Introduction to R

Université Côte d'Azur - MSc Programme in Economics

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Introduction

Data structures

Basic Programming

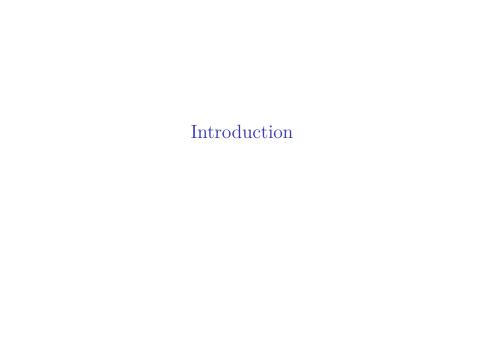
Working with Data (tydiverse library)

Schedule

- ▶ 17th of September 9-12
- ▶ 14th of October 9-12
- ▶ 28th of October 13-16

Rules of the game

- arrive on time
- ▶ 20 minutes break
- homeworks
- ▶ no book (plenty of open source resources on-line)
- ▶ slides https://github.com/mattiaguerini/slides-intro-to-R
- exam based on the econometric course



What is R

R is both a programming language and software environment for statistical computing, which is free and open-source.

The *R Project* was initiated by Robert Gentleman and Ross Ihaka (University of Auckland) in the early 1990s as a different implementation of the S language.

Since 1997, R has been developed by the R Development Core Team.

R is platform independent and can run on Microsoft Windows, Mac OS and Unix/Linux systems.

Getting Started

To get started, you'll need to install two pieces of software:

- ► R, the actual programming language. https://cran.r-project.org
- ▶ RStudio, an excellent IDE for working with R. https://www.rstudio.com

Why RStudio?¹

- ► Easier to use (everything is in one space)
- ► Many useful integrations (e.g. shiny, R-projects, R-markdown, . . .)
- ▶ Plenty of shortcuts (alt + shift + k)
- ▶ Plenty of cheatsheets (see top panel)

¹You must have installed R before using RStudio.

Screenshot of RConsole

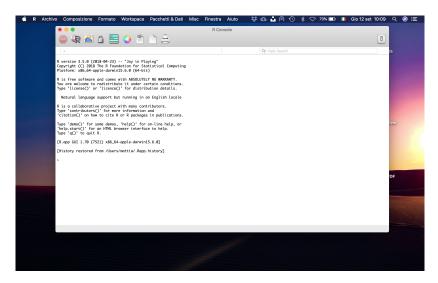


Figure 1: RConsole

Screenshot of RStudio

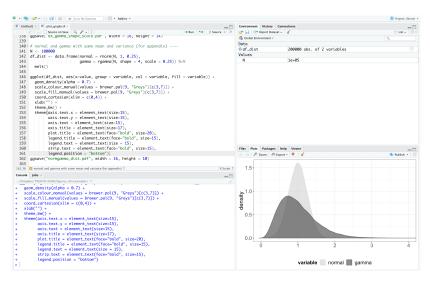


Figure 2: RStudio

Glossary

- ▶ command: user input (text or numbers) that R understands
- ▶ *script*: a sequence of commands collected in a text file, each separated by a new line
- environment: a list of named variables that we have generated by means of commands
- ▶ history: the list of past commands thaty we have used
- ▶ help: a documentation of all the functions in R (the user manual)
- ▶ package: a collection of additional functions and dataset

R as a calculator (I)

```
2+2
## [1] 4
2-2
## [1] 0
2*2
## [1] 4
2/2
## [1] 1
```

R as a calculator (II)

```
log(1)
## [1] 0
exp(1)
## [1] 2.718282
log(exp(1))
## [1] 1
sqrt(25)
## [1] 5
```

The help

```
?log
help(log)
```

Otherwise:

- ▶ Google your error message
- ▶ Ask for help in Stack Overflow

Packages

R comes with a number of built-in functions and datasets, but one of the main strengths of R as an open-source project is its package system.

Packages add additional functions and datasets.

Frequently if you want to do something in R, and it is not available by default, there is a good chance that there is a package that will fulfill your needs.

You can install packages using the command install.packages()

You can load packages using the command library()

Data structures

Data types

- ▶ Numeric/Double (e.g. 2.5, 1/5, 1.0, ...)
- ► Integer (e.g. 1, 2, 3, ...)
- ightharpoonup Complex (e.g. 1 + 2i, ...)
- ▶ Logical (e.g. TRUE, FALSE or NA)
- ► Character (e.g. "a", "b", "paper", ...)
- ► Factor/Categorical ("male", "female", ...)

Data structures

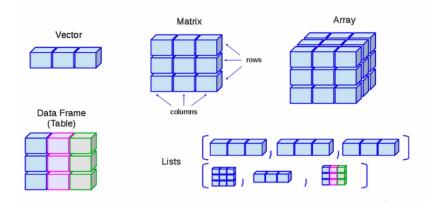


Figure 3: Visualization of data structures

Vectors (I)

You can create a vector using the command c()

```
x <- c(1, 3, 5, 10)
x
```

```
## [1] 1 3 5 10
```

Vectors must contain elements of the same data type.

```
c(1, "intro", TRUE)
```

```
## [1] "1" "intro" "TRUE"
```

You can measure the length of a vector using the command length()

```
length(x)
```

```
## [1] 4
```

Vectors (II)

```
It is also possible to easily create sequences
1:10

## [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

seq(from = 1, to = 2, by = 0.1)

## [1] 1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8 1.9 2.0

rep("A", times = 5)

## [1] "A" "A" "A" "A" "A"
```

Vectors (III)

You can combine different vectors

```
x <- 1:3 # from 1 to 3
y <- c(10, 15) # 10 and 11
z \leftarrow c(x,y) \# x \text{ first and then } y
z
## [1] 1 2 3 10 15
And you can repeat vectors (or its elements)
z <- rep(y, each=3) # repeat each element 3 times
z
## [1] 10 10 10 15 15 15
z <- rep(y, times=3) # repeat the whole vector 3 times
z
## [1] 10 15 10 15 10 15
```

Subsetting Vectors

```
x \leftarrow c(1,5,10,7)
x < 6 # elements lower than 6?
## [1] TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE
x == 10 \# elements equal to 10?
## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE FALSE
x[2] # element in the second position?
## [1] 5
x[1:2] # elements in the first 2 positions?
## [1] 1 5
x[c(1,3,4)] # elements in position 1, 3, 4?
## [1] 1 10 7
```

Vectors' Operations

[1] 1 25 100 49

```
x <- c(1,5,10,7)
x+2 # adds a scalar to all elements
## [1] 3 7 12 9
x^2 # squares all elements</pre>
```

Matrices (I)

```
You can create a matrix using the command matrix()
```

```
X <- matrix(1:9, nrow = 3, ncol = 3)
X
## [,1] [,2] [,3]</pre>
```

```
## [1,] 1 4 7
## [2,] 2 5 8
## [3,] 3 6 9
```

Matrices (II)

R automatically inserts elements by columns, but we can ask to include by rows

```
X <- matrix(1:9, nrow = 3, ncol = 3, byrow = TRUE)
X
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 1 2 3
## [2,] 4 5 6
## [3,] 7 8 9</pre>
```

You don't even have to specify the options names

```
X <- matrix(1:8, 2, 4, T)
X
```

```
## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
## [1,] 1 2 3 4
## [2,] 5 6 7 8
```

Matrices (III)

Matrices can also be created by combining vectors

```
X <- cbind(1:4, 6:9) # binds them as columns
Х
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,]
## [2,] 2 7
## [3,] 3 8
## [4,] 4 9
X <- rbind(1:4, 6:9) # binds them as rows
X
## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
## [1,] 1 2 3
## [2,] 6 7
```

Subsetting Matrices

```
X>5 # elements larger than 5
## [,1] [,2] [,3] [,4]
## [1,] FALSE FALSE FALSE FALSE
## [2,] TRUE TRUE TRUE TRUE
X[1,4] # element of first row, fourth column?
## [1] 4
X[1,] # element in the first row?
## [1] 1 2 3 4
X[,2] # elements in the second columns?
## [1] 2 7
```

Matrices' Operations (I)

```
Let's create two matrices X and Y:
```

```
x \leftarrow c(1,5,4,9)
y \leftarrow c(2,4,1,3)
X <- matrix(x, 2, 2)</pre>
Y \leftarrow matrix(y, 2, 2)
X
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 4
## [2,] 5 9
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 2 1
## [2,] 4 3
```

Matrices' Operations (II)

```
X+Y # element by element (also subtraction is equal)
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 3 5
## [2,] 9 12
X*Y # element by element multiplication
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 2 4
## [2,] 20 27
X%*%Y # matrix multiplication
## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 18 13
## [2,] 46 32
```

Matrices' Operations (III)

[2,] 4 9

```
solve(Y) # inverse

## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1.5 -0.5
## [2,] -2.0 1.0

t(X) # transpose

## [,1] [,2]
## [1,] 1 5
```

Arrays (I)

[1,] 3 1 3 ## [2,] 4 2 4

```
x < -1:4
X \leftarrow \operatorname{array}(\operatorname{data} = x, \operatorname{dim} = c(2,3,2))
Х
## , , 1
##
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
## [1,] 1 3 1
## [2,] 2 4 2
##
## , , 2
##
## [,1] [,2] [,3]
```

Notes about the Arrays

- Remember that vectors, matrices and arrays can include only data types of the same kind.
- ▶ An 3D array is basically a combination of matrices each laid on top of other (e.g. write N matrix in N different pages in your notebook)
- ▶ A 4D array is basically a combination of arrays each laid on top of other (e.g. take two notebooks of 3D arrays)
- ► A 5D array . . .
- ▶ Pay attention to the recycling rule

Lists

A list is a one-dimensional heterogeneous data structure.

It is indexed like a vector with a single integer value (or a name), but each element can contain an element of any data type.

```
x <- 1:4
y <- c("a", "b", "c")
L <- list(numbers = x, letters = y)
L</pre>
```

```
## $numbers
## [1] 1 2 3 4
##
## $letters
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
```

Subsetting Lists

```
L[[1]] # extract the first element
## [1] 1 2 3 4
L$numbers # extract the element called numbers
## [1] 1 2 3 4
I.$letters # extract the element called letters
## [1] "a" "b" "c"
You can even "work" with the subsetted element:
L$numbers[1:3] > 2
## [1] FALSE FALSE TRUE
```

Data Frames (I)

A data.frame is similar to a typical spreadsheet in excel.

There are rows, and there are columns.

A row is typically thought of as an observation.

A column is a certain *variable*, characteristic or feature of that observation.

Data Frames (II)

A data frame is a list of column vectors where:

- each column has a name
- ▶ each column must contain the same data type, but the different columns can store different data types.
- ▶ each column must be of same length

Data Frames (III)

```
set.seed(1)
df <- data.frame(id = 1:5,
    name = c("Ted", "Barney", "Lily", "Marshall", "Robin"),
    surname = c("Mosby", "Stinson", "Aldrin", "Eriksen", "Scherbatsky"),
    wage = rnorm(n=5, mean = 1000, sd = 100), # normal random sample
    origin = c("Cleveland", "New York", "New York", "St. Cloud", "Canada"),
    male = c(T, T, F, T, F)
    )
df</pre>
```

```
##
    id
                              wage origin male
          name
                   surname
## 1 1
           Ted
                    Mosby 937.3546 Cleveland TRUE
## 2 2 Barney
                   Stinson 1018.3643 New York TRUE
## 3 3
          Lilv
                Aldrin 916.4371 New York FALSE
## 4 4 Marshall
                   Eriksen 1159.5281 St. Cloud TRUE
         Robin Scherbatsky 1032.9508 Canada FALSE
## 5 5
```

You can verify the size of the data.frame using the command dim()

You can get the data type info using the command str()

Subsetting Data Frames (I)

Robin Canada

5

```
df$name # subset a column

## [1] Ted Barney Lily Marshall Robin
## Levels: Barney Lily Marshall Robin Ted

df[,c(2,5)] # can also subset like a matrix

## name origin
## 1 Ted Cleveland
## 2 Barney New York
## 3 Lily New York
## 4 Marshall St. Cloud
```

Subsetting Data Frames (II)

name

surname

4 4 Marshall Eriksen 1159.5281 St. Cloud TRUE

##

3 3

id

5 5

```
head(df, n=3) # first n observations

## id name surname wage origin male
## 1 1 Ted Mosby 937.3546 Cleveland TRUE
## 2 2 Barney Stinson 1018.3643 New York TRUE
## 3 3 Lily Aldrin 916.4371 New York FALSE
tail(df, n=3) # last n observations
```

Lily Aldrin 916.4371 New York FALSE

Robin Scherbatsky 1032.9508 Canada FALSE

wage origin male

Inspecting data frames (I)

R comes with many data bases included. These can be used for learning R.

One of the most famous is the one called mtcars.

```
head(mtcars)
```

```
##
                    mpg cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
## Mazda RX4
                   21.0
                         6 160 110 3.90 2.620 16.46
                                                               4
## Mazda RX4 Wag
                   21.0
                         6 160 110 3.90 2.875 17.02 0 1
                                                               4
## Datsun 710
                   22.8
                         4 108 93 3.85 2.320 18.61 1 1
## Hornet 4 Drive
                   21.4 6 258 110 3.08 3.215 19.44 1 0
## Hornet Sportabout 18.7 8 360 175 3.15 3.440 17.02 0 0
## Valiant
                   18.1
                         6 225 105 2.76 3.460 20.22 1
dim(mtcars)
```

```
## [1] 32 11
```

Inspecting data frames (II)

[11] "carb"

```
str(mtcars)
## 'data.frame': 32 obs. of 11 variables:
   $ mpg : num 21 21 22.8 21.4 18.7 18.1 14.3 24.4 22.8 19.2 ...
   $ cyl : num 6 6 4 6 8 6 8 4 4 6 ...
##
##
   $ disp: num 160 160 108 258 360 ...
   $ hp : num 110 110 93 110 175 105 245 62 95 123 ...
##
   $ drat: num 3.9 3.9 3.85 3.08 3.15 2.76 3.21 3.69 3.92 3.92 ...
##
##
   $ wt : num 2.62 2.88 2.32 3.21 3.44 ...
   $ qsec: num 16.5 17 18.6 19.4 17 ...
##
##
   $ vs : num 0 0 1 1 0 1 0 1 1 1 ...
##
   $ am : num 1 1 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 ...
   $ gear: num 4 4 4 3 3 3 3 4 4 4 ...
##
##
   $ carb: num 4 4 1 1 2 1 4 2 2 4 ...
names(mtcars)
```

[1] "mpg" "cyl" "disp" "hp" "drat" "wt" "qsec" "vs"

"gear"

Subsetting data frames (III)

We are interesting in the cylinders and the weights of inefficient cars (lower than 15 miles per gallon).

```
poll_cars <- mtcars[mtcars$mpg<15, c("cyl", "wt")]
poll_cars</pre>
```

```
## cyl wt
## Duster 360 8 3.570
## Cadillac Fleetwood 8 5.250
## Lincoln Continental 8 5.424
## Chrysler Imperial 8 5.345
## Camaro Z28 8 3.840
```

Subsetting data frames (IV)

Alternatively:

```
poll_cars <- subset(mtcars, subset = mpg<15, select = c("cyl", "wt"))
poll_cars</pre>
```

```
## cyl wt
## Duster 360 8 3.570
## Cadillac Fleetwood 8 5.250
## Lincoln Continental 8 5.424
## Chrysler Imperial 8 5.345
## Camaro Z28 8 3.840
```

Importing data frames (I)

You can import csv data using:

```
setwd("~/Google Drive/T_2019c_UCA_ETRICS/data/")
nyc_ab <- read.csv("AB_NYC_2019.csv")</pre>
```

where:

- setwd() sets the working directory to the place where the data is saved;
- ▶ read.csv() loads the csv file with the specified name.

Basic Programming

Variables

In programming, a variable denotes an object (i.e. a variable is a name or a label for something).

```
x <- 1
f <- function(x) {x*2+2}
```

Notice that the argument x of the function is different from the x previously defined. The second is only local to the function and always required to be specified.

Try to compute 4 or 20.

Control Flows (I)

Also known as an if/else statement. It relates to ways in which you can adapt your code to different circumstances.

Based on a condition being TRUE, your program will do one thing, as opposed to another thing.

In R, the if/else syntax has the following structure:

```
if (condition == TRUE) {
  do_something
} else {
  do_something_different
}
```

```
## [1] "do something"
```

Control Flows (II) - Example

[1] "z is equal to 2"

```
x <- 1
y <- 3
if (x>y) {
  print("x is larger than y")
  z <- x*y
  print(paste0("z is equal to ", z))
} else {
  print("x is smaller or equal than y")
  z <- x*y - 1
  print(paste0("z is equal to ", z))
}
### [1] "x is smaller or equal than y"</pre>
```

Control Flows (III) - Example with more conditions

```
x < -3
y <- 3
if (x>y) {
  print("x is larger than y")
  z < -x*y + 1
  print(paste0("z is equal to ", z))
} else if (x==y) {
  print("x is equal than y")
  z <- x*v
  print(paste0("z is equal to ", z))
} else {
  print("x is smaller than y")
  z < -x*y - 1
  print(paste0("z is equal to ", z))
## [1] "x is equal than y"
```

[1] "z is equal to 9"

Loops (I)

As the name suggests, in a loop the program repeats a set of instructions many times, until some condition tells it to stop.

A very powerful, yet simple, construction is that the program can count how many steps it has done already - which may be important to know for many algorithms.

The syntax of a for loop is the following:

```
for (i in 1:10){
    # does not have to be 1:10!
    # loop body: gets executed each time
    # the value of i changes with each iteration
}
```

Loops (II) - Example

Produce a loop that displays the double of the loop round.

```
## [1] 2
## [1] 4
```

[1] 4 ## [1] 6 ## [1] 8

[1] 8 ## [1] 10

Loops (III) - Example with more loops

You can even have loops into other loops.

These can be useful for exploring combinations of events:

```
quantity <- c(2,3)
fruits <- c("mangos", "apples", "bananas")

for (i in quantity){ # first nest: for each i
   for (j in fruits){ # second nest: for each j
      print(paste("Can I get",i,j,"please?"))
   }
}</pre>
```

```
## [1] "Can I get 2 mangos please?"
## [1] "Can I get 2 apples please?"
## [1] "Can I get 2 bananas please?"
## [1] "Can I get 3 mangos please?"
## [1] "Can I get 3 apples please?"
## [1] "Can I get 3 bananas please?"
```

Functions (I)

So far we have been using functions, but haven't actually discussed some of their details.

A function is a set of instructions that R executes for us, much like those collected in a script file.

The good thing is that functions are much more flexible than scripts, since they can depend on input arguments, which change the way the function behaves.

Functions (II)

Here is how to define a function in general:

```
function_name <- function(arg1 ,arg2=default_value){
    # function body
    # you do stuff with arg1 and arg2
    # you can have any number of arguments, with or without defaults
    # any valid `R` commands can be included here
    # the last line is returned
}</pre>
```

Function (III) - Example

```
hello <- function(your_name = "Lord Vader"){
    paste("You R most welcome,", your_name)
    # we could also write:
    # return(paste("You R most welcome,",your_name))
}
# we call the function by typing it's name with round brackets
hello()

## [1] "You R most welcome, Lord Vader"
hello("Mattia")

## [1] "You R most welcome, Mattia"
```

| Working with Data (tydiverse library) |
|---------------------------------------|
| |

Tidyverse

The tidyverse is a collection of R packages designed for data science.

All packages share an underlying design philosophy, grammar, and data structures.

Useful info here: https://www.tidyverse.org

Install it with the command install.packages("tidyverse")

Load it with the command library(tidyverse)

Tidyverse packages (some of them)

The core tidyverse package includes (among the others)

- magrittr operators and verbs to decrease development time and improve readability of code (i.e. to make your code smokin')
- dplyr set of verbs that solve the most common data manipulation challenges
- ▶ tidyr set of functions that help you get to tidy data.
- ► readr and readxl fast and friendly way to read rectangular data (like .csv and .xls)
- ▶ ggplot2 system for declaratively creating graphics, based on The *Grammar of Graphics* (next section)

Note: it does not contain the 'reshape2' package!

from magrittr: the pipe operator

We'll learn the new commands using the mtcars dataset.

The operator %% (Cmd + Shift + M) pipes the left-hand side values forward into expressions that appear on the right-hand side – e.g. one can replace f(x) with x % > % f().

```
9 %>%
 sqrt() %>% # 3
 + 22
            # 25
## [1] 25
mtcars %>%
 subset (mpg<15)
##
                      mpg cyl disp hp drat wt qsec vs am gear carb
                     14.3
                           8 360 245 3.21 3.570 15.84
## Duster 360
## Cadillac Fleetwood 10.4
                           8 472 205 2.93 5.250 17.98 0 0
## Lincoln Continental 10.4 8 460 215 3.00 5.424 17.82 0 0
                                                              3
## Chrysler Imperial
                     14.7
                           8 440 230 3.23 5.345 17.42 0 0
## Camaro Z28
                     13.3
                              350 245 3.73 3.840 15.41
```

from dplyr: select() variables by columns

Rather than using the \$ you can use select

```
?dplyr::select
head(select(mtcars, c(mpg, cyl)))
```

```
## mpg cyl
## Mazda RX4 21.0 6
## Mazda RX4 Wag 21.0 6
## Datsun 710 22.8 4
## Hornet 4 Drive 21.4 6
## Hornet Sportabout 18.7 8
## Valiant 18.1 6
```

from dplyr: filter() variables by row conditions

Rather than using the subset function you can use filter ?dplyr::filter

```
filter(mtcars, mpg<15)</pre>
```

But... we lose the names of the cars!!

combining dplyr and magrittr

We can combine into a easily readable format functions from the two packages.

```
mtcars %>%
  rownames_to_column('name') %>% # from library tibble
  select(name, mpg, cyl) %>%
  filter(mpg<15)</pre>
```

```
## name mpg cyl
## 1 Duster 360 14.3 8
## 2 Cadillac Fleetwood 10.4 8
## 3 Lincoln Continental 10.4 8
## 4 Chrysler Imperial 14.7 8
## 5 Camaro Z28 13.3 8
```

from dplyr: mutate() variables

What if we would like to measure consumption in km/l rather than m/g or if we need to measure the log of horsepowers.

```
mtcars %>%
  rownames_to_column('name') %>%
  select(name, mpg, hp) %>%
  filter(mpg<15) %>%
  mutate(kml = mpg*0.425144) %>% # 0.425144 is the conversion ratio
  mutate(lhp = log(hp))
```

```
## name mpg hp kml lhp
## 1 Duster 360 14.3 245 6.079559 5.501258
## 2 Cadillac Fleetwood 10.4 205 4.421498 5.323010
## 3 Lincoln Continental 10.4 215 4.421498 5.370638
## 4 Chrysler Imperial 14.7 230 6.249617 5.438079
## 5 Camaro Z28 13.3 245 5.654415 5.501258
```

from dplyr: arrange() variables

What if we don't like the order of the variables?

And what if we'd like to display them from most to least efficient (in terms of $\rm km/l)$

```
mtcars %>%
  rownames_to_column('name') %>%
  select(name, mpg, hp) %>%
  filter(mpg<15) %>%
  mutate(kml = mpg*0.425144) %>% # 0.425144 is the conversion ratio
  mutate(lhp = log(hp)) %>%
  select(name, mpg, kml, hp, lhp) %>%
  arrange(desc(kml))
```

```
## name mpg kml hp lhp
## 1 Chrysler Imperial 14.7 6.249617 230 5.438079
## 2 Duster 360 14.3 6.079559 245 5.501258
## 3 Camaro Z28 13.3 5.654415 245 5.501258
## 4 Cadillac Fleetwood 10.4 4.421498 205 5.323010
## 5 Lincoln Continental 10.4 4.421498 215 5.370638
```

Digression on data frame formats

https://github.com/rstudio/cheatsheets/blob/master/data-import.pdf

gather(data, key, value, ..., na.rm = FALSE, convert = FALSE, factor_key = FALSE)

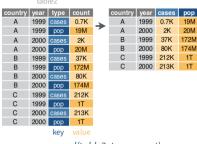
gather() moves column names into a **key** column, gathering the column values into a single **value** column.

country year cases country 1999 2000 0.7K 1999 0.7K 37K 80K 1999 37K 212K 213K 212K 2K 2000 80K 2000 213K kev value

> gather(table4a, `1999`, `2000`, key = "year", value = "cases")

spread(data, key, value, fill = NA, convert = FALSE, drop = TRUE, sep = NULL)

spread() moves the unique values of a **key** column into the column names, spreading the values of a **value** column across the new columns.



spread(table2, type, count)

from tidyr: gather() data frames

```
mtcars %>%
  rownames_to_column('name') %>%
  select(name, mpg, hp) %>%
  filter(mpg<15) %>%
  mutate(kml = mpg*0.425144) %>% # 0.425144 is the conversion ratio
  select(name, mpg, kml) %>%
  gather(key = "variable", "value", -name)
```

```
##
                    name variable
                                      value
## 1
              Duster 360
                              mpg 14.300000
                              mpg 10.400000
## 2 Cadillac Fleetwood
## 3
     Lincoln Continental
                              mpg 10.400000
                              mpg 14.700000
## 4
       Chrysler Imperial
## 5
              Camaro Z28
                              mpg 13.300000
## 6
              Duster 360
                              kml 6.079559
## 7
      Cadillac Fleetwood
                              kml 4.421498
## 8 Lincoln Continental
                              kml 4.421498
## 9
       Chrysler Imperial
                              kml 6.249617
              Camaro 728
                              kml 5.654415
## 10
```