



# Nested Data

A **nested data frame** stores individual tables within the cells of a larger, organizing table.

nested data frame

Species	data
setosa	<tibble [50 x 4]>
versicolor	<tibble [50 x 4]>
virginica	<tibble [50 x 4]>

n\_iris

"cell" contents

Sepal.L	Sepal.W	Petal.L	Petal.W
5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2
4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2
4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2
4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2
5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2

n\_iris\$data[[1]]

Sepal.L	Sepal.W	Petal.L	Petal.W
7.0	3.2	4.7	1.4
6.4	3.2	4.5	1.5
6.9	3.1	4.9	1.5
5.5	2.3	4.0	1.3
6.5	2.8	4.6	1.5

n\_iris\$data[[2]]

Sepal.L	Sepal.W	Petal.L	Petal.W
6.3	3.3	6.0	2.5
5.8	2.7	5.1	1.9
7.1	3.0	5.9	2.1
6.3	2.9	5.6	1.8
6.5	3.0	5.8	2.2

n\_iris\$data[[3]]

Use a nested data frame to:

- preserve relationships between observations and subsets of data

- manipulate many sub-tables at once with the **purrr** functions **map()**, **map2()**, or **pmap()**.

Use a two step process to create a nested data frame:

1. Group the data frame into groups with **dplyr::group\_by()**
2. Use **nest()** to create a nested data frame with one row per group

Species	S.L	S.W	P.L	P.W
setosa	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2
setosa	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2
setosa	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2
setosa	4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2
setosa	5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2
versi	7.0	3.2	4.7	1.4
versi	6.4	3.2	4.5	1.5
versi	6.9	3.1	4.9	1.5
versi	5.5	2.3	4.0	1.3
versi	6.5	2.8	4.6	1.5
virgini	6.3	3.3	6.0	2.5
virgini	5.8	2.7	5.1	1.9
virgini	7.1	3.0	5.9	2.1
virgini	6.3	2.9	5.6	1.8
virgini	6.5	3.0	5.8	2.2

n\_iris <- iris %>% **group\_by**(Species) %>% **nest**()

**tidyr::nest**(data, ..., .key = data)

For grouped data, moves groups into cells as data frames.

Unnest a nested data frame with **unnest()**:

n\_iris %>% **unnest**()

**tidyr::unnest**(data, ..., .drop = NA, .id=NULL, .sep=NULL)

Unnests a nested data frame.

Species	data
setos	<tibble [50x4]>
versi	<tibble [50x4]>
virgini	<tibble [50x4]>

  

Species	S.L	S.W	P.L	P.W
setosa	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2
setosa	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2
setosa	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2
setosa	4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2
setosa	5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2
versi	7.0	3.2	4.7	1.4
versi	6.4	3.2	4.5	1.5
versi	6.9	3.1	4.9	1.5
versi	5.5	2.3	4.0	1.3
versi	6.5	2.8	4.6	1.5
virgini	6.3	3.3	6.0	2.5
virgini	5.8	2.7	5.1	1.9
virgini	7.1	3.0	5.9	2.1
virgini	6.3	2.9	5.6	1.8
virgini	6.5	3.0	5.8	2.2

# List Column Workflow

Nested data frames use a **list column**, a list that is stored as a column vector of a data frame. A typical **workflow** for list columns:



## 1 Make a list column

Species	S.L	S.W	P.L	P.W
setosa	5.1	3.5	1.4	0.2
setosa	4.9	3.0	1.4	0.2
setosa	4.7	3.2	1.3	0.2
setosa	4.6	3.1	1.5	0.2
setosa	5.0	3.6	1.4	0.2
versi	7.0	3.2	4.7	1.4
versi	6.4	3.2	4.5	1.5
versi	6.9	3.1	4.9	1.5
versi	5.5	2.3	4.0	1.3
versi	6.3	3.3	6.0	2.5
virgini	5.8	2.7	5.1	1.9
virgini	7.1	3.0	5.9	2.1
virgini	6.3	2.9	5.6	1.8

n\_iris <- iris %>%  
**group\_by**(Species) %>%  
**nest**()

## 2 Work with list columns

Species	data	model
setosa	<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>
versi	<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>
virgini	<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>

mod\_fun <- function(df)  
lm(Sepal.Length ~ ., data = df)

m\_iris <- n\_iris %>%  
**mutate**(model = **map**(data, mod\_fun))

## 3 Simplify the list column

Species	beta
setos	2.35
versi	1.89
virgini	0.69

b\_fun <- function(mod)  
coefficients(mod)[[1]]

m\_iris %>% **transmute**(Species,  
beta = **map\_dbl**(model, b\_fun))

**1. MAKE A LIST COLUMN** - You can create list columns with functions in the **tibble** and **dplyr** packages, as well as **tidyr**'s **nest()**

**tibble::tribble(...)**

Makes list column when needed

**tribble**( ~max, ~seq,  
3, 1:3,  
4, 1:4,  
5, 1:5)

max	seq
3	<int [3]>
4	<int [4]>
5	<int [5]>

**tibble::tibble(...)**

Saves list input as list columns

**tibble**(max = c(3, 4, 5), seq = list(1:3, 1:4, 1:5))

**tibble::enframe**(x, name="name", value="value")

Converts multi-level list to tibble with list cols  
**enframe**(list('3'=1:3, '4'=1:4, '5'=1:5), 'max', 'seq')

**dplyr::mutate**(.data, ...) Also **transmute()**

Returns list col when result returns list.

mtcars %>% **mutate**(seq = **map**(cyl, seq))

**dplyr::summarise**(.data, ...)

Returns list col when result is wrapped with **list()**

mtcars %>% **group\_by**(cyl) %>%  
**summarise**(q = **list**(quantile(mpg)))

**2. WORK WITH LIST COLUMNS** - Use the **purrr** functions **map()**, **map2()**, and **pmap()** to apply a function that returns a result element-wise to the cells of a list column. **walk()**, **walk2()**, and **pwalk()** work the same way, but return a side effect.

**purrr::map**(.x, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to .x as .f(.x)

n\_iris %>% **mutate**(n = **map**(data, dim))

**purrr::map2**(.x, .y, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to .x and .y as .f(.x, .y)

m\_iris %>% **mutate**(n = **map2**(data, model, list))

**purrr::pmap**(.l, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to vectors saved in .l

m\_iris %>%  
**mutate**(n = **pmap**(list(data, model, data), list))

data	fun	result
<tibble [50x4]>	fun	result 1
<tibble [50x4]>	fun	result 2
<tibble [50x4]>	fun	result 3

data	model	fun	result
<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>	fun	result 1
<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>	fun	result 2
<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>	fun	result 3

data	model	funcs	result
<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>	coef	result 1
<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>	AIC	result 2
<tibble [50x4]>	<S3: lm>	BIC	result 3

**3. SIMPLIFY THE LIST COLUMN** (into a regular column)

Use the **purrr** functions **map\_lgl()**, **map\_int()**, **map\_dbl()**, **map\_chr()**, as well as **tidyr**'s **unnest()** to reduce a list column into a regular column.

**purrr::map\_lgl**(.x, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to .x, return a logical vector

n\_iris %>% **transmute**(n = **map\_lgl**(data, is.matrix))

**purrr::map\_int**(.x, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to .x, return an integer vector

n\_iris %>% **transmute**(n = **map\_int**(data, nrow))

**purrr::map\_dbl**(.x, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to .x, return a double vector

n\_iris %>% **transmute**(n = **map\_dbl**(data, nrow))

**purrr::map\_chr**(.x, .f, ...)

Apply .f element-wise to .x, return a character vector

n\_iris %>% **transmute**(n = **map\_chr**(data, nrow))