

Rotman

INTRO TO R – DATA WRANGLING

R Workshop – Part 2

March 17, 2025 Prepared by Jay Cao / TDMDAL

Website: <https://tdmdal.github.io/r-workshop-202425-winter/>



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Plan

“Data Scientists spend up to 80% of the time on data cleaning and 20 percent of their time on actual data analysis”

- Tidy Data (a way to organize data)
- Data manipulation (a continuation)
 - summarise() and group_by()
 - _join() datasets
- We will focus on basics, underlying principles, and best practices

-- ??????

Tidy Data – Motivation (FANG Revenue Data)

- Q1. Is the below table organized well for easy analysis?
- Q2. **In general**, what's a good way to organize/structure tabular data?

A tibble: 4 x 6

	Ticker	Fiscal Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	<chr>	<int>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	AMZN	2018	51.0	52.9	56.6	72.4
2	FB	2018	12.0	13.2	13.7	16.9
3	GOOG	2018	31.1	32.7	33.7	39.3
4	NFLX	2018	3.70	3.91	4.00	4.19

Tidy Data

“If you have a consistent data structure, it's easier to learn the tools that work with it because they have an underlying uniformity.”

-- R for Data Science (Chapter 12)

- A (**One**) way to organize **tabular** data
- Definition
 - Each **variable** forms a **column**.
 - Each **observation**, or **case**, forms a **row**.
 - Each **type of observational unit** forms a **table**
- Why tidy data?
 - A great way to organize data for maintainability
 - Once in tidy data, it's easy to use the toolset from *tidyverse* to manipulate them



Journal of Statistical Software

August 2014, Volume 59, Issue 10.

<http://www.jstatsoft.org/>

Tidy Data

Hadley Wickham
RStudio

Abstract

A huge amount of effort is spent cleaning data to get it ready for analysis, but there has been little research on how to make data cleaning as easy and effective as possible. This paper tackles a small, but important, component of data cleaning: data tidying. Tidy datasets are easy to manipulate, model and visualize, and have a specific structure: each variable is a column, each observation is a row, and each type of observational unit is a table. This framework makes it easy to tidy messy datasets because only a small set of tools are needed to deal with a wide range of un-tidy datasets. This structure also makes it easier to develop tidy tools for data analysis, tools that both input and output tidy datasets. The advantages of a consistent data structure and matching tools are demonstrated with a case study free from mundane data manipulation chores.

Keywords: data cleaning, data tidying, relational databases, R.

1. Introduction

It is often said that 80% of data analysis is spent on the process of cleaning and preparing the data (Dasu and Johnson 2003). Data preparation is not just a first step, but must be repeated many times over the course of analysis as new problems come to light or new data is collected. Despite the amount of time it takes, there has been surprisingly little research on how to clean data well. Part of the challenge is the breadth of activities it encompasses: from outlier checking, to date parsing, to missing value imputation. To get a handle on the problem, this paper focuses on a small, but important, aspect of data cleaning that I call data *tidying*: structuring datasets to facilitate analysis.

The principles of tidy data provide a standard way to organize data values within a dataset. A standard makes initial data cleaning easier because you do not need to start from scratch and reinvent the wheel every time. The tidy data standard has been designed to facilitate initial exploration and analysis of the data, and to simplify the development of data analysis tools that work well together. Current tools often require translation. You have to spend time

Messy Data – Example 1

	treatmenta	treatmentb
John Smith	—	2
Jane Doe	16	11
Mary Johnson	3	1

Table 1: Typical presentation dataset.

Messy Data – Example 1 / Why is it Messy?

- Values as column names problem
- Hard to retrieve data and analyze them in a consistent way
 - **how many treatments in total**
 - get average result by person
 - get average result by treatment
 - get overall average result

	treatmenta	treatmentb
John Smith	—	2
Jane Doe	16	11
Mary Johnson	3	1

Table 1: Typical presentation dataset.

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Messy Data – Example 1 / Why is it Messy?

- Values as column names problem
- Hard to retrieve data and analyze them in a consistent way
 - how many treatments in total
 - get average result by person
 - get average result by treatment
 - **get overall average result**

	treatmenta	treatmentb
John Smith	—	2
Jane Doe	16	11
Mary Johnson	3	1

Table 1: Typical presentation dataset.

Messy Data – Example 2

	John Smith	Jane Doe	Mary Johnson
treatmenta	—	16	3
treatmentb	2	11	1

Table 2: The same data as in Table 1 but structured differently.

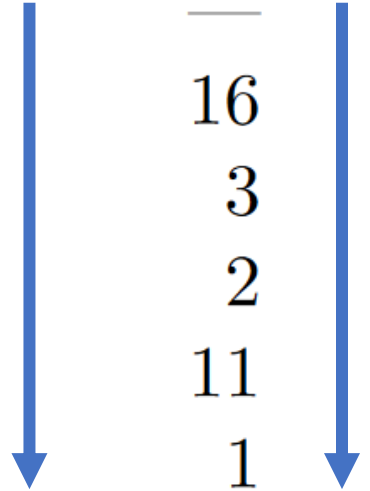
The Tidy Version

name	trt	result
John Smith	a	—
Jane Doe	a	16
Mary Johnson	a	3
John Smith	b	2
Jane Doe	b	11
Mary Johnson	b	1

The Tidy Version – Why is it Tidy

- All column-wise operations
 - how many treatments in total
 - get average result by person
 - get average result by treatment
 - get overall average result

name	trt	result
John Smith	a	—
Jane Doe	a	16
Mary Johnson	a	3
John Smith	b	2
Jane Doe	b	11
Mary Johnson	b	1



Back to the FANG Revenue Data

```
# A tibble: 4 x 6
```

	Ticker	Fiscal Year	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	<chr>	<int>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	AMZN	2018	51.0	52.9	56.6	72.4
2	FB	2018	12.0	13.2	13.7	16.9
3	GOOG	2018	31.1	32.7	33.7	39.3
4	NFLX	2018	3.70	3.91	4.00	4.19

From Messy to Tidy (One Example)

	treatmenta	treatmentb
John Smith	—	2
Jane Doe	16	11
Mary Johnson	3	1

Table 1: Typical presentation dataset.



name	trt	result
John Smith	a	—
Jane Doe	a	16
Mary Johnson	a	3
John Smith	b	2
Jane Doe	b	11
Mary Johnson	b	1

`pivot_longer()` from tidyr package

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
```

	name	treatmenta	treatmentb
	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	NA	2
2	Jane Doe	16	11
3	Mary Johnson	3	1

```
pivot_longer(df_messy, -name,  
              names_to = "treatment", values_to = "result")
```

`pivot_longer()` from tidyr package

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
```

	name	treatmenta	treatmentb
	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	NA	2
2	Jane Doe	16	11
3	Mary Johnson	3	1

```
pivot_longer(df_messy, -name,  
             names_to = "treatment", values_to = "result")
```

<https://tidyr.tidyverse.org/articles/pivot.html>

`pivot_longer()` from tidyr package

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
```

	name	treatmenta	treatmentb
	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	NA	2
2	Jane Doe	16	11
3	Mary Johnson	3	1

```
pivot_longer(df_messy, -name,  
              names_to = "treatment", values_to = "result")
```

`pivot_longer()` from tidyr package

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
```

	name	treatmenta	treatmentb
	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	NA	2
2	Jane Doe	16	11
3	Mary Johnson	3	1

```
pivot_longer(df_messy, -name,  
              names_to = "treatment", values_to = "result")
```

`pivot_longer()` from tidyr package

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3
```

	name	treatmenta	treatmentb
	<chr>	<dbl>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	NA	2
2	Jane Doe	16	11
3	Mary Johnson	3	1

```
pivot_longer(df_messy, -name,  
              names_to = "treatment", values_to = "result")
```

pivot_longer() result

```
# A tibble: 6 x 3
  name      treatment result
  <chr>      <chr>      <dbl>
1 John Smith treatmenta      NA
2 John Smith treatmentb       2
3 Jane Doe   treatmenta     16
4 Jane Doe   treatmentb     11
5 Mary Johnson treatmenta       3
6 Mary Johnson treatmentb       1
```

Note: See Appendix for an inverse transformation, `pivot_wider()`

Try Yourself: “Tidy up” the FANG revenue data

A tibble: 16 x 4

	Ticker	Fiscal Year	Quarter	Revenue
	<chr>	<int>	<chr>	<dbl>
1	AMZN	2018	Q1	51.0
2	AMZN	2018	Q2	52.9
3	AMZN	2018	Q3	56.6
4	AMZN	2018	Q4	72.4
5	FB	2018	Q1	12.0
6	FB	2018	Q2	13.2

...

Load the raw “long” data from this URL:

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/tdmdal/datasets-teaching/main/fang/fang_2018.csv

Many Ways of Being Messy :(

- Messy datasets have 5 common problems (Wickham, 2014)
 1. Column headers are values, not variable names.
 2. Multiple variables are stored in one column.
 3. Variables are stored in both rows and columns.
 4. Multiple types of observational units are stored in the same table.
 5. A single observational unit is stored in multiple tables.

- See another example in Appendix

“Tidy datasets are all alike, but every messy dataset is messy in its own way.”

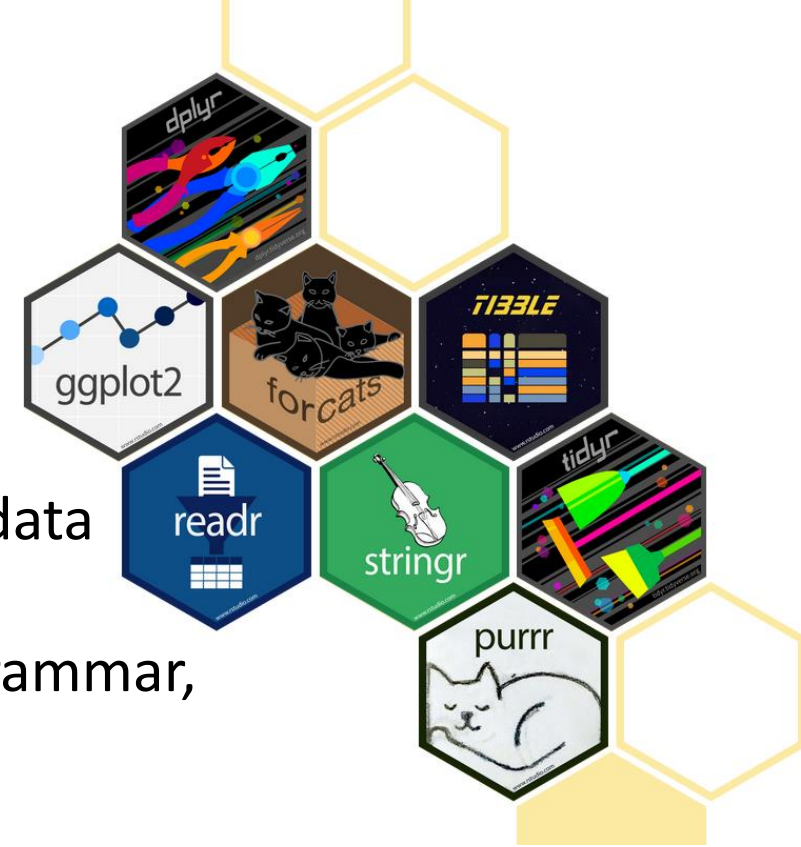
-- R for Data Science (Chapter 12, ed. 1)

<http://vita.had.co.nz/papers/tidy-data.html>

Tidy Data and Its Eco-system

- Tidyverse

- “an opinionated collection of R packages designed for data science”
- “All packages share an underlying design philosophy, grammar, and data structures.”



- Other tools in the eco-system (for financial applications)

- tidyquant, a package for quantitative finance
- tidyvert, a set of tidy tools for time series
 - Forecasting: Principles and Practice (3ed), a free book using this toolset



Plan

“Data Scientists spend up to 80% of the time on data cleaning and 20 percent of their time on actual data analysis”

- Tidy Data

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- Data manipulation (a continuation)

- summarise() and group_by()
- _join() datasets

- Again, we will focus on basics, underlying principles, and best practices

Data manipulation: `dplyr()`

- Filter observations: `filter()`
- Select variables: `select()`
- Reorder rows: `arrange()`
- Create new variables: `mutate()`
- Collapse column values to a single summary: `summarise()`
- Group by: `group by()`

The Employees Table

```
> employees %>% select(FirstName, LastName, Country)
```

```
# A tibble: 9 x 3
```

```
  FirstName LastName Country
  <chr>      <chr>    <chr>
1 Nancy      Davolio   USA
2 Andrew     Fuller    USA
3 Janet      Leverling USA
4 Margaret   Peacock   USA
5 Steven     Buchanan  UK
```

```
...      ...      ...      ...
```

EmployeeID	LastName	FirstName	Title	...
1	Davolio	Nancy	Sales Representative	...
2	Fuller	Andrew	Vice President, Sales	...
3	Leverling	Janet	Sales Representative	...
4	Peacock	Margaret	Sales Representative	...
...

Count Number of Employees By Country (1)

```
> employees %>% select(FirstName, LastName, Country) %>%  
  group_by(Country)
```

```
# A tibble: 9 x 3
```

```
# Groups:   Country [2]
```

	FirstName	LastName	Country
	<chr>	<chr>	<chr>
1	Nancy	Davolio	USA
2	Andrew	Fuller	USA
3	Janet	Leverling	USA

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

```
...
```

Count Number of Employees By Country (2)

```
> employees %>% select(FirstName, LastName, Country) %>%  
  group_by(Country) %>%  
  summarise(count = n())
```

```
# A tibble: 2 x 2
```

	Country	count
	<chr>	<int>
1	UK	4
2	USA	5

Count Number of Employees By Country (3)

```
> employees %>% select(FirstName, LastName, Country) %>%  
  group_by(Country) %>%  
  summarise(count = n()) %>%  
  arrange(desc(count))
```

```
# A tibble: 2 x 2
```

```
Country count
```

```
<chr>    <int>
```

```
1 USA          5
```

```
2 UK           4
```

More on Data Aggregation

- `summarise()` works with many aggregation functions
 - Aggregation functions: take n inputs, return 1 output
 - e.g. `mean()`, `median()`, `min()`, `max()`, `first()`, `last()`, `n_distinct()`, ...
- There are also Windows functions (useful for time series data)
 - Windows functions: take n inputs, return n output
 - aggregation variations: `cumsum()`, `cummean()`, ...
 - ranking and ordering: `rank()`, `percent_rank()`, ...
 - offsets: `lead()`, `lag()`, ...

<https://dplyr.tidyverse.org/reference/summarise.html>

<https://dplyr.tidyverse.org/articles/window-functions.html>

Plan

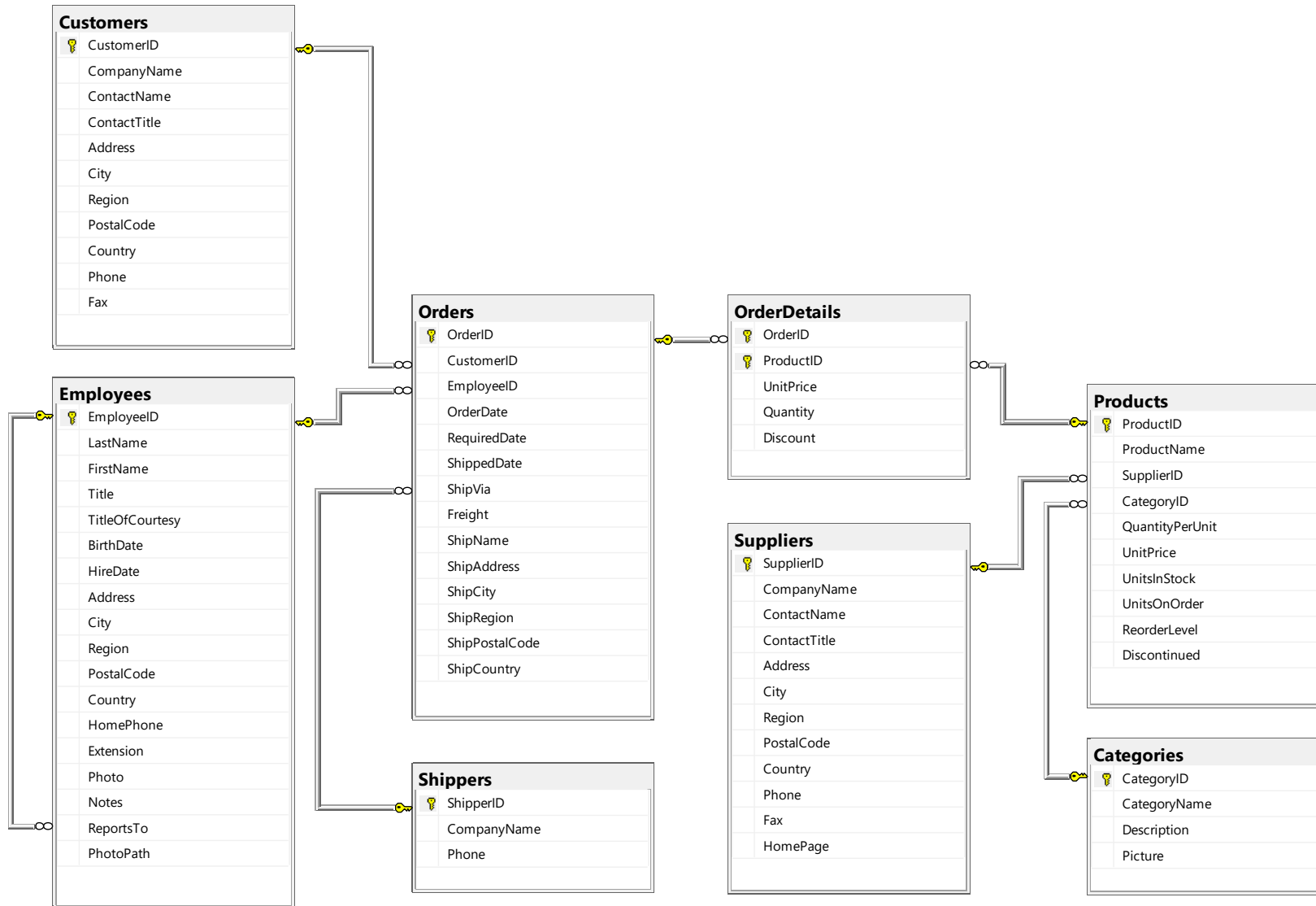
“Data Scientists spend up to 80% of the time on data cleaning and 20 percent of their time on actual data analysis”

- Tidy Data

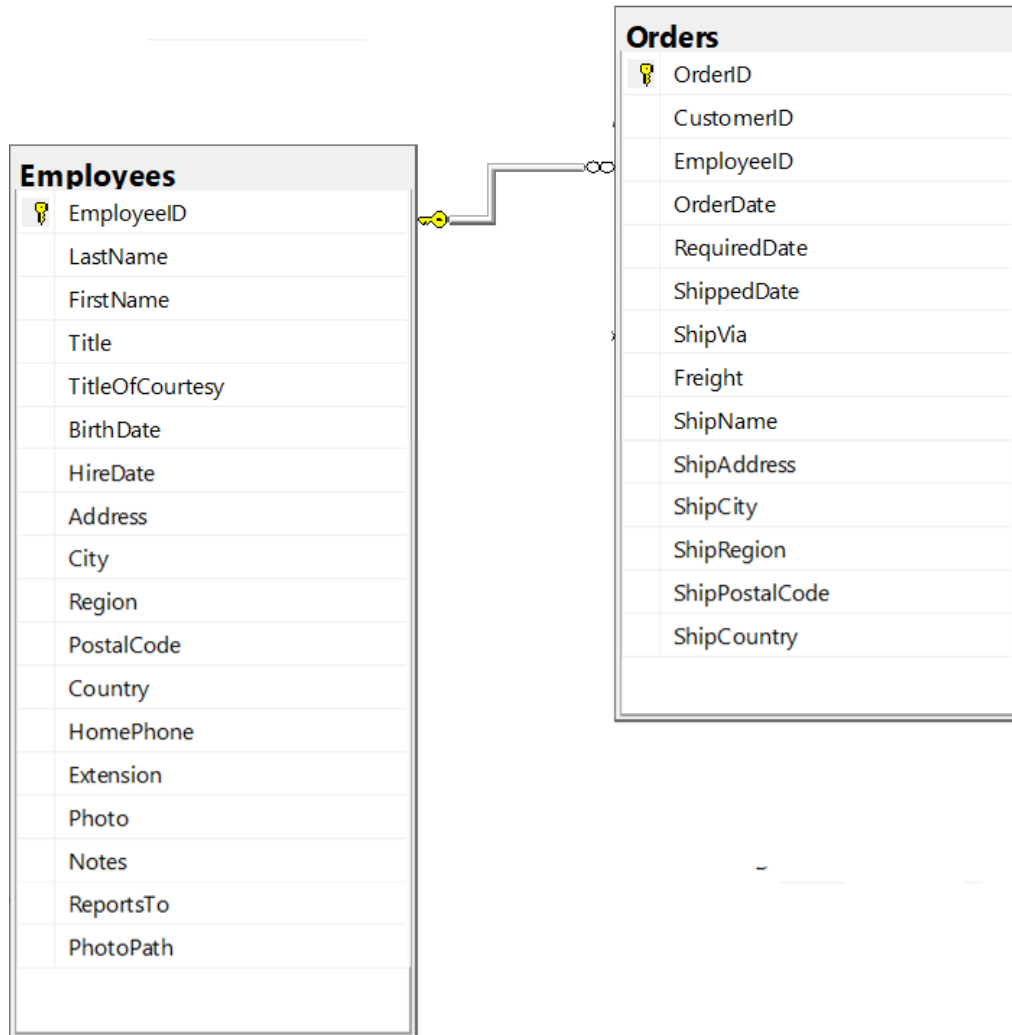
-- ?????

- **Data manipulation** (a continuation)
 - `summarise()` and `group_by()`
 - **`_join()` datasets**
- Again, we will focus on basics, underlying principles, and best practices

Motivation: Relation between Datasets/Tables



Relation between Datasets/Tables – Zoom In

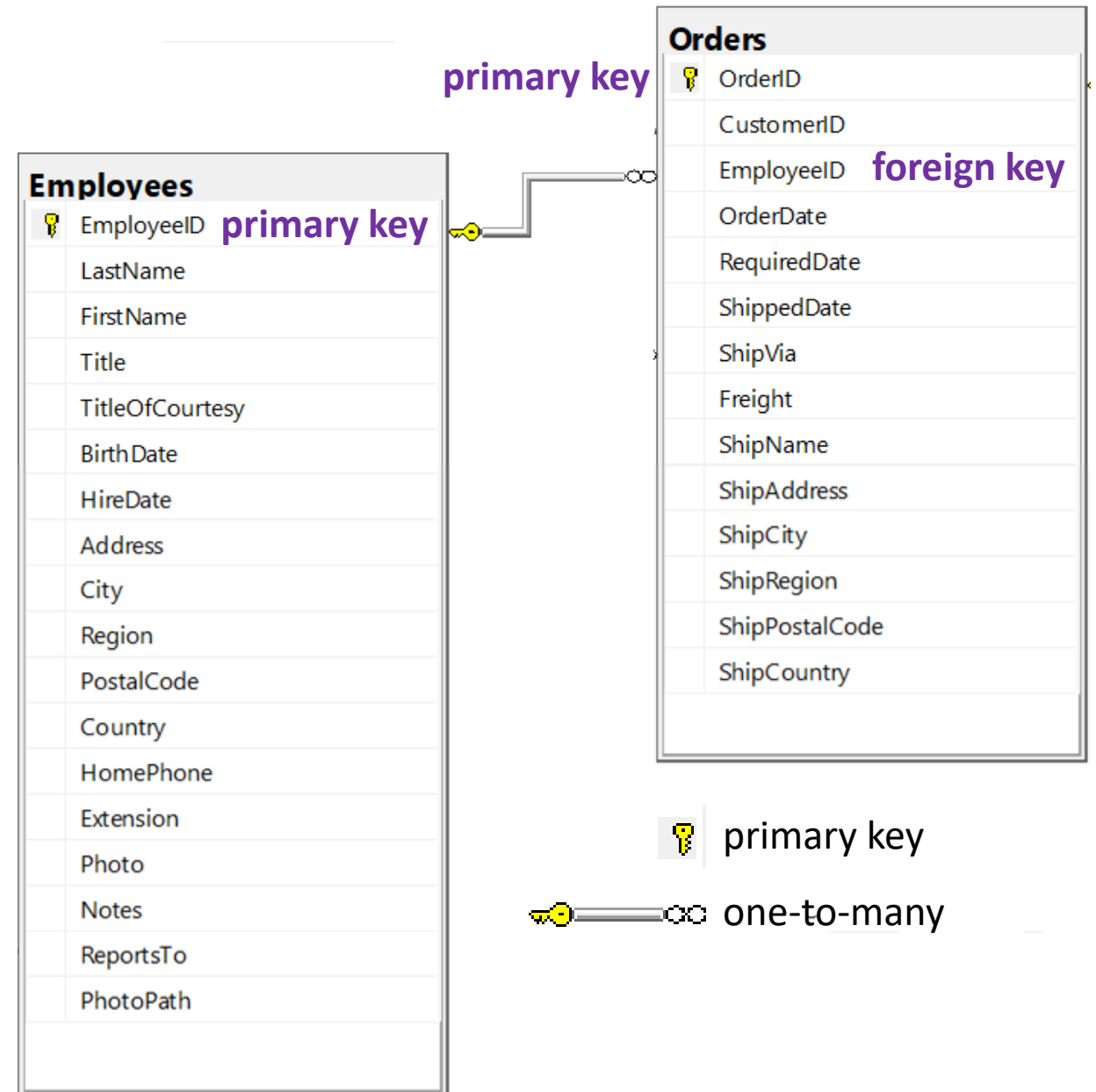


EmployeeID	LastName	FirstName	Title	...
1	Davolio	Nancy	Sales Representative	...
2	Fuller	Andrew	Vice President, Sales	...
3	Leverling	Janet	Sales Representative	...
4	Peacock	Margaret	Sales Representative	...
...

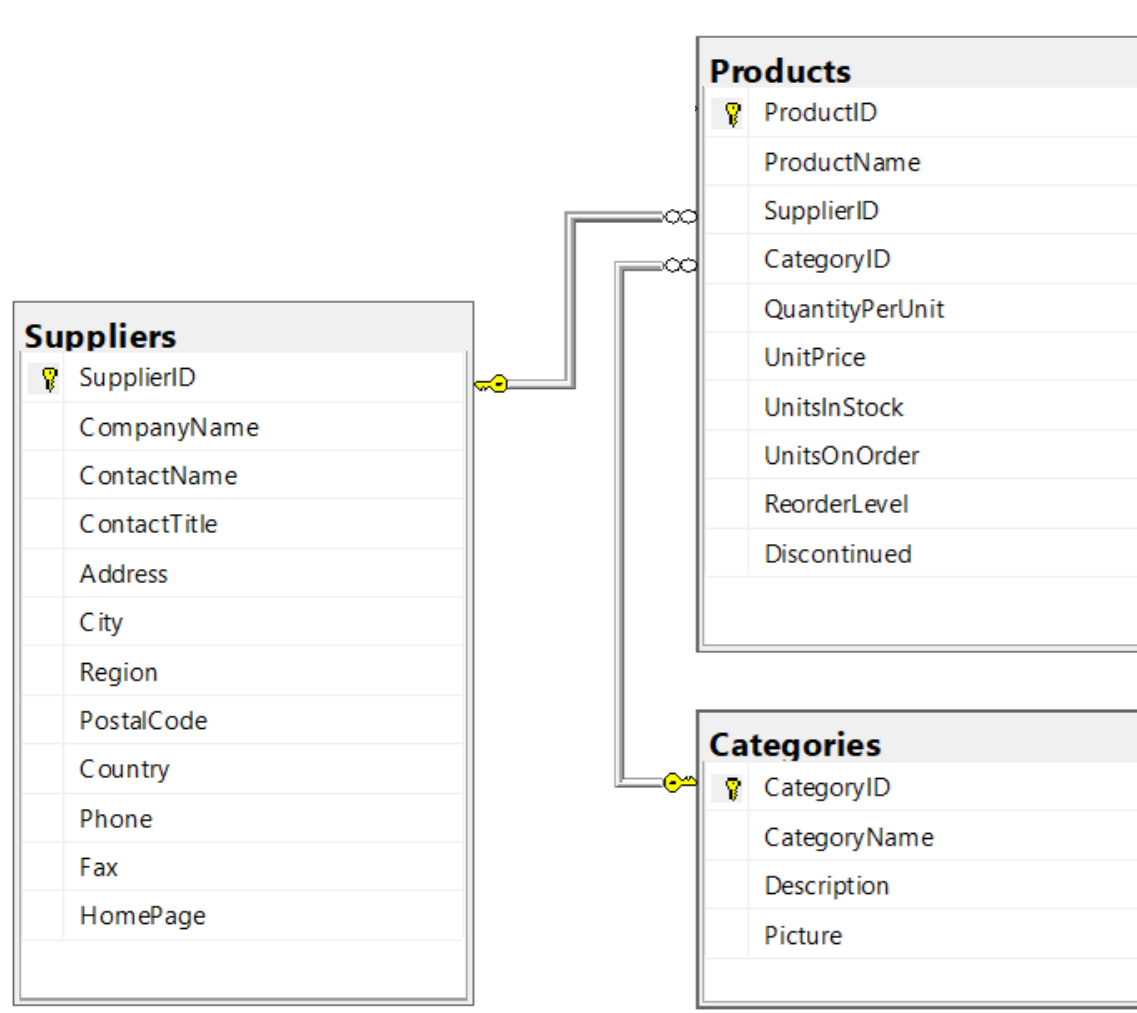
OrderID	CustomerID	EmployeeID	...
10248	VINET	5	...
10249	TOMSP	6	...
10250	HANAR	4	...
...

Some Terminologies

- Two keys
 - **primary key**: uniquely identifies an observation in its own table
 - **foreign key**: uniquely identifies an observation in another table
- Relationship between tables
 - one-to-one
 - **one-to-many**
 - many-to-many
- Foreign key constraints
 - often imposed on tables in Database, but not on raw data



Relation between Tables – Another Example



Join – Inner Join

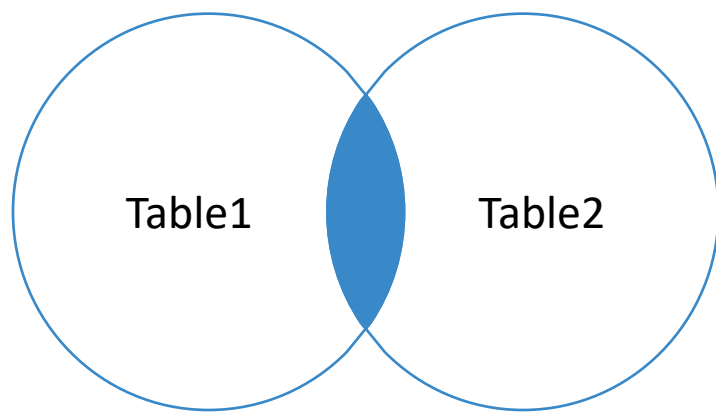


Table1

pk	t1c1
1	a
2	b

Table2

fk	t2c1
1	c
1	d
3	e

pk	t1c1	t2c1
1	a	c
1	a	d

```
inner_join(Table1, Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk"))
```

Join – Left (Outer) Join

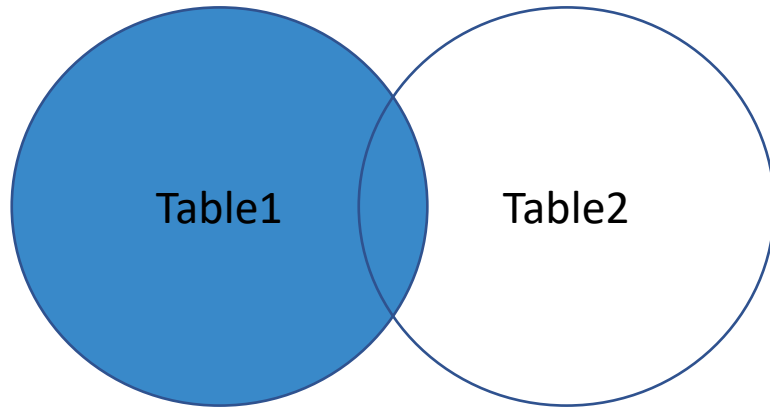


Table1

pk	t1c1
1	a
2	b

Table2

fk	t2c1
1	c
1	d
3	e

pk	t1c1	t2c1
1	a	c
1	a	d
2	b	NA

```
left_join(Table1, Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk"))
```

Join - Left (Outer) Join With Exclusion

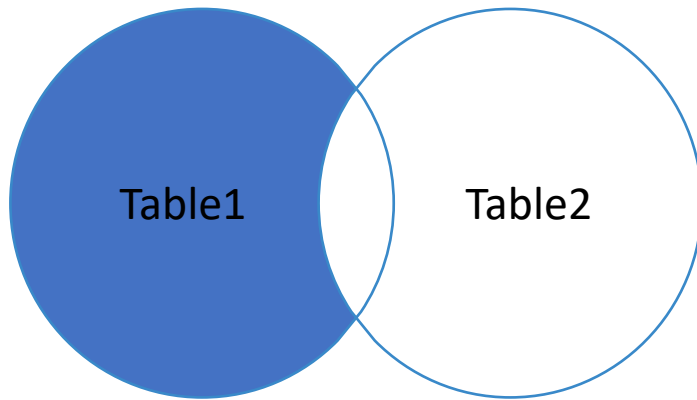


Table1		Table2	
pk	t1c1	fk	t2c1
1	a	1	c
2	b	1	d
		3	e

pk	t1c1	t2c1
2	b	NA

```
Table1 %>%  
  left_join(Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk")) %>%  
  filter(is.na(t2c1))
```

Appendix

- More on join variations
- `pivot_wide()`, the inverse transformation of `pivot_longer()`
- Another messy data example

More on Join Variations (learn them yourself)

- More join variation illustrations in the next few slides
 - right join, full join, ...
- Read the “two-table verbs” vignette (in the *dplyr* package doc)
 - <https://dplyr.tidyverse.org/articles/two-table.html>
- Read the reference (see the “two table verbs” section)
 - <https://dplyr.tidyverse.org/reference/index.html>
- For data manipulation tasks in general
 - reading *dplyr* related articles are a good start, <https://dplyr.tidyverse.org/articles/>

Join – Right (Outer) Join*

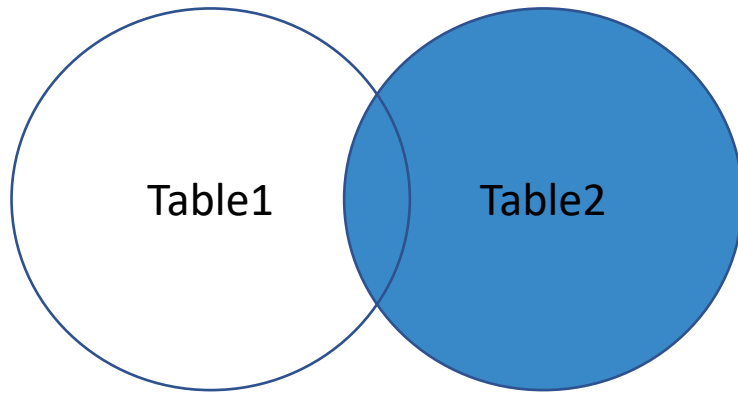


Table1

pk	t1c1
1	a
2	b

Table2

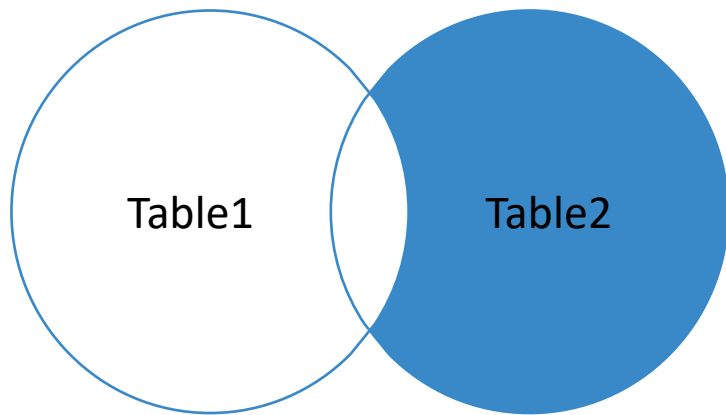
fk	t2c1
1	c
1	d
3	e

pk	t1c1	t2c1
1	a	c
1	a	d
3	NA	e

```
right_join(Table1, Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk"))
```

Note: can use left_join as well.

Join - Right (Outer) Join With Exclusion*



pk	t1c1
1	a
2	b

fk	t2c1
1	c
1	d
3	e

pk	t1c1	t2c1
3	NA	e

```
Table1 %>%  
  right_join(Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk")) %>%  
  filter(is.na(t1c1))
```

Join – Full Outer Join

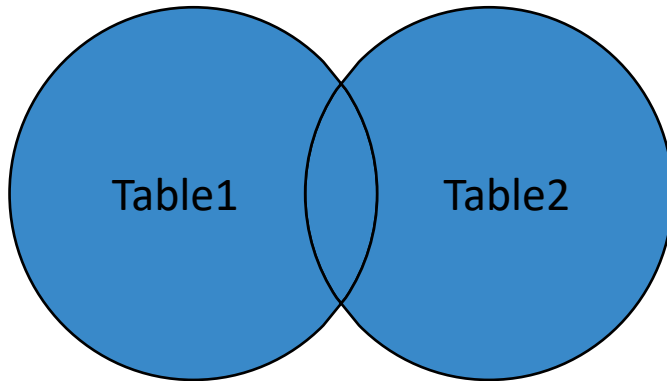


Table1

pk	t1c1
1	a
2	b

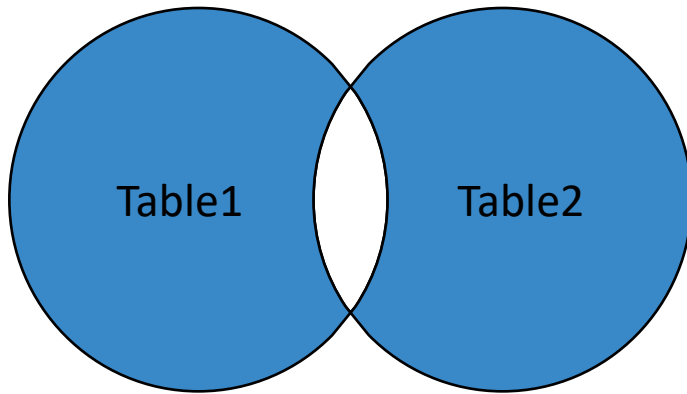
Table2

fk	t2c1
1	c
1	d
3	e

```
full_join(Table1, Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk"))
```

pk	t1c1	t2c1
1	a	c
1	a	d
2	b	NA
3	NA	e

Join – Full Outer Join With Exclusion



pk	t1c1
1	a
2	b

fk	t2c1
1	c
1	d
3	e

pk	t1c1	t2c1
2	b	NA
3	NA	e

```
Table1 %>%
```

```
  full_join(Table2, by = c("pk" = "fk")) %>%  
  filter(is.na(t1c1) | is.na(t2c1))
```

The inverse transformation: `pivot_wider()`

	name	treatment	result
	<chr>	<chr>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	a	NA
2	Jane Doe	a	16
3	Mary Johnson	a	3
4	John Smith	b	2
5	Jane Doe	b	11
6	Mary Johnson	b	1

```
pivot_wider(df_tidy,  
             names_from = treatment, values_from = result)
```

<https://tidyr.tidyverse.org/articles/pivot.html>

The inverse transformation: `pivot_wider()`

	name	treatment	result
	<chr>	<chr>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	a	NA
2	Jane Doe	a	16
3	Mary Johnson	a	3
4	John Smith	b	2
5	Jane Doe	b	11
6	Mary Johnson	b	1

```
pivot_wider(df_tidy,  
            names_from = treatment, values_from = result)
```

The inverse transformation: `pivot_wider()`

	name	treatment	result
	<chr>	<chr>	<dbl>
1	John Smith	a	NA
2	Jane Doe	a	16
3	Mary Johnson	a	3
4	John Smith	b	2
5	Jane Doe	b	11
6	Mary Johnson	b	1

```
pivot_wider(df_tidy,  
            names_from = treatment, values_from = result)
```

<https://tidyr.tidyverse.org/articles/pivot.html>

`pivot_wider()` result

```
# A tibble: 3 x 3  
  name          a      b  
  <chr>      <dbl> <dbl>  
1 John Smith    NA      2  
2 Jane Doe     16     11  
3 Mary Johnson  3       1
```


Messy Data – Example 3

year	artist	time	track	date	week	rank
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-02-26	1	87
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-04	2	82
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-11	3	72
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-18	4	77
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-25	5	87
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-04-01	6	94
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-04-08	7	99
2000	2Ge+her	3:15	The Hardest Part Of ...	2000-09-02	1	91
2000	2Ge+her	3:15	The Hardest Part Of ...	2000-09-09	2	87
2000	2Ge+her	3:15	The Hardest Part Of ...	2000-09-16	3	92
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-08	1	81
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-15	2	70
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-22	3	68
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-29	4	67
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-05-06	5	66

Table 8: First fifteen rows of the tidied billboard dataset. The `date` column does not appear in the original table, but can be computed from `date.entered` and `week`.

<http://vita.had.co.nz/papers/tidy-data.html>

Messy Data – Example 3

year	artist	time	track	date	week	rank
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-02-26	1	87
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-04	2	82
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-11	3	72
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-18	4	77
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-03-25	5	87
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-04-01	6	94
2000	2 Pac	4:22	Baby Don't Cry	2000-04-08	7	99
2000	2Ge+her	3:15	The Hardest Part Of ...	2000-09-02	1	91
2000	2Ge+her	3:15	The Hardest Part Of ...	2000-09-09	2	87
2000	2Ge+her	3:15	The Hardest Part Of ...	2000-09-16	3	92
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-08	1	81
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-15	2	70
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-22	3	68
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-04-29	4	67
2000	3 Doors Down	3:53	Kryptonite	2000-05-06	5	66

Table 8: First fifteen rows of the tidied billboard dataset. The `date` column does not appear in the original table, but can be computed from `date.entered` and `week`.

The Tidy Version

id	artist	track	time	id	date	rank
1	2 Pac	Baby Don't Cry	4:22	1	2000-02-26	87
2	2Ge+her	The Hardest Part Of ...	3:15	1	2000-03-04	82
3	3 Doors Down	Kryptonite	3:53	1	2000-03-11	72
4	3 Doors Down	Loser	4:24	1	2000-03-18	77
5	504 Boyz	Wobble Wobble	3:35	1	2000-03-25	87
6	98^0	Give Me Just One Nig...	3:24	1	2000-04-01	94
7	A*Teens	Dancing Queen	3:44	1	2000-04-08	99
8	Aaliyah	I Don't Wanna	4:15	2	2000-09-02	91
9	Aaliyah	Try Again	4:03	2	2000-09-09	87
10	Adams, Yolanda	Open My Heart	5:30	2	2000-09-16	92
11	Adkins, Trace	More	3:05	3	2000-04-08	81
12	Aguilera, Christina	Come On Over Baby	3:38	3	2000-04-15	70
13	Aguilera, Christina	I Turn To You	4:00	3	2000-04-22	68
14	Aguilera, Christina	What A Girl Wants	3:18	3	2000-04-29	67
15	Alice DeeJay	Better Off Alone	6:50	3	2000-05-06	66

Table 13: Normalised billboard dataset split up into song dataset (left) and rank dataset (right). First 15 rows of each dataset shown; **genre** omitted from song dataset, **week** omitted from rank dataset.

<http://vita.had.co.nz/papers/tidy-data.html>