Dates and Times

Packages for this section

```r
library(tidyverse)
# library(lubridate)
```

`lubridate` is the package that handles dates and times, but is now part of the `tidyverse`, so no need to load separately.

Dates

- Dates represented on computers as “days since an origin”, typically Jan 1, 1970, with a negative date being before the origin:

```
mydates <- c("1970-01-01", "2007-09-04", "1931-08-05")
(somedates <- tibble(text = mydates) %>%
  mutate(
    d = as.Date(text),
    numbers = as.numeric(d)
  ))
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
  text       d          numbers
  <chr>      <date>       <dbl>
1 1970-01-01 1970-01-01       0
2 2007-09-04 2007-09-04   13760
3 1931-08-05 1931-08-05  -14029
```

Doing arithmetic with dates

- Dates are “actually” numbers, so can add and subtract (difference is 2007 date in d minus others):

```
somedates %>% mutate(plus30 = d + 30, diffs = d[2] - d)
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 5
  text       d          numbers plus30     diffs
  <chr>      <date>       <dbl> <date>     <drtn>
1 1970-01-01 1970-01-01       0 1970-01-31 13760 days
2 2007-09-04 2007-09-04   13760 2007-10-04     0 days
3 1931-08-05 1931-08-05  -14029 1931-09-04 27789 days
```

Reading in dates from a file

- `read_csv` and the others can guess that you have dates, if you format them as year-month-day, like column 1 of this `.csv`:

```
date,status,dunno
2011-08-03,hello,August 3 2011
2011-11-15,still here,November 15 2011
2012-02-01,goodbye,February 1 2012
```

- Then read them in:

```r
my_url <- "http://ritsokiguess.site/datafiles/mydates.csv"
ddd <- read_csv(my_url)
```

- read_csv guessed that the 1st column is dates, but not 3rd.

The data as read in

```
ddd
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
  date       status     dunno
  <date>     <chr>      <chr>
1 2011-08-03 hello      August 3 2011
2 2011-11-15 still here November 15 2011
3 2012-02-01 goodbye    February 1 2012
```

Dates in other formats

- Preceding shows that dates should be stored as text in format yyyy-mm-dd (ISO standard).
- To deal with dates in other formats, use package `lubridate` and convert. For example, dates in US format with month first:

```
tibble(usdates = c("05/27/2012", "01/03/2016", "12/31/2015"))
  mutate(iso = mdy(usdates))
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 2
  usdates    iso
  <chr>      <date>
1 05/27/2012 2012-05-27
2 01/03/2016 2016-01-03
3 12/31/2015 2015-12-31
```

Trying to read these as UK dates

```
tibble(usdates = c("05/27/2012", "01/03/2016", "12/31/2015"))
  mutate(uk = dmy(usdates))
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 2
  usdates    uk
  <chr>      <date>
1 05/27/2012 NA
2 01/03/2016 2016-03-01
3 12/31/2015 NA
```

- For UK-format dates with month second, one of these dates is legit (but wrong), but the other two make no sense.

Our data frame's last column:

- Back to this:

```
ddd
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
  date       status     dunno
  <date>     <chr>      <chr>
1 2011-08-03 hello      August 3 2011
2 2011-11-15 still here November 15 2011
3 2012-02-01 goodbye    February 1 2012
```

- Month, day, year in that order.

so interpret as such

```
(ddd %>% mutate(date2 = mdy(dunno)) -> d4)
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 4
  date       status     dunno            date2
  <date>     <chr>      <chr>            <date>
1 2011-08-03 hello      August 3 2011    2011-08-03
2 2011-11-15 still here November 15 2011 2011-11-15
3 2012-02-01 goodbye    February 1 2012  2012-02-01
```

Are they really the same?

- Column date2 was correctly converted from column dunno:

```
d4 %>% mutate(equal = identical(date, date2))
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 5
  date       status     dunno            date2      equal
  <date>     <chr>      <chr>            <date>     <lgl>
1 2011-08-03 hello      August 3 2011    2011-08-03 TRUE
2 2011-11-15 still here November 15 2011 2011-11-15 TRUE
3 2012-02-01 goodbye    February 1 2012  2012-02-01 TRUE
```

- The two columns of dates are all the same.

Making dates from pieces

Starting from this file:

```
year month day
1970 1 1
2007 9 4
1940 4 15
```

```
my_url <- "http://ritsokiguess.site/datafiles/pieces.txt"
dates0 <- read_delim(my_url, " ")
```

Making some dates

```
dates0
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
   year month   day
  <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
1  1970     1     1
2  2007     9     4
3  1940     4    15
```

```
dates0 %>%
  unite(dates, day, month, year) %>%
  mutate(d = dmy(dates)) -> newdates
```

The results

```
newdates
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 2
  dates     d
  <chr>     <date>
1 1_1_1970  1970-01-01
2 4_9_2007  2007-09-04
3 15_4_1940 1940-04-15
```

- `unite` glues things together with an underscore between them (if you don't specify anything else). Syntax: first thing is new column to be created, other columns are what to make it out of.
- `unite` makes the original variable columns year, month, day *disappear*.
- The column `dates` is text, while `d` is a real date.

Extracting information from dates

```
newdates %>%
  mutate(
    mon = month(d),
    day = day(d),
    weekday = wday(d, label = TRUE)
  )
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 5
  dates     d            mon   day weekday
  <chr>     <date>     <dbl> <int> <ord>
1 1_1_1970  1970-01-01     1     1 Thu
2 4_9_2007  2007-09-04     9     4 Tue
3 15_4_1940 1940-04-15     4    15 Mon
```

Dates and times

- Standard format for times is to put the time after the date, hours, minutes, seconds:

```
(dd <- tibble(text = c(
  "1970-01-01 07:50:01", "2007-09-04 15:30:00",
  "1940-04-15 06:45:10", "2016-02-10 12:26:40"
)))
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 1
  text
  <chr>
1 1970-01-01 07:50:01
2 2007-09-04 15:30:00
3 1940-04-15 06:45:10
4 2016-02-10 12:26:40
```

Converting text to date-times:

- Then get from this text using ymd_hms:

```
dd %>% mutate(dt = ymd_hms(text)) %>% pull(dt)
```

```
[1] "1970-01-01 07:50:01 UTC" "2007-09-04 15:30:00 UTC"
[3] "1940-04-15 06:45:10 UTC" "2016-02-10 12:26:40 UTC"
```

Timezones

- Default timezone is “Universal Coordinated Time”. Change it via `tz=` and the name of a timezone:

```
dd %>%
  mutate(dt = ymd_hms(text, tz = "America/Toronto")) -> dd
dd %>% mutate(zone = tz(dt))
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 3
  text                dt                  zone
  <chr>               <dttm>              <chr>
1 1970-01-01 07:50:01 1970-01-01 07:50:01 America/Toronto
2 2007-09-04 15:30:00 2007-09-04 15:30:00 America/Toronto
3 1940-04-15 06:45:10 1940-04-15 06:45:10 America/Toronto
4 2016-02-10 12:26:40 2016-02-10 12:26:40 America/Toronto
```

Finding a timezone name

- Use `OlsonNames()`. Some of them:

```
sample(OlsonNames(), 10)
```

```
[1] "Africa/Dakar"      "Asia/Kuala_Lumpur"
[3] "Etc/GMT0"          "America/Merida"
[5] "Etc/GMT-13"        "America/Santiago"
[7] "Asia/Tehran"       "Africa/Douala"
[9] "Asia/Kathmandu"    "Asia/Beirut"
```

Extracting time parts

- As you would expect:

```
dd %>%
  select(-text) %>%
  mutate(
    h = hour(dt), sec = second(dt),
    min = minute(dt), zone = tz(dt)
  )
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 5
  dt                        h   sec   min zone
  <dttm>                  <int> <dbl> <int> <chr>
1 1970-01-01 07:50:01     7     1    50 America/Toronto
2 2007-09-04 15:30:00    15     0    30 America/Toronto
3 1940-04-15 06:45:10     6    10    45 America/Toronto
4 2016-02-10 12:26:40    12    40    26 America/Toronto
```

Same times, but different time zone:

```r
dd %>%
  select(dt) %>%
  mutate(oz = with_tz(dt, "Australia/Sydney"))
```

```
# A tibble: 4 x 2
  dt                  oz
  <dttm>              <dttm>
1 1970-01-01 07:50:01 1970-01-01 22:50:01
2 2007-09-04 15:30:00 2007-09-05 05:30:00
3 1940-04-15 06:45:10 1940-04-15 21:45:10
4 2016-02-10 12:26:40 2016-02-11 04:26:40
```

In more detail

```r
dd %>%
  mutate(oz = with_tz(dt, "Australia/Sydney")) %>%
  pull(oz)
```

```
[1] "1970-01-01 22:50:01 AEST" "2007-09-05 05:30:00 AEST"
[3] "1940-04-15 21:45:10 AEST" "2016-02-11 04:26:40 AEDT"
```

“Australian Eastern Time”, Standard or Daylight. Note when the Australian summer is.

How long between date-times?

- We may need to calculate the time between two events. For example, these are the dates and times that some patients were admitted to and discharged from a hospital:

```
admit,discharge
1981-12-10 22:00:00,1982-01-03 14:00:00
2014-03-07 14:00:00,2014-03-08 09:30:00
2016-08-31 21:00:00,2016-09-02 17:00:00
```

Do they get read in as date-times?

- These ought to get read in and converted to date-times:

```
my_url <- "http://ritsokiguess.site/datafiles/hospital.csv"
stays <- read_csv(my_url)
stays
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 2
  admit               discharge
  <dttm>              <dttm>
1 1981-12-10 22:00:00 1982-01-03 14:00:00
2 2014-03-07 14:00:00 2014-03-08 09:30:00
3 2016-08-31 21:00:00 2016-09-02 17:00:00
```

- and so it proves.

Subtracting the date-times

- In the obvious way, this gets us an answer:

```
stays %>% mutate(stay = discharge - admit)
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
  admit                discharge            stay
  <dttm>               <dttm>               <drtn>
1 1981-12-10 22:00:00 1982-01-03 14:00:00 568.0 hours
2 2014-03-07 14:00:00 2014-03-08 09:30:00  19.5 hours
3 2016-08-31 21:00:00 2016-09-02 17:00:00  44.0 hours
```

- Number of hours; hard to interpret.

Days

- Fractional number of days would be better:

```
stays %>%
  mutate(
    stay_days = as.period(admit %--% discharge) / days(1))
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
  admit               discharge           stay_days
  <dttm>              <dttm>                  <dbl>
1 1981-12-10 22:00:00 1982-01-03 14:00:00    23.7
2 2014-03-07 14:00:00 2014-03-08 09:30:00     0.812
3 2016-08-31 21:00:00 2016-09-02 17:00:00     1.83
```

Completed days

- Pull out with `day()` etc, as for a date-time:

```
stays %>%
  mutate(
    stay = as.period(admit %--% discharge),
    stay_days = day(stay),
    stay_hours = hour(stay)
    ) %>%
  select(starts_with("stay"))
```

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
  stay             stay_days stay_hours
  <Period>             <dbl>      <dbl>
1 23d 16H 0M 0S           23         16
2 19H 30M 0S               0         19
3 1d 20H 0M 0S             1         20
```

Comments

- Date-times are stored internally as seconds-since-something, so that subtracting two of them will give, internally, a number of seconds.
- Just subtracting the date-times is displayed as a time (in units that R chooses for us).
- Convert to fractional times via a "period", then divide by `days(1)`, `months(1)` etc.
- These ideas useful for calculating time from a start point until an event happens (in this case, a patient being discharged from hospital).