Data Wrangling (Made Easy) in R Workshop

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Recap: 'Tidy' data

Specifically, a **tidy** data set is one in which:

- rows contain different observations;
- · columns contain different variables;
- **cells** contain values.

Remember:

"Tidy datasets are all alike but every messy dataset is messy in its own way."—Hadley Wickham

The tidyverse

In the previous session we explored the use of **ggplot2** to produce visualisations of complex data sets.

This utilised the fact that the data sets we had available were **'tidy'** (in the Wickham sense)!

However, it is estimated that data scientists spend around 50-80% of their time cleaning and manipulating data.

In this session we will explore the use of other tidyverse packages, such as dplyr and tidyr, that facilitate effective data wrangling.

Cheat sheets

As before, useful cheat sheets can be found at:

https://www.rstudio.com/resources/cheatsheets/

I would highly recommend downloading the appropriate ones (note that they do get updated from time-to-time as the packages are further developed).

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Further reading

I would highly recommend Hadley Wickham and Garrett Grolemund's **"R for Data Science"** book:



Can be bought as a hard copy, or a link to a free HTML version is here.

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RStudio server

CLES have kindly offered the use of their RStudio server in case anyone needs it:

https://rstudio04.cles.ex.ac.uk

Please note that this server is only for use for this workshop, unless you otherwise have permission to use it .

You will need to log-in using your University log-in details.

Structure of the workshop

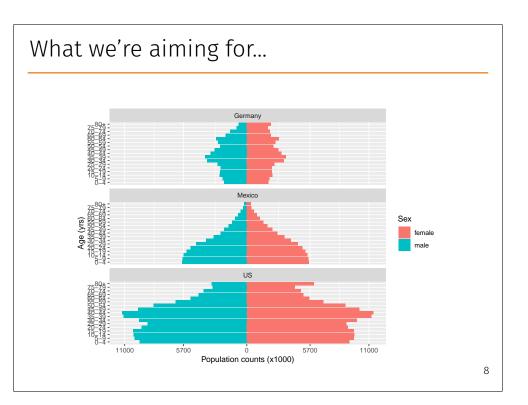
Full (and more comprehensive notes) are provided at:

https://exeter-data-analytics.github.io/AdVis/

You are encouraged to go through these in more detail outside of the workshop.

Today we will discuss the main concepts, and work through some (although not all) of the examples in **Section 2** of the notes.

I would encourage you to work from the HTML here, but a PDF is available as a link in the HTML notes.



Basic operations

We will assume here that we are working with data.frame¹ objects². Common data wrangling tasks include:

- sorting;
- filtering;
- **selecting** columns;
- transforming columns.

¹or tibble—see later

²note that the **purrr** package provides functionality to wrangle different types of object, such as standard **list**s. We won't cover these here, but see Hadley's book, or the tutorials on the **tidyverse** website for more details

Why bother?

- These functions are written in a **consistent** way: they all take a data.frame/tibble objects as their initial argument and return a revised data.frame/tibble object.
- Their names are informative. In fact they are verbs, corresponding to us doing something specific to our data. This makes the code much more readable, as we will see subsequently.
- 3. They do not require extraneous operators: such as **\$** operators to extract columns, or quotations around column names.
- 4. Functions adhering to these criteria can be developed and expanded to perform all sorts of other operations, such as summarising data over groups.
- 5. They can be used in **pipes** (see later).

Basic operations

These basic operators all have an associated function:

- sorting:
- filtering:
- **selecting** columns:
- transforming columns:
- arrange();
- filter();
- \cdot select();
- mutate().

However, each of these operations can be done in base R. So why bother to use these functions at all?

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Aside: tibbles

tidyverse introduces a new object known as a tibble.
Paraphrased from the tibble webpage:

A tibble is an opinionated data.frame; keeping the bits that are effective, and throwing out what is not. Tibbles are **lazy** and **surly**: they do less (i.e. they don't change variable names or types, and don't do partial matching) and complain more (e.g. when a variable does not exist). This forces you to confront problems earlier, typically leading to cleaner, more expressive code.³.

³tibbles also have an enhanced print() method

Aside: tibbles

The **readr** package (part of **tidyverse**) introduces a **read_csv()**⁴ function to read .csv files in as **tibble** objects e.g.

gapminder	<-	<pre>read_csv("gapminder.csv")</pre>
gapminder		

##	#	A tibble: 1,					
##		country	continent	year	lifeExp	рор	gdpPercap
##		<chr></chr>	<chr></chr>	<int></int>	<dbl></dbl>	<int></int>	<dbl></dbl>
##	1	Afghanistan	Asia	1952	28.8	8425333	779.
##	2	Afghanistan	Asia	1957	30.3	9240934	821.
##	3	Afghanistan	Asia	1962	32.0	10267083	853.
##	4	Afghanistan	Asia	1967	34.0	11537966	836.
##	5	Afghanistan	Asia	1972	36.1	13079460	740.
##	6	Afghanistan	Asia	1977	38.4	14880372	786.
##	7	Afghanistan	Asia	1982	39.9	12881816	978.
##	8	Afghanistan	Asia	1987	40.8	13867957	852.
##	9	Afghanistan	Asia	1992	41.7	16317921	649.
##	10	Afghanistan	Asia	1997	41.8	22227415	635.
##	#	with 1,6	94 more ro	NS			
4	no	te the und	derscore	(rea	d_csv	/) not r	<pre>ead.csv()</pre>

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Example: Superheroes	
These data have been extracted from some data scraped by FiveThirtyEight, and available here.	
We will assume the complete data consist of three tables:	
 comics: a table of characters and characteristics; publisher: a table of characters and who publishes them (Marvel or DC); year_published: characters against the year they were first published. 	
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Aside: tibbles

Notice:

- read_csv() does not convert characters into factors automatically;
- the print() method includes information about the type of each variable (e.g. integer, logical, character etc.), as well as information on the number of rows and columns.

There is also an **as.tibble()** function that will convert standard **data.frame** objects into **tibble**s.

In almost all of the **tidyverse** functions, you can use **data.frame** or **tibble** objects interchangeably.

Example: Superheroes

Let's have a look at the **comics** data frame:

comics

##		name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES
##	1	Batman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	3093
##	2	Wonder Woman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	1231
##	3	Jakeem Williams	Brown	Eyes		<na></na>	79
##	4	Spider-Man	Hazel	Eyes	Brown	Hair	4043
##	5	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair	1713
##	6	Namor McKenzie	Green	Eyes	Black	Hair	1528

Example: Superheroes	Example: Superheroes
To extract a subset of these data, we can use the filter() function e.g.	We can also filter by multiple variables and with negation e.g.
<pre>filter(comics, HAIR == "Black Hair")</pre>	<pre>filter(comics, HAIR == "Black Hair" & EYE != "Blue Eyes")</pre>
<pre>## name EYE HAIR APPEARANCES ## 1 Batman Blue Eyes Black Hair 3093 ## 2 Wonder Woman Blue Eyes Black Hair 1231 ## 3 Namor McKenzie Green Eyes Black Hair 1528</pre>	## name EYE HAIR APPEARANCES ## 1 Namor McKenzie Green Eyes Black Hair 1528
TT Example: Superheroes	Example: Superheroes
To sort these data, we can use the arrange() function e.g.	We can prefix with a – sign to sort is descending order, and can sort by multiple variables e.g.
<pre>arrange(comics, APPEARANCES)</pre>	<pre>arrange(comics, HAIR, -APPEARANCES)</pre>
<pre>## 1 Jakeem Williams Brown Eyes <na> 79 ## 2 Wonder Woman Blue Eyes Black Hair 1231 ## 3 Namor McKenzie Green Eyes Black Hair 1528 ## 4 Susan Storm Blue Eyes Blond Hair 1713 ## 5 Batman Blue Eyes Black Hair 3093 ## 6 Spider-Man Hazel Eyes Brown Hair 4043</na></pre>	<pre>## name EYE HAIR APPEARANCES ## 1 Batman Blue Eyes Black Hair 3093 ## 2 Namor McKenzie Green Eyes Black Hair 1528 ## 3 Wonder Woman Blue Eyes Black Hair 1231 ## 4 Susan Storm Blue Eyes Blond Hair 1713 ## 5 Spider-Man Hazel Eyes Brown Hair 4043 ## 6 Jakeem Williams Brown Eyes <na> 79</na></pre>
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Example: Superheroes

To extract a subset of **columns** of these data, we can use the **select()** function e.g.

select(comics, name, HAIR, APPEARANCES)

##		name		HAIR	APPEARANCES
##	1	Batman	Black	Hair	3093
##	2	Wonder Woman	Black	Hair	1231
##	3	Jakeem Williams		<na></na>	79
##	4	Spider-Man	Brown	Hair	4043
##	5	Susan Storm	Blond	Hair	1713
##	6	Namor McKenzie	Black	Hair	1528

Example: Superheroes

A - prefix removes a column e.g.

select(comics, -APPEARANCES)

##		name		EYE		HAIR
##	1	Batman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair
##	2	Wonder Woman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair
##	3	Jakeem Williams	Brown	Eyes		<na></na>
##	4	Spider-Man	Hazel	Eyes	Brown	Hair
##	5	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair
##	6	Namor McKenzie	Green	Eyes	Black	Hair

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Example: Superheroes To *transform* or *add* columns, we can use the **mutate()** function⁵ e.g. mutate(comics, logApp = log(APPEARANCES)) ## EYE HAIR APPEARANCES logApp name ## 1 Batman Blue Eyes Black Hair 3093 8.036897 ## 2 Wonder Woman Blue Eyes Black Hair 1231 7.115582 ## 3 Jakeem Williams Brown Eyes <NA> 79 4.369448 Spider-Man Hazel Eyes Brown Hair ## 4 4043 8.304742 ## 5 Susan Storm Blue Eyes Blond Hair 1713 7.446001 ## 6 Namor McKenzie Green Eyes Black Hair 1528 7.331715 ⁵see also **?transmute**

Pipes

One of the most useful⁶ features of **tidyverse** is the ability to use **pipes**.

Piping comes from Unix scripting, and simply allows you to run a chain of commands, such that the results from each command feed into the next one.

tidyverse does this using the %>% operator⁷.

⁶in my opinion

⁷note that the fantastic magrittr package does this more generally in R

Pipes

The pipe operator in R works by passing the **result** of the *left-hand side* function into the **first** argument of the *right-hand side* function.

Since all the functions we've seen so far take a **data.frame** as their first argument, and return a **data.frame**, then we can chain these together e.g.

comics %>%
 select(name, APPEARANCES) %>%
 arrange(-APPEARANCES) %>%
 mutate(logApp = log(APPEARANCES))

Pipes

<pre>comics %>% select(name, APPEARANCES) %>% arrange(-APPEARANCES) %>% mutate(logApp = log(APPEARANCES))</pre>	Notice: No need for
<pre>## name APPEARANCES logApp ## 1 Spider-Man</pre>	 temporary variables; less verbose; can be read like prose (easier to understand)

Note: if splitting over multiple lines, the pipe operator must be at the end of the previous line.

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Aside: ***_if** and ***_all**

There are some useful shortcut functions, notably:

- mutate_if();
- mutate_all();
- summarise_if();
- summarise_all().

The ***_if()** functions apply a transformation or summary to a column **if** it adheres to some criteria. The ***_all()** functions apply the transformation or summary to **all** columns⁸.

⁸you will see the **summarise()** function shortly...

Your turn

Have a read through Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of the notes, and have a go at the tasks.

Aside: *_if and *_all	Aside: *_if and *_all
As a simple example, let's summarise the data:	Instead let's try:
<pre>summary(comics)</pre>	<pre>comics %>% mutate_if(is.character, as.factor) %>% summary()</pre>
<pre>## name EYE HAIR APPEARANCES ## Length:6 Length:6 Min. : 79 ## Class :character Class :character 1st Qu.:1305 ## Mode :character Mode :character Mode :character 1948 ## 3rd Qu.:2748 ##</pre>	<pre>## name EYE HAIR APPEARANCES ## Batman :1 Blue Eyes :3 Black Hair:3 Min. : 79 ## Jakeem Williams :1 Brown Eyes:1 Blond Hair:1 1st Qu.:1305 ## Namor McKenzie :1 Green Eyes:1 Brown Hair:1 Median :1620 ## Spider-Man :1 Hazel Eyes:1 NA's :1 Mean :1948 ## Susan Storm :1 3rd Qu.:2748 ## Wonder Woman :1</pre>
summary. We could temporarily convert each character column to a factor to produce a better summary.	This is much neater, and doesn't change the original data frame
Grouping and summarising	Grouping and summarising
We may also want to produce summaries for different subsets of the data. For example, let's say we want to produce a mean number of appearances for superheroes with different eye colours ⁹ . We do this using the group_by() and summarise() functions e.g.	A particularly useful function is count() , which tabulates the numbers of observations. This is particularly useful when combined with group_by() e.g.

Your turn	Gather and spread	
Have a crack at Section 2.3 of the workshop.	Other really important functions a These functions are used to mani into different forms. They are often key to wrangling 'n sets.	pulate data.frame objects
³³ Example: Senate predictions 2018	Example: Senate predic	tions 2018
Let's look at an example from the FiveThirtyEight website. These data show the predicted probability of each party winning each seat, based on a statistical model fitted on 30th October 2018. I have filtered and wrangled these data to illustrate these methods, the original data were in fact 'tidy'!	Let's have a look at the data. head(senate) ## # A tibble: 6 x 4 ## state D O R ## <chr> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> ## 1 AZ 0.644 NA NA ## 2 AZ NA 0 NA ## 3 AZ NA NA 0.356 ## 4 CA 1 NA NA ## 5 CT 0.991 NA NA ## 6 CT NA NA 0.009 These are not in 'tidy' format!</dbl></dbl></dbl></chr>	Key : • D: Democrat • O: Other • R: Republican
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Gather

To coerce these into 'tidy' format we can use the **gather()** function, which takes multiple columns, and gathers them into key-value pairs.

It takes the form:

```
gather(data, key, value, ...)
```

where ... is replaced with the names of the columns we wish to gather together (or the ones we wish to exclude from gathering).

This is best illustrated by an example.

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Example: Senate predictions 2018

Note that the following are **equivalent**:

senate %>%
gather(party, prop, -state)

senate %>%
gather(party, prop, D, O, R)

You can chose whichever option is the most sensible.

You can also pipe together to remove the extraneous **NA**s (and overwrite the original **senate** object):

<pre>senate <- senate %>% gather(party, prop, -state) %>% filter(!is.na(prop))</pre>	## ## 1 ## 2 ## 3 ## 4	AZ CA CT	party prop D 0.6442 D 1.0000 D 0.9910 D 0.9987
	## 5 ## 6	•	D 0.7005 D 1.0000

Example: Senate predictions 2018

## state D O R ## 1 AZ 0.6442 NA NA	Here we want to collapse the columns labelled D, O and R into a new column called party (the key), with the predicted proportions in a column called prop (the value). We do not want state to be gathered.
<pre>senate %>% gather(party, prop, -state)</pre>	
<pre>## state party prop ## 1 AZ D 0.6442 ## 2 AZ D NA ## 3 AZ D NA ## 4 CA D 1.0000 ## 5 CT D 0.9910 ## 6 CT D NA</pre>	
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Spread

spread() does the opposite of gather(): it takes two columns
(key and value) and spreads these into multiple columns e.g.

senate	sei		te <mark>%>%</mark> spread((party,	pro	op)
## 3 CT D ## 4 DE D ## 5 FL D	 ## ## ## ## ## ##	2 3 4 5	CA CT DE FL	D 0.6442 1.0000 0.9910 0.9987 0.7005 1.0000	NA NA NA NA	NA 0.0090 0.0013 0.2995

Example: Senate predictions 2018

We can now do some more complex analyses. For example, to produce a table of binary predictions based on p > 0.5 (using the 'tidy' version of the data):

```
senate %>%
```

```
mutate(outcome = ifelse(prop > 0.5, 1, 0)) %>%
group_by(party, outcome) %>%
count() %>%
spread(party, n)
```

 ##
 outcome
 D
 O
 R

 ##
 1
 0
 9
 10
 24

 ##
 2
 1
 23
 2
 8

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Unite and separate

Other useful functions are unite() and separate(), the former takes multiple columns and binds them together, and the latter takes a single column and splits it apart. For example:

<pre>senate <- senate %>% mutate(outcome = ifelse(prop > 0.5, 1, 0)) %>% group_by(party, outcome) %>% count() senate</pre>	<pre>senate <- senate %>% unite(outcome, party, outcome, sep = "_") senate</pre>
<pre>## party outcome n ## 1 D 0 9 ## 2 D 1 23 ## 3 0 0 10 ## 4 0 1 2 ## 5 R 0 24 ## 6 R 1 8</pre>	<pre>## outcome n ## 1 D_0 9 ## 2 D_1 23 ## 3 O_0 10 ## 4 O_1 2 ## 5 R_0 24 ## 6 R_1 8 42</pre>

Unite and sep	parate	Your turn
To reverse this, we of senate	<pre>can use separate(): senate <- senate %>% separate(outcome, c("party", "outcome"), sep = "_") senate</pre>	
<pre>## outcome n ## 1 D_0 9 ## 2 D_1 23 ## 3 O_0 10 ## 4 O_1 2 ## 5 R_0 24 ## 6 R_1 8</pre>	<pre>## party outcome n ## 1 D 0 9 ## 2 D 1 23 ## 3 O 0 10 ## 4 O 1 2 ## 5 R 0 24 ## 6 R 1 8</pre>	Have a crack at Section 2.4 of the workshop.
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Joins

A key data analytics skill is to be able to **join** different tables together. This can be done using ***_join()** functions. Key types of join are:

- inner_join()
- · left_join() / right_join()
- full_join()
- · semi_join() / anti_join()

You can join tables by **cross-referencing** against **key variables**. As an example, let's join two tables relating to information on superheroes...

- loins comics ## EYE HAIR APPEARANCES name ## 1 Blue Eyes Black Hair Batman 3093 ## 2 Wonder Woman Blue Eyes Black Hair 1231 ## 3 Jakeem Williams Brown Eyes <NA> 79 Spider-Man Hazel Eyes Brown Hair ## L 4043 ## 5 Susan Storm Blue Eyes Blond Hair 1713 ## 6 Namor McKenzie Green Eyes Black Hair 1528 year_published Here we will join the two ## name Year tables by **name**. ## 1 Batman 1939 ## 2 Wonder Woman 1941 ## 3 Spider-Man 1962 ## 4 Susan Storm 1961
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inner_join()

The simplest type of join is an **inner join**. This joins two data frames and *retains only those rows in each data frame that can be matched* e.g.

inner_join(comics, year_published, by = "name")

##	name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES	Year
## 1	Batman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	3093	1939
## 2	Wonder Woman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	1231	1941
## 3	Spider-Man	Hazel	Eyes	Brown	Hair	4043	1962
## 4	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair	1713	1961

left_join()

A **left join** retains *all rows* in the **left** data frame, but *only* rows in the **right** data frame that *can be matched* e.g.

left_join(comics, year_published, by = "name")

##		name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES	Year
##	1	Batman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	3093	1939
##	2	Wonder Woman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	1231	1941
##	3	Jakeem Williams	Brown	Eyes		<na></na>	79	NA
##	4	Spider-Man	Hazel	Eyes	Brown	Hair	4043	1962
##	5	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair	1713	1961
##	6	Namor McKenzie	Green	Eyes	Black	Hair	1528	NA

Here R replaces elements it can't match with NA.

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right_join()

A **right join** retains *all rows* in the **right** data frame, but *only* rows in the **left** data frame that *can be matched* e.g.

right_join(comics, year_published, by = "name")

##		name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES	Year
##	1	Batman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	3093	1939
		Wonder Woman					1231	1941
##	3	Spider-Man	Hazel	Eyes	Brown	Hair	4043	1962
##	4	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair	1713	1961

```
This is the same as the inner_join() in this case. Why?
```

full_join()

A full join retains all rows in the both data frames e.g.

full_join(comics, year_published, by = "name")

##		name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES	Year
##	_	Batman			Black		3093	1939
##	2	Wonder Woman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	1231	1941
##	3	Jakeem Williams	Brown	Eyes		<na></na>	79	NA
		Spider-Man					4043	1962
##	5	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair	1713	1961
##	6	Namor McKenzie	Green	Eyes	Black	Hair	1528	NA

This is the same as the left_join() in this case. Why?

semi_join()

A **semi join** return *all rows* from the **left** data frame where there *are matching* values in the **right** data frame. It returns just columns in the **left** data frame, and does not duplicate rows (i.e. it is a *filtering* join):

semi_join(comics, year_published, by = "name")

##		name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES
##	1	Batman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	3093
##	2	Wonder Woman	Blue	Eyes	Black	Hair	1231
##	3	Spider-Man	Hazel	Eyes	Brown	Hair	4043
##	4	Susan Storm	Blue	Eyes	Blond	Hair	1713

anti_join()

An **anti join** return *all rows* from the **left** data frame where there *are not matching* values in the **right** data frame. It returns just columns in the **left** data frame, and does not duplicate rows (i.e. it is a *filtering* join):

anti_join(comics, year_published, by = "name")

##			name		EYE		HAIR	APPEARANCES
##	1	Jakeem	Williams	Brown	Eyes		<na></na>	79
##	2	Namor	McKenzie	Green	Eyes	Black	Hair	1528

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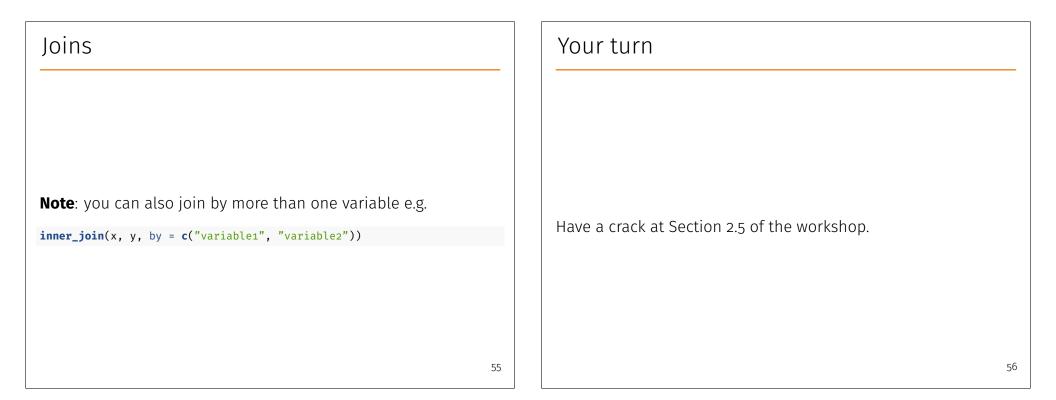
Joins									
We can also jo	We can also join multiple tables together using e.g. pipes (or similar)								
comics									
## 2 Wonder ## 3 Jakeem Wi ## 4 Spide	lliams Brown er-Man Hazel Storm Blue	Eyes Black Eyes Black Eyes Eyes Brown Eyes Blond Eyes Black	Hair <na> Hair Hair Hair</na>	RANCES 3093 1231 79 4043 1713 1528					
year_published		р	ublisher						
	Man 1962	# # # #	# 3 Jakeem # 4 Sp # 5 Sus	Batman Ier Woman Williams		53			

		٠		
J	0	I	n	S

comics %>% full_join(year_published, by = "name") %>%
full_join(publisher, by = "name")

## ##	2 3 4 5	Jakeem Williams Spider-Man Susan Storm	Blue Blue Brown Hazel Blue	Eyes Eyes Eyes Eyes Eyes	Black Black Brown Blond	Hair Hair <na> Hair Hair</na>	1231 79 4043 1713	1939 1941 NA 1962 1961	DC DC DC Marvel Marvel
##	6	Namor McKenzie	Green	Eyes	Black	Hair	1528	NA	Marvel

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Epilogue

You should now be ready to work through the final (more comprehensive) example in Section 2.6 of the workshop notes.

This brings together various aspects of the last two-days. We take multiple 'messy' data sets, join them together, wrangle them into the correct format and then plot them using **ggplot2**.

Along the way we use a few features of **tidyverse** that we haven't introduced, so I wouldn't expect you to be able to recreate this plot from scratch, but I want you to go through the code and understand what is happening.

Epilogue

Hopefully these workshops have given you a flavour of the power of **tidyverse**.

I for one do most of my data analyses using tidyverse now, although remember that it may not be suitable for all types of data / analysis method, so you should view it as one tool in your data science arsenal.

If this has whetted your appetite, I can thoroughly recommend Hadley Wickham and Garrett Grolemund's **"R for Data Science"** book!

Please feel free to e-mail me if you have any further questions. $_{58}$