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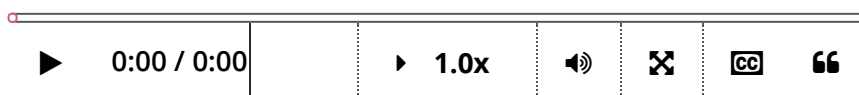
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## Sorting Data Tables

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# sorting data tables



### RAFAEL IRIZARRY: When examining a data set,

it is often convenient to sort the table by different columns.

We know about the order and sort functions.

But for ordering entire tables, the function `arrange`, in `dplyr`, is very useful.

## Video



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## Textbook link

This video corresponds to the [textbook section on sorting data frames](#).

## Key points

- The `arrange()` function from **dplyr** sorts a data frame by a given column.
- By default, `arrange()` sorts in ascending order (lowest to highest). To instead sort in descending order, use the function `desc()` inside of `arrange()`.
- You can `arrange()` by multiple levels: within equivalent values of the first level, observations are sorted by the second level, and so on.
- The `top_n()` function shows the top results ranked by a given variable, but the results are not ordered. You can combine `top_n()` with `arrange()` to return the top results in order.

## Code



```
# libraries and data
library(tidyverse)
library(dslabs)
data(murders)

# set up murders object
murders <- murders %>%
  mutate(murder_rate = total/population * 100000)

# arrange by population column, smallest to largest
murders %>% arrange(population) %>% head()

# arrange by murder rate, smallest to largest
murders %>% arrange(murder_rate) %>% head()

# arrange by murder rate in descending order
murders %>% arrange(desc(murder_rate)) %>% head()

# arrange by region alphabetically, then by murder rate within each region
murders %>% arrange(region, murder_rate) %>% head()

# show the top 10 states with highest murder rate, not ordered by rate
murders %>% top_n(10, murder_rate)

# show the top 10 states with highest murder rate, ordered by rate
murders %>% arrange(desc(murder_rate)) %>% top_n(10)
```

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