

Lapply, order, by and other interesting things

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Vladimir Kirilenko COMMUNITY TA · 18 days ago 🔒

As I see, already began to appear on specific issues related to data sorting and the ability to do all the job just a couple of the commands. Theoretically it can be done, but you almost certainly will face certain difficulties. Therefore, to avoid repetition of the same answers to the same questions I need to make some explanations.

But I won't be able to write such a brilliant post, as did our colleague Allan M. Due on previous course. So I'll just copy it here.

Ok, there is a lot in there for reasonably short post. :)

First where are you getting the idea that "it is not good practise to split a data frame and then use lapply"? That doesn't sound right to me.

This won't run

```
data.states <- lapply (split (data.rel, data.rel$State), order(as.numeric(data.rel[,3]), data.rel[,1], na.last = NA, decreasing = FALSE))
```

because this is not a function

```
order(as.numeric(data.rel[,3]), data.rel[,1], na.last = NA, decreasing = FALSE)
```

So lets see if we can get that idea to work. Explain what is going on. And show that it is essentially the same as by()

The help page for lapply says

```
lapply(X, FUN, ...)
```

FUN there is the same as the function in by()

So if you use by() you have to work out the function. And the function in by() and the function in

apply() are going to be the exact same function. So you aren't going to buy anything with by(). :)

You can use by(), but you still are going to have your problem of how to work out how to use order()

So lets look at a simple example of how to use your own function with both by() and lapply(). Here is a little made up example.

```
mydf
  outcome Hospital state
1      20     hos1  MN
2       9     hos2  AR
3      48     hos3  AR
4      49     hos3  WA
5      26     hos2  AR
6      27     hos1  WA
7      41     hos2  WA
8      28     hos1  WA
9      21     hos1  AR
10     11     hos3  WA
```

We can split that by state

```
mysplit <- split(mydf,mydf$state)
> mysplit
$AR
  outcome Hospital state
2       9     hos2  AR
3      48     hos3  AR
5      26     hos2  AR
9      21     hos1  AR

$MN
  outcome Hospital state
1      20     hos1  MN

$WA
  outcome Hospital state
4      49     hos3  WA
6      27     hos1  WA
7      41     hos2  WA
8      28     hos1  WA
10     11     hos3  WA
```

Now we can use lapply to order them using an anonymous function

```
myordered<-lapply(mysplit,function(x) {x[order(x$outcome),]})
> myordered
```

\$AR

	outcome	Hospital	state
2	9	hos2	AR
9	21	hos1	AR
5	26	hos2	AR
3	48	hos3	AR

\$MN

	outcome	Hospital	state
1	20	hos1	MN

\$WA

	outcome	Hospital	state
10	11	hos3	WA
6	27	hos1	WA
8	28	hos1	WA
7	41	hos2	WA
4	49	hos3	WA

So what does this do

```
lapply(mysplit,function(x) {x[order(x$outcome),]})
```

mysplit gets passed to lapply one object/element (here a data frame) at a time - and we are going to assign that object to x (we could call it whatever we want).

Then we create an anonymous function that gets x and does something to it

So the first data frame is going to come in for AR. the function will order ARs data frame based on the outcome column. we could have also written this as

```
myordered<-lapply(mysplit,function(x) {x[order(x[,1]),]})
```

because outcome is column 1 in my example.

Then that ordered data is returned, lapply continues its work and gets the second data frame (MN) and x becomes MN, MN is ordered. And so on. So we loop through each state's data frame. Ordering as we go.

If we want to use by() it, it is exactly the same conceptually. We have to make the function the same way. And it is the same code either way.

```
> by(mydf, mydf$state, function(x) {x[order(x[,1]),]})
```

```
mydf$state: AR
```

	outcome	Hospital	state
2	9	hos2	AR
9	21	hos1	AR
5	26	hos2	AR
3	48	hos3	AR

```
mydf$state: MN
```

	outcome	Hospital	state
1	20	hos1	MN

```
mydf$state: WA
```

	outcome	Hospital	state
10	11	hos3	WA
6	27	hos1	WA
8	28	hos1	WA
7	41	hos2	WA
4	49	hos3	WA

We could have used.

```
by(mydf, mydf$state, function(x) {x[order(x$outcome),]})
```

They are the same.

One thing about `by()`. The results of `by` are stored in an object of class `by`, which is a kind of list. `lapply` also produces a list

In the end, `by()` is conceptually the same as

```
> lapply(split(mydf, mydf$state), function(x) {x[order(x[,1]),]})
```

```
$AR
```

	outcome	Hospital	state
2	9	hos2	AR
9	21	hos1	AR
5	26	hos2	AR
3	48	hos3	AR

```
$MN
```

	outcome	Hospital	state
1	20	hos1	MN

```
$WA
```

	outcome	Hospital	state
10	11	hos3	WA
6	27	hos1	WA

8	28	hos1	WA
7	41	hos2	WA
4	49	hos3	WA

All thanks to him! VK

↑ 20 ↓ · flag

Dan Goldfield · 18 days ago 🔗

and now thanks to you.....

So when you split, R keeps each subset as a different element in a vector...this allows the lapply to loop through each subset at once?

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 17 days ago 🔗

Dear Vladimir,

First , i want to thank you for the useful information in this page. It helped me to get a solid start on assignment 3.

I have a basic question about factor variables. Suppose we have a factor variable, called "alphabets", which has 26 levels. My concern is how can we check that the character "aa" is one of the values or not. The "for loop" process sounds very rusty. Can you please suggest a faster option? thanks for the help.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Dan Goldfield · 17 days ago 🔗

although not in the lapply other posts used: `isit="aa" test <- "zz" "ww" "uu" "az" "za" "ab"....."aa"....."mq".....`

`if(is.element(isit,test)){do something}` or `if(!is.element(isit,test)){do something}` `identical()` or `!identical` (works if you are looping through test element by element. `if(any(test==isit)){then do something}` (searches through list for a match) `match()` (not sure about this, but I saw some forum traffic about it.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Leonard Greski Signature Track · 17 days ago 🔗

Hello Jayant. To answer your question we need to know whether the factor is a column in a dataframe, or the variable used to split a dataframe into a list.

If it is a column in a dataframe, you can use

```
result <- dataframe[dataframe$alphabets == "aa",]
```

to subset the data.

If you're trying to find the object in a list that had been split using alphabets as a factor, then to find the object where alphabets = "aa" you would use the following code:

```
if (myList$aa != NULL) {
  ## myList has a factor of AA for alphabets
} else {
  ## myList does not have a factor of AA
}
```

Len

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Vladimir Kirilenko · COMMUNITY TA · 17 days ago 🔗

Maybe I don't exactly understand the question, but I think this is the one of the most efficient ways of search in the factors.

```
# prepare the data
> data = read.csv("outcome-of-care-measures.csv")
> temp = data[,1:6]
> pattern <- 'ZU'
> class(temp$City)
[1] "factor"

# search pattern
> temp[grep(pattern,temp$City),]
      Provider.Number      Hospital.Name
Address.1
1000      110190      FLINT RIVER HOSPITAL 509 SUMTER STR
EET, BOX 770
2722      320060 ZUNI COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER      ROU
TE 301 NORTH
      Address.2 Address.3      City
1000      NA      NA MONTEZUMA
2722      NA      NA      ZUNI
```

but not in the levels of the factors:

```
> temp[grep(pattern,levels(temp$City)),]
      Provider.Number      Hospital.Name      Address.1 Add
ress.2
1700      181315 EPHRAIM MCDOWELL FORT LOGAN HOSPITAL 110 METKER TRAIL
NA
2926      340001  CAROLINAS MEDICAL CENTER-NORTHEAST  920 CHURCH ST N
NA
      Address.3      City
```

1700	NA	STANFORD
2926	NA	CONCORD

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Thanks for all the valuable suggestions, friends. It was very helpful.

Presently, I am stuck in a very intriguing situation in part 2(find the best hospital in a state) problem. I hope I can get some help here.

After splitting the data set into 54 data frames (arranged in a list), I am using the function;

```
new<- lapply(name_split,function(y) {y[order(y$Mortality),]})
```

to arrange the mortality rate (for the outcome) in increasing order for each state. The reason, I am stuck is that I saw that this function is not sorting the data for each type of outcome; heart attack, heart failure and pneumonia. I was able to get the correct answer for the first two output examples for outcome=heart attack. But when I use state=MD and outcome=heart failure, the above statement is giving me the rating sth like this:

```
1887 WESTERN MARYLAND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER MD 12.1
1882 MEDSTAR MONTGOMERY MEDICAL CENTER MD 12.6
1903 UPPER CHESAPEAKE MEDICAL CENTER MD 12.6
1910 ATLANTIC GENERAL HOSPITAL MD 13.3
1892 CARROLL HOSPITAL CENTER MD 13.5
1881 GARRETT COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL MD 14
1885 ANNE ARUNDEL MEDICAL CENTER MD 14
1907 MEDSTAR GOOD SAMARITAN HOSPITAL MD 7.4
1909 FORT WASHINGTON HOSPITAL MD 8.6
1879 MEDSTAR FRANKLIN SQUARE MEDICAL CENTER MD 8.8
```

As we can see, the rate is decreasing and then increasing, rather than increasing always. I have only shown a part of the result. Can you please suggest sth, what might be happening? the reason I am surprised is when I use heart attack for outcome, it works fine. Any help is greatly appreciated.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Dan Goldfield · 16 days ago 🔗

```
new<- lapply(name_split,function(y) {y[order(y$Mortality),]})
```

function(y) calls y. Y loops through each subset ordering by mortality rate correct?

I'm assuming your name_split is a data.frame split by state. Also, it looks like you are ordering my mortality only, you need a secondary order on hospital name to handle ties.

Is there a row index for each subset? I'm wrestling with how to extract the Nth row

`append(new[n,1],new[n,2])` for each subset if there are now row indicies. I can do it in a for/loop but I've tried all day and can't swing it with an lapply.

Thanks,

↑ 1 ↓ · flag



Shyamprasad Molugu · 13 days ago 🔗

just finished this part. do we need to use split and lapply for this part? i got it by subset and order operations. first did a subset to get the required columns, deleting NA's and then subset again for a particular state. sort the resultant subset to get the best hospital in a state.

↑ 4 ↓ · flag

Ruotong Yang Signature Track · 12 days ago 🔗

@Shyamprasad Molugu,

If do as you said, when sorting the resultant subset should I use the order function as above in the example the TA given?

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Shyamprasad Molugu · 12 days ago 🔗

Yes, its of the format --- `x[order(coll 1, coll 2, ..),]`

↑ 1 ↓ · flag



Shyamprasad Molugu · 12 days ago 🔗

Yes, its of the format --- `x[order(coll 1, coll 2, ..),]`

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Rick Henderson Signature Track · 8 days ago 🔗

I have something like this. I have a complete data frame with just the hospital name, the state, and the specified outcome mortality rates, and I have it split by state so that it is now a list of dataframes. But I can't figure out how to get the output in the right format. I tried using the sorting techniques in the A3 tutorial but I couldn't get that to work either. Looks like I'm getting a mere 56% on this assignment and I wish I knew how much this would affect my final grade.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Leonard Greski Signature Track · 8 days ago 🔗

If you have 56% on the final assignment, that means you lost 11 points from the total. With the swirl assignment you can obtain 5 points of extra credit beyond the total of 100 points for the course. Therefore, if you got perfect scores on all other work, the maximum score you could obtain is $105 - 11 = 94$, or enough for a pass with distinction.

The entire grading rubric is listed in the syllabus <https://class.coursera.org/rprog-030/wiki/syllabus>.

regards,

Len

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Hello Dan,

my main concern is that when I use outcome=Heart attack, it works fine. But for the other two outcomes, the function is not working properly. Can you please give some suggestion, what might be going wrong?

thanx

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Leonard Greski Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Make sure you're sorting the data file by outcome and then hospital name, to get the correct tiebreaker as described in the assignment instructions. Also, what is \$Mortality? This reference should be dataframe[,outcome]. or dataframe\$outcome, or the column id associated with outcome so the data is sorted by the outcome that was input as an argument to the function.

regards,

Len

↑ 1 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Dear Leonard,

Thanks a lot for the message.

Actually I just gave names to the columns of my data frame using names function;

```
names(Name)<-c("Hospital","State","Mortality")
```

I think we can name the columns as we want. Please let me know if I am wrong. And Mortality contains the data for the corresponding outcome (i.e. heart attack, heart failure or pneumonia) from the spreadsheet.

Then I did a splitting using following command;

```
name_split<-split(Name,as.factor(Name$State))
```

that works fine for me irrespective of what do we have for the outcome.

The main problem is when I use lapply to sort as per the Mortality rate, 3rd column of my data frame. When I enter outcome=heart attack the ordering is correct, but for the other two cases, the ordering is not working.

```
new_split<-lapply(name_split,function(y) {y[order(y$Mortality),]})
```

This is the place, where I am a bit surprised. After sorting as per the mortality rate, (and making sure it is correct), I will try to break the hospital name tie. But my problem is in the lapply step. Can you please suggest, what might be wrong?

thanks for helping me.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Leonard Greski

Signature Track

· 16 days ago 🔗

Thanks for the clarification on how you named the \$Mortality column.

Have you used as.numeric() to reset the values of \$Mortality to numeric before sorting the dataframe? Since we needed to use colClasses = "character" on the read.csv() command, we need to convert the mortality column to numeric before sorting. You also should sort before split.

regards,

Len

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh

Signature Track

· 16 days ago 🔗

Hello,

Thanks for the suggestion. Yes initially, all the columns are of class character.

As a follow up, I have a data frame; "name" (before splitting) which contains only non missing values and has 3 columns, hospital name, state, and mortality rate. I checked name\$mortality, which is showing as factor variable. I am giving some values here;

11.4 15.2 11.3 13.6 13.8 12.5

As suggested, I did convert it to numeric, using as.numeric(name\$mortality), then I got a numeric vector, with these values;

15 53 14 37 39 26

I have a very basic question. I don't understand, why do the values change so much? I would like to understand this difference. if you can help, it will be great. thanx

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Gauthamraj · 12 days ago 🔗

Hello Jayant.

I don't know if you have solved this problem yet or not. I too encountered the same problem. If you use `as.numeric(as.character(name$mortality))`, the values will be converted as desired.

I hope this helps.

Regards,
Gautham

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Irina Chinenova Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Very helpful thread, almost got there.

BUT I am just struggling on how pass values ("heart attack", "heart failure", "pneumonia") to the function argument outcome.

I have created my own data frame with required columns and passed them the names of those values above:

```
mydata <- data.frame("hospital" = data[,2], "state" = data[,7], "heart attack" = data[,11],  
                    "heart failure" = data[,17], "pneumonia" = data[,23])
```

I have also specified values or outcome in the function header `best <- function (state, outcome = c("heart attack", "heart failure", "pneumonia"))`

But when I am running this bit of code in lappy `..{x[order(x[,outcome]),...}` I get the error:

Error in `[.data.frame`(x, , outcome) : undefined columns selected

Please help, what am I doing wrong here?

↑ 1 ↓ · flag



Leonard Greski Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Hello Irina.

I used the outcome to retrieve the column number from the data frame, and then used the column number in the order code.

```
colOutcome <- which(colnames(theData) == outcome)
```

Other posters on the forum used if / else logic to set the column number for outcome, based on the outcome argument passed into the function, and named this column "outcome" rather than using a column name that included a space, as listed in https://class.coursera.org/rprog-030/forum/thread?thread_id=984#post-4127.

Information on dealing with spaces in R columns is located at: <http://stackoverflow.com/questions/12744282/how-to-deal-with-spaces-in-column-names>.

regards,

Len

↑ 2 ↓ · flag

Irina Chinenova Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔗

thanks, got it done through if/else approach

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Irina Chinenova Signature Track · 16 days ago 🔗

Thank you, Len.

I tried if/else logic, but didn't get it to work. I get character(0) as a final result. But if I run individual commands with specific column numbers in console, it works just fine. So, it is all about how to define argument outcome.

I don't understand why in pollutanmean.R when we assigned values of nitrate and sulfate to pollutant argument, it all worked just fine. There was no need to define pollutant in the body of the function.

while in best.R, when I assign values to output in the head of the function, it doesn't work.

↑ 1 ↓ · flag

🗑️ A post was deleted

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔗

Actually Irina, in case of pollutant mean, the data set had column names as sulfate and nitrate. so you did not have to specify the name in function body.that the reason. hope it helps.

Regards

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Irina Chinenova Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔒

yup, makes sense. thanks!

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔒

Dear friends,

Can anyone suggest me what is the default value of "num" in last part of assignment 3? is it 54 or 0. My output is matching the rest of example outputs, but I am not sure about the default value.

Any suggestion is appreciated.

thanx

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Ivana Lipnerova · 15 days ago 🔒

Default value is "best", so it should be 1, if you have hospitals ranked from best to worst, from lowest death rates to highest death rates

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Leonard Greski Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔒

...and this means you have to handle both character ("best", "worst") and numeric values for num in your code.

Len

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)



Ivana Lipnerova · 15 days ago 🔒

BTW I've been reading this forum, because I'm stuck with something. There's one thing that strucks me:

Most of people seems to use lapply as described in first post in this thread. I wonder what logic is behind it? Why do you work with all the data, create enormous list (it has more then 600 Kb on my computer!), order it (another 600+ kb file) and only then ask for specific combination of state, outcome and rank?

I find it way easier and lets say more efficient to subset the whole dataset for just a state I'm working

with. This reduces amount of memory used and moreover I can look at my data and actually see how it looks like in a simple not-so-long-table.

Why, when there is no requirement of work with more than one state? I have to say that I'm working on part 2, but from reading about part 3, I still don't see need for work with whole huge dataset.

↑ 4 ↓ · flag

Donald F Coffin Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔗

Ivana,

I took the same approach you are proposing for all but part 4. I agree reducing the amount of data to only reflect the requested state reduces the amount of memory required, as well as improving the overall performance of the function.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Vladimir Kirilenko COMMUNITY TA · 14 days ago 🔗

I agree with you, Ivana. Subsetting is a very efficient way to reduce data volume and the number of possible errors.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Michael Stelly Signature Track · 11 days ago 🔗

As an example, by subsetting for the state input parameter and necessary columns first, I can reduce the data space from 4706 obs with 46 variables to 40 obs with 5 variables.

/rantOn

Maybe I'm biased because of my background with other programming languages, but for me, R syntax is frustratingly archaic. I'm struggling to understand even the basic concepts of data manipulation due to the hoops one must jump through to simply target a particular data row/column.

/rantOff

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Jayant Singh Signature Track · 15 days ago 🔗

Thank you Ivana and Leonard for the advice.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Dan Goldfield · 12 days ago 🔗

Finally after reading lots of posts and seeing lots of examples I got my first lapply to work. I've split my list and can use lapply for case="best" and case=n I've having trouble with case="worst"

I know I want to get the length of each sub listed state...and I can do this

```
Len <- lapply(g_split,function(g_split) length(g_split$hospital))
```

Then I want to assign that length to elem so I can capture that row:

```
if (identical("worst",num)){elem <- Len}
```

Now I can capture the appropriate row of my list:

```
g_extract1 <- lapply(g_split,function(g_split) g_split[elem,1])
```

However it's not working because Len is list of ALL lengths for my split list instead of a single element relevant to the sub listed item. I don't know how to overcome this.

If this was in a for/loop, I could just pull the row index for the i in id I was in, but I'm pushing myself to try to solve it with lapply.

Any help is appreciated.

Update: Wahooo....got it to work. Never mind. It may seem silly, but I'm really proud of myself for figuring out how to use lapply instead of a for/loop. Still not totally efficient code, but that is for another time.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Anonymous · 12 days ago

What did you end up doing?

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Dan Goldfield · 11 days ago

tail() instead of finding the length() and extracting the nth row.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

[+ Comment](#)

Ruotong Yang Signature Track · 11 days ago

I just did the same as the top thread, but the result I got is confusing. I have no idea why the order of the state "AR" is not correct:

```
> mysplit <- split(mydf, mydf$state)
> mysplit
$AR
  outcome hospital state
2       9      hos2   AR
3      48      hos3   AR
```

```
5      26      hos2      AR
9      21      hos1      AR
```

```
$MN
```

```
outcome hospital state
```

```
1      20      hos1      MN
```

```
$WA
```

```
outcome hospital state
```

```
4      49      hos3      WA
```

```
6      27      hos1      WA
```

```
7      41      hos2      WA
```

```
8      28      hos1      WA
```

```
10     11      hos3      WA
```

```
> myordered <- lapply(mysplit,function(x) {x[order(x$outcome),]})
```

```
> myordered
```

```
$AR
```

```
outcome hospital state
```

```
9      21      hos1      AR
```

```
5      26      hos2      AR
```

```
3      48      hos3      AR
```

```
2      9       hos2      AR
```

```
$MN
```

```
outcome hospital state
```

```
1      20      hos1      MN
```

```
$WA
```

```
outcome hospital state
```

```
10     11      hos3      WA
```

```
6      27      hos1      WA
```

```
8      28      hos1      WA
```

```
7      41      hos2      WA
```

```
4      49      hos3      WA
```

Can someone help me answer this?

↑ 0 ↓ · flag



Shyamprasad Molugu · 11 days ago 🔒

Check the class of `x` in `function(x)`. If it is a list then coerce it to a data frame by `x<-as.data.frame(x)` and then apply the order function

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Dan Goldfield · 11 days ago

If you do all your ordering first, you don't have to do your order using lapply.

0 · flag

Michael Stelly Signature Track · 11 days ago

@Shyamprasad: mysplit fails with

```
mysplit <- as.data.frame(split(outcome,outcome$State))
```

```
Error in data.frame(AK = list(Provider.Number = c("020001", "020006", :
arguments imply differing number of rows: 17, 98, 77, 341, 72, 32, 8, 6, 180, 132,
1, 19, 109, 30, 179, 124, 118, 96, 114, 68, 45, 37, 134, 133, 108, 83, 54, 112, 36, 9
0, 26, 65, 40, 28, 185, 170, 126, 59, 175, 51, 12, 63, 48, 116, 370, 42, 87, 2, 15, 8
8, 125, 29
```

outcome is the original data frame defined as

```
outcome <-
  read.csv(
    "data/outcome-of-care-measures.csv", colClasses = "character",stringsAsFa
ctors = F,na.strings = c("Not Available")
  )
```

So, how did you make this work? In the meantime, I'll try @Dan suggestion.

0 · flag



Shyamprasad Molugu · 11 days ago

split returns a list which you need for lapply function. dont convert mysplit to a data frame. pass mysplit to lapply and in the function(x) you can convert each individual element of mysplit to a data frame and then apply order function. In my code i found each individual element of mysplit to be a list, i converted it to a data frame before sorting it. again it all depends on rest of the code. I was commenting for a possible reason for the above error.

0 · flag

Anonymous · 11 days ago

Why do you want your `split` result to be a data frame? You want it to be a *list of data frames* which is exactly the split output:

```
mysplit = list("AL" = df1, "AK" = df2, "AZ" = df3, ... )
```

The number of rows of each individual data frame might be different, as some states will have more records than others -- so that's why you get an error when attempting to glue them together.

The idea of using "split" was to produce a list that you can then work with using `lapply` (the "l" there standing for "list").

@Ruotong, I suspect that *none* of your states are technically ordering properly, you just didn't have an $2 \leq outcome \leq 9$ in those states. It looks like your outcome column is being ordered as a character vector, rather than a numeric vector -- so as characters, "1", "131", and "1.275" all come before "2", etc.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Michael Stelly Signature Track · 11 days ago 🔗

The syntax for the API is still a jumbled mess to me. So, I don't have any idea why I would want a data.frame vs. a list. @Anonymous: the incredulous tone of your comment implies that we should know better. Not all of us do. Perhaps that's why you posted anonymously. Nonetheless, I found a solution that makes sense to me and works. I avoided all this complexity by reducing the working data set first.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Anonymous · 11 days ago 🔗

Oh, I apologize! I *certainly* didn't mean to come off incredulous. Only attempting to steer you in the right direction by pointing out what questions you might consider while examining the code issues.

I'm glad you found a working method, nonetheless.

In the one discussed here, when you split the data frame, the idea is to obtain a list of individual data frames (one for each state) -- that way, you can then use `lapply(x, FUN)` where `x` is that list of data frames, and `FUN` is some function that is *applied* to each *list element* (i.e, each individual data frame).

This way, you do the same "some processing code" on the dataset of each state; namely, getting back the correct hospital name (or something of that nature).

I hope that makes sense!

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

Michael Stelly Signature Track · 11 days ago 🔗

I appreciate the reply. I only mentioned it because the Internet has no sense of humor, and my intent is often misinterpreted especially with a multilingual audience. No offense taken.

↑ 0 ↓ · flag

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