

Data Import and Tidying

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Agenda

- Data import
- Principles of R
- Data tidying
- Join tables

Data import

Sharing data

name	age	birthday
Peter	24	23-02-1994
Lisa	43	06-06-1975
Natalie	78	07-01-1940
Andrew	NA	NA

Sharing data

name	age	birthday
Peter	24	23-02-1994
Lisa	43	06-06-1975
Natalie	78	07-01-1940
Andrew	NA	NA

```
name, age, birthday  
Peter, 24, 23-02-1994  
Lisa, 43, 06-06-1975  
Natalie, 78, 07-01-1940  
Andrew, NA, NA
```

Exercise 1: Learn how to read in delimited files

1. Read sections 11.1 and 11.2
2. Complete the exercises in 11.2.2 in [r4ds.had.co.nz]

Parsing files

- `read_csv` takes the first 1000 lines of a table to guess the column type.

```
read_csv("a\na")
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1  
##   a  
##   <chr>  
## 1 a
```

Parsing files

- `read_csv` takes the first 1000 lines of a table to guess the column type.

```
read_csv("a\n1")
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1
##       a
##   <int>
## 1     1
```


Parsing files

- `read_csv` takes the first 1000 lines of a table to guess the column type.

```
read_csv("a\n2010-01-01")
```

```
## # A tibble: 1 x 1
##   a
##   <date>
## 1 2010-01-01
```

Parsing files: problems

Problems occur if:

- the first 1000 lines are not particularly informative
 - only NA values
 - only integers even though non-integers occur later
- the way in which the values are entered is not entirely clear
 - dates
 - factors

Other formats

- Binary files
 - feather implements a binary format to share across languages
 - RDS is a format specific to R
- SPSS, SAS, Stata: **haven**
- Matlab, Excel etc.

Principles of R

Make common tasks more accessible

```
df <-  
  file %>%  
  read_delim(delim = ",", na = c("", "NA"),  
             skip = 0, ...)
```

becomes ...

```
df <-  
  file %>%  
  read_csv()
```

by:

- special functions
- default values

Make generalized functions consistent

- `read_delim` has the same interface as `read_csv`, with additional parameters

Data tidying

Reminder: Tidy Data

1. Each variable forms a column.
2. Each observation forms a row.
3. Each type of observational unit forms a table.

Data Tidying

- Data often arrives in an untidy state
- `tidy` refers to the procedure by which we make this data tidy
- Task of the package **tidyr** (part of the tidyverse)
 - **gather** summarizes column names as a new column
 - **spread** spreads variable levels as new column names

spread and gather

wide				long		
id	x	y	z	id	key	val
1	a	c	e	1	x	a
2	b	d	f	2	x	b
				1	y	c
				2	y	d
				1	z	e
				2	z	f

spread and gather

wide

id	x	y	z
1	a	c	e
2	b	d	f

gather: example

table4a

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 3
##   country    `1999` `2000`
## * <chr>      <int> <int>
## 1 Afghanistan    745   2666
## 2 Brazil        37737  80488
## 3 China         212258 213766
```

Exercise 2

Fill in the corresponding lines in the code to tidy the table

```
table4a %>%  
  gather(  
    # Specify the name of the key, i. e. the variable which has the  
    # different columns as values  
    key = ,  
    # What name should the column have in which the former cell values  
    # are notated  
    value = ,  
    # Specify the columns which are variable levels  
    ...)
```

spread: example

table2

```
## # A tibble: 12 x 4
##   country      year type      count
##   <chr>      <int> <chr>    <int>
## 1 Afghanistan 1999 cases      745
## 2 Afghanistan 1999 population 19987071
## 3 Afghanistan 2000 cases      2666
## 4 Afghanistan 2000 population 20595360
## 5 Brazil      1999 cases      37737
## 6 Brazil      1999 population 172006362
## 7 Brazil      2000 cases      80488
## 8 Brazil      2000 population 174504898
## 9 China       1999 cases      212258
## 10 China      1999 population 1272915272
## 11 China      2000 cases      213766
## 12 China      2000 population 1280428583
```

Exercise 3

Fill in the corresponding lines in the code to tidy the table

```
table2 %>%  
  spread(  
    # the variable which gives the new column names  
    key = ,  
    # the variable which gives the new column cell values  
    value =  
  )
```

Join tables

Joining two data frames

- combine information from two data frames
- covered by the `*_join` functions in `dplyr`
- `join` certain columns

Joining two data frames

- combine information from two data frames
- covered by the `*_join` functions in `dplyr`
- join certain columns

```
table1 %>%  
  *_join(table2, by = "column(s)")
```

Joins: example

```
band_instruments
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 2  
##   name plays  
##   <chr> <chr>  
## 1 John  guitar  
## 2 Paul   bass  
## 3 Keith guitar
```

Joins: example

```
band_members
```

```
## # A tibble: 3 x 2
##   name  band
##   <chr> <chr>
## 1 Mick  Stones
## 2 John  Beatles
## 3 Paul  Beatles
```

Left, right, inner, full

- generate a table with columns from both tables
- differ in the observations which they keep

Joining tables: animations

x

1	x1
2	x2
3	x3

y

1	y1
2	y2
4	y4

inner_join

`inner_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4

left_join

`left_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4

left_join

`left_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4
		2	y5

right_join

`right_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4

full_join

`full_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4

Exercise 4

1. Generate a table with all band members from `band_members` and the instruments which they are playing.
2. Generate a table which gives you information all players where you know in which band they are playing which instrument

Filtering joins

- `filter table1`
- `semi_join` keeps the observation which can be found in `table2`
- `anti_join` keeps all other observations

semi_join

`semi_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4

anti_join

`anti_join(x, y)`

1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y4

Exercise 5

1. Generate a table with all band members whose instruments is not known

Further reading

- R4DS, ch. 11-13
- [Data transformation cheat sheet](#)
- [Data import cheat sheet](#) (includes `tidyr` functions)
- [Animated explanations of R functions](#)