

Lecture 7: Guidelines for Investigating, cleaning, and creating variables

Managing and Manipulating Data Using R

1 Introduction

What we will do today

1. Introduction

2. Exploratory data analysis (EDA)

2.1 Tools for EDA

2.2 Guidelines for EDA

2.3 Skip patterns in survey data

Libraries

“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)
```

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)
```

Data

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

```
hsls <- read_dta(file="https://github.com/ozanj/rclass/raw/master/data/hsls/hsls
```

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

Download the HSLs Codebook:

https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2014/2014361_AppendixI.pdf

2 Exploratory data analysis (EDA)

What is exploratory data analysis (EDA)?

The [Towards Data Science](#) website has a nice definition of EDA:

“Exploratory Data Analysis refers to the critical process of performing initial investigations on data so as to discover patterns, to spot anomalies, to test hypothesis and to check assumptions with the help of summary statistics”

This course focuses on “data management”:

investigating and cleaning data for the purpose of creating analysis variables

Basically, everything that happens **before** you conduct analyses

I think about “exploratory data analysis for data quality”

Investigating values and patterns of variables from “input data”

Identifying and cleaning errors or values that need to be changed

Creating analysis variables

Checking values of analysis variables against values of input variables

How we will teach exploratory data analysis

Will teach exploratory data analysis (EDA) in two sub-sections:

1. Introduce “Tools of EDA”:

- Demonstrate code to investigate variables and relationship between variables

- Most of these tools are just the application of programming skills you have already learned

2. Provide “Guidelines for EDA”

- Less about coding, more about practices you should follow and mentality necessary to ensure high data quality

2.1 Tools for EDA

Tools of EDA

To do EDA for data quality, must master the following tools:

Select, sort, filter, and print in order to see data patterns, anomalies

Select and sort particular values of particular variables

Print particular values of particular variables

One-way descriptive analyses (i.e., focus on one variable)

Descriptive analyses for continuous variables

Descriptive analyses for discrete/categorical variables

Two-way descriptive analyses (relationship between two variables)

Categorical by categorical

Categorical by continuous

Continuous by continuous

Whenever using any of these tools, **pay close attention to missing values and how they are coded**

Often, the “input” variables don’t code missing values as `NA`

Especially when working with survey data, missing values coded as a negative number (e.g., `-9`, `-8`, `-4`) with different negative values representing different reasons for data being missing

sometimes missing values coded as very high positive numbers

Therefore, important to investigate input vars prior to creating analysis vars

First, Let's create a smaller version of the HSLs:09 dataset

```
#hsls %>% var_label()
hsls_small <- hsls %>%
  select(stu_id,x3univ1,x3sqstat,x4univ1,x4sqstat,s3classes,
         s3work,s3focus,s3clgft,s3workft,s3clgid,s3clgcntrl,
         s3clglvl,s3clgsel,s3clgstate,s3proglevel,x4evrappclg,
         x4evratndclg,x4atndclg16fb,x4ps1sector,x4ps1level,
         x4ps1ctrl,x4ps1select,x4refsector,x4reflevel,x4refctrl,
         x4refselect, x2sex,x2race,x2paredu,x2txmtscor,x4x2ses,x4x2sesq5)

names(hsls_small)
hsls_small %>% var_label()
```

Tools of EDA: select, sort, filter, and print

We've already know `select()` , `arrange()` , `filter()`

Select, sort, and print specific vars

#sort and print

```
hsls_small %>% arrange(desc(stu_id)) %>%  
  select(stu_id,x3univ1,x3sqstat,s3classes,s3clglvl1)
```

#investigate variable attributes

```
hsls_small %>% arrange(desc(stu_id)) %>%  
  select(stu_id,x3univ1,x3sqstat,s3classes,s3clglvl1) %>% str()
```

#print observations with value labels rather than variable values

```
hsls_small %>% arrange(desc(stu_id)) %>%  
  select(stu_id,x3univ1,x3sqstat,s3classes,s3clglvl1) %>% as_factor()
```

Sometimes helpful to increase the number of observations printed

```
class(hsls_small) #it's a tibble, which is the "tidyverse" version of a data frame  
options(tibble.print_min=50)
```

execute this in console

```
hsls_small %>% arrange(desc(stu_id)) %>%  
  select(stu_id,x3univ1,x3sqstat,s3classes,s3clglvl1)  
options(tibble.print_min=10) # set default printing back to 10 lines
```

One-way descriptive stats for continuous vars, Base R approach [SKIP]

```
mean(hsls_small$x2txmtscor)
sd(hsls_small$x2txmtscor)

#Careful: summary stats include value of -8!
min(hsls_small$x2txmtscor)
max(hsls_small$x2txmtscor)
```

Be careful with NA values

```
#Create variable replacing -8 with NA
hsls_small_temp <- hsls_small %>%
  mutate(x2txmtscorv2=ifelse(x2txmtscor==-8,NA,x2txmtscor))
hsls_small_temp %>% filter(is.na(x2txmtscorv2)) %>% count(x2txmtscorv2)

mean(hsls_small_temp$x2txmtscorv2)
mean(hsls_small_temp$x2txmtscorv2, na.rm=TRUE)
rm(hsls_small_temp)
```

One-way descriptive stats for continuous vars, Tidyverse approach

Use `summarise_at()`, a variation of `summarise()`, to make descriptive stats

explain `.args=list(na.rm=TRUE)` on following slides

Task:

calculate descriptive stats for `x2txmtscor`, math test score

```
##?summarise_at
hsls_small %>% select(x2txmtscor) %>% var_label()
#> $x2txmtscor
#> [1] "X2 Mathematics standardized theta score"
hsls_small %>%
  summarise_at(
    .vars = vars(x2txmtscor),
    .funs = funs(mean, sd, min, max, .args=list(na.rm=TRUE))
  )
#> # A tibble: 1 x 4
#>   mean    sd   min   max
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  44.1  21.8    -8  84.9
```

One-way descriptive stats for continuous vars, Tidyverse approach

Can calculate descriptive stats for more than one variable at a time

Task:

calculate descriptive stats for `x2txmtscor` , math test score, and `x4x2ses` , socioeconomic index score

```
hsls_small %>% select(x2txmtscor,x4x2ses) %>% var_label()  
#> $x2txmtscor  
#> [1] "X2 Mathematics standardized theta score"  
#>  
#> $x4x2ses  
#> [1] "X4 Revised X2 Socio-economic status composite"  
  
hsls_small %>%  
  summarise_at(  
    .vars = vars(x2txmtscor,x4x2ses),  
    .funs = funs(mean, sd, min, max, .args=list(na.rm=TRUE))  
  )  
#> # A tibble: 1 x 8  
#>   x2txmtscor_mean x4x2ses_mean x2txmtscor_sd x4x2ses_sd x2txmtscor_min  
#>   <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>  
#> 1           44.1         -0.802         21.8          2.63          -8  
#> # ... with 3 more variables: x4x2ses_min <dbl>, x2txmtscor_max <dbl>,  
#> #   x4x2ses_max <dbl>
```

One-way descriptive stats for continuous vars, Tidyverse approach

"Input vars" in survey data often have negative values for missing/skips

```
hsls_small %>% filter(x2txmtscor<0) %>% count(x2txmtscor)
```

R includes those negative values when calculating stats; you don't want this

Solution: create version of variable that replaces negative values with NA

```
hsls_small %>% mutate(x2txmtscor_na=ifelse(x2txmtscor<0,NA,x2txmtscor)) %>%  
  summarise_at(  
    .vars = vars(x2txmtscor_na),  
    .funs = funs(mean, sd, min, max, .args=list(na.rm=TRUE))  
  )  
#> # A tibble: 1 x 4  
#>   mean    sd   min   max  
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>  
#> 1  51.5  10.2  22.2  84.9
```

What if you didn't include `.args=list(na.rm=TRUE)` ?

```
hsls_small %>% mutate(x2txmtscor_na=ifelse(x2txmtscor<0,NA,x2txmtscor)) %>%  
  summarise_at(  
    .vars = vars(x2txmtscor_na),  
    .funs = funs(mean, sd, min, max))  
#> # A tibble: 1 x 4  
#>   mean    sd   min   max  
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>  
#> 1    NA    NA    NA    NA
```


One-way descriptive stats for continuous vars, Tidyverse approach

How to identify these missing/skip values if you don't have a codebook?

`count()` combined with `filter()` helpful for finding extreme values of continuous vars, which are often associated with missing or skip

```
#variable x2txmtscor
hsls_small %>% filter(x2txmtscor<0) %>%
  count(x2txmtscor)
#> # A tibble: 1 x 2
#>   x2txmtscor      n
#>   <dbl> <int>
#> 1      -8  2909

#variable s3clglvl
hsls_small %>% select(s3clglvl) %>% var_label()
#> $s3clglvl
#> [1] "S3 Enrolled college IPEDS level"

hsls_small %>% filter(s3clglvl<0) %>%
  count(s3clglvl)
#> # A tibble: 3 x 2
#>           s3clglvl      n
#>   <dbl+lbl> <int>
#> 1 -9 [Missing]      487
#> 2 -8 [Unit non-response] 4945
#> 3 -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 5022
```

One-way descriptive stats student exercise

1. Using the object `hsls`, identify variable type, variable class, and check the variable values and value labels of `x4ps1start`

variable `x4ps1start` identifies month and year student first started postsecondary education

Note: This variable is a bit counterintuitive.

e.g., the value `201105` refers to May 2011

2. Get a frequency count of the variable `x4ps1start`
3. Get a frequency count of the variable, but this time only observations that have negative values **hint:** use `filter()`
4. Create a new version of the variable `x4ps1start_na` that replaces negative values with NAs and use `summarise_at()` to get the min and max value.

One-way descriptive stats student exercise solutions

1. Using the object `hsls`, identify variable type, variable class, and check the variable `x4ps1start` and value labels of `x4ps1start`

```
typeof(hsls$x4ps1start)
```

```
#> [1] "double"
```

```
class(hsls$x4ps1start)
```

```
#> [1] "haven_labelled"
```

```
hsls %>% select(x4ps1start) %>% var_label()
```

```
#> $x4ps1start
```

```
#> [1] "X4 Month and year of enrollment at first postsecondary institution"
```

```
hsls %>% select(x4ps1start) %>% val_labels()
```

```
#> $x4ps1start
```

```
#> Missing
```

```
#> -9
```

```
#> Unit non-response
```

```
#> -8
```

```
#> Item legitimate skip/NA
```

```
#> -7
```

```
#> Component not applicable
```

```
#> -6
```

```
#> Item not administered: abbreviated interview
```

```
#> -4
```

```
#> Carry through missing
```

```
#> -3
```

One-way descriptive stats student exercise solutions

2. Get a frequency count of the variable `x4ps1start`

```
hsls %>%  
  count(x4ps1start)  
#> # A tibble: 9 x 2  
#>       x4ps1start      n  
#>       <dbl+lbl> <int>  
#> 1      -9 [Missing]    107  
#> 2      -8 [Unit non-response] 6168  
#> 3      -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 4281  
#> 4 201100          57  
#> 5 201200         206  
#> 6 201300       10800  
#> 7 201400       1295  
#> 8 201500        471  
#> 9 201600        118
```

One-way descriptive stats student exercise solutions

3. Get a frequency count of the variable, but this time only observations that have negative values **hint:** use filter()

```
hsls %>%  
  filter(x4ps1start<0) %>%  
  count(x4ps1start)  
#> # A tibble: 3 x 2  
#>       x4ps1start      n  
#>       <dbl+lbl> <int>  
#> 1 -9 [Missing]      107  
#> 2 -8 [Unit non-response] 6168  
#> 3 -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 4281
```

One-way descriptive stats student exercise solutions

4. Create a new version `x4ps1start_na` of the variable `x4ps1start` that replaces negative values with NAs and use `summarise_at()` to get the min and max value.

```
hsls %>% mutate(x4ps1start_na=ifelse(x4ps1start<0,NA,x4ps1start)) %>%  
  summarise_at(  
    .vars = vars(x4ps1start_na),  
    .funs = funs(min, max, .args=list(na.rm=TRUE))  
  )  
#> # A tibble: 1 x 2  
#>       min      max  
#>   <dbl>   <dbl>  
#> 1 201100 201600
```

One-way descriptive stats for discrete/categorical vars, Tidyverse approach

Use `count()` to investigate values of discrete or categorical variables

For variables where `class==labelled`

```
class(hs1s_small$s3classes)
#show counts of variable values
hs1s_small %>% count(s3classes) #print in console to show both
#show counts of value labels
hs1s_small %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
```

I like `count()` because the default setting is to show `NA` values too!

```
hs1s_small %>% mutate(s3classes_na=ifelse(s3classes<0,NA,s3classes)) %>%
  count(s3classes_na)
```

Simultaneously show both values and value labels on count tables for

`class==labelled`

requires some concepts/functions we haven't introduced

```
x <- hs1s_small %>% count(s3classes)
y <- hs1s_small %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
bind_cols(x[,1], y) #wont show in updated R
```

One-way descriptive stats for factor vars [OPTIONAL/SKIP]

For variables where `class==factor`

Create object with some or all `labelled` vars converted to `factor`

```
hsls_f <- as_factor(hsls)
```

```
#use variable from the hsls data frame where vars are factors
```

```
typeof(hsls_f$s3classes)
```

```
class(hsls_f$s3classes)
```

```
attributes(hsls_f$s3classes)
```

```
#show frequency table
```

```
hsls_f %>% count(s3classes)
```

```
#Create VAR that converts different types of missing to NA and then create frequ
```

```
#note: within ifelse() used levels(s3classes)[s3classes]) rather than s3classes
```

```
hsls_f %>% mutate(s3classes_f=ifelse(s3classes %in% c("Missing","Unit non-respon
```

```
count(s3classes_f)
```


Relationship between variables, categorical by categorical

Two-way frequency table, called “cross tabulation”, important for data quality

When you create categorical analysis var from single categorical “input” var

Two-way tables show us whether we did this correctly

Two-way tables helpful for understanding skip patterns in surveys

key to syntax

```
group_by(var1) %>% count(var2)
```

play around with which variable is `var1` and which variable is `var2`

Relationship between variables, categorical by categorical

Task:

Create a two-way table between `s3classes` and `s3clglvl`

```
hsls_small %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% var_label()
hsls_small %>% select(s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% val_labels()
```

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl) # show values
```

```
#> # A tibble: 8 x 3
```

```
#>           s3classes           s3clglvl      n
#>           <dbl+lbl>           <dbl+lbl> <int>
#> 1 -9 [Missing]           -9 [Missing]      59
#> 2 -8 [Unit non-response] -8 [Unit non-response] 4945
#> 3  1 [Yes]              -9 [Missing]      428
#> 4  1 [Yes]              1 [4 or more years] 8894
#> 5  1 [Yes]              2 [At least 2 but less than 4 years] 3929
#> 6  1 [Yes]              3 [Less than 2 years (below associate)] 226
#> 7  2 [No]               -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 3401
#> 8  3 [Don't know]       -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 1621
```

```
#hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl) %>% as_factor() # show v
```

Relationship between variables, categorical by categorical

Two-way frequency table, also called “cross tabulation”

What if one of the variables has NAs ?

Table created by `group_by()` and `count()` shows NAs !

Task:

Create a version of `s3classes` called `s3classes_na` that changes negative values to NA

Create a two-way table between `s3classes_na` and `s3clglvl`

```
hsls_small %>%  
  mutate(s3classes_na=ifelse(s3classes<0,NA,s3classes)) %>%  
  group_by(s3classes_na) %>% count(s3clglvl)
```

#example where we create some NA obs in the second variable

```
hsls_small %>%  
  mutate(s3classes_na=ifelse(s3classes<0,NA,s3classes),  
         s3clglvl_na=ifelse(s3clglvl==-7,NA,s3clglvl)) %>%  
  group_by(s3classes_na) %>% count(s3clglvl_na)
```

Relationship between variables, categorical by categorical [SKIP]

Tables above are pretty ugly

Use the `spread()` function from `tidyr` package to create table with one variable as columns and the other variable as rows

The variable you place in `spread()` will be columns

We learn `spread()` function next week

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl) %>%  
  spread(s3classes, n)
```

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl) %>%  
  as_factor() %>% spread(s3classes, n)
```

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl) %>%  
  as_factor() %>% spread(s3clglvl, n)
```

Relationship between variables, categorical by continuous

Investigating relationship between multiple variables is a little tougher when at least one of the variables is continuous

Conditional mean (like regression with continuous Y and one categorical X):

- Shows average values of continuous variables within groups

- Groups are defined by your categorical variable(s)

key to syntax

```
group_by(categorical_var) %>% summarise_at(.vars = vars(continuous_var))
```

Relationship between variables, categorical by continuous

Task

Calculate mean math score, `x2txmtscor`, for each value of parental education, `x2paredu`

```
#first, investigate parental education [print in console]
hsls_small %>% count(x2paredu)

# using dplyr to get average math score by parental education level [print in console]
hsls_small %>% group_by(x2paredu) %>%
  summarise_at(.vars = vars(x2txmtscor),
               .funs = funs(mean, .args = list(na.rm = TRUE)))

#> # A tibble: 8 x 2
#>                                     x2paredu x2txmtscor
#>                                     <dbl>+<lbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 -8 [Unit non-response]                    -8
#> 2  1 [Less than high school]                 44.3
#> 3  2 [High school diploma or GED or alternative HS credential] 47.2
#> 4  3 [Certificate/diploma from school providing occupational tr~ 46.4
#> 5  4 [Associate's degree]                    48.9
#> 6  5 [Bachelor's degree]                    53.3
#> 7  6 [Master's degree]                      55.6
#> 8  7 [Ph.D/M.D/Law/other high lvl prof degree] 58.9
```

Relationship between variables, categorical by continuous

Task

Calculate mean math score, `x2txmtscor`, for each value of `x2paredu`

For checking data quality, helpful to calculate other stats besides mean

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(x2paredu) %>% #[print in console]  
  summarise_at(.vars = vars(x2txmtscor),  
               .funs = funs(mean, min, max, .args = list(na.rm = TRUE)))
```

Always Investigate presence of missing/skip values

```
hsls_small %>% filter(x2paredu<0) %>% count(x2paredu)  
hsls_small %>% filter(x2txmtscor<0) %>% count(x2txmtscor)
```

Replace `-8` with `NA` and re-calculate conditional stats

```
hsls_small %>%  
  mutate(x2paredu_na=ifelse(x2paredu<0,NA,x2paredu),  
         x2txmtscor_na=ifelse(x2txmtscor<0,NA,x2txmtscor)) %>%  
  group_by(x2paredu_na) %>%  
  summarise_at(.vars = vars(x2txmtscor_na),  
               .funs = funs(mean, min, max, .args = list(na.rm = TRUE))) %>%  
  as_factor()
```

Student exercise

Can use same approach to calculate conditional mean by multiple `group_by()` variables

Just add additional variables within `group_by()`

1. Calculate mean math test score (`x2txmtscor`), for each combination of parental education (`x2paredu`) and sex (`x2sex`).

Student exercise solution

1. Calculate mean math test score (`x2txmtscor`), for each combination of parental education (`x2paredu`) and sex (`x2sex`)

```
#hsls_small %>% count(x2sex)

hsls_small %>%
  group_by(x2paredu,x2sex) %>%
  summarise_at(.vars = vars(x2txmtscor),
               .funs = funs(mean, .args = list(na.rm = TRUE))) %>%
  as_factor()
```

2.2 Guidelines for EDA

Guidelines for “EDA for data quality”

Assume that your goal in “EDA for data quality” is to investigate “input” data sources and create “analysis variables”

Usually, your analysis dataset will incorporate multiple sources of input data, including data you collect (primary data) and/or data collected by others (secondary data)

While this is not a linear process, these are the broad steps I follow

1. Understand how input data sources were created
e.g., when working with survey data, have survey questionnaire and codebooks on hand
2. For each input data source, identify the “unit of analysis” and which combination of variables uniquely identify observations
3. Investigate patterns in input variables
4. Create analysis variable from input variable(s)
5. Verify that analysis variable is created correctly through descriptive statistics that compare values of input variable(s) against values of the analysis variable

Always be aware of missing values

They will not always be coded as `NA` in input variables

“Unit of analysis” and which variables uniquely identify observations

“Unit of analysis” refers to “what does each observation represent” in an input data source

- If each obs represents a student, you have “student level data”

- If each obs represents a student-course, you have “student-course level data”

- If each obs represents a school, you have “school-level data”

- If each obs represents a school-year, you have “school-year level data”

How to identify unit of analysis

- data documentation

- investigating the data set

We will go over syntax for identifying unit of analysis in subsequent weeks

Rules for variable creation

Rules I follow for variable creation

1. Never modify “input variable”; instead create new variable based on input variable(s)
Always keep input variables used to create new variables
2. Investigate input variable(s) and relationship between input variables
3. Developing a plan for creation of analysis variable
e.g., for each possible value of input variables, what should value of analysis variable be?
4. Write code to create analysis variable
5. Run descriptive checks to verify new variables are constructed correctly
Can “comment out” these checks, but don’t delete them
6. Document new variables with notes and labels

Rules for variable creation

Task:

Create analysis for variable ses quintile called `sesq5` based on `x4x2sesq5` that converts negative values to `NA`s

```
#investigate input variable
hsls_small %>% select(x4x2sesq5) %>% var_label()
hsls_small %>% select(x4x2sesq5) %>% val_labels()
hsls_small %>% select(x4x2sesq5) %>% count(x4x2sesq5)
hsls_small %>% select(x4x2sesq5) %>% count(x4x2sesq5) %>% as_factor()

#create analysis variable
hsls_small_temp <- hsls_small %>%
  mutate(sesq5=ifelse(x4x2sesq5== -8,NA,x4x2sesq5)) # approach 1
hsls_small_temp <- hsls_small %>%
  mutate(sesq5=ifelse(x4x2sesq5<0,NA,x4x2sesq5)) # approach 2

#verify
hsls_small_temp %>% group_by(x4x2sesq5) %>% count(sesq5)
```

Overview of problem set due next week

Assignment:

create GPA from postsecondary transcript student-course level data

Data source: [National Longitudinal Study of 1972 \(NLS72\)](#)

Follows 12th graders from 1972

Base year: 1972

Follow-up surveys in: 1973, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1986

Postsecondary transcripts collected in 1984

Why use such an old survey for this assignment?

NLS72 predates data privacy agreements; transcript data publicly available

What we do to make assignment more manageable

last week's problem set created the input var: numgrade

we give you some hints/guidelines

but you are responsible for developing plan to create GPA vars and for executing plan (rather than us giving you step-by-step equations)

Why this assignment?

1. Give you more practice investigating data, cleaning data, creating variables that require processing across rows
2. Real world example of "simple" task with complex data management

2.3 Skip patterns in survey data

What are skip patterns

Pretty easy to create an analysis variable based on a single input variable

Harder to create analysis variables based on multiple input variables

When working with survey data, even seemingly simple analysis variables require multiple input variables due to “skip patterns”

What are “skip patterns”?

Response on a particular survey item determines whether respondent answers some set of subsequent questions

What are some examples of this?

Key to working with skip patterns

Have the survey questionnaire on hand

Sometimes it appears that analysis variable requires only one input variable, but really depends on several input variables because of skip patterns

Don't just blindly turn “missing” and “skips” from survey data to `NA`s in your analysis variable

Rather, trace why these “missing” and “skips” appear and decide how they should be coded in your analysis variable

Creating analysis variables in the presence of skip patterns

Task: Create a measure of “level” of postsecondary institution attended in 2013 from HSLS:09 survey data

“level” is highest award-level of the postsecondary institution

e.g., if highest award is associate’s degree (a two-year degree), then ‘level==2’

The measure, `pselev2013`, should have following [non-missing] values:

1. Not attending postsecondary education institution
2. Attending a 2-year or less-than-2-year institution
3. Attending 4-year or greater-than-4year institution

Background info:

In “2013 Update” of HSLS:09, students asked about college attendance

Variables from student responses to “2013 Update” have prefix `s3`

Survey questionnaire for 2013 update can be found [HERE](#)

The “online codebook” website [HERE](#) has info about specific variables

Measure has 3 input variables [usually must figure this out yourself]:

1. `x3sqstat` : “X3 Student questionnaire status”
2. `s3classes` : “S3 B01A Taking postsecondary classes as of Nov 1 2013”
3. `s3clglvl` : “S3 Enrolled college IPEDS level”

```
hsls_small %>% select(x3sqstat,s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% var_label()
```

Creating analysis variables in the presence of skip patterns

Step 1a: Investigate each input variable separately

```
#variable labels
```

```
hsls_small %>% select(x3sqstat,s3classes,s3clglvl) %>% var_label()
```

```
hsls_small %>% count(x3sqstat)
```

```
hsls_small %>% count(x3sqstat) %>% as_factor()
```

```
hsls_small %>% count(s3classes)
```

```
hsls_small %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
```

```
hsls_small %>% count(s3clglvl)
```

```
hsls_small %>% count(s3clglvl) %>% as_factor()
```

Creating analysis variables in the presence of skip patterns

Step 1b: Investigate relationship between input variables

#x3sqstate and s3classes

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(x3sqstat) %>% count(s3classes)
hsls_small %>% group_by(x3sqstat) %>% count(s3classes) %>% as_factor()
```

```
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat==8) %>% count(s3classes)
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat==8) %>% count(s3classes==8)
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat !=8) %>% count(s3classes)
```

#x3sqstate, s3classes and s3clglvl

```
hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl)
hsls_small %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl) %>% as_factor()
```

#add filter for whether student did not respond to X3 questionnaire

```
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat==8) %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl)
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat !=8) %>% group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl)
```

#continued on the next page

Creating analysis variables in the presence of skip patterns

Step 1b: Investigate relationship between input variables continued...

```
#add filter for s3classes is "missing" [-9]
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat !=8,s3classes==-9) %>% group_by(s3classes) %>%
  count(s3clglvl)
#> # A tibble: 1 x 3
#>   s3classes s3clglvl n
#>   <dbl+lbl> <dbl+lbl> <int>
#> 1 -9 [Missing] -9 [Missing] 59
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat !=8,s3classes!=-9) %>% group_by(s3classes) %>%
  count(s3clglvl)
#> # A tibble: 6 x 3
#>   s3classes s3clglvl n
#>   <dbl+lbl> <dbl+lbl> <int>
#> 1 1 [Yes] -9 [Missing] 428
#> 2 1 [Yes] 1 [4 or more years] 8894
#> 3 1 [Yes] 2 [At least 2 but less than 4 years] 3929
#> 4 1 [Yes] 3 [Less than 2 years (below associate)] 226
#> 5 2 [No] -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 3401
#> 6 3 [Don't know] -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 1621

#add filter for s3classes equal to "no" or "don't know"
hsls_small %>% filter(x3sqstat !=8,s3classes!=-9, s3classes %in% c(2,3)) %>%
  group_by(s3classes) %>% count(s3clglvl)
#> # A tibble: 2 x 3
#>   s3classes s3clglvl n
#>   <dbl+lbl> <dbl+lbl> <int>
#> 1 2 [No] -7 [Item legitimate skip/NA] 3401
```