

# Package ‘ltertools’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Tools Developed by the Long Term Ecological Research Community

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**Maintainer** Nicholas Lyon <lyon@nceas.ucsb.edu>

**Description** Set of the data science tools created by various members of the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) community. These functions were initially written largely as standalone operations and have later been aggregated into this package.

**License** BSD\_3\_clause + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Language** en-US

**LazyData** true

**URL** <https://lter.github.io/ltertools/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/lter/ltertools/issues>

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.1

**Depends** R (>= 3.5)

**Imports** dplyr, generics, ggplot2, magrittr, purrr, readxl, RJSONIO, stats, stringr, tidyr, utils

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0)

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Nicholas Lyon [aut, cre] (<https://njlyon0.github.io/>),  
Angel Chen [aut] (<https://angelchen7.github.io/>),  
Miguel C. Leon [ctb] (<https://luquillo.lter.network/>),  
National Science Foundation [fnd] (NSF 1929393, 09/01/2019 -  
08/31/2024),  
University of California, Santa Barbara [cph]

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|           |                                              |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|
| begin_key | <i>Generate the Skeleton of a Column Key</i> |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Creates the start of a 'column key' for harmonizing data. A column key includes a column for the file names to be harmonized into a single data object as well as a column for the column names in those files. Finally, it includes a column indicating the tidied name that corresponds with each raw column name. Harmonization can accept this key object and use it to rename all raw column names—in a reproducible way—to standardize across datasets. Currently supports raw files of the following formats: CSV, TXT, XLS, and XLSX

### Usage

```
begin_key(
  raw_folder = NULL,
  data_format = c("csv", "txt", "xls", "xlsx"),
  guess_tidy = FALSE
)
```

### Arguments

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| raw_folder  | (character) folder / folder path containing data files to include in key                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| data_format | (character) file extensions to identify within the raw_folder. Default behavior is to search for all supported file types.                                                                                                                                                     |
| guess_tidy  | (logical) whether to attempt to "guess" what the tidy name equivalent should be for each raw column name. This is accomplished via coercion to lowercase and removal of special character/repeated characters. If FALSE (the default) the "tidy_name" column is returned empty |

**Value**

(dataframe) skeleton of column key

**Examples**

```
# Generate two simple tables
## Dataframe 1
df1 <- data.frame("xx" = c(1:3),
                  "unwanted" = c("not", "needed", "column"),
                  "yy" = letters[1:3])
## Dataframe 2
df2 <- data.frame("LETTERS" = letters[4:7],
                  "NUMBERS" = c(4:7),
                  "BONUS" = c("plantae", "animalia", "fungi", "protista"))

# Generate a local folder for exporting
temp_folder <- tempdir()

# Export both files to that folder
utils::write.csv(x = df1, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df1.csv"), row.names = FALSE)
utils::write.csv(x = df2, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df2.csv"), row.names = FALSE)

# Generate a column key with "guesses" at tidy column names
lertools::begin_key(raw_folder = temp_folder, data_format = "csv", guess_tidy = TRUE)
```

---

convert\_temp

*Convert Temperature Values*

---

**Description**

Converts a given set of temperature values from one unit to another

**Usage**

```
convert_temp(value = NULL, from = NULL, to = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

value            (numeric) temperature values to convert  
from            (character) starting units of the value, not case sensitive.  
to               (character) units to which to convert, not case sensitive.

**Value**

(numeric) converted temperature values

**Examples**

```
# Convert from Fahrenheit to Celsius
convert_temp(value = 32, from = "Fahrenheit", to = "c")
```

---

|    |                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------|
| cv | <i>Calculate Coefficient of Variation</i> |
|----|-------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Computes the coefficient of variation (CV), by dividing the standard deviation (SD) by the arithmetic mean of a set of numbers. If `na_rm` is TRUE then missing values are removed before calculation is completed

**Usage**

```
cv(x, na_rm = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

|       |                                                                                 |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x     | (numeric) vector of numbers for which to calculate CV                           |
| na_rm | (logical) whether to remove missing values from both average and SD calculation |

**Value**

(numeric) coefficient of variation

**Examples**

```
# Convert from Fahrenheit to Celsius
cv(x = c(4, 5, 6, 4, 5, 5), na_rm = TRUE)
```

---

|            |                                                                      |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| expand_key | <i>Generate the Skeleton of a Column Key for Only New Data Files</i> |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Data discovery—and harmonization—is an iterative process. For those already depending upon a column key and the `harmonize` function, it can be cumbersome to add rows to an existing column key. This function formats rows for an existing column key for only datasets that are not already (A) in the column key or (B) in the harmonized data table.

**Usage**

```
expand_key(
  key = NULL,
  raw_folder = NULL,
  harmonized_df = NULL,
  data_format = c("csv", "txt", "xls", "xlsx"),
  guess_tidy = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

|               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| key           | (dataframe) key object including a "source", "raw_name" and "tidy_name" column. Additional columns are allowed but ignored                                                                                                                                                     |
| raw_folder    | (character) folder / folder path containing data files to include in key                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| harmonized_df | (dataframe) harmonized data table produced with the current version of the column key. Must include a "source" column but other columns are ignored.                                                                                                                           |
| data_format   | (character) file extensions to identify within the raw_folder. Default behavior is to search for all supported file types.                                                                                                                                                     |
| guess_tidy    | (logical) whether to attempt to "guess" what the tidy name equivalent should be for each raw column name. This is accomplished via coercion to lowercase and removal of special character/repeated characters. If FALSE (the default) the "tidy_name" column is returned empty |

**Value**

(dataframe) skeleton of rows to add to column key for data sources not already in harmonized data table

**Examples**

```
# Generate two simple tables
## Dataframe 1
df1 <- data.frame("xx" = c(1:3),
                  "unwanted" = c("not", "needed", "column"),
                  "yy" = letters[1:3])
## Dataframe 2
df2 <- data.frame("LETTERS" = letters[4:7],
                  "NUMBERS" = c(4:7),
                  "BONUS" = c("plantae", "animalia", "fungi", "protista"))

# Generate a local folder for exporting
temp_folder <- tempdir()

# Export both files to that folder
utils::write.csv(x = df1, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df1.csv"), row.names = FALSE)
utils::write.csv(x = df2, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df2.csv"), row.names = FALSE)

# Generate a column key with "guesses" at tidy column names
key1 <- ltertools::begin_key(raw_folder = temp_folder, data_format = "csv", guess_tidy = TRUE)
```

```

# Harmonize the data
harmony <- ltertools::harmonize(key = key1, raw_folder = temp_folder)

# Make a new data file
df3 <- data.frame("xx" = c(10:15),
                 "letters" = letters[10:15])

# Export this locally to the temp folder too
utils::write.csv(x = df3, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df3.csv"), row.names = FALSE)

# Identify what needs to be added to the existing column key
ltertools::expand_key(key = key1, raw_folder = temp_folder, harmonized_df = harmony,
                    data_format = "csv", guess_tidy = TRUE)

```

---

harmonize

*Harmonize Data via a Column Key*


---

## Description

A "column key" is meant to streamline harmonization of disparate datasets. This key must include three columns containing: (1) the name of each raw data file to be harmonized, (2) the name of all of the columns in each of those files, and (3) the "tidy name" that corresponds to each raw column name. This function accepts that key and the path to a folder containing all raw data files included in the key. Each dataset is then read in and the original column names are replaced with their respective "tidy\_name" indicated in the key. Once this has been done to all files, a single dataframe is returned with only columns indicated in the column name. Currently the following file formats are supported for the raw data: CSV, TXT, XLS, and XLSX

Note that raw column names without an associated tidy name in the key are removed. We recommend using the `begin_key` function in this package to generate the skeleton of the key to make achieving the required structure simpler.

## Usage

```

harmonize(
  key = NULL,
  raw_folder = NULL,
  data_format = c("csv", "txt", "xls", "xlsx"),
  quiet = TRUE
)

```

## Arguments

|            |                                                                                                                            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| key        | (dataframe) key object including a "source", "raw_name" and "tidy_name" column. Additional columns are allowed but ignored |
| raw_folder | (character) folder / folder path containing data files to include in key                                                   |

`data_format` (character) file extensions to identify within the `raw_folder`. Default behavior is to search for all supported file types.

`quiet` (logical) whether to suppress certain non-warning messages. Defaults to TRUE

### Value

(dataframe) harmonized dataframe including all columns defined in the "tidy\_name" column of the key object

### Examples

```
# Generate two simple tables
## Dataframe 1
df1 <- data.frame("xx" = c(1:3),
                  "unwanted" = c("not", "needed", "column"),
                  "yy" = letters[1:3])

## Dataframe 2
df2 <- data.frame("LETTERS" = letters[4:7],
                  "NUMBERS" = c(4:7),
                  "BONUS" = c("plantae", "animalia", "fungi", "protista"))

# Generate a local folder for exporting
temp_folder <- tempdir()

# Export both files to that folder
utils::write.csv(x = df1, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df1.csv"), row.names = FALSE)
utils::write.csv(x = df2, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df2.csv"), row.names = FALSE)

# Generate a column key object manually
key_obj <- data.frame("source" = c(rep("df1.csv", 3),
                                  rep("df2.csv", 3)),
                     "raw_name" = c("xx", "unwanted", "yy",
                                     "LETTERS", "NUMBERS", "BONUS"),
                     "tidy_name" = c("numbers", NA, "letters",
                                     "letters", "numbers", "kingdom"))

# Use that to harmonize the 'raw' files we just created
ltertools::harmonize(key = key_obj, raw_folder = temp_folder, data_format = "csv")
```

### Description

There are currently 28 field sites involved with the Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) network. These sites occupy a range of habitats and were started / are renewed on site-specific timelines. To make this information more readily available to interested parties, this data object summarizes the key components of each site in an easy-to-use data format.

**Usage**

```
lter_sites
```

**Format**

Dataframe with 8 columns and 32 rows

**name** Full name of the LTER site

**code** Abbreviation (typically three letters) of the site name

**habitat** Simplified habitat designation of the site (or "mixed" for more complex habitat contexts)

**start\_year** Year of initial funding by NSF as an official LTER site

**end\_year** End of current funding cycle grant

**latitude** Degrees latitude of site

**longitude** Degrees longitude of site

**site\_url** Website URL for the site

**Source**

Long Term Ecological Research Network Office. <https://lternet.edu/site/>

---

```
make_json
```

*Make a JSON File with Specified Contents*

---

**Description**

Creates a JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) file containing the specified name/value pairs. These files are hugely flexible and interpretable by a wide variety of coding languages and thus extremely useful in many contexts. This function is meant to assist those who wish to use JSON files to store user-specific information (e.g., email addresses, absolute file paths, etc.) in collaborative contexts.

**Usage**

```
make_json(x = NULL, file = NULL, git_ignore = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x          | (character) named vector from which to generate JSON content. Vector elements become JSON values and the vector element names become JSON names. A named vector can be created like so: <code>c("greeting" = "hello", "farewell" = "goodbye")</code> . The characters on the left of the equal signs are names and the characters on the right are values. |
| file       | (character) name of JSON file to create with contents provided to x. Must end with ".json"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| git_ignore | (logical) whether to add the file name (defined in file) to the '.gitignore' if one exists. Defaults to FALSE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |



**Value**

Nothing. Called for side-effects (i.e., creating JSON file)

**Examples**

```
# Create contents
my_info <- c("data_path" = "Users/me/documents/my_project/data")

# Generate a local folder for exporting
temp_folder <- tempdir()

# Create a JSON with those contents
make_json(x = my_info, file = file.path(temp_folder, "user.json"), git_ignore = FALSE)

# Read it back in
(user_info <- RJSONIO::fromJSON(content = file.path(temp_folder, "user.json")))
```

---

read

*Read Data from Folder*


---

**Description**

Reads in all data files of specified types found in the designated folder. Returns a list with one element for each data file. Currently supports CSV, TXT, XLS, and XLSX

**Usage**

```
read(raw_folder = NULL, data_format = c("csv", "txt", "xls", "xlsx"))
```

**Arguments**

`raw_folder` (character) folder / folder path containing data files to read

`data_format` (character) file extensions to identify within the `raw_folder`. Default behavior is to search for all supported file types.

**Value**

(list) data found in specified folder of specified file format(s)

**Examples**

```
# Generate two simple tables
## Dataframe 1
df1 <- data.frame("xx" = c(1:3),
                  "unwanted" = c("not", "needed", "column"),
                  "yy" = letters[1:3])
## Dataframe 2
```

```
df2 <- data.frame("LETTERS" = letters[4:7],
                 "NUMBERS" = c(4:7),
                 "BONUS" = c("plantae", "animalia", "fungi", "protista"))

# Generate a local folder for exporting
temp_folder <- tempdir()

# Export both files to that folder
utils::write.csv(x = df1, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df1.csv"), row.names = FALSE)
utils::write.csv(x = df2, file = file.path(temp_folder, "df2.csv"), row.names = FALSE)

# Read in all CSV files in that folder
read(raw_folder = temp_folder, data_format = "csv")
```

---

 site\_subset

*Subsets the LTER Site Information Table by Site Codes and Habitats*


---

## Description

Subsets the information on long term ecological research (LTER) sites based on user-specified site codes (i.e., three letter abbreviations), and/or desired habitats. See `lter_sites` for the full set of site information

## Usage

```
site_subset(sites = NULL, habitats = NULL)
```

## Arguments

`sites` (character) three letter site code(s) identifying site(s) of interest

`habitats` (character) habitat(s) of interest. See `unique(lter_sites$habitat)`

## Value

(dataframe) complete site information (8 columns) for all sites that meet the provided site code and/or habitat criteria

---

|               |                                                        |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| site_timeline | <i>Create a Timeline of Site(s) that Meet Criteria</i> |
|---------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Creates a ggplot2 plot of all sites that meet the user-specified site code (i.e., three letter abbreviation) and/or habitat criteria. See `lter_sites` for the full set of site information including accepted site codes and habitat designations (unrecognized entries will trigger a warning and be ignored). Lines are grouped and colored by habitat to better emphasize possible similarities among sites

### Usage

```
site_timeline(sites = NULL, habitats = NULL, colors = NULL)
```

### Arguments

|                       |                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>sites</code>    | (character) three letter site code(s) identifying site(s) of interest                                                                                        |
| <code>habitats</code> | (character) habitat(s) of interest. See <code>unique(lter_sites\$habitat)</code>                                                                             |
| <code>colors</code>   | (character) colors to assign to the timelines expressed as a hexadecimal (e.g, #00FF00). Note there must be as many colors as habitats included in the graph |

### Value

(ggplot2) plot object of timeline of site(s) that meet user-specified criteria

### Examples

```
# Make the full timeline of all sites with default colors by supplying no arguments
site_timeline()

# Or make a timeline of only sites that meet certain criteria
site_timeline(habitats = c("grassland", "forest"))
```

---

|                |                                       |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|
| solar_day_info | <i>Identify Solar Day Information</i> |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|

---

### Description

For all days between the specified start and end date, identify the time of sunrise, sunset, and solar noon (in UTC) as well as the day length. The idea for this function was contributed by [Miguel C. Leon](#) and a Python equivalent lives in the Luquillo site's [LUQ-general-utils GitHub repository](#).

**Usage**

```
solar_day_info(  
  lat = NULL,  
  lon = NULL,  
  start_date = NULL,  
  end_date = NULL,  
  quiet = FALSE  
)
```

**Arguments**

|            |                                                                              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| lat        | (numeric) latitude coordinate for which to find day length                   |
| lon        | (numeric) longitude coordinate for which to find day length                  |
| start_date | (character) starting date in 'YYYY-MM-DD' format                             |
| end_date   | (character) ending date in 'YYYY-MM-DD' format                               |
| quiet      | (logical) whether to suppress certain non-warning messages. Defaults to TRUE |

**Value**

(dataframe) table of 6 columns and a number of rows equal to the number of days between the specified start and end dates (inclusive). Columns contain: (1) date, (2) sunrise time, (3) sunset time, (4) solar noon, (5) day length, and (6) time zone of columns 2 to 4.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:  
# Identify day information in Santa Barbara (California) for one week  
solar_day_info(lat = 34.416857, lon = -119.712777,  
  start_date = "2022-02-07", end_date = "2022-02-12",  
  quiet = TRUE)  
  
## End(Not run)
```

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