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How to read.table() multiple files into a single table in R?





I have filenames named <InputData>.<TestName>.csv and I'd like to make graphs for each test. The best way I can see to do this is to make one R table for each TestName. Each test produces the same columns of data, so I'd like to pull in all the data for each test into an R datatable with an extra column for the inputdata.



I'd like to do:

```
read.tables(c("B217.SE.csv", "C10.SE.csv"), sep=",")
```

produces (for example):

```
Filename col1 col2

1 B217.SE.csv 1 2
2 B217.SE.csv 2 4
3 C10.SE.csv 3 1
4 C10.SE.csv 4 5
```

What's the right way to do this? Some existing function I don't know about? Writing it out in the R language using a for loop?



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edited Jan 20 '10 at 21:17
Marek

9,495 •1 •13 •34

asked Jan 20 '10 at 19:57
Thelema
1,417 • 1 • 8 • 21
100% accept rate

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r × 14064

import **× 3548**

asked 2 years ago viewed 3,063 times active 2 years ago



2 Answers

I can't test it on your data, but you will want to use an apply type function like this:



Or, you can simplify it by using plyr. Here's a rough simulation of how that would work (using data frames instead of files):

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```
1 -0.15679732
1
   df1
2
   df1
        2 -0.19392102
3
   df1
        3 0.01369413
4
  df1
       4 -0.73942829
5
   df1 5 -1.27522427
6
   df2 3 -0.33944114
7
   df2 4 -0.12509065
8
  df2 5 0.11225053
  df2 6 0.88460684
10 df2 7 -0.70710520
```

Edit

Taking Marek's suggestion, you can either overwrite or create your own function:

```
read.tables <- function(file.names, ...) {</pre>
    require(plyr)
    ldply(file.names, function(fn) data.frame(Filename=fn, read.csv(fn, ...)))
}
data <- read.tables(c("filename1.csv", "filename2.csv"))</pre>
```

link | improve this answer

edited Jan 20 '10 at 21:25

answered Jan 20 '10 at 20:04



26.2k • 2 • 65 • 107

In the way to total generalization: read.tables <- function(files, ...) ldply(files, function(f) data.frame(Filename=f, read.csv(f,...))) (then we can pass arguments to read.csv) - Marek Jan

I normally do something like names(file.names) <- basename(file.names); ldply(file.names, read.csv) - then you don't need to add the file name column yourself. - hadley Jan 21 '10 at 0:54

This was wonderfully helpful, thanks! - Thelema Jan 21 '10 at 17:31

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Try this:



take files. files <- list.files(pattern=".csv")</pre> ## read data using loop DF <- NULL for (f in files) { dat <- read.csv(f, header=T, sep="\t", na.strings="", colClasses="character")</pre> DF <- rbind(DF, dat)</pre> }

link | improve this answer

answered Jan 20 '10 at 20:51



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