

# How can the `mapply()` function be used in R, and what are some examples of its implementation?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The `mapply()` function in R is a powerful tool for applying a function to multiple lists or vectors simultaneously. It allows for efficient and concise coding, especially when dealing with large datasets. The `mapply()` function takes in a function as its argument and applies it to each element of the given lists or vectors, returning a vector of the results. This function can be used for a wide range of tasks, such as performing arithmetic operations, data manipulation, and data analysis. For example, it can be used to calculate the mean of multiple columns in a dataframe, apply a function to each row of a matrix, or perform string operations on multiple character vectors. Overall, the `mapply()` function is a valuable tool for streamlining and simplifying repetitive tasks in R programming.

## Use the mapply() Function in R (With Examples)

The `mapply()` function in R can be used to apply a function to multiple list or vector arguments.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

```
mapply(FUN, ..., MoreArgs = NULL, SIMPLIFY = TRUE, USE.NAMES = TRUE)
```

where:

**FUN:** The function to apply...: Arguments to vectorize over  
**MoreArgs:** A list of other arguments to FUN  
**SIMPLIFY:** Whether or not to reduce the result to a vector.  
**USE.NAMES:** Whether or not to use names if the first ... argument has names

The following examples show how to use this function

**in different scenarios.**

**Example 1 : Use mapply() to Create a Matrix**

**The following code shows how to use mapply() to create a matrix by repeating the values c(1, 2, 3) each 5 times:**

```
#create matrix  
mapply(rep, 1:3, times=5)
```

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**Notice how this is much more efficient than typing out the following:**

```
#create same matrix as previous example  
matrix(c(rep(1, 5), rep(2, 5), rep(3, 5)), ncol=3)
```

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**1 2 3**

**Example 2: Use mapply() to Find Max Value of Corresponding Elements in Vectors**

**The following code shows how to use mapply() to find the max value for corresponding elements in two vectors:**

```
#create two vectors
```

```
vector1 <- c(1, 2, 3, 4, 5)
```

```
vector2 <- c(2, 4, 1, 2, 10)
```

```
#find max value of each corresponding elements in vectors
```

```
mapply(max, vector1, vector2)
```

```
2 4 3 4 10
```

**Here's how to interpret the output:**

**The max value of the elements in position 1 of either vector is 2. The max value of the elements in position 2 of either vector is 4. The max value of the elements in position 3 of either vector is 3.**

**And so on.**

**Example 3: Use mapply() to Multiply Corresponding Elements in Vectors**

**The following code shows how to use mapply() to find multiply the corresponding elements in several vectors:**

```
#create three vectors
```

```
vec1 <- c(1, 2, 3, 4)
```

```
vec2 <- c(2, 4, 6, 8)
```

```
vec3 <- c(3, 6, 9, 12)
```

```
#find max value of each corresponding elements in  
vectors
```

```
mapply(function(val1, val2, val3) val1*val2*val3, vec1,  
vec2, vec3)
```

```
6 48 162 384
```

**Here's how to interpret the output:**

**The product of the elements in position 1 of each vector is  $1 * 2 * 3 = 6$ . The product of the elements in position 2 of each vector is  $2 * 4 * 6 = 48$ . The product of the elements in position 3 of each vector is  $3 * 6 * 9 = 162$ . The product of the elements in position 4 of each**

**vector is  $4 * 8 * 12 = 384$ .**

**Additional Resources**

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