# Lecture 6: Augmented vectors, Factor + Labelled Variables

# 1 Introduction

## Logistics

#### Reading to do before next class:

Work through slides from lecture 5 that we didn't get to in class (attaching aggregate measures)

GW 15.1 - 15.2 (factors) [this is like 2-3 pages]

[OPTIONAL] GW 15.3 - 15.5 (remainder of "factors" chapter)

[OPTIONAL] GW 20.6 - 20.7 (attributes and augmented vectors)

[OPTIONAL] GW 10 (tibbles)

## **Explanation about** beamer\_header.tex in YAML header:

We are calling the beamer\_header.tex file in the background to customize our slides. Without this LaTeX file, our slides would compile according to the default beamer presentation (PDF).

Why would we want to do this?

We can customize our slides with the beamer\_header.tex LaTeX file to include page numbers, change heading options, or change slide colors (in addition to other things).

includes option in the YAML header customizes the beamer presentation slides

Here is a link to a short description of the includes option in the YAML header.

# 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)
```

# 2 Augmented vectors

## Data we will use to introduce augmented vectors

```
rm(list = 1s()) # remove all objects
#load("../../data/prospect_list/western_washington_college_board_list.RData")
load(url("https://github.com/ozanj/rclass/raw/master/data/prospect_list/wwlist_m
```

2.1 Review data types and structures

# **Vectors** are the primary data structures in R

Two types of vectors:

- 1. atomic vectors
- 2. lists

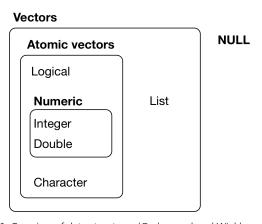


Figure 1: Overview of data structures (Grolemund and Wickham, 2018)

## 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

an element of a list can be another 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)
#> [1] 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
#> $ : nim 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 <- 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 <- 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 1 2 3
#> $ col b: num 4 5 6
#> $ col c: num 7 8 9
```

2.2 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 <- c(1,2,3,4)
vector1
#> [1] 1 2 3 4
attributes(vector1)
#> NIII.I.
#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 <- list(c(1,2,3), c(4,5,6))
    attributes(list1)
    #> NUT.I.
    #list with attributes
    list2 <- 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 <- 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 1 2 3
    #> $ col b: num 4 5 6
    attributes(list3)
    #> $names
    #> [1] "col a" "col b"
    #>
    #> $class
    #> [1] "data.frame"
```

2.3 Object class

# Object class

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"
```

## Object class

#### 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.setenv(TZ="America/Los_Angeles") #setting time zone to Los Angeles time
year(wwlist$med_inc_zip[1:10]) # date function
```

# Object class

#### 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 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

2.4 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 <code>ethn\_code</code>

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

```
str(wwlist$ethn_code)
#> chr [1:268396] "other-2 or more" "white" "white" "other-2 or more" ...
class(wwlist$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)
```

#### 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)
#> $1evels
#> [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
#>
#> <int.>
#> 1 159680
```

# How to identify the variable values associated with factor levels

Let's create a factor version of the character variable psat range

```
wwlist <- wwlist %>% mutate(psat_range_fac = factor(psat_range)) # create factor
```

Run below code in console rather than code chunk to see values associated with each factor

```
wwlist %>% count(psat_range_fac)
#> Warning: Factor `psat_range_fac` contains implicit NA, consider using
#> `forcats::fct_explicit_na`
attributes(wwlist$psat_range_fac)
levels(wwlist$psat_range_fac) #starts at 1
nlevels(wwlist$psat_range_fac) #7 levels total
levels(wwlist$psat_range_fac) [1:3] #prints levels 1-3
```

Once you know values associated with factor, you can filter based on values  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right$ 

#### Or you can just filter based on value of factor levels

#> 1 8348

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

Creating factor variables from character variables or from integer variables

See Appendix

## Factor student exercise

#wwlist %>% glimpse()

count(receive year)

wwlist %>%

- $1. \begin{tabular}{ll} After running the code below, use type of , class , str, and attributes \\ functions to check the new variable receive\_year \\ \end{tabular}$
- 2. Create a factor variable from the input variable receive\_year and name it receive year fac
- 3. Run the same functions ( typeof , class , etc.) from the first question using the new variable you created
- 4. 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"
```

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

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
```

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

4. Get a count of receive\_year\_fac . hint: you could also run this in the console to see values associated with each factor

2.5 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/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$$3classes)
attributes(hsls$$3classes)
typeof(hsls$$3classes)
class(hsls$$3classes)
```

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()

# Core concepts for understanding labelled class [SKIP]

atomic vectors (and lists) the underlying data

data structures: vector or list

data type: numeric (integer or double); character; logical

```
typeof(hsls$s3classes)
#> [1] "double"
```

**augmented vectors** are atomic vectors with **attributes** attached **attributes** are "metadata" attached to an object. Examples

**names**: names of elements of a vector or list (e.g., variable names) **levels**: display output associated with values of a factor variable

class: e.g., factor, labelled

attributes(hsls\$s3classes)

**class** is an object oriented programming concept. The class of an object determines which functions can be applied to the object and what those functions do

e.g., can't apply sum() to an object where class=character

## 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
```

## Labelled student exercise

- 1. Get variable 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
                                                -7
#>
#>
                        Component not applicable
#>
#> Item not administered: abbreviated interview
#>
                                                -4
                                               Yes
#>
#>
#>
                                                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
                         <db1+1b1> <int.>
#>
#> 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>
                              <int.>
#> 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
```

2.6 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)

```
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

```
hsls_f %>% count(s3classes)

#> # A tibble: 5 x 2

#> s3classes n

#> <fct> <int>
#> 1 Missing 59

#> 2 Unit non-response 4945

#> 3 Yes 13477

#> 4 No 3401

#> 5 Don't know 1621
```

### In code, refer level attribute not variable value

3 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
```

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# Create factors [from string variables]

Let's create a character version of variable <a href="hs\_state">hs\_state</a> 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$hs state char)
table(wwlist_temp$hs_state_char)
#create new variable that assigns levels
wwlist_temp$hs_state_fac <- factor(wwlist_temp$hs_state_char, levels = c("CA","C</pre>
str(wwlist temp$hs state fac)
attributes(wwlist_temp$hs_state_fac)
#wwlist temp %>%
# count(hs_state_fac)
rm(wwlist temp)
```

# 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 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

Assign levels to values of integer variable