14.5 24.5 4.5 0 4.5 ...
                 : num
##
    $ r6
                 : num
                        24.5 14.5 24.5 0 4.5 14.5 24.5 14.5 0 44.5 ...
##
                        24.5 14.5 0 0 0 4.5 14.5 14.5 34.5 14.5 ...
    $ r7
                 : num
                        14.5 4.5 44.5 0 0 4.5 4.5 14.5 14.5 4.5 ...
##
    $ r8
                 : niim
   $ r9
##
                 : num
                        4.5 4.5 24.5 34.5 0 14.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 4.5 ...
##
    $ r10
                        4.5 14.5 24.5 45.5 24.5 14.5 14.5 14.5 24.5 4.5 ...
                 : num
                         "" "" "" "" ...
##
    $ mpaa
                 : chr
##
    $ Action
                 : int
                        0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 ...
##
                        0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
   $ Animation
                 : int
##
   $ Comedy
                        1 1 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
                 : int
##
    $ Drama
                 : int
                         1 0 0 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 ...
##
                        0 0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 ...
    $ Documentary: int
  $ Romance
                 : int
                         0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
                        0 0 1 0 0 0 0 1 0 0 ...
    $ Short
                 : int
filter(movies, length > 360)
## # A tibble: 21 × 24
##
                                                   title
                                                         year length
                                                                       budget
##
                                                   <chr> <int>
                                                                <int>
                                                                         <int>
## 1
                              Commune (Paris, 1871), La
                                                          2000
                                                                  555
                                                                           NA
## 2
                                 Cure for Insomnia, The
                                                          1987
                                                                 5220
                                                                           NA
## 3
                 Ebolusyon ng isang pamilyang pilipino
                                                          2004
                                                                  647
                                                                           NA
## 4
                                                                  485
                                                 Empire
                                                          1964
                                                                           NA
## 5
                                     Farmer's Wife, The
                                                          1998
                                                                  390
                                                                           NA
## 6
                                          Foolish Wives
                                                         1922
                                                                  384 1100000
## 7
                                             Four Stars
                                                         1967
                                                                 1100
                                                                           NΑ
## 8
                     Hitler - ein Film aus Deutschland 1978
                                                                  407
                                                                           NA
## 9
                                    Imitation of Christ
                                                          1967
                                                                  480
                                                                           NA
## 10 Longest Most Meaningless Movie in the World, The 1970
                                                                 2880
                                                                           NA
## # ... with 11 more rows, and 20 more variables: rating <dbl>, votes <int>,
## #
       r1 <dbl>, r2 <dbl>, r3 <dbl>, r4 <dbl>, r5 <dbl>, r6 <dbl>, r7 <dbl>,
       r8 <dbl>, r9 <dbl>, r10 <dbl>, mpaa <chr>, Action <int>,
## #
```

Animation <int>, Comedy <int>, Drama <int>, Documentary <int>,

```
filter(movies, length > 360) %>%
  select(title, rating, votes)
## # A tibble: 21 × 3
##
                                                   title rating votes
##
                                                    <chr>
                                                          <dbl> <int>
## 1
                              Commune (Paris, 1871), La
                                                             7.8
                                                                    33
## 2
                                                                    59
                                 Cure for Insomnia, The
                                                             3.8
## 3
                 Ebolusyon ng isang pamilyang pilipino
                                                                     5
                                                             8.4
## 4
                                                  Empire
                                                             5.5
                                                                    46
## 5
                                      Farmer's Wife, The
                                                             8.5
                                                                    52
## 6
                                           Foolish Wives
                                                             7.6
                                                                   191
## 7
                                              Four Stars
                                                             3.0
                                                                    12
## 8
                      Hitler - ein Film aus Deutschland
                                                             9.0
                                                                    70
## 9
                                     Imitation of Christ
                                                                     5
                                                             4.4
## 10 Longest Most Meaningless Movie in the World, The
                                                             6.4
                                                                    15
## # ... with 11 more rows
filter(movies, Animation == 1, votes > 1000) %>%
  select(title, rating) %>%
  arrange(desc(rating))
## # A tibble: 135 × 2
##
                                       title rating
##
                                       <chr>
                                              <dbl>
## 1
             Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi
                                                8.6
## 2
                                 Duck Amuck
                                                8.4
## 3
      Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers
                                                8.4
## 4
                               Finding Nemo
                                                8.3
## 5
                             Hotaru no haka
                                                8.3
## 6
                           Incredibles, The
                                                8.3
## 7
                              Mononoke-hime
                                                8.3
## 8
                         What's Opera, Doc?
                                                8.3
## 9
                                     Vincent
                                                8.2
## 10
           Wallace & Gromit: A Close Shave
                                                8.2
## # ... with 125 more rows
summarize makes aggregate and tapply functionality easier, and the output is always a data frame.
filter(movies, mpaa != "") %>%
  group_by(year, mpaa) %>%
  summarize(avg_budget = mean(budget, na.rm = TRUE),
            avg_rating = mean(rating, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
  arrange(desc(year), mpaa)
## Source: local data frame [128 x 4]
## Groups: year [54]
##
##
       year mpaa avg_budget avg_rating
##
      <int> <chr>
                        <dbl>
                                    <dbl>
## 1
       2005 NC-17
                                6.700000
                          {\tt NaN}
       2005
                     45857143
## 2
               PG
                                5.733333
                     42269333
## 3
       2005 PG-13
                                5.326087
## 4
       2005
                R
                     24305882
                                4.595833
## 5
       2004
               PG
                     45126852
                                5.847619
## 6
       2004 PG-13
                     46288254
                                6.080180
```

```
## 7
       2004
                 R
                     19548519
                                 5.848469
## 8
       2003
                PG
                     37057692
                                 5.897674
## 9
       2003 PG-13
                     46269491
                                 5.949038
## 10 2003
                     21915505
                                 5.702273
                 R
## # ... with 118 more rows
count for frequency tables. Note the consistent API and easy readability vs. table.
filter(movies, mpaa != "") %>%
  count(year, mpaa, Animation, sort = TRUE)
## Source: local data frame [156 x 4]
## Groups: year, mpaa [128]
##
##
       year mpaa Animation
##
      <int> <chr>
                        <int> <int>
## 1
       1999
                            0
                                366
## 2
       2001
                            0
                                355
                 R
## 3
       2002
                 R
                            0
                                343
## 4
       2000
                            0
                                341
                 R
## 5
       1998
                 R
                            0
                                335
## 6
       1997
                            0
                                325
                 R
## 7
       1996
                 R
                                310
## 8
       1995
                            0
                                293
                 R
## 9
       2003
                 R
                                264
## 10 2004
                 R
                            0
                                196
## # ... with 146 more rows
basetab <- with(movies[movies$mpaa != "", ], table(year, mpaa, Animation))</pre>
basetab[1:5, , ]
## , , Animation = 0
##
##
         mpaa
## year
          NC-17 PG PG-13 R
     1934
##
               0
                  1
               0
                         0 0
##
     1938
                  1
               0
                         1 0
##
     1945
                  0
##
     1946
               0
                 1
                         0 0
##
     1951
               0
                  2
                         0 0
##
##
   , , Animation = 1
##
##
         mpaa
##
  year
          NC-17 PG PG-13 R
##
     1934
               0
                 0
                         0 0
##
     1938
               0
                  0
                         0 0
##
               0
                  0
                         0 0
     1945
##
     1946
               0
                  0
                         0 0
##
     1951
               0
                  0
                         0 0
```

joins

dplyr also does multi-table joins and can connect to various types of databases.

```
t1 <- data_frame(alpha = letters[1:6],
                  num = 1:6)
t2 <- data_frame(alpha = letters[4:10],
                  num = 4:10)
full_join(t1, t2, by = "alpha", suffix = c("_t1", "_t2"))
## # A tibble: 10 × 3
##
      alpha num_t1 num_t2
##
      <chr> <int>
                     <int>
## 1
                  1
## 2
          h
                  2
                        NΑ
## 3
                  3
                        NA
          С
## 4
                  4
                         4
          d
## 5
                  5
                         5
          е
## 6
                  6
          f
                         6
## 7
          g
                 NA
                         7
## 8
                 NA
                         8
          h
## 9
                         9
          i
                 NA
## 10
                 NA
                        10
          j
```

tidyr

Latest generation of reshape. gather to make wide table long, spread to make long tables wide.

```
who # Tuberculosis data from the WHO
```

```
## # A tibble: 7,240 \times 60
##
          country iso2 iso3 year new_sp_m014 new_sp_m1524 new_sp_m2534
##
            <chr> <chr> <chr> <int>
                                           <int>
                                                        <int>
                                                                      <int>
## 1
     Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1980
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
## 2
     Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1981
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
     Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1982
                                                           NA
## 3
                                              NA
                                                                         NA
## 4
     Afghanistan
                     ΑF
                          AFG 1983
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
## 5
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1984
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1985
## 6
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
## 7
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG
                               1986
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
## 8
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG
                              1987
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
## 9
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1988
                                              NA
                                                           NA
                                                                         NA
                     AF
                          AFG 1989
## 10 Afghanistan
                                              NA
                                                           MΔ
                                                                         NΔ
## # ... with 7,230 more rows, and 53 more variables: new_sp_m3544 <int>,
## #
       new_sp_m4554 <int>, new_sp_m5564 <int>, new_sp_m65 <int>,
## #
       new_sp_f014 <int>, new_sp_f1524 <int>, new_sp_f2534 <int>,
## #
       new_sp_f3544 <int>, new_sp_f4554 <int>, new_sp_f5564 <int>,
## #
       new_sp_f65 <int>, new_sn_m014 <int>, new_sn_m1524 <int>,
## #
       new_sn_m2534 <int>, new_sn_m3544 <int>, new_sn_m4554 <int>,
## #
       new_sn_m5564 <int>, new_sn_m65 <int>, new_sn_f014 <int>,
## #
       new_sn_f1524 <int>, new_sn_f2534 <int>, new_sn_f3544 <int>,
## #
       new_sn_f4554 <int>, new_sn_f5564 <int>, new_sn_f65 <int>,
## #
       new_ep_m014 <int>, new_ep_m1524 <int>, new_ep_m2534 <int>,
## #
       new_ep_m3544 <int>, new_ep_m4554 <int>, new_ep_m5564 <int>,
## #
       new_ep_m65 <int>, new_ep_f014 <int>, new_ep_f1524 <int>,
## #
       new_ep_f2534 <int>, new_ep_f3544 <int>, new_ep_f4554 <int>,
## #
       new_ep_f5564 <int>, new_ep_f65 <int>, newrel_m014 <int>,
## #
       newrel_m1524 <int>, newrel_m2534 <int>, newrel_m3544 <int>,
```

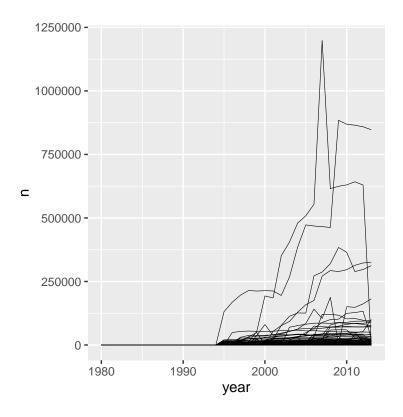
```
newrel_m4554 <int>, newrel_m5564 <int>, newrel_m65 <int>,
## #
       newrel_f014 <int>, newrel_f1524 <int>, newrel_f2534 <int>,
## #
       newrel_f3544 <int>, newrel_f4554 <int>, newrel_f5564 <int>,
       newrel_f65 <int>
## #
who %>%
 gather(group, cases, -country, -iso2, -iso3, -year)
## # A tibble: 405,440 \times 6
##
          country iso2 iso3 year
                                          group cases
##
            <chr> <chr> <chr> <int>
                                           <chr> <int>
## 1 Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1980 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
## 2
     Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1981 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
     Afghanistan
                          AFG
                              1982 new_sp_m014
## 3
                     ΑF
                                                    NA
## 4
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG
                               1983 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
## 5
     Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG 1984 new_sp_m014
                                                   NA
## 6
     Afghanistan
                     ΑF
                          AFG 1985 new_sp_m014
                                                   NA
## 7
      Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG
                              1986 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
## 8
     Afghanistan
                     AF
                          AFG
                              1987 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
## 9 Afghanistan
                     ΑF
                          AFG
                              1988 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
                     AF
## 10 Afghanistan
                          AFG 1989 new_sp_m014
                                                    NA
## # ... with 405,430 more rows
```

ggplot2

We will cover this in more detail at a later point, but if you would like to know more, check out one of their previous talks on ggplot or any of the excellent resources on the internet.

Note that the pipe and consistent API make it easy to combine functions from different packages, and the whole thing is quite readable.

```
who %>%
  select(-iso2, -iso3) %>%
  gather(group, cases, -country, -year) %>%
  count(country, year, wt = cases) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = year, y = n, group = country)) +
  geom_line(size = .2)
```



readr

For reading flat files. Faster than base with smarter defaults.

```
bigdf <- data_frame(int = 1:1e6,</pre>
                     squares = int<sup>2</sup>,
                     letters = sample(letters, 1e6, replace = TRUE))
system.time(
  write.csv(bigdf, "base-write.csv")
##
      user system elapsed
     3.025
             0.103
                     3.676
system.time(
  write_csv(bigdf, "readr-write.csv")
##
      user system elapsed
     0.962
            0.081
                     1.100
read.csv("base-write.csv", nrows = 3)
     X int squares letters
## 1 1
         1
## 2 2
         2
                 4
## 3 3
                 9
read_csv("readr-write.csv", n_max = 3)
```

Parsed with column specification:

```
## cols(
##
     int = col_integer(),
##
     squares = col_double(),
     letters = col_character()
##
## )
## # A tibble: 3 × 3
##
       int squares letters
##
     <int>
             <dbl>
                      <chr>>
## 1
         1
                  1
         2
## 2
                  4
                          х
## 3
         3
                  9
                          i
```

purrr

purr is kind of like dplyr for lists. It helps you repeatedly apply functions. Like the rest of the tidyverse, nothing you can't do in base R, but purr makes the API consistent, encourages type specificity, and provides some nice shortcuts and speed ups.

```
df <- data_frame(fun = rep(c(lapply, map), 2),</pre>
                 n = rep(c(1e5, 1e7), each = 2),
                  comp_time = map2(fun, n, ~system.time(.x(1:.y, sqrt))))
df$comp_time
## [[1]]
##
      user system elapsed
##
     0.042
            0.002
                      0.044
##
##
  [[2]]
##
      user
            system elapsed
##
     0.050
             0.001
                      0.051
##
## [[3]]
      user system elapsed
##
    14.903
            0.378 15.469
##
##
##
   [[4]]
##
           system elapsed
      user
##
     8.797
             0.209
                      9.145
```

map

Vanilla map is a slightly improved version of lapply. Do a function on each item in a list.

```
map(1:4, log)

## [[1]]

## [1] 0

##

## [[2]]

## [1] 0.6931472

##

## [[3]]

## [1] 1.098612
```

```
##
## [[4]]
## [1] 1.386294
Can supply additional arguments as with (x)apply
map(1:4, log, base = 2)
## [[1]]
## [1] 0
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 1
##
## [[3]]
## [1] 1.584963
##
## [[4]]
## [1] 2
Can compose anonymous functions like (x)apply, either the old way or with a new formula shorthand.
map(1:4, \sim log(4, base = .x)) # == map(1:4, function(x) log(4, base = x))
## [[1]]
## [1] Inf
##
## [[2]]
## [1] 2
##
## [[3]]
## [1] 1.26186
##
## [[4]]
## [1] 1
map always returns a list. map_xxx type-specifies the output type and simplifies the list to a vector.
map_dbl(1:4, log, base = 2)
## [1] 0.000000 1.000000 1.584963 2.000000
And throws an error if any output isn't of the expected type (which is a good thing!).
map_int(1:4, log, base = 2)
## Error: Can't coerce element 1 from a double to a integer
map2 is like mapply - apply a function over two lists in parallel. map_n generalizes to any number of lists.
fwd <- 1:10
bck <- 10:1
map2_dbl(fwd, bck, `^`)
                512 6561 16384 15625 7776 2401
map_if tests each element on a function and if true applies the second function, if false returns the original
element.
data_frame(ints = 1:5,
            lets = letters[1:5],
```

```
sqrts = ints^.5) %>%
map_if(is.numeric, ~ .x^2)

## $ints
## [1] 1 4 9 16 25
##
## $lets
## [1] "a" "b" "c" "d" "e"
##
## $sqrts
## [1] 1 2 3 4 5
```

Putting map to work

Split the movies data frame by mpaa rating, fit a linear model to each data frame, and organize the model results in a data frame.

```
movies %>%
  filter(mpaa != "") %>%
  split(.$mpaa) %>% # str()
  map(~ lm(rating ~ budget, data = .)) %>%
  map_df(tidy, .id = "mpaa-rating") %>%
  arrange(term)
```

```
## Error in as_function(.f, ...): object 'tidy' not found
```

List-columns make it easier to organize complex datasets. Can map over list-columns right in data_frame/tibble creation. And if you later want to calculate something else, everything is nicely organized in the data frame.

```
## # A tibble: 3 × 6
##
          dist
                 funs
                          samples
                                      mean
                                                 var
                                                       median
##
          <chr> <list>
                           t>
                                      <dbl>
                                               <dbl>
                                                        <dbl>
## 1
        normal <fun> <dbl [100]> 4.928887 1.114385 4.958149
       poisson <fun> <int [100]> 5.470000 5.766768 5.000000
## 3 chi-square <fun> <dbl [100]> 4.521491 9.012409 3.703844
```

Let's see if we can really make this purrr... Fit a linear model of diamond price by every combination of two predictors in the dataset and see which two predict best.

```
train <- sample(nrow(diamonds), floor(nrow(diamonds) * .67))
setdiff(names(diamonds), "price") %>%
  combn(2, paste, collapse = " + ") %>%
  structure(., names = .) %>%
  map(~ formula(paste("price ~ ", .x))) %>%
  map(lm, data = diamonds[train, ]) %>%
  map_df(augment, newdata = diamonds[-train, ], .id = "predictors") %>%
```

```
group_by(predictors) %>%
summarize(rmse = sqrt(mean((price - .fitted)^2))) %>%
arrange(rmse)
```

Error in as_function(.f, ...): object 'augment' not found

stringr

All your string manipulation and regex functions with a consistent API.

```
library(stringr) # not attached with tidyverse
fishes <- c("one fish", "two fish", "red fish", "blue fish")
str_detect(fishes, "two")
## [1] FALSE TRUE FALSE FALSE
str replace all(fishes, "fish", "banana")
## [1] "one banana" "two banana" "red banana" "blue banana"
str_extract(fishes, "[a-z]\\s")
## [1] "e " "o " "d " "e "
```

Let's put that string manipulation engine to work. Remember the annoying column names in the WHO data? They look like this new_sp_m014, new_sp_m1524, new_sp_m2534, where "new" or "new_" doesn't mean anything, the following 2-3 letters indicate the test used, the following letter indicates the gender, and the final 2-4 numbers indicates the age-class. A string-handling challenge if ever there was one. Let's separate it out and plot the cases by year, gender, age-class, and test-method.

```
who %>%
  select(-iso2, -iso3) %>%
  gather(group, cases, -country, -year) %>%
  mutate(group = str_replace(group, "new_*", ""),
         method = str_extract(group, "[a-z]+"),
         gender = str_sub(str_extract(group, "_[a-z]"), 2, 2),
         age = str_extract(group, "[0-9]+"),
         age = ifelse(str_length(age) > 2,
                      str_c(str_sub(age, 1, -3), str_sub(age, -2, -1), sep = "-"),
                      str_c(age, "+"))) %>%
  group_by(year, gender, age, method) %>%
  summarize(total cases = sum(cases, na.rm = TRUE)) %>%
  ggplot(aes(x = year, y = total_cases, linetype = gender)) +
  geom line() +
  facet_grid(method ~ age,
             labeller = labeller(.rows = label_both, .cols = label_both)) +
  scale_y_log10() +
  theme light() +
  theme(axis.text.x = element_text(angle = 45, vjust = 1, hjust = 1))
```

