



# KICKING ASS WITH plyr

The Taking of Names is Optional

JD Long (@CMastication) on the web at  
<http://CerebralMastication.com>



# Who Is This Guy?



## Tagged Questions

stats newest fe:

### Top Answerers

#### Last 30 Days

104	33		Shane	2,799	2	12
51	14		Dirk Edelbuettel	6,919	3	16
48	12		Rob Hyndman	1,612	2	11
30	9		Harlan	511	7	
28	8		rcs	992	1	10
25	4		Ian Fellows	490	8	
21	5		Jonathan Chang	689	1	6

#### All time

356	101		Dirk Edelbuettel	6,919	3	16
209	74		Shane	2,799	2	12
127	38		hadley	1,612	2	8
91	26		chris_dubois	1,484	12	
83	27		ars	5,762	3	9
81	27		Rob Hyndman	1,612	2	11
77	20		Eduardo Leoni	1,151	1	8

Dirk

Hadley

### Top Askers

#### Last 30 Days

10	2		Shane	2,799	2	12
9	3		knot	117	5	
7	3		andrewj	161	6	
7	3		Vince	914	1	12

#### All time

51	24		JD Long	1,530	1	11
47	20		chris_dubois	1,484	12	
42	13		Dan Goldstein	619	1	11
32	8		gappy	799	10	

Me!

<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/tagged/r>



# What Does plyr Do?

**It Does:**

**Split**

**Apply**

**Combine**

**It's Like:**

**SQL Group By:**

```
SELECT
    dim1, dim2,
    sum(fact)
FROM
    MyData
GROUP BY
    dim1, dim2
```

or

**Excel PivotTable:**

Sum of fact		Column Labels	
Row Labels		foo	that
that		8	6
this		5	8

This is nothing new to R

plyr is an easy, consistent wrapper without loops



# Basic Syntax Example

```
library(plyr)

#make some example data
dd<- data.frame(matrix(rnorm(216),72,3), c(rep("A",24),rep("B",24),
rep("C",24)),c(rep("J",36), rep("K",36)))
colnames(dd) <- c("v1", "v2", "v3", "dim1", "dim2")

ddply(dd, c("dim1","dim2"), function(df) mean(df$v1))
#or#
ddply(dd, c("dim1","dim2"), summarise, V1=mean(v1))
```

**Output:**

<b>dim1</b>	<b>dim2</b>	<b>v1</b>
A	J	-0.05777168
B	J	-0.16168041
B	K	0.55458059
C	K	0.26616421

This example and more: <http://www.cerebralmastication.com/?p=339>



# What does dd mean?

**Object In**

**a** (array)  
**d** (data frame)  
**l** (list)

+

**Object Out**

**a** (array)  
**d** (data frame)  
**l** (list)  
**\_** (nothing)

+

**ply**

**ddply** – data frame in, data frame out

**ldply** – list in, data frame out

**alply** – array in, list out

**d\_ply** – data frame in, no object out (useful for plotting or file output)

... – <http://had.co.nz/plyr/plyr-intro-090510.pdf> (plyr manual)



# Another Example

**Picking up where the other example left off:**

```
library(Hmisc) #the weighted ECDF function is in here
```

**Create a weighted empirical cumulative distribution function for each combination of dim1 and dim2**

```
dlply(dd, c("dim1", "dim2" ), function(df) wtd.Ecdf(df$v1, df$v2 ))
```

## Output:

```
$A.J
```

```
$A.J$x
```

```
[1] -2.3231636 -2.3231636 -2.1657044 -1.6740506 -1.5489670 -1.2253579 -0.7212321  
[8] -0.6582277 -0.5071541 -0.4944474 -0.4637418 -0.3948859  0.0967614  0.2608770  
[15]  0.3031230  0.4634211  0.6252545  0.6636364  0.7422236  0.8453430  0.8935186  
[22]  1.0230601  1.1296187  1.8608002  1.8827746
```

```
$A.J$ecdf
```

```
[1] 0.00000000 0.04210145 0.08396510 0.12781269 0.16723571 0.20641107 0.24805195  
[8] 0.28895378 0.32858999 0.37249865 0.41181383 0.45459172 0.49844146 0.54268038  
[15] 0.58489520 0.62717256 0.66780344 0.70886233 0.74951405 0.78984539 0.83499854  
[22] 0.87609499 0.91933162 0.95915316 1.00000000
```

```
...
```



**plyr web site:** <http://had.co.nz/plyr/>  
**examples and drills:** <http://had.co.nz/stat405/resources/drills/plyr.html>

I stole the big fat pliers graphic from the plyr web site