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Chapter 17: Dates and Times

<https://r4ds.hadley.nz/datetimes>

0. Introduction

Objectives

1. **Create** date and datetime objects
2. Work with **datetime components**
3. Perform **arithmetics** on time
4. Recognize ways to deal with **timezones**

```
In [1]: # Import package  
library(tidyverse)  
library(nycflights13)
```

```

— Attaching core tidyverse packages — tidyverse 2.0.
0 —
✓ dplyr      1.1.4      ✓ readr      2.1.5
✓ forcats    1.0.0      ✓ stringr    1.5.1
✓ ggplot2    3.5.1      ✓ tibble     3.2.1
✓ lubridate  1.9.4      ✓ tidyr      1.3.1
✓ purrr      1.0.2
— Conflicts — tidyverse_conflicts
() —
✖ dplyr::filter() masks stats::filter()
✖ dplyr::lag()     masks stats::lag()
i Use the conflicted package (<http://conflicted.r-lib.org/>) to force all c
onflicts to become errors

```

```

In [2]: # information about the dataset
        head(flights,3)

```

A ti

year	month	day	dep_time	sched_dep_time	dep_delay	arr_time	sched_arr_time
<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<dbl>	<int>	<int>
2013	1	1	517	515	2	830	819
2013	1	1	533	529	4	850	830
2013	1	1	542	540	2	923	850

Vocabularies

- Types of date/time objects:
 - date = `<date>` : Stores the date (year, month, day). No time information.
 - time = `<hms>` : Stores the time of day (hours, minutes, seconds). No date information.
 - datetime = `<dtm>` = POSIXct: Includes both date and time information. Time zones can be applied.
- Important to be aware of timezones

```

In [3]: today()
        class(today())

```

2025-01-31

'Date'

```

In [4]: now() # time with timestamp; local time zone
        class(now())

```

```
[1] "2025-01-31 13:15:17 KST"
'POSIXct' · 'POSIXt'
```

- `dtm` : date time class that some R packages(e.g., `lubridate`) utilize.
- `POSIXt` : the default date-time class of R, more broadly utilized.

1. Creating Date and Time Objects

`lubridate` functions

`ymd_hms()`

- By default it puts everything in UTC

```
In [5]: ymd_hms("2025-02-28 15:39:29")
```

```
[1] "2025-02-28 15:39:29 UTC"
```

`make_date()` & `make_datetime()`:

- if you have in your data separate columns for year month day hour minute, etc.
- these will turn into a datetime or date

```
In [6]: head(flights,3)
```

A ti								
year	month	day	dep_time	sched_dep_time	dep_delay	arr_time	sched_arr_time	
<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<int>	<dbl>	<int>	<int>	<int>
2013	1	1	517	515	2	830	819	
2013	1	1	533	529	4	850	830	
2013	1	1	542	540	2	923	850	

?flights

In `flights` dataset,

- `year`, `month`, `day` : Date of departure
- `hour`, `minute` : Time of scheduled departure broken into hour and minutes.

```
In [7]: flights |>
  select(year, month, day, hour, minute) |>
  mutate(
    departure = make_datetime(year, month, day, hour, minute),
    dep_date = make_date(year, month, day)
  ) |>
  head(3)

#departure = <dtm> & dep_date = <date>
```

A tibble: 3 × 7

year	month	day	hour	minute	departure	dep_date
<int>	<int>	<int>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dtm>	<date>
2013	1	1	5	15	2013-01-01 05:15:00	2013-01-01
2013	1	1	5	29	2013-01-01 05:29:00	2013-01-01
2013	1	1	5	40	2013-01-01 05:40:00	2013-01-01

as_date() & as_datetime()

- standardized way to store times, when things will be given as big number which is days or seconds, which is called unix epoch
- Unix Epoch: 1970-01-01 00:00:00 UTC
- `as_date()` : days
- `as_datetime()` : seconds

```
In [8]: as_datetime(365)
```

```
[1] "1970-01-01 00:06:05 UTC"
```

Getting component

- `year()`, `month()`, `hour()`, `minute()`, `second()`
- `day()` :
 - `mday()` : day of month; same with `day`
 - `yday()` : day of year
 - `wday()` : day of week

```
In [9]: now()
```

```
[1] "2025-01-31 13:15:17 KST"
```

```
In [10]: datetime_example <- ymd_hms("2025-03-28 15:39:29")
```

```
In [11]: year(datetime_example)
mday(datetime_example)
```

```
yday(datetime_example) # 31 + 28 = 59
```

2025

28

87

```
In [12]: wday(now()) # order of the level: ['Sun', 'Mon', 'Tue', 'Wed', 'Thu', 'Fri', 'Sat']
wday(now(), label = TRUE)
wday(now(), label = TRUE, abbr = FALSE)
```

6

Fri

► Levels:

Friday

► Levels:

2. Arithmetic on Time

Rounding datetimes

- types:
 - `round_date()`, `floor_date()`, `ceilling_date()`
- argument:
 - `<>_date(<datetime>, unit = "hour")`

```
In [13]: datetime_example
print("=====")
round_date(datetime_example, unit = "hour")
round_date(datetime_example, unit = "min")
round_date(datetime_example, unit = "day")
```

```
[1] "2025-03-28 15:39:29 UTC"
```

```
[1] "====="
```

```
[1] "2025-03-28 16:00:00 UTC"
```

```
[1] "2025-03-28 15:39:00 UTC"
```

```
[1] "2025-03-29 UTC"
```

Updating datetimes

```
In [14]: hour(datetime_example)
```

15

```
In [15]: hour(datetime_example) <- hour(datetime_example) + 1
hour(datetime_example)
datetime_example
```

16

```
[1] "2025-03-28 16:39:29 UTC"
```

```
In [16]: update(datetime_example, years = 2024, months = 5, mdays = 30)
```

```
[1] "2024-05-30 16:39:29 UTC"
```

Concepts of time spans

- **Durations:** exact number of seconds elapsed
- **Periods:** human units (like days)
- **Intervals:** start and end datetime

Duration

```
In [17]: ny_age <- today() - ymd("2004-09-30")  
ny_age
```

Time difference of 7428 days

```
In [18]: as.duration(ny_age) #lubridate always store it in seconds
```

641779200s (~20.34 years)

```
In [19]: #duration days are calculated in num of seconds  
ddays(0:3)  
dhours(2)  
ddays(0:3) + dhours(2)
```

0s · 86400s (~1 days) · 172800s (~2 days) · 259200s (~3 days)

7200s (~2 hours)

7200s (~2 hours) · 93600s (~1.08 days) · 180000s (~2.08 days) · 266400s (~3.08 days)

Period

```
In [20]: days(1)
```

1d 0H 0M 0S

```
In [21]: ymd_hms(now(), tz = "Asia/Seoul")  
ymd_hms(now(), tz = "Asia/Seoul") + days(1)
```

```
[1] "2025-01-31 13:15:17 KST"
```

```
[1] "2025-02-01 13:15:17 KST"
```

Interval

```
In [22]: y2023 <- ymd("2023-01-01") %--% ymd("2024-01-01")  
y2023  
y2023 / days(1) # how many period (days) in 2023
```

2023-01-01 UTC--2024-01-01 UTC

365

%--% = to

```
In [23]: y2024 <- ymd("2024-01-01") %--% ymd("2025-01-01")
y2024
y2024 / days(1)
```

2024-01-01 UTC--2025-01-01 UTC

366

```
In [24]: class(y2024)
```

'Interval'

```
In [25]: y2024 / days(1)
y2024 / ddays(1)
y2024 / dyears(1)
```

366

366

1.00205338809035

Summary

```
In [26]: start_time <- ymd("2025-01-01")
```

```
In [27]: # Duration: Fixed in seconds >> Calculates exact difference in "seconds" aft
dmonths(12)
start_time + dyears(1)
```

31557600s (~1 years)

[1] "2026-01-01 06:00:00 UTC"

```
In [28]: # Period: Calculates the date exactly one year later based on the calendar
years(1)
start_time + years(1)
```

1y 0m 0d 0H 0M 0S

2026-01-01

```
In [29]: # Interval: Compares the duration between two dates
time_interval <- start_time %--% (start_time + years(1))
as.duration(time_interval) # 실제 초 단위 계산
```

31536000s (~52.14 weeks)

NOTE

- **Duration** (in years)
 - `lubridate` calculates time based on an average year length of 365.25 days (accounting for leap years).
 - 1 year = approximately 365.25 days, 1 day = 86,400 seconds.
 - `dmonths(12)` = $365.25 \times 86,400 = 31,557,600$ seconds.

- **Interval** (in weeks)
 - Calculated based on actual calendar dates → the number of days between the start and end date.
 - `%--%` creates an interval, and calling `as.duration()` returns the exact number of seconds between the start and end dates.
 - Since 2025 is not a leap year, exactly 365 days (31,536,000 seconds) are used.

3. Time Zone

- The package, `clock` for backend (easier to update)
- Definition of time zone is still changing:
 - Daylight saving

```
In [30]: internship_start_korea <- ymd_hms("2025-01-02 09:00:00", tz = "Asia/Seoul")
```

```
In [31]: internship_start_korea
[1] "2025-01-02 09:00:00 KST"
```

Converting time zone

```
In [32]: # Keep the definition of the time but only fix the time zone
force_tz(internship_start_korea, "Europe/Paris")
[1] "2025-01-02 09:00:00 CET"
```

```
In [33]: with_tz(internship_start_korea, "Europe/Paris")
[1] "2025-01-02 01:00:00 CET"
```

```
In [34]: with_tz(internship_start_korea, "America/Chicago")
with_tz(internship_start_korea, "Australia/Sydney")
[1] "2025-01-01 18:00:00 CST"
[1] "2025-01-02 11:00:00 AEDT"
```

Daylight saving time

```
In [35]: internship_starts <- internship_start_korea + weeks(9:20)
internship_starts #|> hour()
[1] "2025-03-06 09:00:00 KST" "2025-03-13 09:00:00 KST"
[3] "2025-03-20 09:00:00 KST" "2025-03-27 09:00:00 KST"
[5] "2025-04-03 09:00:00 KST" "2025-04-10 09:00:00 KST"
[7] "2025-04-17 09:00:00 KST" "2025-04-24 09:00:00 KST"
[9] "2025-05-01 09:00:00 KST" "2025-05-08 09:00:00 KST"
[11] "2025-05-15 09:00:00 KST" "2025-05-22 09:00:00 KST"
```

Europe/Rome starts DST on the last Sunday of March, moving one hour ahead


```
In [36]: internship_starts |> with_tz("Europe/Rome") |> hour()
```

1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 2 · 2 · 2 · 2 · 2 · 2 · 2

America/Chicago starts DST on the second Sunday of March

- Usually CST(Central Standard Time, UTC-6)
- While DST, CDT(Central Daylight Time, UTC-5)

```
In [37]: internship_starts_chicago <- with_tz(internship_start_korea, "America/Chicago")
internship_starts_chicago #|> hour()
```

```
[1] "2025-03-05 18:00:00 CST" "2025-03-12 18:00:00 CDT"
[3] "2025-03-19 18:00:00 CDT" "2025-03-26 18:00:00 CDT"
[5] "2025-04-02 18:00:00 CDT" "2025-04-09 18:00:00 CDT"
[7] "2025-04-16 18:00:00 CDT" "2025-04-23 18:00:00 CDT"
[9] "2025-04-30 18:00:00 CDT" "2025-05-07 18:00:00 CDT"
[11] "2025-05-14 18:00:00 CDT" "2025-05-21 18:00:00 CDT"
```

```
In [38]: internship_starts_chicago |> with_tz("Europe/Rome") |> hour()
```

1 · 0 · 0 · 0 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1 · 1

UTC is not affected by DST

```
In [39]: internship_starts_chicago |> with_tz("UTC") |> hour()
```

0 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23 · 23

Australia/Sydney ends DST on the first Sunday of April

```
In [40]: internship_starts_chicago |> with_tz("Australia/Sydney") |> hour()
```

11 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 10 · 9 · 9 · 9 · 9 · 9 · 9