Getting and Cleaning Data

Biostatistics 140.776

Getting and Cleaning Data

- Getting data: APIs and web scraping
- Cleaning data: Tidy data
- Transforming data: Regular expressions

Getting Data



Where Am I?

- The working directory is the place where R will look when reading or writing files
- getwd() returns the current working directory
- setwd() sets the working directory
- RStudio has menu options (Session > Set Working Directory)
- Creating an RStudio Project sets your working directory (suggested)

Project Working Directory

New Project			
Back	Create New Project		
	Directory name:		
K	Create project as subdirectory of		
(FC)	~/Desktop		Browse
	Create a git repository		
Open in new se	ssion	Create Project	Cancel

Working Directory

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Working Directory

- When you download files/data, move them to your working directory
- Upon opening R, set your working directory to match whatever project you are working on
- Much simpler if you use RStudio Projects
- Check with getwd()

The readr Package

- The functions in the **readr** package can be used to read tabular data from text files
- read_csv, read_table are the core functions
- All functions are very fast and *can read directly from compressed files*
- You should try to never decompress files that are compressed (not much to be gained)

Flat Files

Particulates

Year	PM2.5 FRM/FEM Mass	PM2.5 non FRM/FEM Mass	PM10 Mass	PM2.5
	(88101)	(88502)	(81102)	Speciation
2016	daily_88101_2016.zip	daily_88502_2016.zip	daily_81102_2016.zip	daily_SPEC_2016.zip
	77,865 Rows	53,685 Rows	30,980 Rows	92,441 Rows
	932 KB	649 KB	251 KB	824 KB
	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17
2015	daily_88101_2015.zip	daily_88502_2015.zip	daily_81102_2015.zip	daily_SPEC_2015.zip
	390,090 Rows	311,901 Rows	167,829 Rows	1,690,870 Rows
	4,213 KB	3,454 KB	1,216 KB	13,061 KB
	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17
2014	daily_88101_2014.zip	daily_88502_2014.zip	daily_81102_2014.zip	daily_SPEC_2014.zip
	369,476 Rows	333,364 Rows	167,191 Rows	2,108,467 Rows
	3,979 KB	3,675 KB	1,221 KB	16,717 KB
	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17	As of 2016-06-17

https://aqs.epa.gov/aqsweb/airdata/download_files.html#Daily



Flat Files

Look inside the zip file (without decompressing it)
unzip("PM2.5_2019.zip", list = TRUE)

NameLengthDate1 daily_88101_2019.csv252039182019-05-2922:51:00



Web Sites

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https://data.baltimorecity.gov/City-Services/Liquor-Licenses/xv8d-bwgi

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Read a File from Web

library(readr)

Read directly off the web site liquor <- read_csv("https://data.baltimorecity.gov/api/views/xv8d-bwgi/ rows.csv?accessType=DOWNLOAD")

```
## Note the date/time data were downloaded
Sys.time()
```

Reading Remote Data

- Functions in the readr package (read_csv, read_table, etc.) can all read directly off the web
- Whether to retain static file or read dynamically off the web depends on application
- Truly "dynamic" applications (continuously updated) should probably read directly off web
- When you need a snapshot (e.g. for reproducibility), better to download a static file and read locally

Reading Other Files

- The readxl package can be used to read Microsoft Excel files (via the read_excel function)
- The **haven** package can read files from other stats packages (read_dta, read_sas, read_spss)
- Also, the **foreign** package can read from a few other systems

There's a Package for That

- > 10,000 packages on CRAN
- googlesheets: Reading Google Sheets table data
- **jsonlite**: Reading files/data in JSON format
- jpeg, png: Reading bitmap image data
- rgdal, raster, shapefiles: GIS data
- tuneR, seewave: Music/Sound data
- **RMySQL**, **SQLite**: Relational databases

When in Doubt...

The read_lines function just reads lines of text

```
library(readr)
```

```
## Read lines from a text file (commit logs)
logs <- read_lines("commit_logs_nomerge.txt")</pre>
```

```
## See the first few lines of text
head(logs)
[1] "commit 7f6ef08e80191712a5eb0d75c42931466e7bbe73"
[2] "Author: XXXXXXXXX"
[3] "Date: Wed Oct 1 16:55:12 2014 -0400"
[4] ""
[5] " date changes to pages/tickets"
[6] ""
```

Raw Text Data

- Useful for taking a peek at data because no processing is done on read-in
- Use text processing tools (regular expressions) to convert to tidy data
- Lots of back and forth between examining the structure of text data and manipulating that structure
- Structured data, like XML, has its own packages for reading and processing

Goal: Tidy Data

- Allows for easy manipulation, transformation, and summary of data
- Required format for most modeling functions (1m, g1m, etc.)
- Makes plotting data in various layouts/formats easier (i.e. with ggplot2 package)
- Easier to reason about the data
- Everything is easier!

Tidy Data

- Each variable forms a column.
- Each observation forms a row.
- Each type of observational unit forms a table.

https://www.jstatsoft.org/article/view/v059i10

Tidy Data

	Rural	Male	Rural	Female	Urban	Male	Urban	Female
50-54		11.7		8.7		15.4		8.4
55-59		18.1		11.7		24.3		13.6
60-64		26.9		20.3		37.0		19.3
65-69		41.0		30.9		54.6		35.1
70-74		66.0		54.3		71.1		50.0

VADeaths dataset

Tidy Data

A tibble: 20 x 4

age ui	rban ge	ender de	eath_r	ate
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<fctr> <fctr> <fctr> <dd< th=""><th>) L></th></dd<></fctr></fctr></fctr>) L>
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- 1 50-54 Rural Male 11.7
- 2 55-59 Rural Male 18.1
- 3 60-64 Rural Male 26.9
- 4 65-69 Rural Male 41.0
- 5 70-74 Rural Male 66.0
- 6 50-54 Rural Female 8.7
- 7 55-59 Rural Female 11.7

Tidyverse

- A collection of packages that allows one to easily work with or create tidy data
- The tidyr package has tools for manipulating "wide" and "long" format data
- Many other packages in tidyverse depend on tidy data format: dplyr, ggplot2
- Principal tidyverse packages can be loaded via the tidyverse package

Summary

- Identify data locations and tools for reading
- Download files to working directory
- Read data directly off the web (sometimes)
- Get data into tidy format