## R list of lists to data frame

Asked 4 years, 7 months ago Active 3 months ago Viewed 46k times



I've got a list of lists, call it listHolder, which has length 5.



Every element in listHolder is a list of numeric data, with 160 or so elements.



I need to turn this list of lists into a data.frame of length 5, with each element being a numeric vector with 160 or so elements.



But everything I've tried, from iterating through the list of lists and turning each element with as.numeric(unlist(listHolder[[i]])), to

```
data.frame(matrix(unlist(listHolder), nrow = length(totalKeywords), byrow = T))
```

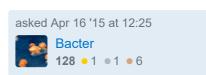
ends up creating a data frame of length 160 or so, with each element being a numeric vector with 5 or so elements.

How do I do what I want?

Attempting data.frame(matrix(unlist(totalKeywords), nrow=132, byrow=T)) yields the opposite of what I want - 160 small items each 5 elements long.







- 7 Try do.call(rbind, listHolder) . dimitris\_ps Apr 16 '15 at 12:26
- 1 possible duplicate of R list to data frame user3710546 Apr 16 '15 at 12:28

I think he wants to turn each listHolder item in a column, so it would be cbind instead of rbind . – Molx Apr 16 '15 at 12:28

2 Why not as.data.frame(listHolder) - shadow Apr 16 '15 at 12:35

Could you provide sample data for listHolder ? - Hack-R Apr 16 '15 at 12:47

## 4 Answers



The value of nrow needs to be fixed. I fixed your code as follows:

27 dd <- as.data.frame(matrix(unlist(listHolder), nrow=length(unlist(listHolder[1]))))</pre>

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our <u>Cookie Policy</u>, <u>Privacy Policy</u>, and our <u>Terms of Service</u>.







**1,693** • 1 • 11 • 10

4 Is there anything I could do to preserve types? Following this approach, if one column was POSIXct , it converts it to chr . − R.M. Jul 12 '17 at 14:05 ✓



AS @dimitris\_ps mentioned earlier, the answer could be:

12

do.call(rbind, listHolder)



Since do.call naturally "strips" 1 level of the "list of list", obtaining a list, not a list of lists.

After that, **rbind** can handle the elements on the list and create a *matrix*.

answered Sep 20 '18 at 0:12



1 This extremely useful when the "rows" were named lists, as it keeps the names of the list (assuming the names are consistent) – tmrlvi Nov 2 '18 at 12:07



This achieves a similar result, but is more intuitive (to me at least)

10

```
#Generate fake data
listoflists=list(c(1,'a',3,4),c(5,'b',6,7))

#Convert to a dataframe, transpose, and convert the resulting matrix back to a dataframe
df= as.data.frame(t(as.data.frame(listoflists)))

#Strip out the rownames if desired
rownames(df)<-NULL

#Show result
df</pre>
```

answered Mar 10 '17 at 13:50



This is not a list of lists. This is a list of atomic vector (coerced to character since you have different data types). – Victor Mayrink Oct 11 at 16:55



I think this is easier than the previous solutions:

```
mydf = data.frame(x1 = c('a', 'b', 'c'))
mylist = list(c(4, 5), c(4, 5), c(4, 5))
```

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our <u>Cookie Policy</u>, <u>Privacy Policy</u>, and our <u>Terms of Service</u>.

2 b 4, 5 3 c 4, 5

answered Jul 18 at 18:32



Also not a list a of lists – Victor Mayrink Oct 11 at 16:58

By using our site, you acknowledge that you have read and understand our <u>Cookie Policy</u>, <u>Privacy Policy</u>, and our <u>Terms of Service</u>.