

# How can I collapse text by group in a data frame using the “R” programming language?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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In order to collapse text by group in a data frame using the "R" programming language, one can use the "aggregate" function. This function allows for grouping of data by a specific variable and then collapsing the text within each group. The resulting output will have one row per group, with the text collapsed into one cell. This method is useful for summarizing and organizing text data within a data frame for further analysis.

## R: Collapse Text by Group in Data Frame

You can use the following methods to collapse text by group in a data frame in R:

### Method 1: Collapse Text by Group Using Base R

```
aggregate(text_var ~ group_var, data=df, FUN=paste, collapse="")
```

### Method 2: Collapse Text by Group Using dplyr

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
df %>%
```

```
group_by(group_var) %>%
```

```
summarise(text=paste(text_var, collapse=""))
```

### Method 3: Collapse Text by Group Using data.table

```
library(data.table)
```

```
dt <- as.data.table(df)
```

```
dt
```

This tutorial explains how to use each method in practice with the following data frame:

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(team=c('A', 'A', 'A', 'B', 'B', 'B'),  
position=c('Guard', 'Guard', 'Forward',  
'Guard', 'Forward', 'Center'))
```

```
#view data frame
```

```
df
```

```
team position
```

```
1 A Guard
```

```
2 A Guard
```

```
3 A Forward
```

```
4 B Guard
```

```
5 B Forward
```

```
6 B Center
```

**Example 1: Collapse Text by Group Using Base R**

The following code shows how to collapse the text in the position column, grouped by the team column using the aggregate() function from base R:

```
#collapse position values by team  
aggregate(position ~ team, data=df, FUN=paste,  
collapse="")
```

```
team position
```

```
1 A GuardGuardForward
```

```
2 B GuardForwardCenter
```

Notice that each of the text values in the position column has been collapsed into one value, grouped by the values in the team column.

Example 2: Collapse Text by Group Using dplyr

The following code shows how to collapse the text in the position column, grouped by the team column using the summarise() function from the dplyr package:

```
library(dplyr)
```

```
#collapse position values by team
```

```
df %>%
```

```
group_by(group_var) %>%  
summarise(text=paste(text_var, collapse=""))
```

```
# A tibble: 2 x 2
```

```
team text
```

```
1 A GuardGuardForward
```

```
2 B GuardForwardCenter
```

Notice that each of the text values in the position column has been collapsed into one value, grouped by the values in the team column.

Example 3: Collapse Text by Group Using data.table

The following code shows how to collapse the text in the position column, grouped by the team column using functions from the data.table package:

```
library(data.table)
```

```
#convert data frame to data table
```

```
dt <- as.data.table(df)
```

```
#collapse position values by team
```

```
dt
```

## **team position**

**1: A GuardGuardForward**

**2: B GuardForwardCenter**

**Each of the text values in the position column has been collapsed into one value, grouped by the values in the team column.**

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