

# What is the process for applying a function to each row in a matrix or data frame in R?

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## RECOMMENDED CITATION

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The process for applying a function to each row in a matrix or data frame in R involves using the `apply()` function. This function takes in three arguments: the data frame or matrix, the margin (1 for rows and 2 for columns), and the function to be applied. The `apply()` function then iterates through each row or column, applying the specified function to each element. This allows for efficient and streamlined manipulation of data within a matrix or data frame in R.

## Apply Function to Each Row in Matrix or Data Frame in R

You can use the `apply()` function to apply a function to each row in a matrix or data frame in R.

This function uses the following basic syntax:

`apply(X, MARGIN, FUN)`

where:

**X:** Name of the matrix or data frame.  
**MARGIN:** Dimension to perform operation across. Use 1 for row, 2 for column.  
**FUN:** The function to apply.

The following examples show how to use this syntax in practice.

**Example 1: Apply Function to Each Row in Matrix**

**Suppose we have the following matrix in R:**

```
#create matrix
```

```
mat <- matrix(1:15, nrow=3)#view matrix
```

```
mat
```

```
1 4 7 10 13
```

```
2 5 8 11 14
```

```
3 6 9 12 15
```

**We can use the `apply()` function to apply different functions to the rows of the matrix:**

```
#find mean of each row
```

```
apply(mat, 1, mean)
```

```
7 8 9
```

```
#find sum of each row
```

```
apply(mat, 1, sum)
```

```
35 40 45
```

```
#find standard deviation of each row
```

```
apply(mat, 1, sd)
```

```
4.743416 4.743416 4.743416
```

```
#multiply the value in each row by 2 (using t() to
```

**transpose the results)**

```
t(apply(mat, 1, function(x) x * 2))
```

```
2 8 14 20 26
```

```
4 10 16 22 28
```

```
6 12 18 24 30
```

**#normalize every row to 1 (using t() to transpose the results)**

```
t(apply(mat, 1, function(x) x / sum(x) ))
```

```
0.02857143 0.1142857 0.2 0.2857143 0.3714286
```

```
0.05000000 0.1250000 0.2 0.2750000 0.3500000
```

```
0.06666667 0.1333333 0.2 0.2666667 0.3333333
```

**Note that if you'd like to find the mean or sum of each row, it's faster to use the built-in rowMeans() or rowSums() functions:**

```
#find mean of each row
```

```
rowMeans(mat)
```

```
7 8 9
```

```
#find sum of each row
```

```
rowSums(mat)
```

**35 40 45**

### Example 2: Apply Function to Each Row in Data Frame

**Suppose we have the following matrix in R:**

```
#create data frame
```

```
df <- data.frame(var1=1:3,  
var2=4:6,  
var3=7:9,  
var4=10:12,  
var5=13:15)#view data frame  
df
```

```
var1 var2 var3 var4 var5
```

```
1 1 4 7 10 13
```

```
2 2 5 8 11 14
```

```
3 3 6 9 12 15
```

**We can use the `apply()` function to apply different functions to the rows of the data frame:**

```
#find mean of each row
```

```
apply(df, 1, mean)
```

**7 8 9**

```
#find sum of each row
```

```
apply(df, 1, sum)
```

```
35 40 45
```

```
#find standard deviation of each row
```

```
apply(df, 1, sd)
```

```
4.743416 4.743416 4.743416
```

```
#multiply the value in each row by 2 (using t() to  
transpose the results)
```

```
t(apply(df, 1, function(x) x * 2))
```

```
var1 var2 var3 var4 var5
```

```
2 8 14 20 26
```

```
4 10 16 22 28
```

```
6 12 18 24 30
```

```
#normalize every row to 1 (using t() to transpose the  
results)
```

```
t(apply(df, 1, function(x) x / sum(x) ))
```

```
var1 var2 var3 var4 var5
```

```
0.02857143 0.1142857 0.2 0.2857143 0.3714286
```

```
0.05000000 0.1250000 0.2 0.2750000 0.3500000
```

**0.06666667 0.13333333 0.2 0.26666667 0.33333333**

**Similar to matrices, if you'd like to find the mean or sum of each row, it's faster to use the built-in `rowMeans()` or `rowSums()` functions:**

**#find mean of each row  
`rowMeans(df)`**

**7 8 9**

**#find sum of each row  
`rowSums(df)`**

**35 40 45**

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