

Tidy-ing Your Data: Simple Steps for Reproducible Research

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Synthesis Research



Training



Data Science Infrastructure



Synthesis Research



Training



Data Science Infrastructure



NCEAS Learning Hub

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis



A knowledge-sharing community where researchers can learn the latest data skills and technologies to increase efficiency, productivity, transparency, and collaborative capacity.

Courses: Fee-based and grant-supported intensive data science workshops

Mentored Programs: Experiential residential and remote learning programs to build skills in data and open science

Resources: Extensive online curricula, webinars, training materials and best practices

Partnerships: Customized workshops and collaborative initiatives in data science training



NCEAS

National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis

- Some simple guidelines for effective data management
- How to recognize and tidy untidy data
- Using tidy data in analysis

Data management is for everyone!



Audrey McCombs - <https://notebooks.dataone.org/networked-lod/week-5-the-really-cool-thing/>

Your data don't need to be of a particular type, size, or complexity before you start implementing data management practices

Data management is for everyone!



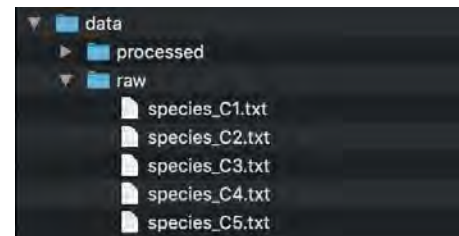
You don't have to be using a relational database system to benefit from the concepts of relational data models (aka tidy data)

Simple Guidelines for Data Management

- Use a scripted program
- Nonproprietary formats
- Keep a raw version of data
- Descriptive names
- Header line
- Plain ASCII text



.csv, .txt



```
1 Date,Time,Station,Latitude,Longitude,Target_Depth,CTD_Depth,CTD_Salinity,CTD_Temperature
2 3/21/08,1899-12-31 21:56:46,"73N,140W",73.02083333,-139.8885,20,15.127,26.0658,-1.423
3 3/21/08,1899-12-31 21:56:46,"73N,140W",73.02083333,-139.8885,60,60.5559,29.1798,-0.93431
4 3/21/08,1899-12-31 21:56:46,"73N,140W",73.02083333,-139.8885,85,85.7471,31.4023,-0.14583
5 3/21/08,1899-12-31 21:56:46,"73N,140W",73.02083333,-139.8885,190,191.4073,33.1268,-1.4775
6 3/21/08,1899-12-31 21:56:46,"73N,140W",73.02083333,-139.8885,310,309.2524,34.6233,0.25782
7 3/22/08,1899-12-31 21:45:27,"72N,140W",72.0505,-140.118333,20,20.9588,26.1788,-1.4007
```


Simple Guidelines for Data Management

- Design to add rows, not columns
- Each column should contain only one type of information
- Record a single piece of data only once; separate information collected at different scales into different tables. In other words, use a relational model

Data model diversity

- There are lots of data models besides tabular data
 - multiband raster
 - matrices
 - spatial vector

Recognizing untidy data

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
species	tree	main trunks kg	reiterated trunks kg	limbs kg	branches kg	leaves kg		type	species	main trunk	reiteration	dry masses (kg)			TOTAL	% total
												limb	branch	leaf		
SESE	Atlas	255144.9	46020.6	5477.7	13433.2	1101.2		tree	SESE	3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	95.3491
SESE	Ballantine	221966.4	7651.6	5922.9	11210.0	1084.8		tree	PSME	135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	3.3876
SESE	Bell	253246.4	5454.3	5792.6	48500.7	1043.4		tree	THSE	31799	0	0	6343	864	39006	0.9105
SESE	Broken Top	130928.9	4805.2	1608.1	5137.4	729.9		tree	ACMA	4444	0	0	925	264	5634	0.1315
SESE	Buena Vista	128833.0	3486.5	0.0	8552.1	518.4		tree	UMCA	2921	0	0	937	273	4131	0.0964
SESE	Demeter	155896.0	11085.6	3204.3	10054.1	768.7		shrub	RUSP	0	0	0	1974	686	2660	0.0620
SESE	Epimetheus	226987.0	12915.7	1797.2	13585.2	1029.4		fem	POMU	0	0	0	0	1271	1271	0.0296
SESE	Iluvatar	349586.6	65003.9	12315.6	13987.0	1461.8		shrub	VAOV	0	0	0	526	26	552	0.0129
SESE	Kronos	134154.1	12204.4	7232.7	5036.1	597.3		shrub	COCO	0	0	0	284	6	289	0.0067
SESE	Pleiades I	182385.2	3735.0	1935.2	10846.6	762.2		fem	POSC	0	0	0	107	89	196	0.0045
SESE	Pleiades II	235838.8	11183.4	4306.0	11306.5	877.7		tree	RHPU	100	0	0	44	18	162	0.0037
SESE	Prometheus	239414.0	25228.9	1612.6	12458.2	1086.0		herb	OXOR	0	0	0	0	112	112	0.0026
SESE	Rhea	143710.4	487.8	730.1	5524.2	691.2		shrub	VAPA	0	0	0	94	4	99	0.0023
SESE	Zeus	243365.7	2885.5	1620.4	19104.7	954.3		tree	PISI	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	3	1761.3	0.0	0.0	87.6	41.4		tree	CHLA	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	4	6312.0	356.0	73.5	214.1	43.8		shrub	GASH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	5	206.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	2.5		shrub	SACA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	6E	18697.4	0.0	0.0	1055.2	66.3				3744390	213247	53714	250519	21767	4283636	
SESE	6W	14651.5	7.7	0.0	626.3	49.6										proportion
SESE	11	614.4	0.0	0.0	28.1	17.0				main trunk	reiteration	limb	branch	leaf	total	geophytic
SESE	12	232.1	0.0	0.0	11.2	10.3		SESE	geo	3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	1.00
SESE	18	15632.0	0.0	0.0	946.3	106.8		SESE	epl	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SESE	19	11805.5	0.0	0.0	770.1	80.3		PSME	geo	135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	1.00
SESE	20	309.5	0.0	0.0	12.5	5.9		PSME	epl	0	0	0	0	0	0	
SESE	22	25618.3	0.0	0.0	1504.0	120.2		TSHE	geo	31740	0	0	6332	860	38932	0.99
SESE	23	463.7	0.0	0.0	18.8	4.6		TSHE	epl	0	0	0	0	0	0	

Characteristics of tidy data

Observations

- Separate tables for each entity measured

Recognizing untidy data

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
species	tree	main trunks kg	reiterated trunks kg	limbs kg	branches kg	leaves kg		type	species	main trunk	reiteration	dry masses (kg)			TOTAL	% total
												limb	branch	leaf		
SESE	Atlas	255144.9	46020.6	5477.7	13433.2	1101.2		tree	SESE	3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	95.3491
SESE	Baillantine	221966.4	7651.6	5922.9	11210.0	1084.8		tree	PSME	135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	3.3876
SESE	Bell	253246.4	5454.3	5792.6	48500.7	1043.4		tree	THSE	31799	0	0	6343	864	39006	0.9105
SESE	Broken Top	130928.9	4805.2	1608.1	5137.4	729.9		tree	ACMA	4444	0	0	925	264	5634	0.1315
SESE	Buena Vista	128833.0	3486.5	0.0	8552.1	518.4		tree	UMCA	2921	0	0	937	273	4131	0.0964
SESE	Demeter	155896.0	11085.6	3204.3	10054.1	768.7		shrub	RUSP	0	0	0	1974	688	2660	0.0620
SESE	Epimetheus	226987.0	12915.7	1797.2	13585.2	1029.4		fem	POMU	0	0	0	0	1271	1271	0.0296
SESE	Iluvatar	349586.6	65003.9	12315.6	13987.0	1461.8		shrub	VAOV	0	0	0	526	26	552	0.0129
SESE	Kronos	134154.1	12204.4	7232.7	5036.1	597.3		shrub	COCO	0	0	0	0	6	289	0.0067
SESE	Pleiades I	182385.2	3735.0	1935.2	10846.6	762.2		fem	POSC	0	0	0	107	89	196	0.0045
SESE	Pleiades II	235838.8	11183.4	4306.0	11306.5	877.7		tree	RHPU	100	0	0	44	18	162	0.0037
SESE	Prometheus	239414.0	25228.9	1612.6	12458.2	1086.0		herb	OXOR	0	0	0	0	112	112	0.0026
SESE	Rhea	141719.4	487.6	730.1	5524.2	691.2		shrub	VAPA	0	0	0	94	4	99	0.0023
SESE	Zeus	241362.7	2885.5	1620.4	19104.7	954.3		tree	PISI	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	3	761.3	0.0	0.0	87.6	41.4		tree	CHLA	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	4	6312.0	356.0	73.5	214.1	43.8		shrub	GASH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	5	206.0	0.0	0.0	8.7	2.5		shrub	SACA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	6E	18697.4	0.0	0.0	1055.2	66.3				3744390	213247	53714	250519	21767	4283636	
SESE	6W	14851.5	7.7	0.0	626.3	49.6										proportion
SESE	11	614.4	0.0	0.0	28.1	17.0										geophytic
SESE	12	232.1	0.0	0.0	11.2	10.3		SESE geo		3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	1.00
SESE	18	15632.0	0.0	0.0	946.3	106.8		SESE epi		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SESE	19	11805.5	0.0	0.0	770.1	80.3		PSME geo		135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	1.00
SESE	20	309.5	0.0	0.0	12.5	5.9		PSME epi		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SESE	22	25618.3	0.0	0.0	1504.0	120.2		TSHE geo		31740	0	0	6343	864	38932	0.99
SESE	23	482.7	0.0	0.0	18.6	4.5		TSHE epi		0	0	0	12	4	14	0.0000

Table 2

Table 1

Table 3

Characteristics of tidy data

Observations

- Separate tables for each entity measured
- Each row represents a single observed entity

Recognizing untidy data

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	
species	tree	main trunks kg	reiterated trunks kg	limbs kg	branches kg	leaves kg		type	species	main trunk	reiteration	dry masses (kg)			TOTAL	% total	
												limb	branch	leaf			
SESE	Atlas	255144.9	46020.6	5477.7	13433.2	1101.2		tree	SESE	3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	95.3491	
SESE	Ballantine	221966.4	7651.6	5922.9	11210.0	1084.8		tree	PSME	135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	3.3876	
SESE	Bell	253246.4	5454.3	5792.6	48500.7	1043.4		tree	THSE	31799	0	0	6343	864	39006	0.9105	
SESE	Broken Top	130928.9	4805.2	1608.1	5137.4	729.9		tree	ACMA	4444	0	0	925	264	5634	0.1315	
SESE	Buena Vista	128833.0	3486.5	0.0	8552.1	518.4		tree	UMCA	2921	0	0	937	273	4131	0.0964	
SESE	Demeter	155896.0	1100.3	3204.3	10054.1	768.7		shrub	RUSP	0	0	0	1974	686	2660	0.0620	
SESE	Epimetheus	226987.0	12915.7	1797.2	13585.2							0	0	0	1271	1271	0.0296
SESE	Iluvatar	349586.6	65003.9	12915.6	13987.0							0	0	526	28	552	0.0129
SESE	Kronos	134154.1	12204.4	723.7	5036.1							0	0	284	6	289	0.0067
SESE	Pleiades I	182385.2	3735.0	1935.2	10846.6							0	0	107	89	196	0.0045
SESE	Pleiades II	235838.8	11183.4	4306.0	13306.5							0	0	44	18	162	0.0037
SESE	Prometheus	239414.0	25228.9	1612.6	12400.2							0	0	0	112	112	0.0026
SESE	Rhea	143710.4	487.8	730.1	5524.2							0	0	94	4	99	0.0023
SESE	Zeus	243365.7	2885.5	1620.4	19104.7							0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	3	1761.3	0.0	0.0	87.6							0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	4	6312.0	356.0	73.5	214.1							0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	5	206.0	0.0	0.0	8.7							0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	6E	18697.4	0.0	0.0	1055.2							247	53714	250519	21767	4283636	
SESE	6W	14651.5	7.7	0.0	626.3	49.6											proportion
SESE	11	614.4	0.0	0.0	28.1	17.0				main trunk	reiteration	limb	branch	leaf	total	geophytic	
SESE	12	232.1	0.0	0.0	11.2	10.3			SESE geo	3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	1.00	
SESE	18	15632.0	0.0	0.0	946.3	106.8			SESE epi	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SESE	19	11805.5	0.0	0.0	770.1	80.3			PSME geo	135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	1.00	
SESE	20	309.5	0.0	0.0	12.5	5.9			PSME epi	0	0	0	0	0	0		
SESE	22	25618.3	0.0	0.0	1504.0	120.2			TSHE geo	31740	0	0	6332	860	38932	0.99	
SESE	23	463.7	0.0	0.0	18.6	4.6			TSHE epi	0	0	0	0	0	0		

All the same observation?
No.

Characteristics of tidy data

Observations

- Separate tables for each entity measured
- Each row represents a single observed entity

Variables

- All values in a column are of the same type

Characteristics of tidy data

Observations

- Separate tables for each entity measured
- Each row represents a single observed entity
- **Observations (rows) are all unique**

Variables

- All values in a column are of the same type
- **All columns pertain to the same observation (row)**
- **Each column represents either an identifying or measured variable**

Characteristics of tidy data

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	3775	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	3666	20593360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	210258	1272915272
China	2000	210776	128042583

variables

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	1999	3775	19987071
Afghanistan	2000	3666	20593360
Brazil	1999	37737	172006362
Brazil	2000	80488	174504898
China	1999	210258	1272915272
China	2000	210776	128042583

observations

country	year	cases	population
Afghanistan	99	75	987071
Afghanistan	00	66	593360
Brazil	99	737	006362
Brazil	00	488	504898
China	99	258	272915272
China	00	776	42583

values

Recognizing untidy data

id	date	site	elev	sp1code	sp1height	sp2code	sp2height
1	2017-10-10	1	3.7	DAPU	4.6	DAMA	4.5
2	2017-09-05	2	3.2	DAMA	3.5	DAPU	3.9

- Each row contains observations about multiple entities (site characteristics and species observations)
- A new species observation would add a column (wide format)

Tidying our data

id	date	site	elev	sp1code	sp1height	sp2code	sp2height
1	2017-10-10	1	3.7	DAPU	4.6	DAMA	4.5
2	2017-09-05	2	3.2	DAMA	3.5	DAPU	3.9

- What are the observed entities?
 - plant species
 - site characteristics
- What are the variables associated with those observations?
 - height
 - elevation

Tidying our data

id	date	site	scode	height
1	2017-10-10	1	DAPU	4.6
2	2017-09-05	2	DAMA	3.5
3	2017-10-10	1	DAMA	4.5
4	2017-09-05	2	DAPU	3.9

site	name	elev
1	Taku	3.7
2	Lituya	3.2

- Individual species observations
 - identifying variables: id, date, site, scode
 - measured variables: height
- Site observations where species occurred
 - identifying variables: site, name
 - measured variables: elev

Tidying our data

id	date	site	elev	sp1code	sp1height	sp2code	sp2height
1	2017-10-10	1	3.7	DAPU	4.6	DAMA	4.5
2	2017-09-05	2	3.2	DAMA	3.5	DAPU	3.9

id	date	site	scode	height
1	2017-10-10	1	DAPU	4.6
2	2017-09-05	2	DAMA	3.5
3	2017-10-10	1	DAMA	4.5
4	2017-09-05	2	DAPU	3.9

site	name	elev
1	Taku	3.7
2	Lituya	3.2

- Add rows not columns
- Separate information collected at different scales into different tables
- Record a single piece of data only once

Benefits of normalized data

id	date	site	elev	sp1code	sp1height	sp2code	sp2height
1	2017-10-10	1	3.7	DAPU	4.6	DAMA	4.5
2	2017-09-05	2	3.2	DAMA	3.5	DAPU	3.9

id	date	site	scode	height
1	2017-10-10	1	DAPU	4.6
2	2017-09-05	2	DAMA	3.5
3	2017-10-10	1	DAMA	4.5
4	2017-09-05	2	DAPU	3.9

site	name	elev
1	Taku	3.7
2	Lituya	3.2

- Search and filter rows
- Describe columns more precisely
- Optimize storage
- Enforce data integrity

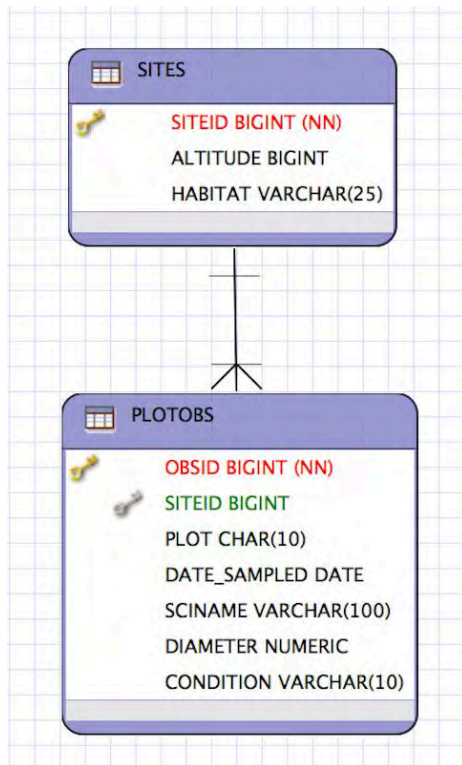
Using normalized data

id	date	site	scode	height
1	2017-10-10	1	DAPU	4.6
2	2017-09-05	2	DAMA	3.5
3	2017-10-10	1	DAMA	4.5
4	2017-09-05	2	DAPU	3.9

site	name	elev
1	Taku	3.7
2	Lituya	3.2

- Primary key
 - unique identifier for each observation within an entity
- Foreign Key
 - reference to a primary key in another table

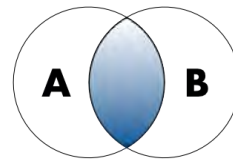
Entity-relationship diagrams



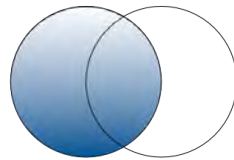
- Draw relationships between tables concisely
- Used in database management systems

Merging normalized data

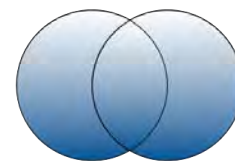
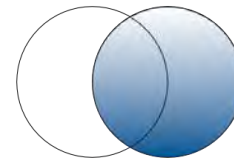
INNER JOIN



LEFT JOIN



RIGHT JOIN

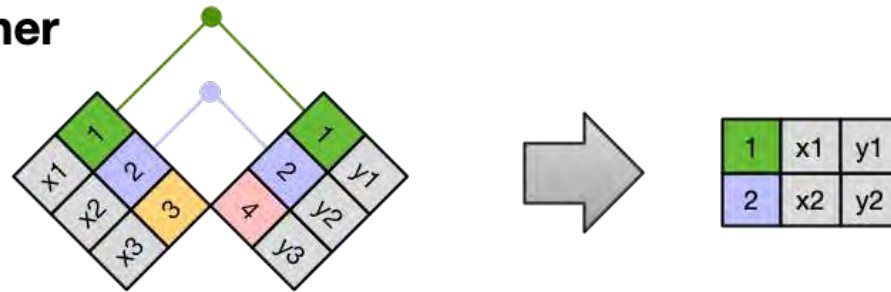


FULL OUTER JOIN

Merging normalized data

X		Y	
1	x1	1	y1
2	x2	2	y2
3	x3	4	y3

Inner



R for data science: import, tidy, transform, visualize, and model data. H Wickham, G Grolemund – 2016. <https://r4ds.had.co.nz/>

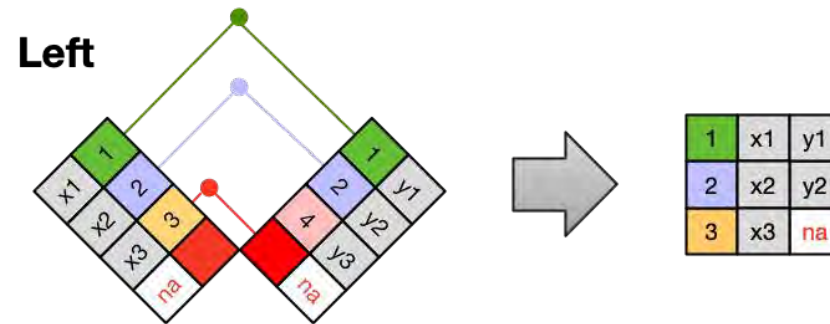
Merging normalized data

X

1	x1
2	x2
3	x3

Y

1	y1
2	y2
4	y3



1	x1	y1
2	x2	y2
3	x3	na

Merging normalized data

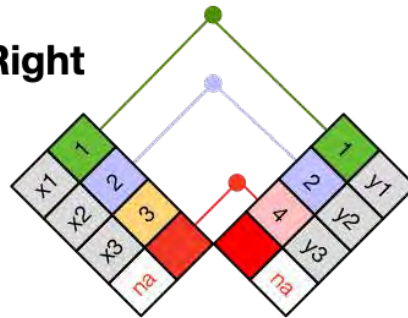
X

1	x1
2	x2
3	x3

Y

1	y1
2	y2
4	y3

Right



1	x1	y1
2	x2	y2
4	na	y3

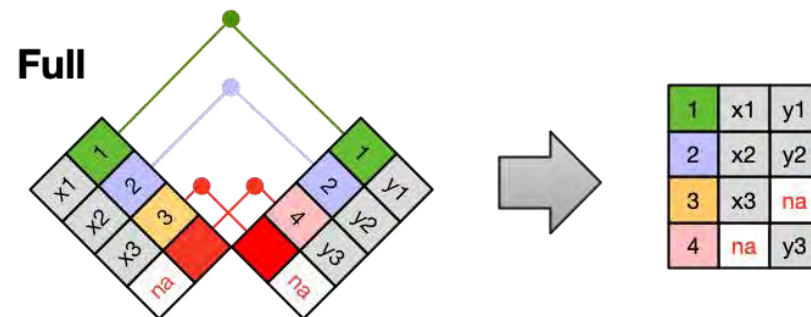
Merging normalized data

X

1	x1
2	x2
3	x3

Y

1	y1
2	y2
4	y3



Merging normalized data

Left join

id	date	site	scode	height
1	2017-10-10	1	DAPU	4.6
2	2017-09-05	2	DAMA	3.5
3	2017-10-10	1	DAMA	4.5
4	2017-09-05	2	DAPU	3.9

site	name	elev
1	Taku	3.7
2	Lituya	3.2



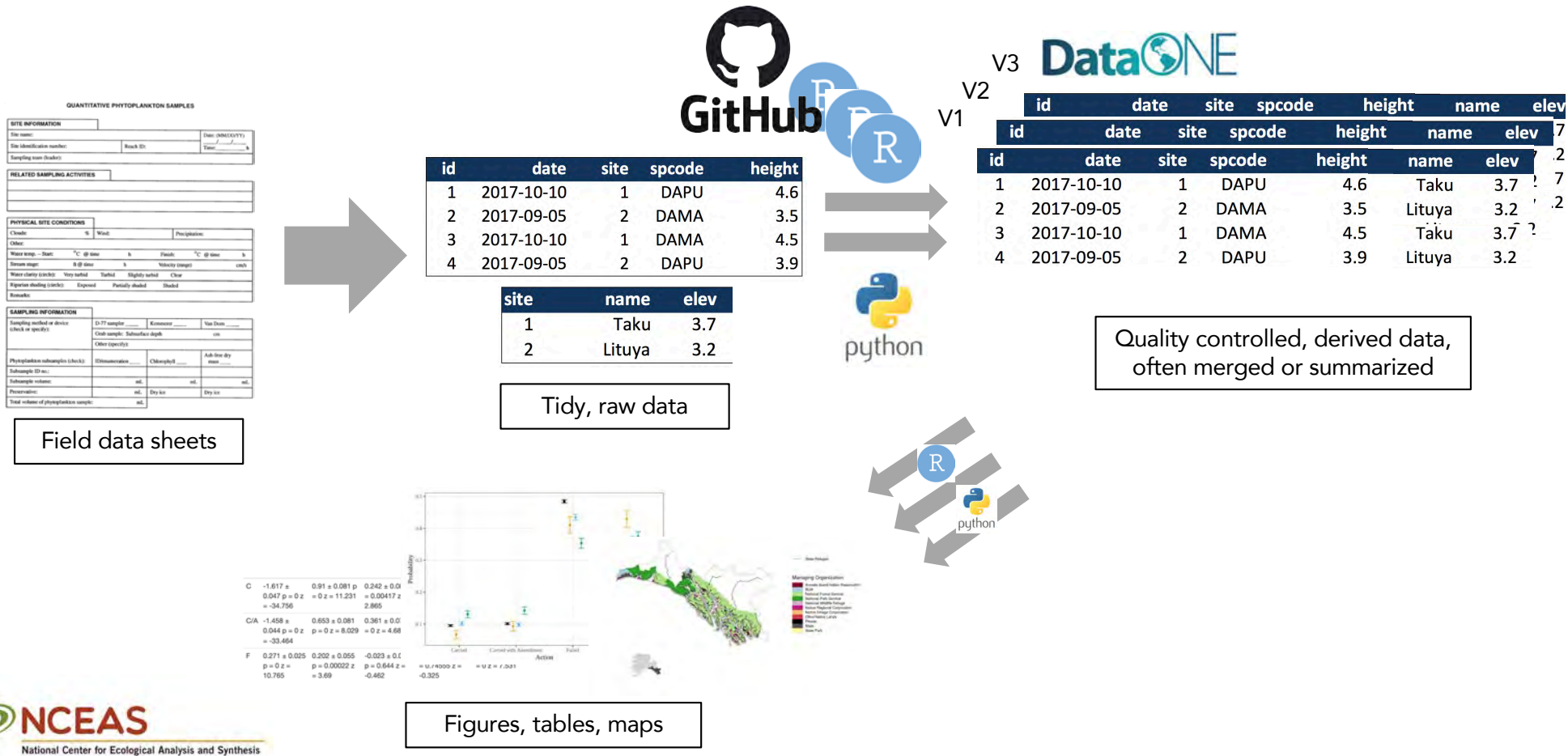
id	date	site	scode	height	name	elev
1	2017-10-10	1	DAPU	4.6	Taku	3.7
2	2017-09-05	2	DAMA	3.5	Lituya	3.2
3	2017-10-10	1	DAMA	4.5	Taku	3.7
4	2017-09-05	2	DAPU	3.9	Lituya	3.2

A not-so-reproducible workflow

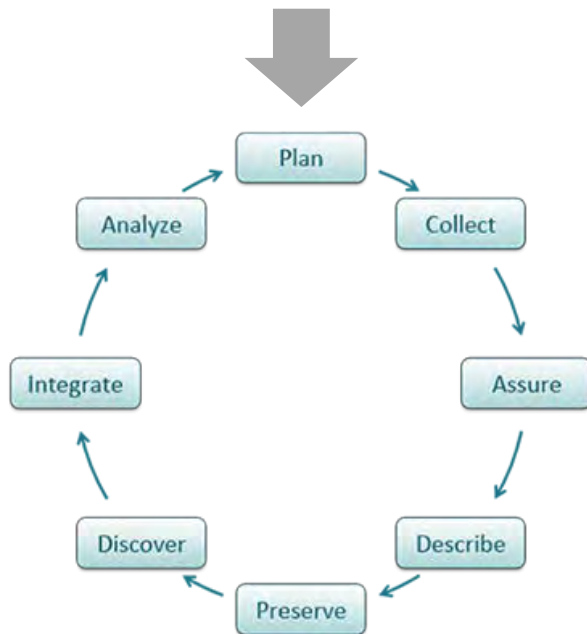
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q
species	tree	main trunks kg	reiterated trunks kg	limbs kg	branches kg	leaves kg		type	species	main trunk	reiteration	limb	branch	leaf	TOTAL	% total
SESE	Atlas	255144.9	46020.6	5477.7	13433.2	1101.2		tree	SESE	3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	95.3491
SESE	Ballantine	221966.4	7651.6	5922.9	11210.0	1084.8		tree	PSME	135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	3.3876
SESE	Bell	253246.4	5454.3	5792.6	48500.7	1043.4		tree	THSE	31799	0	0	6343	864	39006	0.9105
SESE	Broken Top	130928.9	4805.2	1608.1	5137.4	729.9		tree	ACMA	4444	0	0	925	264	5634	0.1315
SESE	Buena Vista	128833.0	3486.5	0.0	8552.1	518.4		tree	UMCA	2921	0	0	937	273	4121	0.0994
SESE	Demeter	155896.0	11085.6	3204.3	10054.1	768.7		shrub	RUSP	0	0	0	1974	686	2660	0.0620
SESE	Epimetheus	226987.0		1797.2	13585.2	1029.4		fern	POMU	0	0	0	0	1271	1271	0.0298
SESE	Iluvatar	349586.6		15.6	13987.0	1461.8		shrub	VAOV	0	0	0	526	26	552	0.0128
SESE	Kronos	134154.1	12204.4	1.7	5036.1	597.3		shrub	COCO	0	0	0	204	0	289	0.0067
SESE	Pleiades I	182385.2	3735.0	2	10846.6	762.2		fern	POSC	0	0	0	107	89	196	0.0045
SESE	Pleiades II	235838.8	11183.4		11306.5	877.7		tree	RHPU	100	0	0	44	18	162	0.0037
SESE	Prometheus	239414.0	25228.9	2.6	12458.2	1086.0		herb	OXDR	0	0	0	0	112	112	0.0026
SESE	Rhea	143710.4	487.8	730.1	5524.2	691.2		shrub	VAPA	0	0	0	94	4	99	0.0023
SESE	Zeus	243365.7	2885.5	4	19104.7	954.3		tree	PISI	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	3	1761.3	0.0	0	87.6	41.4		tree	CHLA	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0000
SESE	4	6312.0	356.0	5	214.1	43.8		shrub	GASH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	5	206.0	0.0	0	8.7	2.5		shrub	SACA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0000
SESE	6E	18697.4	0.0	0	1055.2	66.3				3744390	213247	53714	250519	21767	4283636	
SESE	6W	14651.5	0.0	0	628.3	49.6										proportion
SESE	11	614.4	0.0	0.0	28.1	17.0				main trunk	reiteration	limb	branch	leaf	total	geophytic
SESE	12	232.1	0.0	0.0	11.2	10.3		SESE geo		3569312	213247	53714	230945	17192	4084409	1.00
SESE	18	15632.0	0.0	0.0	946.3	106.8		SESE epi		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SESE	19	11805.5	0.0	0.0	770.1	80.3		PSME geo		135815	0	0	8338	961	145114	1.00
SESE	20	309.5	0.0	0.0	12.5	5.9		PSME epi		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SESE	22	25618.3	0.0	0.0	1504.0	120.2		TSHE geo		31740	0	0	6332	860	38932	0.99
SESE	23	482.7	0.0	0.0	18.6	4.6		TSHE epi		0	0	0	12	4	16	0.0004



Building a reproducible workflow



When to start?



- Thinking about your data model **early** helps you be more efficient at every stage of the data lifecycle
- Its never too late to tidy things up!



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