

1 `plyr`:

`plyr` is a set of tools for a common set of problems: you need to split up a big data structure into homogeneous pieces, apply a function to each piece and then combine all the results back together. For example, you might want to:

- fit the same model to subsets of a data frame
- quickly calculate summary statistics for each group
- perform group-wise transformations like scaling or standardising

Its already possible to do this with base `R` functions (like `split` and the `apply` family of functions), but `plyr` makes it all a bit easier with:

- totally consistent names, arguments and outputs
- convenient parallelisation through the `foreach` package
- input from and output to `data.frames`, matrices and lists
- progress bars to keep track of long running operations
- built-in error recovery, and informative error messages
- labels that are maintained across all transformations