Module 6: Augmented vectors, Factor + Labelled Variables

Introduction

What we will do today

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Augmented vectors
 - 2.1 Review data types and structures
 - 2.2 Attributes and augmented vectors
 - 2.3 Object class
 - 2.4 Class == factor
 - 2.5 Class == labelled
 - 2.6 Comparing labelled class to factor class
- 3. Creating factor variables

Libraries we will use today

"Load" the package we will use today (output omitted)

you must run this code chunk after installing these packages

```
library(tidyverse)
library(haven)
library(labelled)
library(lubridate)
```

If package not yet installed, then must install before you load. Install in "console" rather than .Rmd file

- Generic syntax: install.packages("package_name")
- Install "tidyverse": install.packages("tidyverse")

Note: when we load package, name of package is not in quotes; but when we install package, name of package is in quotes:

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

Augmented vectors

Data we will use to introduce augmented vectors

```
rm(list = ls()) # remove all objects
#load("../../data/prospect_list/western_washington_college_board_list.RData")
load(url("https://github.com/ksalazar3/HED696C_Rclass/raw/master/data/prospect_
```

Review data types and structures

Vectors are the primary data structures in R

Two types of vectors:

- 1. atomic vectors
- 2. lists

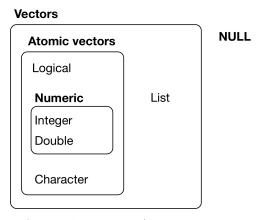


Figure 1: Overview of data structures (Grolemund and Wickham, 2018)

Review data structures: atomic vectors

An atomic vector is a collection of values

- each value in an atomic vector is an element
- ▶ all elements within vector must have same data type

```
(a <- c(1,2,3)) # parentheses () assign and print object in one step
#> [1] 1 2 3
length(a)
#> [1] 3
typeof(a)
#> [1] "double"
str(a)
#> num [1:3] 1 2 3
```

Can assign names to vector elements, creating a named atomic vector

```
(b <- c(v1=1,v2=2,v3=3))
#> v1 v2 v3
#> 1 2 3
length(b)
#> [1] 3
typeof(b)
#> [1] "double"
str(b)
#> Named num [1:3] 1 2 3
#> - attr(*, "names") = chr [1:3] "v1" "v2" "v3"
```

Review data structures: lists

- Like atomic vectors, lists are objects that contain elements
- However, data type can differ across elements within a list

```
list_a <- list(1,2,"apple")</pre>
typeof(list a)
#> [1] "list"
length(list_a)
#> [1] 3
str(list_a)
#> List of 3
#> $ : num 1
#> $ : num 2
#> $ : chr "apple"
list_b <- list(1, c("apple", "orange"), list(1, 2))</pre>
length(list b)
#> \[ 11 \] 3
str(list b)
#> List of 3
#> $ : num 1
#> $ : chr [1:2] "apple" "orange"
#> $ :List of 2
#> ..$ : num 1
#> ..$ : num 2
```

Review data structures: lists

Like atomic vectors, elements within a list can be named, thereby creating a named list

```
# not named
str(list b)
#> List of 3
#> $ : num 1
#> $ : chr [1:2] "apple" "orange"
#> $ :List of 2
#> ..$ : num 1
#> ..$ : num 2
# named
list_c <- list(v1=1, v2=c("apple", "orange"), v3=list(1, 2, 3))
str(list c)
#> List of 3
#> $ v1: num 1
#> $ v2: chr [1:2] "apple" "orange"
#> $ v3:List of 3
#> ..$ : num 1
#> ..$ : num 2
#> ..$ : num 3
```

Review data structures: a data frame is a list

A data frame is a list with the following characteristics:

- All the elements must be vectors with the same length
- Data frames are augmented lists because they have additional attributes [described later]

```
#a regular list
list_d \leftarrow list(col_a = c(1,2,3), col_b = c(4,5,6), col_c = c(7,8,9))
typeof(list d)
#> [1] "list"
str(list d)
#> List of 3
#> $ col a: num [1:3] 1 2 3
#> $ col b: num [1:3] 4 5 6
#> $ col c: num [1:3] 7 8 9
#a data frame
df_a \leftarrow data.frame(col_a = c(1,2,3), col_b = c(4,5,6), col_c = c(7,8,9))
typeof(df a)
#> [1] "list"
str(df_a)
#> 'data.frame': 3 obs. of 3 variables:
#> $ col a: num 123
#> $ col b: num 4 5 6
#> $ col_c: num 789
```

Attributes and augmented vectors

Atomic vectors versus augmented vectors

Atomic vectors [our focus so far]

- I think of atomic vectors as "just the data"
- Atomic vectors are the building blocks for augmented vectors

Augmented vectors

▶ Augmented vectors are atomic vectors with additional attributes attached

Attributes

- Attributes are additional "metadata" that can be attached to any object (e.g., vector or list)
- Examples of some important attributes in R:
 - Names: name the elements of a vector (e.g., variable names)
 - ▶ value labels: character labels (e.g., "Charter School") attached to numeric values
 - Object class: How object should be treated by object oriented programming language [discussed below]

Main takaway:

 Augmented vectors are atomic vectors (just the data) with additional attributes attached

Attributes in vectors

Identify attributes in any object using the attributes() function

```
#vector with no attributes
vector1 \leftarrow c(1,2,3,4)
vector1
#> [1] 1 2 3 4
attributes(vector1)
#> NULL
#vector with name attributes
vector2 \leftarrow c(a = 1, b = 2, c = 3, d = 4)
vector2
\#>a b c d
#> 1 2 3 4
attributes(vector2)
#> $names
#> [1] "a" "b" "c" "d"
```

```
Attributes in lists
     #no attributes
    list1 \leftarrow list(c(1,2,3), c(4,5,6))
    attributes(list1)
    #> NTIT.T.
    #list with attributes
    list2 \leftarrow list(col_a = c(1,2,3), col_b = c(4,5,6))
    str(list2)
    #> List of 2
    #> $ col_a: num [1:3] 1 2 3
    #> $ col_b: num [1:3] 4 5 6
    attributes(list2)
    #> $names
     #> [1] "col a" "col b"
    #data frame with attributes
    list3 \leftarrow data.frame(col_a = c(1,2,3), col_b = c(4,5,6))
    str(list3)
    #> 'data.frame': 3 obs. of 2 variables:
     #> $ col a: num 123
    #> $ col b: num 4 5 6
    attributes(list3)
    #> $names
    #> [1] "col a" "col b"
     #>
     #> $class
     #> [1] "data.frame"
```

Every object in R has a class

- Object class defines rules for how object can be treated by object oriented programming language (e.g., which functions you can apply to object)
- class is an attribute of an object

Identify the class of an object using the class() function

```
(vector2 <- c(a = 1, b= 2, c= 3, d = 4))
#> a b c d
#> 1 2 3 4
class(vector2)
#> [1] "numeric"
```

When I encounter a new object I often investigate object by applying typeof(),

```
class(), and attributes() functions to that object
vector2
#> a b c d
#> 1 2 3 4
typeof(vector2)
#> [1] "double"
class(vector2)
#> [1] "numeric"
attributes(vector2)
#> $names
#> [1] "a" "b" "c" "d"
```

Why is class important?

- Specific functions usually work with only particular classes of objects
 - e.g., "date"" functions usually only work on objects with a date class
 - * "string" functions usually only work with on objects with a character class
 - Functions that do mathematical computation usually work on objects with a numeric class
- Note: functions care about object class, not object type

```
object with numeric class (output omitted)
str(wwlist)

typeof(wwlist$med_inc_zip)
class(wwlist$med_inc_zip)
sum(wwlist$med_inc_zip[1:10], na.rm = TRUE) # numeric function

# load library with date functions
library(lubridate)
#Sys.setenu(TZ="America/Los_Angeles") #setting time zone to Los Angeles time
year(wwlist$med_inc_zip[1:10]) # date function
```

Why is class important?

- Specific functions usually work with only particular classes of objects
- Note: functions care about object class, not object type

```
Object with character class
```

```
str(wwlist$hs_city)
typeof(wwlist$hs_city)
class(wwlist$hs_city)

tolower(wwlist$hs_city[1:10]) # string function
sum(wwlist$hs_city, na.rm = TRUE) # numeric function
```

Object with a date class

```
typeof(wwlist$receive_date)
class(wwlist$receive_date)
year(wwlist$receive_date[1:10]) # date function
sum(wwlist$receive_date) # numeric function
```

Class and object oriented programming

Definition of object oriented programming from this LINK

"Object-oriented programming (OOP) refers to a type of computer programming in which programmers define not only the data type of a data structure, but also the types of operations (functions) that can be applied to the data structure."

Object class is fundamental to object oriented programming because:

- object class determines which functions can be applied to the object
- b object class also determines what those functions do to the object

Many different object classes exist in R

- we can also create our own classes
- but in this course we will work with classes that have been created by others

Class == factor

Factors

Factors are an object class used to display categorical data (e.g., marital status)

A factor is an augmented vector built by attaching a "levels" attribute to an (atomic) integer vectors

Usually, we would prefer a categorical variable (e.g., race, school type) to be a factor variable rather than a character variable

So far in the course I have made all categorical variables character variables because we had not introduced factors yet

Below, I'll create a factor version of the character variable ethn_code

(don't worry about understanding this code; I'll explain it later)

```
str(wwlist$ethn_code)
#> chr [1:268396] "other-2 or more" "white" "white" "other-2 or more" "white" .
class(wwlist$ethn_code)
#> [1] "character"
# create factor var; tidyverse approach
wwlist <- wwlist %>% mutate(ethn_code_fac = factor(ethn_code))
#wwlist$ethn_code_fac <- factor(wwlist$ethn_code) # base r approach
str(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
#> Factor w/ 10 levels "american indian or alaska native",..: 8 10 10 8 10 8 8
```

Factors

A factor is an **augmented vector** built by attaching a "levels" attribute to an (atomic) integer vector

```
Compare (character) ethn_code to (factor) ethn_code_fac (output omitted)

#character var

typeof(wwlist$ethn_code)
class(wwlist$ethn_code)
str(wwlist$ethn_code)
attributes(wwlist$ethn_code)

#factor var

typeof(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
class(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
str(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
attributes(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
attributes(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
```

Main takeaway

- ethn_code_fac has type=integer and class=factor because the variable has a "levels" attribute
- Underlying data are integers but levels attribute is used to display the data.

Working with factor variables

```
attributes(wwlist$ethn_code_fac)
```

Refer to categories of a factor by the values of the **level attribute** rather than the underlying values of the variable

Task

count the number of prospects in object wwlist who identify as "white"

Working with factor variables

Task

count the number of prospects in object wwlist who identify as "white"

If you want to refer to underlying values, then apply as.integer() function to the factor variable

```
attributes(wwlist$ethn code fac)
#> $levels
#> [1] "american indian or alaska native"
#> [2] "asian or native hawaiian or other pacific islander"
#> [3] "black or african american"
#> [4] "cuban"
#> [5] "mexican/mexican american"
#> [6] "not reported"
#> [7] "other spanish/hispanic"
#> [8] "other-2 or more"
#> [9] "puerto rican"
#> [10] "white"
#>
#> $class
#> [1] "factor"
wwlist %>% filter(as.integer(ethn_code_fac)==10) %>% count
#> # A tibble: 1 x 1
#>
          n
\#> \langle i,n,t,>
#> 1 159680
```

How to identify the variable values associated with factor levels

Let's create a factor version of the character variable <code>psat_range</code>

class(wwlist\$psat_range)

```
#> [1] "character"
wwlist <- wwlist %>% mutate(psat_range_fac = factor(psat_range)) # create facto
Run below code in console rather than code chunk to see values associated with each factor
wwlist %>% count(psat_range_fac)
attributes(wwlist$psat_range_fac)
```

wwlist %% filter(as.integer(psat_range_fac)==4 | as.integer(psat_range_fac)==5

Once you know values associated with factor, you can filter based on values

Or you can just filter based on value of factor levels

levels(wwlist\$psat_range_fac) #starts at 1
nlevels(wwlist\$psat_range_fac) #7 levels total
levels(wwlist\$psat_range_fac)[4] #prints levels 1-3

```
wwlist %>% filter(psat_range=="1270-1520") %>% count()
#> # A tibble: 1 x 1
#> n
```

27 / 60



See Appendix

Factor student exercise

- After running the code below, use typeof, class, str, and attributes functions to check the new variable receive_year
- Create a factor variable from the input variable receive_year and name it receive_year_fac
- Run the same functions (typeof, class, etc.) from the first question using the new variable you created
- Get a count of receive_year_fac . hint: you could also run this in the console to see values associated with each factor

Run this code to create a year variable from the input variable "receive_date"

```
#wwlist %>% glimpse()
library(lubridate) #load library if you haven't already
wwlist <- wwlist %>%
    mutate(receive_year = year(receive_date)) #creating year variable with the lui
#Check variable
wwlist %>%
    count(receive_year)
wwlist %>%
    group_by(receive_year) %>%
    count(receive_date)
```

 Use typeof, class, str, and attributes functions to check the new variable receive_year

```
typeof(wwlist$receive_year)
#> [1] "double"
class(wwlist$receive_year)
#> [1] "numeric"
str(wwlist$receive_year)
#> num [1:268396] 2016 2016 2016 2016 2016 ...
attributes(wwlist$receive_year)
#> NULL
```

Now create a factor variable from the input variable receive_year and name it receive_year_fac

```
# create factor var; tidyverse approach
wwlist <- wwlist %>%
  mutate(receive_year_fac = factor(receive_year))
```

Run the same functions (typeof, class, etc.) from the first question using the new variable you created

```
typeof(wwlist$receive_year_fac)
#> [1] "integer"
class(wwlist$receive_year_fac)
#> [1] "factor"
str(wwlist$receive_year_fac)
#> Factor w/ 3 levels "2016", "2017", ...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
attributes(wwlist$receive_year_fac)
#> $levels
#> [1] "2016" "2017" "2018"
#>
#> $class
#> [1] "factor"
```

 Get a count of receive_year_fac . hint: you could also run this in the console to see values associated with each factor

Class == labelled

Data we will use to introduce labelled class

High school longitudinal surveys from National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

Follow U.S. students from high school through college, labor market

We will be working with High School Longitudinal Study of 2009 (HSLS:09)

- Follows 9th graders from 2009
- Data collection waves
 - Base Year (2009)
 - First Follow-up (2012)
 - 2013 Update (2013)
 - High School Transcripts (2013-2014)
 - Second Follow-up (2016)

haven package

haven, which is part of **tidyverse**, "enables R to read and write various data formats" from the following statistical packages:

- ► SAS
- SPSS
- Stata

When using haven to read data, resulting R objects have these characteristics:

- Are tibbles, a particular type of data frame we discuss in future weeks
- Transform variables with "value labels" into the labelled() class [our focus today]
 - labelled is an object class created by folks who created haven package
 - labelled is an object class, just like factor is an object class
 - labelled and factor classes are both viable alternatives for categorical variables
 - ► Helpful description of labelled class HERE
- ▶ Dates and times converted to R date/time classes
- Character vectors not converted to factors

haven package

```
hsls <- read_dta(file="https://github.com/ksalazar3/HED696C_RClass/raw/master/d
Let's examine the data [you must run this code chunk]
names(hsls)
names(hsls) <- tolower(names(hsls)) # convert names to lowercase
names(hsls)

str(hsls) # ugh

str(hsls) # ugh

str(hsls$s3classes)
attributes(hsls$s3classes)
typeof(hsls$s3classes)
class(hsls$s3classes)
```

Use read_dta() function from haven to import Stata dataset into R

labelled package

Purpose of the labelled package is to work with data imported from SPSS/Stata/SAS using the haven package.

- In particular, labelled package creates functions to work with objects that have labelled class
- From package documentation: "purpose of the labelled package is to provide functions to manipulate metadata as variable labels, value labels and defined missing values using the labelled class and the label attribute introduced in haven package.
- ► More info on the labelled package: LINK

Functions in labelled package

- ▶ Full list
- A couple relevant functions
 - val_labels : get or set variable value labels
 - var_label : get or set a variable label

```
attributes(hsls$s3classes)
hsls %>% select(s3classes) %>% var_label()
hsls %>% select(s3classes) %>% val_labels()
```

What is labelled class?

- labelled is an object class created by the haven package for importing variables from SAS/SPSS/Stata that have value labels
- value labels [in Stata] are labels attached to specific values of a variable:
 - e.g., variable value 1 attached to value label "married", 2 = "single", 3 = "divorced"
- ▶ Variables in an R data frame with class==labelled :
 - data type can be numeric(double) or character
 - To see value labels associated with each value:
 - attr(data_frame_name\$variable_name,"labels")
 - e.g., attr(hsls\$s3classes,"labels")

Let's investigate the attributes of hsls\$s3classes

```
typeof(hsls$s3classes)
class(hsls$s3classes)
str(hsls$s3classes)
attributes(hsls$s3classes)
```

use attr(object_name,"attribute_name") to refer to each attribute

```
attr(hsls$s3classes,"label")
attr(hsls$s3classes,"labels")
attr(hsls$s3classes,"class")
attr(hsls$s3classes,"format.stata")
```

Working with labelled class data

```
Show variable labels (var_label); and show value labels (val_labels)

hsls %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% var_label #show variable label

hsls %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% val_labels #show value labels
```

Create frequency tables with labelled class variables using count()

▶ Default setting is to show variable values not value labels

```
hsls %>% count(s3classes)
#investigate the object created
hsls_freq_temp <- hsls %>% count(s3classes)
hsls_freq_temp
rm(hsls_freq_temp)
```

To make frequency table show value labels add %>% as_factor() to pipe

as_factor() is function from haven that converts an object to a factor

```
hsls %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
#investigate the object created
hsls_freq_temp <- hsls %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
hsls_freq_temp
rm(hsls_freq_temp)
```

Working with labelled class data

To isolate values of labelled class variables in filter() function:

refer to variable value, not the value label

Task

- how many observations in var s3classes associated with "Unit non-response"
- how many observations in var s3classes associated with "Yes"

General steps to follow:

- 1. investigate object
- 2. use filter to isolate desired observations

Investigate object

```
class(hsls$s3classes)
hsls %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% var_label #show variable label
hsls %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% val_labels #show value label
hsls %>% count(s3classes) # freq table, values
hsls %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor() # freq table, value labels
```

filter specific values

```
hsls %>% filter(s3classes==-8) %>% count() # -8 = unit non-response
hsls %>% filter(s3classes==1) %>% count() # 1 = yes
```

Set variable and value labels on labelled objects

Let's create a tibble first

```
df <- tribble(
 ~id, ~edu, ~sch,
 #--/---
 1, 2, 2,
 2, 1, 1,
 3, 3, 2,
 4, 4, 2,
 5, 1, 2
df
#> # A tibble: 5 x 3
#>
      id edu sch
#> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1 1 2
#> 2 2 1
#> 3 3 3
#> 4 4
#> 5
str(df)
#> tibble [5 x 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
#> $ id : num [1:5] 1 2 3 4 5
#> $ edu: num [1:5] 2 1 3 4 1
#> $ sch: num [1:5] 2 1 2 2 2
```

Set variable labels

Use set_variable_labels function to manually set variable labels

```
syntax: set variable labels(variable = "Variable label")
str(df)
\# tibble [5 x 3] (S3: tbl_df/tbl/data.frame)
#> $ id : num [1:5] 1 2 3 4 5
#> $ edu: num [1:5] 2 1 3 4 1
#> $ sch: num [1:5] 2 1 2 2 2
class(df$sch)
#> [1] "numeric"
#set variabel labels
df <- df %>%
 set_variable_labels(
    id = "Unique identification number",
    edu = "Education level",
    sch = "Type of school attending"
str(df)
#> tibble [5 x 3] (S3: tbl df/tbl/data.frame)
#> $ id : num [1:5] 1 2 3 4 5
#> ..- attr(*, "label")= chr "Unique identification number"
#> $ edu: num [1:5] 2 1 3 4 1
#> ..- attr(*. "label")= chr "Education level"
#> $ sch: num [1:5] 2 1 2 2 2
```

Set value labels

Use set_value_labels function to manually set value labels

```
syntax:
    set_value_labels(var_name = c("val label" = 1, "val label" = 2))
class(df$sch)
#> [1] "numeric"
df <- df %>%
 set value labels(
    edu = c("High School" = 1,
           "AA degree" = 2,
            "BA degree" = 3,
            "MA or higher" = 4),
    sch = c("Private" = 1.
            "Public" = 2))
attributes(df$sch)
#> $labels
#> Private Public
#> 1 2.
#>
#> $1.abel.
#> [1] "Type of school attending"
#>
#> $class
#> [1] "haven labelled" "vctrs vctr" "double"
```

Labelled student exercise

- 1. Get variable label and value labels of s3hs
- Get a count of the variable showing the values and the value labels. hint use factor()
- 3. Filter if value is associated with "Missing"
- 4. Filter if value is associated with "Missing" or "Unit non-response"

1. Get variable and value labels of s3hs

```
hsls %>%
  select(s3hs) %>%
  var_label()
#> $s3hs
#> [1] "S3 B01F Attending high school or homeschool as of Nov 1 2013"
hsls %>%
  select(s3hs) %>%
 val labels()
#> $s3hs
#>
                                          Missing
#>
#>
                               Unit non-response
#>
                                               -8
#>
                         Item legitimate skip/NA
#>
                        Component not applicable
#>
#>
                                                -6
   Item not administered: abbreviated interview
#>
                                               -4
#>
                                              Yes
#>
                                                1
#>
                                               No
#>
                                       Don't know
#>
```

2. Get a count of the variable s3hs showing the value labels. hint use factor()

```
hsls %>%
  count(s3hs)
#> # A tibble: 6 x 2
#> s3hs
#> <d.b1.+1.b1.>
                                      \langle i, n, t, \rangle
#> 1 -9 [Missing]
                                         22
#> 2 -8 [Unit non-response]
                                      4945
#> 3 -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 16770
#> 4 1 [Yes]
                                        624
#> 5 2 [No]
                                        985
#> 6 3 [Don't know]
                                       157
hsls %>%
  count(s3hs) %>%
  as factor()
#> # A tibble: 6 x 2
#> s3hs
   <fct>
                                \langle i, n, t, \rangle
#> 1 Missing
                                   22
#> 2 Unit non-response
                                4945
#> 3 Item legitimate skip/NA 16770
#> 4 Yes
                                  624
#> 5 No
                                  985
#> 6 Don't know
                                  157
```

3. Filter if value is associated with "Missing"

```
hsls %>%
filter(s3hs== -9) %>%
count()

#> # A tibble: 1 x 1

#> n

#> <int>
#> 1 22
```

4. Filter if value is associated with "Missing" or "Unit non-response"

```
hsls %>%
filter(s3hs== -9 | s3hs== -8) %>%
count()

#> # A tibble: 1 x 1

#> n

#> <int>
#> 1 4967
```

Comparing labelled class to factor class

Comparing class==labelled to class==factor

	class==labelled	class==factor
data type	numeric or character	integer
name of value label attribute	labels	levels
refer to data using	variable values	levels attribute

Converting class==labelled to class==factor

The as_factor() function from haven package converts variables with class==labelled to class==factor

Can be used for descriptive statistics

```
hsls %>% select(s3classes) %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
```

Can create object with some or all labelled vars converted to factor

```
hsls_f <- as_factor(hsls,only_labelled = TRUE)</pre>
```

Let's examine this object

```
glimpse(hsls_f)
hsls_f %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% str()
typeof(hsls_f$s3classes)
class(hsls_f$s3classes)
attributes(hsls_f$s3classes)
hsls_f %>% select(s3classes) %>% var_label()
hsls_f %>% select(s3classes) %>% val_labels()
```

Working with class==factor data

Showing values associated with factor levels

In code, refer level attribute not variable value

```
hsls_f %>% filter(s3classes=="Yes") %>% count(s3classes)

#> # A tibble: 1 x 2

#> s3classes n

#> <fct> <int>
#> 1 Yes 13477
```

Creating factor variables

Create factors [from string variables]

To create a factor variable from string variable

- 1. create a character vector containing underlying data
- 2. create a vector containing valid levels
- 3. Attach levels to the data using the factor() function

```
#underlying data: months my fam is born
x1 <- c("Jan", "Aug", "Apr", "Mar")
#create vector with valid levels
month_levels <- c("Jan", "Feb", "Mar", "Apr", "May", "Jun",
    "Jul", "Aug", "Sep", "Oct", "Nov", "Dec")
#attach levels to data
x2 <- factor(x1, levels = month_levels)</pre>
```

Note how attributes differ

```
str(x1)
#> chr [1:4] "Jan" "Aug" "Apr" "Mar"
str(x2)
#> Factor w/ 12 levels "Jan", "Feb", "Mar", ...: 1 8 4 3
```

Sorting differs

```
sort(x1)
#> [1] "Apr" "Aug" "Jan" "Mar"
sort(x2)
#> [1] Jan Mar Apr Aug
#> Levels: Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec
```

Create factors [from string variables]

Let's create a character version of variable hs_state and then turn it into a factor

```
#wwlist %>%
# count(hs state)
#Subset obs to West Coast states
wwlist_temp <- wwlist %>%
  filter(hs_state %in% c("CA", "OR", "WA"))
#Create character version of high school state for West Coast states only
wwlist_temp$hs_state_char <- as.character(wwlist_temp$hs_state)</pre>
#investigate character variable
str(wwlist_temp$hs_state_char)
class(wwlist temp$hs state char)
table(wwlist_temp$hs_state_char)
#create new variable that assigns levels
wwlist_temp$hs_state_fac <- factor(wwlist_temp$hs_state_char, levels = c("CA","</pre>
str(wwlist_temp$hs_state_fac)
attributes(wwlist_temp$hs_state_fac)
#wwlist temp %>%
# count(hs state fac)
rm(wwlist_temp)
wwlist$hs_state_fac <- as_factor(wwlist_temp$hs_state_char)</pre>
```

Create factors [from string variables]

How the levels argument works when underlying data is character

- Matches value of underlying data to value of the level attribute
- Converts underlying data to integer, with level attribute attached

See chapter 15 of Wickham for more on factors (e.g., modifying factor order, modifying factor levels)

Creating factors [from integer vectors]

Factors are just integer vectors with level attributes attached to them. So, to create a factor:

- 1. create a vector for the underlying data
- 2. create a vector that has level attributes
- 3. Attach levels to the data using the factor() function

```
a1 <- c(1,1,1,0,1,1,0) #a vector of data
a2 <- c("zero","one") #a vector of labels

#attach labels to values
a3 <- factor(a1, labels = a2)
a3

#> [1] one one one zero one one zero
#> Levels: zero one
str(a3)
#> Factor w/ 2 levels "zero", "one": 2 2 2 1 2 2 1
```

Note: By default, factor() function attached "zero" to the lowest value of vector a1 because "zero" was the first element of vector a2

Creating factors [from integer vectors]

Let's turn an integer variable into a factor variable in the wwlist data frame

Create integer version of receive_year

```
#typeof(wwlist_temp$receive_year)
wwlist_temp <- wwlist %>%
    filter(zip5 %in% c("98103", "98030", "98290"))
wwlist_temp$zip_int <- as.integer(wwlist_temp$zip5)
str(wwlist_temp$zip_int)
#> int [1:1423] 98103 98030 98290 98290 98103 98030 98103 98030 98290 98290 ...
typeof(wwlist_temp$zip_int)
#> [1] "integer"
```

Creating factors [from integer vectors]

Assign levels to values of integer variable

wwlist_temp %>%
 count(zip_int)

```
# variable zip int is coded 98103, 98030 or 98290
# we want to attach value labels 98103=nine-eight-one-zero-three, 98030=nine-eig
wwlist_temp$zip_fac <- factor(wwlist_temp$zip_int,</pre>
      levels = c(98103, 98030, 98290),
      labels = c("nine-eight-one-zero-three", "nine-eight-zero-three-zero", "ni
str(wwlist_temp$zip_fac)
#> Factor w/ 3 levels "nine-eight-one-zero-three",..: 1 2 3 3 1 2 1 2 3 3 ...
str(wwlist temp$zip5)
#> chr [1:1423] "98103" "98030" "98290" "98290" "98103" "98030" "98103" ...
#Check variable
wwlist_temp %>%
  count(zip_fac)
#> # A tibble: 3 x 2
#> zip fac
#> <fct>
                                \langle int \rangle
#> 1 nine-eight-one-zero-three 541
#> 2 nine-eight-zero-three-zero 477
#> 3 nine-eight-two-nine-zero
                                 405
```