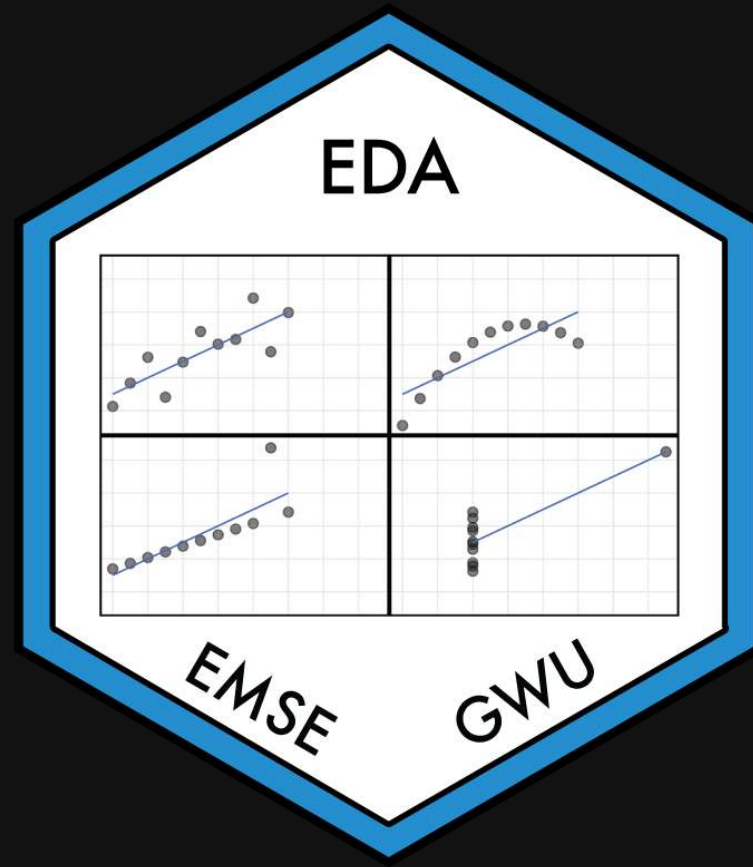




Tidy Data

🏛️ EMSE 4572/6572: Exploratory Data Analysis

👤 John Paul Helveston

📅 September 09, 2026

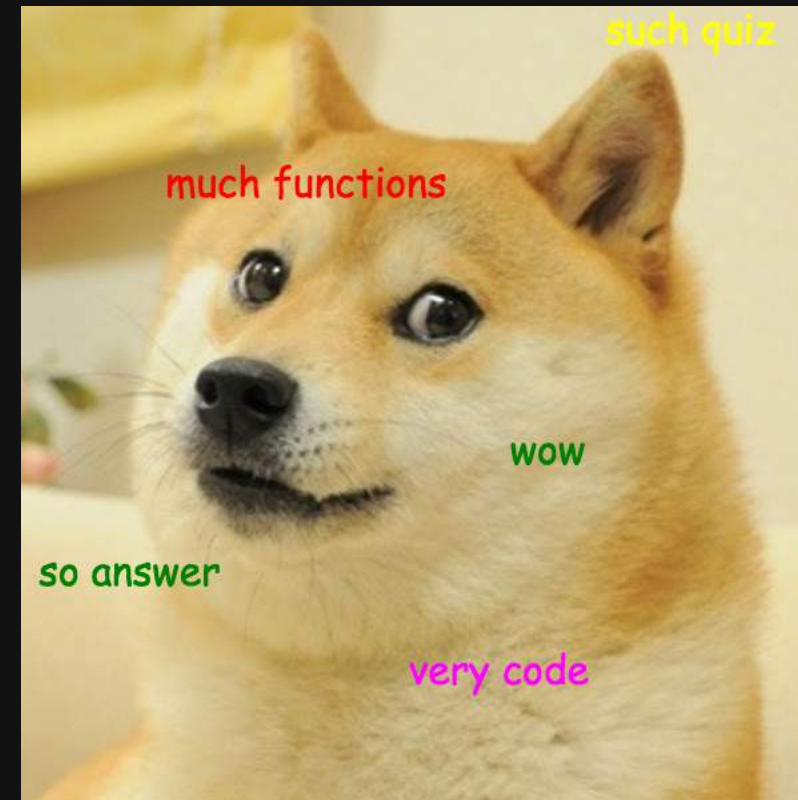
Quiz 1

10:00

Write your name on the quiz!

Rules:

- Work alone; no outside help of any kind is allowed.
- No calculators, no notes, no books, no computers, no phones.



Week 3: *Tidy Data*

1. Tidy Data
2. Tidy Data Wrangling
3. Tidy Data Visualization
4. Data Provenance & Curation
5. Writing a Research Question

Week 3: *Tidy Data*

1. Tidy Data
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Federal R&D Spending by Department

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year  DHS  DOC  DOD  DOE  DOT  EPA  HHS Interior  NASA  NIH  NSF Other  USDA  VA
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976     0   819 35696 10882 1142   968  9226     1152 12513  8025  2372  1191  1837   404
#> 2  1977     0   837 37967 13741 1095   966  9507     1082 12553  8214  2395  1280  1796   374
#> 3  1978     0   871 37022 15663 1156  1175 10533     1125 12516  8802  2446  1237  1962   356
#> 4  1979     0   952 37174 15612 1004  1102 10127     1176 13079  9243  2404  2321  2054   353
#> 5  1980     0   945 37005 15226 1048   903 10045     1082 13837  9093  2407  2468  1887   359
#> 6  1981     0   829 41737 14798   978   901  9644     990 13276  8580  2300  1925  1964   382
```

Federal R&D Spending by Department

“Wide” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year  DHS  DOC  DOD  DOE  DOT  EPA  HHS Interior  NASA
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>   <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976     0   819 35696 10882 1142   968  9226     1152 12513
#> 2  1977     0   837 37967 13741 1095   966  9507     1082 12553
#> 3  1978     0   871 37022 15663 1156  1175 10533     1125 12516
#> 4  1979     0   952 37174 15612 1004  1102 10127     1176 13079
#> 5  1980     0   945 37005 15226 1048   903 10045     1082 13837
#> 6  1981     0   829 41737 14798   978   901  9644     990 13276
```

“Long” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   department year rd_budget_mil
#>   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 DOD        1976      35696
#> 2 NASA        1976      12513
#> 3 DOE         1976      10882
#> 4 HHS         1976       9226
#> 5 NIH         1976       8025
#> 6 NSF         1976       2372
```

Federal R&D Spending by Department

“Wide” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year  DHS  DOC  DOD  DOE  DOT  EPA  HHS Interior  NASA
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>   <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976     0   819 35696 10882 1142   968  9226   1152 12513
#> 2  1977     0   837 37967 13741 1095   966  9507   1082 12553
#> 3  1978     0   871 37022 15663 1156  1175 10533   1125 12516
#> 4  1979     0   952 37174 15612 1004  1102 10127   1176 13079
#> 5  1980     0   945 37005 15226 1048   903 10045   1082 13837
#> 6  1981     0   829 41737 14798   978   901  9644    990 13276
```

```
1 dim(fed_spend_wide)
```

```
#> [1] 42 15
```

“Long” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   department year rd_budget_mil
#>   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 DOD        1976      35696
#> 2 NASA        1976      12513
#> 3 DOE         1976      10882
#> 4 HHS         1976       9226
#> 5 NIH         1976       8025
#> 6 NSF         1976       2372
```

```
1 dim(fed_spend_long)
```

```
#> [1] 588 3
```

Tidy data = “Long” format

- Each **variable** has its own **column**
- Each **observation** has its own **row**

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	213766	128042583

variables

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	213766	128042583

observations

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	213766	128042583

values

Tidy data

- Each **variable** has its own **column**
- Each **observation** has its own **row**

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3  
#>   department year rd_budget_mil  
#>   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>  
#> 1 DOD        1976        35696  
#> 2 NASA        1976        12513  
#> 3 DOE         1976        10882  
#> 4 HHS         1976         9226  
#> 5 NIH         1976         8025  
#> 6 NSF         1976         2372
```

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	213766	1280425583

variables

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	745	19987071
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observations

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	745	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	2666	20595360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	212258	1272915272
China	2000	213766	1280425583

values

“Long” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   department year rd_budget_mil
#>   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 DOD        1976      35696
#> 2 NASA        1976      12513
#> 3 DOE         1976      10882
#> 4 HHS         1976       9226
#> 5 NIH         1976       8025
#> 6 NSF         1976       2372
```

“Wide” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year DHS   DOC   DOD   DOE   DOT   EPA   HHS Interior NASA
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1 1976    0   819 35696 10882 1142   968   9226   1152 12513
#> 2 1977    0   837 37967 13741 1095   966   9507   1082 12553
#> 3 1978    0   871 37022 15663 1156  1175 10533   1125 12516
#> 4 1979    0   952 37174 15612 1004  1102 10127   1176 13079
#> 5 1980    0   945 37005 15226 1048   903 10045   1082 13837
#> 6 1981    0   829 41737 14798   978   901   9644    990 13276
```

Do the names describe the values?

Yes: “Long” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   department year rd_budget_mil
#>   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 DOD        1976      35696
#> 2 NASA        1976      12513
#> 3 DOE         1976      10882
#> 4 HHS         1976       9226
#> 5 NIH         1976       8025
#> 6 NSF         1976       2372
```

No: “Wide” format

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 8
#>   year DHS   DOC   DOD   DOE   DOT   EPA   HHS
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1 1976     0   819 35696 10882  1142   968  9226
#> 2 1977     0   837 37967 13741  1095   966  9507
#> 3 1978     0   871 37022 15663  1156  1175 10533
#> 4 1979     0   952 37174 15612  1004  1102 10127
#> 5 1980     0   945 37005 15226  1048   903 10045
#> 6 1981     0   829 41737 14798   978   901  9644
```

Quick practice 1: “long” or “wide” format?

Description: Tuberculosis cases in various countries

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 4
#>   country      year  cases population
#>   <chr>      <dbl> <dbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 Afghanistan 1999     745  19987071
#> 2 Afghanistan 2000    2666  20595360
#> 3 Brazil      1999   37737  172006362
#> 4 Brazil      2000   80488  174504898
#> 5 China       1999  212258 1272915272
#> 6 China       2000  213766 1280428583
```

Quick practice 2: “long” or “wide” format?

Description: Word counts in LOTR trilogy

```
#> # A tibble: 9 × 4
#>   Film                                Race  Female  Male
#>   <chr>                                <chr>   <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1 The Fellowship Of The Ring      Elf      1229   971
#> 2 The Fellowship Of The Ring      Hobbit    14  3644
#> 3 The Fellowship Of The Ring      Man         0  1995
#> 4 The Return Of The King           Elf      183   510
#> 5 The Return Of The King           Hobbit     2  2673
#> 6 The Return Of The King           Man      268  2459
#> 7 The Two Towers                   Elf      331   513
#> 8 The Two Towers                   Hobbit     0  2462
```

Quick practice 3: “long” or “wide” format?

Description: Word counts in LOTR trilogy

```
#> # A tibble: 15 × 4
#>   Film                                Race Gender Word_Count
#>   <chr>                                <chr> <chr>      <dbl>
#> 1 The Fellowship Of The Ring Elf      Female    1229
#> 2 The Fellowship Of The Ring Elf      Male      971
#> 3 The Fellowship Of The Ring Hobbit Female     14
#> 4 The Fellowship Of The Ring Hobbit Male    3644
#> 5 The Fellowship Of The Ring Man      Female      0
#> 6 The Fellowship Of The Ring Man      Male    1995
#> 7 The Return Of The King Elf      Female    183
#> 8 The Return Of The King Elf      Male    510
```

Reshaping data with `pivot_longer()` and `pivot_wider()`

Reshaping data

`pivot_longer()`

`pivot_wider()`

wide

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

From “long” to “wide” with `pivot_wider()`

long

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

wide

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

From “long” to “wide” with `pivot_wider()`

```
1 head(fed_spend_long)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   department year rd_budget_mil
#>   <chr>      <dbl>      <dbl>
#> 1 DOD        1976      35696
#> 2 NASA        1976      12513
#> 3 DOE         1976      10882
#> 4 HHS         1976       9226
#> 5 NIH         1976       8025
#> 6 NSF         1976       2372
```

```
1 fed_spend_wide <- fed_spend_long %>%
2   pivot_wider(
3     names_from = department,
4     values_from = rd_budget_mil
5   )
6
7 head(fed_spend_wide)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year  DOD  NASA  DOE  HHS  NIH
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976 35696 12513 10882  9226  8025
#> 2  1977 37967 12553 13741  9507  8214
#> 3  1978 37022 12516 15663 10533  8802
#> 4  1979 37174 13079 15612 10127  9243
#> 5  1980 37005 13837 15226 10045  9093
#> 6  1981 41737 13276 14798  9644  8580
```

From “wide” to “long” with `pivot_longer()`

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

From “wide” to “long” with `pivot_longer()`

```
1 head(fed_spend_wide)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 5
#>   year  DOD  NASA  DOE  HHS
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976 35696 12513 10882  9226
#> 2  1977 37967 12553 13741  9507
#> 3  1978 37022 12516 15663 10533
#> 4  1979 37174 13079 15612 10127
#> 5  1980 37005 13837 15226 10045
#> 6  1981 41737 13276 14798  9644
```

```
1 fed_spend_long <- fed_spend_wide %>%
2   pivot_longer(
3     names_to = "department",
4     values_to = "rd_budget_mil",
5     cols = DOD:Other
6   )
7
8 head(fed_spend_long)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   year department rd_budget_mil
#>   <dbl> <chr>          <dbl>
#> 1  1976 DOD          35696
#> 2  1976 NASA          12513
#> 3  1976 DOE          10882
#> 4  1976 HHS           9226
#> 5  1976 NIH           8025
#> 6  1976 NSF           2372
```

Can also set `cols` by selecting which columns *not* to use

```
1 names(fed_spend_wide)
```

```
#> [1] "year" "DOD" "NASA"
```

```
1 fed_spend_long <- fed_spend_wide %>%  
2   pivot_longer(  
3     names_to = "department",  
4     values_to = "rd_budget_mil",  
5     cols = -year  
6   )  
7  
8 head(fed_spend_long)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3  
#>   year department rd_budget_mil  
#>   <dbl> <chr>         <dbl>  
#> 1  1976 DOD          35696  
#> 2  1976 NASA          12513  
#> 3  1976 DOE           10882  
#> 4  1976 HHS            9226  
#> 5  1976 NIH            8025  
#> 6  1976 NSF            2372
```

Your turn: Reshaping Data

12:00

Open the `practice.qmd` file.

Run the code chunk to read in the following two data files:

- `pvc_cell_production.xlsx`: Data on solar photovoltaic cell production by country
- `milk_production.csv`: Data on milk production by state

Now modify the format of each:

- If the data are in “wide” format, convert it to “long” with `pivot_longer()`
- If the data are in “long” format, convert it to “wide” with `pivot_wider()`

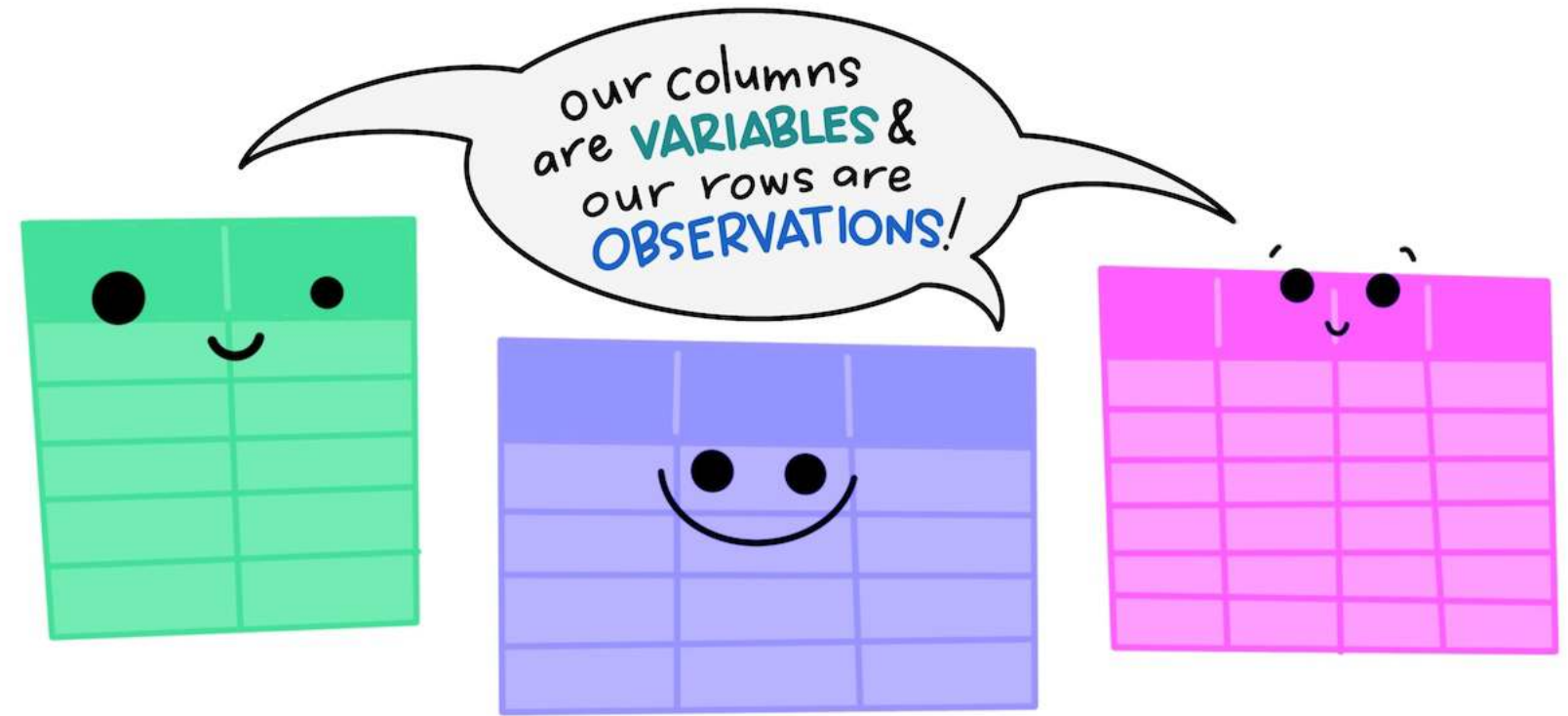
Week 3: *Tidy Data*

1. Tidy Data
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5. Writing a Research Question

Why do we need tidy data?

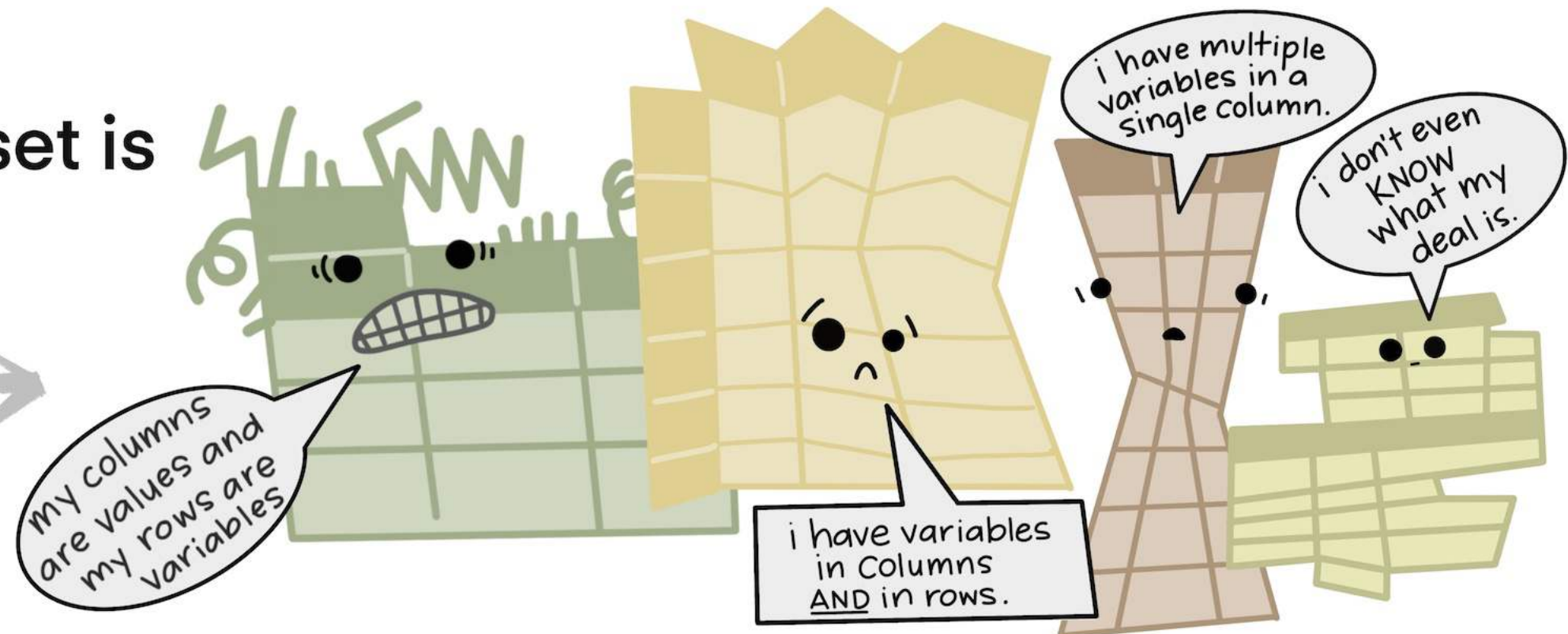
(a quick explanation with cute graphics, by [Allison Horst](#))

The standard structure of tidy data means that "tidy datasets are all alike..."

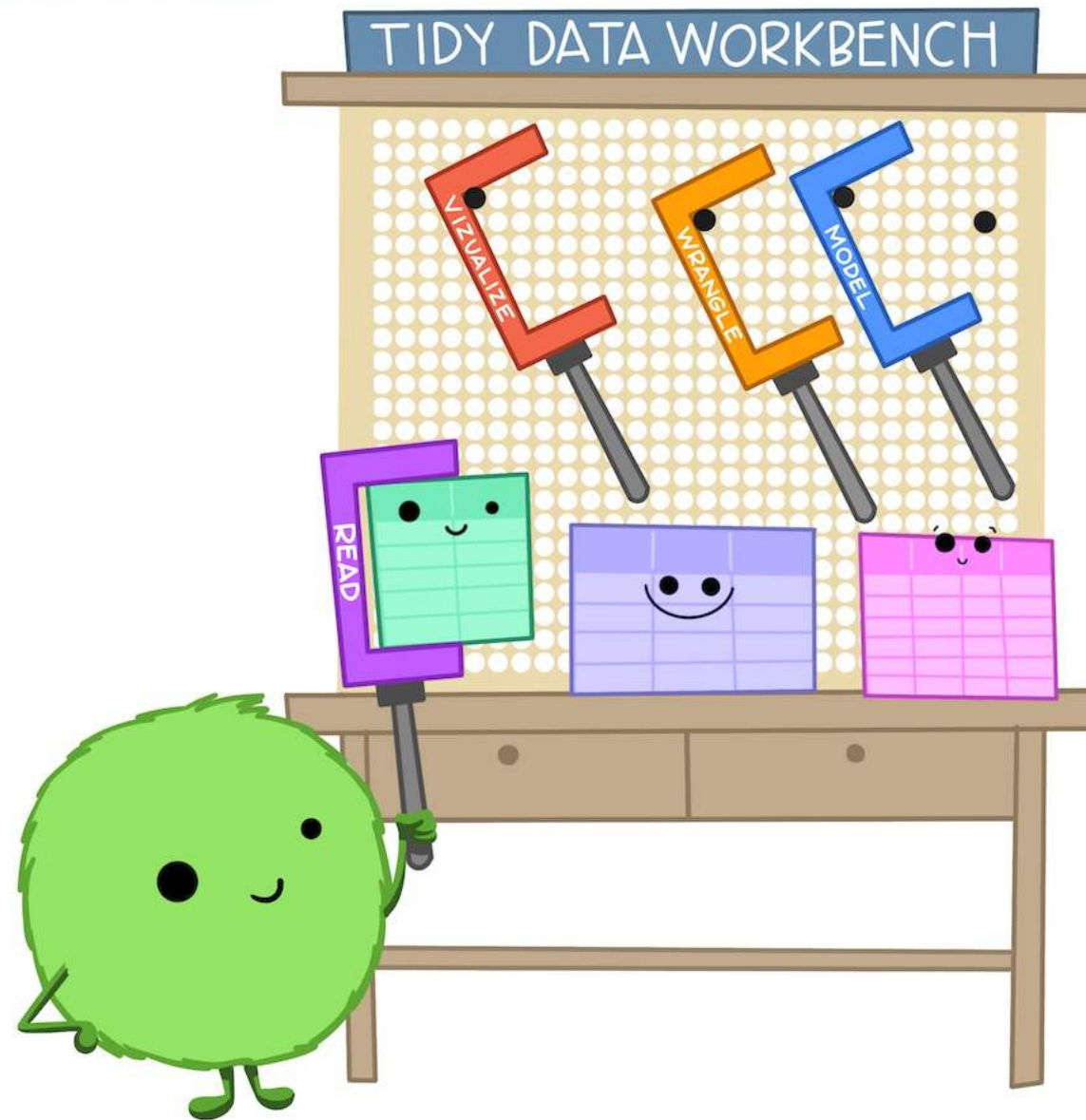


"...but every messy dataset is messy in its own way."

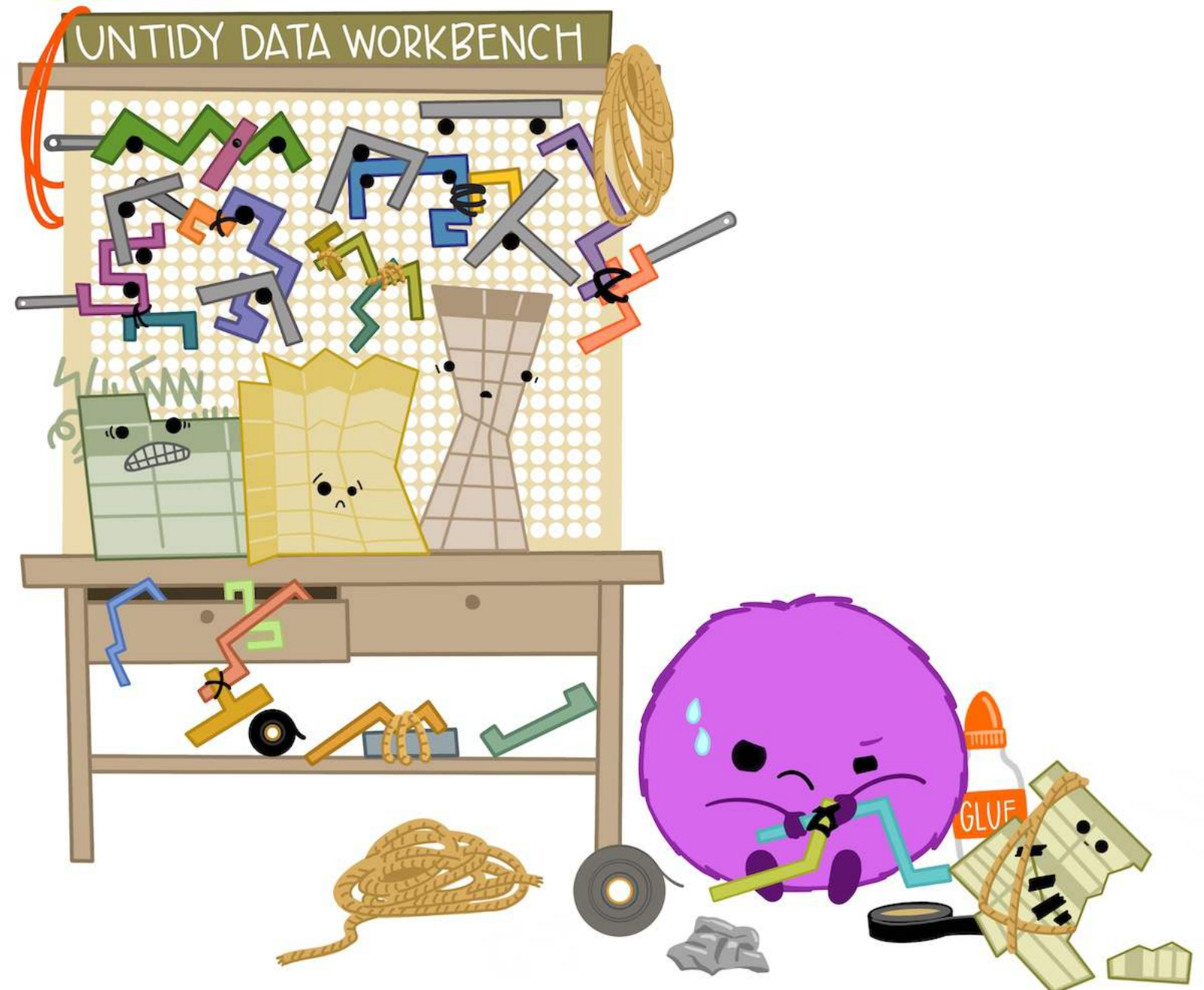
—HADLEY WICKHAM

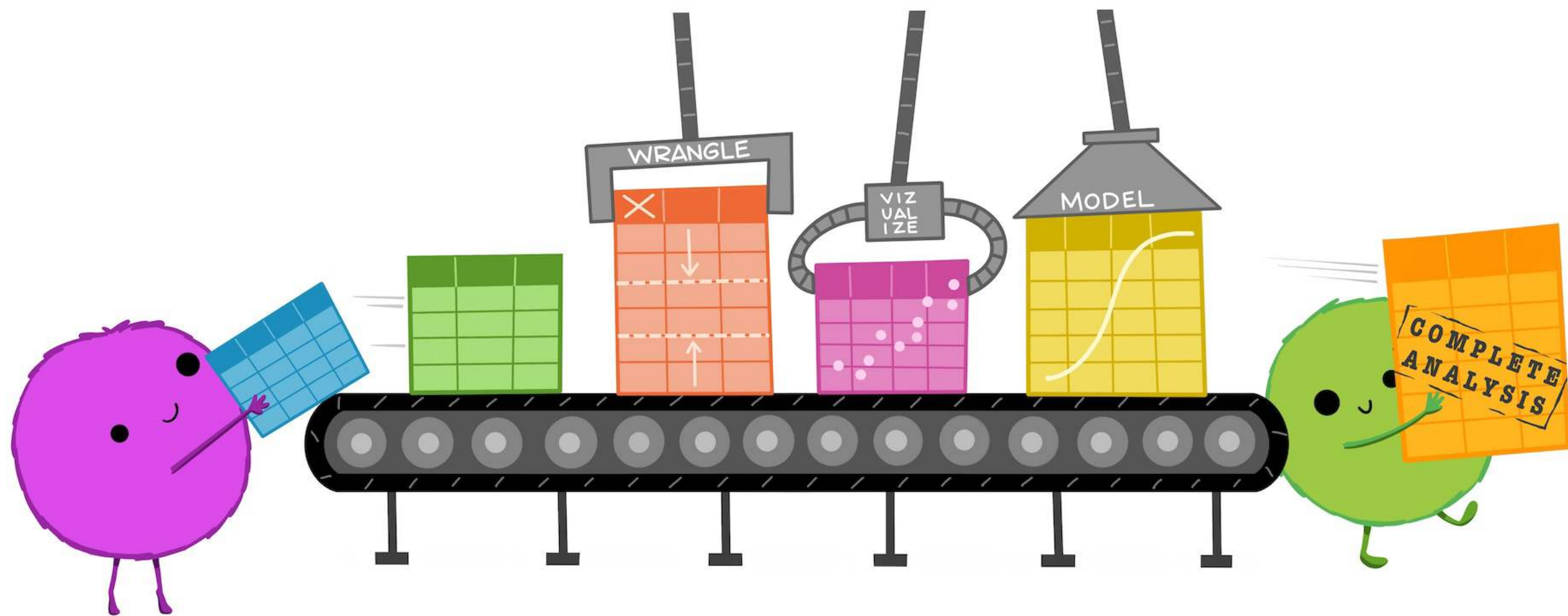


When working with tidy data, we can use the same tools in similar ways for different datasets...



...but working with untidy data often means reinventing the wheel with one-time approaches that are hard to iterate or reuse.





Tidy data wrangling

Compute the total R&D spending in each year

```
1 head(fed_spend_wide)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year  DOD  NASA  DOE  HHS  NIH  NSF  USDA Interior  DOT  EPA  DOC
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976 35696 12513 10882  9226  8025  2372  1837    1152  1142   968   819
#> 2  1977 37967 12553 13741  9507  8214  2395  1796    1082  1095   966   837
#> 3  1978 37022 12516 15663 10533  8802  2446  1962    1125  1156  1175   871
#> 4  1979 37174 13079 15612 10127  9243  2404  2054    1176  1004  1102   952
#> 5  1980 37005 13837 15226 10045  9093  2407  1887    1082  1048   903   945
#> 6  1981 41737 13276 14798  9644  8580  2300  1964     990   978   901   829
```

Tidy data wrangling

Compute the total R&D spending in each year

Approach 1: Create new `total` by adding each variable

```
1 fed_spend_wide %>%  
2   mutate(total = DHS + DOC + DOD + DOE + DOT + EPA + HHS + Interior + NASA + NIH + NSF  
3   select(year, total)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 42 × 2  
#>   year total  
#>   <dbl> <dbl>  
#> 1  1976  86227  
#> 2  1977  91807  
#> 3  1978  94864  
#> 4  1979  96601  
#> 5  1980  96305  
#> 6  1981  98304  
#> 7  1982  95448  
#> 8  1983  95010  
#> 9  1984 105371
```

Tidy data wrangling

Compute the total R&D spending by department in each year

Approach 2: Reshape first, then summarise

```
1 fed_spend_long <- fed_spend_wide %>%
2   pivot_longer(
3     names_to = "department",
4     values_to = "rd_budget_mil",
5     cols = -year
6   )
7
8 head(fed_spend_long)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 3
#>   year department rd_budget_mil
#>   <dbl> <chr>         <dbl>
#> 1  1976 DOD          35696
#> 2  1976 NASA          12513
#> 3  1976 DOE           10882
#> 4  1976 HHS            9226
```

```
1 fed_spend_long %>%
2   group_by(year) %>%
3   summarise(total = sum(rd_budget_mil))
```

```
#> # A tibble: 42 × 2
#>   year total
#>   <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976 86227
#> 2  1977 91807
#> 3  1978 94864
#> 4  1979 96601
#> 5  1980 96305
#> 6  1981 98304
#> 7  1982 95448
#> 8  1983 95010
#> 9  1984 105371
```

Tidy data wrangling

Compute the total R&D spending by department in each year

Approach 2: Reshape first, then summarise

```
1 annual_spending <- fed_spend_wide %>%
2   pivot_longer(
3     names_to = "department",
4     values_to = "rd_budget_mil",
5     cols = -year
6   ) %>%
7   group_by(year) %>%
8   summarise(total = sum(rd_budget_mil))
```

```
1 head(annual_spending)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 2
#>   year total
#>   <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976 86227
#> 2  1977 91807
#> 3  1978 94864
#> 4  1979 96601
#> 5  1980 96305
#> 6  1981 98304
```

Your turn: Tidy Data Wrangling

15:00

Open the `practice.qmd` file.

Run the code chunk to read in the following two data files:

- `gapminder.csv`: Life expectancy in different countries over time
- `gdp.csv`: GDP of different countries over time

Now convert the data into a tidy (long) structure, then create the following summary data frames:

- Mean life expectancy in each year.
- Mean GDP in each year.

Break

05 : 00

Week 3: *Tidy Data*

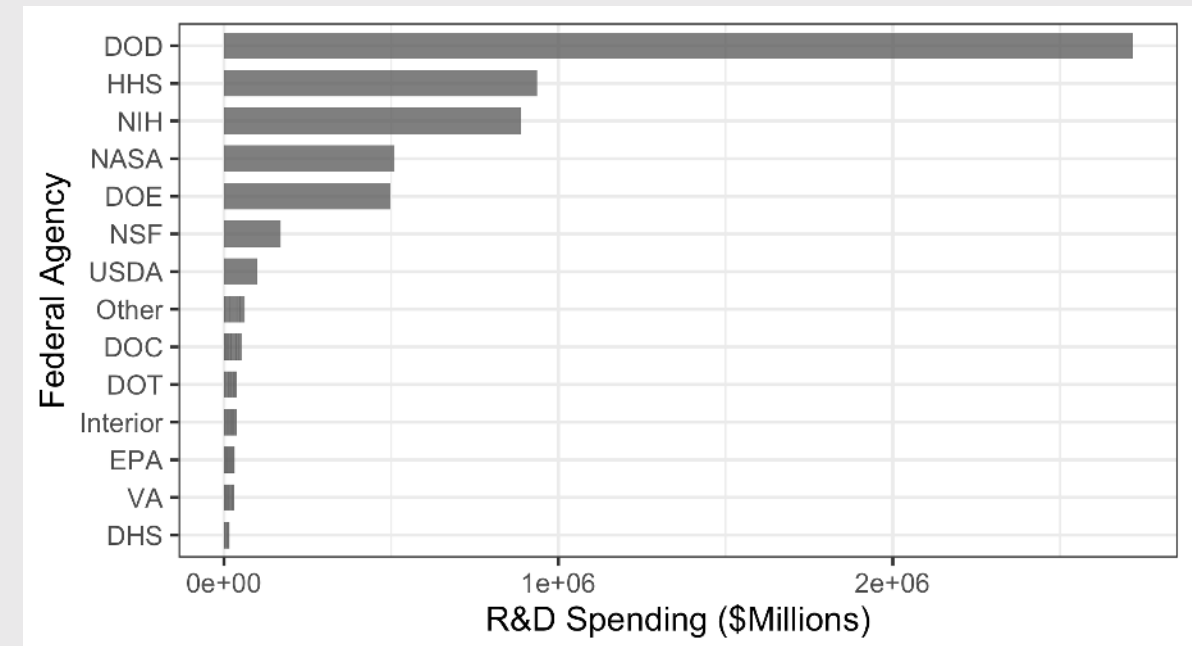
1. Tidy Data
2. Tidy Data Wrangling
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5. Writing a Research Question

Tidy data vizualization

Make a bar chart of total R&D spending by agency

```
1 head(fed_spend_wide)
```

```
#> # A tibble: 6 × 15
#>   year  DOD  NASA  DOE  HHS  NIH  NSF  USDA I
#>   <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
#> 1  1976 35696 12513 10882  9226  8025  2372 1837
#> 2  1977 37967 12553 13741  9507  8214  2395 1796
#> 3  1978 37022 12516 15663 10533  8802  2446 1962
#> 4  1979 37174 13079 15612 10127  9243  2404 2054
#> 5  1980 37005 13837 15226 10045  9093  2407 1887
#> 6  1981 41737 13276 14798  9644  8580  2300 1964
```

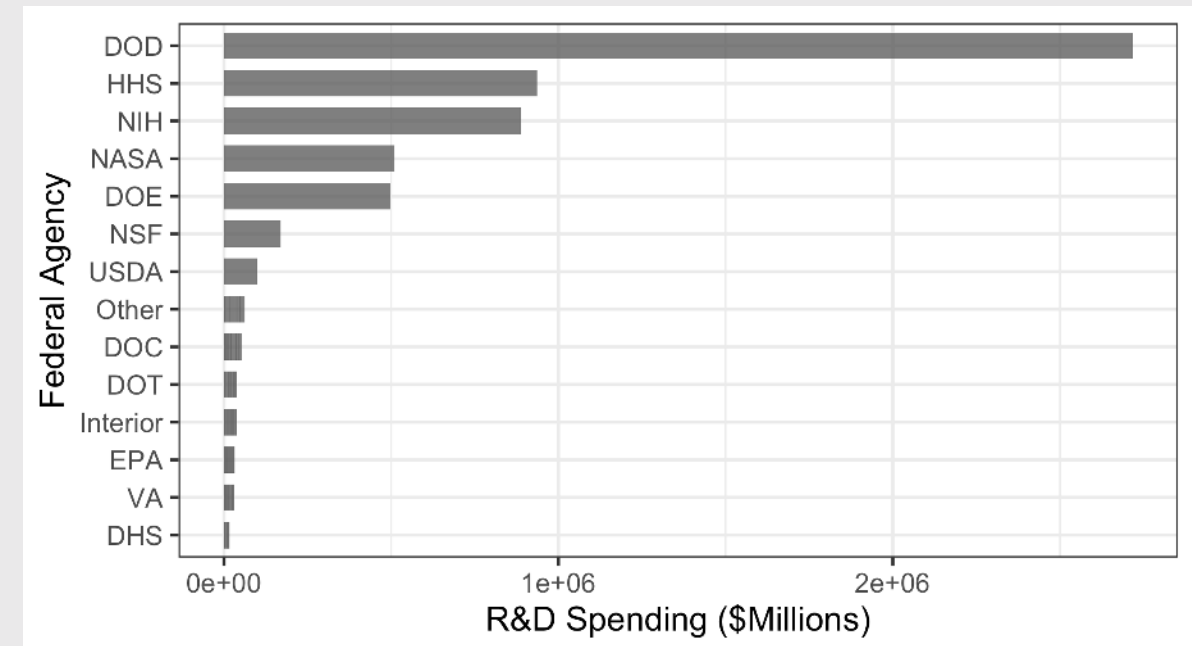


Tidy data vizualization

Make a bar chart of total R&D spending by agency

```
1 fed_spend_wide %>%
2   ggplot() +
3   geom_col(aes(x = rd_budget_mil, y = department))
4   theme_bw() +
5   labs(
6     x = "R&D Spending ($Millions)",
7     y = "Federal Agency"
8   )
```

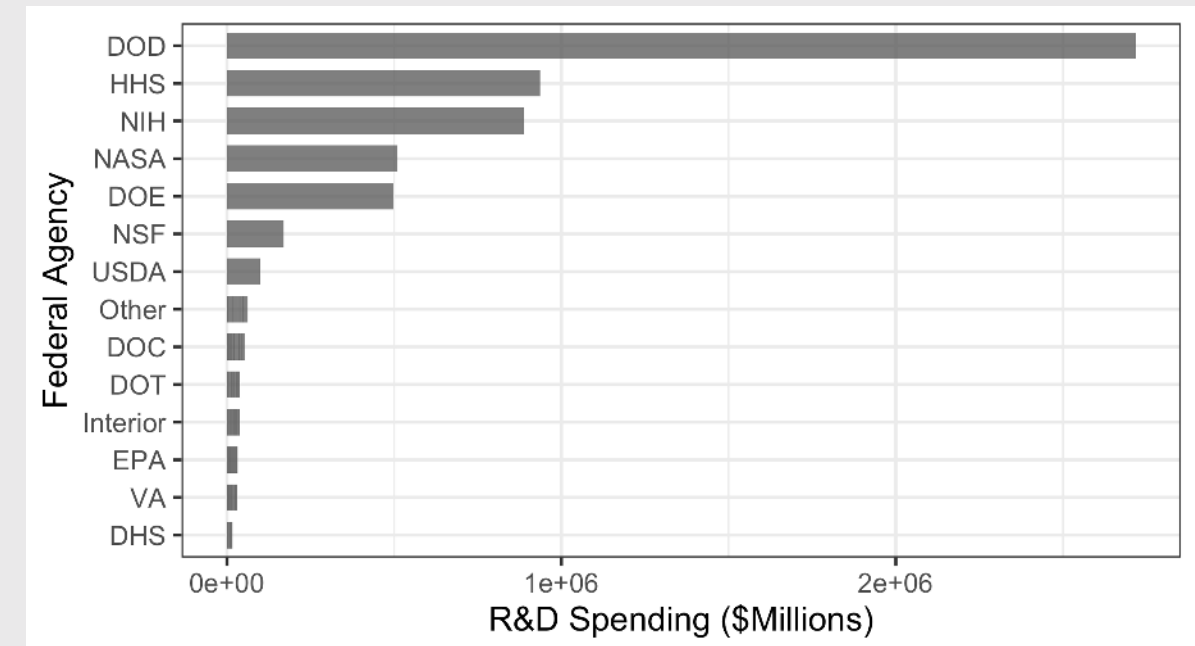
```
#> Error in `geom_col()` :
#> ! Problem while computing aesthetics.
#> i Error occurred in the 1st layer.
#> Caused by error:
#> ! object 'rd_budget_mil' not found
```



Tidy data vizualization

Make a bar chart of total R&D spending by agency

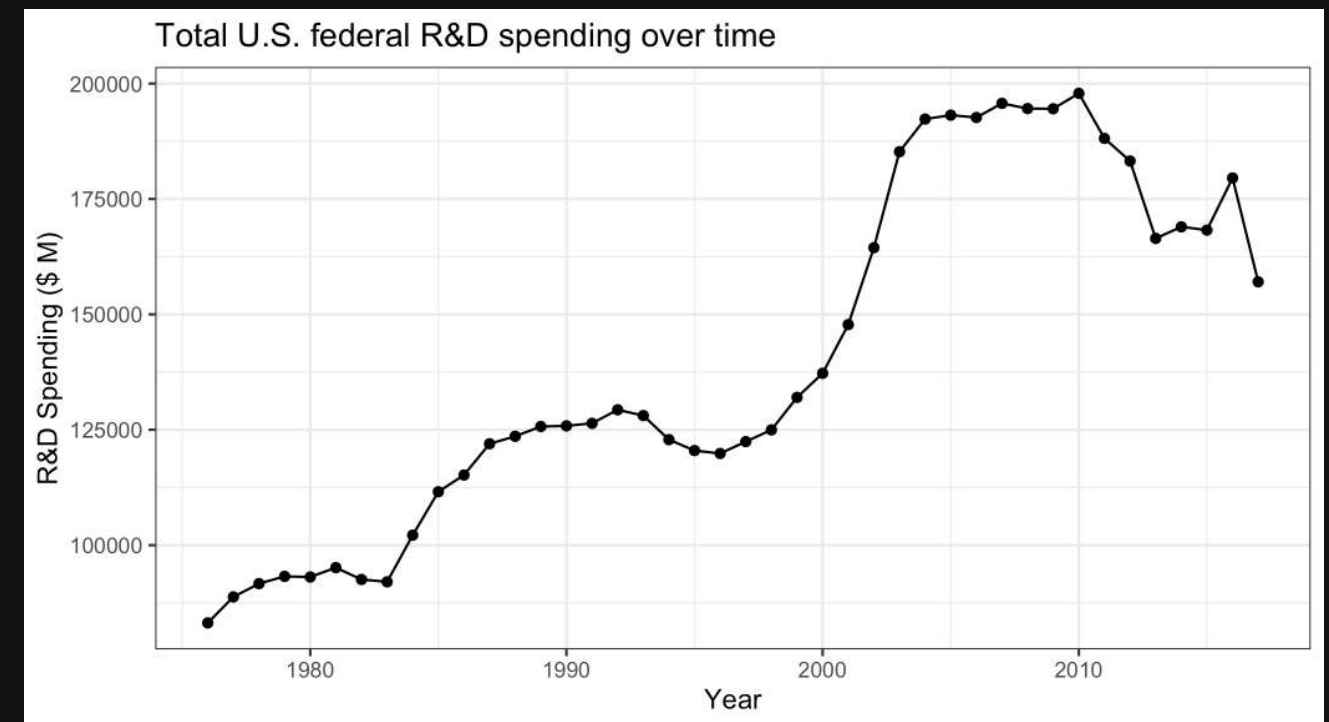
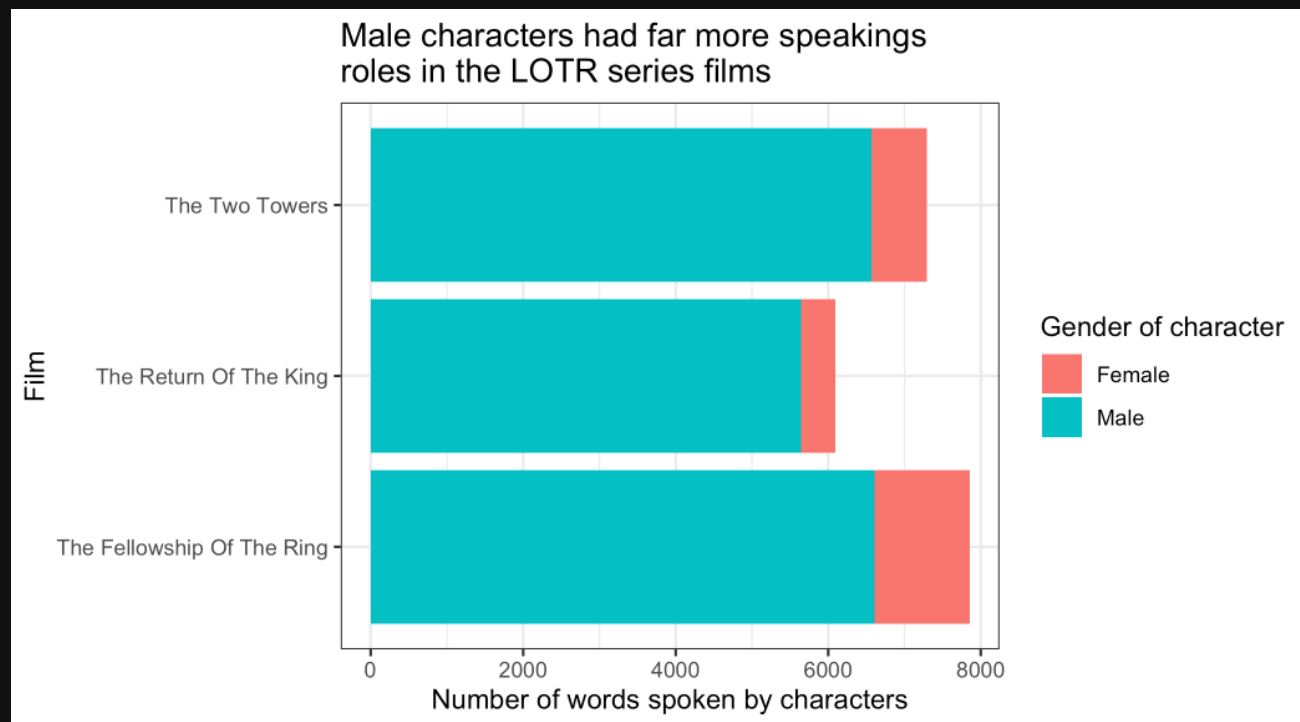
```
1 fed_spend_wide %>%
2   pivot_longer(
3     names_to = "department",
4     values_to = "rd_budget_mil",
5     cols = -year
6   ) %>%
7   ggplot() +
8   geom_col(aes(x = rd_budget_mil, y = department))
9   theme_bw() +
10  labs(
11    x = "R&D Spending ($Millions)",
12    y = "Federal Agency"
13  )
```



Your turn: Tidy Data Visualization

15:00

Run the code chunk to read in the two data files, then convert the data into a tidy (long) structure to create the following charts:



Week 3: *Tidy Data*

1. Tidy Data
2. Tidy Data Wrangling
3. Tidy Data Visualization
4. Data Provenance & Curation
5. Writing a Research Question

Data provenance - It matters where you get your data

Validity:

- Is this data trustworthy? Is it authentic?
- Where did the data come from?
- How has the data been changed / managed over time?
- Is the data complete?

Comprehension:

- Is this data accurate?
- Can you explain your results?
- Is this the right data to answer your question?

Reproducibility:

- I should be able to fully replicate your results from your raw data and code.

🔍 Document your source like a museum curator

Example: View [README.md](#) file in the [data](#) folder

Whenever you download data, you should **at a minimum** record the following:

- The name of the file you are describing.
- The date you downloaded it.
- The original name of the downloaded file (in case you renamed it).
- The url to the site you downloaded it from.
- The source of the *original* data (sometimes different from the site you downloaded it from).
- A short description of the data, maybe how they were collected (if available).
- A dictionary for the data (e.g. a simple markdown table describing each variable).

Your turn

Documentation in the "data/README.md" file is missing for the following data sets:

- wildlife_impacts.csv: [source](#)
- north_america_bear_killings.txt: [source](#)
- uspto_clean_energy_patents.xlsx: [source](#)

Go to the above sites and add the following information to the "data/README.md" file:

- The name of the downloaded file.
- The web address to the site you downloaded the data from.
- The source of the *original* data (if different from the website).
- A short description of the data and how they were collected.
- A dictionary for the data (hint: the site might already have this!).

Week 3: *Tidy Data*

1. Tidy Data
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5. Writing a Research Question

Writing a research question

Follow [these guidelines](#) - your question should be:

- **Clear:** your audience can easily understand its purpose without additional explanation.
- **Focused:** it is narrow enough that it can be addressed thoroughly with the data available and within the limits of the final project report.
- **Concise:** it is expressed in the fewest possible words.
- **Complex:** it is not answerable with a simple "yes" or "no," but rather requires synthesis and analysis of data.
- **Arguable:** its potential answers are open to debate rather than accepted facts (do others care about it?)

Writing a research question

Bad question: Why are social networking sites harmful?

- Unclear: it does not specify *which* social networking sites or state what harm is being caused; assumes that "harm" exists.

Improved question: How are online users experiencing or addressing privacy issues on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter?

- Specifies the sites (Facebook and Twitter), type of harm (privacy issues), and who is harmed (online users).

Writing a research question

Example from previous classes:

- [Genders in the Workforce](#): How has the US gender wage gap changed over time for different occupations and age groups?
- [NFL Suspensions](#): What factors contribute to the severity of disciplinary actions towards NFL players from 2002-2014?

Other good examples: See the [Example Projects](#) page

To Do:

1. Use [this link](#) to form teams
2. Sign up [here](#) for your team proposal 1-on-1 with Prof. Helveston
3. [HW 3](#) is due in **2 weeks**