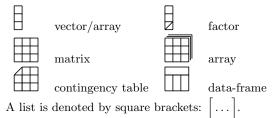
A Visual Guide to Split-Apply-Combine in R

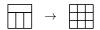
Legend

Symbols used in this document:



Reshaping

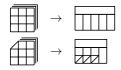
as.matrix Coerces a data-frame to a matrix.



as.table Coerces an array to a contingency table.



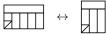
as.data.frame Coerces an array or contingency table to a data-frame.



xtabs Coerces a data-frame to a contingency table.



reshape Reshapes a data-frame between 'wide' and 'long' format.



c Coerces an array or contingency table to a vector.



unlist Coerces a data-frame to a vector.



stack Concatenates the columns of a data-frame into a single column along with a factor. Non-vector columns are dropped.

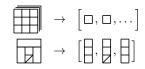


unstack Reverses the effects of stack.



Splitting

as.list Coerces a data-frame to a list of vectors.



split Divides a vector or data-frame into the groups defined by a factor.

unstack Splits a vector or the column of a data-frame into the groups defined by a factor.

Applying

The following functions simplify the output to an array, if possible; otherwise they return a list.

apply Applies a function to margins of an array.

$$\boxed{ } + \searrow + f \rightarrow \left[f(\boxed{}), f(\boxed{}), \dots \right]$$

tapply Applies a function to each cell of a ragged array.

 ${\bf sapply}\,$ Applies a function over a list or vector.

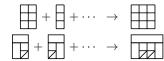
$$\left[\left[\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right], \left[\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right], f \left(\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right] \right], f \left(\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right] \right]$$

Related functions, not covered here, include lapply (does not simplify) and mapply (multivariate version).

Combining

rbind Combines a sequence of vectors, arrays or data-frames by rows.

cbind Combines a sequence of vectors, arrays or data-frames by columns.



simplify2array Combines a list of arrays into a single array by adding more dimensions.



unlist Coerces a list of arrays to a vector.

$$\left[\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right], \left[\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right], \ldots \left[\begin{array}{c} \\ \end{array} \right]$$

as.data.frame Coerces a list of vectors to a data-frame.

$$[A,B,B,\dots] \rightarrow \overline{B}$$

stack Coerces a sequence of vectors into a single-column data-frame along with a factor.

$$[\exists, \exists, \dots] \rightarrow \exists$$

unsplit Combines a sequence of vectors or data-frames into a single vector or data-frame by interleaving rows according to a factor.

$$\begin{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}, \dots \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

merge Merges two data-frames by common columns.

$$+ \rightarrow \rightarrow$$

Version: 1.01

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