# DATA MANIPULATION IN R WITH DPLYR

The dplyr package is one of the most powerful and popular package in R. This package was written by the most popular R programmer Hadley Wickham who has written many useful R packages such as ggplot2, tidyr etc. This post includes several examples and tips of how to use dplyr package for cleaning and transforming data. It's a complete tutorial on data manipulation and data wrangling with R.

### What is dplyr?

The dplyr is a powerful R-package to manipulate, clean and summarize unstructured data. In short, it makes data exploration and data manipulation easy and fast in R.

#### What's special about dplyr?

The package "dplyr" comprises many functions that perform mostly used data manipulation operations such as applying filter, selecting specific columns, sorting data, adding or deleting columns and aggregating data. Another most important advantage of this package is that it's very easy to learn and use dplyr functions. Also easy to recall these functions. For example, filter() is used to filter rows.

#### dplyr vs. Base R Functions

dplyr functions process faster than base R functions. It is because dplyr functions were written in a computationally efficient manner. They are also more stable in the syntax and better supports data frames than vectors.

#### SQL Queries vs. dplyr

People have been utilizing SQL for analyzing data for decades. Every modern data analysis software such as Python, R, SAS etc supports SQL commands. But SQL was never designed to perform data analysis. It was rather designed for querying and managing data. There are many data analysis operations where SQL fails or makes simple things difficult. For example, calculating median for multiple variables, converting wide format data to long format etc. Whereas, dplyr package was designed to do data analysis.

The names of dplyr functions are similar to SQL commands such as select() for selecting variables, group\_by() - group data by grouping variable, join() - joining two data sets. Also includes inner\_join() and left\_join(). It also supports sub queries for which SQL was popular for.

# Important dplyr Functions to remember

dplyr Function	Description	Equivalent SQL
select()	Selecting columns (variables)	SELECT
filter()	Filter (subset) rows.	WHERE
group_by()	Group the data	GROUP BY
summarise()	Summarise (or aggregate) data	-
arrange()	Sort the data	ORDER BY
join()	Joining data frames (tables)	JOIN
mutate()	Creating New Variables	COLUMN ALIAS

Figure 1: dplyr

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
##
## Attaching package: 'dplyr'
## The following objects are masked from 'package:stats':
##
## filter, lag
## The following objects are masked from 'package:base':
##
   intersect, setdiff, setequal, union
mydata = read.csv("sampledata.csv",header = T,sep = ",")
```

### Example 1: Selecting Random N Rows

The sample\_n function selects random rows from a data frame (or table). The second parameter of the function tells R the number of rows to select.

```
sample_n(mydata,3)
```

```
##
     Index
                         Y2002
                                 Y2003
                                         Y2004
                                                  Y2005
                                                          Y2006
                                                                  Y2007
                 State
         C Connecticut 1610512 1232844 1181949 1518933 1841266 1976976
           California 1685349 1675807 1889570 1480280 1735069 1812546
## 3
         М
               Montana 1877154 1540099 1332722 1273327 1625721 1983568
                                                Y2013
##
       Y2008
               Y2009
                       Y2010
                               Y2011
                                       Y2012
                                                        Y2014
## 1 1764457 1972730 1968730 1945524 1228529 1582249 1503156 1718072
## 2 1487315 1663809 1624509 1639670 1921845 1156536 1388461 1644607
```

## 5 1939284 1915865 1619186 1288285 1108281 1123353 1801019 1729273

### Example 2: Selecting Random Fraction of Rows

The sample\_frac function returns randomly N% of rows. In the example below, it returns randomly 10% of rows.

```
sample_frac(mydata, 0.1)
##
                                   Y2003
                                                           Y2006
     Index
                          Y2002
                                           Y2004
                                                   Y2005
                                                                    Y2007
## 1
         F
                Florida 1964626 1468852 1419738 1362787 1339608 1278550
## 2
         N
             New Mexico 1819239 1226057 1935991 1124400 1723493 1475985
## 3
         Ι
                  Idaho 1353210 1438538 1739154 1541015 1122387 1772050
## 4
         S South Dakota 1159037 1150689 1660148 1417141 1418586 1279134
## 5
         U
                   Utah 1771096 1195861 1979395 1241662 1437456 1859416
                                Y2011
##
       Y2008
                       Y2010
                                        Y2012
               Y2009
                                                Y2013
                                                        Y2014
                                                                 Y2015
## 1 1756185 1818438 1198403 1497051 1131928 1107448 1407784 1170389
## 2 1237704 1820856 1801430 1653384 1475715 1623388 1533494 1868612
## 3 1335481 1748608 1436809 1456340 1643855 1312561 1713718 1757171
## 4 1171870 1852424 1554782 1647245 1811156 1147488 1302834 1136443
```

### Example 3: Remove Duplicate Rows based on all the variables (Complete Row)

The distinct function is used to eliminate duplicates.

```
x1 = distinct(mydata)
```

In this dataset, there is not a single duplicate row so it returned same number of rows as in mydata. ## Example 4: Remove Duplicate Rows based on a variable The .keep\_all function is used to retain all other variables in the output data frame.

```
x2 = distinct(mydata, Index, .keep_all= TRUE)
```

### Example 5: Remove Duplicates Rows based on multiple variables

In the example below, we are using two variables - Index, Y2010 to determine uniqueness.

```
x2 = distinct(mydata, Index, Y2010, .keep_all= TRUE)
```

### select() Function

It is used to select only desired variables. select() syntax : select(data, ....) data : Data Frame .... : Variables by name or by function

#### Example 6: Selecting Variables (or Columns)

Suppose you are asked to select only a few variables. The code below selects variables "Index", columns from "State" to "Y2008".

```
mydata2 = select(mydata, Index, State:Y2008)
```

# Example 7: Dropping Variables

The minus sign before a variable tells R to drop the variable.

```
mydata = select(mydata, -Index, -State)
```

The above code can also be written like:

```
#mydata = select(mydata, -c(Index,State))
```

### Example 8: Selecting or Dropping Variables starts with 'Y'

The starts\_with() function is used to select variables starts with an alphabet.

```
mydata3 = select(mydata, starts_with("Y"))
```

Adding a negative sign before starts\_with() implies dropping the variables starts with 'Y'

```
mydata33 = select(mydata, -starts_with("Y"))
```

The following functions helps you to select variables based on their names.

Helpers	Description	
starts_with()	Starts with a prefix	
ends_with()	Ends with a prefix	
contains()	Contains a literal string	
matches()	Matches a regular expression	
num_range()	Numerical range like x01, x02, x03.	
one_of()	Variables in character vector.	
everything()	All variables.	

## Example 9 : Selecting Variables contain

```
mydata4 = select(mydata, contains("I"))
```

### Example 10: Reorder Variables

The code below keeps variable 'State' in the front and the remaining variables follow that.

```
#mydata5 = select(mydata, State, everything())
```

<sup>&#</sup>x27;I' in their names

# rename() Function

It is used to change variable name. rename() syntax: rename(data, new\_name = old\_name) data: Data Frame new\_name: New variable name you want to keep old\_name: Existing Variable Name ## Example 11: Rename Variables The rename function can be used to rename variables. In the following code, we are renaming 'Index' variable to 'Index1'.

```
#mydata6 = rename(mydata, Index1=Index)
```

# filter() Function

It is used to subset data with matching logical conditions. filter() syntax : filter(data, ....) data : Data Frame .... : Logical Condition

# Example 12: Filter Rows

Suppose you need to subset data. You want to filter rows and retain only those values in which Index is equal to A.

```
#mydata7 = filter(mydata, Index == "A")
```

### Example 13: Multiple Selection Criteria

The %in% operator can be used to select multiple items. In the following program, we are telling R to select rows against 'A' and 'C' in column 'Index'.

```
\#mydata7 = filter(mydata6, Index \%in\% c("A", "C"))
```

### Example 14: 'AND' Condition in Selection Criteria

Suppose you need to apply 'AND' condition. In this case, we are picking data for 'A' and 'C' in the column 'Index' and income greater than 1.3 million in Year 2002.

```
#mydata8 = filter(mydata6, Index %in% c("A", "C") & Y2002 >= 1300000 )
```

### Example 15: 'OR' Condition in Selection Criteria

The 'I' denotes OR in the logical condition. It means any of the two conditions.

```
\#mydata9 = filter(mydata6, Index \%in\% c("A", "C") | Y2002 >= 1300000)
```

### Example 16: NOT Condition

The "!" sign is used to reverse the logical condition.

```
#mydata10 = filter(mydata6, !Index %in% c("A", "C"))
```

### **Example 17: CONTAINS Condition**

The grepl function is used to search for pattern matching. In the following code, we are looking for records wherein column state contains 'Ar' in their name.

```
\#mydata10 = filter(mydata6, grepl("Ar", State))
```

# summarise() Function

It is used to summarize data. summarise() syntax : summarise(data , ....) data : Data Frame ..... : Summary Functions such as mean, median etc

### Example 18: Summarize selected variables

In the example below, we are calculating mean and median for the variable Y2015.

```
#summarise(mydata, Y2015_mean = mean(Y2015), Y2015_med=median(Y2015))
```

### Example 19: Summarize Multiple Variables

In the following example, we are calculating number of records, mean and median for variables Y2005 and Y2006. The summarise at function allows us to select multiple variables by their names.

```
\#summarise\_at(mydata, vars(Y2005, Y2006), funs(n(), mean, median))
```

### Example 20: Summarize with Custom Functions

We can also use custom functions in the summarise function. In this case, we are computing the number of records, number of missing values, mean and median for variables Y2011 and Y2012. The dot (.) denotes each variables specified in the second argument of the function.

```
#summarise_at(mydata, vars(Y2011, Y2012),
#funs(n(), missing = sum(is.na(.)), mean(., na.rm = TRUE), median(.,na.rm = TRUE)))
```

# How to apply Non-Standard Functions

Suppose you want to subtract mean from its original value and then calculate variance of it.

# Example 21: Summarize all Numeric Variables

The summarise if function allows you to summarise conditionally.

### Alternative Method: First, store data for all the numeric variables

```
numdata = mydata[sapply(mydata,is.numeric)]
```

Second, the summarise\_all function calculates summary statistics for all the columns in a data frame

#### Example 22 : Summarize Factor Variable

We are checking the number of levels/categories and count of missing observations in a categorical (factor) variable.

```
#summarise_all(mydata["Index"], funs(nlevels(.), nmiss=sum(is.na(.))))
```

# arrange() function: Use: Sort data

Syntax arrange(data\_frame, variable(s)\_to\_sort) or data\_frame %>% arrange(variable(s)\_to\_sort) To sort a variable in descending order, use desc(x).

#### Example 23: Sort Data by Multiple Variables

The default sorting order of arrange() function is ascending. In this example, we are sorting data by multiple variables.

```
#arrange(mydata, Index, Y2011)
```

Suppose you need to sort one variable by descending order and other variable by ascending oder.

```
#arrange(mydata, desc(Index), Y2011)
```

# Pipe Operator %>%

It is important to understand the pipe (%>%) operator before knowing the other functions of dplyr package. dplyr utilizes pipe operator from another package (magrittr). It allows you to write sub-queries like we do it in sql. Note: All the functions in dplyr package can be used without the pipe operator. The question arises "Why to use pipe operator %>%". The answer is it lets to wrap multiple functions together with the use of %>%. Syntax: filter(data\_frame, variable == value) or data\_frame %>% filter(variable == value)

# The %>% is NOT restricted to filter function. It can be used with any function.

# Example:

The code below demonstrates the usage of pipe %>% operator. In this example, we are selecting 10 random observations of two variables "Index" "State" from the data frame "mydata".

```
#dt = sample_n(select(mydata, Index, State),10)
#or
#dt = mydata %>% select(Index, State) %>% sample_n(10)
```

# group\_by() function: Use: Group data by categorical variable

Syntax : group\_by(data, variables) or data %>% group\_by(variables)

# Example 24: Summarise Data by Categorical Variable

We are calculating count and mean of variables Y2011 and Y2012 by variable Index.

```
\#t = summarise\_at(group\_by(mydata, Index), \ vars(Y2011, \ Y2012), \ funs(n(), \ mean(., \ na.rm = TRUE)))
```

The above code can also be written like

```
\#t = mydata \ \%\% \ group\_by(Index) \ \%\% \ summarise\_at(vars(Y2011:Y2015), \ funs(n(), \ mean(., \ na.rm = TRUE)))
```

# do() function: Use: Compute within groups

Syntax : do(data\_frame, expressions\_to\_apply\_to\_each\_group) Note : The dot (.) is required to refer to a data frame. ## Example 25 : Filter Data within a Categorical Variable Suppose you need to pull top 2 rows from 'A', 'C' and 'I' categories of variable Index.

```
#t = mydata %>% filter(Index %in% c("A", "C", "I")) %>% group_by(Index) %>% do(head( . , 2))
```

# Example 26: Selecting 3rd Maximum Value by Categorical Variable

We are calculating third maximum value of variable Y2015 by variable Index. The following code first selects only two variables Index and Y2015. Then it filters the variable Index with 'A', 'C' and 'I' and then it groups the same variable and sorts the variable Y2015 in descending order. At last, it selects the third row.

```
#t = mydata %>% select(Index, Y2015) %>% filter(Index %in% c("A", "C", "I")) %>% group_by(Index) %>%
```

The slice() function is used to select rows by position.

# **Using Window Functions**

Like SQL, dplyr uses window functions that are used to subset data within a group. It returns a vector of values. We could use min\_rank() function that calculates rank in the preceding example,

```
#t = mydata %>% select(Index, Y2015) %>% filter(Index %in% c("A", "C", "I")) %>% group_by(Index) %>%
```

### Example 27: Summarize, Group and Sort Together

In this case, we are computing mean of variables Y2014 and Y2015 by variable Index. Then sort the result by calculated mean variable Y2015.

```
#t = mydata %>%
# group_by(Index)%>%
#summarise(Mean_2014 = mean(Y2014, na.rm=TRUE),
# Mean_2015 = mean(Y2015, na.rm=TRUE)) %>%
#arrange(desc(Mean_2015))
```

# mutate() function :Use : Creates new variables

Syntax: mutate(data\_frame, expression(s)) or data\_frame %>% mutate(expression(s))

### Example 28: Create a new variable

The following code calculates division of Y2015 by Y2014 and name it "change".

```
#mydata1 = mutate(mydata, change=Y2015/Y2014)
```

#### Example 29: Multiply all the variables by 1000

It creates new variables and name them with suffix " new".

```
#mydata11 = mutate_all(mydata, funs("new" = .* 1000))
```

The output shown in the image above is truncated due to high number of variables.

#### Note - The above code returns the following error messages -

Warning messages: 1: In Ops.factor(c(1L, 1L, 1L, 1L, 2L, 2L, 2L, 3L, 3L, 4L, 5L, 6L, : '' not meaningful for factors 2: In Ops.factor(1:51, 1000): '' not meaningful for factors

It implies you are multiplying 1000 to string(character) values which are stored as factor variables. These variables are 'Index', 'State'. It does not make sense to apply multiplication operation on character variables. For these two variables, it creates newly created variables which contain only NA.

Solution: See Example 45 - Apply multiplication on only numeric variables

# Example 30: Calculate Rank for Variables

Suppose you need to calculate rank for variables Y2008 to Y2010.

```
#mydata12 = mutate_at(mydata, vars(Y2008:Y2010), funs(Rank=min_rank(.)))
```

By default, min\_rank() assigns 1 to the smallest value and high number to the largest value. In case, you need to assign rank 1 to the largest value of a variable, use min\_rank(desc(.))

```
#mydata13 = mutate_at(mydata, vars(Y2008:Y2010), funs(Rank=min_rank(desc(.))))
```

# Example 31: Select State that generated highest income among the variable 'Index'

```
#out = mydata %>% group_by(Index) %>% filter(min_rank(desc(Y2015)) == 1) %>% select(Index, State, Y20
```

# Example 32: Cumulative Income of 'Index' variable

The cumsum function calculates cumulative sum of a variable. With mutate function, we insert a new variable called 'Total' which contains values of cumulative income of variable Index.

```
#out2 = mydata %>% group_by(Index) %>% mutate(Total=cumsum(Y2015)) %>%select(Index, Y2015, Total)
```

# join() function: Use: Join two datasets

```
inner_join(x, y, by = )
left_join(x, y, by = )
right_join(x, y, by = )
full_join(x, y, by = )
semi_join(x, y, by = )
anti_join(x, y, by = )
```

x, y - datasets (or tables) to merge / join by - common variable (primary key) to join by.

### Example 33: Common rows in both the tables

INNER JOIN returns rows when there is a match in both tables. In this example, we are merging df1 and df2 with ID as common variable (primary key).

```
df3 = inner_join(df1, df2, by = "ID")
```

If the primary key does not have same name in both the tables, try the following way:

```
\#inner\_join(df1, df2, by = c("ID"="ID1"))
```

### Example 34: Applying LEFT JOIN

LEFT JOIN: It returns all rows from the left table, even if there are no matches in the right table.

# Combine Data Vertically

```
intersect(x, y) Rows that appear in both x and y. union(x, y) Rows that appear in either or both x and y. setdiff(x, y) Rows that appear in x but not y.
```

### Example 35: Applying INTERSECT

Prepare Sample Data for Demonstration

```
#mtcars$model <- rownames(mtcars)
#first <- mtcars[1:20, ]
#second <- mtcars[10:32, ]</pre>
```

INTERSECT selects unique rows that are common to both the data frames.

```
#intersect(first, second)
```

# Example 36: Applying UNION

UNION displays all rows from both the tables and removes duplicate records from the combined dataset. By using union\_all function, it allows duplicate rows in the combined dataset.

```
x=data.frame(ID = 1:6, ID1= 1:6)
y=data.frame(ID = 1:6, ID1 = 1:6)
union(x,y)
     ID ID1
##
## 1 1
          1
## 2 2
         2
## 3 3
         3
## 4 4
         4
## 5 5
         5
## 6 6
union_all(x,y)
##
      ID ID1
## 1
       1
           1
## 2
       2
           2
## 3
       3
           3
## 4
       4
           4
```

5

5

## 5

# Example 37: Rows appear in one table but not in other table

```
#setdiff(first, second)
```

### Example 38: IF ELSE Statement

```
Syntax: if_else(condition, true, false, missing = NULL)
```

true : Value if condition meets false : Value if condition does not meet missing : Value if missing cases.It will be used to replace missing values (Default : NULL)

```
df <- c(-10,2, NA)
if_else(df < 0, "negative", "positive", missing = "missing value")
## [1] "negative" "positive" "missing value"</pre>
```

### Create a new variable with IF\_ELSE

If a value is less than 5, add it to 1 and if it is greater than or equal to 5, add it to 2. Otherwise 0.

### Nested IF ELSE

Multiple IF ELSE statement can be written using if\_else() function. See the example below -

```
mydf =data.frame(x = c(1:5,NA))
mydf %>% mutate(newvar= if_else(is.na(x),"I am missing",
if_else(x==1,"I am one",
if_else(x==2,"I am two",
if_else(x==3,"I am three","Others")))))
```

```
## x newvar
## 1 1 I am one
## 2 2 I am two
## 3 3 I am three
## 4 4 Others
## 5 5 Others
## 6 NA I am missing
```

# SQL-Style CASE WHEN Statement

We can use case\_when() function to write nested if-else queries. In case\_when(), you can use variables directly within case\_when() wrapper. TRUE refers to ELSE statement.

```
## x flag
## 1 1 I am one
## 2 2 I am two
## 3 3 I am three
## 4 4 Others
## 5 5 Others
## 6 NA I am missing
```

Important Point: Make sure you set is.na() condition at the beginning in nested ifelse. Otherwise, it would not be executed.

### Example 39: Apply ROW WISE Operation

Suppose you want to find maximum value in each row of variables 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015. The rowwise() function allows you to apply functions to rows.

```
\#df = mydata \%\% rowwise() \%\% mutate(Max= max(Y2012, Y2013, Y2014, Y2015)) \%\% select(Y2012: Y2015, Max)
```

#### Example 40: Combine Data Frames

Suppose you are asked to combine two data frames. Let's first create two sample datasets.

```
df1=data.frame(ID = 1:6, x=letters[1:6])
df2=data.frame(ID = 7:12, x=letters[7:12])
```

The bind\_rows() function combine two datasets with rows. So combined dataset would contain 12 rows (6+6) and 2 columns.

```
## Warning in bind_rows_(x, .id): Unequal factor levels: coercing to character
## Warning in bind_rows_(x, .id): binding character and factor vector,
## coercing into character vector

## Warning in bind_rows_(x, .id): binding character and factor vector,
## coercing into character vector

It is equivalent to base R function rbind.

xy = rbind(df1,df2)
```

The bind\_cols() function combine two datasets with columns. So combined dataset would contain 4 columns and 6 rows.

```
xy = bind_cols(x,y)
#or
xy = cbind(x,y)
```

### Example 41: Calculate Percentile Values

The quantile() function is used to determine Nth percentile value. In this example, we are computing percentile values by variable Index.

```
#mydata %>% group_by(Index) %>% summarise(Pecentile_25=quantile(Y2015, probs=0.25),Pecentile_50=quant  
# Pecentile_75=quantile(Y2015, probs=0.75),  
# Pecentile_99=quantile(Y2015, probs=0.99))
```

The ntile() function is used to divide the data into N bins.

```
x= data.frame(N= 1:10)
x = mutate(x, pos = ntile(x$N,5))
```

### Example 42: Automate Model Building

This example explains the advanced usage of do() function. In this example, we are building linear regression model for each level of a categorical variable. There are 3 levels in variable cyl of dataset mtcars.

```
length(unique(mtcars$cyl))
## [1] 3
by_cyl <- group_by(mtcars, cyl)</pre>
models <- by_cyl %>% do(mod = lm(mpg ~ disp, data = .))
summarise(models, rsq = summary(mod)$r.squared)
## # A tibble: 3 x 1
##
        rsq
##
      <dbl>
## 1 0.648
## 2 0.0106
## 3 0.270
models %>% do(data.frame(
  var = names(coef(.$mod)),
  coef(summary(.$mod)))
)
## Source: local data frame [6 x 5]
## Groups: <by row>
##
## # A tibble: 6 x 5
     var
                  Estimate Std..Error t.value
                                                 Pr...t..
## * <fct>
                                 <dbl>
                                                     <dbl>
                     <dbl>
                                         <dbl>
## 1 (Intercept)
                  40.9
                               3.59
                                        11.4
                                               0.00000120
                               0.0332
                                        -4.07 0.00278
## 2 disp
                  -0.135
## 3 (Intercept)
                  19.1
                               2.91
                                         6.55 0.00124
## 4 disp
                   0.00361
                               0.0156
                                         0.232 0.826
## 5 (Intercept)
                  22.0
                               3.35
                                         6.59 0.0000259
## 6 disp
                  -0.0196
                               0.00932 -2.11 0.0568
```

# if() Family of Functions

It includes functions like select\_if, mutate\_if, summarise\_if. They come into action only when logical condition meets. See examples below. ## Example 43: Select only numeric columns The select\_if() function returns only those columns where logical condition is TRUE. The is.numeric refers to retain only numeric variables.

```
#mydata2 = select_if(mydata, is.numeric)
```

Similarly, you can use the following code for selecting factor columns -

```
#mydata3 = select_if(mydata, is.factor)
```

# Example 44: Number of levels in factor variables

Like select\_if() function, summarise\_if() function lets you to summarise only for variables where logical condition holds.

```
#summarise_if(mydata, is.factor, funs(nlevels(.)))
```

It returns 19 levels for variable Index and 51 levels for variable State. ## Example 45 : Multiply by 1000 to numeric variables

```
#mydata11 = mutate_if(mydata, is.numeric, funs("new" = .* 1000))
```

### Example 46: Convert value to NA

In this example, we are converting "" to NA using na\_if() function.

```
k <- c("a", "b", "", "d")
na_if(k, "")
```

```
## [1] "a" "b" NA "d"
```