

# Importing and Cleaning Data in the R tidyverse

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R has existed for over 25 years, and is itself based on a programming language called S that was invented in 1976. Over that time, many different styles of R coding have evolved, and consequently there are a large number of different ways of accomplishing the same tasks. The most modern way of using R is within the tidyverse (<http://tidyverse.org>) - this is a collection of extensions to base R that are focussed on making it as easy as possible to do data science in R: i.e. import, process and analyse the types of datasets that are typical to epidemiology. Central to this are three key concepts:

- 1) Tidy datasets are much easier to work with than messy datasets
- 2) Always check for data entry mistakes in your data - never just assume that it is all correct
- 3) R code should be as clear and easy to read as possible even for users that are not expert programmers

R code written using the tidyverse looks a bit different to the code using base R that you might have used before, but it makes it much easier to create code that does relatively complex things with your data. This tutorial will explain some of the key features of importing, cleaning and checking data using the calf fetuses dataset as an example. For more background on the study that generated this dataset, see the published article at:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0207682>

The code starts off very simple in Section 1, but Sections 2 and 3 are a bit more advanced, so take your time and understand each step before moving onto the next. Make sure to run every step of the code in R in the same order as it is given here; otherwise you will either get errors or different results from some of the steps. For a more complete (and even longer) introduction to tidyverse I thoroughly recommend the book ‘R for Data Science’: a free online version is available from <https://r4ds.had.co.nz/>

For this tutorial we will assume that you have installed both the latest version of R (<http://cran.r-project.org>) and the latest version of RStudio (<http://rstudio.org>), but you do not need to have any prior experience with R. Start by opening RStudio and creating a new R script by clicking ‘File’ then ‘New File’ then ‘R Script’. You should see a blank text file appear in the text file window in the top-left corner of R studio. Save it (click on File, then Save) and name it ‘tidy\_fetuses.R’ (make sure that you save this file in the same folder as the ‘calf\_fetuses.xlsx’ data file that you have downloaded from Absalon). The RStudio window also contains three other windows: the R console (bottom left), Environment/History/Connections window (top right), and the Files/Plots/Packages/Help/Viewer window (bottom right). You can copy code given here in ‘R code chunks’ like this one:

```
2+4
```

... and paste them into your (currently blank) tidy\_fetuses.R script in the text file window within RStudio. To run the code, place the cursor somewhere on the line you want to run, and click ‘Run’ (or use the keyboard shortcut control/command + enter). You will see that RStudio copies the code from your text window (top

left) and enters it into the R console (bottom left). You can also copy the code and manually paste it into the R console, but this takes longer so practice using the ‘Run’ shortcut. Avoid re-typing code directly into the R console as even the smallest typing mistake can lead to an error.

This document also displays the result of running these code chunks, which should match what you see when you run the code in R. For example, the code above should give the following output in the R console window directly below the command:

```
## [1] 6
```

To run multiple lines at once, highlight them all and click ‘Run’. To run the entire R script file click ‘Source’.

It is a good idea to write comments for yourself in the R script file to remind you what the R code is doing when you come to look at it later, and it is crucial if you are going to share the code with anyone else. Any lines starting with `#` are ignored by R, for example:

```
# This is a comment - it will be ignored by R  
1+4
```

```
## [1] 5
```

It can also be useful to ‘comment out’ R code that you don’t want to run but do want to leave in the R script for later reference: for example the `8+9` calculation in the code chunk below is ignored by R because that line starts with a `#`:

```
# 8+9
```

If you want to run the calculation, you can either delete the `#` and run the whole line, or highlight just the `8+9` and click run.

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## Section 1: basic data handling

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### Installing tidyverse

You need to have the tidyverse package installed within R. If you have not already installed the package (or have recently re-installed R), then click the ‘Tools’ menu then ‘Install Packages’ then type ‘tidyverse’ and click on ‘Install’. If you prefer, you can also paste the following command into your R script:

```
install.packages('tidyverse')
```

If you do this then remember to comment out this code using the `#` symbol afterwards, otherwise the package will be re-installed (and re-downloaded!) every time you run the code.

You only need to install a package once, but you need to load it every time you restart R. Do this using the `library()` function:

```
library('tidyverse')

## -- Attaching packages ----- tidyverse 1.3.0 --

## v ggplot2 3.2.1      v purrr  0.3.3
## v tibble  2.1.3      v dplyr  0.8.3
## v tidyr   1.0.2      v stringr 1.4.0
## v readr   1.3.1      v forcats 0.4.0

## -- Conflicts ----- tidyverse_conflicts() --
## x dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
## x dplyr::lag()     masks stats::lag()
```

When you run this code, you should see similar output to that shown above. The ‘Conflicts’ (and small red crosses next to them) are to be expected, so you can safely ignore these. But if you get different output to what is shown above, or if you have any problems with package installation such as messages saying that packages are not available for your version of R, then make sure that R and RStudio are updated to the latest versions and try again. If you still have problems, then let us know ASAP so we can try to resolve them (the most common problems are due to old operating system versions or restricted access on institutional computers).

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## Preparing your data

Before reading an Excel file into R, you will need to make sure that the relevant sheet is laid out in an appropriate way. The first row should contain the column names, and all columns must have a unique name. You will make life much easier for yourself if the column names are concise, and do not use spaces, special characters (e.g. + - / \* & % € , etc), dates, or non-English characters (e.g. å æ ø). You can use an underscore ( \_ ) to create two-word names e.g. birth\_date. The second row should be the start of the data: do not include any blank rows below the column names. If there is anything entered below the last row of data (for example comments or formulae such as averages) then delete these rows.

Each column can either be a number, date/time, or text - but this must be consistent within a column. It is a good idea to ensure that date/time columns are stored correctly by selecting the column and going to ‘Format’ -> ‘Cells’ and selecting either date or time as the format. As a general rule it is a much better idea to record categorical data (e.g. gender) as character rather than number codes e.g. male/female rather than 1/2. Remember that all cell comments and formatting (e.g. bold, colours etc) will be completely ignored by R when reading the data, so DO NOT use any type of comment or format to represent important information: create a new column instead. If you have an observation that is missing then just leave the cell blank - do not use any special codes or text (such as “NA” or “N/A” or “missing”) to indicate missing observations as this will make your life more difficult than it needs to be.

Finally, ensure that you do not have any stray text or numbers entered outside of the columns of data, or rows that do not form part of the data placed within the same sheet. If you want to have e.g. comments, notes, graphs or formulas to summarise your data in Excel, then create a second sheet specifically for this information. It is a very good idea to also have a separate ‘data key’ sheet where you record the meaning of all of the variables, where the data has come from, and any other relevant meta-data such as the collection date or any other important notes that you might need to remember when you come back to the data later on. This will also make it much easier for you to share the data with others.

## Reading data

The first thing you are going to want to do is to read your data file. This can be in a number of formats, but the most common is an Excel file. For this we need to load the readxl package (this is installed as part of tidyverse, but not loaded by default):

```
library('readxl')
```

You will then need to make sure that your working directory is set correctly so that R can find the data file on your hard drive. Go to the 'Session' menu, 'Set Working Directory', and 'Choose Directory' and then select the folder that contains the calf foetuses dataset that you downloaded from Absalon as part of the previous task. Check that the name of the downloaded file actually is calf\_fetuses.xlsx and has not been renamed automatically during the download process (if for example the file is named "calf\_fetuses (1).xlsx" then the code will not work).

You should now be able to load the data from a specified sheet within the Excel file using:

```
fetuses <- read_excel('calf_fetuses.xlsx', sheet='calf_fetuses')
```

When you run this code, nothing much seems to happen (unless you get an error saying that the file could not be found, in which case check that you have included the .xlsx or .xls file extension, and that the file has not been renamed during the download process). But in fact R has read the data from the Excel file, and assigned the resulting 'data frame' (which is like an Excel worksheet) called 'fetuses' (using the assignment operator <-) in which the data is now being stored within your R environment. If you look closely you should see the text 'fetuses 262 obs. of 18 variables' appear under 'Data' in the 'Environment' tab of the top-right window within RStudio. Click on the name 'fetuses' to open a new tab with the data in table form.

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## Looking at your data

There are several methods of examining and visualising your data, but here we will stick with the tidyverse way of doing things. You may already know how to do some of this in base R - it is OK to use methods you are already familiar with, but try not to mix different styles too much. That can sometimes lead to strange errors and often leads to messy code ... we want everything to be tidy!

The tidyverse revolves around data frames - these allow us to keep all related data together, in a consistent format where we know that all columns have the same number of rows and each row corresponds to a specific set of observations. When working with data in the tidyverse, we will therefore nearly always be working within these data frames. To do something within a data frame, we first type the name of the data frame, then the special 'pipe' or 'chaining' operator %>%, and then a function that we want to apply to the data frame. For example:

```
fetuses %>% nrow()
```

```
## [1] 262
```

This takes the data frame fetuses, and applies the function nrow() to the data - the output is the number of rows of the dataset. In base R we would achieve the same thing using:

```
nrow(fetuses)
```

```
## [1] 262
```

These two bits of code are in fact equivalent - the `%>%` operator automatically takes the data frame input from the left hand side and passes it (as the first argument) to the function on the right hand side. The advantage to using the `%>%` operator is that we can build up a more complex chain of commands more easily - you will see this later on. There is even a handy keyboard shortcut to type the operator: command/control + shift + m.

A useful function to find out even more about the structure of the data is `str()` - this tells us how R is storing each of the columns (called ‘variables’) within the data frame:

```
fetuses %>% str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':    262 obs. of  18 variables:
## $ parity      : num  3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days    : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ weight_kg   : num  35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...
## $ cml_cm      : num  86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
## $ head_width_mm : num  128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...
## $ head_length_mm : num  239 154 220 215 183 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_ear     : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_eyelid  : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_tail    : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_hornbud : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ tactile_muzzle : chr  "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ tactile_eyebrow : chr  "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ tactile_eyelash : chr  "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ eye_op_close  : chr  "Open" "Open" "Open" "Open" ...
## $ papillae_tongue : chr  "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" ...
## $ eyelid       : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ sex          : chr  "Female" "Female" "Male" "Male" ...
```

This gives several bits of information: how many rows (262) and columns (18) are in the data, what each of these columns are called (parity, age\_days and so on), and the values corresponding to the first few rows of each variable. But the most important information is how these variables are being stored - each variable will have one of the following after the name:

- num: This variable is numeric, so we can do things that are relevant to either continuous or discrete variables like take the mean, range etc. This can also be called integer (int) or double (dbl) but you can think of these as being the same thing as numeric.
- chr: This variable is a character, or text string. Variables are often read in as text, but this is actually not a very useful format so we usually want to convert these into something else (see the next section).
- Factor: This variable is a factor, which is what R uses to represent categorical data. A factor is a very useful format that we will be using a lot. A closely related format is `Ord.factor`, which means that the order of the factor levels is meaningful: this is how R represents ordinal data.
- POSIXct: This variable is a date time object, although the format may be shown as simply the date (in which case the time is implicitly 00:00). This is also sometimes called ‘dtm’. If we have a column formatted either as a date or a time in Excel, then the variable will end up as `POSIXct` in R. Dealing with date times can be difficult as we can be caught out by time zones.

- Date: This variable is a simpler representation of a Date, without an associated time. These are typically much easier to deal with than POSIXct variables.
- logi: This variable takes the values FALSE or TRUE (logical).

Note that we only have numeric and character variables when reading in the fetuses dataset. As a general rule, the output of `read_excel` (or `read_csv` for a CSV file) will give us variables that are either numbers if all of the values can be interpreted as a number, or text if any of the variables can't be interpreted as a number (the main exception to this is that `read_excel` will automatically read columns formatted as date or time in Excel into POSIXct). Blank cells do not count when determining variable types, so if you have a column of numbers with some empty cells then the variable will still be a number, just with some missing values corresponding to the empty rows. Missing values in R are represented by NA - but you should not use the text 'NA' in Excel (unless of course you want to represent sodium or Nebraska). If you have values that are missing, just leave the cell blank.

Another way of looking at the data is by typing the name of the data frame:

```
fetuses
```

```
## # A tibble: 262 x 18
##   parity age_days weight_kg crl_cm head_width_mm head_length_mm
##   <dbl>   <dbl>   <dbl> <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>
## 1     3     274    35.5    86.8          128           239
## 2     2     196    10.2    61.8           83.8          154
## 3     1     259    27.2    89.3           121           220.
## 4     1     249    29.1     83            118           215
## 5     2     221    16.6    75.4           101.           183
## 6     3     221    19.0    77.7            97           189
## 7     2     177     6.35   55.4           74.5          142.
## 8     2      82     0.046   10.4           24.3           36.8
## 9     6     193    11.2    62.4           85.4          153.
## 10    4     142     1.77   35.4           62.4          99.8
## # ... with 252 more rows, and 12 more variables: hair_coronary_band <chr>,
## #   hair_ear <chr>, hair_eyelid <chr>, hair_tail <chr>, hair_hornbud <chr>,
## #   tactile_muzzle <chr>, tactile_eyebrow <chr>, tactile_eyelash <chr>,
## #   eye_op_close <chr>, papillae_tongue <chr>, eyelid <chr>, sex <chr>
```

This shows the first few rows of data, but only for the first few variables, so it is usually better to use the `str()` function. Notice also that this method shows 'dbl' (and sometimes 'int') rather than 'num' for the numbers - but these are basically all the same thing.

Finally, we can use the `summary()` function to see summary statistics for each variable:

```
fetuses %>% summary()
```

```
##      parity      age_days      weight_kg      crl_cm
## Min.   :1.000   Min.    : 25.00   Min.    : 0.0010   Min.    :  2.00
## 1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.: 95.25   1st Qu.: 0.2537   1st Qu.: 18.30
## Median :3.000   Median :136.00   Median : 1.7805   Median : 35.65
## Mean   :2.752   Mean    :136.06   Mean    : 5.0029   Mean    : 37.90
## 3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:175.00   3rd Qu.: 6.9250   3rd Qu.: 54.60
## Max.    :6.000   Max.    :274.00   Max.    :41.6000   Max.    :101.30
## head_width_mm  head_length_mm  hair_coronary_band  hair_ear
## Min.    :  3.00   Min.    :  5.00   Length:262         Length:262
```

```
## 1st Qu.: 39.24    1st Qu.: 55.52    Class :character    Class :character
## Median : 63.33    Median :101.28    Mode  :character    Mode  :character
## Mean   : 62.34    Mean   :103.29
## 3rd Qu.: 84.02    3rd Qu.:145.54
## Max.   :152.00    Max.   :239.00
## hair_eyelid      hair_tail      hair_hornbud      tactile_muzzle
## Length:262      Length:262      Length:262      Length:262
## Class :character Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character
##
##
##
## tactile_eyebrow    tactile_eyelash    eye_op_close      papillae_tongue
## Length:262      Length:262      Length:262      Length:262
## Class :character Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character
##
##
##
##      eyelid      sex
## Length:262      Length:262
## Class :character Class :character
## Mode  :character Mode  :character
##
##
##
```

For the numeric variables (and any date/time variables), we get the range (min and max), as well as median/mean and 1st and 3rd quantiles of the variable. This is useful to check for extreme values that probably indicate a data entry error. For factors, we get a count of how many observations fall within each category. For the text variables, we don't get any useful information: this is because there is no general way to summarise text variables.

All this discussion of variable types is quite boring, but it is also **very important**. There is a big difference in R between the text '12.4' and the number 12.4, and between the text '2010-04-12' and the date this represents, and between the text 'male' and a factor with observed level 'male'. The format of the variable will affect the way in which R does almost everything with that variable, from stratifying in summaries and plots to handling explanatory variables in models. If the formats are correct then everything will work the way we intended. If the formats are incorrect then we will either get weird error messages that we do not understand, or even worse: no error messages but totally misleading results. So it is essential to spend the time making sure that ALL formats of variables in our data frame are correct before trying to analyse the data. Therefore, always follow the same procedure when working with data in R:

- 1) Load tidyverse
- 2) Set your working directory in R
- 3) Read the data into a data frame in R (typically using either `read_excel` or `read_csv`)
- 4) Examine the formats of the variables within your data frame using `str()` and decide which variables can be discarded, which are already in the correct format, and which need to be converted into a different format
- 5) Modify your data frame so that all variables you want to keep are in the correct format (we will demonstrate how to do this below)
- 6) Re-examine the structure of your data frame using `str()` to ensure that everything has worked as expected
- 7) Examine summary statistics of the data using `summary()` and basic plots, to ensure that you do not have any strange values that might indicate data entry errors or other problems with your dataset

8) Carry on with your analysis safe in the knowledge that your data is correct!

Steps 4-7 can be quite boring, but they are also **very important** ... and it is always better to spend time checking that your data is correct now rather than wasting time on incorrect analyses later on.

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## Creating new variables

In order to be able to format our variables correctly, we need to modify the data frame we have created. Note that we do NOT want to modify the original Excel file, only the data frame within R. There are several ways to do this, but here we will stick with the tidyverse approach.

There is a very useful function called `mutate()` that allows us to create a new variable based on one or more existing variables within a data frame. For example, the following code creates a new numeric variable called `crl_mm` based on the existing numeric variable `crl_cm`:

```
fetuses %>%  
  mutate(crl_mm = crl_cm*10)  
  
## # A tibble: 262 x 19  
##   parity age_days weight_kg crl_cm head_width_mm head_length_mm  
##   <dbl>   <dbl>    <dbl> <dbl>         <dbl>         <dbl>  
## 1     3     274     35.5   86.8           128           239  
## 2     2     196     10.2   61.8           83.8          154  
## 3     1     259     27.2   89.3           121           220.  
## 4     1     249     29.1   83             118           215  
## 5     2     221     16.6   75.4           101.          183  
## 6     3     221     19.0   77.7           97            189  
## 7     2     177      6.35   55.4           74.5          142.  
## 8     2      82      0.046   10.4           24.3           36.8  
## 9     6     193     11.2   62.4           85.4          153.  
## 10    4     142      1.77   35.4           62.4          99.8  
## # ... with 252 more rows, and 13 more variables: hair_coronary_band <chr>,  
## #   hair_ear <chr>, hair_eyelid <chr>, hair_tail <chr>, hair_hornbud <chr>,  
## #   tactile_muzzle <chr>, tactile_eyebrow <chr>, tactile_eyelash <chr>,  
## #   eye_op_close <chr>, papillae_tongue <chr>, eyelid <chr>, sex <chr>,  
## #   crl_mm <dbl>
```

There are three things to note here:

- A new line and tab was entered between the chaining operator `%>%` and the function we are using: this is just to make the code easier to read by separating each part of the code onto a new line rather than having a single, very long line of code
- This is a very simple `mutate` where we create a new variable called `crl_mm` and calculate its values by multiplying the existing variable `crl_cm` by 10. This creates a new column within the data frame because we do not already have a variable called '`crl_mm`'. **If you reuse an existing variable name (e.g. `crl_mm`) then this will replace the previous column within the data frame.**
- The `mutate` function creates a new data frame, but we have not assigned it to anything - so R just shows us the new data frame (which is identical to the old one except for having 19 rather than 18 variables) and then immediately forgets it.



To get R to remember the changes we are making to the data frame we need to assign it to something using the assignment operator. For example, this code creates a new data frame called `fetuses_full`:

```
fetuses_full <- fetuses %>%  
  mutate(crl_mm = crl_cm*10)
```

You should now see a new data frame called `fetuses_full` appear in your R environment as ‘262 obs. of 19 variables’. Rather than creating new data frames every time we add a new variable, we might want to over-write the existing data frame instead. In this case, we can just assign the new data frame to have the same name as the old one:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%  
  mutate(crl_mm = crl_cm*10)
```

```
fetuses %>%  
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 262 obs. of 19 variables:  
## $ parity      : num 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...  
## $ age_days    : num 274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...  
## $ weight_kg   : num 35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...  
## $ crl_cm      : num 86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...  
## $ head_width_mm : num 128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...  
## $ head_length_mm : num 239 154 220 215 183 ...  
## $ hair_coronary_band: chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...  
## $ hair_ear     : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...  
## $ hair_eyelid  : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...  
## $ hair_tail    : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...  
## $ hair_hornbud : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...  
## $ tactile_muzzle : chr "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...  
## $ tactile_eyebrow : chr "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...  
## $ tactile_eyelash : chr "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...  
## $ eye_op_close  : chr "Open" "Open" "Open" "Open" ...  
## $ papillae_tongue : chr "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" ...  
## $ eyelid       : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...  
## $ sex          : chr "Female" "Female" "Male" "Male" ...  
## $ crl_mm       : num 868 618 893 830 754 777 554 104 624 354 ...
```

The first line of this code is a very common pattern that we will use repeatedly - it tells R to save a data frame called ‘`fetuses`’ which is based on an existing data frame called ‘`fetuses`’ but with some function(s) (given on additional lines) applied to it using the chaining operator. But remember that if we over-write the existing data frame with something that we did not intend to due to a mistake in our code, then we will not be able to simply correct the mistake in the code and re-run that single line. Instead we will have to run the whole data handling code again from the beginning up to the point just before we made the mistake.

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## Selecting and filtering columns or rows

Sometimes we might be reading in a large Excel dataset (with many columns and/or rows), but we do not want to work with the whole dataset. For example, let’s say we are only interested in the `parity`, `age` and `hair_coronary_band` variables in the `fetuses` data frame. Rather than working on the large dataset, it might

be a good idea to create a second data frame with a more restricted dataset - this will be easier (and faster) to work with, but does not remove any information from the original dataset that we have already copied to `fetuses_full`. We can select columns from `fetuses` (and over-write this data frame) using the `select()` function:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%  
  select(parity, age_days, hair_coronary_band)
```

You should now see that `fetuses` is 262 obs. or 3 variables (but `fetuses_full` is still 19 variables so we still have the original data). This makes it easier to look only at what we want:

```
fetuses %>%  
  summary()
```

```
##      parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band  
## Min.   :1.000   Min.    : 25.00   Length:262  
## 1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.: 95.25   Class :character  
## Median :3.000   Median :136.00   Mode  :character  
## Mean   :2.752   Mean    :136.06  
## 3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:175.00  
## Max.   :6.000   Max.    :274.00
```

We might even go further, and want to exclude the very early fetuses from the dataset we are working with. The `filter()` function extracts only rows that meet one or more conditions, e.g.:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%  
  filter(age_days >= 50)
```

Now we have only the 243 obs. from `fetuses` with a gestational age of 50 days or more.

The great thing about the chaining operator is that it is easy to do multiple functions in a row without stopping in between, for example the two bits of R code above is the same as the following single piece of R code:

```
fetuses <- fetuses_full %>%  
  select(parity, age_days, hair_coronary_band) %>%  
  filter(age_days >= 50)
```

Note that we can add as many functions to the chain as we want to, as long as we remember to put `%>%` at the end of every function (except the last function - this terminates the chain). Let's add another function near the top of this chain using `mutate` to create a new variable that tells us the row number from the original data that each row in the filtered data corresponds to (just in case we need it later):

```
fetuses <- fetuses_full %>%  
  mutate(ID = row_number()) %>%  
  select(ID, parity, age_days, hair_coronary_band) %>%  
  filter(age_days >= 50)
```

You can see now why it is a good idea to put each function on a new line - otherwise the code would quickly get hard to read! As long as the `%>%` operator comes at the end of the line (rather than at the start of the new line), then it all works as expected. Remember that all the code within the chain (even if on multiple lines) is a single R command, so it will not work if you try to just run the last line (for example). Fortunately,

RStudio is smart enough to know this and will run the entire command if the cursor is anywhere on any of the lines within the whole chain of functions.

An important feature of these code chains is that they are run in sequence from top to bottom. Therefore, if we both create a variable and do something with this same variable within a chain, then we have to make sure that the function that creates the variable appears before any functions using this variable. For example, if you try to run the following code then you will get an error because ID is selected before it is created:

```
# You will get an error if you try to run this:
fetuses <- fetuses_full %>%
  select(ID, parity, age_days, hair_coronary_band) %>%
  mutate(ID = row_number()) %>%
  filter(age_days >= 50)
```

Notice that the select function gives us variables in the order that we asked for them. Therefore, we can also use it to re-order the columns of a data frame by typing all of the variable names but in a different sequence:

```
fetuses %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 243 obs. of 4 variables:
## $ ID : int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ parity : num 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days : num 274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
```

```
fetuses %>%
  select(parity, ID, age_days, hair_coronary_band) %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 243 obs. of 4 variables:
## $ parity : num 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ ID : int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ age_days : num 274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
```

We can also use one or more ‘select helper’ functions to select groups of variables rather than typing out the variable names individually. The most useful of these are starts\_with(), contains(), and everything() - for example the following code selects ID first, then anything starting with ‘crl’, then anything containing ‘eye’, then everything else:

```
fetuses_full %>%
  mutate(ID = row_number()) %>%
  select(ID, starts_with('crl'), contains('eye'), everything()) %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 262 obs. of 20 variables:
## $ ID : int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ crl_cm : num 86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
## $ crl_mm : num 868 618 893 830 754 777 554 104 624 354 ...
## $ hair_eyelid : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ tactile_eyebrow : chr "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
```

```
## $ tactile_eyelash : chr "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ eye_op_close : chr "Open" "Open" "Open" "Open" ...
## $ eyelid : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ parity : num 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days : num 274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ weight_kg : num 35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...
## $ head_width_mm : num 128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...
## $ head_length_mm : num 239 154 220 215 183 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_ear : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_tail : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_hornbud : chr "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ tactile_muzzle : chr "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ papillae_tongue : chr "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" ...
## $ sex : chr "Female" "Female" "Male" "Male" ...
```

If a select helper matches several variables then these are given in the same order as they were found in the original data frame, so for example `hair_eyelid` appears before `tactile_eyebrow` because they both contain ‘eye’ but `hair_eyelid` came first in `fetuses_full`.

---

## Converting text variables into factors

When reading Excel files, R will usually store numbers (and date/time variables) into the correct format automatically (unless these columns include some cells with text entries in Excel). But it has no way of reliably formatting our categorical data automatically, so we need to manually convert them into factor variables using ‘`parse_factor`’ within a mutate function to convert a character/text variable to a factor. For example:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band))
```

This creates a new variable by turning the text variable `hair_coronary_band` into a factor. We can now summarise this more usefully than we could with the text variable:

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      ID      parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.   : 1.0   Min.   :1.000   Min.   : 51.0   Length:243
## 1st Qu.: 61.5  1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.:107.5   Class :character
## Median :122.0  Median :3.000   Median :144.0   Mode  :character
## Mean   :125.6  Mean   :2.774   Mean   :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5  3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.   :262.0  Max.   :6.000   Max.   :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## Y: 60
## N:183
##
##
##
##
```

Now we get the number of Y and the number of N for `hair_coronary_band_fct`. In this case, that works OK - but what would happen if the data had been entered inconsistently, for example if 'n' had sometimes been used instead of 'N'? Let's deliberately introduce an error (don't worry about the code itself - you won't do this in real life!):

```
fetuses$hair_coronary_band[1] <- 'n'
```

We can see the first observation in `hair_coronary_band` is now 'n':

```
fetuses %>% str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 243 obs. of 5 variables:
## $ ID : int 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ parity : num 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days : num 274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band : chr "n" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_coronary_band_fct: Factor w/ 2 levels "Y","N": 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 ...
```

What happens when this is automatically turned into a factor?

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band))

fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      ID      parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.   : 1.0   Min.   :1.000   Min.   : 51.0   Length:243
## 1st Qu.: 61.5   1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.:107.5   Class :character
## Median :122.0   Median :3.000   Median :144.0   Mode  :character
## Mean   :125.6   Mean   :2.774   Mean   :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5   3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.   :262.0   Max.   :6.000   Max.   :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## n: 1
## Y: 59
## N:183
##
##
##
```

There are now 3 factor levels in `hair_coronary_band_fct`: Y, N and n. Note that N and n are different, but we don't really want them to be! We can deal with this by first creating the factor as before, and chaining the data frame into a second mutate where we use `fct_collapse` to manually recode the factor levels so that Y becomes Yes and both n and N become No, like so:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band)) %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct = fct_collapse(hair_coronary_band_fct,
                                              No = c('N', 'n'), Yes='Y'))

fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##           ID           parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.      : 1.0      Min.      :1.000      Min.      : 51.0      Length:243
## 1st Qu.: 61.5      1st Qu.:2.000      1st Qu.:107.5      Class :character
## Median :122.0      Median :3.000      Median :144.0      Mode  :character
## Mean      :125.6      Mean      :2.774      Mean      :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5      3rd Qu.:4.000      3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.      :262.0      Max.      :6.000      Max.      :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## No :184
## Yes: 59
##
##
##
##
```

Notice also that the factor levels have swapped around; No is now the reference category because this came first in the arguments to the `fct_collapse` function. This will be important later on, when the data need to be used for modelling.

---

## Specifying factor levels

In the real world, we do not want to spend time examining all of the factors to make sure that there aren't any typos - particularly when we think the data should be correct to start with! This can lead to errors, because we might not check as carefully as we should and therefore miss problems with the data. So it is much better practice to tell `parse_factor` what to expect by using the `levels` argument:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N','Y')))
```

```
## Warning: 1 parsing failure.
## row col           expected actual
##    1  -- value in level set         n
```

When we run this code, we get a warning to tell us that an unexpected text entry 'n' was observed in row 1, and the resulting variable now has 1 missing value (NA):

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##           ID           parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.      : 1.0      Min.      :1.000      Min.      : 51.0      Length:243
## 1st Qu.: 61.5      1st Qu.:2.000      1st Qu.:107.5      Class :character
## Median :122.0      Median :3.000      Median :144.0      Mode  :character
## Mean      :125.6      Mean      :2.774      Mean      :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5      3rd Qu.:4.000      3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.      :262.0      Max.      :6.000      Max.      :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## N      :183
## Y      : 59
```

```
## NA's: 1
##
##
##
```

This is good because R has automatically alerted us to a problem that we need to fix. So we can go back and adjust our code so it looks like this:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct =
    parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N', 'n', 'Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct =
    fct_collapse(hair_coronary_band_fct, No = c('N', 'n'), Yes='Y'))
```

This tells R to expect the 'n' entry, but then immediately re-codes it afterwards - this approach will fix known problems in the data, but still automatically alert us to any new problems that might occur if e.g. we update the data to include more observations (and different mistakes!).

There is one additional thing to remember with `parse_factor`: if there were observations in the original data that were missing before making them into a factor, then these will be treated differently to observations that were present but corresponded to unknown factor levels. For example, let's deliberately make the second observation of `hair_coronary_band` blank (i.e. missing) and then re-run the code with only N and Y as specified levels:

```
fetuses$hair_coronary_band[2] <- ''

fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N', 'Y')))
```

```
## Warning: 1 parsing failure.
## row col      expected actual
##    1 -- value in level set      n
```

We get the red text again (telling us about the 'n' on row 1), but no mention of the missing entry on row 2. This is because `parse_factor` has created an explicit factor level for missing data:

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      ID      parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.   : 1.0   Min.   :1.000   Min.   : 51.0   Length:243
## 1st Qu.: 61.5  1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.:107.5   Class :character
## Median :122.0  Median :3.000   Median :144.0   Mode  :character
## Mean   :125.6  Mean   :2.774   Mean   :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5  3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.   :262.0  Max.   :6.000   Max.   :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## N      :183
## Y      : 58
## NA     :  1
## NA's:   1
##
##
```

We have both the factor level NA (the value that was missing to start with) and NA's (the value of 'n' that became missing because it wasn't included in the allowed levels). But this subtle distinction is not visible in the data itself:

```
fetuses
```

```
## # A tibble: 243 x 5
##       ID parity age_days hair_coronary_band hair_coronary_band_fct
##   <int> <dbl>   <dbl> <chr>                                <fct>
## 1     1     3     274 "n"                                <NA>
## 2     2     2     196 ""                                <NA>
## 3     3     1     259 "Y"                                Y
## 4     4     1     249 "Y"                                Y
## 5     5     2     221 "Y"                                Y
## 6     6     3     221 "Y"                                Y
## 7     7     2     177 "Y"                                Y
## 8     8     2      82 "N"                                N
## 9     9     6     193 "Y"                                Y
## 10    10     4     142 "N"                                N
## # ... with 233 more rows
```

Having this distinction can sometimes be useful, but if we want to remove the NA factor level then we can specify the `include_na = FALSE` argument e.g.:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band_fct =
    parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N','Y'), include_na = FALSE))
```

```
## Warning: 1 parsing failure.
## row col      expected actual
##   1  -- value in level set      n
```

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##       ID          parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.   : 1.0   Min.   :1.000   Min.   : 51.0   Length:243
## 1st Qu.: 61.5   1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.:107.5   Class :character
## Median :122.0   Median :3.000   Median :144.0   Mode  :character
## Mean   :125.6   Mean   :2.774   Mean   :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5   3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.   :262.0   Max.   :6.000   Max.   :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## N      :183
## Y      : 58
## NA's:   2
##
##
##
```

Now there is no distinction between the blank entry and the entry that was originally 'n' - they are both NA's. Alternatively, you can remove the NA factor level (or any other factor level that you want to) by setting it to NULL within `fct_collapse`:



```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band =
    parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N', 'n', 'Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band =
    fct_collapse(hair_coronary_band, NULL = 'NA', No = c('N', 'n'), Yes='Y'))

fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##          ID          parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band
## Min.      : 1.0    Min.      :1.000    Min.      : 51.0    No :184
## 1st Qu.: 61.5    1st Qu.:2.000    1st Qu.:107.5    Yes : 58
## Median :122.0    Median :3.000    Median :144.0    NA's:  1
## Mean      :125.6    Mean      :2.774    Mean      :143.3
## 3rd Qu.:188.5    3rd Qu.:4.000    3rd Qu.:176.5
## Max.      :262.0    Max.      :6.000    Max.      :274.0
## hair_coronary_band_fct
## N       :183
## Y       : 58
## NA's    :  2
##
##
##
```

Notice this time that I have replaced the existing variable `hair_coronary_band` rather than creating a new variable - generally we will want to do this when creating factors, as the original text entries are no longer needed. This has destroyed the original text variable though, so we will not be able to re-run this line of code without running the entire R code from the beginning: the easiest way to do this is by clicking on source.

The only difference between the factors `hair_coronary_band` and `hair_coronary_band_fct` is that 'n' was made into 'No' in `hair_coronary_band`, but left as missing in `hair_coronary_band_fct`. Other than for demonstration purposes we don't really need `hair_coronary_band_fct`, so it is best to remove it - we can do this using `select` and a minus symbol in front of the variable name to indicate it is to be removed rather than retained:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  select(-hair_coronary_band_fct)

fetuses %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':    243 obs. of  4 variables:
## $ ID          : int  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ parity       : num  3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days     : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 1 NA 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
```

Now we have 4 variables: `ID`, `parity`, `age_days` and `hair_coronary_band` as a factor with No/Yes recordings (and one missing observation i.e. the missing value we created on row 2).

## Section 2: working with different variable types

---

### Converting numbers into factors

Most of the time we will be creating factors from text entries, but occasionally we will want to create factors from numbers. The best approach to use depends on whether the number is a discrete number (i.e. whole numbers only), or a continuous number. Let us take them one at a time.

For **discrete numbers**, we can use the `parse_factor()` function like before - but we first need to turn the integer into a character (text) variable. It is also a good idea to add some text to the number so that the resulting factor is more easily distinguishable from a 'true number'. We can accomplish both tasks simultaneously using the `str_c()` function, for example:

```
fetuses %>%
  mutate(parity_text = str_c('Parity_', parity)) %>%
  mutate(parity_fct = parse_factor(parity_text)) %>%
  str()

## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':   243 obs. of  6 variables:
## $ ID          : int  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ parity       : num  3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days     : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 1 NA 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ parity_text   : chr  "Parity_3" "Parity_2" "Parity_1" "Parity_1" ...
## $ parity_fct    : Factor w/ 6 levels "Parity_3","Parity_2",...: 1 2 3 3 2 1 2 2 4 5 ...
```

This has been broken down into stages so that you can see what is going on. The first step uses `str_c()` to create a new character variable by sticking the text 'Parity\_' before the parity number, and the second step creates a factor from the character variable as we did before. The only problem with this is that we haven't specified levels to `parse_factor()`, so if we have any errors in the data (e.g. a negative number for parity) then we will not detect these. A good trick is to automatically create a wide range of possible parity levels without having to type them all out:

```
str_c('Parity_', seq(from=1, to=10, by=1))

## [1] "Parity_1" "Parity_2" "Parity_3" "Parity_4" "Parity_5" "Parity_6"
## [7] "Parity_7" "Parity_8" "Parity_9" "Parity_10"
```

The `seq()` function creates all possible numbers between from (1) and to (10), with increments of by (1). If you already knew that the range was narrower (for example only parities 1 to 6 were observed) then you could adjust the code accordingly - we will discuss a way to check this later on.

We can then use our generated parity levels in the `parse_factor` function, and combine all steps of the code together:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(parity_fct = parse_factor(str_c('Parity_', parity),
    levels=str_c('Parity_', seq(from=1, to=10, by=1)))) %>%
  mutate(parity_group = fct_collapse(parity_fct, First='Parity_1', Second='Parity_2',
    Older=str_c('Parity_', seq(from=3, to=9, by=1)), Ancient='Parity_10'))
```

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##           ID           parity      age_days  hair_coronary_band
##  Min.      : 1.0    Min.      :1.000    Min.      : 51.0    No   :184
##  1st Qu.: 61.5    1st Qu.:2.000    1st Qu.:107.5    Yes  : 58
##  Median :122.0    Median :3.000    Median :144.0    NA's:  1
##  Mean   :125.6    Mean   :2.774    Mean   :143.3
##  3rd Qu.:188.5    3rd Qu.:4.000    3rd Qu.:176.5
##  Max.   :262.0    Max.   :6.000    Max.   :274.0
##
##    parity_fct parity_group
## Parity_2:79   First   : 40
## Parity_3:56   Second  : 79
## Parity_4:45   Older   :124
## Parity_1:40   Ancient:  0
## Parity_6:13
## Parity_5:10
## (Other) : 0
```

This code looks quite complicated, but if you break it down into steps you should be able to see what is going on. The first mutate function just combines the separate steps we had before - first using `str_c()` to add the text 'Parity\_' to the parity number, then parsing this into a factor using specified levels. The second mutate function uses `fct_collapse` to create a second factor of `parity_group`, where we combine parities 3-9 into a single group.

Notice here that we specified a factor level that doesn't exist in the data - there are no Parity\_10 cows (and therefore no Ancient cows). In some situations this is helpful: we can include a possible factor level and R will explicitly tell us that there are no observations within that category. But if we want to remove the unused factor levels, we can do this using the `fct_drop` function:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(parity_fct = fct_drop(parity_fct), parity_group = fct_drop(parity_group))

fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##           ID           parity      age_days  hair_coronary_band
##  Min.      : 1.0    Min.      :1.000    Min.      : 51.0    No   :184
##  1st Qu.: 61.5    1st Qu.:2.000    1st Qu.:107.5    Yes  : 58
##  Median :122.0    Median :3.000    Median :144.0    NA's:  1
##  Mean   :125.6    Mean   :2.774    Mean   :143.3
##  3rd Qu.:188.5    3rd Qu.:4.000    3rd Qu.:176.5
##  Max.   :262.0    Max.   :6.000    Max.   :274.0
##
##    parity_fct parity_group
## Parity_1:40   First   : 40
## Parity_2:79   Second  : 79
## Parity_3:56   Older   :124
## Parity_4:45
## Parity_5:10
## Parity_6:13
```

There is now no more mention of ‘Ancient’ cows in parity\_group. Notice here that rather than using two separate mutate() functions, I mutated two variables within the same function separated by a comma. The two approaches are the same.

There is a second discrete number that makes sense to convert into a factor: our ID variable is currently stored as a number, but it makes more sense to think of it as a grouping variable i.e. a factor. Sometimes this doesn’t make any difference, but if we want to use ID either to merge datasets, or as a stratifying variable in a plot or in a model, then we might get the wrong result if ID is a number. So we had better turn it into a factor:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(ID_simple = parse_factor(str_c('ID_', ID))) %>%
  mutate(ID = parse_factor(str_c('ID_', str_replace_all(format(ID), ' ', '0'))))
```

fetuses

```
## # A tibble: 243 x 7
##   ID      parity age_days hair_coronary_band parity_fct parity_group ID_simple
##   <fct>    <dbl>   <dbl> <fct>                <fct>    <fct>    <fct>
## 1 ID_001      3     274 No                Parity_3    Older    ID_1
## 2 ID_002      2     196 <NA>            Parity_2    Second   ID_2
## 3 ID_003      1     259 Yes            Parity_1    First    ID_3
## 4 ID_004      1     249 Yes            Parity_1    First    ID_4
## 5 ID_005      2     221 Yes            Parity_2    Second   ID_5
## 6 ID_006      3     221 Yes            Parity_3    Older    ID_6
## 7 ID_007      2     177 Yes            Parity_2    Second   ID_7
## 8 ID_008      2      82 No                Parity_2    Second   ID_8
## 9 ID_009      6     193 Yes            Parity_6    Older    ID_9
## 10 ID_010     4     142 No                Parity_4    Older    ID_10
## # ... with 233 more rows
```

Two different methods are used here - the first simple method works fine, but the resulting IDs are ID\_1, ID\_2, ... ID\_10, ID\_11, ... ID\_99, ID\_100 etc. So when these are sorted alphabetically, they end up in a different order to the numbers themselves. The second method is slightly more complex but gives us ID numbers ID\_001, ID\_002, ... ID\_010, ID\_011, ... ID\_099, ID\_100 etc so that the order is preserved. If you are interested in how the format() and str\_replace\_all() functions work, look at their help files by typing ?format and ?str\_replace\_all in R.

---

Turning **continuous numbers into factors** uses a slightly different method with the cut() function rather than parse\_string. The cut function allows you to break a continuous variable into segments using specified breakpoints and corresponding labels for the factor levels. For example we can turn the age into a factor to reflect an early, mid or late stage foetus:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(age_group =
    cut(age_days, breaks=c(0, 100, 200, 300), labels=c('Early', 'Middle', 'Late')))
```

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      ID      parity      age_days      hair_coronary_band      parity_fct
```

```
## ID_001 : 1 Min. :1.000 Min. : 51.0 No :184 Parity_1:40
## ID_002 : 1 1st Qu.:2.000 1st Qu.:107.5 Yes : 58 Parity_2:79
## ID_003 : 1 Median :3.000 Median :144.0 NA's: 1 Parity_3:56
## ID_004 : 1 Mean :2.774 Mean :143.3 Parity_4:45
## ID_005 : 1 3rd Qu.:4.000 3rd Qu.:176.5 Parity_5:10
## ID_006 : 1 Max. :6.000 Max. :274.0 Parity_6:13
## (Other):237
## parity_group ID_simple age_group
## First : 40 ID_1 : 1 Early : 54
## Second: 79 ID_2 : 1 Middle:159
## Older :124 ID_3 : 1 Late : 30
## ID_4 : 1
## ID_5 : 1
## ID_6 : 1
## (Other):237
```

The breaks argument must always specify the lowest and highest possible values as the first and last numbers, so there is always one more group label than there are breaks. By default the breaks define intervals that are open on the left and closed on the right, so a number exactly equal to a break goes into the category below this break. For example, here we have categories defined as:

- **Early:**  $0 < \text{age} \leq 100$  (including age = 100)
- **Middle:**  $100 < \text{age} \leq 200$  (including age = 200)
- **Late:**  $200 < \text{age} \leq 300$  (including age = 300)

Notice that an age of 0 is NOT included in the Early category: this would be converted to a missing value in the factor along with any values below 0 or above 300. If you want to include all possible values, then you can specify the first and last breaks as -Inf and Inf - meaning negative infinity and infinity.

We can also use the cut function with discrete numbers, although we have to be even more careful about the rules for closed vs open intervals because it will happen more often (for example, an age of exactly 100 days is far less likely than a parity of exactly 3). Alternatively, you can specify the breaks as being mid-way between the discrete values to make the code more obvious, for example:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(parity_fct_cut = cut(parity, breaks=c(0.5, 1.5, 2.5, 10.5),
                              labels=c('First', 'Second', 'Older')))

fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
## ID parity age_days hair_coronary_band parity_fct
## ID_001 : 1 Min. :1.000 Min. : 51.0 No :184 Parity_1:40
## ID_002 : 1 1st Qu.:2.000 1st Qu.:107.5 Yes : 58 Parity_2:79
## ID_003 : 1 Median :3.000 Median :144.0 NA's: 1 Parity_3:56
## ID_004 : 1 Mean :2.774 Mean :143.3 Parity_4:45
## ID_005 : 1 3rd Qu.:4.000 3rd Qu.:176.5 Parity_5:10
## ID_006 : 1 Max. :6.000 Max. :274.0 Parity_6:13
## (Other):237
## parity_group ID_simple age_group parity_fct_cut
## First : 40 ID_1 : 1 Early : 54 First : 40
## Second: 79 ID_2 : 1 Middle:159 Second: 79
```

```
## Older :124 ID_3 : 1 Late : 30 Older :124
## ID_4 : 1
## ID_5 : 1
## ID_6 : 1
## (Other):237
```

This parity\_fct\_cut variable is identical to the parity\_fct variable that we created above.

---

## More variable types

Although our fetuses data only has numeric and factor variable types, we will sometimes encounter other types of data. The most common of these are dates, date/times, ordinal, logical, and numbers with specialised formats (e.g. currency symbols).

**Dates** Dates are a very specific type of variable that we can do special things with, such as calculating the number of days between two dates, and extracting parts of the date e.g. the year, day of the week, month name etc. But in order to be able to do this, R must first store the variable as a date. When reading an Excel file using read\_excel this is usually done automatically, but sometimes we can end up with a text variable that contains text representing the date. In this case, we can use the parse\_date function if the date is written in the ISO standard format of YYYY-MM-DD:

```
parse_date('2010-10-21')
```

```
## [1] "2010-10-21"
```

If the date is written in a non-standard format (which is unfortunately more common than the standard format!), then you will need to tell R what format it is in. The lubridate package has some helpful functions to do this, for example:

```
library('lubridate')
```

```
##
## Attaching package: 'lubridate'

## The following object is masked from 'package:base':
##
## date
```

```
ymd('2010/10/21')
```

```
## [1] "2010-10-21"
```

```
make_date(year=2010, month=10, day=21)
```

```
## [1] "2010-10-21"
```

```
dmy('21-10-2010')
```

```
## [1] "2010-10-21"
```

```
mdy('10-21-2010')
```

```
## [1] "2010-10-21"
```

A very common application of dates is to calculate a difference between two dates. The best way to do this is to subtract one date from another, and then use the `as.numeric` function to convert the time difference into a simple number using the appropriate units. For example:

```
dt1 <- parse_date('2018-01-01')  
dt1
```

```
## [1] "2018-01-01"
```

```
dt2 <- parse_date('2018-02-03')  
dt2
```

```
## [1] "2018-02-03"
```

```
as.numeric(dt2 - dt1, units='days')
```

```
## [1] 33
```

```
as.numeric(dt2 - dt1, units='weeks')
```

```
## [1] 4.714286
```

It is also possible to add or subtract a given number of days to a date in a similar way:

```
dt1 + 33
```

```
## [1] "2018-02-03"
```

```
dt1 - 1
```

```
## [1] "2017-12-31"
```

**Date/times** Dates are relatively simple to work with, but date/times have the additional complexity of time zones. Unless you specifically need the time to be represented, you are much better off with simple dates. Unfortunately, Excel will save dates as date/time objects so we end up with these when we import them to R. For this reason, it is often a good idea to convert these to a simple date using the `as.Date` function, for example:

```
dt <- as.POSIXct('2010-02-15 05:00')
dt
```

```
## [1] "2010-02-15 05:00:00 CET"
```

```
as.Date(dt)
```

```
## [1] "2010-02-15"
```

---

**Ordinal** There is an important theoretical difference between ordinal data (where there is an order to the categories observed, e.g. body condition score) and categorical data (where there is no logical order, e.g. breed). This distinction is less important in R, so we tend to use factors to represent both. However, there is a specific type of factor that it is occasionally useful to use, called an ordered factor. These are created using the same `parse_factor` and `cut` functions that we explored earlier, but with the additional argument: `ordered=TRUE`. For example:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(parity_fct = parse_factor(str_c('Parity_', parity),
    levels=str_c('Parity_', seq(from=1, to=10, by=1)))) %>%
  mutate(parity_ord = parse_factor(str_c('Parity_', parity),
    levels=str_c('Parity_', seq(from=1, to=10, by=1)), ordered=TRUE))

fetuses %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 243 obs. of 10 variables:
## $ ID : Factor w/ 243 levels "ID_001","ID_002",...: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ parity : num 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days : num 274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 1 NA 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ parity_fct : Factor w/ 10 levels "Parity_1","Parity_2",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ parity_group : Factor w/ 3 levels "First","Second",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 ...
## $ ID_simple : Factor w/ 243 levels "ID_1","ID_2",...: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ age_group : Factor w/ 3 levels "Early","Middle",...: 3 2 3 3 3 3 2 1 2 2 ...
## $ parity_fct_cut : Factor w/ 3 levels "First","Second",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 ...
## $ parity_ord : Ord.factor w/ 10 levels "Parity_1"<"Parity_2"<...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
```

Using `parity_ord` rather than `parity_fct` will make a subtle difference to the modelling functions, but will make no difference to plotting or stratifying by the variable. Just remember that the order of the factor levels is more important for ordered factors than it is for standard (non-ordered) factors: this is why the levels are shown as “Parity\_1”<“Parity\_2”<.. rather than “Parity\_1”,“Parity\_2”,.. in the output of `str()`.

---

**Logical** We can represent binary data as logical (FALSE/TRUE), and R has a special type called logical that can be used for this. It is possible to use this type for e.g. results of diagnostic tests, where there is a logical FALSE/TRUE outcome. However, the same thing can also be represented using a factor with two levels Negative/Positive, so for the sake of consistency it is generally a good idea to just stick to using factors. To convert a logical variable into a factor variable, you can use the `str_c` function as we did for integer numbers:



```
testresult <- c(FALSE, TRUE, NA)
testresult
```

```
## [1] FALSE TRUE NA
```

```
str_c(testresult)
```

```
## [1] "FALSE" "TRUE" NA
```

```
parse_factor(str_c(testresult), levels=c('FALSE','TRUE'))
```

```
## [1] FALSE TRUE <NA>
## Levels: FALSE TRUE <NA>
```

To re-label FALSE and TRUE to Negative and Positive (or similar) and/or remove the NA (missing) factor level, use the `fct_collapse` (or similar `fct_relabel`) function as we did before.

---

**Numbers with special formats** Sometimes we will want to read numbers from text, if for example there are non-numeric characters such as £ or € in the text. We can use the `parse_number` function to do this:

```
price <- "€103,401"
parse_number(price)
```

```
## [1] 103401
```

Notice that R is english-centric by default, so a danish-formatted number will be parsed incorrectly:

```
danish_price <- "DKK 103.401,00"
parse_number(danish_price)
```

```
## [1] 103.401
```

We get DKK 103,40 rather than DKK 103.401 - but this can be overcome by setting the locale:

```
danish_price <- "DKK 103.401,00"
parse_number(danish_price, locale=locale(decimal_mark = ",", grouping_mark = "."))
```

```
## [1] 103401
```

---

## Converting multiple columns

Let's go back to the original dataset `fetuses_full`:

```
fetuses_full %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      parity      age_days      weight_kg      crl_cm
## Min.   :1.000   Min.    : 25.00   Min.    : 0.0010   Min.    :  2.00
## 1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.: 95.25   1st Qu.: 0.2537   1st Qu.: 18.30
## Median :3.000   Median :136.00   Median : 1.7805   Median : 35.65
## Mean   :2.752   Mean    :136.06   Mean    : 5.0029   Mean    : 37.90
## 3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:175.00   3rd Qu.: 6.9250   3rd Qu.: 54.60
## Max.   :6.000   Max.    :274.00   Max.    :41.6000   Max.    :101.30
## head_width_mm  head_length_mm  hair_coronary_band  hair_ear
## Min.    :  3.00   Min.    :  5.00   Length:262         Length:262
## 1st Qu.: 39.24   1st Qu.: 55.52   Class :character   Class :character
## Median : 63.33   Median :101.28   Mode  :character   Mode  :character
## Mean    : 62.34   Mean     :103.29
## 3rd Qu.: 84.02   3rd Qu.:145.54
## Max.    :152.00   Max.     :239.00
## hair_eyelid     hair_tail      hair_hornbud      tactile_muzzle
## Length:262      Length:262      Length:262      Length:262
## Class :character Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character
##
##
##
## tactile_eyebrow  tactile_eyelash  eye_op_close      papillae_tongue
## Length:262      Length:262      Length:262      Length:262
## Class :character Class :character Class :character Class :character
## Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character Mode  :character
##
##
##
##      eyelid      sex      crl_mm
## Length:262      Length:262      Min.    : 20.0
## Class :character Class :character      1st Qu.: 183.0
## Mode  :character Mode  :character      Median : 356.5
##                                     Mean    : 379.0
##                                     3rd Qu.: 546.0
##                                     Max.    :1013.0
```

We now know how to format each of these variables as either a factor or number one by one - for example:

```
fetuses <- fetuses_full %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_ear = parse_factor(hair_ear, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_eyelid = parse_factor(hair_eyelid, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_tail = parse_factor(hair_tail, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_hornbud = parse_factor(hair_hornbud, levels=c('N','Y')))
```

And so on. The best approach is to copy and paste the code and just change the name of the variable each time - it is a bit tedious but not difficult. With a bit of practice, you will be surprised how quickly you can get this done.

A good tip is to quickly change all character (text) variables into factors and then immediately use summary on the result: this allows us to see what different values the data contains for each of the text variables. We can do this using `mutate_if` and the condition `is_character`:

```
fetuses %>%
  mutate_if(is_character, parse_factor) %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      parity      age_days      weight_kg      crl_cm
##  Min.   :1.000   Min.    : 25.00   Min.    : 0.0010   Min.    :  2.00
##  1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.: 95.25   1st Qu.: 0.2537   1st Qu.: 18.30
##  Median :3.000   Median :136.00   Median : 1.7805   Median : 35.65
##  Mean   :2.752   Mean    :136.06   Mean    : 5.0029   Mean    : 37.90
##  3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:175.00   3rd Qu.: 6.9250   3rd Qu.: 54.60
##  Max.    :6.000   Max.    :274.00   Max.    :41.6000   Max.    :101.30
##  head_width_mm  head_length_mm  hair_coronary_band hair_ear hair_eyelid
##  Min.    :  3.00   Min.    :  5.00   N:202                N:221    N:197
##  1st Qu.: 39.24   1st Qu.: 55.52   Y: 60                Y: 41    Y: 65
##  Median : 63.33   Median :101.28
##  Mean    : 62.34   Mean     :103.29
##  3rd Qu.: 84.02   3rd Qu.:145.54
##  Max.    :152.00   Max.     :239.00
##  hair_tail hair_hornbud      tactile_muzzle      tactile_eyebrow
##  N:179      N:175          Visible    :169    Visible    :169
##  Y: 83      Y: 87          Not visible: 34    Not visible: 43
##                                     Hairsack    : 59    Hairsack    : 50
##
##
##
##      tactile_eyelash eye_op_close      papillae_tongue eyelid      sex
##  Visible    :109    Open    : 37    Whole tongue :164    Y:241    Female   :110
##  Not visible:130    Closed:225    None          : 35    N: 21    Male     :128
##  Hairsack    : 23                                     Large front  : 35    Non Diff: 24
##                                     Furthest back: 28
##
##
##
##      crl_mm
##  Min.    : 20.0
##  1st Qu.: 183.0
##  Median : 356.5
##  Mean    : 379.0
##  3rd Qu.: 546.0
##  Max.    :1013.0
```

We don't specify the levels manually, but that's OK because all we wanted to do is quickly see what is in there - we are not saving the result (or any potential issues generated by data entry mistakes).

---

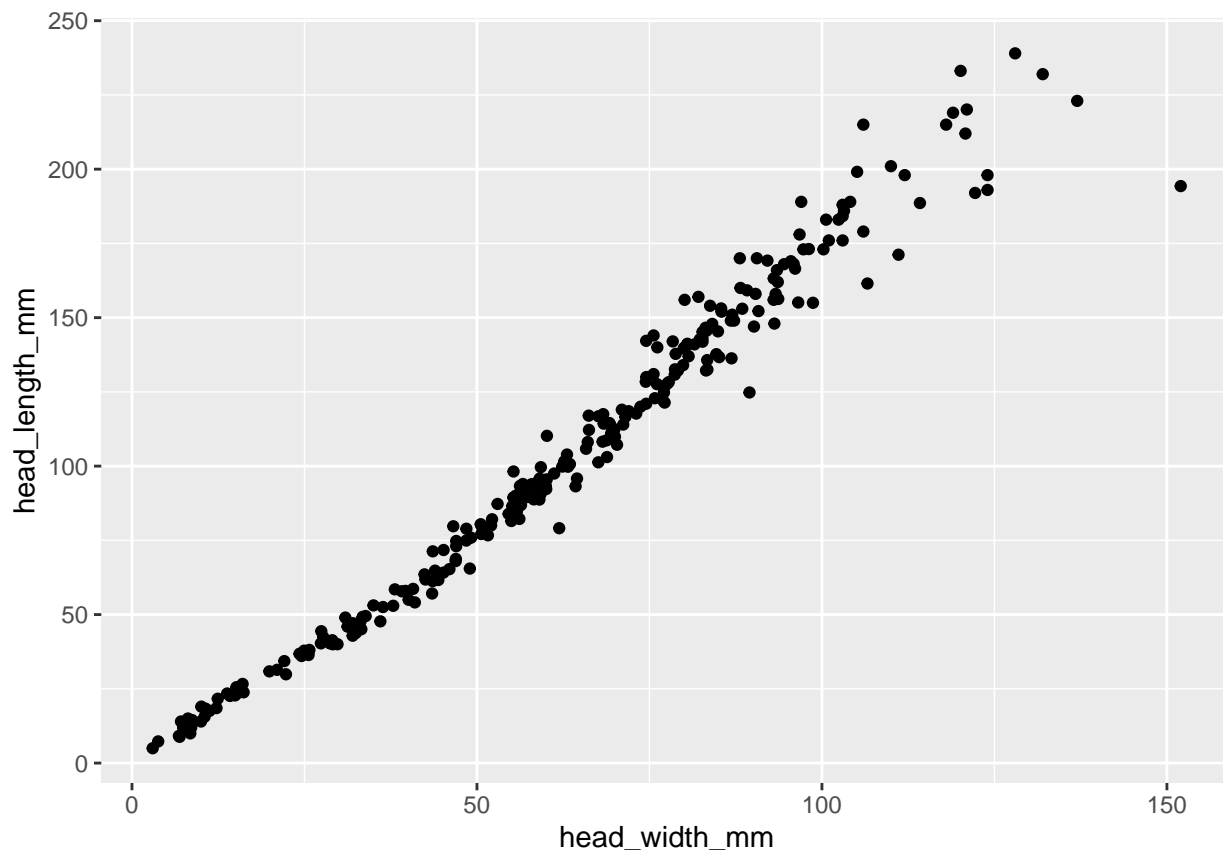
## Section 3: basic data visualisation

---

## Basic plots

We can get a lot of information using the `summarise()` variable, but sometimes it is better to visualise data graphically to check that the observations are consistent with what we expect. There are several ways to make plots in R, but the tidyverse way is to use `ggplot`. These plots all start with the same pattern - first we define the data frame we want to use, then we specify which variables should go on the x and y axes (as well as any variables that can be used to group by colour etc) using the `aes()` function, then we add the 'layers' that we want to the plot. For example:

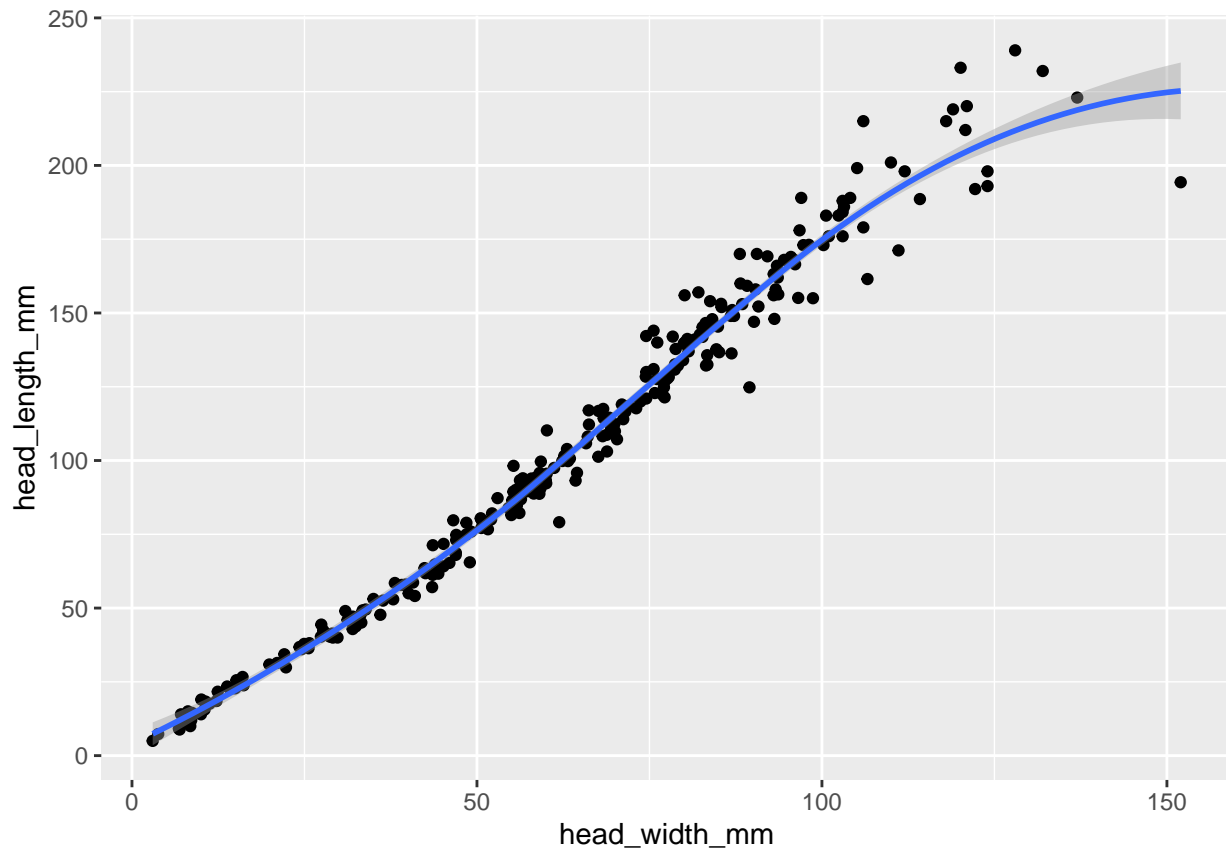
```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=head_width_mm, y=head_length_mm)) +  
  geom_point()
```



The first line says that we want to use the `fetuses_full` dataset, and that we want `head_width_mm` on the x-axis and `head_length_mm` on the y-axis. The first line doesn't tell R what type of plot we want, but it ends with a `+` symbol, which is a lot like the `%>%` operator in that it tells R that we have not completed the command. The second line tells R that we want to add points to the plot, so we end up with a simple scatter-type plot. We can also add a smoothed line of best fit as a second layer using:

```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=head_width_mm, y=head_length_mm)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  stat_smooth()
```

```
## `geom_smooth()` using method = 'loess' and formula 'y ~ x'
```

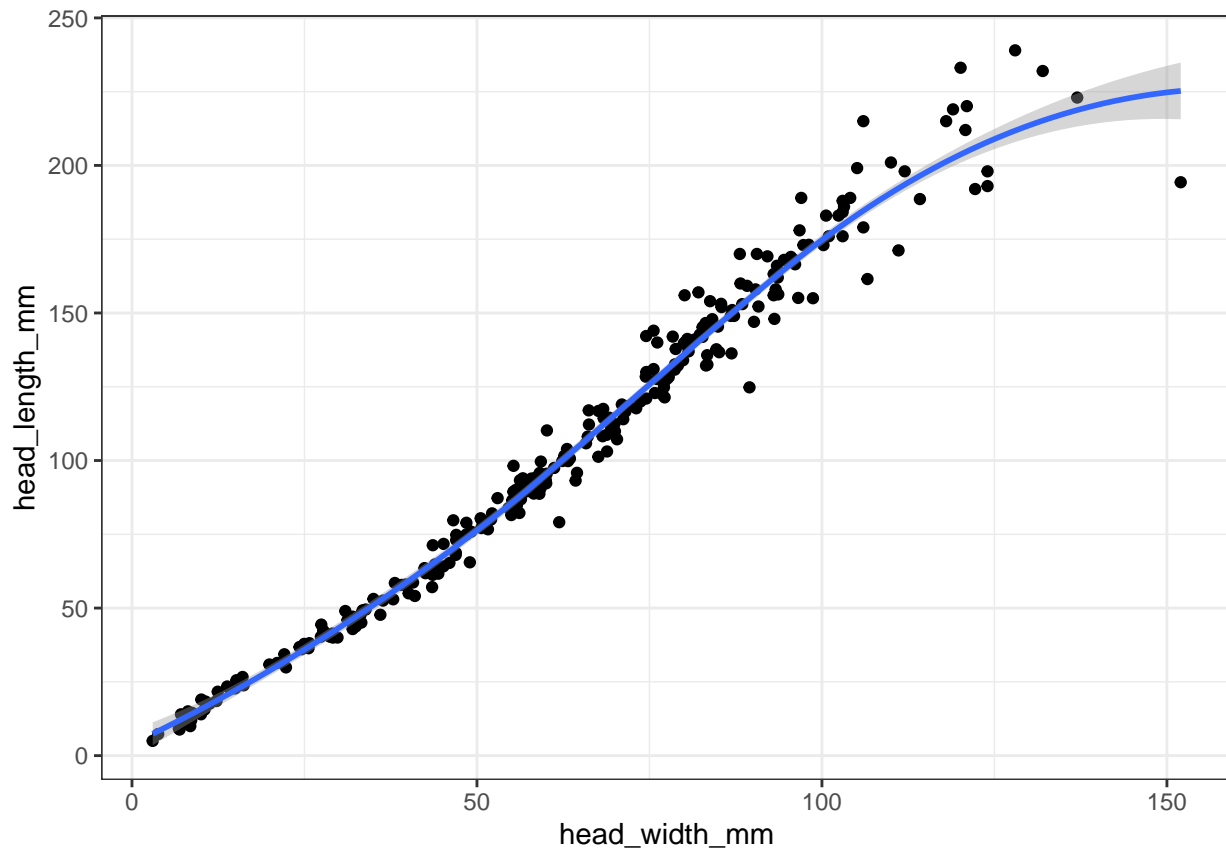


These graphs look OK electronically but the grey background is not ideal for printing (or for use in publication). To change the default theme to a simpler black and white colour scheme use the following:

```
theme_set(theme_bw())
```

All future plots within this R session will now use this colour scheme. Note that you can also save plots to file, for example as PDF or TIFF format, using the ggsave function:

```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=head_width_mm, y=head_length_mm)) +  
  geom_point() +  
  stat_smooth()
```



```
ggsave('headlengthvswidth.pdf')
ggsave('headlengthvswidth.tiff')
```

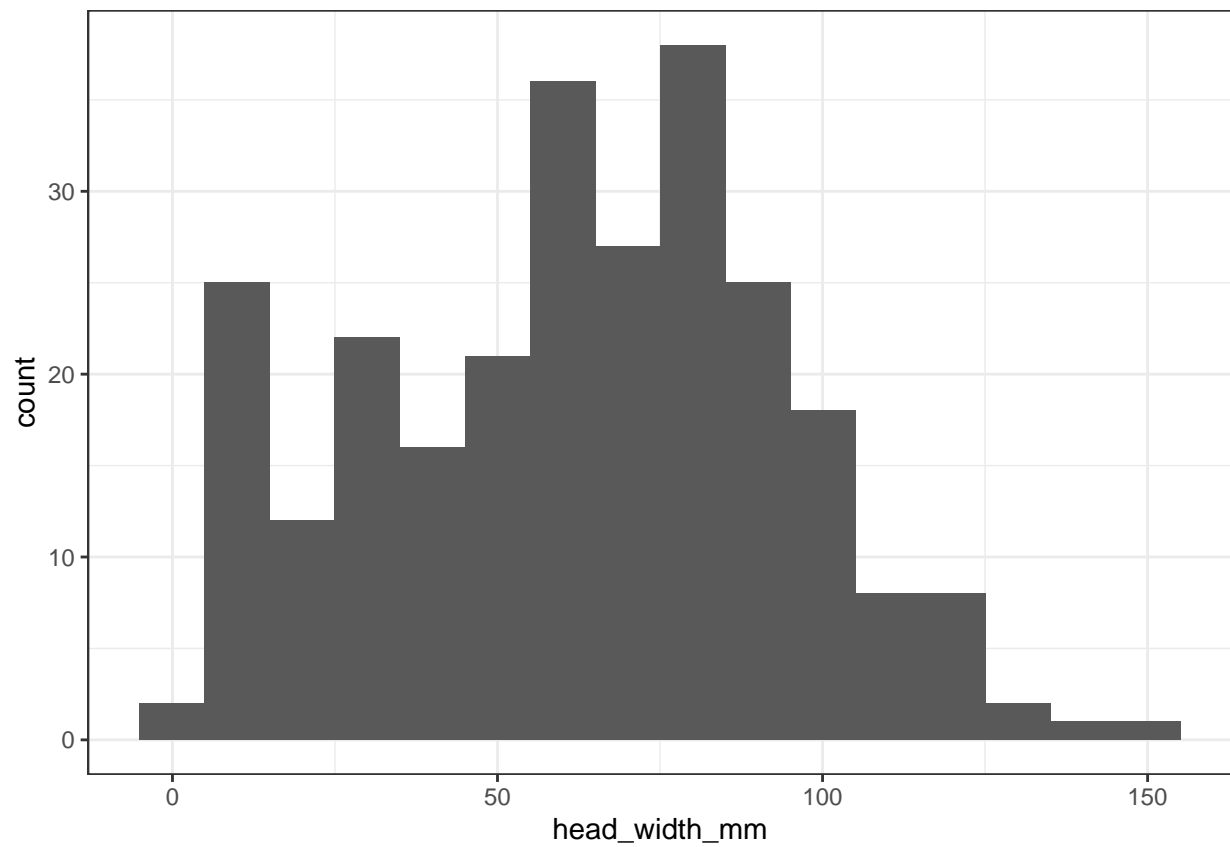
To see additional options for e.g. the height and width of these plots, see the help file for ggsave by typing:

```
?ggsave
```

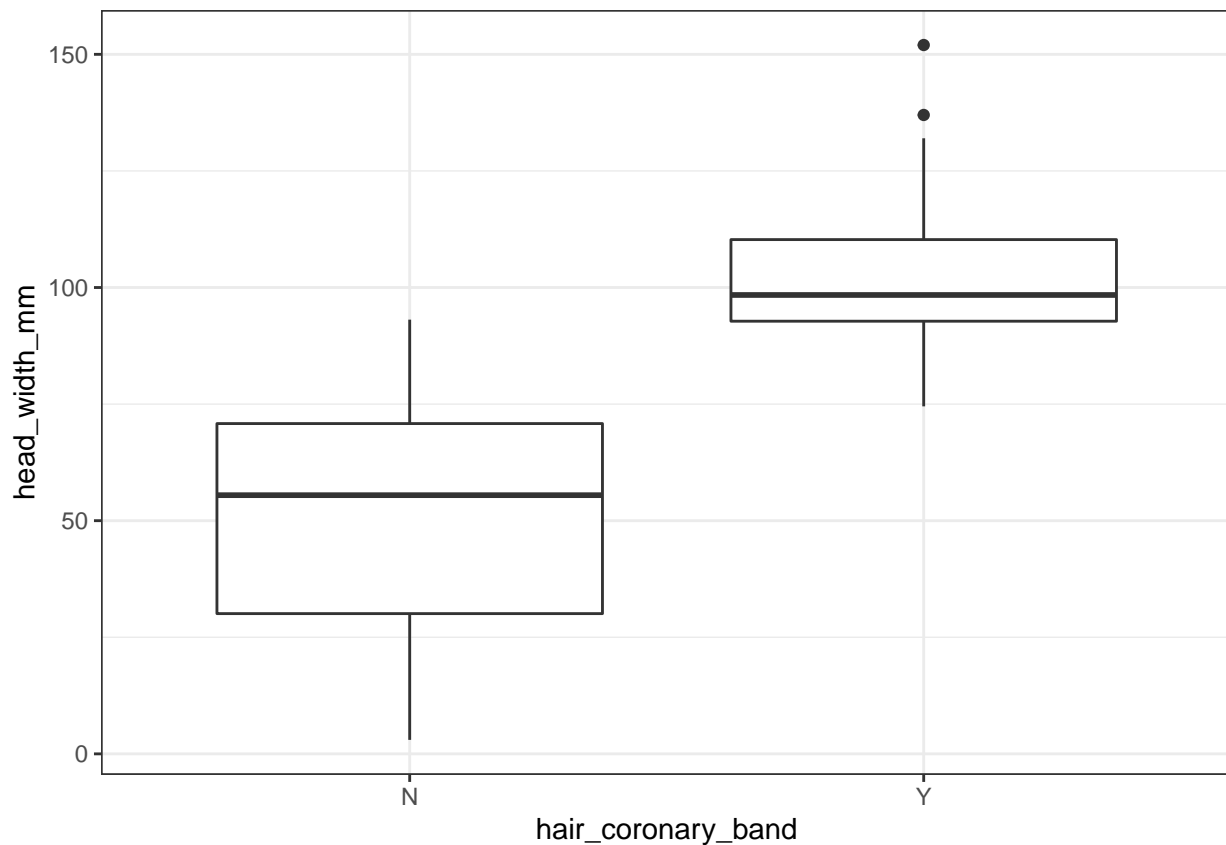
## Summary plots

There are two types of plots that are particularly useful for summarising data: histograms and box plots. We can create these using similar code to the basic plot above:

```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=head_width_mm)) +  
  geom_histogram(binwidth=10)
```



```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(y=head_width_mm, x=hair_coronary_band)) +  
  geom_boxplot()
```

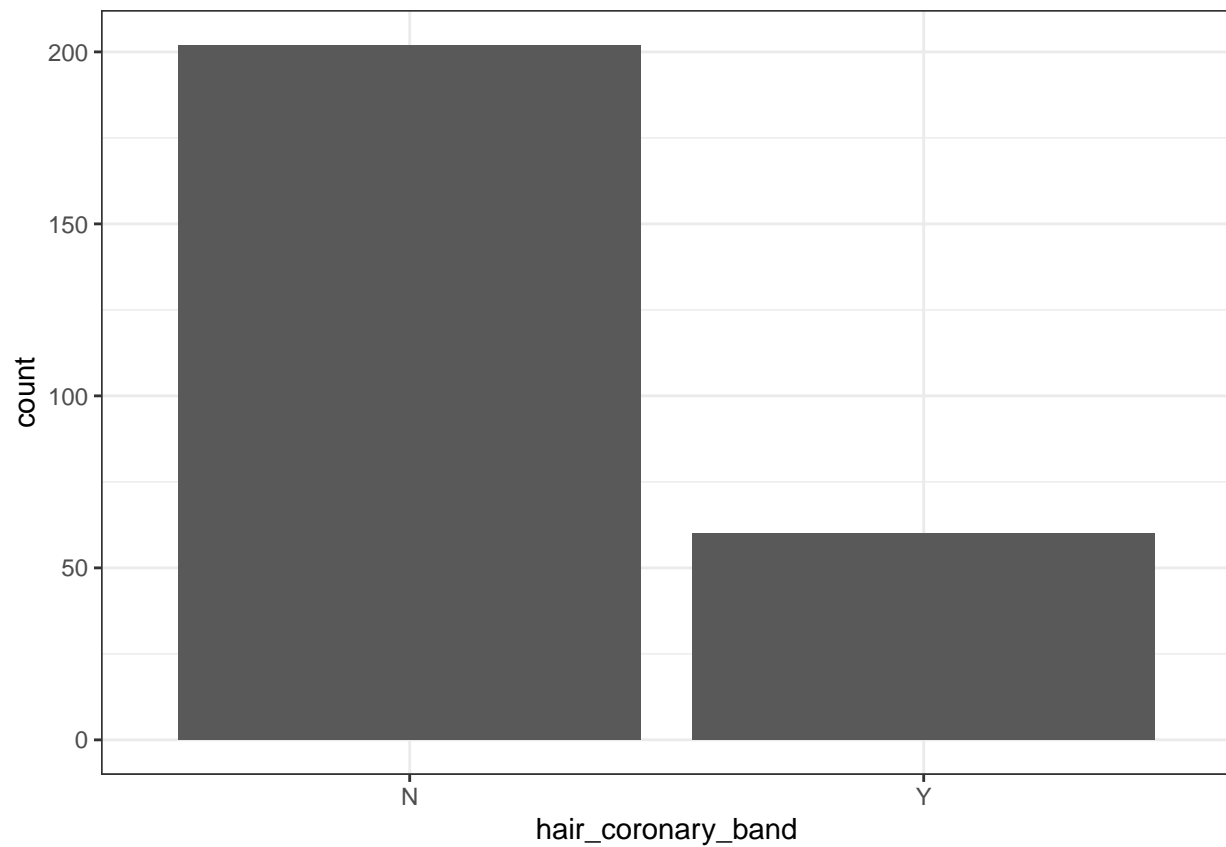


Notice that the histogram does not need us to specify anything for the y-axis: the frequencies are automatically calculated for us. These two plots tell us that head\_width\_mm is approximately normally distributed, and that it is strongly associated with the presence of hair on the coronary band. There do not seem to be any extreme values, so there is no evidence of data entry mistakes for this variable based on these plots.

We might also want to make a bar plot to check how categorical variables relate to each other. For example:

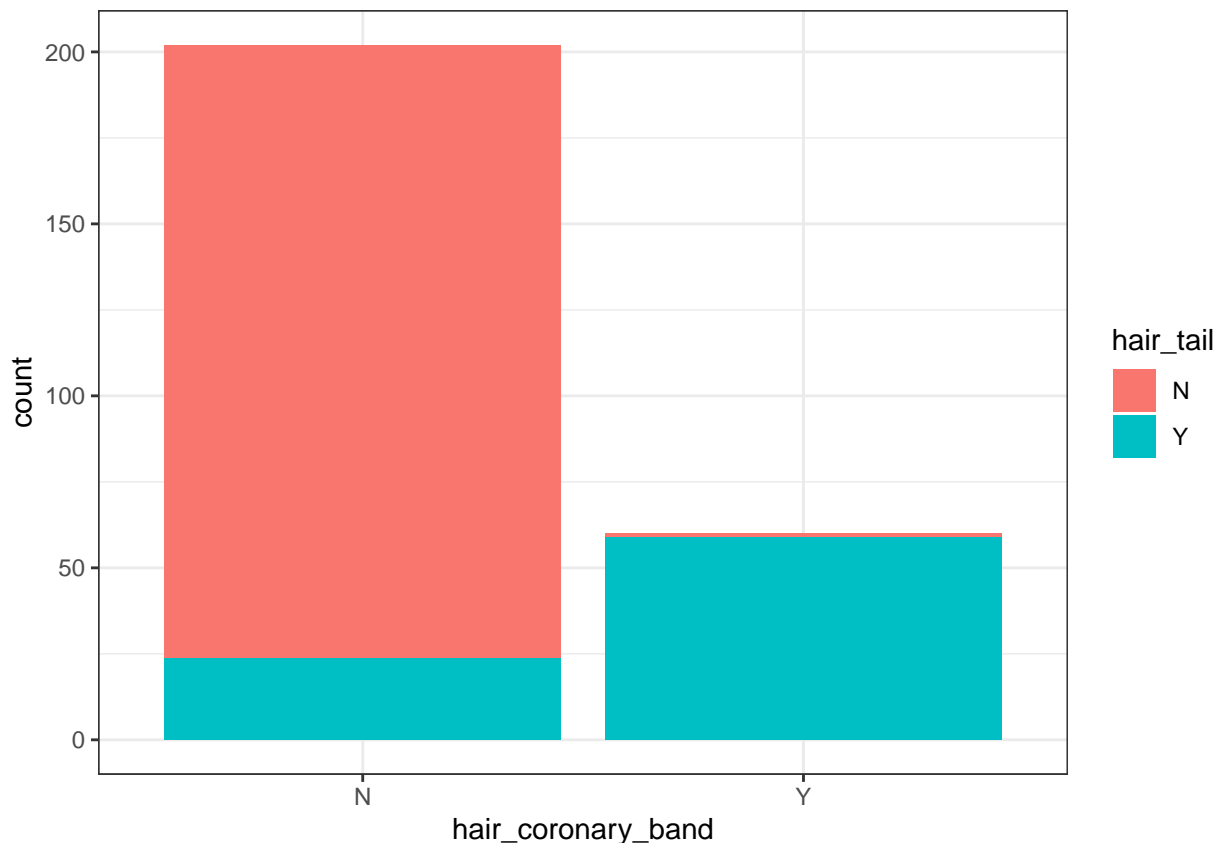
```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=hair_coronary_band)) +  
  geom_bar()
```





This tells us that most of the fetuses do not have hair on the coronary band. If we wanted to see how this related to another categorical variable, then we can create a stacked bar chart by using the fill argument to aes:

```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=hair_coronary_band, fill=hair_tail)) +  
  geom_bar()
```



We will do more with plots later in the course, but if you want to read more about ggplot now then see the Data visualisation chapter of the R for Data Science book (<https://r4ds.had.co.nz/data-visualisation.html>). There is also a cookbook for common plot recipes using ggplot at: <http://www.cookbook-r.com/Graphs/>

## Long and wide data

Sometimes we encounter datasets that are structured in a way that might be good for data entry, but is bad for data analysis. For example, we might have repeated observations of the same variable over time within the same individual represented as multiple columns within the worksheet: this ‘wide format’ is a common way to enter the data, but makes it difficult to summarise all the observations from the same individual using R. For example we might have the following dataset (that I will create directly in R using the `tribble()` function just for illustration):

```
wide <- tribble(
  ~ID, ~Time1, ~Time2, ~Time3,
  'Ben', 78, 75, 73,
  'Geoff', 91, 87, 89
)
```

```
## # A tibble: 2 x 4
##   ID      Time1 Time2 Time3
##   <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 Ben      78     75     73
## 2 Geoff    91     87     89
```

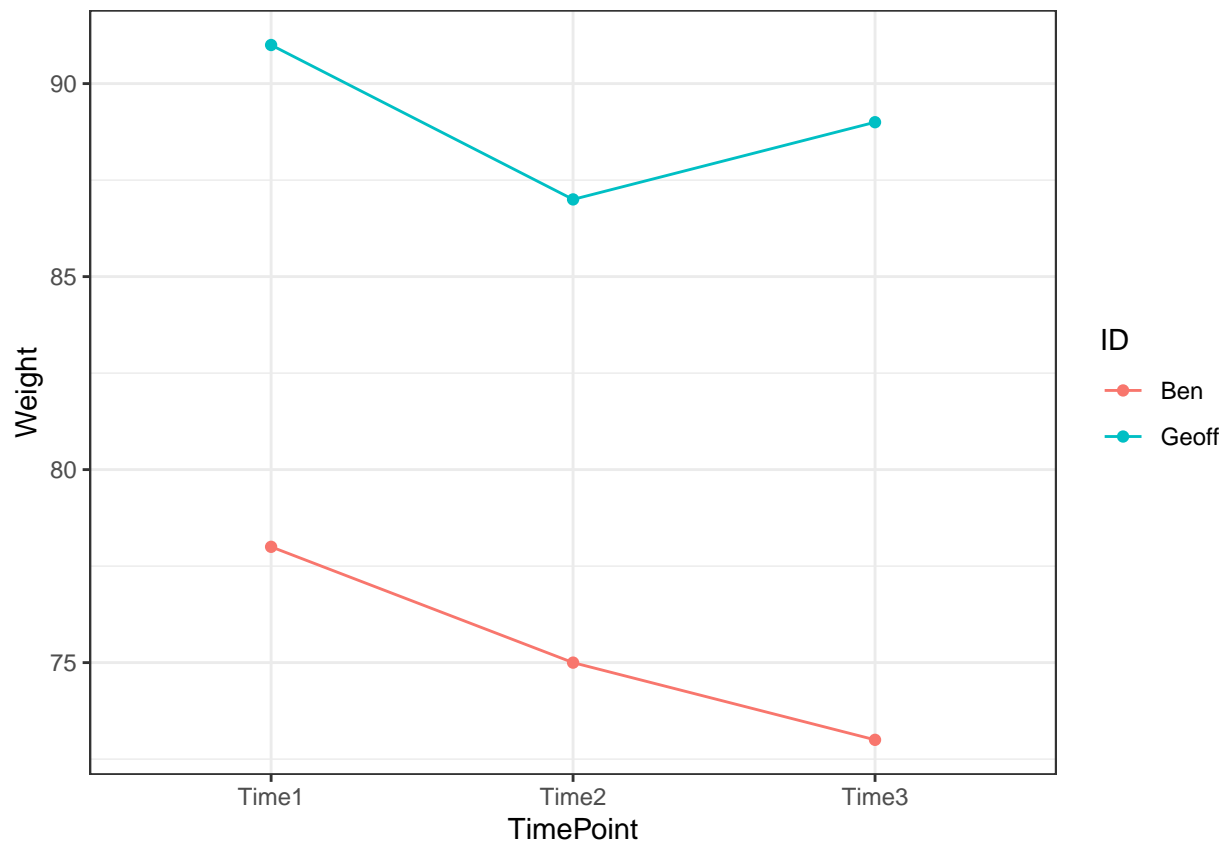
Here we have 3 repeated observations of the same variable (body weight), at 3 different time points for 2 individuals. Now let's say we want to plot these weights over time - how do we do that? For data analysis we really want the data in 'long format', where we have a column for the ID of the individual, a column for the time point, and a single column for all of the observations. So to create the plot, we first convert the data to long format using the `gather()` function:

```
long <- wide %>%  
  gather(TimePoint, Weight, -ID) %>%  
  mutate(TimePoint = parse_factor(TimePoint)) %>%  
  mutate(ID = parse_factor(ID, levels=c('Ben', 'Geoff')))  
long
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 x 3  
##   ID      TimePoint Weight  
##   <fct> <fct>      <dbl>  
## 1 Ben    Time1         78  
## 2 Geoff  Time1         91  
## 3 Ben    Time2         75  
## 4 Geoff  Time2         87  
## 5 Ben    Time3         73  
## 6 Geoff  Time3         89
```

The first 2 arguments of the `gather` function allows us to specify the new column name for the grouping variable, and the new column name for the observation variable. The grouping variable values are determined by the corresponding previous column names (in this case `Time1`, `Time2` and `Time3`), and the observation variable values (the observed weights) are the observed data gathered from all of the previous columns. The remaining arguments indicate variables (with a minus in front of the name) that we want to exclude from the gather process: these variables (in our case just one variable: `ID`) will be added to the resulting long data in the same format, but with rows repeated as necessary. We then use the `parse_factor` function to convert the new text variable `TimePoint` into a factor (along with `ID`). Notice that we do not bother to specify the levels for the new `TimePoint` variable: this is because the variable is taken directly from the old column names, so there is no risk of any data entry mistakes! The result is exactly the same data, but represented differently: the wide data has the 6 observations in 3 columns of 2 rows, and the long data has the same observations in a single variable with 6 rows. Now we can make the plot we wanted:

```
ggplot(long, aes(x=TimePoint, y=Weight, col=ID, group=ID)) +  
  geom_line() +  
  geom_point()
```

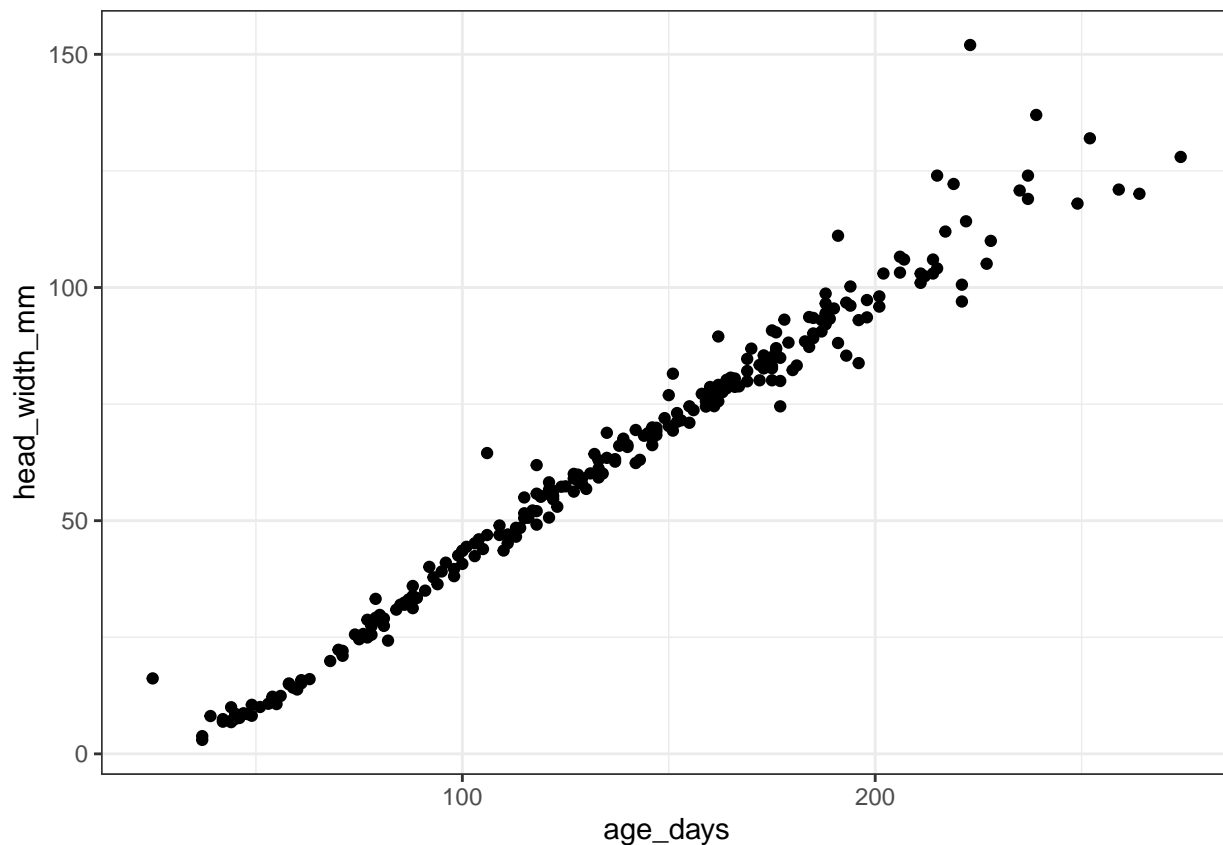


The argument `col=ID` has been added to the `aes()` function so we can see which observations belong to which person, and also a new layer `geom_line()` which connects the observations within the group specified as `group=ID` within the `aes()` function.

---

The `gather` function also comes in handy for making similar types of plots where we want to put different variables side-by-side. For example, we might want to look at how the `head_width_mm`, `head_length_mm` and `crl_cm` variables change with `age_days`. We can do that one at a time using the existing data frame, for example:

```
ggplot(fetuses_full, aes(x=age_days, y=head_width_mm)) +  
  geom_point()
```



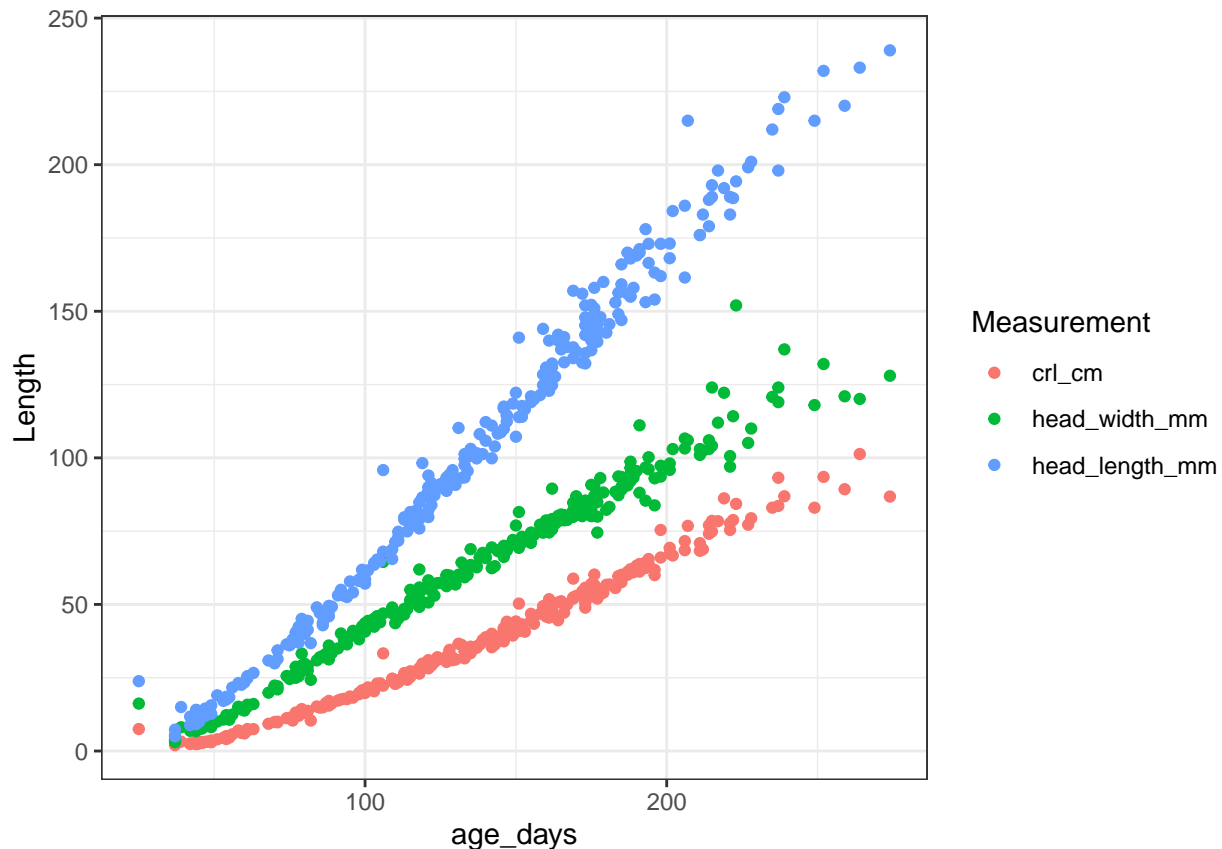
But how do we add head\_length\_mm and crl\_cm to this plot? We need to convert the data into long format, and then make the plot:

```
plotdata <- fetuses_full %>%
  mutate(ID = row_number()) %>%
  select(ID, age_days, crl_cm, head_width_mm, head_length_mm) %>%
  gather(Measurement, Length, -ID, -age_days) %>%
  mutate(Measurement = parse_factor(Measurement))

str(plotdata)
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':   786 obs. of  4 variables:
## $ ID      : int  1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ age_days : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ Measurement: Factor w/ 3 levels "crl_cm","head_width_mm",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ Length    : num  86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
```

```
ggplot(plotdata, aes(x=age_days, y=Length, col=Measurement)) +
  geom_point()
```

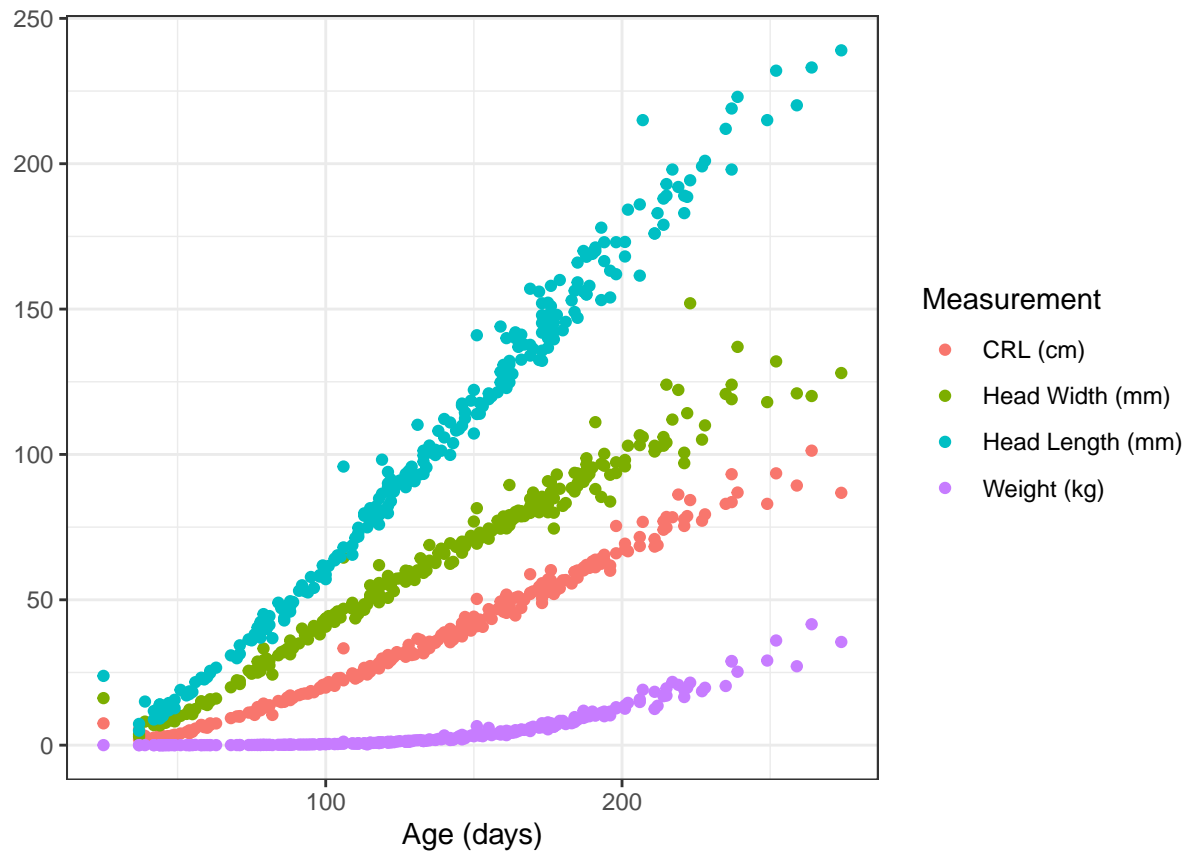


This code has several steps: first we add an ID variable so that we know how the rows in the new data frame relate to the rows in the `fetuses_full` data frame, then we extract the variables we are interested in using `select()`, then we use `gather` to convert all columns in the data into long format (with the exception of ID and `age_days`), then we make the plot. You can see from the structure of `plotdata` that we now have 786 observations, which is exactly three times the original 262 observations because each ID is repeated three times. This process of creating a new data frame containing the specific data that we want to plot (and in the correct format) is something we will do a lot.

What happens if we want to add weight to the plot? All we have to do is copy and paste the code above, and add `weight_kg` in the relevant place:

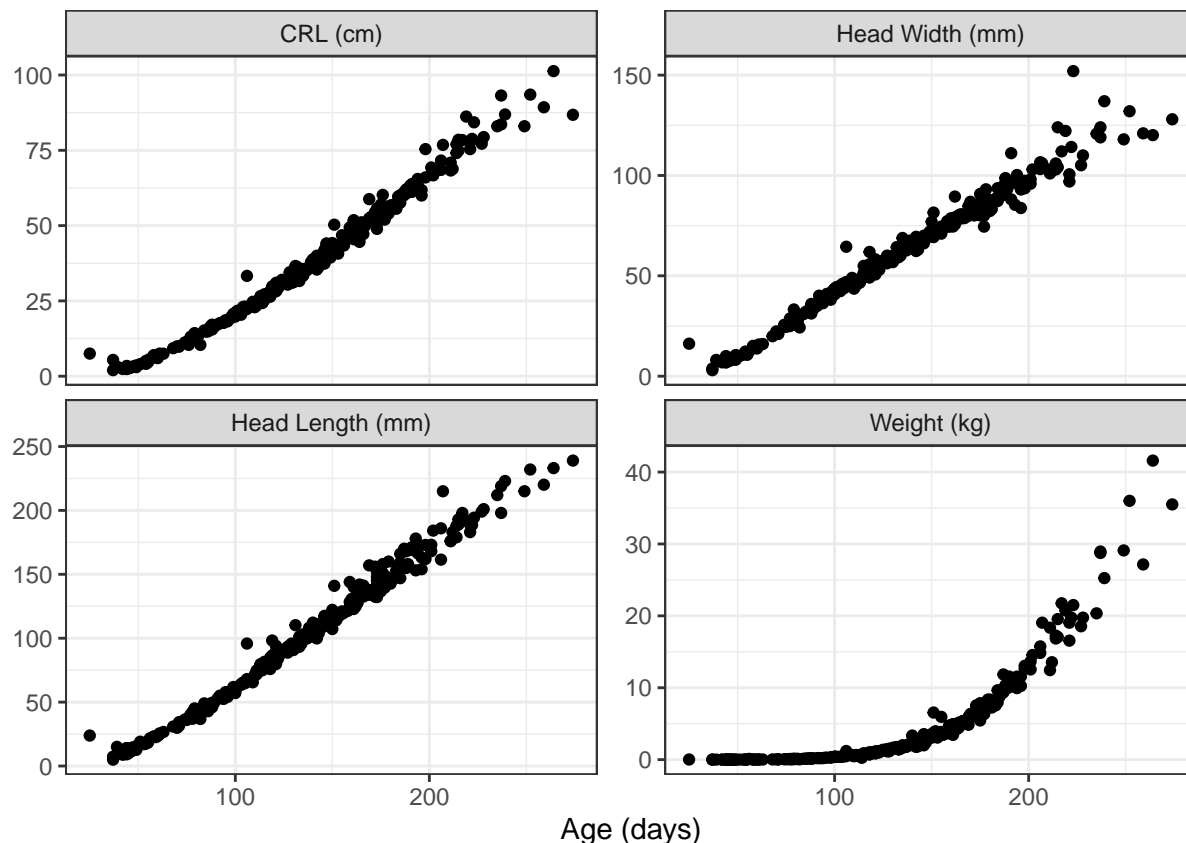
```
plotdata <- fetuses_full %>%
  mutate(ID = row_number()) %>%
  select(ID, age_days, crl_cm, head_width_mm, head_length_mm, weight_kg) %>%
  gather(Measurement, Length, -ID, -age_days) %>%
  mutate(Measurement = parse_factor(Measurement)) %>%
  mutate(Measurement =
    fct_collapse(Measurement, "CRL (cm)"="crl_cm",
                  "Head Width (mm)"="head_width_mm", "Head Length (mm)"="head_length_mm",
                  "Weight (kg)"="weight_kg"))

ggplot(plotdata, aes(x=age_days, y=Length, col=Measurement)) +
  geom_point() +
  xlab('Age (days)') +
  ylab('')
```



The only addition is that the x-axis label and names of the factor levels have been changed to a more readable format, and the y-axis label has been removed as weight isn't a length! But the weight is on a different scale to the other variables so is hard to see at the bottom of the graph. There are two ways to improve this: we could change the units of weight so that 1 y-axis value represented 100g rather than 1kg, but it is probably a better idea to put the different variables into different facets using the `facet_wrap()` function:

```
ggplot(plotdata, aes(x=age_days, y=Length)) +
  geom_point() +
  xlab('Age (days)') +
  ylab('') +
  facet_wrap(~Measurement, scales='free_y')
```



The `facet_wrap` (and related `facet_grid`) function allow us to specify one or more categorical variable on which we can stratify the plot into different sub-plots. The `scales='free_y'` argument tells `facet_wrap` to use different y-axis scales for each variable type.

If you want to read more about tidy data structure (including long vs wide formats) then see the Tidy data chapter of the R for Data Science book (<https://r4ds.had.co.nz/tidy-data.html>).

---

## Appendix A: additional tips

---

- Never write code from scratch when you can copy and paste working code from an example you already have. The process for importing and formatting data is nearly always the same, and as a result the code will be largely identical with just a few changes to variable names. If you write code from scratch then (1) it will be slower because you will have to remember how to write everything, and (2) it will be more frustrating because you will make more mistakes. It is a good idea to keep a specific R script file handy with examples of how to do different things - you can use this document as a starting point.
- If you need to do something that you haven't done before, then try looking at the cheat sheets for either data import (<https://github.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/raw/master/data-import.pdf>), data wrangling (<https://www.rstudio.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/data-wrangling-cheatsheet.pdf>), data visualisation (<https://github.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/raw/master/data-visualization-2.1.pdf>), or one of the other cheat sheets available via the RStudio website (<https://www.rstudio.com/resources/cheatsheets/>). If you still can't find what you are looking for then you can try googling what you want to do, but be aware that you might get lots of different solutions for the same problem,



and some of them will look extremely complex and/or unfamiliar. If you include the word ‘tidyverse’ in your search then you are more likely to find a familiar-looking solution.

- R script files are really just text files, so it is a good idea to stick to standard ASCII text characters - these do not include æ, ø or å. You can use these in comments with only one small drawback: you will then get asked for an encoding to use when saving the file (pick either latin1 or UTF-8). It is important to **ALWAYS** write lots of useful comments in your R scripts, so if you prefer to stick to danish for your comments then feel free. But you should definitely not use å æ or ø in the R code itself, including in variable names: this can lead to problems with your code spontaneously breaking if the encoding is changed later on (this can happen just by sending the R script file over email). You can always use ae, oe and aa instead of æ, ø and å.
- When you are writing R scripts, try to make sure that the entire script file contains valid code all the way through, and that the code at the start of the R script does not depend on code written further down in the script. You should be able to clean out your environment by clicking the sweeping brush button to the right of ‘Import Dataset’, and then re-create all of your work just by clicking on ‘source’. This ability to re-create an entire analysis from scratch at the click of a button (if for example your data changes) is a major advantage of using R. This also means that if you re-open RStudio you are guaranteed to be able to get back to where you were just before you closed it (or it crashed, which can happen) - so it is a good idea to test this periodically to make sure that you don’t get any errors. You will also need to do this if you make a mistake and either delete something that you didn’t mean to, or break a variable by e.g. using mutate to convert it to a factor but mis-typing or forgetting about one of the levels.
- As a general rule, R ignores white space (including spaces and line breaks), so it doesn’t really matter in terms of the code if we use them or not. But it is MUCH easier for humans to read and understand your code if it is laid out in a consistent and clear way. So get into the habit of putting spaces between functions and arguments, and breaking large chains of functions over separate lines (typically after a , or + or %>%). You might still end up with some long lines, and by default you need to scroll to see these if they disappear off the right hand side of the screen. If that annoys you, then go to the Tools menu, then Global Options, then click on the Code tab and make sure that ‘Soft-wrap R source files’ is checked - this makes sure that the width of the R script file matches the width of the text window by ‘soft-wrapping’ the text.

---

## Appendix B: exercise

---

Take the R code given in this tutorial and use it to create a complete R script to read and format all of the variables in the data frame. You should end up with a data frame called ‘fetuses’ that looks exactly like this:

```
fetuses %>%  
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':   262 obs. of  22 variables:  
## $ ID           : Factor w/ 262 levels "ID_001","ID_002",...: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...  
## $ sex          : Factor w/ 3 levels "Female","Male",...: 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 ...  
## $ parity       : Factor w/ 6 levels "Parity_1","Parity_2",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...  
## $ parity_group : Factor w/ 3 levels "First","Second",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 ...  
## $ age_days     : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...  
## $ age_group    : Factor w/ 3 levels "Early","Middle",...: 3 2 3 3 3 3 2 1 2 2 ...
```

```
## $ weight_kg      : num  35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...
## $ cml_cm        : num  86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
## $ cml_mm        : num  868 618 893 830 754 777 554 104 624 354 ...
## $ head_width_mm : num  128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...
## $ head_length_mm : num  239 154 220 215 183 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_ear       : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ hair_eyelid    : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_tail      : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_hornbud    : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ tactile_muzzle  : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
## $ tactile_eyebrow : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
## $ tactile_eyelash : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 ...
## $ eye_op_close    : Factor w/ 2 levels "Closed","Open": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ papillae_tongue : Factor w/ 4 levels "None","Furthest back",...: 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1 4 4 ...
## $ eyelid          : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
```

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      ID      sex      parity parity_group  age_days
## ID_001 : 1  Female :110  Parity_1:47  First : 47  Min.   : 25.00
## ID_002 : 1  Male   :128  Parity_2:83  Second: 83  1st Qu.: 95.25
## ID_003 : 1  Non Diff: 24  Parity_3:60  Older :132  Median :136.00
## ID_004 : 1                      Parity_4:47          Mean  :136.06
## ID_005 : 1                      Parity_5:10          3rd Qu.:175.00
## ID_006 : 1                      Parity_6:15          Max.   :274.00
## (Other):256
##  age_group  weight_kg      cml_cm      cml_mm
## Early : 73  Min.   : 0.0010  Min.   : 2.00  Min.   : 20.0
## Middle:159  1st Qu.: 0.2537  1st Qu.: 18.30  1st Qu.: 183.0
## Late  : 30  Median : 1.7805  Median : 35.65  Median : 356.5
##                      Mean   : 5.0029  Mean   : 37.90  Mean   : 379.0
##                      3rd Qu.: 6.9250  3rd Qu.: 54.60  3rd Qu.: 546.0
##                      Max.    :41.6000  Max.    :101.30  Max.    :1013.0
##
## head_width_mm  head_length_mm  hair_coronary_band hair_ear  hair_eyelid
## Min.   : 3.00  Min.   : 5.00  No :202          No :221  No :197
## 1st Qu.: 39.24  1st Qu.: 55.52  Yes: 60          Yes: 41  Yes: 65
## Median : 63.33  Median :101.28
## Mean   : 62.34  Mean   :103.29
## 3rd Qu.: 84.02  3rd Qu.:145.54
## Max.   :152.00  Max.   :239.00
##
## hair_tail hair_hornbud  tactile_muzzle  tactile_eyebrow
## No :179  No :175  Visible :169  Visible :169
## Yes: 83  Yes: 87  Not visible: 34  Not visible: 43
##                      Hairsack : 59  Hairsack : 50
##
##
##
##
## tactile_eyelash eye_op_close  papillae_tongue eyelid
## Visible :109  Closed:225  None : 35  No : 21
```

```
## Not visible:130      Open   : 37      Furthest back: 28      Yes:241
## Hairsack      : 23      Large front  : 35
##                                     Whole tongue :164
##
##
##
```

A complete solution is given in appendix D - look at this if you get stuck.

---

## Appendix C: R Markdown environment

---

You can ignore this section - it is just for reference so that we can see the exact version of R and the tidyverse package that was used to automatically create the results shown here.

```
sessionInfo()
```

```
## R version 3.6.2 (2019-12-12)
## Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin15.6.0 (64-bit)
## Running under: macOS High Sierra 10.13.6
##
## Matrix products: default
## BLAS: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.6/Resources/lib/libRblas.0.dylib
## LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.6/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib
##
## locale:
## [1] en_GB.UTF-8/en_GB.UTF-8/en_GB.UTF-8/C/en_GB.UTF-8/en_GB.UTF-8
##
## attached base packages:
## [1] stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods    base
##
## other attached packages:
## [1] lubridate_1.7.4 readxl_1.3.1   forcats_0.4.0 stringr_1.4.0
## [5] dplyr_0.8.3     purrr_0.3.3   readr_1.3.1  tidyr_1.0.2
## [9] tibble_2.1.3    ggplot2_3.2.1 tidyverse_1.3.0
##
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] tidyselect_1.0.0 xfun_0.12      haven_2.2.0    lattice_0.20-38
## [5] colorspace_1.4-1 vctrs_0.2.2    generics_0.0.2 htmltools_0.4.0
## [9] yaml_2.2.0        utf8_1.1.4     rlang_0.4.4    pillar_1.4.3
## [13] withr_2.1.2       glue_1.3.1     DBI_1.1.0      dbplyr_1.4.2
## [17] modelr_0.1.5      lifecycle_0.1.0 munsell_0.5.0  gtable_0.3.0
## [21] cellranger_1.1.0 rvest_0.3.5    evaluate_0.14  labeling_0.3
## [25] knitr_1.27        fansi_0.4.1    broom_0.5.4    Rcpp_1.0.3
## [29] scales_1.1.0      backports_1.1.5 jsonlite_1.6    farver_2.0.3
## [33] fs_1.3.1          hms_0.5.3      digest_0.6.23  stringi_1.4.5
## [37] grid_3.6.2        cli_2.0.1      tools_3.6.2    magrittr_1.5
## [41] lazyeval_0.2.2    crayon_1.3.4   pkgconfig_2.0.3 ellipsis_0.3.0
## [45] xml2_1.2.2        reprex_0.3.0   assertthat_0.2.1 rmarkdown_2.1
```

```
## [49] httr_1.4.1      rstudioapi_0.10 R6_2.4.1      nlme_3.1-143
## [53] compiler_3.6.2
```

---

## Appendix D: exercise solution

---

To create the complete data handling code, we need to follow the 8 steps given in the tutorial:

```
library('tidyverse')
library('readxl')
```

**Step 1: load the required packages**

**Step 2: remember to set your working directory** Go to the Session menu, then Set Working Directory, then Choose Directory.”

```
fetuses <- read_excel('calf_fetuses.xlsx', sheet='calf_fetuses')
```

**Step 3: read the data frame into R**

**Step 4: examine your data** Look at the structure to identify what needs to be formatted:

```
fetuses %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame': 262 obs. of 18 variables:
## $ parity      : num  3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days    : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ weight_kg   : num  35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...
## $ crl_cm      : num  86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
## $ head_width_mm : num  128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...
## $ head_length_mm : num  239 154 220 215 183 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_ear     : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_eyelid  : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_tail    : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ hair_hornbud  : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ tactile_muzzle : chr  "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ tactile_eyebrow : chr  "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ tactile_eyelash : chr  "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" "Visible" ...
## $ eye_op_close  : chr  "Open" "Open" "Open" "Open" ...
## $ papillae_tongue : chr  "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" "Whole tongue" ...
## $ eyelid       : chr  "Y" "Y" "Y" "Y" ...
## $ sex          : chr  "Female" "Female" "Male" "Male" ...
```

Other than `age_days`, `weight_kg`, `crl_cm`, and `head_width/length_mm` we will want to turn everything into a factor. We also want to create a new ID variable and may also want to create some factor groups based on the numeric variables.

We can also automatically convert the character variables to factors and summarise, just to see what we have in the data:

```
fetuses %>%
  mutate_if(is.character, parse_factor) %>%
  summary()
```

```
##      parity      age_days      weight_kg      crl_cm
## Min.   :1.000   Min.    : 25.00   Min.     : 0.0010   Min.     :  2.00
## 1st Qu.:2.000   1st Qu.: 95.25   1st Qu.: 0.2537   1st Qu.: 18.30
## Median :3.000   Median :136.00   Median : 1.7805   Median : 35.65
## Mean   :2.752   Mean    :136.06   Mean     : 5.0029   Mean     : 37.90
## 3rd Qu.:4.000   3rd Qu.:175.00   3rd Qu.: 6.9250   3rd Qu.: 54.60
## Max.    :6.000   Max.     :274.00   Max.      :41.6000   Max.     :101.30
## head_width_mm  head_length_mm  hair_coronary_band hair_ear hair_eyelid
## Min.    :  3.00   Min.     :  5.00   Y: 60                Y: 41    Y: 65
## 1st Qu.: 39.24   1st Qu.: 55.52   N:202                N:221    N:197
## Median : 63.33   Median :101.28
## Mean     : 62.34   Mean      :103.29
## 3rd Qu.: 84.02   3rd Qu.:145.54
## Max.     :152.00   Max.      :239.00
## hair_tail hair_hornbud      tactile_muzzle      tactile_eyebrow
## Y: 83      Y: 87           Visible    :169     Visible    :169
## N:179      N:175           Not visible: 34     Not visible: 43
##                                     Hairsack    : 59     Hairsack    : 50
##
##
##
##      tactile_eyelash eye_op_close      papillae_tongue eyelid      sex
## Visible    :109     Open    : 37   Whole tongue :164   Y:241   Female   :110
## Not visible:130     Closed:225   None          : 35   N: 21   Male     :128
## Hairsack    : 23                                     Large front  : 35       Non Diff: 24
##                                     Furthest back: 28
##
##
```

**Step 5: modify your data frame** Create a new ID variable and turn it into a factor:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(ID = row_number()) %>%
  mutate(ID = parse_factor(str_c('ID_', str_replace_all(format(ID), ' ', '0'))))
```

Turn parity into a factor and create a grouped version:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(parity = parse_factor(str_c('Parity_', parity),
    levels=str_c('Parity_', seq(from=1, to=10, by=1)))) %>%
  mutate(parity_group = fct_collapse(parity, First='Parity_1', Second='Parity_2',
    Older=str_c('Parity_', seq(from=3, to=9, by=1)), Ancient='Parity_10')) %>%
  mutate(parity = fct_drop(parity), parity_group = fct_drop(parity_group))
```

The `age_days`, `weight_kg` and `crl_cm` variables can be left as numeric, but we might want to create some new variables based on these...

Create an age group variable as a factor and `crl_mm` as a number:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(age_group = cut(age_days, breaks=c(0, 100, 200, 300),
    labels=c('Early', 'Middle', 'Late')) %>%
  mutate(crl_mm = crl_cm*10)
```

The `head_width_mm` and `head_length_mm` variables are OK as numeric.

Convert all of the hair variables into factors one at a time:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band = parse_factor(hair_coronary_band, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_coronary_band = fct_collapse(hair_coronary_band, No = 'N', Yes='Y')) %>%
  mutate(hair_ear = parse_factor(hair_ear, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_ear = fct_collapse(hair_ear, No = 'N', Yes='Y')) %>%
  mutate(hair_eyelid = parse_factor(hair_eyelid, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_eyelid = fct_collapse(hair_eyelid, No = 'N', Yes='Y')) %>%
  mutate(hair_tail = parse_factor(hair_tail, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_tail = fct_collapse(hair_tail, No = 'N', Yes='Y')) %>%
  mutate(hair_hornbud = parse_factor(hair_hornbud, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(hair_hornbud = fct_collapse(hair_hornbud, No = 'N', Yes='Y'))
```

Convert the tactile hair variables into factors:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(tactile_muzzle = parse_factor(tactile_muzzle,
    levels=c('Visible','Not visible','Hairsack'))) %>%
  mutate(tactile_eyebrow = parse_factor(tactile_eyebrow,
    levels=c('Visible','Not visible','Hairsack'))) %>%
  mutate(tactile_eyelash = parse_factor(tactile_eyelash,
    levels=c('Visible','Not visible','Hairsack')))
```

Convert the remaining 4 variables into factors:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  mutate(eye_op_close = parse_factor(eye_op_close, levels=c('Closed','Open'))) %>%
  mutate(papillae_tongue = parse_factor(papillae_tongue,
    levels=c('None','Furthest back','Large front','Whole tongue'))) %>%
  mutate(sex = parse_factor(sex, levels=c('Female','Male','Non Diff'))) %>%
  mutate(eyelid = parse_factor(eyelid, levels=c('N','Y'))) %>%
  mutate(eyelid = fct_collapse(eyelid, No = 'N', Yes='Y'))
```

```
fetuses %>%
  str()
```

**Step 6: Re-examine the structure of the data frame:**

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':   262 obs. of  22 variables:
## $ parity      : Factor w/ 6 levels "Parity_1","Parity_2",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ age_days    : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ weight_kg   : num  35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...
## $ crl_cm      : num  86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
## $ head_width_mm : num  128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...
## $ head_length_mm : num  239 154 220 215 183 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_ear     : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ hair_eyelid  : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_tail    : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_hornbud  : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ tactile_muzzle : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
## $ tactile_eyebrow : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
## $ tactile_eyelash : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 ...
## $ eye_op_close  : Factor w/ 2 levels "Closed","Open": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ papillae_tongue : Factor w/ 4 levels "None","Furthest back",...: 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1 4 4 ...
## $ eyelid       : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
## $ sex          : Factor w/ 3 levels "Female","Male",...: 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 ...
## $ ID          : Factor w/ 262 levels "ID_001","ID_002",...: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ parity_group  : Factor w/ 3 levels "First","Second",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 ...
## $ age_group     : Factor w/ 3 levels "Early","Middle",...: 3 2 3 3 3 3 2 1 2 2 ...
## $ crl_mm       : num  868 618 893 830 754 777 554 104 624 354 ...
```

The formats are all now correct - we no longer have any character variables, or numbers that should be factors.

We can also re-order the data frame to keep important variables first, and related variables together:

```
fetuses <- fetuses %>%
  select(ID, sex, starts_with('parity'), starts_with('age'),
         weight_kg, crl_cm, crl_mm, starts_with('head'), everything())
```

Check the new order:

```
fetuses %>%
  str()
```

```
## Classes 'tbl_df', 'tbl' and 'data.frame':   262 obs. of  22 variables:
## $ ID          : Factor w/ 262 levels "ID_001","ID_002",...: 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 ...
## $ sex         : Factor w/ 3 levels "Female","Male",...: 1 1 2 2 1 1 2 2 2 1 ...
## $ parity      : Factor w/ 6 levels "Parity_1","Parity_2",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 6 4 ...
## $ parity_group : Factor w/ 3 levels "First","Second",...: 3 2 1 1 2 3 2 2 3 3 ...
## $ age_days    : num  274 196 259 249 221 221 177 82 193 142 ...
## $ age_group   : Factor w/ 3 levels "Early","Middle",...: 3 2 3 3 3 3 2 1 2 2 ...
## $ weight_kg   : num  35.5 10.2 27.1 29.1 16.6 ...
## $ crl_cm      : num  86.8 61.8 89.3 83 75.4 77.7 55.4 10.4 62.4 35.4 ...
## $ crl_mm      : num  868 618 893 830 754 777 554 104 624 354 ...
## $ head_width_mm : num  128 83.8 121 118 100.6 ...
## $ head_length_mm : num  239 154 220 215 183 ...
## $ hair_coronary_band: Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_ear     : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ hair_eyelid  : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ hair_tail    : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
```

```
## $ hair_hornbud      : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 2 1 ...
## $ tactile_muzzle    : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
## $ tactile_eyebrow   : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 1 ...
## $ tactile_eyelash   : Factor w/ 3 levels "Visible","Not visible",...: 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 2 1 2 ...
## $ eye_op_close      : Factor w/ 2 levels "Closed","Open": 2 2 2 2 2 2 1 1 1 1 ...
## $ papillae_tongue   : Factor w/ 4 levels "None","Furthest back",...: 4 4 4 4 4 4 4 1 4 4 ...
## $ eyelid            : Factor w/ 2 levels "No","Yes": 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 ...
```

**Step 7: examine the data** A basic examination is done using summary:

```
fetuses %>%
  summary()
```

```
##          ID          sex      parity  parity_group  age_days
## ID_001 : 1   Female   :110  Parity_1:47   First : 47   Min.   : 25.00
## ID_002 : 1   Male     :128  Parity_2:83   Second: 83   1st Qu.: 95.25
## ID_003 : 1   Non Diff: 24  Parity_3:60   Older :132   Median :136.00
## ID_004 : 1                                     Parity_4:47   Mean    :136.06
## ID_005 : 1                                     Parity_5:10   3rd Qu.:175.00
## ID_006 : 1                                     Parity_6:15   Max.    :274.00
## (Other):256
##   age_group    weight_kg      crl_cm      crl_mm
## Early : 73   Min.   : 0.0010   Min.   : 2.00   Min.   : 20.0
## Middle:159   1st Qu.: 0.2537   1st Qu.: 18.30   1st Qu.: 183.0
## Late  : 30   Median : 1.7805   Median : 35.65   Median : 356.5
##                                     Mean    : 5.0029   Mean    : 37.90   Mean    : 379.0
##                                     3rd Qu.: 6.9250   3rd Qu.: 54.60   3rd Qu.: 546.0
##                                     Max.    :41.6000   Max.    :101.30   Max.    :1013.0
##
## head_width_mm  head_length_mm  hair_coronary_band  hair_ear  hair_eyelid
## Min.   : 3.00   Min.   : 5.00   No :202             No :221   No :197
## 1st Qu.: 39.24   1st Qu.: 55.52   Yes: 60             Yes: 41   Yes: 65
## Median : 63.33   Median :101.28
## Mean    : 62.34   Mean    :103.29
## 3rd Qu.: 84.02   3rd Qu.:145.54
## Max.    :152.00   Max.    :239.00
##
## hair_tail hair_hornbud    tactile_muzzle    tactile_eyebrow
## No :179   No :175       Visible :169       Visible :169
## Yes: 83   Yes: 87       Not visible: 34   Not visible: 43
##                                     Hairsack : 59   Hairsack : 50
##
##
##
##   tactile_eyelash eye_op_close    papillae_tongue eyelid
## Visible :109   Closed:225   None : 35   No : 21
## Not visible:130   Open : 37   Furthest back: 28   Yes:241
## Hairsack : 23                                     Large front : 35
##                                     Whole tongue :164
##
##
##
```



We specifically need to check for:

- Are there any unexpected missing values in any of the variables?
- Are there extreme observations in the numeric variables (indicated by a very low min and/or very high max?)
- Do the mean and median of numeric variables look plausible?
- Do the total number of observations within factor variables look plausible?

A more detailed examination may require graphs!

**Step 8: carry on with your data analysis** It is a good idea to get into the habit of having separate R script files for data reading/formatting (i.e. steps 1-7) and data analysis. This helps to keep your R script files shorter and therefore more manageable, and also means that several different data analyses can use the same data reading/formatting R script. For example, you could create a new R script file and save it with the name ‘analysis\_fetuses.R’. Then at the top of your new R script file put the following command:

```
source("tidy_fetuses.R")
```

Now if you want to re-load and re-format the data, all you have to do is make sure that your working directory is correct then run this single line in your analysis script. That means that you can get straight into the analysis without having to scroll through all of the code needed to read and format the data. If you get an error saying “cannot open file ‘tidy\_fetuses.R’: No such file or directory” when running this command, then check that you saved your ‘tidy\_fetuses.R’ file in the same folder as the ‘calf\_fetuses.xlsx’ data file as instructed at the start of the tutorial.

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