Lecture 8: Data Manipulation and Visualization in R

Chiheb Ben Hammouda

Mathematical Institute, Utrecht University

Python and R Course (WISB153)

June 10, 2025

Course Progress Overview

- Week 1:
 - Thinking like a Computer
 - Introduction to Python (variables, expressions, functions, basic syntax)
- Week 2:
 - Time/space complexity; Big-O definition; Worst/best/average complexity;
 - Data structures (Array); Conditions (if), Python modules, exceptions
- Week 3:
 - Data structures continued (List, queue, stack, dictionary)
 - Iterative algorithms examples (Prime sieve, root) and complexity
 - Loops/repetition (for, while)
- Week 4:
 - Recursive algorithms/examples, general form of recursive algorithm, and the master theorem for time complexity
 - · Applications of the Master Thm;
- Week 5:
 - Iterative vs Recursive- Memoization
 - Object-Oriented Programming
- Week 6:
 - Algorithm Design Techniques: Knapsack Problem as Case Study
 - ; Version control; Unit tests
- Week 7:
 - Getting Started with R and Its Data Types

Plan of Lecture 8

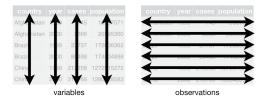
- Data Manipulation in R
 - Introduction and Motivation: The Tidyverse Packages in R
 - The tidyr Package
 - The dplyr Package and the Pipe Operator
- Data Visualization in R
 - Base R plots
 - ggplot2

- Data Manipulation in R
 - Introduction and Motivation: The Tidyverse Packages in R
 - The tidyr Package
 - The dplyr Package and the Pipe Operator

- Data Visualization in R
 - Base R plots
 - ggplot2

Data

Figure: Each row represents an observation (or case), detailing data for a single instance. Each column represents a variable, capturing a specific attribute/characteristics measured across all observations.

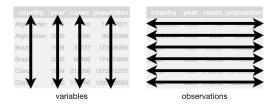


Example: The mtcars dataset

	10 3		hp drat		*		0	
Mazda RX4	21.0 6	160	110 3.90	2.620	16.46	0 1	4	4
Datsun710	22.8 4	108	93 3.85	2.320	18.61	1 1	4	1
Hornet4Drive	21.4 6	258	110 3.08	3.215	19.44	1 0	3	1
Valiant	18.1 6	225	105 2.76	3.460	20.22	1 0	3	1

Data manipulation

Figure: Each row represents an observation (or case), detailing data for a single instance. Each column represents a variable, capturing a specific attribute/characteristics measured across all observations.

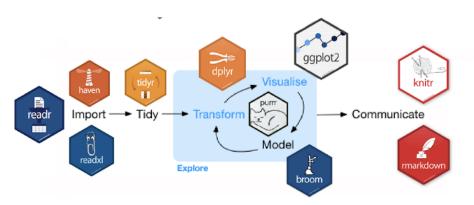


Data analysis often involves data manipulations like:

- Cleaning and organizing data
- Missing value imputation
- Summary statistics for grouped data (e.g., mean, standard deviation)
- Selecting, grouping and (re)arranging observations
- Selecting variables
- Computing new variables, etc.

Tidyverse packages and data processing workflow

- The Tidyverse is a collection of R packages (tidyr, dplyr, ggplot2,...) that adhere to the tidy data principles of data analysis and graphing.
- Purpose: make working with data more efficient.



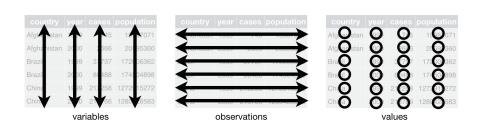
Working with Tidyverse packages

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
library(tidyverse)
```

- library(tidyverse) will load the core tidyverse packages:
 - tidyr, for data tidying.
 - dplyr, for data manipulation.
 - ggplot2, for data visualisation.
 - readr, for data import.
 - purrr, for functional programming.
 - tibble, for tibbles, a modern re-imagining of data frames.
 - stringr, for strings.
 - forcats, for factors.
 - lubridate, for date/times.
- More on tidyverse:
 - https://tidyverse.tidyverse.org
 - https://github.com/tidyverse/tidyverse

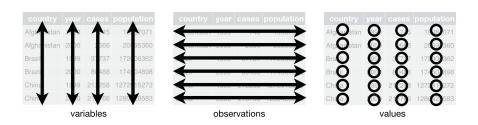
Tidy data

- The tidyverse packages operate on tidy data.
- What exactly are tidy data?:
 - 1 Every variable is stored in its own column.
 - Every observation is stored in its own row—that is, every row corresponds to a single case.
 - Seach value of a variable is stored in a cell of the table.



Tidy data

- The tidyverse packages operate on tidy data.
- What exactly are tidy data?:
 - 1 Every variable is stored in its own column.
 - Every observation is stored in its own row—that is, every row corresponds to a single case.
 - Each value of a variable is stored in a cell of the table.



The tidyr package in R: Tools to help create tidy data.

Tibbles

Tidyverse package stores data frames as tibbles (enhanced data frames)

- tibbles do not have row names (No automatic row names)
- only first ten rows displayed (Cleaner printing)
- additional information about dimension and storage model variables

print(dplyr::as_tibble(mtcars), width = Inf, n= Inf)

```
Convert the mtcars data frame to a tibble
dplyr::as_tibble(mtcars)
         A tibble: 32 \times 11
                                       cyl disp
                                                                                                 hp drat wt
             mpg
                                                                                                                                                                        qsec
                                                                                                                                                                                                           ٧s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      am
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        gear
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   carb
             <dbl> <dbl >dbl > dbl > 
                 21
                                                     6
                                                                    160
                                                                                              110
                                                                                                                           3.9
                                                                                                                                                 2.62 16.5
1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           4
                 21
                                                                  160 110 3.9
                                                                                                                                                 2.88 17.0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     0
            22.8
                                                               108
                                                                                                     93 3.85 2.32 18.6
4
             21.4
                                                                  258
                                                                                         110 3.08 3.22
                                                                                                                                                                     19.4
5
           18.7
                                                                   360
                                                                                         175 3.15 3.44 17.0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               0
           18.1
                                                              225
                                                                                          105 2.76 3.46
                                                                                                                                                                            20.2
7
           14.3
                                                               360
                                                                                          245 3.21 3.57 15.8
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         3
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           4
8
             24.4
                                                                  147
                                                                                                      62
                                                                                                                      3.69 3.19
                                                                                                                                                                             20.0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               0
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           2
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           2
9
             22.8
                                                                   141
                                                                                                     95
                                                                                                                       3.92 3.15
                                                                                                                                                                            22.9
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               0
10 19.2
                                                                                                 123
                                                                                                                           3.92 3.44 18.3
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         4
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           4
                                                                       168
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               0
         # i 22 more rows
# To print all the data set
```

- Data Manipulation in R
 - Introduction and Motivation: The Tidyverse Packages in R
 - The tidyr Package
 - The dplyr Package and the Pipe Operator

- Data Visualization in R
 - Base R plots
 - ggplot2

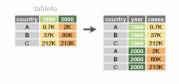
Data tidying with tidyr

- The package tidyr (part of the collection of tidyverse packages) is designed for reshaping and cleaning data.
- The main tidyr functions for tidying data are:
 - pivot_longer(): transforms wide data to long format
 - pivot_wider(): transforms long data to wide format
 - separate(): splits a single column into multiple columns
 - unite(): combines multiple columns into a single column
 - drop_na(): removes rows with missing values
 - fill(): fills missing values with the next or previous value

Data tidying with tidyr: Example with pivot_longer () and pivot_wider()

column.





pivot_longer(data, cols, names_to = "name",
values_to = "value", values_drop_na = FALSE)
"Lengthen" data by collapsing several columns
into two. Column names move to a new
names to column and values to a new values to

pivot_longer(table4a, cols = 2:3, names_to ="year", values to = "cases")

count 0.7K 1999 19M 0.7K 19M 2K 20M 2000 2K 37K 172M 1999 20M 174M 37K 1T 1T 172M 2000 213K 80K 212K 1T

213K

pivot_wider(data, names_from = "name", values_from = "value")

The inverse of pivot_longer(). "Widen" data by expanding two columns into several. One column provides the new column names, the other the values.

pivot_wider(table2, names_from = type, values_from = count)

Figure: From Data tidying with tidyr:: CHEATSHEET

R Example for pivot_longer()

```
library(tidyr) # Load necessary library
# Example data for pivot_longer
table4a <- data.frame(
country = c("A", "B", "C"),
'1999' = c(700, 37000, 212000),
2000' = c(2000, 80000, 213000)
# Rename columns back to "1999" and "2000"
colnames(table4a)[2:3] <- c("1999", "2000")</pre>
print(table4a) # Print the original data
# Use pivot_longer to reshape data
long_data <- pivot_longer(table4a, cols = 2:3,
                names_to = "year", values_to = "cases")
# Print the reshaped data
print(long_data)
                                                      12 / 46
```

R Example for pivot_wider()

```
# Example data for pivot_wider
table2 <- data.frame(
country = c("A", "A", "B", "B", "C", "C"),
year = c(1999, 1999, 2000, 2000, 1999, 1999),
type = c("cases", "pop", "cases", "pop", "cases", "pop"),
count = c(0.7, 19, 37, 172, 212, 1)
print(table2) # Print the original data
# Use pivot_wider to reshape data
wide_data <- pivot_wider(table2, names_from = type,</pre>
                                 values from = count)
# Print the reshaped data
print(wide_data)
```

tidyr: More functions, examples and documentation

- Data tidying with tidyr : : CHEATSHEET
- Tidyr documentation
- Tidyr examples

- Data Manipulation in R
 - Introduction and Motivation: The Tidyverse Packages in R
 - The tidyr Package
 - The dplyr Package and the Pipe Operator

- Data Visualization in R
 - Base R plots
 - ggplot2

Data manipulation with dplyr

- The package dplyr (part of the collection of tidyverse packages) is specifically designed for data manipulation.
- The main dplyr functions for data manipulation are: .

```
• summarize(): summary statistics for grouped data
```

- select(): selecting variables • filter(): filtering observations
- arrange(): (re)arranging observations
- mutate(): create, modify, and delete variables
- group_by(): operations done on groups defined by variables

Recall mtcars dataset

The mtcars dataset contains data extracted from the 1974 Motor Trend US magazine and comprises fuel consumption and 10 aspects of automobile design and performance for 32 automobiles (1973–74 models).

Display the first 6 rows of the mtcars data frame head(mtcars,6)

```
cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
              mpg
Mazda RX4
             21.0
                     6 160 110 3.90 2.620 16.46 0 1
Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0
                       160 110 3.90 2.875 17.02 0 1
Datsun 710
           22.8
                       108 93 3.85
                                   2.320 18.61 1
Hornet 4 Drive 21.4 6 258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44 1
Hornet Sportabout 18.7
                       360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02 0
Valiant
               18.1
                        225 105 2.76 3.460 20.22
                                                       3
```

mpg: Miles/(US) gallon; **cyl**: Number of cylinders; **disp**: Displacement (cu.in.); **hp**: Gross horsepower; **drat**: Rear axle ratio; **wt**: Weight (1000 lbs); **qsec**: 1/4 mile time; **vs**: Engine (0 = V-shaped, 1 = straight); **am**: Transmission (0 = automatic, 1 = manual); **gear**: Number of forward gears; **carb**: Number of carburetors

Why dplyr?

- More intuitive and easier than base R functions
 - no need for working with square brackets
- Example: Order rows of the mtcars data set on ascending values of mpg

The base R function order() needs []:

```
mtcars[order(mtcars$mpg), ]
```

The dplyr function arrange() is more intuitive:

```
arrange(mtcars, mpg)
```

The pipe operator in R: Shortcut key: Ctrl/Cmd + M



- Operations performed by the dplyr functions can be combined with the pipe operator %>%, resulting in efficient code that is more intuitive and easier to understand than code written with the corresponding base R functions.
- dplyr in combination with the pipe operator:
 - performs a series of operations step-by-step
 - no need to write code inside-out (nested code)
 - no need to make intermediate objects

Pipe operator %>%

• Basic principle: Passes (transformed) data on to the next operation

```
data %>%
perform operation A and pass on transformed data %>%
perform operation B and pass on transformed data %>%
etc.
```

 Pipes work as follows: the object preceding the pipe is by default the first argument of the function after the pipe. Hence

$$f(x)$$
 becomes $x \%>\% f()$
 $f(g(x))$ becomes $x \%>\% g() \%>\% f()$

Pipe operator %>%: Example

- Sort the rows of mtcars on ascending values of mpg
- Select only cars with 4 cylinders
- Oisplay the variables disp and qsec

Base R code

dplyr with pipe operator

```
mtcars %>%
filter(cyl == 4) %>%
arrange(mpg) %>%
select(disp, qsec)
```

Datasets & pre-processing

Question: Why bother using pipes?

Answer: Better readable and less memory used

If multiple steps in pre-processing are needed, one might get something like

or

```
apps <- read_csv('data/googleplaystore.csv')
apps1 <- filter(apps, 'Content Rating' == "Teen")
apps2 <- select(apps1, Rating, Reviews, Type)
apps3 <- arrange(apps2, -Rating)</pre>
```

With piping, we have

```
apps <- read_csv('data/googleplaystore.csv') %>%
filter('Content Rating' == "Teen") %>%
select(Rating, Reviews, Type) %>%
arrange(-Rating)
```

For more details on pipe: see Pipes style guide

Summary statistics

The dplyr function for summarizing data

```
data %>% summarise(...)
```

- Replace the ellipses with appropriate summary function(s), e.g.
 - mean(), median(), sd(), var(), sum() etc. for numeric variables
 - n(), n_distinct() for counts
 - many others (see help page)

Example (with and without name for summary statistic)

```
mtcars %>% summarise('mean of mpg' = mean(mpg), sd(mpg))
```

```
mean of mpg sd(mpg)
1 20.09062 6.026948
```

Summaries for groups

The dplyr function for grouping rows of a data frame

```
data %>%
group_by(...) %>% # replace ... with grouping variables
summarise(...) # replace ... with summary function(s), e.g. mean()
```

In combination with summarise():

```
mtcars %>%
group_by(cyl) %>%
summarise(mean(mpg), sd(mpg))
```

For more details on group_by(...): see help page

Exercise

Display the maximum of \mathtt{mpg} for each level of $\mathtt{cyl}.$

Contingency tables

Two different ways to build contingency tables

```
data %>%
group_by(data, ...) %>%
summarise(n())
```

or data %>% count(...)

Example: Contingency table of vs and am:

```
mtcars %>% count(am, vs)

# A tibble: 4 x 3
am vs n
```

	am	٧s	n	
	<dbl></dbl>	<dbl></dbl>	<int></int>	
1	0	0	12	
2	0	1	7	
3	1	0	6	
4	1	1	7	

Exercise

Display the contingency table of gear and cyl using summarise().

Filtering cases

Select cases that satisfy logical condition(s) ...

```
data %>% filter(...)
```

Example

```
mtcars %>% filter(mpg > 25 & gear == 4)
```

```
# A tibble: 4 \times 11
                                                                                                 disp
                                                                                                                                   hp
                    mpg cyl
                                                                                                                                                                                      drat wt
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          qsec vs
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             am
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          gear
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  carb
                      <dbl> <dbl > <d
               32.4
                                                                                  4 78.7
                                                                                                                                                                 66 4.08 2.20 19.5
              30.4 4 75.7
                                                                                                                                                                 52 4.93 1.61 18.5
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                1
              33.9 4 71.1
                                                                                                                                                                 65 4.22 1.84 19.9
4
                    27.3 4 79.0
                                                                                                                                                                 66 4.08 1.93 18.9
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                1
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     4
```

For more details on filter(...): see help page

Exercise

Display

- the frequency table of gear and cyl
- with only frequencies greater than 1 and
- the frequencies displayed in ascending order

select()

Selecting and deselecting (i.e., excluding) variables

```
data %>% select(var1, var2) # select variables var1 and var2
data %>% select(-var1, -var2) # deselect variables var1 and var2
```

Deselecting the first 5 columns

```
mtcars %>% select(-(1:5))
```

```
wt
                 qsec vs am gear carb
Mazda RX4 2.620 16.46 0 1
Mazda RX4 Wag 2.875 17.02 0 1 4
Datsun 710 2.320 18.61 1 1 4
Hornet 4 Drive 3.215 19.44 1
Hornet Sportabout 3.440 17.02 0
Valiant
        3.460 20.22 1
Duster 360
          3.570 15.84 0
                          0
Merc 240D 3.190 20.00 1
                          0
                             4
Merc 230
           3.150 22.90 1
                          0
        3.440 18.30 1
Merc 280
                          0
```

For more details on select(...): see help page

Exercise

Check the help page of select() and display

- the first two variables and
- all variables starting with the letter "d".

arrange()

Sort rows according to ascending or descending values of specified columns

```
data %>% arrange(var1, var2) # ascending on var1 and var2
data %>% arrange(var1, -var2) # ascending on var1 and descending on var2
```

Sort rows of mtcars ascending on cyl and descending on mpg

```
mtcars %>% arrange(cyl, -mpg)
```

```
cyl disp
                          hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
              mpg
                   4 71.1 65 4.22 1.835 19.90 1
Tovota Corolla 33.9
Fiat 128
             32.4 4 78.7 66 4.08 2.200 19.47 1 1
Honda Civic 30.4 4 75.7 52 4.93 1.615 18.52 1
Lotus Europa 30.4 4 95.1 113 3.77 1.513 16.90 1
Fiat X1-9
         27.3 4 79.0 66 4.08 1.935 18.90 1
Porsche 914-2 26.0 4 120.3 91 4.43 2.140 16.70
Merc 240D
          24.4
                   4 146.7 62 3.69 3.190 20.00 1
Datsun 710
         22.8
                   4 108.0 93 3.85 2.320 18.61 1
           22.8
Merc 230
                   4 140.8
                           95 3.92 3.150 22.90 1
                                                0
                   6 167.6 123 3.92 3.440 18.30
Merc 280
            19.2
```

For more details on arrange(...): see help page

Exercise

Display the means of ${\tt mpg}$ for ${\tt gear}$ from low to high.

Computing new variables

```
data %>% mutate(..., .keep = c("all", ...), .before = NULL, .after = NULL)
```

- adds the new variable(s) to the data frame
- .keep specifies which variables to return, "all", "used", "unused", "none"
- .before or .after determine where the new variables are inserted

The effect of .keep = "used"

```
mtcars %>% mutate(disp_cyl = disp/cyl, .keep = "used")
```

```
cyl disp disp_cyl
Mazda RX4
        6 160.0 26.66667
Mazda RX4 Wag 6 160.0 26.66667
Datsun 710
         4 108.0 27.00000
Hornet 4 Drive 6 258.0 43.00000
Hornet Sportabout 8 360.0 45.00000
Valiant
        6 225.0 37.50000
Duster 360 8 360.0 45.00000
Merc 240D 4 146.7 36.67500
           4 140.8 35.20000
Merc 230
Merc 280
              6 167.6 27.93333
```

For more details on mutate(...): see help page

Exercise

Display the variable names when you rerun the previous command with the arguments .keep = "none" and .keep = "unused"

dplyr: More functions, examples and documentation

- Data manipulation with dplyr : : CHEATSHEET
- dplyr documentation
- dplyr examples

- Data Manipulation in R
 - Introduction and Motivation: The Tidyverse Packages in R
 - The tidyr Package
 - The dplyr Package and the Pipe Operator

- Data Visualization in R
 - Base R plots
 - ggplot2

Main Plot Functions

High-level plot functions (create plot)

```
plot(x, y = NULL)  # Basic plot; e.g, scatterplot
hist(x, ...)  # Histogram of x
boxplot(formula, data)  # Boxplot of data according to formula
barplot(formula, data)  # Barplot of data according to formula
```

Low-level plot functions (add something to existing plot)

Example Plots with mtcars

```
par(mfrow = c(2, 3))
with(mtcars, plot(mpg))
with(mtcars, boxplot(mpg))
with(mtcars, plot(factor(gear)))
with(mtcars, plot(disp, mpg))
with(mtcars, boxplot(mpg ~ gear))
with(mtcars, barplot(xtabs(~ gear + cyl)))
                         55
                                        3 4 5
                  Index
                  300
                                        4 6 8
```

- 🕕 Data Manipulation in R
 - Introduction and Motivation: The Tidyverse Packages in R
 - The tidyr Package
 - The dplyr Package and the Pipe Operator

- Data Visualization in R
 - Base R plots
 - ggplot2

The data Argument

```
ggplot(data = <data>)
# or simply
ggplot(<data>)
```

The data argument tells ggplot() where to look for the variables:

- ggplot() initializes a plot object of class ggplot.
- data specifies the data set.

Example:

Load the package ggplot2 and run:

```
ggplot(data = mtcars)
```

Aesthetics

The aes arguments tell ggplot() where to map the variables:

```
ggplot(data = <data>, mapping = aes(x = <var1>, y = <var2>)
# or simply
ggplot(<data>, aes(<var1>, <var2>))
```

var1 is mapped to the x-axis, var2 to the y-axis.

Example: Display a plot that maps:

- disp to the x-axis
 - mpg to the y-axis

```
ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = disp, y = mpg))
```

Geometries

The geoms tell ggplot() what shapes to display, e.g.,





Two variables





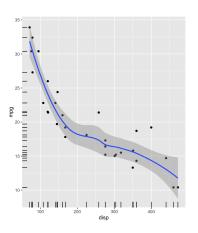
More on the different geometries:

https://ggplot2.tidyverse.org/reference/

Adding Other Geometries

Adding a regression line and a rug

```
ggplot(mtcars, aes(disp, mpg)) +
geom_point() +
geom_smooth() +
geom_rug()
```



Other Aesthetics

disp

Change the color, size, and/or shape of the points by a third variable

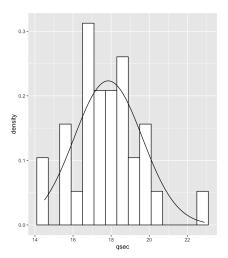
```
install.packages("gridExtra")
library(gridExtra)
grid.arrange(
ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = disp, y = mpg, col = factor(vs))) +
geom_point(),
ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = disp, y = mpg, size = qsec)) +
geom_point(),
nrow = 1
                                               qsec
                        factor(vs)
                                                  22.5
           10-
                                  10-
                                   100 200 300 400
             100 200 300 400
```

disp

Histogram with Normal Curve

Change histogram from counts to density and add normal curve

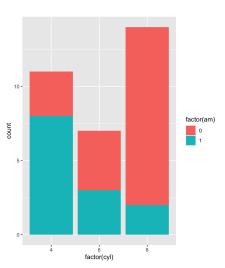
```
ggplot(mtcars, aes(qsec)) +
geom_histogram(aes(y = after_stat(density)), bins = 15, fill = "white", col= "black") +
stat_function(fun = dnorm, args = list(mean = mean(mtcars$qsec), sd = sd(mtcars$qsec)))
```



Barplots

The default barplot for two variables uses the aesthetic fill and position "stack"

```
ggplot(mtcars, aes(x = factor(cyl), fill = factor(am))) +
geom_bar()
```



ggplot2: More functions, examples and documentation

- Data visulaization with ggplot2 : : CHEATSHEET
- ggplot2 documentation
- ggplot2 functions documentation

Practicalities

- Deadlines:
 - R assignment part1 exercises: Friday June 13, 3 pm.
 - R assignment part2 exercises: Friday June 20, 3 pm.
 - Quiz 2: June 17, during Tuesday's Tutorial at 3:30 pm, duration: 30 minutes,
- Related complementary material:
 - Book chapters: Ch5, Ch6 of Introduction to R tidyverse book.
 - Book chapters: Ch1-2 of ggplot2: Elegant Graphics for Data Analysis book
 - Introduction to dplyr
 - Video tutorials: Introduction to Tidyverse in R dplyr
 - Video tutorials: data manipulation and visualization R
 - The tidyverse style guide