The structure of data

Research Methods and Skills

17/10/2023

Writing R Scripts

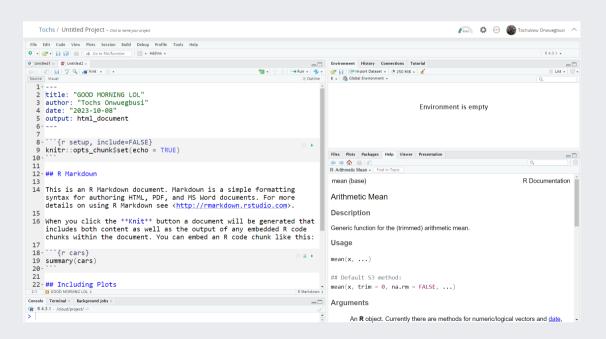
Scripts are text documents that contain a sequence of commands to be executed sequentially.

A typical script looks something like this:

RMarkdown

RMarkdown documents contain a mixture of code and plain text.

They can be used to produce *reports* and fully formatted documents with whatever structure you choose.



Basic data types

There are five basic data types in R:

Туре	Description	Examples
integer	Whole numbers	1, 2, 3
numeric	Any real number, fractions	3.4, 2, -2.3
character	Text	"Hi there", "8.5", "ABC123"
logical	Assertion of truth/falsity	TRUE, FALSE
complex	Real and imaginary numbers	0.34+5.3i

Containers

Vectors are one-dimensional collections of values of the same basic data type.

Matrices are two-dimensional collections of values of the same basic data type.

Lists are collections of objects of varying length and type.

Data frames are tables of data.





Accessing elements from containers

You can use the [] operator after the name of an object to extract indvidual elements from that object.

```
one_to_four

## Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday
## 1 2 3 4 ## 3

test_matrix

## [,1] [,2] [,3] ## [1,] -1.399397 -1.3300657 -1.5366165 ## [1,] 2.2382
## [2,] 2.238213 -1.8073667 0.2787103 ## [2,] -1.38086
## [3,] -1.380869 -0.8710408 1.7509458
```

```
one_to_four["Wednesday"]

## Wednesday
## 3

test_matrix[2:3, 1:2]

## [1,] [,2]
## [1,] 2.238213 -1.8073667
## [2,] -1.380869 -0.8710408
```



Tidyverse



The **tidyverse** is a collection of packages that expand R's functions in a structured, coherent way.

```
install.packages("tidyverse")
```

There are eight core **tidyverse** packages loaded using **library(tidyverse)**.

- ggplot2
- tidyr
- dplyr
- tibble

- purrr
- readr
- stringr
- forcats

Tidyverse



You can load all these packages at once.

library(tidyverse) # This loads all the tidyverse packages at once

You can also load each one individually. We'll be using the **tibble** package next.

library(tibble)

Many of the *tidyverse* packages create or output *tibbles*, which are essentially a more user-friendly version of data frames.

Tibbles

3

6

4

5

You can create a *tibble* similar to how you create a data frame, using **tibble()**.

3 1.08 Old

4 0.117 Old

5 0.144 Old

6 0.806 Young

Tibbles

```
age_tibb <-
  tibble(Participant = 1:10,
       cond1 = rnorm(10),
       age_group = rep(c("Old", "Young"), each = 5))</pre>
```

Here I used the **rep()** function to generate a character vector with the values "Old" and "Young".

```
rep(c("Old", "Young"), each = 5)

## [1] "Old" "Old" "Old" "Old" "Young" "Young" "Young" "Young"
## [10] "Young"

rep(c("Old", "Young"), 5)

## [1] "Old" "Young" "Old" "Young" "Old" "Young" "Old" "Young" "Old"
## [10] "Young"
```

Importing data into R

Different types of file

Data comes in many different shapes, sizes, and formats.

The most common file formats you'll deal with are either Excel files or text files, but you may also find dealing with SPSS files useful.

Fortunately, R has several functions and packages for importing data!

File formats	File extension	Functions	Package
SPSS	.sav	read_sav()	library(haven)
Excel	.xls, .xlsx	read_excel()	library(readxl)
Text	.csv, .txt, .*	read_csv(), read_delim()	library(readr)

Importing data into R

Comma-separated values

FearofCrime - Notepad

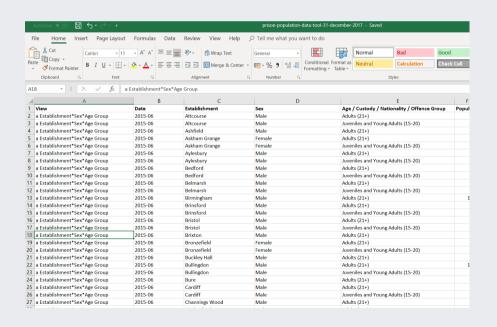
<u>File Edit Format View Help</u>

ResponseED, ResponseEt, Name, ExternalDataReference, Status, StartDate, Endbate, Finished, Consent Form / This study includes a range of questionnaling individual..., sex, age, hexaco1, hexaco2, hexaco3, hexaco

12:19,1,1,2,66,2,4,2,4,4,4,4,2,4,2,3,4,5,1,4,3,2,3,2,2,2,4,3,1,2,2,3,2,3,2,1,1,2,3,2,4,4,4,2,4,4,3,2,2,3,4,2,3,2,3,4,2,3,4,2,3,4,3,2,1,6.731,2(4,1,1,3,4,4,2,3,1,1,3,3,2,3,4,2,3,4,3,2,3,2,3,2,3,2,3,3,2,3,3,2,4,1,10.079,106.581,108.009,29,1,2,1,1 ReabVUevelliciphy, Lefault Response Set, Anonymous, 0, 90/10/14 12:15, 20/10/14

12:43,1,1,2,41,1,5,4,4,4,3,4,4,4,1,3,4,5,2,3,2,4,2,2,2,4,4,3,2,5,2,4,4,3,4,1,2,3,2,2,5,3,4,3,2,2,3,4,2,2,2,5,4,3,3,2,3,1,2,3,1,2,4,3,3,1,4,132,2,5,3,3,3,3,2,3,1,2,1,2,1,2,2,3,2,2,2,2,2,3,3,1,3,2,2,3,4,4,1,2,3,5,5,4,5,3,2,5,1,3,2,4,1,3,3,5,3,9,927,99.694,100.855,29,1,2,4,3,2,8,9062glhff1Vx6yp,Default Response Set,Anonymous,9,0,20/10/14 12:02/2,20/10/14

Excel spreadsheets



Fear of Crime Dataset

Ellis & Renouf (2018) - the relationship between fear of crime and various personality measures.

Their data is openly available, stored as text in a *comma-separated-values* format (*.csv*).

Once again, we can use the import button or some code (with **read_csv()**) to load this data in and automatically format it into a *tibble*.

```
library(readr)
FearofCrime <- read_csv("data/FearofCrime.CSV")</pre>
```

See also Ellis & Merdian, 2015, Frontiers in Psychology

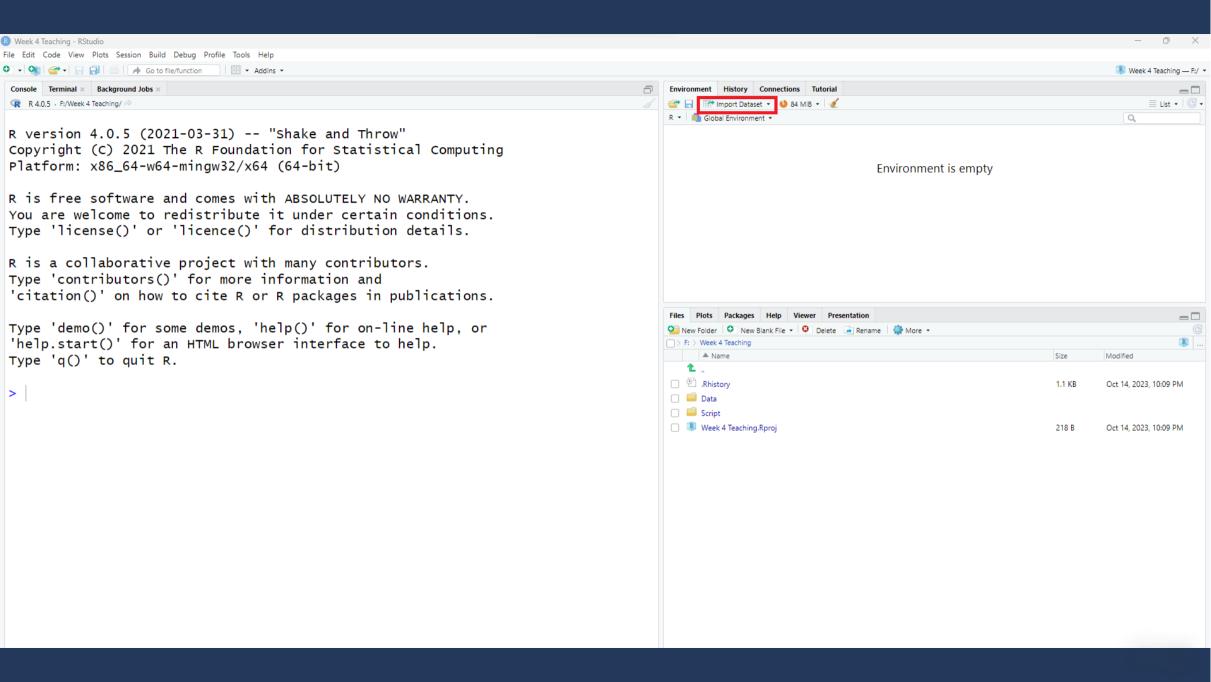
Fear of Crime Dataset

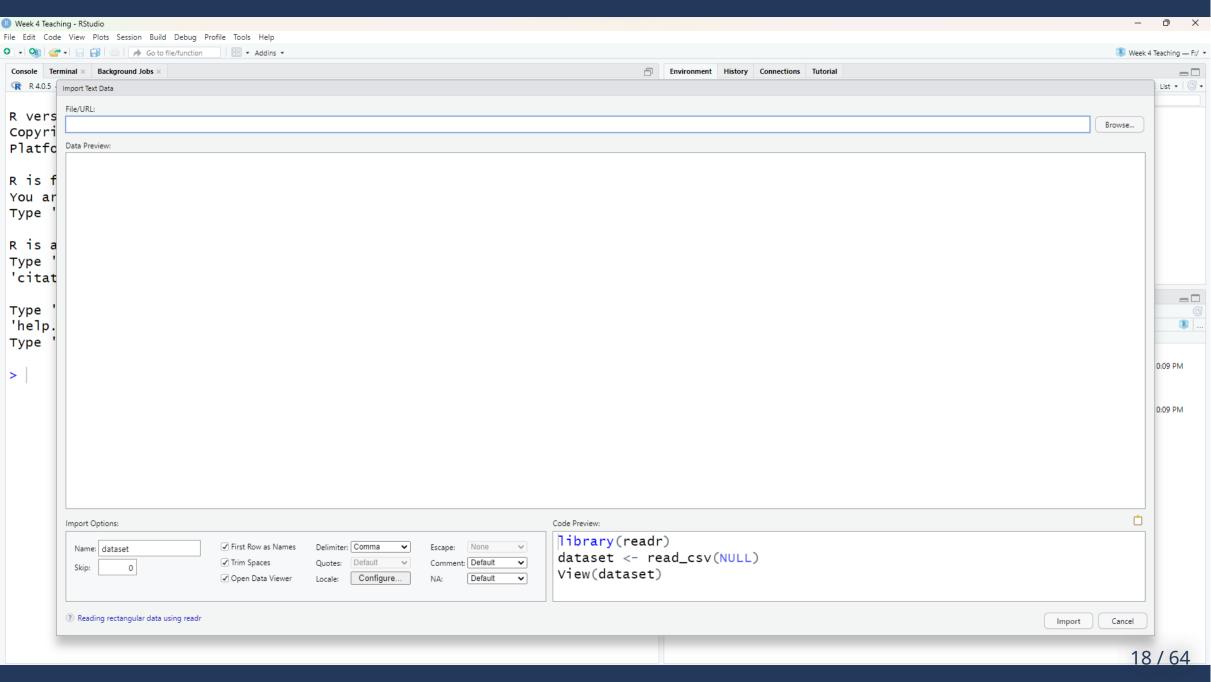
Ellis & Renouf (2018) collected data online using Qualtrics.

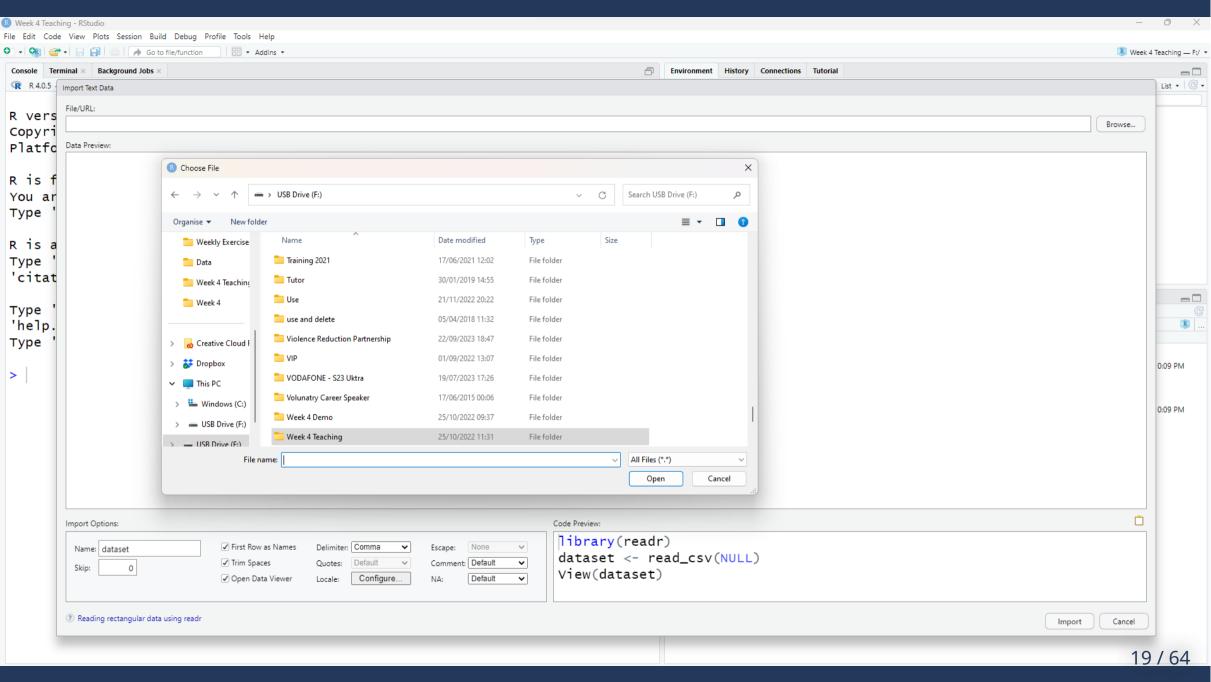
The file contains one column for each question that the participants answered, for a total of 169(!) columns.

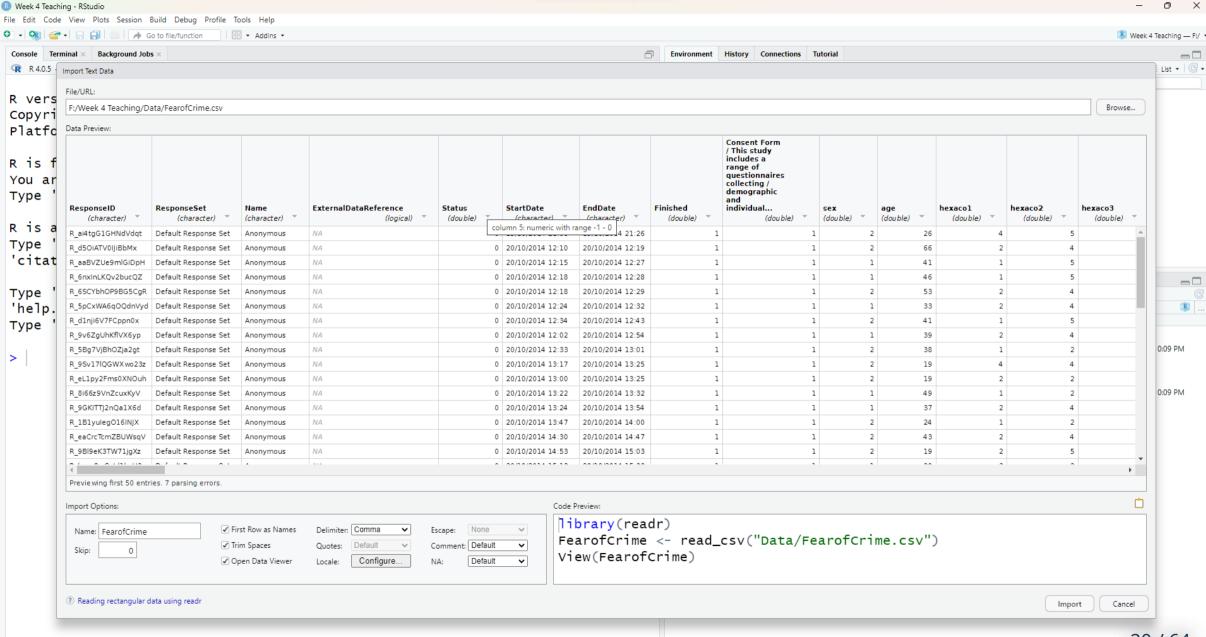
Each row represent a single participant's responses, and their demographic information.

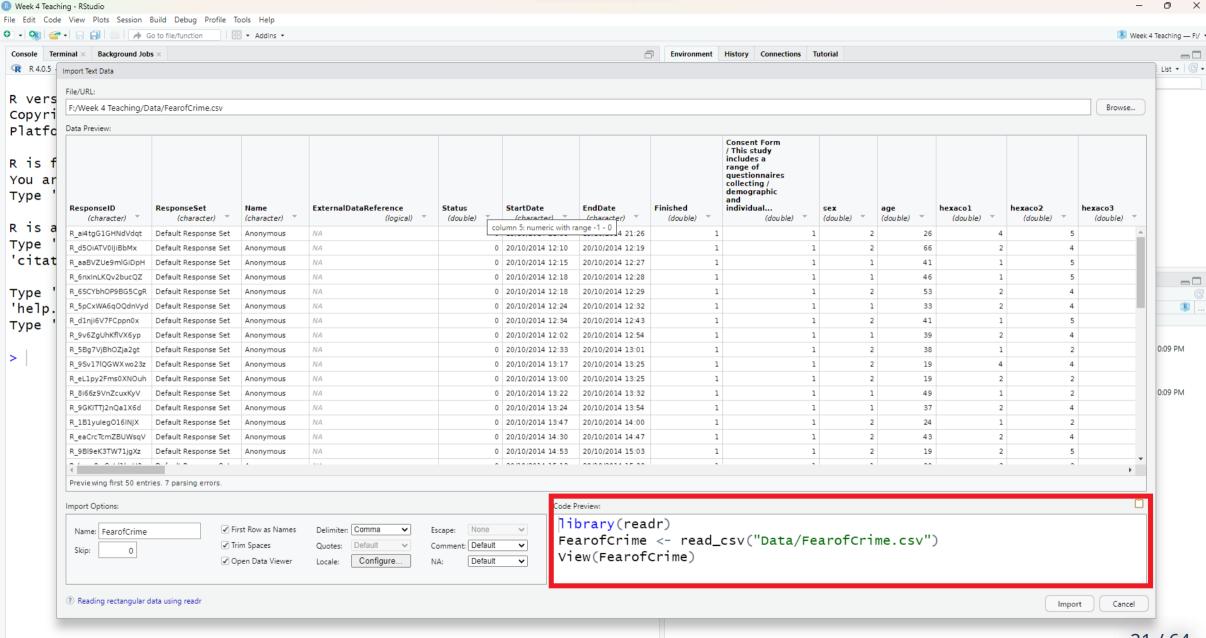
FearofCrime

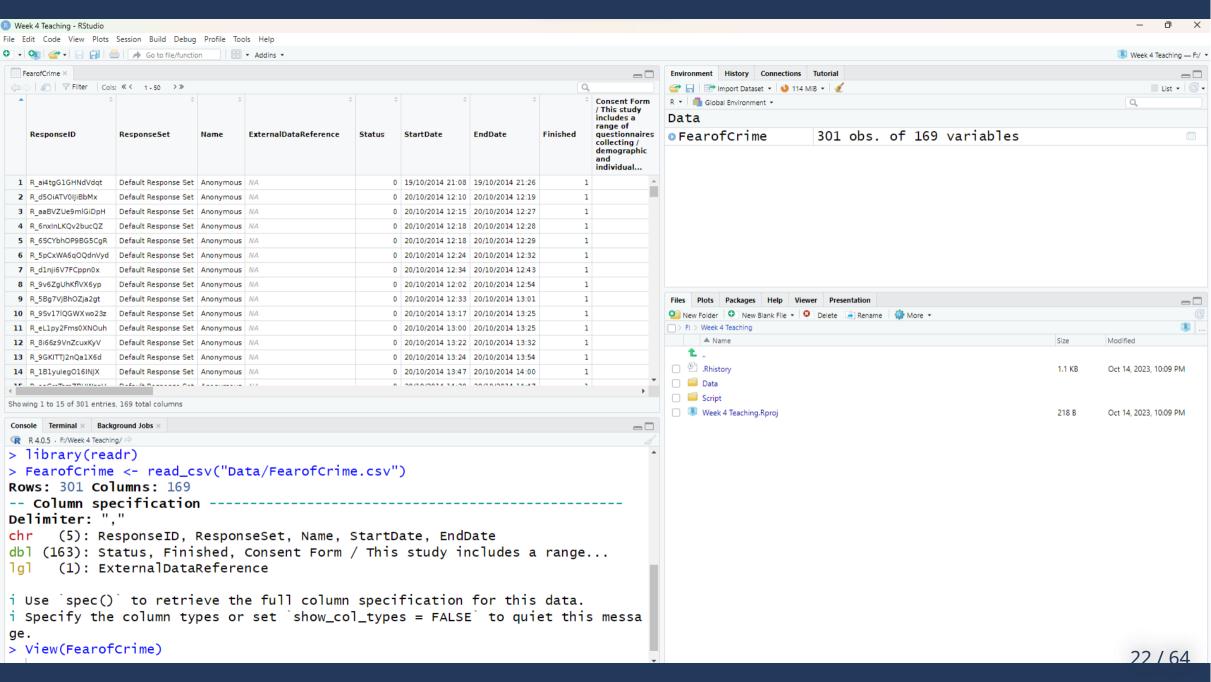




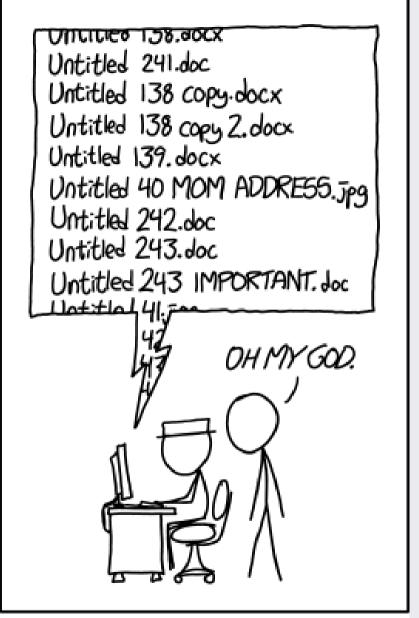








Keeping your analyses organised



PROTIP: NEVER LOOK IN SOMEONE. ELSE'S DOCUMENTS FOLDER.

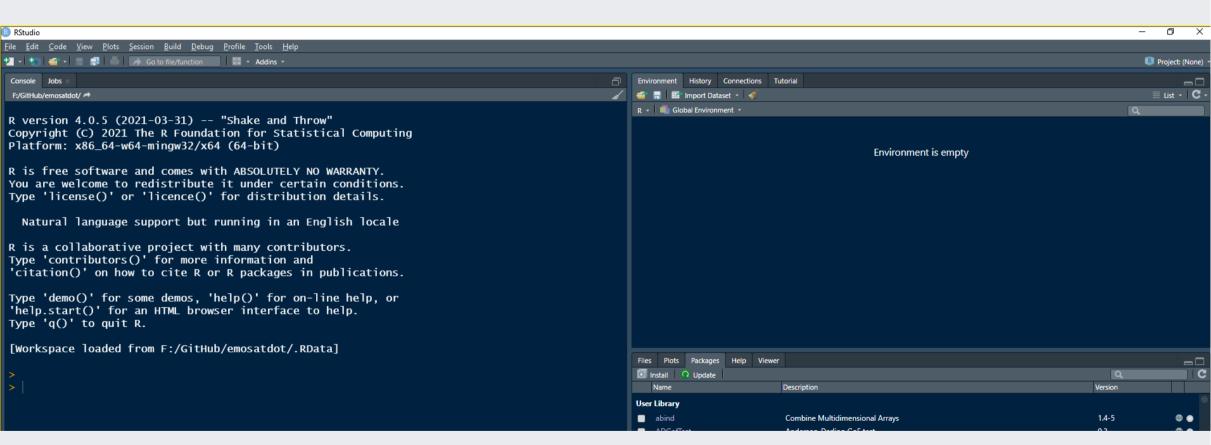
RStudio Projects

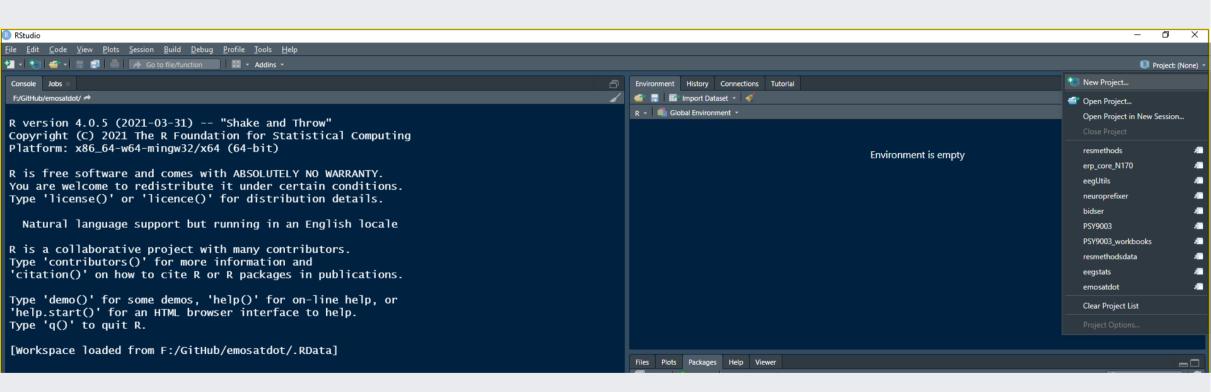
On RStudio.cloud, each project you create is in fact a completely separate instance of R.

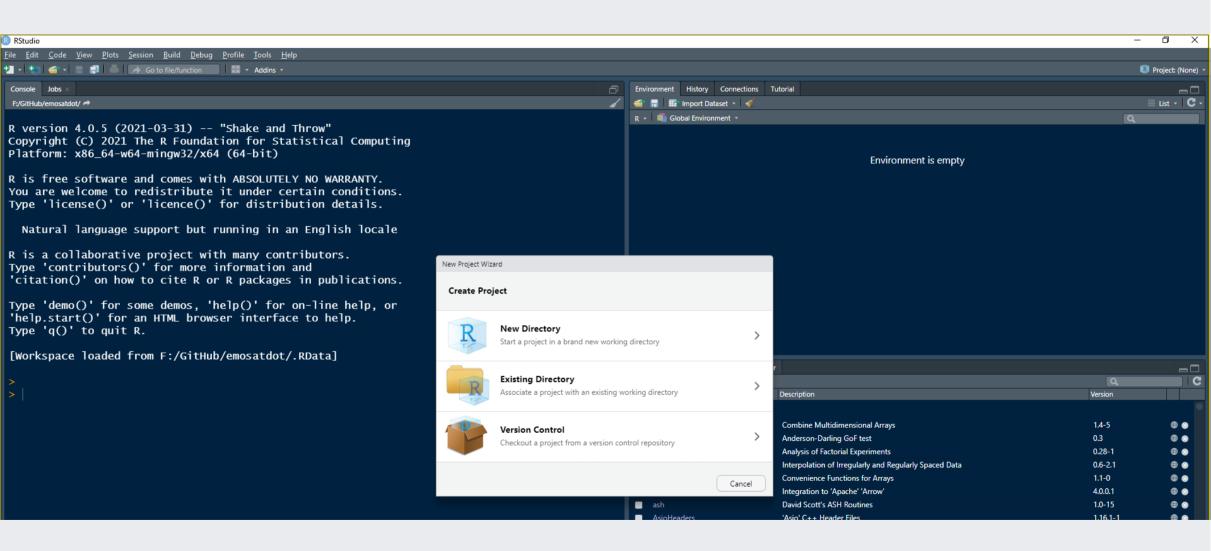
By now, most of you should have RStudio Desktop installed.

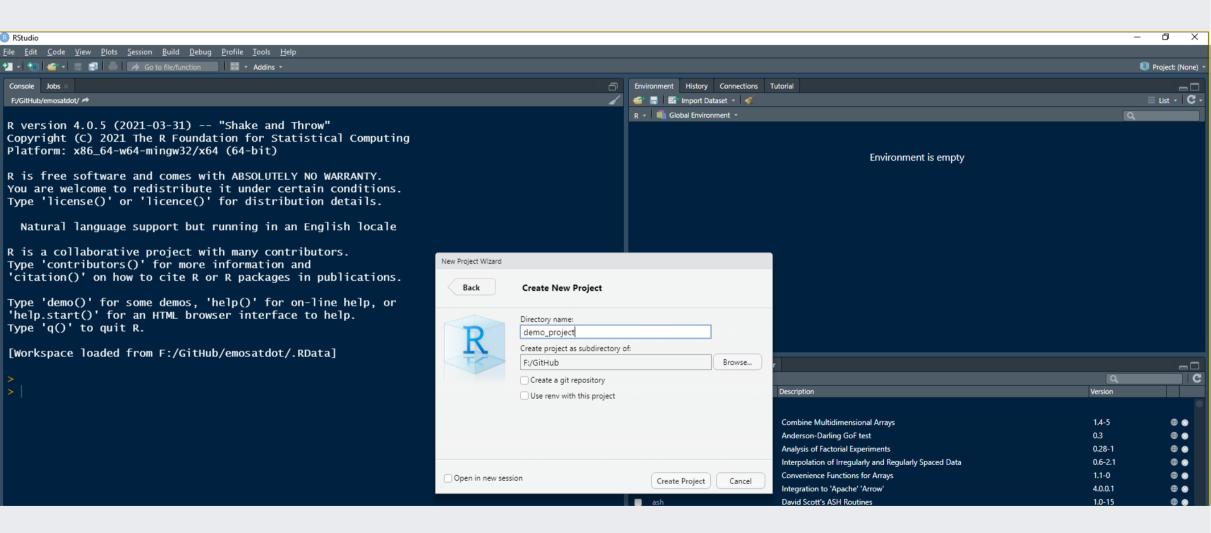
Once that's up and running, you can get to grips with RStudio projects

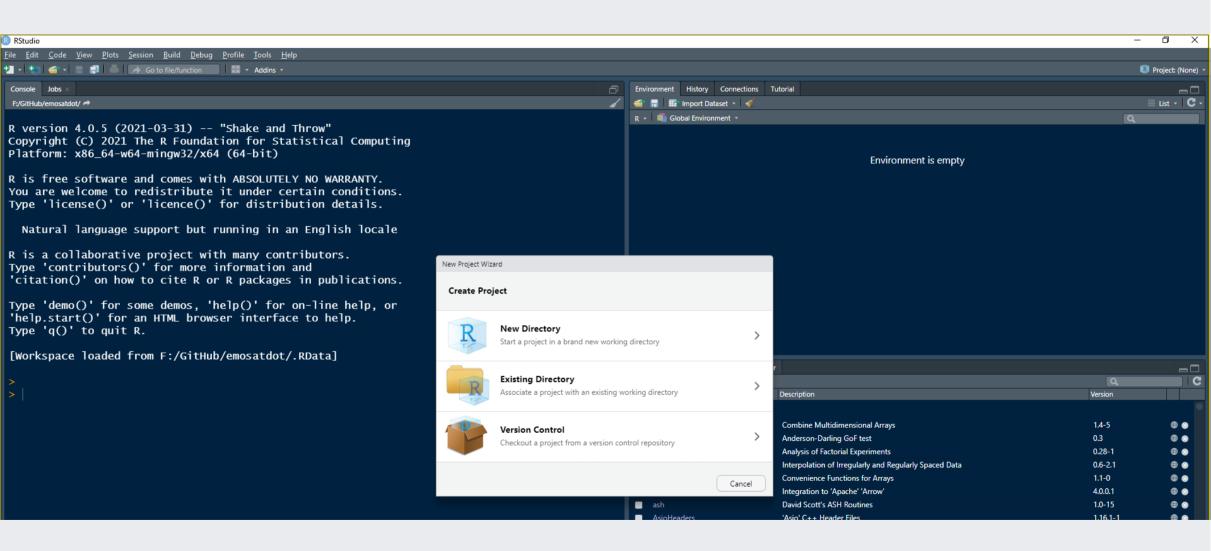
Projects provide a nice way to organise your work into neat, individually tailored sets of directories.











Keeping your analyses organised

Make a new RStudio project for each week's exercises!

Follow sensible structure:

Keep your data in a folder called data.

Keep your scripts or RMarkdown documents in a folder called scripts.

Give your files sensible names!

For more general workflow advice, check out What They Forgot to Teach You About R at https://rstats.wtf/

Relating data to structure

Let's think about an experiment

The experiment is a reaction time experiment with a two-by-two repeated measures design.

Participants see pictures of objects twice. Sometimes they are seen from the *same* viewpoint twice, sometimes from *different* viewpoints each time.

There are two separate blocks of trials. The dependent variable is how long it takes them to name the objects, or *reaction time*.

You're interested in whether:

- 1. they get faster at naming object the second time
- 2. they are faster when the same view is presented both times.

How many variables are there?

Variables	R Data Type	
Participant ID	Numeric or character	
Reaction times	Numeric	
Block first/second	Character/factor	
Viewpoint same/different	Character/factor	

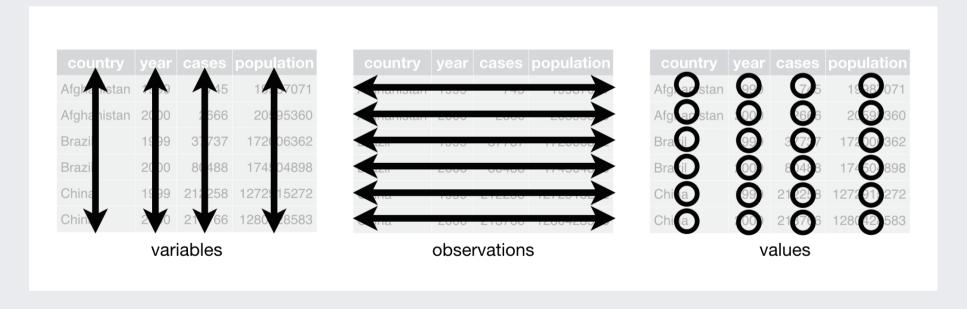
The final dataset needs to be able to do several things.

- 1. It needs to uniquely identify each participant.
- 2. It needs to tie each value to the right participant.
- 3. It needs to identify what each value represents in terms of the design.

Tidy data

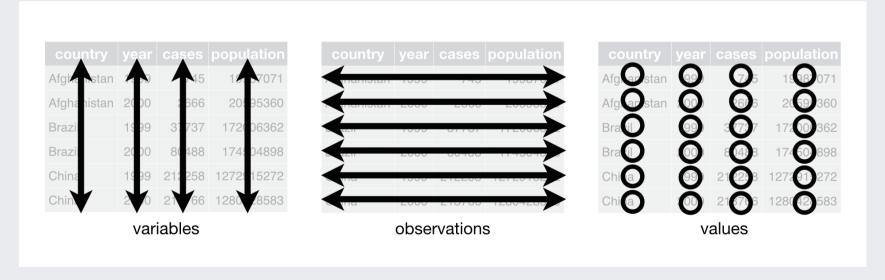
The three principles of tidy data

- 1. Each variable must have its own column.
- 2. Each observation must have its own row.
- 3. Each value must have its own cell.



Why Tidy?

- 1. Many functions in R operate on so-called *long* format data, requiring dependent and independent variables to be in different columns of a data frame.
- 2. Having a consistent way to store and structure your data makes it more *generic*. This makes it easier to use it with different functions.
- 3. Being *generic* also makes it easier to understand a new dataset in this format.



The many ways to structure data

One column for condition, one column for RT

```
## # A tibble: 40 × 3
                Participant [10]
## # Groups:
      Participant exp_condition
##
                                        RT
##
            <int> <chr>
                                     <dbl>
                 1 Block1_different
                                      407.
                 1 Block1 same
##
                                      415.
##
                 1 Block2_different
                                     382.
##
                 1 Block2_same
                                      371.
##
                 2 Block1_different
                                      420.
                 2 Block1 same
##
                                      384.
                 2 Block2_different
##
                                      479.
                 2 Block2_same
##
                                      402.
##
                 3 Block1_different
                                      368.
                 3 Block1 same
##
                                      341.
  # ... with 30 more rows
```

This is a little awkward.

At first glance, there's no easy way to see how many variables there.

Dependent variable split across columns

```
## # A tibble: 16 × 4
               Participant [8]
  # Groups:
##
      Participant Viewpoint
                              B1RT
                                     B2RT
                             <dbl> <dbl>
##
            <int> <chr>
                 1 Different 536.
                                    364.
##
##
                1 Same
                              494.
                                    450.
                2 Different 511.
                                    393.
##
##
                2 Same
                              432.
                                    371.
                 3 Different
##
                              536.
                                    364.
##
                3 Same
                              494.
                                    450.
                4 Different
                                    393.
##
                              511.
                              432.
                                    371.
##
                4 Same
##
                5 Different
                              536.
                                    364.
                 5 Same
                              494.
                                    450.
                                    393.
## 11
                 6 Different 511.
                 6 Same
                              432.
                                    371.
                7 Different 536.
## 13
                                    364.
## 14
                7 Same
                              494.
                                    450.
## 15
                8 Different
                              511.
                                    393.
                              432. 371.
## 16
                8 Same
```

Now there's a mishmash of things:

One variable (Viewpoint) is in one column.

The Block variable is spread across two columns.

The dependent variable (reaction time) is spread across two columns.

One column per condition

```
## # A tibble: 10 × 5
##
      Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
                         <dbl>
                                                         <dbl>
##
            <int>
                                      <dbl>
                                                                           <dbl>
                                       268.
                                                          546.
                                                                            413.
## 1
                           515.
                          471.
                                       249.
                                                          535.
                                                                            449.
##
                 2
## 3
                 3
                          507.
                                       331.
                                                          501.
                                                                            386.
## 4
                          482.
                                       312.
                                                          607.
                                                                            389.
## 5
                          484.
                                       322.
                                                          595.
                                                                            431.
## 6
                           502.
                                       301.
                                                          527.
                 6
                                                                            359.
                           520.
                                       328.
                                                          557.
                                                                            398.
##
## 8
                 8
                                       272.
                                                                            378.
                           579.
                                                          578.
## 9
                          441.
                                       290.
                                                          572.
                                                                            401.
## 10
                10
                           526.
                                       285.
                                                          550.
                                                                            405.
```

This is also called **wide** format.

How many variables are there?

```
## # A tibble: 10 × 5
##
      Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
##
            <int>
                         <dbl>
                                      <dbl>
                                                        <dbl>
                                                                          <dbl>
                                       268.
                                                         546.
                                                                           413.
## 1
                          515.
## 2
                          471.
                                      249.
                                                         535.
                                                                           449.
## 3
                 3
                          507.
                                      331.
                                                                           386.
                                                         501.
## 4
                          482.
                                      312.
                                                         607.
                                                                           389.
## 5
                          484.
                                      322.
                                                         595.
                                                                           431.
## 6
                          502.
                                      301.
                                                         527.
                                                                           359.
                                                         557.
                          520.
                                      328.
                                                                           398.
##
## 8
                                      272.
                                                                           378.
                 8
                          579.
                                                         578.
## 9
                          441.
                                       290.
                                                         572.
                                                                           401.
## 10
               10
                          526.
                                       285.
                                                         550.
                                                                           405.
```

Four... but there are five columns.

```
ncol(example_rt_df)
```

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

How many observations are there?

```
## # A tibble: 10 × 5
##
      Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
##
            <int>
                         <dbl>
                                      <dbl>
                                                        <dbl>
                                                                          <dbl>
                                       268.
                                                         546.
                                                                           413.
## 1
                          515.
## 2
                                       249.
                                                         535.
                                                                           449.
                          471.
## 3
                 3
                          507.
                                       331.
                                                                           386.
                                                         501.
## 4
                          482.
                                       312.
                                                         607.
                                                                           389.
## 5
                          484.
                                       322.
                                                         595.
                                                                           431.
## 6
                          502.
                                       301.
                                                         527.
                                                                           359.
                          520.
                                       328.
                                                         557.
                                                                           398.
##
## 8
                                       272.
                                                                           378.
                 8
                          579.
                                                         578.
## 9
                          441.
                                                         572.
                                       290.
                                                                           401.
## 10
                10
                          526.
                                       285.
                                                         550.
                                                                           405.
```

40... but there are 10 rows.

```
nrow(example_rt_df)
```

```
## [1] 10
```

One column per condition

```
## # A tibble: 10 × 5
##
      Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
                         <dbl>
##
            <int>
                                      <dbl>
                                                         <dbl>
                                                                           <dbl>
                                       268.
                                                          546.
                                                                            413.
## 1
                          515.
                          471.
                                       249.
                                                          535.
                                                                            449.
##
## 3
                 3
                          507.
                                       331.
                                                                            386.
                                                          501.
## 4
                          482.
                                       312.
                                                          607.
                                                                            389.
## 5
                          484.
                                       322.
                                                          595.
                                                                            431.
## 6
                          502.
                 6
                                       301.
                                                          527.
                                                                            359.
                          520.
                                       328.
                                                          557.
##
                                                                            398.
## 8
                                       272.
                                                                            378.
                 8
                          579.
                                                          578.
## 9
                          441.
                                       290.
                                                          572.
                                                                            401.
## 10
                10
                          526.
                                       285.
                                                          550.
                                                                            405.
```

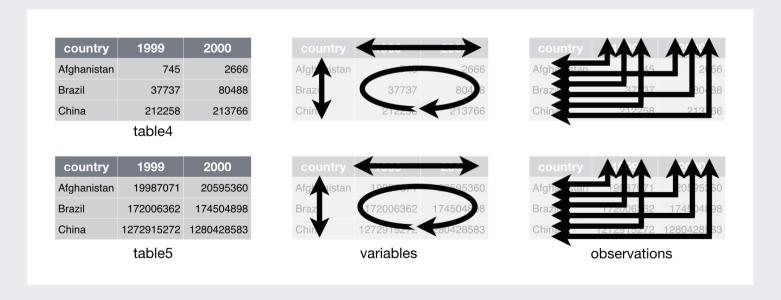
This is also called **wide** format.

This data is untidy

One variable - RT - is split across four columns.

Another variable - Block - is split across two columns.

A third variable - viewpoint - is also split across two columns.



Tidying your data

Tidyr

The tidyr package contains functions to help tidy up your data.

We'll look now at pivot_longer() and pivot_wider().

To start tidying our data, we need the RTs to be in a single column.

```
head(example_rt_df, n = 4)
## # A tibble: 4 × 5
     Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
##
##
           <int>
                        <dbl>
                                     <dbl>
                                                       <dbl>
                                                                         <dbl>
                                                                          295.
## 1
                         508.
                                      340.
                                                        522.
## 2
                         523.
                                      268.
                                                        550.
                                                                          470.
## 3
                         543.
                                      303.
                                                        667.
                                                                         476.
## 4
                         556.
                                      408.
                                                        400.
                                                                          322.
```

The function pivot_longer() can be used to combine columns into one.

Look at the help using ?pivot_longer

Pivoting longer

The first argument, data, is the name of the data frame you want to modify.

cols are the columns you want to combine together.

names_to is the name of the new column that will contain the values of a single categorical variable.

values_to is the name of the new column containing the values for each level of that variable.

Pivoting longer

```
long_rt <-</pre>
   pivot_longer(example_rt_df,
                cols = c("Block1_same",
                          "Block1_different",
                          "Block2_same",
                          "Block2_different"),
                names_to = "exp_cond",
                values_to = "RT")
head(long_rt)
## # A tibble: 6 × 3
##
     Participant exp_cond
                                       RT
           <int> <chr>
                                    <dbl>
##
```

Pivoting longer

After we specify the "key" and "value" columns, we need to specify which columns we want to be *gathered*.

```
## # A tibble: 6 × 3
##
    Participant exp_cond
                                  RT
##
          <int> <chr>
                               <dbl>
             1 Block1 same
## 1
                                508.
## 2
             1 Block2 same
                                340.
## 3
             1 Block1_different
                                522.
             1 Block2_different 295.
## 4
             2 Block1 same
## 5
                                523.
## 6
             2 Block2 same
                                268.
```

```
## # A tibble: 6 × 3
    Participant exp_cond
                                   RT
##
          <int> <chr>
                                 <dbl>
                                 508.
## 1
              1 Block1_same
## 2
              1 Block2 same
                                 340.
## 3
              1 Block1_different
                                 522.
              1 Block2 different
## 4
                                 295.
              2 Block1 same
## 5
                                 523.
## 6
              2 Block2 same
                                 268.
```

We have the RTs in one column, but we still have another problem:

The "Block" and "Viewpoint" variables are combined into a single column.

head(long_rt)

```
## # A tibble: 6 × 3
    Participant exp_cond
##
                                    RT
          <int> <chr>
##
                                 <dbl>
              1 Block1_same
## 1
                                  508.
## 2
              1 Block2_same
                                  340.
              1 Block1_different 522.
## 3
              1 Block2_different 295.
## 4
    2 Block1_same
## 5
                                  523.
              2 Block2_same
                                  268.
## 6
```

Fortunately, the values in the *exp_cond* column can be easily split:

```
unique(long_rt$exp_cond)
## [1] "Block1_same" "Block2_same" "Block1_different" "Block2_different"
```

The value of "Block" comes before the underscore ("_"), while the value of "viewpoint" comes after it.

1 Block1 different 522.

1 Block2 different 295.

2 Block2 same

523.

268.

3

6

4

5 2 Block1 same

```
long_rt <-</pre>
   pivot_longer(example_rt_df,
                names_to = c("Block",
                             "Viewpoint"),
                names_sep = "_",
                values_to = "RT",
                cols = Block1_same:Block2_different)
head(long_rt)
## # A tibble: 6 × 4
    Participant Block Viewpoint
                                      RT
##
           <int> <chr> <chr>
                                   <dbl>
               1 Block1 same
## 1
                                    508.
## 2
               1 Block2 same
                                    340.
```

Let's look at the additional syntax.

names_to now has two entries, one for each new column that will be made.

names_sep is the character that separates the values you want to split.

Your target

```
## # A tibble: 15 × 4
      Participant Block Viewpoint
##
                                         RT
##
             <int> <chr>
                          <chr>
                                     <dbl>
                 1 Block1 same
                                      508.
##
                 1 Block2 same
                                      340.
##
                 1 Block1 different
##
                                      522.
                 1 Block2 different
##
                                      295.
##
                 2 Block1 same
                                      523.
                 2 Block2 same
##
                                      268.
                 2 Block1 different
##
                                      550.
                 2 Block2 different
##
                                      470.
##
                 3 Block1 same
                                      543.
## 10
                 3 Block2 same
                                      303.
                 3 Block1 different
## 11
                                      667.
                 3 Block2 different
## 12
                                      476.
## 13
                 4 Block1 same
                                      556.
                 4 Block2 same
                                      408.
## 14
## 15
                 4 Block1 different
                                      400.
```

You should specify name(s) for the column(s) that you'll create using the names_to and values_to arguments.

You'll need to add names_sep and the character that separates the two sides as well in order to match the target

Pivoting wider

Pivoting wider

8

9

470.

517.

wide rt <-

##

##

Sometimes you want to go in the *opposite* direction.

pivot_wider() is the opposite of pivot_longer().

```
pivot_wider(long_rt,
               names_from = c("Block",
                               "Viewpoint"),
               values from = "RT")
head(wide_rt, 10)
## # A tibble: 10 × 5
      Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
##
##
            <int>
                         <dbl>
                                      <dbl>
                                                        <dbl>
                                                                         <dbl>
## 1
                          508.
                                      340.
                                                        522.
                                                                          295.
## 2
                          523.
                                      268.
                                                        550.
                                                                          470.
##
                          543.
                                      303.
                                                        667.
                                                                          476.
##
                          556.
                                      408.
                                                        400.
                                                                          322.
## 5
                 5
                          506.
                                      163.
                                                        539.
                                                                          269.
## 6
                 6
                          489.
                                      287.
                                                        350.
                                                                          363.
##
                          398.
                                      346.
                                                        624.
                                                                          392.
```

494.

258.

374.

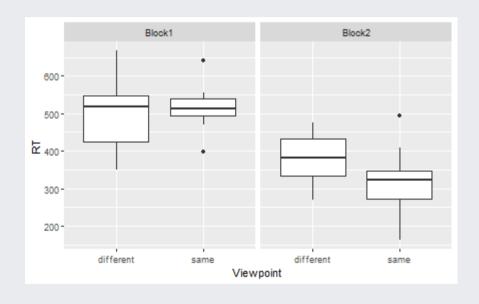
422.

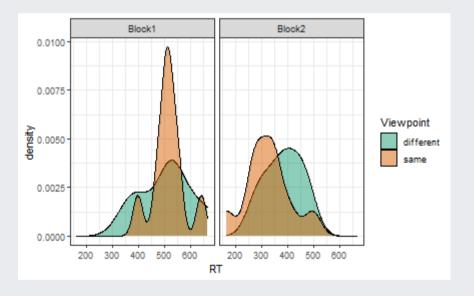
504.

396.

Now what?

Now that we've got the data in a tidy format, we can begin to use some of the more interesting features of R! We can produce a boxplot using **ggplot2** (more next week!)





We can produce some summary statistics using **dplyr** (more soon!)

```
## `summarise()` has grouped output by 'Block'. You can override using the
## `.groups` argument.

## # A tibble: 4 × 4

## # Groups: Block [2]

## Block Viewpoint mean_RT sd_RT

## <chr> <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 Block1 different 507. 100.

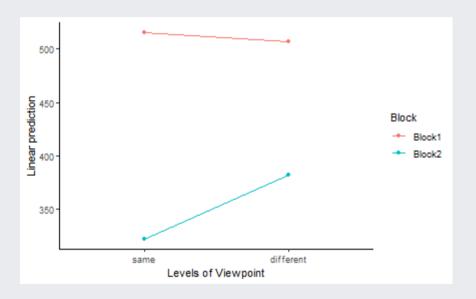
## 2 Block1 same 515. 62.5

## 3 Block2 different 382. 71.2

## 4 Block2 same 321. 89.7
```

We can run ANOVA with afex.

We can create interaction plots using **emmeans**.



Next week

- The following chapters of R for Data Science -
 - Data Visualization (Chapter 1 via the library)
 - Graphics for communication with ggplot2 (Chapter 22 via the library)

Practice some of the skills for next week:

- RStudio.cloud Primer
 - Visualize Data

A possible solution for the extra exercise!

```
set.seed(200) # if you want these exact numbers, use this line
example_rt_df <-
   tibble(Participant = seq(1, 10),
          Block1_same = rnorm(10, 500, 100),
          Block2\_same = rnorm(10, 350, 100),
          Block1_different = rnorm(10, 500, 100),
          Block2_different = rnorm(10, 400, 100))
## # A tibble: 5 \times 5
     Participant Block1_same Block2_same Block1_different Block2_different
##
           <int>
                        <dbl>
                                     <dbl>
                                                       <fdb>>
                                                                         <fdb>>
## 1
                         508.
                                      340.
                                                        522.
                                                                         295.
## 2
                         523.
                                     268.
                                                        550.
                                                                         470.
## 3
                         543.
                                     303.
                                                        667.
                                                                         476.
## 4
                         556.
                                     408.
                                                        400.
                                                                         322.
## 5
                                     163.
                                                                         269.
                         506.
                                                        539.
```