

Package ‘data.table’

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Description Fast aggregation of large data (e.g. 100GB in RAM), fast ordered joins, fast add/modify/delete of columns by group using no copies at all, list columns, friendly and fast character-separated-value read/write. Offers a natural and flexible syntax, for faster development.

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URL <http://r-datatable.com>

BugReports <https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/issues>

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data.table-package	<i>Enhanced data.frame</i>
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Description

data.table *inherits* from data.frame. It offers fast and memory efficient: file reader and writer, aggregations, updates, equi, non-equi, rolling, range and interval joins, in a short and flexible syntax, for faster development.

It is inspired by A[B] syntax in R where A is a matrix and B is a 2-column matrix. Since a data.table *is* a data.frame, it is compatible with R functions and packages that accept *only* data.frames.

Type vignette(package="data.table") to get started. The [Introduction to data.table](#) vignette introduces data.table's x[i, j, by] syntax and is a good place to start. If you have read the vignettes and the help page below, please read the [data.table support guide](#).

Please check the [homepage](#) for up to the minute live NEWS.

Tip: one of the *quickest* ways to learn the features is to type example(data.table) and study the output at the prompt.

Usage

```
data.table(..., keep.rownames=FALSE, check.names=FALSE, key=NULL, stringsAsFactors=FALSE)

## S3 method for class 'data.table'
x[i, j, by, keyby, with = TRUE,
  nomatch = getOption("datatable.nomatch"),           # default: NA_integer_
  mult = "all",
  roll = FALSE,
  rollends = if (roll=="nearest") c(TRUE,TRUE)
              else if (roll>=0) c(FALSE,TRUE)
              else c(TRUE,FALSE),
  which = FALSE,
  .SDcols,
  verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose"),           # default: FALSE
```

```
allow.cartesian = getOption("datatable.allow.cartesian"), # default: FALSE
drop = NULL, on = NULL]
```

Arguments

`...` Just as `...` in `data.frame`. Usual recycling rules are applied to vectors of different lengths to create a list of equal length vectors.

`keep.rownames` If `...` is a `matrix` or `data.frame`, `TRUE` will retain the rownames of that object in a column named `rn`.

`check.names` Just as `check.names` in `data.frame`.

`key` Character vector of one or more column names which is passed to `setkey`. It may be a single comma separated string such as `key="x,y,z"`, or a vector of names such as `key=c("x","y","z")`.

`stringsAsFactors`

Logical (default is `FALSE`). Convert all character columns to factors?

`x` A `data.table`.

`i` Integer, logical or character vector, single column numeric matrix, expression of column names, list, `data.frame` or `data.table`.

integer and logical vectors work the same way they do in `[.data.frame]` except logical NAs are treated as `FALSE`.

expression is evaluated within the frame of the `data.table` (i.e. it sees column names as if they are variables) and can evaluate to any of the other types.

character, list and `data.frame` input to `i` is converted into a `data.table` internally using `as.data.table`.

If `i` is a `data.table`, the columns in `i` to be matched against `x` can be specified using one of these ways:

- `on` argument (see below). It allows for both *equi*- and the newly implemented *non-equi* joins.
- If not, `x` *must be keyed*. Key can be set using `setkey`. If `i` is also keyed, then first *key* column of `i` is matched against first *key* column of `x`, second against second, etc..

If `i` is not keyed, then first column of `i` is matched against first *key* column of `x`, second column of `i` against second *key* column of `x`, etc...

This is summarised in code as `min(length(key(x)), if (haskey(i)) length(key(i)) else ncol(x))`

Using `on=` is recommended (even during keyed joins) as it helps understand the code better and also allows for *non-equi* joins.

When the binary operator `==` alone is used, an *equi* join is performed. In SQL terms, `x[i]` then performs a *right join* by default. `i` prefixed with `!` signals a *not-join* or *not-select*.

Support for *non-equi* join was recently implemented, which allows for other binary operators `>=`, `>`, `<=` and `<`.

See [Keys and fast binary search based subset](#) and [Secondary indices and auto indexing](#).

Advanced: When `i` is a single variable name, it is not considered an expression of column names and is instead evaluated in calling scope.

`j` When `with=TRUE` (default), `j` is evaluated within the frame of the `data.table`; i.e., it sees column names as if they are variables. This allows to not just *select* columns in `j`, but also compute on them e.g., `x[, a]` and `x[, sum(a)]` returns `x$a` and `sum(x$a)` as a vector respectively. `x[, .(a, b)]` and `x[, .(sa=sum(a), sb=sum(b))]` returns a two column `data.table` each, the first simply *selecting* columns `a`, `b` and the second *computing* their sums.

The expression `.()` is a *shorthand* alias to `list()`; they both mean the same. (An exception is made for the use of `.()` within a call to `bquote`, where `.()` is left unchanged.) As long as `j` returns a `list`, each element of the list becomes a column in the resulting `data.table`. This is the default *enhanced* mode.

When `j` is a vector of column names or positions to select (as in `data.frame`). There is no need to use `with=FALSE` anymore. In case of using logical vector with length `ncol(x)` defining columns to select `with=FALSE` is still necessary. Note: if a logical vector with length `k < ncol(x)` is passed, it will be filled to length `ncol(x)` with `FALSE`, which is different from `data.frame`, where the vector is recycled.

Advanced: `j` also allows the use of special *read-only* symbols: `.SD`, `.N`, `.I`, `.GRP`, `.BY`.

Advanced: When `i` is a `data.table`, the columns of `i` can be referred to in `j` by using the prefix `i.`, e.g., `X[Y, .(val, i.val)]`. Here `val` refers to `X`'s column and `i.val` `Y`'s.

Advanced: Columns of `x` can now be referred to using the prefix `x.` and is particularly useful during joining to refer to `x`'s *join* columns as they are otherwise masked by `i`'s. For example, `X[Y, .(x.a-i.a, b), on="a"]`.

See [Introduction to data.table](#) vignette and examples.

`by` Column names are seen as if they are variables (as in `j` when `with=TRUE`). The `data.table` is then grouped by the `by` and `j` is evaluated within each group. The order of the rows within each group is preserved, as is the order of the groups. `by` accepts:

- A single unquoted column name: e.g., `DT[, .(sa=sum(a)), by=x]`
- a `list()` of expressions of column names: e.g., `DT[, .(sa=sum(a)), by=(x>0, y)]`
- a single character string containing comma separated column names (where spaces are significant since column names may contain spaces even at the start or end): e.g., `DT[, sum(a), by="x,y,z"]`
- a character vector of column names: e.g., `DT[, sum(a), by=c("x", "y")]`
- or of the form `startcol:endcol`: e.g., `DT[, sum(a), by=x:z]`

Advanced: When `i` is a `list` (or `data.frame` or `data.table`), `DT[i, j, by=.EACHI]` evaluates `j` for the groups in `'DT'` that each row in `i` joins to. That is, you can join (in `i`) and aggregate (in `j`) simultaneously. We call this *grouping by each i*. See [this StackOverflow answer](#) for a more detailed explanation until we [roll out vignettes](#).

Advanced: In the `X[Y, j]` form of grouping, the `j` expression sees variables in `X` first, then `Y`. We call this *join inherited scope*. If the variable is not in `X` or `Y` then the calling frame is searched, its calling frame, and so on in the usual way up to and including the global environment.

keyby	Same as by, but with an additional <code>setkey()</code> run on the by columns of the result, for convenience. It is common practice to use 'keyby=' routinely when you wish the result to be sorted.
with	<p>By default <code>with=TRUE</code> and <code>j</code> is evaluated within the frame of <code>x</code>; column names can be used as variables. In case of overlapping variables names inside dataset and in parent scope you can use double dot prefix <code>..cols</code> to explicitly refer to 'cols variable parent scope and not from your dataset.</p> <p>When <code>j</code> is a character vector of column names, a numeric vector of column positions to select or of the form <code>startcol:endcol</code>, and the value returned is always a <code>data.table</code>. <code>with=FALSE</code> is not necessary anymore to select columns dynamically. Note that <code>x[, cols]</code> is equivalent to <code>x[, ..cols]</code> and to <code>x[, cols, with=FALSE]</code> and to <code>x[, .SD, .SDcols=cols]</code>.</p>
nomatch	When a row in <code>i</code> has no match to <code>x</code> , <code>nomatch=NA</code> (default) means NA is returned. NULL (or \emptyset for backward compatibility) means no rows will be returned for that row of <code>i</code> . Use <code>options(datatable.nomatch=NULL)</code> to change the default value (used when <code>nomatch</code> is not supplied).
mult	When <code>i</code> is a list (or <code>data.frame</code> or <code>data.table</code>) and <i>multiple</i> rows in <code>x</code> match to the row in <code>i</code> , <code>mult</code> controls which are returned: "all" (default), "first" or "last".
roll	<p>When <code>i</code> is a <code>data.table</code> and its row matches to all but the last <code>x</code> join column, and its value in the last <code>i</code> join column falls in a gap (including after the last observation in <code>x</code> for that group), then:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>+Inf</code> (or <code>TRUE</code>) rolls the <i>prevailing</i> value in <code>x</code> forward. It is also known as last observation carried forward (LOCF). • <code>-Inf</code> rolls backwards instead; i.e., next observation carried backward (NOCB). • finite positive or negative number limits how far values are carried forward or backward. • "nearest" rolls the nearest value instead. <p>Rolling joins apply to the last join column, generally a date but can be any variable. It is particularly fast using a modified binary search.</p> <p>A common idiom is to select a contemporaneous regular time series (<code>dts</code>) across a set of identifiers (<code>ids</code>): <code>DT[CJ(ids,dts),roll=TRUE]</code> where <code>DT</code> has a 2-column key (<code>id,date</code>) and <code>CJ</code> stands for <i>cross join</i>.</p>
rollends	<p>A logical vector length 2 (a single logical is recycled) indicating whether values falling before the first value or after the last value for a group should be rolled as well.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If <code>rollends[2]=TRUE</code>, it will roll the last value forward. <code>TRUE</code> by default for LOCF and <code>FALSE</code> for NOCB rolls. • If <code>rollends[1]=TRUE</code>, it will roll the first value backward. <code>TRUE</code> by default for NOCB and <code>FALSE</code> for LOCF rolls. <p>When <code>roll</code> is a finite number, that limit is also applied when rolling the ends.</p>
which	<code>TRUE</code> returns the row numbers of <code>x</code> that <code>i</code> matches to. If <code>NA</code> , returns the row numbers of <code>i</code> that have no match in <code>x</code> . By default <code>FALSE</code> and the rows in <code>x</code> that match are returned.

<code>.SDcols</code>	<p>Specifies the columns of <code>x</code> to be included in the special symbol <code>.SD</code> which stands for Subset of <code>data.table</code>. May be character column names or numeric positions. This is useful for speed when applying a function through a subset of (possible very many) columns; e.g., <code>DT[, lapply(.SD, sum), by="x,y", .SDcols=301:350]</code>. For convenient interactive use, the form <code>startcol:endcol</code> is also allowed (as in <code>by</code>), e.g., <code>DT[, lapply(.SD, sum), by=x:y, .SDcols=a:f]</code>.</p> <p>Inversion (column dropping instead of keeping) can be accomplished by prepending the argument with <code>!</code> or <code>-</code> (there's no difference between these), e.g. <code>.SDcols = !c('x', 'y')</code>.</p> <p>Finally, you can filter columns to include in <code>.SD</code> according to regular expressions via <code>.SDcols=patterns(regex1, regex2, ...)</code>. The included columns will be the <i>intersection</i> of the columns identified by each pattern; pattern unions can easily be specified with <code> </code> in a regex. You can also invert a pattern as usual with <code>.SDcols = !patterns(...)</code>.</p>
<code>verbose</code>	<p><code>TRUE</code> turns on status and information messages to the console. Turn this on by default using <code>options(datatable.verbose=TRUE)</code>. The quantity and types of verbosity may be expanded in future.</p>
<code>allow.cartesian</code>	<p><code>FALSE</code> prevents joins that would result in more than <code>nrow(x)+nrow(i)</code> rows. This is usually caused by duplicate values in <code>i</code>'s join columns, each of which join to the same group in <code>x</code> over and over again: a <i>misspecified</i> join. Usually this was not intended and the join needs to be changed. The word 'cartesian' is used loosely in this context. The traditional cartesian join is (deliberately) difficult to achieve in <code>data.table</code>: where every row in <code>i</code> joins to every row in <code>x</code> (a <code>nrow(x)*nrow(i)</code> row result). 'cartesian' is just meant in a 'large multiplicative' sense.</p>
<code>drop</code>	<p>Never used by <code>data.table</code>. Do not use. It needs to be here because <code>data.table</code> inherits from <code>data.frame</code>. See datatable-faq.</p>
<code>on</code>	<p>Indicate which columns in <code>x</code> should be joined with which columns in <code>i</code> along with the type of binary operator to join with (see non-equi joins below on this). When specified, this overrides the keys set on <code>x</code> and <code>i</code>. There are multiple ways of specifying the <code>on</code> argument:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As an unnamed character vector, e.g., <code>X[Y, on=c("a", "b")]</code>, used when columns <code>a</code> and <code>b</code> are common to both <code>X</code> and <code>Y</code>. • <i>Foreign key joins</i>: As a <i>named</i> character vector when the join columns have different names in <code>X</code> and <code>Y</code>. For example, <code>X[Y, on=c(x1="y1", x2="y2")]</code> joins <code>X</code> and <code>Y</code> by matching columns <code>x1</code> and <code>x2</code> in <code>X</code> with columns <code>y1</code> and <code>y2</code> in <code>Y</code>, respectively. From v1.9.8, you can also express foreign key joins using the binary operator <code>==</code>, e.g. <code>X[Y, on=c("x1==y1", "x2==y2")]</code>. NB: shorthand like <code>X[Y, on=c("a", v2="b")]</code> is also possible if, e.g., column <code>"a"</code> is common between the two tables. • For convenience during interactive scenarios, it is also possible to use <code>.</code> <code>()</code> syntax as <code>X[Y, on=(a, b)]</code>. • From v1.9.8, (non-equi) joins using binary operators <code>>=</code>, <code>></code>, <code><=</code>, <code><</code> are also possible, e.g., <code>X[Y, on=c("x>=a", "y<=b")]</code>, or for interactive use as <code>X[Y, on=(x>=a, y<=b)]</code>.

See examples as well as [Secondary indices and auto indexing](#).

Details

data.table builds on base R functionality to reduce 2 types of time:

1. programming time (easier to write, read, debug and maintain), and
2. compute time (fast and memory efficient).

The general form of data.table syntax is:

```
DT[ i, j, by ] # + extra arguments
  |   |   |
  |   |   -----> grouped by what?
  |   -----> what to do?
  ---> on which rows?
```

The way to read this out loud is: "Take DT, subset rows by i, *then* compute j grouped by by. Here are some basic usage examples expanding on this definition. See the vignette (and examples) for working examples.

```
X[, a] # return col 'a' from X as vector. If not found, search in parent frame.
X[, .(a)] # same as above, but return as a data.table.
X[, sum(a)] # return sum(a) as a vector (with same scoping rules as above)
X[, .(sum(a)), by=c] # get sum(a) grouped by 'c'.
X[, sum(a), by=c] # same as above, .() can be omitted in by on single expression for conveni
X[, sum(a), by=c:f] # get sum(a) grouped by all columns in between 'c' and 'f' (both inclusiv

X[, sum(a), keyby=b] # get sum(a) grouped by 'b', and sort that result by the grouping column
X[, sum(a), by=b][order(b)] # same order as above, but by chaining compound expressions
X[c>1, sum(a), by=c] # get rows where c>1 is TRUE, and on those rows, get sum(a) grouped by 'c'
X[Y, .(a, b), on="c"] # get rows where Y$c == X$c, and select columns 'X$a' and 'X$b' for those
X[Y, .(a, i.a), on="c"] # get rows where Y$c == X$c, and then select 'X$a' and 'Y$a' (=i.a)
X[Y, sum(a*i.a), on="c" by=.EACHI] # for *each* 'Y$c', get sum(a*i.a) on matching rows in 'X$c'

X[, plot(a, b), by=c] # j accepts any expression, generates plot for each group and returns no
# see ?assign to add/update/delete columns by reference using the same consistent interface
```

A data.table is a list of vectors, just like a data.frame. However :

1. it never has or uses rownames. Rownames based indexing can be done by setting a *key* of one or more columns or done *ad-hoc* using the on argument (now preferred).
2. it has enhanced functionality in [.data.table for fast joins of keyed tables, fast aggregation, fast last observation carried forward (LOCF) and fast add/modify/delete of columns by reference with no copy at all.

See the see also section for the several other *methods* that are available for operating on data.tables efficiently.

Note

If `keep.rownames` or `check.names` are supplied they must be written in full because R does not allow partial argument names after `'...'`. For example, `data.table(DF, keep=TRUE)` will create a column called "keep" containing TRUE and this is correct behaviour; `data.table(DF, keep.rownames=TRUE)` was intended.

POSIXlt is not supported as a column type because it uses 40 bytes to store a single datetime. They are implicitly converted to POSIXct type with *warning*. You may also be interested in `IDateTime` instead; it has methods to convert to and from POSIXlt.

References

<https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/wiki> (data.table homepage)
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Binary_search

See Also

[special-symbols](#), [data.frame](#), [\[, data.frame\]](#), [as.data.table](#), [setkey](#), [setorder](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [J](#), [SJ](#), [CJ](#), [merge.data.table](#), [tables](#), [test.data.table](#), [IDateTime](#), [unique.data.table](#), [copy](#), [:=](#), [alloc.col](#), [truelength](#), [rbindlist](#), [setNumericRounding](#), [datatable-optimize](#), [fsetdiff](#), [funion](#), [fintersect](#), [fsetequal](#), [anyDuplicated](#), [uniqueN](#), [rowid](#), [rleid](#), [na.omit](#), [frank](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
example(data.table) # to run these examples at the prompt

## End(Not run)
DF = data.frame(x=rep(c("b", "a", "c"), each=3), y=c(1,3,6), v=1:9)
DT = data.table(x=rep(c("b", "a", "c"), each=3), y=c(1,3,6), v=1:9)
DF
DT
identical(dim(DT), dim(DF)) # TRUE
identical(DF$a, DT$a)      # TRUE
is.list(DF)                # TRUE
is.list(DT)                # TRUE

is.data.frame(DT)          # TRUE

tables()

# basic row subset operations
DT[2]                       # 2nd row
DT[3:2]                     # 3rd and 2nd row
DT[order(x)]                # no need for order(DT$x)
DT[order(x), ]              # same as above. The ',' is optional
DT[y>2]                     # all rows where DT$y > 2
DT[y>2 & v>5]              # compound logical expressions
DT[!2:4]                    # all rows other than 2:4
DT[-(2:4)]                  # same

# select|compute columns data.table way
```

```

DT[, v] # v column (as vector)
DT[, list(v)] # v column (as data.table)
DT[, .(v)] # same as above, .() is a shorthand alias to list()
DT[, sum(v)] # sum of column v, returned as vector
DT[, .(sum(v))] # same, but return data.table (column autonamed V1)
DT[, .(sv=sum(v))] # same, but column named "sv"
DT[, .(v, v*2)] # return two column data.table, v and v*2

# subset rows and select|compute data.table way
DT[2:3, sum(v)] # sum(v) over rows 2 and 3, return vector
DT[2:3, .(sum(v))] # same, but return data.table with column V1
DT[2:3, .(sv=sum(v))] # same, but return data.table with column sv
DT[2:5, cat(v, "\n")] # just for j's side effect

# select columns the data.frame way
DT[, 2] # 2nd column, returns a data.table always
colNum = 2 # to refer vars in `j` from the outside of data use `..` prefix
DT[, .[colNum]] # same, equivalent to DT[, .SD, .SDcols=colNum]
DT[, .[v]] # same as DT[, v] but much faster

# grouping operations - j and by
DT[, sum(v), by=x] # ad hoc by, order of groups preserved in result
DT[, sum(v), keyby=x] # same, but order the result on by cols
DT[, sum(v), by=x][order(x)] # same but by chaining expressions together

# fast ad hoc row subsets (subsets as joins)
DT["a", on="x"] # same as x == "a" but uses binary search (fast)
DT["a", on=(x)] # same, for convenience, no need to quote every column
DT[.( "a"), on="x"] # same
DT[x=="a"] # same, single "=" internally optimised to use binary search (fast)
DT[x!="b" | y!=3] # not yet optimized, currently vector scan subset
DT[.( "b", 3), on=c("x", "y")] # join on columns x,y of DT; uses binary search (fast)
DT[.( "b", 3), on=(x, y)] # same, but using on=(.)
DT[.( "b", 1:2), on=c("x", "y")] # no match returns NA
DT[.( "b", 1:2), on=(x, y), nomatch=NULL] # no match row is not returned
DT[.( "b", 1:2), on=c("x", "y"), roll=Inf] # locf, nomatch row gets rolled by previous row
DT[.( "b", 1:2), on=(x, y), roll=-Inf] # nocb, nomatch row gets rolled by next row
DT["b", sum(v*y), on="x"] # on rows where DT$x=="b", calculate sum(v*y)

# all together now
DT[x!="a", sum(v), by=x] # get sum(v) by "x" for each i != "a"
DT[! "a", sum(v), by=.EACHI, on="x"] # same, but using subsets-as-joins
DT[c("b", "c"), sum(v), by=.EACHI, on="x"] # same
DT[c("b", "c"), sum(v), by=.EACHI, on=(x)] # same, using on=(.)

# joins as subsets
X = data.table(x=c("c", "b"), v=8:7, foo=c(4,2))
X

DT[X, on="x"] # right join
X[DT, on="x"] # left join
DT[X, on="x", nomatch=NULL] # inner join
DT[!X, on="x"] # not join

```

```

DT[X, on=c(y="v")] # join using column "y" of DT with column "v" of X
DT[X, on="y==v"] # same as above (v1.9.8+)

DT[X, on=(y<=foo)] # NEW non-equi join (v1.9.8+)
DT[X, on="y<=foo"] # same as above
DT[X, on=c("y<=foo")] # same as above
DT[X, on=(y>=foo)] # NEW non-equi join (v1.9.8+)
DT[X, on=(x, y<=foo)] # NEW non-equi join (v1.9.8+)
DT[X, .(x,y,x.y,v), on=(x, y>=foo)] # Select x's join columns as well

DT[X, on="x", mult="first"] # first row of each group
DT[X, on="x", mult="last"] # last row of each group
DT[X, sum(v), by=.EACHI, on="x"] # join and eval j for each row in i
DT[X, sum(v)*foo, by=.EACHI, on="x"] # join inherited scope
DT[X, sum(v)*i.v, by=.EACHI, on="x"] # 'i,v' refers to X's v column
DT[X, on=(x, v>=v), sum(y)*foo, by=.EACHI] # NEW non-equi join with by=.EACHI (v1.9.8+)

# setting keys
kDT = copy(DT) # (deep) copy DT to kDT to work with it.
setkey(kDT,x) # set a 1-column key. No quotes, for convenience.
setkeyv(kDT,"x") # same (v in setkeyv stands for vector)
v="x"
setkeyv(kDT,v) # same
# key(kDT)<-"x" # copies whole table, please use set* functions instead
haskey(kDT) # TRUE
key(kDT) # "x"

# fast *keyed* subsets
kDT["a"] # subset-as-join on *key* column 'x'
kDT["a", on="x"] # same, being explicit using 'on=' (preferred)

# all together
kDT[!"a", sum(v), by=.EACHI] # get sum(v) for each i != "a"

# multi-column key
setkey(kDT,x,y) # 2-column key
setkeyv(kDT,c("x","y")) # same

# fast *keyed* subsets on multi-column key
kDT["a"] # join to 1st column of key
kDT["a", on="x"] # on= is optional, but is preferred
kDT[.("a")] # same, .() is an alias for list()
kDT[list("a")] # same
kDT[.("a", 3)] # join to 2 columns
kDT[.("a", 3:6)] # join 4 rows (2 missing)
kDT[.("a", 3:6), nomatch=NULL] # remove missing
kDT[.("a", 3:6), roll=TRUE] # locf rolling join
kDT[.("a", 3:6), roll=Inf] # same as above
kDT[.("a", 3:6), roll=-Inf] # nocb rolling join
kDT[!.("a")] # not join
kDT[!"a"] # same

# more on special symbols, see also ?"special-symbols"

```

```

DT[.N] # last row
DT[, .N] # total number of rows in DT
DT[, .N, by=x] # number of rows in each group
DT[, .SD, .SDcols=x:y] # select columns 'x' through 'y'
DT[, .SD, .SDcols = !x:y] # drop columns 'x' through 'y'
DT[, .SD, .SDcols = patterns('^xv')] # select columns matching '^x' or '^v'
DT[, .SD[1]] # first row of all columns
DT[, .SD[1], by=x] # first row of 'y' and 'v' for each group in 'x'
DT[, c(.N, lapply(.SD, sum)), by=x] # get rows *and* sum columns 'v' and 'y' by group
DT[, .I[1], by=x] # row number in DT corresponding to each group
DT[, grp := .GRP, by=x] # add a group counter column
X[, DT[.BY, y, on="x"], by=x] # join within each group

# add/update/delete by reference (see ?assign)
print(DT[, z:=42L]) # add new column by reference
print(DT[, z:=NULL]) # remove column by reference
print(DT["a", v:=42L, on="x"]) # subassign to existing v column by reference
print(DT["b", v2:=84L, on="x"]) # subassign to new column by reference (NA padded)

DT[, m:=mean(v), by=x][[]] # add new column by reference by group
# NB: postfix [] is shortcut to print()

# advanced usage
DT = data.table(x=rep(c("b", "a", "c"), each=3), v=c(1,1,1,2,2,1,1,2,2), y=c(1,3,6), a=1:9, b=9:1)

DT[, sum(v), by=(y%2)] # expressions in by
DT[, sum(v), by=(bool = y%2)] # same, using a named list to change by column name
DT[, .SD[2], by=x] # get 2nd row of each group
DT[, tail(.SD, 2), by=x] # last 2 rows of each group
DT[, lapply(.SD, sum), by=x] # sum of all (other) columns for each group
DT[, .SD[which.min(v)], by=x] # nested query by group

DT[, list(MySum=sum(v),
          MyMin=min(v),
          MyMax=max(v)),
      by=(x, y%2)] # by 2 expressions

DT[, .(a = .(a), b = .(b)), by=x] # list columns
DT[, .(seq = min(a):max(b)), by=x] # j is not limited to just aggregations
DT[, sum(v), by=x][V1<20] # compound query
DT[, sum(v), by=x][order(-V1)] # ordering results
DT[, c(.N, lapply(.SD, sum)), by=x] # get number of observations and sum per group
DT[, {tmp <- mean(y);
      .(a = a-tmp, b = b-tmp)
    }, by=x] # anonymous lambda in 'j', j accepts any valid
# expression. TO REMEMBER: every element of
# the list becomes a column in result.

pdf("new.pdf")
DT[, plot(a,b), by=x] # can also plot in 'j'
dev.off()

# using rleid, get max(y) and min of all cols in .SDcols for each consecutive run of 'v'
DT[, c(.y=max(y)), lapply(.SD, min)), by=rleid(v), .SDcols=v:b]

```

```

# Support guide and links:
# https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/wiki/Support

## Not run:
if (interactive()) {
  vignette("datatable-intro")
  vignette("datatable-reference-semantics")
  vignette("datatable-keys-fast-subset")
  vignette("datatable-secondary-indices-and-auto-indexing")
  vignette("datatable-reshape")
  vignette("datatable-faq")

  test.data.table()          # over 6,000 low level tests

  # keep up to date with latest stable version on CRAN
  update.packages()

  # get the latest devel version
  update.dev.pkg()
  # compiled devel binary for Windows available -- no Rtools needed
  update.dev.pkg(repo="https://Rdatatable.github.io/data.table")
  # read more at:
  # https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/wiki/Installation
}

## End(Not run)

```

:= *Assignment by reference*

Description

Fast add, remove and update subsets of columns, by reference. := operator can be used in two ways: LHS := RHS form, and Functional form. See Usage.

set is a low-overhead loop-able version of :=. It is particularly useful for repetitively updating rows of certain columns by reference (using a for-loop). See Examples. It can not perform grouping operations.

Usage

```

# 1. LHS := RHS form
# DT[i, LHS := RHS, by = ...]
# DT[i, c("LHS1", "LHS2") := list(RHS1, RHS2), by = ...]

# 2. Functional form
# DT[i, `:=`(LHS1 = RHS1,
#           LHS2 = RHS2,
#           ...), by = ...]

set(x, i = NULL, j, value)

```

Arguments

LHS	A character vector of column names (or numeric positions) or a variable that evaluates as such. If the column doesn't exist, it is added, <i>by reference</i> .
RHS	A list of replacement values. It is recycled in the usual way to fill the number of rows satisfying <i>i</i> , if any. To remove a column use NULL.
x	A <code>data.table</code> . Or, <code>set()</code> accepts <code>data.frame</code> , too.
i	Optional. Indicates the rows on which the values must be updated with. If not provided, implies <i>all rows</i> . The <code>:=</code> form is more powerful as it allows <i>subsets</i> and joins based add/update columns by reference. See <i>Details</i> . In <code>set</code> , only integer type is allowed in <i>i</i> indicating which rows value should be assigned to. NULL represents all rows more efficiently than creating a vector such as <code>1:nrow(x)</code> .
j	Column name(s) (character) or number(s) (integer) to be assigned value when column(s) already exist, and only column name(s) if they are to be created.
value	A list of replacement values to assign by reference to <code>x[i, j]</code> .

Details

`:=` is defined for use in *j* only. It *adds* or *updates* or *removes* column(s) by reference. It makes no copies of any part of memory at all. Read the [Reference Semantics HTML vignette](#) to follow with examples. Some typical usages are:

```
DT[, col := val]           # update (or add at the end if doesn't exist) a column call
DT[i, col := val]        # same as above, but only for those rows specified in i and
DT[i, "col a" := val]    # same. column is called "col a"
DT[i, (3:6) := val]      # update existing columns 3:6 with value. Aside: parens are
DT[i, colvector := val, with = FALSE] # OLD syntax. The contents of "colvector" in calling so
DT[i, (colvector) := val] # same (NOW PREFERRED) shorthand syntax. The parens are e
DT[i, colC := mean(colB), by = colA] # update (or add) column called "colC" by reference by
DT[, `:=`(new1 = sum(colB), new2 = sum(colC))] # Functional form
```

All of the following result in a friendly error (by design) :

```
x := 1L
DT[i, col] := val
DT[i]$col := val
DT[, {col1 := 1L; col2 := 2L}] # Use the functional form, `:=`() , instead (see above).
```

For additional resources, check the [FAQs vignette](#). Also have a look at StackOverflow's [data.table tag](#).

`:=` in *j* can be combined with all types of *i* (such as binary search), and all types of *by*. This a one reason why `:=` has been implemented in *j*. See the [Reference Semantics HTML vignette](#) and also [FAQ 2.16](#) for analogies to SQL.

When LHS is a factor column and RHS is a character vector with items missing from the factor levels, the new level(s) are automatically added (by reference, efficiently), unlike base methods.

Unlike `<-` for `data.frame`, the (potentially large) LHS is not coerced to match the type of the (often small) RHS. Instead the RHS is coerced to match the type of the LHS, if necessary. Where this involves double precision values being coerced to an integer column, a warning is given (whether or not fractional data is truncated). The motivation for this is efficiency. It is best to get the column types correct up front and stick to them. Changing a column type is possible but deliberately harder: provide a whole column as the RHS. This RHS is then *plonked* into that column slot and we call this *plonk syntax*, or *replace column syntax* if you prefer. By needing to construct a full length vector of a new type, you as the user are more aware of what is happening, and it is clearer to readers of your code that you really do intend to change the column type.

`data.tables` are *not* copied-on-change by `:=`, `setkey` or any of the other `set*` functions. See [copy](#).

Value

DT is modified by reference and returned invisibly. If you require a copy, take a [copy](#) first (using `DT2 = copy(DT)`).

Advanced (internals):

It is easy to see how *sub-assigning* to existing columns is done internally. Removing columns by reference is also straightforward by modifying the vector of column pointers only (using `memmove` in C). However adding (new) columns is more tricky as to how the `data.table` can be grown *by reference*: the list vector of column pointers is *over-allocated*, see [truelength](#). By defining `:=` in `j` we believe update syntax is natural, and scales, but it also bypasses `[<-` dispatch and allows `:=` to update by reference with no copies of any part of memory at all.

Since `[.data.table` incurs overhead to check the existence and type of arguments (for example), `set()` provides direct (but less flexible) assignment by reference with low overhead, appropriate for use inside a `for` loop. See examples. `:=` is more powerful and flexible than `set()` because `:=` is intended to be combined with `i` and `by` in single queries on large datasets.

Note:

`DT[a > 4, b := c]` is different from `DT[a > 4][, b := c]`. The first expression updates (or adds) column `b` with the value `c` on those rows where `a > 4` evaluates to `TRUE`. `X` is updated *by reference*, therefore no assignment needed.

The second expression on the other hand updates a *new* `data.table` that's returned by the subset operation. Since the subsetted `data.table` is ephemeral (it is not assigned to a symbol), the result would be lost; unless the result is assigned, for example, as follows: `ans <- DT[a > 4][, b := c]`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [copy](#), [alloc.col](#), [truelength](#), [set](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(a = LETTERS[c(3L,1:3)], b = 4:7)
DT[, c := 8]           # add a numeric column, 8 for all rows
DT[, d := 9L]         # add an integer column, 9L for all rows
DT[, c := NULL]       # remove column c
```

```

DT[2, d := -8L]          # subassign by reference to d; 2nd row is -8L now
DT                      # DT changed by reference
DT[2, d := 10L][[]]     # shorthand for update and print

DT[b > 4, b := d * 2L]  # subassign to b with d*2L on those rows where b > 4 is TRUE
DT[b > 4][, b := d * 2L] # different from above. [, := ] is performed on the subset
                        # which is a new (ephemeral) data.table. Result needs to be
                        # assigned to a variable (using `<-`).

DT[, e := mean(d), by = a] # add new column by group by reference
DT["A", b := 0L, on = "a"] # ad-hoc update of column b for group "A" using
  # joins-as-subsets with binary search and 'on='
# same as above but using keys
setkey(DT, a)
DT["A", b := 0L]          # binary search for group "A" and set column b using keys
DT["B", f := mean(d)]    # subassign to new column, NA initialized

# Adding multiple columns
## by name
DT[, c('sin_d', 'log_e', 'cos_d') :=
  .(sin(d), log(e), cos(d))]
## by patterned name
DT[, paste(c('sin', 'cos'), 'b', sep = '_') :=
  .(sin(b), cos(b))]
## using lapply & .SD
DT[, paste0('tan_', c('b', 'd', 'e')) :=
  lapply(.SD, tan), .SDcols = c('b', 'd', 'e')]
## using forced evaluation to disambiguate a vector of names
## and overwrite existing columns with their squares
sq_cols = c('b', 'd', 'e')
DT[, (sq_cols) := lapply(.SD, `^`), .SDcols = sq_cols]
## by integer (NB: for robustness, it is not recommended
## to use explicit integers to update/define columns)
DT[, c(2L, 3L, 4L) := .(sqrt(b), sqrt(d), sqrt(e))]
## by implicit integer
DT[, grep('a$', names(DT)) := tolower(a)]
## by implicit integer, using forced evaluation
sq_col_idx = grep('d$', names(DT))
DT[, (sq_col_idx) := lapply(.SD, dnorm),
  .SDcols = sq_col_idx]

## Not run:
# Speed example:

m = matrix(1, nrow = 2e6L, ncol = 100L)
DF = as.data.frame(m)
DT = as.data.table(m)

system.time(for (i in 1:1000) DF[i, 1] = i)
# 15.856 seconds
system.time(for (i in 1:1000) DT[i, V1 := i])
# 0.279 seconds (57 times faster)
system.time(for (i in 1:1000) set(DT, i, 1L, i))

```



```
# 0.002 seconds (7930 times faster, overhead of [.data.table is avoided)

# However, normally, we call [.data.table *once* on *large* data, not many times on small data.
# The above is to demonstrate overhead, not to recommend looping in this way. But the option
# of set() is there if you need it.

## End(Not run)
```

address	<i>Address in RAM of a variable</i>
---------	-------------------------------------

Description

Returns the pointer address of its argument.

Usage

```
address(x)
```

Arguments

x Anything.

Details

Sometimes useful in determining whether a value has been copied or not, programmatically.

Value

A character vector length 1.

References

<http://stackoverflow.com/a/10913296/403310> (but implemented in C without using `.Internal(inspect())`)

all.equal

*Equality Test Between Two Data Tables***Description**

Convenient test of data equality between `data.table` objects. Performs some factor level *stripping*.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
all.equal(target, current, trim.levels=TRUE, check.attributes=TRUE,
          ignore.col.order=FALSE, ignore.row.order=FALSE, tolerance=sqrt(.Machine$double.eps),
          ...)
```

Arguments

`target`, `current`
 `data.tables` to compare

`trim.levels` A logical indicating whether or not to remove all unused levels in columns that are factors before running equality check. It effect only when `check.attributes` is TRUE and `ignore.row.order` is FALSE.

`check.attributes`
 A logical indicating whether or not to check attributes, will apply not only to `data.table` but also attributes of the columns. It will skip `c("row.names", ".internal.selfref")` `data.table` attributes.

`ignore.col.order`
 A logical indicating whether or not to ignore columns order in `data.table`.

`ignore.row.order`
 A logical indicating whether or not to ignore rows order in `data.table`. This option requires datasets to use data types on which join can be made, so no support for *list*, *complex*, *raw*, but still supports [integer64](#).

`tolerance` A numeric value used when comparing numeric columns, by default `sqrt(.Machine$double.eps)`. Unless non-default value provided it will be forced to 0 if used together with `ignore.row.order` and duplicate rows detected or factor columns present.

... Passed down to internal call of [all.equal](#).

Details

For efficiency `data.table` method will exit on detected non-equality issues, unlike most [all.equal](#) methods which process equality checks further. Besides that fact it also handles the most time consuming case of `ignore.row.order = TRUE` very efficiently.

Value

Either TRUE or a vector of mode "character" describing the differences between `target` and `current`.

See Also[all.equal](#)**Examples**

```

dt1 <- data.table(A = letters[1:10], X = 1:10, key = "A")
dt2 <- data.table(A = letters[5:14], Y = 1:10, key = "A")
isTRUE(all.equal(dt1, dt1))
is.character(all.equal(dt1, dt2))

# ignore.col.order
x <- copy(dt1)
y <- dt1[, .(X, A)]
all.equal(x, y)
all.equal(x, y, ignore.col.order = TRUE)

# ignore.row.order
x <- setkeyv(copy(dt1), NULL)
y <- dt1[sample(nrow(dt1))]
all.equal(x, y)
all.equal(x, y, ignore.row.order = TRUE)

# check.attributes
x = copy(dt1)
y = setkeyv(copy(dt1), NULL)
all.equal(x, y)
all.equal(x, y, check.attributes = FALSE)

# trim.levels
x <- data.table(A = factor(letters[1:10])[1:4]) # 10 levels
y <- data.table(A = factor(letters[1:5])[1:4]) # 5 levels
all.equal(x, y, trim.levels = FALSE)
all.equal(x, y, trim.levels = FALSE, check.attributes = FALSE)
all.equal(x, y)

```

`as.data.table`*Coerce to data.table*

Description

Functions to check if an object is `data.table`, or coerce it if possible.

Usage

```
as.data.table(x, keep.rownames=FALSE, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
as.data.table(x, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'array'
as.data.table(x, keep.rownames=FALSE, sorted=TRUE, value.name="value", na.rm=TRUE, ...)

is.data.table(x)
```

Arguments

x	An R object.
keep.rownames	Default is FALSE. If TRUE, adds the input object's names as a separate column named "rn". keep.rownames = "id" names the column "id" instead.
sorted	logical used in <i>array</i> method, default TRUE.
value.name	character scalar used in <i>array</i> method, default "value".
na.rm	logical used in <i>array</i> method, default TRUE will remove rows with NA values.
...	Additional arguments to be passed to or from other methods.

Details

as.data.table is a generic function with many methods, and other packages can supply further methods.

If a list is supplied, each element is converted to a column in the data.table with shorter elements recycled automatically. Similarly, each column of a matrix is converted separately.

character objects are *not* converted to factor types unlike as.data.frame.

If a data.frame is supplied, all classes preceding "data.frame" are stripped. Similarly, for data.table as input, all classes preceding "data.table" are stripped. as.data.table methods returns a *copy* of original data. To modify by reference see [setDT](#) and [setDF](#).

keep.rownames argument can be used to preserve the (row)names attribute in the resulting data.table.

See Also

[data.table](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [copy](#), [setkey](#), [J](#), [SJ](#), [CJ](#), [merge.data.table](#), [:=](#), [alloc.col](#), [truelength](#), [rbindlist](#), [setNumericRounding](#), [datatable-optimize](#)

Examples

```
nn = c(a=0.1, b=0.2, c=0.3, d=0.4)
as.data.table(nn)
as.data.table(nn, keep.rownames=TRUE)
as.data.table(nn, keep.rownames="rownames")

# char object not converted to factor
cc = c(X="a", Y="b", Z="c")
as.data.table(cc)
as.data.table(cc, keep.rownames=TRUE)
as.data.table(cc, keep.rownames="rownames")

mm = matrix(1:4, ncol=2, dimnames=list(c("r1", "r2"), c("c1", "c2")))
as.data.table(mm)
```

```
as.data.table(mm, keep.rownames=TRUE)
as.data.table(mm, keep.rownames="rownames")

ll = list(a=1:2, b=3:4)
as.data.table(ll)
as.data.table(ll, keep.rownames=TRUE)
as.data.table(ll, keep.rownames="rownames")

DF = data.frame(x=rep(c("x","y","z"),each=2), y=c(1,3,6), row.names=LETTERS[1:6])
as.data.table(DF)
as.data.table(DF, keep.rownames=TRUE)
as.data.table(DF, keep.rownames="rownames")

DT = data.table(x=rep(c("x","y","z"),each=2), y=c(1:6))
as.data.table(DT)

ar = rnorm(27)
ar[sample(27, 15)] = NA
dim(ar) = c(3L,3L,3L)
as.data.table(ar)
```

as.data.table.xts

Efficient xts to as.data.table conversion

Description

Efficient conversion xts to data.table.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'xts'
as.data.table(x, keep.rownames = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	xts to convert to data.table
keep.rownames	keep xts index as <i>index</i> column in result data.table
...	ignored, just for consistency with as.data.table

See Also

[as.xts.data.table](#)

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("xts", quietly = TRUE)) {
  data(sample_matrix, package = "xts")
  sample.xts <- xts::as.xts(sample_matrix) # xts might not be attached on search path
  # print head of xts
  print(head(sample.xts))
  # print data.table
  print(as.data.table(sample.xts))
}
```

as.matrix

Convert a data.table to a matrix

Description

Converts a `data.table` into a `matrix`, optionally using one of the columns in the `data.table` as the `matrix` rownames.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
as.matrix(x, rownames=NULL, rownames.value=NULL, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	a <code>data.table</code>
<code>rownames</code>	optional, a single column name or column number to use as the rownames in the returned <code>matrix</code> . If <code>TRUE</code> the <code>key</code> of the <code>data.table</code> will be used if it is a single column, otherwise the first column in the <code>data.table</code> will be used.
<code>rownames.value</code>	optional, a vector of values to be used as the rownames in the returned <code>matrix</code> . It must be the same length as <code>nrow(x)</code> .
<code>...</code>	Required to be present because the generic <code>'as.matrix'</code> generic has it. Arguments here are not currently used or passed on by this method.

Details

`as.matrix` is a generic function in base R. It dispatches to `as.matrix.data.table` if its `x` argument is a `data.table`.

The method for `data.tables` will return a character matrix if there are only atomic columns and any non-(numeric/logical/complex) column, applying `as.vector` to factors and `format` to other non-character columns. Otherwise, the usual coercion hierarchy (logical < integer < double < complex) will be used, e.g., all-logical data frames will be coerced to a logical matrix, mixed logical-integer will give an integer matrix, etc.

Value

A new `matrix` containing the contents of `x`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [as.matrix](#), [data.matrix](#) array

Examples

```
DT <- data.table(A = letters[1:10], X = 1:10, Y = 11:20)
as.matrix(DT) # character matrix
as.matrix(DT, rownames = "A")
as.matrix(DT, rownames = 1)
as.matrix(DT, rownames = TRUE)

setkey(DT, A)
as.matrix(DT, rownames = TRUE)
```

as.xts.data.table *Efficient data.table to xts conversion*

Description

Efficient conversion of data.table to xts, data.table must have *POSIXct* or *Date* type in first column.

Usage

```
as.xts.data.table(x, ...)
```

Arguments

`x` data.table to convert to xts, must have *POSIXct* or *Date* in the first column. All others non-numeric columns will be omitted with warning.

`...` ignored, just for consistency with generic method.

See Also

[as.data.table.xts](#)

Examples

```
if (requireNamespace("xts", quietly = TRUE)) {
  sample.dt <- data.table(date = as.Date((Sys.Date()-999):Sys.Date(),origin="1970-01-01"),
                        quantity = sample(10:50,1000,TRUE),
                        value = sample(100:1000,1000,TRUE))

  # print data.table
  print(sample.dt)
  # print head of xts
  print(head(as.xts.data.table(sample.dt))) # xts might not be attached on search path
}
```

 between

Convenience functions for range subsets.

Description

Intended for use in `i` in `[.data.table]`.

`between` is equivalent to `x >= lower & x <= upper` when `incbounds=TRUE`, or `x > lower & y < upper` when `FALSE`. With a caveat that `NA` in `lower` or `upper` are taken as a missing bound and return `TRUE` not `NA`.

`inrange` checks whether each value in `x` is in between any of the intervals provided in `lower`, `upper`.

Usage

```
between(x, lower, upper, incbounds=TRUE)
x %between% y
```

```
inrange(x, lower, upper, incbounds=TRUE)
x %inrange% y
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	Any orderable vector, i.e., those with relevant methods for <code><=</code> , such as <code>numeric</code> , <code>character</code> , <code>Date</code> , etc. in case of <code>between</code> and a numeric vector in case of <code>inrange</code> .
<code>lower</code>	Lower range bound. Either length 1 or same length as <code>x</code> .
<code>upper</code>	Upper range bound. Either length 1 or same length as <code>x</code> .
<code>y</code>	A length-2 vector or list, with <code>y[[1]]</code> interpreted as <code>lower</code> and <code>y[[2]]</code> as <code>upper</code> .
<code>incbounds</code>	<code>TRUE</code> means inclusive bounds, i.e., <code>[lower,upper]</code> . <code>FALSE</code> means exclusive bounds, i.e., <code>(lower,upper)</code> . It is set to <code>TRUE</code> by default for infix notations.

Details

non-equi joins were implemented in v1.9.8. They extend binary search based joins in `data.table` to other binary operators including `>=`, `<=`, `>`, `<`. `inrange` makes use of this new functionality and performs a range join.

Value

Logical vector the same length as `x` with value `TRUE` for those that lie within the specified range.

Note

Current implementation does not make use of ordered keys for `%between%`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [like](#), [%chin%](#)

Examples

```
X = data.table(a=1:5, b=6:10, c=c(5:1))
X[b %between% c(7,9)]
X[between(b, 7, 9)] # same as above
# NEW feature in v1.9.8, vectorised between
X[c %between% list(a,b)]
X[between(c, a, b)] # same as above
X[between(c, a, b, incbounds=FALSE)] # open interval

# inrange()
Y = data.table(a=c(8,3,10,7,-10), val=runif(5))
range = data.table(start = 1:5, end = 6:10)
Y[a %inrange% range]
Y[inrange(a, range$start, range$end)] # same as above
Y[inrange(a, range$start, range$end, incbounds=FALSE)] # open interval
```

chmatch

Faster match of character vectors

Description

chmatch returns a vector of the positions of (first) matches of its first argument in its second. Both arguments must be character vectors.

%chin% is like %in%, but for character vectors.

Usage

```
chmatch(x, table, nomatch=NA_integer_)
x %chin% table
chorder(x)
chgroup(x)
```

Arguments

x	character vector: the values to be matched, or the values to be ordered or grouped
table	character vector: the values to be matched against.
nomatch	the value to be returned in the case when no match is found. Note that it is coerced to integer.

Details

Fast versions of `match`, `%in%` and `order`, optimised for character vectors. `chgroup` groups together duplicated values but retains the group order (according the first appearance order of each group), efficiently. They have been primarily developed for internal use by `data.table`, but have been exposed since that seemed appropriate.

Strings are already cached internally by R (CHARSXP) and that is utilised by these functions. No hash table is built or cached, so the first call is the same speed as subsequent calls. Essentially, a counting sort (similar to `base::sort.list(x,method="radix")`, see [setkey](#)) is implemented using the (almost) unused `truelength` of CHARSXP as the counter. *Where R has used `truelength` of CHARSXP (where a character value is shared by a variable name), the non zero `truelengths` are stored first and reinstated afterwards.* Each of the `ch*` functions implements a variation on this theme. Remember that internally in R, `length` of a CHARSXP is the `nchar` of the string and `DATAPTR` is the string itself.

Methods that do build and cache a hash table (such as the [fastmatch package](#)) are *much* faster on subsequent calls (almost instant) but a little slower on the first. Therefore `chmatch` may be particularly suitable for ephemeral vectors (such as local variables in functions) or tasks that are only done once. Much depends on the length of `x` and `table`, how many unique strings each contains, and whether the position of the first match is all that is required.

It may be possible to speed up `fastmatch`'s hash table build time by using the technique in `data.table`, and we have suggested this to its author. If successful, `fastmatch` would then be fastest in all cases.

Value

As `match` and `%in%`. `chorder` and `chgroup` return an integer index vector.

Note

The name `chmatch` was taken by [charmatch](#), hence `chmatch`.

See Also

[match](#), `%in%`

Examples

```
# Please type 'example(chmatch)' to run this and see timings on your machine

N = 1e5
# N is set small here (1e5) to reduce runtime because every day CRAN runs and checks
# all documentation examples in addition to the package's test suite.
# The comments here apply when N has been changed to 1e8 and were run on 2018-05-13
# with R 3.5.0 and data.table 1.11.2.

u = as.character(as.hexmode(1:10000))
y = sample(u,N,replace=TRUE)
x = sample(u)

                                # With N=1e8 ...
system.time(a <- match(x,y))    # 4.6s
system.time(b <- chmatch(x,y))  # 1.8s
```

```

identical(a,b)

system.time(a <- x %in% y)           # 4.5s
system.time(b <- x %chin% y)        # 1.7s
identical(a,b)

# Different example with more unique strings ...
u = as.character(as.hexmode(1:(N/10)))
y = sample(u,N,replace=TRUE)
x = sample(u,N,replace=TRUE)
system.time(a <- match(x,y))        # 46s
system.time(b <- chmatch(x,y))      # 16s
identical(a,b)

```

copy

Copy an entire object

Description

In `data.table` parlance, all `set*` functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory, which is as large as one column. The only other `data.table` operator that modifies input by reference is `:=`. Check out the See Also section below for other `set*` function `data.table` provides.

`copy()` copies an entire object.

Usage

```
copy(x)
```

Arguments

`x` A `data.table`.

Details

`data.table` provides functions that operate on objects *by reference* and minimise full object copies as much as possible. Still, it might be necessary in some situations to work on an object's copy which can be done using `DT.copy <- copy(DT)`. It may also be sometimes useful before `:=` (or `set`) is used to subassign to a column by reference.

A `copy()` may be required when doing `dt_names = names(DT)`. Due to R's *copy-on-modify*, `dt_names` still points to the same location in memory as `names(DT)`. Therefore modifying `DT` *by reference* now, say by adding a new column, `dt_names` will also get updated. To avoid this, one has to *explicitly* copy: `dt_names <- copy(names(DT))`.

Value

Returns a copy of the object.

See Also

[data.table](#), [setkey](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [set :=](#), [setorder](#), [setattr](#), [setnames](#)

Examples

```
# Type 'example(copy)' to run these at prompt and browse output

DT = data.table(A=5:1,B=letters[5:1])
DT2 = copy(DT)           # explicit copy() needed to copy a data.table
setkey(DT2,B)           # now just changes DT2
identical(DT,DT2)       # FALSE. DT and DT2 are now different tables

DT = data.table(A=5:1, B=letters[5:1])
nm1 = names(DT)
nm2 = copy(names(DT))
DT[, C := 1L]
identical(nm1, names(DT)) # TRUE, nm1 is also changed by reference
identical(nm2, names(DT)) # FALSE, nm2 is a copy, different from names(DT)
```

data.table-class *S4 Definition for data.table*

Description

A data.table can be used in S4 class definitions as either a parent class (inside a contains argument of setClass), or as an element of an S4 slot.

Author(s)

Steve Lianoglou

See Also

[data.table](#)

Examples

```
## Used in inheritance.
setClass('SuperDataTable', contains='data.table')

## Used in a slot
setClass('Something', representation(x='character', dt='data.table'))
x <- new("Something", x='check', dt=data.table(a=1:10, b=11:20))
```

 datatable.optimize *Optimisations in data.table*

Description

data.table internally optimises certain expressions in order to improve performance. This section briefly summarises those optimisations.

Note that there's no additional input needed from the user to take advantage of these optimisations. They happen automatically.

Run the code under the *example* section to get a feel for the performance benefits from these optimisations.

Details

data.table reads the global option datatable.optimize to figure out what level of optimisation is required. The default value Inf activates *all* available optimisations.

At optimisation level ≥ 1 , i.e., `getOption("datatable.optimize") ≥ 1` , these are the optimisations:

- The base function `order` is internally replaced with data.table's *fast ordering*. That is, `DT[order(...)]` gets internally optimised to `DT[forder(...)]`.
- The expression `DT[, lapply(.SD, fun), by=.]` gets optimised to `DT[, list(fun(a), fun(b), ...), by=.]` where `a, b, ...` are columns in `.SD`. This improves performance tremendously.
- Similarly, the expression `DT[, c(.N, lapply(.SD, fun)), by=.]` gets optimised to `DT[, list(.N, fun(a), fun(b), ...)]`. `.N` is just for example here.
- `base::mean` function is internally optimised to use data.table's `fastmean` function. `mean()` from base is an S3 generic and gets slow with many groups.

At optimisation level ≥ 2 , i.e., `getOption("datatable.optimize") ≥ 2` , additional optimisations are implemented on top of the optimisations already shown above.

- Expressions in `j` which contain only the functions `min`, `max`, `mean`, `median`, `var`, `sd`, `sum`, `prod`, `first`, `last`, ... (for example, `DT[, list(mean(x), median(x), min(y), max(y)), by=z]`), they are very effectively optimised using what we call *GForce*. These functions are automatically replaced with a corresponding GForce version with pattern `g*`, e.g., `prod` becomes `gprod`.
Normally, once the rows belonging to each group are identified, the values corresponding to the group are gathered and the `j`-expression is evaluated. This can be improved by computing the result directly without having to gather the values or evaluating the expression for each group (which can get costly with large number of groups) by implementing it specifically for a particular function. As a result, it is extremely fast.
- In addition to all the functions above, `'N'` is also optimised to use GForce, when used separately or when combined with the functions mentioned above. Note further that GForce-optimized functions must be used separately, i.e., code like `DT[, max(x) - min(x), by=z]` will *not* currently be optimized to use `gmax`, `gmin`.

- Expressions of the form `DT[i, j, by]` are also optimised when `i` is a *subset* operation and `j` is any/all of the functions discussed above.

At optimisation level ≥ 3 , i.e., `getOption("datatable.optimize") ≥ 3` , additional optimisations for subsets in `i` are implemented on top of the optimisations already shown above. Subsetting operations are - if possible - translated into joins to make use of blazing fast binary search using indices and keys. The following queries are optimized:

- Supported operators: `==`, `%in%`. Non-equi operators (`>`, `<`, etc.) are not supported yet because non-equi joins are slower than vector based subsets.
- Queries on multiple columns are supported, if the connector is `'&'`, e.g. `DT[x == 2 & y == 3]` is supported, but `DT[x == 2 | y == 3]` is not.
- Optimization will currently be turned off when doing subset when cross product of elements provided to filter on exceeds $> 1e4$. This most likely happens if multiple `%in%`, or `%chin%` queries are combined, e.g. `DT[x %in% 1:100 & y %in% 1:200]` will not be optimized since $100 * 200 = 2e4 > 1e4$.
- Queries with multiple criteria on one column are *not* supported, e.g. `DT[x == 2 & x %in% c(2,5)]` is not supported.
- Queries with non-missing `j` are supported, e.g. `DT[x == 3 & y == 5, .(new = x-y)]` or `DT[x == 3 & y == 5, new := x-y]` are supported. Also extends to queries using `with = FALSE`.
- "notjoin" queries, i.e. queries that start with `!`, are only supported if there are no `&` connections, e.g. `DT[!x==3]` is supported, but `DT[!x==3 & y == 4]` is not.

If in doubt, whether your query benefits from optimization, call it with the `verbose = TRUE` argument. You should see "Optimized subsetting...".

Auto indexing: In case a query is optimized, but no appropriate key or index is found, `data.table` automatically creates an *index* on the first run. Any successive subsets on the same column then reuse this index to *binary search* (instead of *vector scan*) and is therefore fast. Auto indexing can be switched off with the global option `options(datatable.auto.index = FALSE)`. To switch off using existing indices set global option `options(datatable.use.index = FALSE)`.

See Also

[setNumericRounding](#), [getNumericRounding](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# Generate a big data.table with a relatively many columns
set.seed(1L)
DT = lapply(1:20, function(x) sample(c(-100:100), 5e6L, TRUE))
setDT(DT)[, id := sample(1e5, 5e6, TRUE)]
print(object.size(DT), units="Mb") # 400MB, not huge, but will do

# 'order' optimisation
options(datatable.optimize = 1L) # optimisation 'on'
system.time(ans1 <- DT[order(id)])
options(datatable.optimize = 0L) # optimisation 'off'
```

```

system.time(ans2 <- DT[order(id)])
identical(ans1, ans2)

# optimisation of 'lapply(.SD, fun)'
options(datatable.optimize = 1L) # optimisation 'on'
system.time(ans1 <- DT[, lapply(.SD, min), by=id])
options(datatable.optimize = 0L) # optimisation 'off'
system.time(ans2 <- DT[, lapply(.SD, min), by=id])
identical(ans1, ans2)

# optimisation of 'mean'
options(datatable.optimize = 1L) # optimisation 'on'
system.time(ans1 <- DT[, lapply(.SD, mean), by=id])
system.time(ans2 <- DT[, lapply(.SD, base::mean), by=id])
identical(ans1, ans2)

# optimisation of 'c(.N, lapply(.SD, ))'
options(datatable.optimize = 1L) # optimisation 'on'
system.time(ans1 <- DT[, c(.N, lapply(.SD, min)), by=id])
options(datatable.optimize = 0L) # optimisation 'off'
system.time(ans2 <- DT[, c(N=.N, lapply(.SD, min)), by=id])
identical(ans1, ans2)

# GForce
options(datatable.optimize = 2L) # optimisation 'on'
system.time(ans1 <- DT[, lapply(.SD, median), by=id])
system.time(ans2 <- DT[, lapply(.SD, function(x) as.numeric(stats::median(x))), by=id])
identical(ans1, ans2)

# optimized subsets
options(datatable.optimize = 2L)
system.time(ans1 <- DT[id == 100L]) # vector scan
system.time(ans2 <- DT[id == 100L]) # vector scan
system.time(DT[id %in% 100:500]) # vector scan

options(datatable.optimize = 3L)
system.time(ans1 <- DT[id == 100L]) # index + binary search subset
system.time(ans2 <- DT[id == 100L]) # only binary search subset
system.time(DT[id %in% 100:500]) # only binary search subset again

## End(Not run)

```

dcast.data.table

Fast dcast for data.table

Description

dcast.data.table is a much faster version of reshape2::dcast, but for data.tables. More importantly, it is capable of handling very large data quite efficiently in terms of memory usage in comparison to reshape2::dcast.

From 1.9.6, dcast is implemented as an S3 generic in data.table. To melt or cast data.tables, it is not necessary to load reshape2 any more. If you have load reshape2, do so before loading data.table to prevent unwanted masking.

NEW: dcast.data.table can now cast multiple value.var columns and also accepts multiple functions to fun.aggregate. See Examples for more.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
dcast(data, formula, fun.aggregate = NULL, sep = "_",
      ..., margins = NULL, subset = NULL, fill = NULL,
      drop = TRUE, value.var = guess(data),
      verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose"))
```

Arguments

data	A data.table.
formula	A formula of the form LHS ~ RHS to cast, see Details.
fun.aggregate	Should the data be aggregated before casting? If the formula doesn't identify a single observation for each cell, then aggregation defaults to length with a message. NEW: it is possible to provide a list of functions to fun.aggregate. See Examples.
sep	Character vector of length 1, indicating the separating character in variable names generated during casting. Default is _ for backwards compatibility.
...	Any other arguments that may be passed to the aggregating function.
margins	Not implemented yet. Should take variable names to compute margins on. A value of TRUE would compute all margins.
subset	Specified if casting should be done on a subset of the data. Ex: subset = .(col1 <= 5) or subset = .(variable != "January").
fill	Value with which to fill missing cells. If fun.aggregate is present, takes the value by applying the function on a 0-length vector.
drop	FALSE will cast by including all missing combinations. NEW: Following #1512 , c(FALSE, TRUE) will only include all missing combinations of formula LHS. And c(TRUE, FALSE) will only include all missing combinations of formula RHS. See Examples.
value.var	Name of the column whose values will be filled to cast. Function 'guess()' tries to, well, guess this column automatically, if none is provided. NEW: it is now possible to cast multiple value.var columns simultaneously. See Examples.
verbose	Not used yet. May be dropped in the future or used to provide informative messages through the console.

Details

The cast formula takes the form LHS ~ RHS, ex: `var1 + var2 ~ var3`. The order of entries in the formula is essential. There are two special variables: `.` and `...`. `.` represents no variable; `...` represents all variables not otherwise mentioned in formula; see Examples.

`dcast` also allows `value.var` columns of type `list`.

When variable combinations in formula doesn't identify a unique value in a cell, `fun.aggregate` will have to be specified, which defaults to `length` if unspecified. The aggregating function should take a vector as input and return a single value (or a list of length one) as output. In cases where `value.var` is a list, the function should be able to handle a list input and provide a single value or list of length one as output.

If the formula's LHS contains the same column more than once, ex: `dcast(DT, x+x~ y)`, then the answer will have duplicate names. In those cases, the duplicate names are renamed using `make.unique` so that key can be set without issues.

Names for columns that are being cast are generated in the same order (separated by an underscore, `_`) from the (unique) values in each column mentioned in the formula RHS.

From v1.9.4, `dcast` tries to preserve attributes wherever possible.

NEW: From v1.9.6, it is possible to cast multiple `value.var` columns and also cast by providing multiple `fun.aggregate` functions. Multiple `fun.aggregate` functions should be provided as a list, for e.g., `list(mean, sum, function(x) paste(x, collapse=""))`. `value.var` can be either a character vector or list of length=1, or a list of length equal to `length(fun.aggregate)`. When `value.var` is a character vector or a list of length 1, each function mentioned under `fun.aggregate` is applied to every column specified under `value.var` column. When `value.var` is a list of length equal to `length(fun.aggregate)` each element of `fun.aggregate` is applied to each element of `value.var` column.

Value

A keyed `data.table` that has been cast. The key columns are equal to the variables in the formula LHS in the same order.

See Also

[melt.data.table](#), [rowid](#), <https://cran.r-project.org/package=reshape>

Examples

```
require(data.table)
names(ChickWeight) <- tolower(names(ChickWeight))
DT <- melt(as.data.table(ChickWeight), id=2:4) # calls melt.data.table

# dcast is a S3 method in data.table from v1.9.6
dcast(DT, time ~ variable, fun=mean)
dcast(DT, diet ~ variable, fun=mean)
dcast(DT, diet+chick ~ time, drop=FALSE)
dcast(DT, diet+chick ~ time, drop=FALSE, fill=0)

# using subset
dcast(DT, chick ~ time, fun=mean, subset=.(time < 10 & chick < 20))
```

```

# drop argument, #1512
DT <- data.table(v1 = c(1.1, 1.1, 1.1, 2.2, 2.2, 2.2),
                v2 = factor(c(1L, 1L, 1L, 3L, 3L, 3L), levels=1:3),
                v3 = factor(c(2L, 3L, 5L, 1L, 2L, 6L), levels=1:6),
                v4 = c(3L, 2L, 2L, 5L, 4L, 3L))

# drop=TRUE
dcast(DT, v1 + v2 ~ v3) # default is drop=TRUE
dcast(DT, v1 + v2 ~ v3, drop=FALSE) # all missing combinations of both LHS and RHS
dcast(DT, v1 + v2 ~ v3, drop=c(FALSE, TRUE)) # all missing combinations of only LHS
dcast(DT, v1 + v2 ~ v3, drop=c(TRUE, FALSE)) # all missing combinations of only RHS

# using . and ...
DT <- data.table(v1 = rep(1:2, each = 6),
                v2 = rep(rep(1:3, 2), each = 2),
                v3 = rep(1:2, 6),
                v4 = rnorm(6))
dcast(DT, ... ~ v3, value.var = "v4") #same as v1 + v2 ~ v3, value.var = "v4"
dcast(DT, v1 + v2 + v3 ~ ., value.var = "v4")

## for each combination of (v1, v2), add up all values of v4
dcast(DT, v1 + v2 ~ ., value.var = "v4", fun.aggregate = sum)

## Not run:
# benchmark against reshape2's dcast, minimum of 3 runs
set.seed(45)
DT <- data.table(aa=sample(1e4, 1e6, TRUE),
                bb=sample(1e3, 1e6, TRUE),
                cc = sample(letters, 1e6, TRUE), dd=runif(1e6))
system.time(dcast(DT, aa ~ cc, fun=sum)) # 0.12 seconds
system.time(dcast(DT, bb ~ cc, fun=mean)) # 0.04 seconds
# reshape2::dcast takes 31 seconds
system.time(dcast(DT, aa + bb ~ cc, fun=sum)) # 1.2 seconds

## End(Not run)

# NEW FEATURE - multiple value.var and multiple fun.aggregate
DT = data.table(x=sample(5,20,TRUE), y=sample(2,20,TRUE),
                z=sample(letters[1:2], 20,TRUE), d1 = runif(20), d2=1L)
# multiple value.var
dcast(DT, x + y ~ z, fun=sum, value.var=c("d1","d2"))
# multiple fun.aggregate
dcast(DT, x + y ~ z, fun=list(sum, mean), value.var="d1")
# multiple fun.agg and value.var (all combinations)
dcast(DT, x + y ~ z, fun=list(sum, mean), value.var=c("d1", "d2"))
# multiple fun.agg and value.var (one-to-one)
dcast(DT, x + y ~ z, fun=list(sum, mean), value.var=list("d1", "d2"))

```

Description

`duplicated` returns a logical vector indicating which rows of a `data.table` are duplicates of a row with smaller subscripts.

`unique` returns a `data.table` with duplicated rows removed, by columns specified in `by` argument. When no `by` then duplicated rows by all columns are removed.

`anyDuplicated` returns the *index* `i` of the first duplicated entry if there is one, and 0 otherwise.

`uniqueN` is equivalent to `length(unique(x))` when `x` is an atomic vector, and `nrow(unique(x))` when `x` is a `data.frame` or `data.table`. The number of unique rows are computed directly without materialising the intermediate unique `data.table` and is therefore faster and memory efficient.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
duplicated(x, incomparables=FALSE, fromLast=FALSE, by=seq_along(x), ...)

## S3 method for class 'data.table'
unique(x, incomparables=FALSE, fromLast=FALSE, by=seq_along(x), ...)

## S3 method for class 'data.table'
anyDuplicated(x, incomparables=FALSE, fromLast=FALSE, by=seq_along(x), ...)

uniqueN(x, by=if (is.list(x)) seq_along(x) else NULL, na.rm=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A <code>data.table</code> . <code>uniqueN</code> accepts atomic vectors and <code>data.frames</code> as well.
<code>...</code>	Not used at this time.
<code>incomparables</code>	Not used. Here for S3 method consistency.
<code>fromLast</code>	logical indicating if duplication should be considered from the reverse side, i.e., the last (or rightmost) of identical elements would correspond to <code>duplicated = FALSE</code> .
<code>by</code>	character or integer vector indicating which combinations of columns from <code>x</code> to use for uniqueness checks. By default all columns are being used. That was changed recently for consistency to <code>data.frame</code> methods. In version < 1.9.8 default was <code>key(x)</code> .
<code>na.rm</code>	Logical (default is <code>FALSE</code>). Should missing values (including <code>NaN</code>) be removed?

Details

Because `data.tables` are usually sorted by key, tests for duplication are especially quick when only the keyed columns are considered. Unlike `unique.data.frame`, `paste` is not used to ensure equality of floating point data. It is instead accomplished directly and is therefore quite fast. `data.table` provides `setNumericRounding` to handle cases where limitations in floating point representation is undesirable.

v1.9.4 introduces `anyDuplicated` method for `data.tables` and is similar to base in functionality. It also implements the logical argument `fromLast` for all three functions, with default value `FALSE`.

Value

duplicated returns a logical vector of length nrow(x) indicating which rows are duplicates.

unique returns a data table with duplicated rows removed.

anyDuplicated returns a integer value with the index of first duplicate. If none exists, 0L is returned.

uniqueN returns the number of unique elements in the vector, data.frame or data.table.

See Also

[setNumericRounding](#), [data.table](#), [duplicated](#), [unique](#), [all.equal](#), [fsetdiff](#), [funion](#), [fintersect](#), [fsetequal](#)

Examples

```
DT <- data.table(A = rep(1:3, each=4), B = rep(1:4, each=3),
                 C = rep(1:2, 6), key = "A,B")
duplicated(DT)
unique(DT)

duplicated(DT, by="B")
unique(DT, by="B")

duplicated(DT, by=c("A", "C"))
unique(DT, by=c("A", "C"))

DT = data.table(a=c(2L,1L,2L), b=c(1L,2L,1L)) # no key
unique(DT) # rows 1 and 2 (row 3 is a duplicate of row 1)

DT = data.table(a=c(3.142, 4.2, 4.2, 3.142, 1.223, 1.223), b=rep(1,6))
unique(DT) # rows 1,2 and 5

DT = data.table(a=tan(pi*(1/4 + 1:10)), b=rep(1,10)) # example from ?all.equal
length(unique(DT$a)) # 10 strictly unique floating point values
all.equal(DT$a,rep(1,10)) # TRUE, all within tolerance of 1.0
DT[,which.min(a)] # row 10, the strictly smallest floating point value
identical(unique(DT),DT[1]) # TRUE, stable within tolerance
identical(unique(DT),DT[10]) # FALSE

# fromLast=TRUE
DT <- data.table(A = rep(1:3, each=4), B = rep(1:4, each=3),
                 C = rep(1:2, 6), key = "A,B")
duplicated(DT, by="B", fromLast=TRUE)
unique(DT, by="B", fromLast=TRUE)

# anyDuplicated
anyDuplicated(DT, by=c("A", "B")) # 3L
any(duplicated(DT, by=c("A", "B"))) # TRUE

# uniqueN, unique rows on key columns
uniqueN(DT, by = key(DT))
```

```
# uniqueN, unique rows on all columns
uniqueN(DT)
# uniqueN while grouped by "A"
DT[, .(uN=uniqueN(.SD)), by=A]

# uniqueN's na.rm=TRUE
x = sample(c(NA, NaN, runif(3)), 10, TRUE)
uniqueN(x, na.rm = FALSE) # 5, default
uniqueN(x, na.rm=TRUE) # 3
```

first

First item of an object

Description

Returns the first item of a vector or list, or the first row of a `data.frame` or `data.table`.

Usage

```
first(x, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A vector, list, <code>data.frame</code> or <code>data.table</code> . Otherwise the S3 method of <code>xts::first</code> is deployed.
<code>...</code>	Not applicable for <code>data.table::first</code> . Any arguments here are passed through to <code>xts::first</code> .

Value

If no other arguments are supplied it depends on the type of `x`. The first item of a vector or list. The first row of a `data.frame` or `data.table`. Otherwise, whatever `xts::first` returns (if package `xts` has been loaded, otherwise a helpful error).

If any argument is supplied in addition to `x` (such as `n` or `keep` in `xts::first`), regardless of `x`'s type, then `xts::first` is called if `xts` has been loaded, otherwise a helpful error.

See Also

[NROW](#), [head](#), [tail](#), [last](#)

Examples

```
first(1:5) # [1] 1
x = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
first(x) # same as x[1]
```

foverlaps

*Fast overlap joins***Description**

A *fast* binary-search based *overlap join* of two `data.tables`. This is very much inspired by `findOverlaps` function from the Bioconductor package `IRanges` (see link below under See Also).

Usually, `x` is a very large `data.table` with small interval ranges, and `y` is much smaller *keyed* `data.table` with relatively larger interval spans. For a usage in genomics, see the examples section.

NOTE: This is still under development, meaning it is stable, but some features are yet to be implemented. Also, some arguments and/or the function name itself could be changed.

Usage

```
foverlaps(x, y, by.x = if (!is.null(key(x))) key(x) else key(y),
  by.y = key(y), maxgap = 0L, minoverlap = 1L,
  type = c("any", "within", "start", "end", "equal"),
  mult = c("all", "first", "last"),
  nomatch = getOption("datatable.nomatch"),
  which = FALSE, verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose"))
```

Arguments

<code>x, y</code>	<code>data.tables</code> . <code>y</code> needs to be keyed, but not necessarily <code>x</code> . See examples.
<code>by.x, by.y</code>	A vector of column names (or numbers) to compute the overlap joins. The last two columns in both <code>by.x</code> and <code>by.y</code> should each correspond to the start and end interval columns in <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> respectively. And the start column should always be \leq end column. If <code>x</code> is keyed, <code>by.x</code> is equal to <code>key(x)</code> , else <code>key(y)</code> . <code>by.y</code> defaults to <code>key(y)</code> .
<code>maxgap</code>	It should be a non-negative integer value, ≥ 0 . Default is 0 (no gap). For intervals $[a, b]$ and $[c, d]$, where $a \leq b$ and $c \leq d$, when $c > b$ or $d < a$, the two intervals don't overlap. If the gap between these two intervals is \leq <code>maxgap</code> , these two intervals are considered as overlapping. Note: This is not yet implemented.
<code>minoverlap</code>	It should be a positive integer value, > 0 . Default is 1. For intervals $[a, b]$ and $[c, d]$, where $a \leq b$ and $c \leq d$, when $c \leq b$ and $d \geq a$, the two intervals overlap. If the length of overlap between these two intervals is \geq <code>minoverlap</code> , then these two intervals are considered to be overlapping. Note: This is not yet implemented.
<code>type</code>	Default value is <code>any</code> . Allowed values are <code>any</code> , <code>within</code> , <code>start</code> , <code>end</code> and <code>equal</code> . Note: <code>equal</code> is not yet implemented. But this is just a normal join of the type <code>y[x, ...]</code> , unless you require also using <code>maxgap</code> and <code>minoverlap</code> arguments. The types shown here are identical in functionality to the function <code>findOverlaps</code> in the bioconductor package <code>IRanges</code> . Let $[a, b]$ and $[c, d]$ be intervals in <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> with $a \leq b$ and $c \leq d$. For <code>type="start"</code> , the intervals overlap iff $a == c$.

For type="end", the intervals overlap iff $b == d$. For type="within", the intervals overlap iff $a >= c$ and $b <= d$. For type="equal", the intervals overlap iff $a == c$ and $b == d$. For type="any", as long as $c <= b$ and $d >= a$, they overlap. In addition to these requirements, they also have to satisfy the minoverlap argument as explained above.

NB: maxgap argument, when > 0 , is to be interpreted according to the type of the overlap. This will be updated once maxgap is implemented.

mult	When multiple rows in y match to the row in x, mult=. controls which values are returned - "all" (default), "first" or "last".
nomatch	When a row (with interval say, [a,b]) in x has no match in y, nomatch=NA (default) means NA is returned for y's non-by.y columns for that row of x. nomatch=NULL (or \emptyset for backward compatibility) means no rows will be returned for that row of x. Use options(datatable.nomatch=NULL) to change the default value (used when nomatch is not supplied).
which	When TRUE, if mult="all" returns a two column data.table with the first column corresponding to x's row number and the second corresponding to y's. when nomatch=NA, no matches return NA for y, and if nomatch=NULL, those rows where no match is found will be skipped; if mult="first" or "last", a vector of length equal to the number of rows in x is returned, with no-match entries filled with NA or \emptyset corresponding to the nomatch argument. Default is FALSE, which returns a join with the rows in y.
verbose	TRUE turns on status and information messages to the console. Turn this on by default using options(datatable.verbose=TRUE). The quantity and types of verbosity may be expanded in future.

Details

Very briefly, foverlaps() collapses the two-column interval in y to one-column of *unique* values to generate a lookup table, and then performs the join depending on the type of overlap, using the already available binary search feature of data.table. The time (and space) required to generate the lookup is therefore proportional to the number of unique values present in the interval columns of y when combined together.

Overlap joins takes advantage of the fact that y is sorted to speed-up finding overlaps. Therefore y has to be keyed (see ?setkey) prior to running foverlaps(). A key on x is not necessary, although it *might* speed things further. The columns in by.x argument should correspond to the columns specified in by.y. The last two columns should be the *interval* columns in both by.x and by.y. The first interval column in by.x should always be \leq the second interval column in by.x, and likewise for by.y. The [storage.mode](#) of the interval columns must be either double or integer. It therefore works with bit64::integer64 type as well.

The lookup generation step could be quite time consuming if the number of unique values in y are too large (ex: in the order of tens of millions). There might be improvements possible by constructing lookup using RLE, which is a pending feature request. However most scenarios will not have too many unique values for y.

Value

A new data.table by joining over the interval columns (along with other additional identifier columns) specified in by.x and by.y.

NB: When which=TRUE: a) mult="first" or "last" returns a vector of matching row numbers in y, and b) when mult="all" returns a data.table with two columns with the first containing row numbers of x and the second column with corresponding row numbers of y.

nomatch=NA or 0 also influences whether non-matching rows are returned or not, as explained above.

See Also

[data.table](http://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/IRanges.html), <http://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/html/IRanges.html>, [setNumericRounding](#)

Examples

```
require(data.table)
## simple example:
x = data.table(start=c(5,31,22,16), end=c(8,50,25,18), val2 = 7:10)
y = data.table(start=c(10, 20, 30), end=c(15, 35, 45), val1 = 1:3)
setkey(y, start, end)
foverlaps(x, y, type="any", which=TRUE) ## return overlap indices
foverlaps(x, y, type="any") ## return overlap join
foverlaps(x, y, type="any", mult="first") ## returns only first match
foverlaps(x, y, type="within") ## matches iff 'x' is within 'y'

## with extra identifiers (ex: in genomics)
x = data.table(chr=c("Chr1", "Chr1", "Chr2", "Chr2", "Chr2"),
               start=c(5,10, 1, 25, 50), end=c(11,20,4,52,60))
y = data.table(chr=c("Chr1", "Chr1", "Chr2"), start=c(1, 15,1),
               end=c(4, 18, 55), geneid=letters[1:3])
setkey(y, chr, start, end)
foverlaps(x, y, type="any", which=TRUE)
foverlaps(x, y, type="any")
foverlaps(x, y, type="any", nomatch=NULL)
foverlaps(x, y, type="within", which=TRUE)
foverlaps(x, y, type="within")
foverlaps(x, y, type="start")

## x and y have different column names - specify by.x
x = data.table(seq=c("Chr1", "Chr1", "Chr2", "Chr2", "Chr2"),
               start=c(5,10, 1, 25, 50), end=c(11,20,4,52,60))
y = data.table(chr=c("Chr1", "Chr1", "Chr2"), start=c(1, 15,1),
               end=c(4, 18, 55), geneid=letters[1:3])
setkey(y, chr, start, end)
foverlaps(x, y, by.x=c("seq", "start", "end"),
           type="any", which=TRUE)
```


Description

Similar to `base::rank` but *much faster*. And it accepts vectors, lists, `data.frames` or `data.tables` as input. In addition to the `ties.method` possibilities provided by `base::rank`, it also provides `ties.method="dense"`.

`bit64::integer64` type is also supported.

Usage

```
frank(x, ..., na.last=TRUE, ties.method=c("average",
  "first", "random", "max", "min", "dense"))
```

```
frankv(x, cols=seq_along(x), order=1L, na.last=TRUE,
  ties.method=c("average", "first", "random",
  "max", "min", "dense"))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A vector, or list with all its elements identical in length or <code>data.frame</code> or <code>data.table</code> .
<code>...</code>	Only for lists, <code>data.frames</code> and <code>data.tables</code> . The columns to calculate ranks based on. Do not quote column names. If <code>...</code> is missing, all columns are considered by default. To sort by a column in descending order prefix "-", e.g., <code>frank(x, a, -b, c)</code> . <code>-b</code> works when <code>b</code> is of type character as well.
<code>cols</code>	A character vector of column names (or numbers) of <code>x</code> , for which to obtain ranks.
<code>order</code>	An integer vector with only possible values of 1 and -1, corresponding to ascending and descending order. The length of <code>order</code> must be either 1 or equal to that of <code>cols</code> . If <code>length(order) == 1</code> , it is recycled to <code>length(cols)</code> .
<code>na.last</code>	Control treatment of NAs. If <code>TRUE</code> , missing values in the data are put last; if <code>FALSE</code> , they are put first; if <code>NA</code> , they are removed; if "keep" they are kept with rank NA.
<code>ties.method</code>	A character string specifying how ties are treated, see <code>Details</code> .

Details

To be consistent with other `data.table` operations, NAs are considered identical to other NAs (and NaNs to other NaNs), unlike `base::rank`. Therefore, for `na.last=TRUE` and `na.last=FALSE`, NAs (and NaNs) are given identical ranks, unlike `rank`.

`frank` is not limited to vectors. It accepts `data.tables` (and lists and `data.frames`) as well. It accepts unquoted column names (with names preceded with a - sign for descending order, even on character vectors), for e.g., `frank(DT, a, -b, c, ties.method="first")` where `a,b,c` are columns in `DT`. The equivalent in `frankv` is the `order` argument.

In addition to the `ties.method` values possible using `base::rank`, it also provides another additional argument "`dense`" which returns the ranks without any gaps in the ranking. See examples.

Value

A numeric vector of length equal to `NROW(x)` (unless `na.last = NA`, when missing values are removed). The vector is of integer type unless `ties.method = "average"` when it is of double type (irrespective of ties).

See Also

[data.table](#), [setkey](#), [setorder](#)

Examples

```
# on vectors
x = c(4, 1, 4, NA, 1, NA, 4)
# NAs are considered identical (unlike base R)
# default is average
frankv(x) # na.last=TRUE
frankv(x, na.last=FALSE)

# ties.method = min
frankv(x, ties.method="min")
# ties.method = dense
frankv(x, ties.method="dense")

# on data.table
DT = data.table(x, y=c(1, 1, 1, 0, NA, 0, 2))
frankv(DT, cols="x") # same as frankv(x) from before
frankv(DT, cols="x", na.last="keep")
frankv(DT, cols="x", ties.method="dense", na.last=NA)
frank(DT, x, ties.method="dense", na.last=NA) # equivalent of above using frank
# on both columns
frankv(DT, ties.method="first", na.last="keep")
frank(DT, ties.method="first", na.last="keep") # equivalent of above using frank

# order argument
frank(DT, x, -y, ties.method="first")
# equivalent of above using frankv
frankv(DT, order=c(1L, -1L), ties.method="first")
```

fread

Fast and friendly file finagler

Description

Similar to `read.table` but faster and more convenient. All controls such as `sep`, `colClasses` and `nrows` are automatically detected. `bit64::integer64` types are also detected and read directly without needing to read as character before converting.

Dates are read as character currently. They can be converted afterwards using the excellent `fasttime` package or standard base functions.

'fread' is for *regular* delimited files; i.e., where every row has the same number of columns. In future, secondary separator (sep2) may be specified *within* each column. Such columns will be read as `list` where each cell is itself a vector.

Usage

```
fread(input, file, text, cmd, sep="auto", sep2="auto", dec=".", quote="\\"",
      nrows=Inf, header="auto",
      na.strings=getOption("datatable.na.strings", "NA"), # due to change to ""; see NEWS
      stringsAsFactors=FALSE, verbose=getOption("datatable.verbose", FALSE),
      skip="__auto__", select=NULL, drop=NULL, colClasses=NULL,
      integer64=getOption("datatable.integer64", "integer64"),
      col.names,
      check.names=FALSE, encoding="unknown",
      strip.white=TRUE, fill=FALSE, blank.lines.skip=FALSE,
      key=NULL, index=NULL,
      showProgress=getOption("datatable.showProgress", interactive()),
      data.table=getOption("datatable.fread.datatable", TRUE),
      nThread=getDTthreads(verbose),
      logical01=getOption("datatable.logical01", FALSE), # due to change to TRUE; see NEWS
      autostart=NA
    )
```

Arguments

input	A single character string. The value is inspected and deferred to either <code>file=</code> (if no <code>\n</code> present), <code>text=</code> (if at least one <code>\n</code> is present) or <code>cmd=</code> (if no <code>\n</code> is present, at least one space is present, and it isn't a file name). Exactly one of <code>input=</code> , <code>file=</code> , <code>text=</code> , or <code>cmd=</code> should be used in the same call.
file	File name in working directory, path to file (passed through <code>path.expand</code> for convenience), or a URL starting <code>http://</code> , <code>file://</code> , etc. Compressed files ending <code>.gz</code> and <code>.bz2</code> are supported if the <code>R.utils</code> package is installed.
text	The input data itself as a character vector of one or more lines, for example as returned by <code>readLines()</code> .
cmd	A shell command that pre-processes the file; e.g. <code>fread(cmd=paste("grep", word, "filename"))</code> .
sep	The separator between columns. Defaults to the character in the set <code>[, \t ; :]</code> that separates the sample of rows into the most number of lines with the same number of fields. Use <code>NULL</code> or <code>""</code> to specify no separator; i.e. each line a single character column like <code>base::readLines</code> does.
sep2	The separator <i>within</i> columns. A <code>list</code> column will be returned where each cell is a vector of values. This is much faster using less working memory than <code>strsplit</code> afterwards or similar techniques. For each column <code>sep2</code> can be different and is the first character in the same set above <code>[, \t ; :]</code> , other than <code>sep</code> , that exists inside each field outside quoted regions in the sample. NB: <code>sep2</code> is not yet implemented.
nrows	The maximum number of rows to read. Unlike <code>read.table</code> , you do not need to set this to an estimate of the number of rows in the file for better speed because

that is already automatically determined by `fread` almost instantly using the large sample of lines. `'nrows=0'` returns the column names and typed empty columns determined by the large sample; useful for a dry run of a large file or to quickly check format consistency of a set of files before starting to read any of them.

<code>header</code>	Does the first data line contain column names? Defaults according to whether every non-empty field on the first data line is type character. If so, or <code>TRUE</code> is supplied, any empty column names are given a default name.
<code>na.strings</code>	A character vector of strings which are to be interpreted as NA values. By default, <code>","</code> for columns of all types, including type <code>'character'</code> is read as NA for consistency. <code>""</code> , is unambiguous and read as an empty string. To read <code>,NA</code> , as NA, set <code>na.strings="NA"</code> . To read <code>,</code> as blank string <code>""</code> , set <code>na.strings=NULL</code> . When they occur in the file, the strings in <code>na.strings</code> should not appear quoted since that is how the string literal <code>"NA"</code> , is distinguished from <code>,NA</code> , for example, when <code>na.strings="NA"</code> .
<code>stringsAsFactors</code>	Convert all character columns to factors?
<code>verbose</code>	Be chatty and report timings?
<code>skip</code>	If 0 (default) start on the first line and from there finds the first row with a consistent number of columns. This automatically avoids irregular header information before the column names row. <code>skip>0</code> means ignore the first skip rows manually. <code>skip="string"</code> searches for "string" in the file (e.g. a substring of the column names row) and starts on that line (inspired by <code>read.xls</code> in package <code>gdata</code>).
<code>select</code>	Vector of column names or numbers to keep, drop the rest.
<code>drop</code>	Vector of column names or numbers to drop, keep the rest.
<code>colClasses</code>	A character vector of classes (named or unnamed), as <code>read.csv</code> . Or a named list of vectors of column names or numbers, see examples. <code>colClasses</code> in <code>fread</code> is intended for rare overrides, not for routine use. <code>fread</code> will only promote a column to a higher type if <code>colClasses</code> requests it. It won't downgrade a column to a lower type since NAs would result. You have to coerce such columns afterwards yourself, if you really require data loss.
<code>integer64</code>	"integer64" (default) reads columns detected as containing integers larger than 2^{31} as type <code>bit64::integer64</code> . Alternatively, <code>"double" "numeric"</code> reads as <code>base::read.csv</code> does; i.e., possibly with loss of precision and if so silently. Or, <code>"character"</code> .
<code>dec</code>	The decimal separator as in <code>base::read.csv</code> . If not <code>."</code> (default) then usually <code>","</code> . See details.
<code>col.names</code>	A vector of optional names for the variables (columns). The default is to use the header column if present or detected, or if not <code>"V"</code> followed by the column number. This is applied after <code>check.names</code> and before <code>key</code> and <code>index</code> .
<code>check.names</code>	default is <code>FALSE</code> . If <code>TRUE</code> then the names of the variables in the <code>data.table</code> are checked to ensure that they are syntactically valid variable names. If necessary they are adjusted (by <code>make.names</code>) so that they are, and also to ensure that there are no duplicates.

encoding	default is "unknown". Other possible options are "UTF-8" and "Latin-1". Note: it is not used to re-encode the input, rather enables handling of encoded strings in their native encoding.
quote	By default ("\""), if a field starts with a double quote, fread handles embedded quotes robustly as explained under <code>Details</code> . If it fails, then another attempt is made to read the field <i>as is</i> , i.e., as if quotes are disabled. By setting <code>quote=""</code> , the field is always read as if quotes are disabled. It is not expected to ever need to pass anything other than "\" to quote; i.e., to turn it off.
strip.white	default is TRUE. Strips leading and trailing whitespaces of unquoted fields. If FALSE, only header trailing spaces are removed.
fill	logical (default is FALSE). If TRUE then in case the rows have unequal length, blank fields are implicitly filled.
blank.lines.skip	logical, default is FALSE. If TRUE blank lines in the input are ignored.
key	Character vector of one or more column names which is passed to <code>setkey</code> . It may be a single comma separated string such as <code>key="x,y,z"</code> , or a vector of names such as <code>key=c("x","y","z")</code> . Only valid when argument <code>data.table=TRUE</code> . Where applicable, this should refer to column names given in <code>col.names</code> .
index	Character vector or list of character vectors of one or more column names which is passed to <code>setindexv</code> . As with <code>key</code> , comma-separated notation like <code>index="x,y,z"</code> is accepted for convenience. Only valid when argument <code>data.table=TRUE</code> . Where applicable, this should refer to column names given in <code>col.names</code> .
showProgress	TRUE displays progress on the console if the ETA is greater than 3 seconds. It is produced in fread's C code where the very nice (but R level) <code>txtProgressBar</code> and <code>tkProgressBar</code> are not easily available.
data.table	TRUE returns a <code>data.table</code> . FALSE returns a <code>data.frame</code> . The default for this argument can be changed with <code>options(datatable.fread.datatable=FALSE)</code> .
nThread	The number of threads to use. Experiment to see what works best for your data on your hardware.
logical01	If TRUE a column containing only 0s and 1s will be read as logical, otherwise as integer.
autostart	Deprecated and ignored with warning. Please use <code>skip</code> instead.

Details

A sample of 10,000 rows is used for a very good estimate of column types. 100 contiguous rows are read from 100 equally spaced points throughout the file including the beginning, middle and the very end. This results in a better guess when a column changes type later in the file (e.g. blank at the beginning/only populated near the end, or 001 at the start but 0A0 later on). This very good type guess enables a single allocation of the correct type up front once for speed, memory efficiency and convenience of avoiding the need to set `colClasses` after an error. Even though the sample is large and jumping over the file, it is almost instant regardless of the size of the file because a lazy on-demand memory map is used. If a jump lands inside a quoted field containing newlines, each newline is tested until 5 lines are found following it with the expected number of fields. The lowest type for each column is chosen from the ordered list: logical, integer, integer64, double,

character. Rarely, the file may contain data of a higher type in rows outside the sample (referred to as an out-of-sample type exception). In this event `fread` will *automatically* reread just those columns from the beginning so that you don't have the inconvenience of having to set `colClasses` yourself; particularly helpful if you have a lot of columns. Such columns must be read from the beginning to correctly distinguish "00" from "000" when those have both been interpreted as integer 0 due to the sample but 00A occurs out of sample. Set `verbose=TRUE` to see a detailed report of the logic deployed to read your file.

There is no line length limit, not even a very large one. Since we are encouraging `list` columns (i.e. `sep2`) this has the potential to encourage longer line lengths. So the approach of scanning each line into a buffer first and then rescanning that buffer is not used. There are no buffers used in `fread`'s C code at all. The field width limit is limited by R itself: the maximum width of a character string (currently $2^{31}-1$ bytes, 2GB).

The filename extension (such as `.csv`) is irrelevant for "auto" `sep` and `sep2`. Separator detection is entirely driven by the file contents. This can be useful when loading a set of different files which may not be named consistently, or may not have the extension `.csv` despite being csv. Some datasets have been collected over many years, one file per day for example. Sometimes the file name format has changed at some point in the past or even the format of the file itself. So the idea is that you can loop `fread` through a set of files and as long as each file is regular and delimited, `fread` can read them all. Whether they all stack is another matter but at least each one is read quickly without you needing to vary `colClasses` in `read.table` or `read.csv`.

If an empty line is encountered then reading stops there with warning if any text exists after the empty line such as a footer. The first line of any text discarded is included in the warning message. Unless, it is single-column input. In that case blank lines are significant (even at the very end) and represent NA in the single column. So that `fread(fwrite(DT)) == DT`. This default behaviour can be controlled using `blank.lines.skip=TRUE|FALSE`.

Line endings: All known line endings are detected automatically: `\n` (*NIX including Mac), `\r\n` (Windows CRLF), `\r` (old Mac) and `\n\r` (just in case). There is no need to convert input files first. `fread` running on any architecture will read a file from any architecture. Both `\r` and `\n` may be embedded in character strings (including column names) provided the field is quoted.

Decimal separator and locale: `fread(...,dec=",")` should just work. `fread` uses C function `strtod` to read numeric data; e.g., `1.23` or `1,23`. `strtod` retrieves the decimal separator (`.` or `,` usually) from the locale of the R session rather than as an argument passed to the `strtod` function. So for `fread(...,dec=",")` to work, `fread` changes this (and only this) R session's locale temporarily to a locale which provides the desired decimal separator.

On Windows, "French_France.1252" is tried which should be available as standard (any locale with comma decimal separator would suffice) and on unix "fr_FR.utf8" (you may need to install this locale on unix). `fread()` is very careful to set the locale back again afterwards, even if the function fails with an error. The choice of locale is determined by `options()$datatable.fread.dec.locale`. This may be a *vector* of locale names and if so they will be tried in turn until the desired `dec` is obtained; thus allowing more than two different decimal separators to be selected. This is a new feature in v1.9.6 and is experimental. In case of problems, turn it off with `options(datatable.fread.dec.experiment=FALSE)`.

Quotes:

When `quote` is a single character,

- Spaces and other whitespace (other than `sep` and `\n`) may appear in unquoted character fields, e.g., `...,2,Joe Bloggs,3.14,...`

- When character columns are *quoted*, they must start and end with that quoting character immediately followed by `sep` or `\n`, e.g., `... , 2, "Joe Bloggs", 3.14, ...`

In essence quoting character fields are *required* only if `sep` or `\n` appears in the string value. Quoting may be used to signify that numeric data should be read as text. Unescaped quotes may be present in a quoted field, e.g., `... , 2, "Joe, "Bloggs""`, `3.14, ...`, as well as escaped quotes, e.g., `... , 2, "Joe \"`, `Bloggs\""`, `3.14, ...`

If an embedded quote is followed by the separator inside a quoted field, the embedded quotes up to that point in that field must be balanced; e.g. `... , 2, "www.blah?x="one",y="two""`, `3.14, ...`

On those fields that do not satisfy these conditions, e.g., fields with unbalanced quotes, `fread` re-attempts that field as if it isn't quoted. This is quite useful in reading files that contains fields with unbalanced quotes as well, automatically.

To read fields *as is* instead, use `quote = ""`.

File Download:

When input begins with `http://`, `https://`, `ftp://`, `ftps://`, or `file://`, `fread` detects this and *downloads* the target to a temporary file (at `tempfile()`) before proceeding to read the file as usual. Secure URLs (`ftps://` and `https://`) are downloaded with `curl::curl_download`; `ftp://` and `http://` paths are downloaded with `download.file` and `method` set to `getOption("download.file.method")`, defaulting to `"auto"`; and `file://` is downloaded with `download.file` with `method="internal"`. NB: this implies that for `file://`, even files found on the current machine will be "downloaded" (i.e., hard-copied) to a temporary file. See [download.file](#) for more details.

Value

A `data.table` by default, otherwise a `data.frame` when argument `data.table=FALSE`.

References

Background :

<https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/R-data.html>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/1727772/quickly-reading-very-large-tables-as-dataframes-in-r>
<http://www.biostat.jhsph.edu/~rpeng/docs/R-large-tables.html>
<http://www.cerebralmastication.com/2009/11/loading-big-data-into-r/>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/9061736/faster-than-scan-with-rcpp>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/415515/how-can-i-read-and-manipulate-csv-file-data-in-c>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/9352887/strategies-for-reading-in-csv-files-in-pieces>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/11782084/reading-in-large-text-files-in-r>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/45972/mmap-vs-reading-blocks>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/258091/when-should-i-use-mmap-for-file-access>
<http://stackoverflow.com/a/9818473/403310>
<http://stackoverflow.com/questions/9608950/reading-huge-files-using-memory-mapped-files>

`finagler` = "to get or achieve by guile or manipulation" <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/finagler>

See Also

[read.csv](#), [url](#), [Sys.setlocale](#), [setDTthreads](#), [fwrite](#), [bit64::integer64](#)

Examples

```

## Not run:

# Demo speed-up
n = 1e6
DT = data.table( a=sample(1:1000,n,replace=TRUE),
                 b=sample(1:1000,n,replace=TRUE),
                 c=rnorm(n),
                 d=sample(c("foo", "bar", "baz", "qux", "quux"),n,replace=TRUE),
                 e=rnorm(n),
                 f=sample(1:1000,n,replace=TRUE) )
DT[2,b:=NA_integer_]
DT[4,c:=NA_real_]
DT[3,d:=NA_character_]
DT[5,d:=""]
DT[2,e:=+Inf]
DT[3,e:=-Inf]

write.table(DT,"test.csv",sep=",",row.names=FALSE,quote=FALSE)
cat("File size (MB):", round(file.info("test.csv")$size/1024^2),"\n")
# 50 MB (1e6 rows x 6 columns)

system.time(DF1 <-read.csv("test.csv",stringsAsFactors=FALSE))
# 60 sec (first time in fresh R session)

system.time(DF1 <- read.csv("test.csv",stringsAsFactors=FALSE))
# 30 sec (immediate repeat is faster, varies)

system.time(DF2 <- read.table("test.csv",header=TRUE,sep=",",quote="",
                              stringsAsFactors=FALSE,comment.char="",nrows=n,
                              colClasses=c("integer","integer","numeric",
                                             "character","numeric","integer")))
# 10 sec (consistently). All known tricks and known nrows, see references.

require(data.table)
if(all(sapply(c("sqldf", "ff"), requireNamespace, quietly = TRUE))) {
  require(sqldf)
  require(ff)

  system.time(DT <- fread("test.csv"))
  # 3 sec (faster and friendlier)

  system.time(SQLDF <- read.csv.sql("test.csv",dbname=NULL))
  # 20 sec (friendly too, good defaults)

  system.time(FFDF <- read.csv.ffdf(file="test.csv",nrows=n))
  # 20 sec (friendly too, good defaults)

  identical(DF1,DF2)
  all.equal(as.data.table(DF1), DT)
  identical(DF1,within(SQLDF,{b<-as.integer(b);c<-as.numeric(c)}))
  identical(DF1,within(as.data.frame(FFDF),d<-as.character(d)))
}

```



```

}

# Scaling up ...
l = vector("list",10)
for (i in 1:10) l[[i]] = DT
DTbig = rbindlist(l)
tables()
write.table(DTbig,"testbig.csv",sep="," ,row.names=FALSE,quote=FALSE)
# 500MB (10 million rows x 6 columns)

system.time(DF <- read.table("testbig.csv",header=TRUE,sep="," ,
  quote="," ,stringsAsFactors=FALSE,comment.char="," ,nrows=1e7,
  colClasses=c("integer","integer","numeric",
    "character","numeric","integer")))
# 100-200 sec (varies)

system.time(DT <- fread("testbig.csv"))
# 30-40 sec

all(mapply(all.equal, DF, DT))

# Real data example (Airline data)
# http://stat-computing.org/dataexpo/2009/the-data.html

download.file("http://stat-computing.org/dataexpo/2009/2008.csv.bz2",
  destfile="2008.csv.bz2")
# 109MB (compressed)

system("bunzip2 2008.csv.bz2")
# 658MB (7,009,728 rows x 29 columns)

colClasses = sapply(read.csv("2008.csv",nrows=100),class)
# 4 character, 24 integer, 1 logical. Incorrect.

colClasses = sapply(read.csv("2008.csv",nrows=200),class)
# 5 character, 24 integer. Correct. Might have missed data only using 100 rows
# since read.table assumes colClasses is correct.

system.time(DF <- read.table("2008.csv", header=TRUE, sep="," ,
  quote="," ,stringsAsFactors=FALSE,comment.char="," ,nrows=7009730,
  colClasses=colClasses))
# 360 secs

system.time(DT <- fread("2008.csv"))
# 40 secs

table(sapply(DT,class))
# 5 character and 24 integer columns. Correct without needing to worry about colClasses
# issue above.

# Reads URLs directly :

```

```

fread("http://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/pub/datasets/csb/ch11b.dat")

# Decompresses .gz and .bz2 automatically :
fread("http://stat-computing.org/dataexpo/2009/2008.csv.bz2")

## End(Not run)

# Reads text input directly :
fread("A,B\n1,2\n3,4")

# Reads pasted input directly :
fread("A,B
1,2
3,4
")

# Finds the first data line automatically :
fread("
This is perhaps a banner line or two or ten.
A,B
1,2
3,4
")

# Detects whether column names are present automatically :
fread("
1,2
3,4
")

# Numerical precision :

DT = fread("A\n1.010203040506070809010203040506\n")
# TODO: add numerals=c("allow.loss", "warn.loss", "no.loss") from base::read.table, +"use.Rmpfr"
typeof(DT$A)=="double" # currently "allow.loss" with no option

DT = fread("A\n1.46761e-313\n") # read as 'numeric'
DT[,sprintf("%.15E",A)] # beyond what double precision can store accurately to 15 digits
# For greater accuracy use colClasses to read as character, then package Rmpfr.

# colClasses
data = "A,B,C,D\n1,3,5,7\n2,4,6,8\n"
fread(data, colClasses=c(B="character",C="character",D="character")) # as read.csv
fread(data, colClasses=list(character=c("B","C","D"))) # saves typing
fread(data, colClasses=list(character=2:4)) # same using column numbers

# drop
fread(data, colClasses=c("B"="NULL","C"="NULL")) # as read.csv
fread(data, colClasses=list(NULL=c("B","C"))) #
fread(data, drop=c("B","C")) # same but less typing, easier to read
fread(data, drop=2:3) # same using column numbers

```

```

# select
# (in read.csv you need to work out which to drop)
fread(data, select=c("A","D")) # less typing, easier to read
fread(data, select=c(1,4))      # same using column numbers

# skip blank lines
fread("a,b\n1,a\n2,b\n\n3,c\n", blank.lines.skip=TRUE)
# fill
fread("a,b\n1,a\n2\n3,c\n", fill=TRUE)
fread("a,b\n\n1,a\n2\n3,c\n\n", fill=TRUE)

# fill with skip blank lines
fread("a,b\n\n1,a\n2\n3,c\n\n", fill=TRUE, blank.lines.skip=TRUE)

# check.names usage
fread("a b,a b\n1,2\n")
fread("a b,a b\n1,2\n", check.names=TRUE) # no duplicates + syntactically valid names

```

fsort

Fast parallel sort

Description

Similar to `base::sort` but fast using parallelism. Experimental.

Usage

```
fsort(x, decreasing = FALSE, na.last = FALSE, internal=FALSE, verbose=FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A vector. Type double, currently.
<code>decreasing</code>	Decreasing order?
<code>na.last</code>	Control treatment of NAs. If TRUE, missing values in the data are put last; if FALSE, they are put first; if NA, they are removed; if "keep" they are kept with rank NA.
<code>internal</code>	Internal use only. Temporary variable. Will be removed.
<code>verbose</code>	Print tracing information.
<code>...</code>	Not sure yet. Should be consistent with base R.

Details

Process will raise error if `x` contains negative values. Unless `x` is already sorted `fsort` will redirect processing to slower single threaded *order* followed by *subset* in following cases:

- data type other than *double (numeric)*
- data having NAs
- `decreasing==FALSE`

Value

The input in sorted order.

Examples

```
x = runif(1e6)
system.time(ans1 <- sort(x, method="quick"))
system.time(ans2 <- fsort(x))
identical(ans1, ans2)
```

fwrite

Fast CSV writer

Description

As `write.csv` but much faster (e.g. 2 seconds versus 1 minute) and just as flexible. Modern machines almost surely have more than one CPU so `fwrite` uses them; on all operating systems including Linux, Mac and Windows.

This is new functionality as of Nov 2016. We may need to refine argument names and defaults.

Usage

```
fwrite(x, file = "", append = FALSE, quote = "auto",
       sep = ",", sep2 = c("","|",""),
       eol = if (.Platform$OS.type=="windows") "\r\n" else "\n",
       na = "", dec = ".", row.names = FALSE, col.names = TRUE,
       qmethod = c("double","escape"),
       logical01 = getOption("datatable.logical01", FALSE), # due to change to TRUE; see NEWS
       logicalAsInt = logical01, # deprecated
       dateTimeAs = c("ISO","squash","epoch","write.csv"),
       buffMB = 8L, nThread = getDTthreads(verbose),
       showProgress = getOption("datatable.showProgress", interactive()),
       verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose", FALSE))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	Any list of same length vectors; e.g. <code>data.frame</code> and <code>data.table</code> . If <code>matrix</code> , it gets internally coerced to <code>data.table</code> preserving col names but not row names
<code>file</code>	Output file name. <code>""</code> indicates output to the console.
<code>append</code>	If <code>TRUE</code> , the file is opened in append mode and column names (header row) are not written.
<code>quote</code>	When <code>"auto"</code> , character fields, factor fields and column names will only be surrounded by double quotes when they need to be; i.e., when the field contains the separator <code>sep</code> , a line ending <code>\n</code> , the double quote itself or (when <code>list</code> columns are present) <code>sep2[2]</code> (see <code>sep2</code> below). If <code>FALSE</code> the fields are not wrapped with quotes even if this would break the CSV due to the contents of the field.

If TRUE double quotes are always included other than around numeric fields, as `write.csv`.

<code>sep</code>	The separator between columns. Default is <code>" , "</code> .
<code>sep2</code>	For columns of type <code>list</code> where each item is an atomic vector, <code>sep2</code> controls how to separate items <i>within</i> the column. <code>sep2[1]</code> is written at the start of the output field, <code>sep2[2]</code> is placed between each item and <code>sep2[3]</code> is written at the end. <code>sep2[1]</code> and <code>sep2[3]</code> may be any length strings including empty <code>""</code> (default). <code>sep2[2]</code> must be a single character and (when <code>list</code> columns are present and therefore <code>sep2</code> is used) different from both <code>sep</code> and <code>dec</code> . The default (<code>()</code>) is chosen to visually distinguish from the default <code>sep</code> . In speaking, writing and in code comments we may refer to <code>sep2[2]</code> as simply <code>"sep2"</code> .
<code>eol</code>	Line separator. Default is <code>"\r\n"</code> for Windows and <code>"\n"</code> otherwise.
<code>na</code>	The string to use for missing values in the data. Default is a blank string <code>""</code> .
<code>dec</code>	The decimal separator, by default <code>". "</code> . See link in references. Cannot be the same as <code>sep</code> .
<code>row.names</code>	Should row names be written? For compatibility with <code>data.frame</code> and <code>write.csv</code> since <code>data.table</code> never has row names. Hence default FALSE unlike <code>write.csv</code> .
<code>col.names</code>	Should the column names (header row) be written? The default is TRUE for new files and when overwriting existing files (<code>append=FALSE</code>). Otherwise, the default is FALSE to prevent column names appearing again mid-file when stacking a set of <code>data.tables</code> or appending rows to the end of a file.
<code>qmethod</code>	A character string specifying how to deal with embedded double quote characters when quoting strings. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "escape" - the quote character (as well as the backslash character) is escaped in C style by a backslash, or • "double" (default, same as <code>write.csv</code>), in which case the double quote is doubled with another one.
<code>logical01</code>	Should logical values be written as 1 and 0 rather than "TRUE" and "FALSE"?
<code>logicalAsInt</code>	Deprecated. Old name for 'logical01'. Name change for consistency with 'fread' for which 'logicalAsInt' would not make sense.
<code>dateTimeAs</code>	How <code>Date/IDate</code> , <code>ITime</code> and <code>POSIXct</code> items are written. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "ISO" (default) - <code>2016-09-12, 18:12:16</code> and <code>2016-09-12T18:12:16.999999Z</code>. 0, 3 or 6 digits of fractional seconds are printed if and when present for convenience, regardless of any R options such as <code>digits.secs</code>. The idea being that if milli and microseconds are present then you most likely want to retain them. R's internal UTC representation is written faithfully to encourage ISO standards, stymie timezone ambiguity and for speed. An option to consider is to start R in the UTC timezone simply with <code>"\$ TZ='UTC' R"</code> at the shell (NB: it must be one or more spaces between <code>TZ='UTC'</code> and R, anything else will be silently ignored; this TZ setting applies just to that R process) or <code>Sys.setenv(TZ='UTC')</code> at the R prompt and then continue as if UTC were local time. • "squash" - <code>20160912, 181216</code> and <code>20160912181216999</code>. This option allows fast and simple extraction of <code>yyyy</code>, <code>mm</code>, <code>dd</code> and (most commonly to group

by) `yyyymm` parts using integer div and mod operations. In R for example, one line helper functions could use `%/%10000`, `%/%100%100`, `%100` and `%100` respectively. POSIXct UTC is squashed to 17 digits (including 3 digits of milliseconds always, even if `000`) which may be read comfortably as `integer64` (automatically by `fread()`).

- "epoch" - 17056, 65536 and 1473703936.999999. The underlying number of days or seconds since the relevant epoch (1970-01-01, 00:00:00 and 1970-01-01T00:00:00Z respectively), negative before that (see `?Date`). 0, 3 or 6 digits of fractional seconds are printed if and when present.
- "write.csv" - this currently affects POSIXct only. It is written as `write.csv` does by using the `as.character` method which heeds `digits.secs` and converts from R's internal UTC representation back to local time (or the "tzzone" attribute) as of that historical date. Accordingly this can be slow. All other column types (including `Date`, `IDate` and `ITime` which are independent of timezone) are written as the "ISO" option using fast C code which is already consistent with `write.csv`.

The first three options are fast due to new specialized C code. The epoch to date-part conversion uses a fast approach by Howard Hinnant (see references) using a day-of-year starting on 1 March. You should not be able to notice any difference in write speed between those three options. The date range supported for `Date` and `IDate` is [0000-03-01, 9999-12-31]. Every one of these 3,652,365 dates have been tested and compared to base R including all 2,790 leap days in this range.

This option applies to vectors of date/time in list column cells, too.

A fully flexible format string (such as `"%m/%d/%Y"`) is not supported. This is to encourage use of ISO standards and because that flexibility is not known how to make fast at C level. We may be able to support one or two more specific options if required.

<code>buffMB</code>	The buffer size (MB) per thread in the range 1 to 1024, default 8MB. Experiment to see what works best for your data on your hardware.
<code>nThread</code>	The number of threads to use. Experiment to see what works best for your data on your hardware.
<code>showProgress</code>	Display a progress meter on the console? Ignored when <code>file==""</code> .
<code>verbose</code>	Be chatty and report timings?

Details

`fwrite` began as a community contribution with [pull request #1613](#) by Otto Seiskari. This gave Matt Dowle the impetus to specialize the numeric formatting and to parallelize: <http://blog.h2o.ai/2016/04/fast-csv-writing-for-r/>. Final items were tracked in [issue #1664](#) such as automatic quoting, `bit64::integer64` support, decimal/scientific formatting exactly matching `write.csv` between `2.225074e-308` and `1.797693e+308` to 15 significant figures, `row.names`, dates (between 0000-03-01 and 9999-12-31), times and `sep2` for list columns where each cell can itself be a vector.

References

http://howardhinnant.github.io/date_algorithms.html
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Decimal_mark

See Also

[setDTthreads](#), [fread](#), [write.csv](#), [write.table](#), [bit64::integer64](#)

Examples

```
DF = data.frame(A=1:3, B=c("foo", "A,Name", "baz"))
fwrite(DF)
write.csv(DF, row.names=FALSE, quote=FALSE) # same

fwrite(DF, row.names=TRUE, quote=TRUE)
write.csv(DF) # same

DF = data.frame(A=c(2.1, -1.234e-307, pi), B=c("foo", "A,Name", "bar"))
fwrite(DF, quote='auto') # Just DF[2,2] is auto quoted
write.csv(DF, row.names=FALSE) # same numeric formatting

DT = data.table(A=c(2, 5.6, -3), B=list(1:3, c("foo", "A,Name", "bar"), round(pi*1:3, 2)))
fwrite(DT)
fwrite(DT, sep="|", sep2=c("{", ",", "}")

## Not run:

set.seed(1)
DT = as.data.table( lapply(1:10, sample,
  x=as.numeric(1:5e7), size=5e6)
  # 382MB
system.time(fwrite(DT, "/dev/shm/tmp1.csv")) # 0.8s
system.time(write.csv(DT, "/dev/shm/tmp2.csv",
  quote=FALSE, row.names=FALSE)) # 60.6s
system("diff /dev/shm/tmp1.csv /dev/shm/tmp2.csv") # identical

set.seed(1)
N = 1e7
DT = data.table(
  str1=sample(sprintf("%010d", sample(N, 1e5, replace=TRUE)), N, replace=TRUE),
  str2=sample(sprintf("%09d", sample(N, 1e5, replace=TRUE)), N, replace=TRUE),
  str3=sample(sapply(sample(2:30, 100, TRUE), function(n)
    paste0(sample(LETTERS, n, TRUE), collapse="")), N, TRUE),
  str4=sprintf("%05d", sample(sample(1e5, 50), N, TRUE)),
  num1=sample(round(rnorm(1e6, mean=6.5, sd=15), 2), N, replace=TRUE),
  num2=sample(round(rnorm(1e6, mean=6.5, sd=15), 10), N, replace=TRUE),
  str5=sample(c("Y", "N"), N, TRUE),
  str6=sample(c("M", "F"), N, TRUE),
  int1=sample(ceiling(rexp(1e6)), N, replace=TRUE),
  int2=sample(N, N, replace=TRUE)-N/2
) # 774MB
system.time(fwrite(DT, "/dev/shm/tmp1.csv")) # 1.1s
```

```

system.time(write.csv(DT,"/dev/shm/tmp2.csv",
                      row.names=FALSE, quote=FALSE))      #    63.2s
system("diff /dev/shm/tmp1.csv /dev/shm/tmp2.csv")        # identical

unlink("/dev/shm/tmp1.csv")
unlink("/dev/shm/tmp2.csv")

## End(Not run)

```

groupingsets

Grouping Set aggregation for data tables

Description

Calculate aggregates at various levels of groupings producing multiple (sub-)totals. Reflects SQLs *GROUPING SETS* operations.

Usage

```

rollup(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
rollup(x, j, by, .SDcols, id = FALSE, ...)
cube(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
cube(x, j, by, .SDcols, id = FALSE, ...)
groupingsets(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
groupingsets(x, j, by, sets, .SDcols, id = FALSE, jj, ...)

```

Arguments

x	data.table.
...	argument passed to custom user methods. Ignored for data.table methods.
j	expression passed to data.table j.
by	character column names by which we are grouping.
sets	list of character vector reflecting grouping sets, used in groupingsets for flexibility.
.SDcols	columns to be used in j expression in .SD object.
id	logical default FALSE. If TRUE it will add leading column with bit mask of grouping sets.
jj	quoted version of j argument, for convenience. When provided function will ignore j argument.

Details

All three functions `rollup`, `cube`, `groupingsets` are generic methods, `data.table` methods are provided.

Value

A `data.table` with various aggregates.

References

<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.5/static/queries-table-expressions.html#QUERIES-GROUPING-SETS>
<http://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.5/static/functions-aggregate.html#FUNCTIONS-GROUPING-TABLE>

See Also

[data.table](#), [rbindlist](#)

Examples

```
n = 24L
set.seed(25)
DT <- data.table(
  color = sample(c("green", "yellow", "red"), n, TRUE),
  year = as.Date(sample(paste0(2011:2015, "-01-01"), n, TRUE)),
  status = as.factor(sample(c("removed", "active", "inactive", "archived"), n, TRUE)),
  amount = sample(1:5, n, TRUE),
  value = sample(c(3, 3.5, 2.5, 2), n, TRUE)
)

# rollup
rollup(DT, j = sum(value), by = c("color", "year", "status")) # default id=FALSE
rollup(DT, j = sum(value), by = c("color", "year", "status"), id=TRUE)
rollup(DT, j = lapply(.SD, sum), by = c("color", "year", "status"), id=TRUE, .SDcols="value")
rollup(DT, j = c(list(count=.N), lapply(.SD, sum)), by = c("color", "year", "status"), id=TRUE)

# cube
cube(DT, j = sum(value), by = c("color", "year", "status"), id=TRUE)
cube(DT, j = lapply(.SD, sum), by = c("color", "year", "status"), id=TRUE, .SDcols="value")
cube(DT, j = c(list(count=.N), lapply(.SD, sum)), by = c("color", "year", "status"), id=TRUE)

# groupingsets
groupingsets(DT, j = c(list(count=.N), lapply(.SD, sum)), by = c("color", "year", "status"),
  sets = list("color", c("year", "status"), character()), id=TRUE)
```

IDateTime

Integer based date class

Description

Date and time classes with integer storage for fast sorting and grouping. Still experimental!

Usage

```

as.IDate(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
as.IDate(x, ..., tz = attr(x, "tzone"))
## S3 method for class 'Date'
as.IDate(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'IDate'
as.Date(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'IDate'
as.POSIXct(x, tz = "UTC", time = 0, ...)
## S3 method for class 'IDate'
round(x, digits = c("weeks", "months", "quarters", "years"), ...)

as.ITime(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
as.ITime(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'POSIXlt'
as.ITime(x, ms = 'truncate', ...)

## S3 method for class 'ITime'
as.POSIXct(x, tz = "UTC", date = Sys.Date(), ...)
## S3 method for class 'ITime'
as.character(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'ITime'
format(x, ...)

IDateTime(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
IDateTime(x, ...)

second(x)
minute(x)
hour(x)
yday(x)
yday(x)
wday(x)
mday(x)
week(x)
isoweek(x)
month(x)

```

```
quarter(x)
year(x)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	an object
<code>...</code>	arguments to be passed to or from other methods. For <code>as.IDate.default</code> , arguments are passed to <code>as.Date</code> . For <code>as.ITime.default</code> , arguments are passed to <code>as.POSIXlt</code> .
<code>tz</code>	time zone (see <code>strptime</code>).
<code>date</code>	date object convertible with <code>as.IDate</code> .
<code>time</code>	time-of-day object convertible with <code>as.ITime</code> .
<code>digits</code>	really units; one of the units listed for rounding. May be abbreviated.
<code>ms</code>	For <code>as.ITime</code> methods, what should be done with sub-second fractions of input? Valid values are 'truncate' (floor), 'nearest' (round), and 'ceil' (ceiling). See Details.

Details

`IDate` is a date class derived from `Date`. It has the same internal representation as the `Date` class, except the storage mode is integer. `IDate` is a relatively simple wrapper, and it should work in almost all situations as a replacement for `Date`.

Functions that use `Date` objects generally work for `IDate` objects. This package provides specific methods for `IDate` objects for `mean`, `cut`, `seq`, `c`, `rep`, and `split` to return an `IDate` object.

`ITime` is a time-of-day class stored as the integer number of seconds in the day. `as.ITime` does not allow days longer than 24 hours. Because `ITime` is stored in seconds, you can add it to a `POSIXct` object, but you should not add it to a `Date` object.

Conversions to and from `Date` and `POSIXct` formats are provided.

`ITime` does not account for time zones. When converting `ITime` and `IDate` to `POSIXct` with `as.POSIXct`, a time zone may be specified.

Inputs like '2018-05-15 12:34:56.789' are ambiguous from the perspective of an `ITime` object – the method of coercion of the 789 milliseconds is controlled by the `ms` argument to relevant methods. The default behavior (`ms = 'truncate'`) is to use `as.integer`, which has the effect of truncating anything after the decimal. Alternatives are to round to the nearest integer (`ms = 'nearest'`) or to round up (`ms = 'ceil'`).

In `as.POSIXct` methods for `ITime` and `IDate`, the second argument is required to be `tz` based on the generic template, but to make converting easier, the second argument is interpreted as a date instead of a time zone if it is of type `IDate` or `ITime`. Therefore, you can use either of the following: `as.POSIXct(time, date)` or `as.POSIXct(date, time)`.

`IDateTime` takes a date-time input and returns a data table with columns `date` and `time`.

Using integer storage allows dates and/or times to be used as data table keys. With positive integers with a range less than 100,000, grouping and sorting is fast because radix sorting can be used (see `sort.list`).

Several convenience functions like `hour` and `quarter` are provided to group or extract by hour, month, and other date-time intervals. `as.POSIXlt` is also useful. For example, `as.POSIXlt(x)$mon` is the integer month. The R base convenience functions `weekdays`, `months`, and `quarters` can also be used, but these return character values, so they must be converted to factors for use with `data.table`. `isoweek` is ISO 8601-consistent.

The `round` method for `IDate`'s is useful for grouping and plotting. It can round to weeks, months, quarters, and years.

Value

For `as.IDate`, a class of `IDate` and `Date` with the date stored as the number of days since some origin.

For `as.ITime`, a class of `ITime` stored as the number of seconds in the day.

For `IDateTime`, a data table with columns `idate` and `itime` in `IDate` and `ITime` format.

`second`, `minute`, `hour`, `yday`, `wday`, `mday`, `week`, `month`, `quarter`, and `year` return integer values for second, minute, hour, day of year, day of week, day of month, week, month, quarter, and year, respectively.

These values are all taken directly from the `POSIXlt` representation of `x`, with the notable difference that while `yday`, `wday`, and `mon` are all 0-based, here they are 1-based.

Author(s)

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References

G. Grothendieck and T. Petzoldt, "Date and Time Classes in R," R News, vol. 4, no. 1, June 2004.

H. Wickham, <http://gist.github.com/10238>.

ISO 8601, <http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/iso8601.htm>

See Also

[as.Date](#), [as.POSIXct](#), [strptime](#), [DateTimeClasses](#)

Examples

```
# create IDate:
(d <- as.IDate("2001-01-01"))

# S4 coercion also works
identical(as.IDate("2001-01-01"), as("2001-01-01", "IDate"))

# create ITime:
(t <- as.ITime("10:45"))

# S4 coercion also works
identical(as.ITime("10:45"), as("10:45", "ITime"))
```

```

(t <- as.ITime("10:45:04"))

(t <- as.ITime("10:45:04", format = "%H:%M:%S"))

as.POSIXct("2001-01-01") + as.ITime("10:45")

datetime <- seq(as.POSIXct("2001-01-01"), as.POSIXct("2001-01-03"), by = "5 hour")
(af <- data.table(IDateTime(datetime), a = rep(1:2, 5), key = "a, idate, itime"))

af[, mean(a), by = "itime"]
af[, mean(a), by = list(hour = hour(itime))]
af[, mean(a), by = list(wday = factor(weekdays(idate)))]
af[, mean(a), by = list(wday = wday(idate))]

as.POSIXct(af$idate)
as.POSIXct(af$idate, time = af$itime)
as.POSIXct(af$idate, af$itime)
as.POSIXct(af$idate, time = af$itime, tz = "GMT")

as.POSIXct(af$itime, af$idate)
as.POSIXct(af$itime) # uses today's date

(seqdates <- seq(as.IDate("2001-01-01"), as.IDate("2001-08-03"), by = "3 weeks"))
round(seqdates, "months")

```

J

Creates a Join data table

Description

Creates a `data.table` to be passed in as the `i` to a `[.data.table]` join.

Usage

```

# DT[J(...)] # J() only for use inside DT[...].
SJ(...) # DT[SJ(...)]
CJ(..., sorted = TRUE, unique = FALSE) # DT[CJ(...)]

```

Arguments

<code>...</code>	Each argument is a vector. Generally each vector is the same length but if they are not then the usual silent repetition is applied.
<code>sorted</code>	logical. Should the input be sorted (ascending order)? If <code>FALSE</code> , the input order is retained.
<code>unique</code>	logical. When <code>TRUE</code> , only unique values of each vectors are used (automatically).

Details

SJ and CJ are convenience functions for creating a `data.table` in the context of a `data.table` 'query' on `x`.

`x[data.table(id)]` is the same as `x[J(id)]` but the latter is more readable. Identical alternatives are `x[list(id)]` and `x[(id)]`.

`x` must have a key when passing in a join table as the `i`. See [\[.data.table\]](#)

Value

`J` : the same result as calling `list`. `J` is a direct alias for `list` but results in clearer more readable code.

`SJ` : (S)orted (J)oin. The same value as `J()` but additionally `setkey()` is called on all the columns in the order they were passed in to `SJ`. For efficiency, to invoke a binary merge rather than a repeated binary full search for each row of `i`.

`CJ` : (C)ross (J)oin. A `data.table` is formed from the cross product of the vectors. For example, 10 ids, and 100 dates, `CJ` returns a 1000 row table containing all the dates for all the ids. It gains sorted, which by default is `TRUE` for backwards compatibility. `FALSE` retains input order.

See Also

[data.table](#), [test.data.table](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(A=5:1,B=letters[5:1])
setkey(DT,B) # re-orders table and marks it sorted.
DT[J("b")] # returns the 2nd row
DT[.( "b")] # same. Style of package plyr.
DT[list("b")] # same

# CJ usage examples
CJ(c(5,NA,1), c(1,3,2)) # sorted and keyed data.table
do.call(CJ, list(c(5,NA,1), c(1,3,2))) # same as above
CJ(c(5,NA,1), c(1,3,2), sorted=FALSE) # same order as input, unkeyed
# use for 'unique=' argument
x = c(1,1,2)
y = c(4,6,4)
CJ(x, y) # output columns are automatically named 'x' and 'y'
CJ(x, y, unique=TRUE) # unique(x) and unique(y) are computed automatically
```

last

Last item of an object

Description

Returns the last item of a vector or list, or the last row of a `data.frame` or `data.table`.

Usage

```
last(x, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A vector, list, <code>data.frame</code> or <code>data.table</code> . Otherwise the S3 method of <code>xts::last</code> is deployed.
<code>...</code>	Not applicable for <code>data.table::last</code> . Any arguments here are passed through to <code>xts::last</code> .

Value

If no other arguments are supplied it depends on the type of `x`. The last item of a vector or list. The last row of a `data.frame` or `data.table`. Otherwise, whatever `xts::last` returns (if package `xts` has been loaded, otherwise a helpful error).

If any argument is supplied in addition to `x` (such as `n` or `keep` in `xts::last`), regardless of `x`'s type, then `xts::last` is called if `xts` has been loaded, otherwise a helpful error.

See Also

[NROW](#), [head](#), [tail](#), [first](#)

Examples

```
last(1:5) # [1] 5
x = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
last(x) # same as x[5]
```

like

Convenience function for calling `regexpr`.

Description

Intended for use in `i` in `[.data.table]`.

Usage

```
like(vector, pattern)
vector %like% pattern
```

Arguments

<code>vector</code>	Either a character vector or a factor. A factor is faster.
<code>pattern</code>	Passed on to grepl .

Value

Logical vector, TRUE for items that match pattern.

Note

Current implementation does not make use of sorted keys.

See Also

[data.table](#), [grepl](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(Name=c("Mary", "George", "Martha"), Salary=c(2,3,4))
DT[Name %like% "^Mar"]
```

melt.data.table	<i>Fast melt for data.table</i>
-----------------	---------------------------------

Description

An S3 method for melting `data.tables` written in C for speed and memory efficiency. Since v1.9.6, `melt.data.table` allows melting into multiple columns simultaneously.

It is not necessary to load `reshape2` any more. But if you have to, then load `reshape2` package *before* loading `data.table`.

Usage

```
## fast melt a data.table
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
melt(data, id.vars, measure.vars,
      variable.name = "variable", value.name = "value",
      ..., na.rm = FALSE, variable.factor = TRUE,
      value.factor = FALSE,
      verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose"))
```

Arguments

<code>data</code>	A <code>data.table</code> object to melt.
<code>id.vars</code>	vector of id variables. Can be integer (corresponding id column numbers) or character (id column names) vector. If missing, all non-measure columns will be assigned to it. If integer, must be positive; see Details.
<code>measure.vars</code>	Measure variables for melting. Can be missing, vector, list, or pattern-based. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When missing, <code>measure.vars</code> will become all columns outside <code>id.vars</code>. • Vector can be integer (implying column numbers) or character (column names).

- `list` is a generalization of the vector version – each element of the list (which should be integer or character as above) will become a melted column.
- Pattern-based column matching can be achieved with the regular expression-based `patterns` syntax; multiple patterns will produce multiple columns.

For convenience/clarity in the case of multiple melted columns, resulting column names can be supplied as names to the elements `measure.vars` (in the `list` and `patterns` usages). See also Examples.

<code>variable.name</code>	name for the measured variable names column. The default name is 'variable'.
<code>value.name</code>	name for the molten data values column(s). The default name is 'value'. Multiple names can be provided here for the case when <code>measure.vars</code> is a list, though note well that the names provided in <code>measure.vars</code> take precedence.
<code>na.rm</code>	If TRUE, NA values will be removed from the molten data.
<code>variable.factor</code>	If TRUE, the variable column will be converted to factor, else it will be a character column.
<code>value.factor</code>	If TRUE, the value column will be converted to factor, else the molten value type is left unchanged.
<code>verbose</code>	TRUE turns on status and information messages to the console. Turn this on by default using <code>options(datatable.verbose=TRUE)</code> . The quantity and types of verbosity may be expanded in future.
<code>...</code>	any other arguments to be passed to/from other methods.

Details

If `id.vars` and `measure.vars` are both missing, all non-numeric/integer/logical columns are assigned as id variables and the rest as measure variables. If only one of `id.vars` or `measure.vars` is supplied, the rest of the columns will be assigned to the other. Both `id.vars` and `measure.vars` can have the same column more than once and the same column can be both as id and measure variables.

`melt.data.table` also accepts list columns for both id and measure variables.

When all `measure.vars` are not of the same type, they'll be coerced according to the hierarchy `list > character > numeric > integer > logical`. For example, if any of the measure variables is a list, then entire value column will be coerced to a list. Note that, if the type of value column is a list, `na.rm = TRUE` will have no effect.

From version 1.9.6, `melt` gains a feature with `measure.vars` accepting a list of character or integer vectors as well to melt into multiple columns in a single function call efficiently. The function `patterns` can be used to provide regular expression patterns. When used along with `melt`, if `cols` argument is not provided, the patterns will be matched against `names(data)`, for convenience.

Attributes are preserved if all value columns are of the same type. By default, if any of the columns to be melted are of type factor, it'll be coerced to character type. This is to be compatible with `reshape2`'s `melt.data.frame`. To get a factor column, set `value.factor = TRUE`. `melt.data.table` also preserves ordered factors.

Note that, as opposed to the (undocumented) behaviour of `reshape2::melt`, `id.vars`, when specified as numbers, must be between 1 and `ncol(data)`.

Value

An unkeyed `data.table` containing the molten data.

See Also

[dcast](https://cran.r-project.org/package=reshape), <https://cran.r-project.org/package=reshape>

Examples

```
set.seed(45)
require(data.table)
DT <- data.table(
  i_1 = c(1:5, NA),
  i_2 = c(NA,6,7,8,9,10),
  f_1 = factor(sample(c(letters[1:3]), NA), 6, TRUE)),
  f_2 = factor(c("z", "a", "x", "c", "x", "x"), ordered=TRUE),
  c_1 = sample(c(letters[1:3]), NA), 6, TRUE),
  d_1 = as.Date(c(1:3,NA,4:5), origin="2013-09-01"),
  d_2 = as.Date(6:1, origin="2012-01-01"))
# add a couple of list cols
DT[, l_1 := DT[, list(c=list(rep(i_1, sample(5,1))))], by = i_1]$c]
DT[, l_2 := DT[, list(c=list(rep(c_1, sample(5,1))))], by = i_1]$c]

# id, measure as character/integer/numeric vectors
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure="f_1")
melt(DT, id=c("i_1", "i_2"), measure=3) # same as above
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=3L, value.factor=TRUE) # same, but 'value' is factor
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=3:4, value.factor=TRUE) # 'value' is *ordered* factor

# preserves attribute when types are identical, ex: Date
melt(DT, id=3:4, measure=c("d_1", "d_2"))
melt(DT, id=3:4, measure=c("i_1", "d_1")) # attribute not preserved

# on list
melt(DT, id=1, measure=c("l_1", "l_2")) # value is a list
melt(DT, id=1, measure=c("c_1", "l_1")) # c1 coerced to list

# on character
melt(DT, id=1, measure=c("c_1", "f_1")) # value is char
melt(DT, id=1, measure=c("c_1", "i_2")) # i2 coerced to char

# on na.rm=TRUE. NAs are removed efficiently, from within C
melt(DT, id=1, measure=c("c_1", "i_2"), na.rm=TRUE) # remove NA

# measure.vars can be also a list
# melt "f_1,f_2" and "d_1,d_2" simultaneously, retain 'factor' attribute
# convenient way using internal function patterns()
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=patterns("^f_", "^d_"), value.factor=TRUE)
# same as above, but provide list of columns directly by column names or indices
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=list(3:4, c("d_1", "d_2")), value.factor=TRUE)
# same as above, but provide names directly:
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=patterns(f="^f_", d="^d_"), value.factor=TRUE)
```

```
# na.rm=TRUE removes rows with NAs in any 'value' columns
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=patterns("f_", "d_"), value.factor=TRUE, na.rm=TRUE)

# return 'NA' for missing columns, 'na.rm=TRUE' ignored due to list column
melt(DT, id=1:2, measure=patterns("l_", "c_"), na.rm=TRUE)
```

merge

Merge two data.tables

Description

Fast merge of two `data.tables`. The `data.table` method behaves very similarly to that of `data.frames` except that, by default, it attempts to merge

- at first based on the shared key columns, and if there are none,
- then based on key columns of the first argument `x`, and if there are none,
- then based on the common columns between the two `data.tables`.

Set the `by`, or `by.x` and `by.y` arguments explicitly to override this default.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
merge(x, y, by = NULL, by.x = NULL, by.y = NULL, all = FALSE,
      all.x = all, all.y = all, sort = TRUE, suffixes = c(".x", ".y"), no.dups = TRUE,
      allow.cartesian=getOption("datatable.allow.cartesian"), # default FALSE
      ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x, y</code>	<code>data.tables</code> . <code>y</code> is coerced to a <code>data.table</code> if it isn't one already.
<code>by</code>	A vector of shared column names in <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> to merge on. This defaults to the shared key columns between the two tables. If <code>y</code> has no key columns, this defaults to the key of <code>x</code> .
<code>by.x, by.y</code>	Vectors of column names in <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> to merge on.
<code>all</code>	logical; <code>all = TRUE</code> is shorthand to save setting both <code>all.x = TRUE</code> and <code>all.y = TRUE</code> .
<code>all.x</code>	logical; if <code>TRUE</code> , then extra rows will be added to the output, one for each row in <code>x</code> that has no matching row in <code>y</code> . These rows will have 'NA's in those columns that are usually filled with values from <code>y</code> . The default is <code>FALSE</code> , so that only rows with data from both <code>x</code> and <code>y</code> are included in the output.
<code>all.y</code>	logical; analogous to <code>all.x</code> above.
<code>sort</code>	logical. If <code>TRUE</code> (default), the merged <code>data.table</code> is sorted by setting the key to the <code>by / by.x</code> columns. If <code>FALSE</code> , the result is not sorted.

<code>suffixes</code>	A character(2) specifying the suffixes to be used for making non-by column names unique. The suffix behaviour works in a similar fashion as the <code>merge.data.frame</code> method does.
<code>no.dups</code>	logical indicating that suffixes are also appended to non-by.y column names in y when they have the same column name as any by.x.
<code>allow.cartesian</code>	See <code>allow.cartesian</code> in [.data.table] .
<code>...</code>	Not used at this time.

Details

`merge` is a generic function in base R. It dispatches to either the `merge.data.frame` method or `merge.data.table` method depending on the class of its first argument. Note that, unlike SQL, NA is matched against NA (and NaN against NaN) while merging.

In versions \leq v1.9.4, if the specified columns in `by` were not the key (or head of the key) of `x` or `y`, then a `copy` is first re-keyed prior to performing the merge. This was less performant as well as memory inefficient. The concept of secondary keys (implemented in v1.9.4) was used to overcome this limitation from v1.9.6+. No deep copies are made any more, thereby improving performance and memory efficiency. Also, there is better control for providing the columns to merge on with the help of the newly implemented `by.x` and `by.y` arguments.

For a more data.table-centric way of merging two data.tables, see [\[.data.table\]](#); e.g., `x[y, ...]`. See FAQ 1.12 for a detailed comparison of `merge` and `x[y, ...]`.

If any column names provided by `by.x` also occur in `names(y)` but not in `by.y`, then this `data.table` method will add the suffixes to those column names. As of R v3.4.3, the `data.frame` method will not (leading to duplicate column names in the result) but a patch has been proposed (see r-devel thread [here](#)) which is looking likely to be accepted for a future version of R.

Value

A new `data.table` based on the merged data tables, and sorted by the columns set (or inferred for) the `by` argument if argument `sort` is set to `TRUE`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [as.data.table](#), [\[.data.table\]](#), [merge.data.frame](#)

Examples

```
(dt1 <- data.table(A = letters[1:10], X = 1:10, key = "A"))
(dt2 <- data.table(A = letters[5:14], Y = 1:10, key = "A"))
merge(dt1, dt2)
merge(dt1, dt2, all = TRUE)
```

```
(dt1 <- data.table(A = letters[rep(1:3, 2)], X = 1:6, key = "A"))
(dt2 <- data.table(A = letters[rep(2:4, 2)], Y = 6:1, key = "A"))
merge(dt1, dt2, allow.cartesian=TRUE)
```

```
(dt1 <- data.table(A = c(rep(1L, 5), 2L), B = letters[rep(1:3, 2)], X = 1:6, key = "A,B"))
(dt2 <- data.table(A = c(rep(1L, 5), 2L), B = letters[rep(2:4, 2)], Y = 6:1, key = "A,B"))
```

```

merge(dt1, dt2)
merge(dt1, dt2, by="B", allow.cartesian=TRUE)

# test it more:
d1 <- data.table(a=rep(1:2,each=3), b=1:6, key="a,b")
d2 <- data.table(a=0:1, bb=10:11, key="a")
d3 <- data.table(a=0:1, key="a")
d4 <- data.table(a=0:1, b=0:1, key="a,b")

merge(d1, d2)
merge(d2, d1)
merge(d1, d2, all=TRUE)
merge(d2, d1, all=TRUE)

merge(d3, d1)
merge(d1, d3)
merge(d1, d3, all=TRUE)
merge(d3, d1, all=TRUE)

merge(d1, d4)
merge(d1, d4, by="a", suffixes=c(".d1", ".d4"))
merge(d4, d1)
merge(d1, d4, all=TRUE)
merge(d4, d1, all=TRUE)

# new feature, no need to set keys anymore
set.seed(1L)
d1 <- data.table(a=sample(rep(1:3,each=2)), z=1:6)
d2 <- data.table(a=2:0, z=10:12)
merge(d1, d2, by="a")
merge(d1, d2, by="a", all=TRUE)

# new feature, using by.x and by.y arguments
setnames(d2, "a", "b")
merge(d1, d2, by.x="a", by.y="b")
merge(d1, d2, by.x="a", by.y="b", all=TRUE)
merge(d2, d1, by.x="b", by.y="a")

```

na.omit.data.table *Remove rows with missing values on columns specified*

Description

This is a `data.table` method for the S3 generic `stats::na.omit`. The internals are written in C for speed. See examples for benchmark timings.

`bit64::integer64` type is also supported.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'data.table'
na.omit(object, cols=seq_along(object), invert=FALSE, ...)

```

Arguments

object	A data.table.
cols	A vector of column names (or numbers) on which to check for missing values. Default is all the columns.
invert	logical. If FALSE omits all rows with any missing values (default). TRUE returns just those rows with missing values instead.
...	Further arguments special methods could require.

Details

The data.table method consists of an additional argument cols, which when specified looks for missing values in just those columns specified. The default value for cols is all the columns, to be consistent with the default behaviour of stats::na.omit.

It does not add the attribute na.action as stats::na.omit does.

Value

A data.table with just the rows where the specified columns have no missing value in any of them.

See Also

[data.table](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(x=c(1,NaN,NA,3), y=c(NA_integer_, 1:3), z=c("a", NA_character_, "b", "c"))
# default behaviour
na.omit(DT)
# omit rows where 'x' has a missing value
na.omit(DT, cols="x")
# omit rows where either 'x' or 'y' have missing values
na.omit(DT, cols=c("x", "y"))

## Not run:
# Timings on relatively large data
set.seed(1L)
DT = data.table(x = sample(c(1:100, NA_integer_), 5e7L, TRUE),
               y = sample(c(rnorm(100), NA), 5e7L, TRUE))
system.time(ans1 <- na.omit(DT)) ## 2.6 seconds
system.time(ans2 <- stats::na.omit.data.frame(DT)) ## 29 seconds
# identical? check each column separately, as ans2 will have additional attribute
all(sapply(1:2, function(i) identical(ans1[[i]], ans2[[i]]))) ## TRUE

## End(Not run)
```

 patterns

Obtain matching indices corresponding to patterns

Description

`patterns` returns the matching indices in the argument `cols` corresponding to the regular expression patterns provided. The patterns must be supported by `grep`.

From v1.9.6, `melt.data.table` has an enhanced functionality in which `measure.vars` argument can accept a *list of column names* and melt them into separate columns. See the `Efficient reshaping using data.tables` vignette linked below to learn more.

Usage

```
patterns(..., cols=character(0))
```

Arguments

`...` A set of regular expression patterns.
`cols` A character vector of names to which each pattern is matched.

See Also

`melt`, <https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/wiki/Getting-started>

Examples

```
DT = data.table(x1 = 1:5, x2 = 6:10, y1 = letters[1:5], y2 = letters[6:10])
# melt all columns that begin with 'x' & 'y', respectively, into separate columns
melt(DT, measure.vars = patterns("^x", "^y", cols=names(DT)))
# when used with melt, 'cols' is implicitly assumed to be names of input
# data.table, if not provided.
melt(DT, measure.vars = patterns("^x", "^y"))
```

 print.data.table

data.table Printing Options

Description

`print.data.table` extends the functionalities of `print.data.frame`.

Key enhancements include automatic output compression of many observations and concise column-wise class summary.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
print(x,
      topn=getOption("datatable.print.topn"),          # default: 5
      nrows=getOption("datatable.print.nrows"),        # default: 100
      class=getOption("datatable.print.class"),        # default: FALSE
      row.names=getOption("datatable.print.rownames"), # default: TRUE
      col.names=getOption("datatable.print.colnames"), # default: "auto"
      print.keys=getOption("datatable.print.keys"),    # default: FALSE
      quote=FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

x	A data.table.
topn	The number of rows to be printed from the beginning and end of tables with more than nrows rows.
nrows	The number of rows which will be printed before truncation is enforced.
class	If TRUE, the resulting output will include above each column its storage class (or a self-evident abbreviation thereof).
row.names	If TRUE, row indices will be printed alongside x.
col.names	One of three flavours for controlling the display of column names in output. "auto" includes column names above the data, as well as below the table if nrow(x) > 20. "top" excludes this lower register when applicable, and "none" suppresses column names altogether (as well as column classes if class = TRUE).
print.keys	If TRUE, any key and/or index currently assigned to x will be printed prior to the preview of the data.
quote	If TRUE, all output will appear in quotes, as in print.default.
...	Other arguments ultimately passed to format.

Details

By default, with an eye to the typically large number of observations in a codedata.table, only the beginning and end of the object are displayed (specifically, head(x, topn) and tail(x, topn) are displayed unless nrow(x) < nrows, in which case all rows will print).

See Also

[print.default](#)

Examples

```
#output compression
DT <- data.table(a = 1:1000)
print(DT, nrows = 100, topn = 4)

#`quote` can be used to identify whitespace
DT <- data.table(blanks = c(" 12", " 34"),
```



```

      noblanks = c("12", "34"))
print(DT, quote = TRUE)

#`class` provides handy column type summaries at a glance
DT <- data.table(a = vector("integer", 3),
                 b = vector("complex", 3),
                 c = as.IDate(paste0("2016-02-0", 1:3)))
print(DT, class = TRUE)

#`row.names` can be eliminated to save space
DT <- data.table(a = 1:3)
print(DT, row.names = FALSE)

#`print.keys` can alert which columns are currently keys
DT <- data.table(a=1:3, b=4:6, c=7:9, key="b,a")
setindexv(DT, c("a", "b"))
setindexv(DT, "a")
print(DT, print.keys=TRUE)

```

rbindlist

Makes one data.table from a list of many

Description

Same as `do.call("rbind", l)` on `data.frames`, but much faster. See DETAILS for more.

Usage

```

rbindlist(l, use.names=fill, fill=FALSE, idcol=NULL)
# rbind(..., use.names=TRUE, fill=FALSE, idcol=NULL)

```

Arguments

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| <code>l</code> | A list containing <code>data.table</code> , <code>data.frame</code> or <code>list</code> objects. At least one of the inputs should have column names set. ... is the same but you pass the objects by name separately. |
| <code>use.names</code> | If TRUE items will be bound by matching column names. By default FALSE for <code>rbindlist</code> (for backwards compatibility) and TRUE for <code>rbind</code> (consistency with base). Columns with duplicate names are bound in the order of occurrence, similar to base. When TRUE, at least one item of the input list has to have non-null column names. |
| <code>fill</code> | If TRUE fills missing columns with NAs. By default FALSE. When TRUE, <code>use.names</code> has to be TRUE, and all items of the input list has to have non-null column names. |
| <code>idcol</code> | Generates an index column. Default (NULL) is not to. If <code>idcol=TRUE</code> then the column is auto named <code>.id</code> . Alternatively the column name can be directly provided, e.g., <code>idcol = "id"</code> .
If input is a named list, ids are generated using them, else using integer vector from 1 to length of input list. See examples. |

Details

Each item of `l` can be a `data.table`, `data.frame` or `list`, including `NULL` (skipped) or an empty object (0 rows). `rbindlist` is most useful when there are a variable number of (potentially many) objects to stack, such as returned by `lapply(fileNames, fread)`. `rbind` however is most useful to stack two or three objects which you know in advance. `...` should contain at least one `data.table` for `rbind(...)` to call the fast method and return a `data.table`, whereas `rbindlist(l)` always returns a `data.table` even when stacking a plain list with a `data.frame`, for example.

In versions $\leq v1.9.2$, each item for `rbindlist` should have the same number of columns as the first non empty item. `rbind.data.table` gained a `fill` argument to fill missing columns with `NA` in `v1.9.2`, which allowed for `rbind(...)` binding unequal number of columns.

In version $> v1.9.2$, these functionalities were extended to `rbindlist` (and written entirely in C for speed). `rbindlist` has `use.names` argument, which is set to `FALSE` by default for backwards compatibility. It also contains `fill` argument as well and can bind unequal columns when set to `TRUE`.

With these changes, the only difference between `rbind(...)` and `rbindlist(l)` is their *default argument* `use.names`.

If column `i` of input items do not all have the same type; e.g, a `data.table` may be bound with a list or a column is factor while others are character types, they are coerced to the highest type (`SEXPTYPE`).

Note that any additional attributes that might exist on individual items of the input list would not be preserved in the result.

Value

An unkeyed `data.table` containing a concatenation of all the items passed in.

See Also

[data.table](#), [split.data.table](#)

Examples

```
# default case
DT1 = data.table(A=1:3,B=letters[1:3])
DT2 = data.table(A=4:5,B=letters[4:5])
l = list(DT1,DT2)
rbindlist(l)

# bind correctly by names
DT1 = data.table(A=1:3,B=letters[1:3])
DT2 = data.table(B=letters[4:5],A=4:5)
l = list(DT1,DT2)
rbindlist(l, use.names=TRUE)

# fill missing columns, and match by col names
DT1 = data.table(A=1:3,B=letters[1:3])
DT2 = data.table(B=letters[4:5],C=factor(1:2))
l = list(DT1,DT2)
```

```

rbindlist(l, use.names=TRUE, fill=TRUE)

# generate index column, auto generates indices
rbindlist(l, use.names=TRUE, fill=TRUE, idcol=TRUE)
# let's name the list
setattr(l, 'names', c("a", "b"))
rbindlist(l, use.names=TRUE, fill=TRUE, idcol="ID")

```

rleid	<i>Generate run-length type group id</i>
-------	--

Description

A convenience function for generating a *run-length* type *id* column to be used in grouping operations. It accepts atomic vectors, lists, data.frames or data.tables as input.

Usage

```

rleid(..., prefix=NULL)
rleidv(x, cols=seq_along(x), prefix=NULL)

```

Arguments

x	A vector, list, data.frame or data.table.
...	A sequence of numeric, integer64, character or logical vectors, all of same length. For interactive use.
cols	Only meaningful for lists, data.frames or data.tables. A character vector of column names (or numbers) of x.
prefix	Either NULL (default) or a character vector of length=1 which is prefixed to the row ids, returning a character vector (instead of an integer vector).

Details

At times aggregation (or grouping) operations need to be performed where consecutive runs of identical values should belong to the same group (See [rle](#)). The use for such a function has come up repeatedly on StackOverflow, see the [See Also](#) section. This function allows to generate "run-length" groups directly.

rleid is designed for interactive use and accepts a sequence of vectors as arguments. For programming, rleidv might be more useful.

Value

When prefix = NULL, an integer vector with same length as NROW(x), else a character vector with the value in prefix prefixed to the ids obtained.

See Also

`data.table`, `rowid`, <http://stackoverflow.com/q/21421047/559784>

Examples

```
DT = data.table(grp=rep(c("A", "B", "C", "A", "B"), c(2,2,3,1,2)), value=1:10)
rleid(DT$grp) # get run-length ids
rleidv(DT, "grp") # same as above

rleid(DT$grp, prefix="grp") # prefix with 'grp'

# get sum of value over run-length groups
DT[, sum(value), by=(grp, rleid(grp))]
DT[, sum(value), by=(grp, rleid(grp, prefix="grp"))]
```

 roll

Rolling functions

Description

Fast rolling functions to calculate aggregates on sliding window. Function name and arguments are experimental.

Usage

```
frollmean(x, n, fill=NA, algo=c("fast", "exact"), align=c("right",
  "left", "center"), na.rm=FALSE, hasNA=NA, adaptive=FALSE,
  verbose=getOption("datatable.verbose"))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	vector, list, data.frame or data.table of numeric columns.
<code>n</code>	integer vector, for adaptive rolling function also list of integer vectors, rolling window size.
<code>fill</code>	numeric, value to pad by. Defaults to NA.
<code>algo</code>	character, default "fast". When set to "exact", then slower algorithm is used. It suffers less from floating point rounding error, performs extra pass to adjust rounding error correction and carefully handles all non-finite values. If available it will use multiple cores. See details for more information.
<code>align</code>	character, define if rolling window covers preceding rows ("right"), following rows ("left") or centered ("center"). Defaults to "right".
<code>na.rm</code>	logical. Should missing values be removed when calculating window? Defaults to FALSE. For details on handling other non-finite values, see details below.
<code>hasNA</code>	logical. If it is known that x contains NA then setting to TRUE will speed up. Defaults to NA.

adaptive	logical, should adaptive rolling function be calculated, default FALSE. See details below.
verbose	logical, default <code>getOption("datatable.verbose")</code> , TRUE turns on status and information messages to the console, it also disable parallel processing.

Details

`froll*` functions accepts vectors, lists, `data.frames` or `data.tables`. They always return a list except when the input is a vector and `length(n)==1` in which case a vector is returned, for convenience. Thus rolling functions can be used conveniently within `data.table` syntax.

Argument `n` allows multiple values to apply rolling functions on multiple window sizes. If `adaptive=TRUE`, then it expects a list. Each list element must be integer vector of window sizes corresponding to every single observation in each column.

When `algo="fast"` is used then any `NaN`, `+Inf`, `-Inf` is treated as `NA`. Setting `algo="exact"` will make rolling functions to use compute-intensive algorithm that suffers less from floating point rounding error. It will additionally make extra pass to perform floating point error correction. It also handles `NaN`, `+Inf`, `-Inf` consistently to base R.

Adaptive rolling functions are special cases where for each single observation has own corresponding rolling window width. Due to the logic of adaptive rolling functions, following restrictions apply:

- align only "right".
- if list of vectors is passed to `x`, then all list vectors must have equal length.

When multiple columns or multiple windows width are provided, then they are run in parallel. Eventually nested parallelism occurs when `algo="exact"`, see examples.

Value

A list except when the input is a vector and `length(n)==1` in which case a vector is returned.

Note

Users coming from most popular package for rolling functions `zoo` might expect following differences in `data.table` implementation.

- rolling function will always return result of the same length as input.
- `fill` defaults to `NA`.
- `fill` accepts only constant values. It does not support for `na.locf` or other functions.
- align defaults to "right".
- `na.rm` is respected, and other functions are not needed when input contains `NA`.
- integers are always coerced to double.
- when `adaptive=FALSE` (default), then `n` must be a numeric vector. List is not accepted.
- when `adaptive=TRUE`, then `n` must be vector of length equal to `nrow(x)`, or list of such vectors.
- partial window feature is not supported, although it can be accomplished by using `adaptive=TRUE`, see examples.

Be aware that rolling functions operates on the physical order of input. If the intent is to roll values in a vector by a logical window, for example an hour, or a day, one has to ensure that there are no gaps in input. For details see [issue #3241](#).

References

[Round-off error](#)

See Also

[shift](#), [data.table](#)

Examples

```
d = as.data.table(list(1:6/2, 3:8/4))
# rollmean of single vector and single window
frollmean(d[, V1], 3)
# multiple columns at once
frollmean(d, 3)
# multiple windows at once
frollmean(d[, .(V1)], c(3, 4))
# multiple columns and multiple windows at once
frollmean(d, c(3, 4))
## three calls above will use multiple cores when available

# partial window using adaptive rolling function
an = function(n, len) c(seq.int(n), rep(n, len-n))
n = an(3, nrow(d))
frollmean(d, n, adaptive=TRUE)

# performance vs exactness
set.seed(108)
x = sample(c(rnorm(1e3, 1e6, 5e5), 5e9, 5e-9))
n = 15
ma = function(x, n, na.rm=FALSE) {
  ans = rep(NA_real_, nx<-length(x))
  for (i in n:nx) ans[i] = mean(x[(i-n+1):i], na.rm=na.rm)
  ans
}
fastma = function(x, n, na.rm) {
  if (!missing(na.rm)) stop("NAs are unsupported, wrongly propagated by cumsum")
  cs = cumsum(x)
  scs = shift(cs, n)
  scs[n] = 0
  as.double((cs-scs)/n)
}
system.time(ans1<-ma(x, n))
system.time(ans2<-fastma(x, n))
system.time(ans3<-frollmean(x, n, algo="exact")) # parallel using openmp again
system.time(ans4<-frollmean(x, n))
anserr = list(
  froll_exact_f = ans4-ans1,
```

```

    froll_exact_t = ans3-ans1,
    fastma = ans2-ans1
  )
  errs = sapply(lapply(anserr, abs), sum, na.rm=TRUE)
  sapply(errs, format, scientific=FALSE) # roundoff

```

rowid	<i>Generate unique row ids within each group</i>
-------	--

Description

Convenience functions for generating a unique row ids within each group. It accepts atomic vectors, lists, data.frames or data.tables as input.

rowid is intended for interactive use, particularly along with the function dcast to generate unique ids directly in the formula.

rowidv(DT, cols=c("x", "y")) is equivalent to column N in the code DT[, N := seq_len(.N), by=c("x", "y")].

See examples for more.

Usage

```

rowid(..., prefix=NULL)
rowidv(x, cols=seq_along(x), prefix=NULL)

```

Arguments

x	A vector, list, data.frame or data.table.
...	A sequence of numeric, integer64, character or logical vectors, all of same length. For interactive use.
cols	Only meaningful for lists, data.frames or data.tables. A character vector of column names (or numbers) of x.
prefix	Either NULL (default) or a character vector of length=1 which is prefixed to the row ids, returning a character vector (instead of an integer vector).

Value

When prefix = NULL, an integer vector with same length as NROW(x), else a character vector with the value in prefix prefixed to the ids obtained.

See Also

[dcast.data.table](#), [rleid](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(x=c(20,10,10,30,30,20), y=c("a", "a", "a", "b", "b", "b"), z=1:6)

rowid(DT$x) # 1,1,2,1,2,2
rowidv(DT, cols="x") # same as above

rowid(DT$x, prefix="group") # prefixed with 'group'

rowid(DT$x, DT$y) # 1,1,2,1,2,1
rowidv(DT, cols=c("x","y")) # same as above
DT[, .(N=seq_len(.N)), by=(x,y)]$N # same as above

# convenient usage with dcast
dcast(DT, x ~ rowid(x, prefix="group"), value.var="z")
#   x group1 group2
# 1: 10     2     3
# 2: 20     1     6
# 3: 30     4     5
```

 setattr

Set attributes of objects by reference

Description

In `data.table`, all `set*` functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory which is as large as one column. The only other `data.table` operator that modifies input by reference is `:=`. Check out the [See Also](#) section below for other `set*` function that `data.table` provides.

Usage

```
setattr(x,name,value)
setnames(x,old,new,skip_absent=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	<code>setnames</code> accepts <code>data.frame</code> and <code>data.table</code> . <code>setattr</code> accepts any input; e.g, list, columns of a <code>data.frame</code> or <code>data.table</code> .
<code>name</code>	The character attribute name.
<code>value</code>	The value to assign to the attribute or <code>NULL</code> removes the attribute, if present.
<code>old</code>	When <code>new</code> is provided, character names or numeric positions of column names to change. When <code>new</code> is not provided, the new column names, which must be the same length as the number of columns. See examples.
<code>new</code>	Optional. New column names, must be the same length as columns provided to <code>old</code> argument.
<code>skip_absent</code>	Skip items in <code>old</code> that are missing (i.e. <code>absent</code>) in <code>'names(x)'</code> . Default <code>FALSE</code> halts with error if any are missing.

Details

setnames operates on `data.table` and `data.frame` not other types like `list` and `vector`. It can be used to change names *by name* with built-in checks and warnings (e.g., if any old names are missing or appear more than once).

setattr is a more general function that allows setting of any attribute to an object *by reference*.

A very welcome change in R 3.1+ was that `'names<-'` and `'colnames<-'` no longer copy the *entire* object as they used to (up to 4 times), see examples below. They now take a shallow copy. The `'set*'` functions in `data.table` are still useful because they don't even take a shallow copy. This allows changing names and attributes of a (usually very large) `data.table` in the global environment *from within functions*. Like a database.

Value

The input is modified by reference, and returned (invisibly) so it can be used in compound statements; e.g., `setnames(DT,"V1", "Y")[, .N, by=Y]`. If you require a copy, take a copy first (using `DT2=copy(DT)`). See `?copy`.

Note that `setattr` is also in package `bit`. Both packages merely expose R's internal `setAttrib` function at C level but differ in return value. `bit::setattr` returns `NULL` (invisibly) to remind you the function is used for its side effect. `data.table::setattr` returns the changed object (invisibly) for use in compound statements.

See Also

[data.table](#), [setkey](#), [setorder](#), [setcolorder](#), [set](#), [:=](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [copy](#)

Examples

```
DT <- data.table(a = 1, b = 2, d = 3)

old <- c("a", "b", "c", "d")
new <- c("A", "B", "C", "D")

setnames(DT, old, new, skip_absent = TRUE) # skips old[3] because "c" is not a column name of DT

DF = data.frame(a=1:2,b=3:4) # base data.frame to demo copies and syntax
if (capabilities()["profmem"]) # usually memory profiling is available but just in case
  tracemem(DF)
colnames(DF)[1] <- "A" # 4 shallow copies (R >= 3.1, was 4 deep copies before)
names(DF)[1] <- "A" # 3 shallow copies
names(DF) <- c("A", "b") # 1 shallow copy
`names<-`(DF,c("A","b")) # 1 shallow copy

DT = data.table(a=1:2,b=3:4,c=5:6) # compare to data.table
if (capabilities()["profmem"])
  tracemem(DT) # by reference, no deep or shallow copies
setnames(DT,"b","B") # by name, no match() needed (warning if "b" is missing)
setnames(DT,3,"C") # by position with warning if 3 > ncol(DT)
setnames(DT,2:3,c("D","E")) # multiple
setnames(DT,c("a","E"),c("A","F")) # multiple by name (warning if either "a" or "E" is missing)
```

```

setnames(DT,c("X","Y","Z"))      # replace all (length of names must be == ncol(DT))

DT <- data.table(x = 1:3, y = 4:6, z = 7:9)
setnames(DT, -2, c("a", "b"))    # NEW FR #1443, allows -ve indices in 'old' argument

DT = data.table(a=1:3, b=4:6)
f = function(...) {
  # ...
  setattr(DT,"myFlag",TRUE) # by reference
  # ...
  localDT = copy(DT)
  setattr(localDT,"myFlag2",TRUE)
  # ...
  invisible()
}
f()
attr(DT,"myFlag") # TRUE
attr(DT,"myFlag2") # NULL

```

setcolororder

Fast column reordering of a data.table by reference

Description

In `data.table` parlance, all `set*` functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory, which is as large as one column. The only other `data.table` operator that modifies input by reference is `:=`. Check out the See Also section below for other `set*` function `data.table` provides.

`setcolororder` reorders the columns of `data.table`, *by reference*, to the new order provided.

Usage

```
setcolororder(x, neworder=key(x))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A <code>data.table</code> .
<code>neworder</code>	Character vector of the new column name ordering. May also be column numbers. If <code>length(neworder) < length(x)</code> , the specified columns are moved in order to the "front" of <code>x</code> . By default, <code>setcolororder</code> without a specified <code>neworder</code> moves the key columns in order to the "front" of <code>x</code> .

Details

To reorder `data.table` columns, the idiomatic way is to use `setcolororder(x, neworder)`, instead of doing `x <- x[, neworder, with=FALSE]`. This is because the latter makes an entire copy of the `data.table`, which may be unnecessary in most situations. `setcolororder` also allows column numbers instead of names for `neworder` argument, although we recommend using names as a good programming practice.

Value

The input is modified by reference, and returned (invisibly) so it can be used in compound statements. If you require a copy, take a copy first (using `DT2 = copy(DT)`). See `?copy`.

See Also

[setkey](#), [setorder](#), [setattr](#), [setnames](#), [set](#), [:=](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [copy](#), [getNumericRounding](#), [setNumericRounding](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(45L)
DT = data.table(A=sample(3, 10, TRUE),
               B=sample(letters[1:3], 10, TRUE), C=sample(10))

setcolorder(DT, c("C", "A", "B"))

#incomplete specification
setcolorder(DT, "A")
```

setDF

Coerce a data.table to data.frame by reference

Description

In `data.table` parlance, all `set*` functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory, which is as large as one column. The only other `data.table` operator that modifies input by reference is `:=`. Check out the `See Also` section below for other `set*` function `data.table` provides.

A helper function to convert a `data.table` or `list` of equal length to `data.frame` by reference.

Usage

```
setDF(x, rownames=NULL)
```

Arguments

`x` A `data.table`, `data.frame` or `list` of equal length.
`rownames` A character vector to assign as the row names of `x`.

Details

All `data.table` attributes including any keys of the input `data.table` are stripped off.

When using `rownames`, recall that the row names of a `data.frame` must be unique. By default, the assigned set of row names is simply the sequence `1, ..., nrow(x)` (or `length(x)` for `lists`).

Value

The input `data.table` is modified by reference to a `data.frame` and returned (invisibly). If you require a copy, take a copy first (using `DT2 = copy(DT)`). See `?copy`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [as.data.table](#), [setDT](#), [copy](#), [setkey](#), [setcolorder](#), [setattr](#), [setnames](#), [set](#), [:=](#), [setorder](#)

Examples

```
X = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
## convert 'X' to data.frame, without any copy.
setDF(X)

X = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
## idem, assigning row names
setDF(X, rownames = LETTERS[1:5])

X = list(x=1:5, y=6:10)
# X is converted to a data.frame without any copy.
setDF(X)
```

setDT

Coerce lists and data.frames to data.table by reference

Description

In `data.table` parlance, all `set*` functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory, which is as large as one column. The only other `data.table` operator that modifies input by reference is `:=`. Check out the [See Also](#) section below for other `set*` function `data.table` provides.

`setDT` converts lists (both named and unnamed) and `data.frames` to `data.tables` *by reference*. This feature was requested on [Stackoverflow](#).

Usage

```
setDT(x, keep.rownames=FALSE, key=NULL, check.names=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A named or unnamed list, <code>data.frame</code> or <code>data.table</code> .
<code>keep.rownames</code>	For <code>data.frames</code> , TRUE retains the <code>data.frame</code> 's row names under a new column <code>rn</code> .
<code>key</code>	Character vector of one or more column names which is passed to setkeyv . It may be a single comma separated string such as <code>key="x,y,z"</code> , or a vector of names such as <code>key=c("x", "y", "z")</code> .
<code>check.names</code>	Just as <code>check.names</code> in data.frame .

Details

When working on large lists or data.frames, it might be both time and memory consuming to convert them to a data.table using `as.data.table(.)`, as this will make a complete copy of the input object before to convert it to a data.table. The `setDT` function takes care of this issue by allowing to convert lists - both named and unnamed lists and data.frames *by reference* instead. That is, the input object is modified in place, no copy is being made.

Value

The input is modified by reference, and returned (invisibly) so it can be used in compound statements; e.g., `setDT(X)[, sum(B), by=A]`. If you require a copy, take a copy first (using `DT2 = copy(DT)`). See `?copy`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [as.data.table](#), [setDF](#), [copy](#), [setkey](#), [setcolorder](#), [setattr](#), [setnames](#), [set](#), [:=](#), [setorder](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(45L)
X = data.frame(A=sample(3, 10, TRUE),
              B=sample(letters[1:3], 10, TRUE),
              C=sample(10), stringsAsFactors=FALSE)

# Convert X to data.table by reference and
# get the frequency of each "A,B" combination
setDT(X)[, .N, by=.(A,B)]

# convert list to data.table
# autofill names
X = list(1:4, letters[1:4])
setDT(X)
# don't provide names
X = list(a=1:4, letters[1:4])
setDT(X, FALSE)

# setkey directly
X = list(a = 4:1, b=runif(4))
setDT(X, key="a")[]

# check.names argument
X = list(a=1:5, a=6:10)
setDT(X, check.names=TRUE)[]
```

setDTthreads	<i>Set or get number of threads that data.table should use</i>
--------------	--

Description

Set and get number of threads to be used in `data.table` functions that are parallelized with OpenMP. Default value 0 means to utilize all CPU available with an appropriate number of threads calculated by OpenMP. `getDTthreads()` returns the number of threads that will be used. This affects `data.table` only and does not change R itself or other packages using OpenMP. We have followed the advice of section 1.2.1.1 in the R-exts manual: "...or, better, for the regions in your code as part of their specification...`num_threads(nthreads)`... That way you only control your own code and not that of other OpenMP users." All the parallel region in `data.table` contain this directive. This is mandated by a `grep` in `data.table`'s quality control CRAN release procedure script.

Usage

```
setDTthreads(threads = 0, restore_after_fork = NULL)
getDTthreads(verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose", FALSE))
```

Arguments

threads	An integer ≥ 0 . Default 0 means use all CPU available and leave the operating system to multi task.
restore_after_fork	Should <code>data.table</code> be multi-threaded after a fork has completed? NULL leaves the current setting unchanged which by default is TRUE. See details below.
verbose	Display the value of some OpenMP settings, including the <code>restore_after_fork</code> internal option.

Details

`data.table` automatically switches to single threaded mode upon fork (the mechanism used by [mclapply](#) and the `foreach` package). Otherwise, nested parallelism would very likely overload your CPUs and result in much slower execution. As `data.table` becomes more parallel internally, we expect explicit user parallelism to be needed less often. The `restore_after_fork` option controls what happens after the explicit fork parallelism completes. It needs to be at C level so it is not a regular R option using `options()`. By default `data.table` will be multi-threaded again; restoring the prior setting of `getDTthreads()`. But problems have been reported in the past on Mac and Intel OpenMP libraries, whereas success has been reported on Linux. If you experience problems after fork, start a new R session and change the default behaviour by calling `setDTthreads(restore_after_fork=FALSE)` before retrying. Please raise issues on the `data.table` GitHub issues page.

Attempting to `setDTthreads()` to more than the number of logical CPUs is intended to be ineffective; i.e., `getDTthreads()` will still return the number of logical CPUs in that case. Further, there is a hard coded limit of 1024 threads (with warning when imposed) to prevent accidentally picking up the value `INT_MAX` (2 billion; i.e. unlimited) which we have seen returned by OpenMP's `omp_get_thread_limit()` in some cases.

Value

A length 1 integer. The old value is returned by `setDTthreads` so you can store that prior value and pass it to `setDTthreads()` again after the section of your code where you control the number of threads.

setkey	<i>Create key on a data table</i>
--------	-----------------------------------

Description

In `data.table` parlance, all `set*` functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory, which is as large as one column. The only other `data.table` operator that modifies input by reference is `:=`. Check out the See Also section below for other `set*` function `data.table` provides.

`setkey()` sorts a `data.table` and marks it as sorted (with an attribute `sorted`). The sorted columns are the key. The key can be any columns in any order. The columns are sorted in ascending order always. The table is changed *by reference* and is therefore very memory efficient.

`setindex()` creates an index (or indices) on provided columns. This index is simply an order of the dataset's according to the provided columns. This order is stored as a `data.table` attribute, and the dataset retains the original order in memory. See the [Secondary indices and auto indexing](#) vignette for more details.

`key()` returns the `data.table`'s key if it exists, and `NULL` if none exist.

`haskey()` returns a logical `TRUE/FALSE` depending on whether the `data.table` has a key (or not).

Usage

```
setkey(x, ..., verbose=getOption("datatable.verbose"), physical = TRUE)
setkeyv(x, cols, verbose=getOption("datatable.verbose"), physical = TRUE)
setindex(...)
setindexv(x, cols, verbose=getOption("datatable.verbose"))
key(x)
indices(x, vectors = FALSE)
haskey(x)
key(x) <- value # DEPRECATED, please use setkey or setkeyv instead.
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A <code>data.table</code> .
<code>...</code>	The columns to sort by. Do not quote the column names. If <code>...</code> is missing (i.e. <code>setkey(DT)</code>), all the columns are used. <code>NULL</code> removes the key.
<code>cols</code>	A character vector of column names. For <code>setindexv</code> , this can be a list of character vectors, in which case each element will be applied as an index.
<code>value</code>	In (deprecated) <code>key<-</code> , a character vector (only) of column names.
<code>verbose</code>	Output status and information.

physical	TRUE changes the order of the data in RAM. FALSE adds a secondary key a.k.a. index.
vectors	logical scalar default FALSE, when set to TRUE then list of character vectors is returned, each vector refers to one index.

Details

setkey reorders (or sorts) the rows of a `data.table` by the columns provided. In versions 1.9+, for integer columns, a modified version of base's counting sort is implemented, which allows negative values as well. It is extremely fast, but is limited by the range of integer values being $\leq 1e5$. If that fails, it falls back to a (fast) 4-pass radix sort for integers, implemented based on Pierre Terdiman's and Michael Herf's code (see links below). Similarly, a very fast 6-pass radix order for columns of type `double` is also implemented. This gives a speed-up of about 5-8x compared to 1.8.10 on setkey and all internal order/sort operations. Fast radix sorting is also implemented for character and `bit64::integer64` types.

The sort is *stable*; i.e., the order of ties (if any) is preserved, in both versions - $\leq 1.8.10$ and $\geq 1.9.0$.

In `data.table` versions $\leq 1.8.10$, for columns of type `integer`, the sort is attempted with the very fast "radix" method in `sort.list`. If that fails, the sort reverts to the default method in `order`. For character vectors, `data.table` takes advantage of R's internal global string cache and implements a very efficient order, also exported as `chorder`.

In v1.7.8, the `key<-` syntax was deprecated. The `<-` method copies the whole table and we know of no way to avoid that copy without a change in R itself. Please use the `set*` functions instead, which make no copy at all. `setkey` accepts unquoted column names for convenience, whilst `setkeyv` accepts one vector of column names.

The problem (for `data.table`) with the copy by `key<-` (other than being slower) is that R doesn't maintain the over allocated `truelength`, but it looks as though it has. Adding a column by reference using `:=` after a `key<-` was therefore a memory overwrite and eventually a segfault; the over allocated memory wasn't really there after `key<-`'s copy. `data.tables` now have an attribute `.internal.selfref` to catch and warn about such copies. This attribute has been implemented in a way that is friendly with `identical()` and `object.size()`.

For the same reason, please use the other `set*` functions which modify objects by reference, rather than using the `<-` operator which results in copying the entire object.

It isn't good programming practice, in general, to use column numbers rather than names. This is why `setkey` and `setkeyv` only accept column names. If you use column numbers then bugs (possibly silent) can more easily creep into your code as time progresses if changes are made elsewhere in your code; e.g., if you add, remove or reorder columns in a few months time, a `setkey` by column number will then refer to a different column, possibly returning incorrect results with no warning. (A similar concept exists in SQL, where "select * from ..." is considered poor programming style when a robust, maintainable system is required.) If you really wish to use column numbers, it is possible but deliberately a little harder; e.g., `setkeyv(DT, colnames(DT)[1:2])`.

Value

The input is modified by reference, and returned (invisibly) so it can be used in compound statements; e.g., `setkey(DT, a)[J("foo")]`. If you require a copy, take a copy first (using `DT2=copy(DT)`).

`copy()` may also sometimes be useful before `:=` is used to subassign to a column by reference. See `?copy`.

Note

Despite its name, `base::sort.list(x,method="radix")` actually invokes a *counting sort* in R, not a radix sort. See `do_radixsort` in `src/main/sort.c`. A counting sort, however, is particularly suitable for sorting integers and factors, and we like it. In fact we like it so much that `data.table` contains a counting sort algorithm for character vectors using R's internal global string cache. This is particularly fast for character vectors containing many duplicates, such as grouped data in a key column. This means that character is often preferred to factor. Factors are still fully supported, in particular ordered factors (where the levels are not in alphabetic order).

References

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Radix_sort
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counting_sort
<http://cran.at.r-project.org/web/packages/bit/index.html>
<http://stereopsis.com/radix.html>

See Also

[data.table](#), [tables](#), [J](#), [sort.list](#), [copy](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [set :=](#), [setorder](#), [setcolorder](#), [setattr](#), [setnames](#), [chorder](#), [setNumericRounding](#)

Examples

```
# Type 'example(setkey)' to run these at prompt and browse output

DT = data.table(A=5:1,B=letters[5:1])
DT # before
setkey(DT,B)           # re-orders table and marks it sorted.
DT # after
tables()               # KEY column reports the key'd columns
key(DT)
keycols = c("A","B")
setkeyv(DT,keycols)   # rather than key(DT)<-keycols (which copies entire table)

DT = data.table(A=5:1,B=letters[5:1])
DT2 = DT              # does not copy
setkey(DT2,B)        # does not copy-on-write to DT2
identical(DT,DT2)    # TRUE. DT and DT2 are two names for the same keyed table

DT = data.table(A=5:1,B=letters[5:1])
DT2 = copy(DT)       # explicit copy() needed to copy a data.table
setkey(DT2,B)        # now just changes DT2
identical(DT,DT2)    # FALSE. DT and DT2 are now different tables

DT = data.table(A=5:1,B=letters[5:1])
setindex(DT)         # set indices
setindex(DT, A)
```

```
setindex(DT, B)
indices(DT)           # get indices single vector
indices(DT, vectors = TRUE) # get indices list
```

setNumericRounding *Change or turn off numeric rounding*

Description

Change rounding to 0, 1 or 2 bytes when joining, grouping or ordering numeric (i.e. double, POSIXct) columns.

Usage

```
setNumericRounding(x)
getNumericRounding()
```

Arguments

x integer or numeric vector: 0 (default), 1 or 2 byte rounding

Details

Computers cannot represent some floating point numbers (such as 0.6) precisely, using base 2. This leads to unexpected behaviour when joining or grouping columns of type 'numeric'; i.e. 'double', see example below. In cases where this is undesirable, data.table allows rounding such data up to approximately 11 s.f. which is plenty of digits for many cases. This is achieved by rounding the last 2 bytes off the significand. Other possible values are 1 byte rounding, or no rounding (full precision, default).

It is bytes rather than bits because it is tied in with the radix sort algorithm for sorting numerics which sorts byte by byte. With the default rounding of 0 bytes, at most 8 passes are needed. With rounding of 2 bytes, at most 6 passes are needed (and therefore might be a tad faster).

For large numbers (integers > 2³¹), we recommend using bit64::integer64, even though the default is to round off 0 bytes (full precision).

Value

setNumericRounding returns no value; the new value is applied. getNumericRounding returns the current value: 0, 1 or 2.

See Also

[datatable-optimize](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Double-precision_floating-point_format

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floating_point

http://docs.oracle.com/cd/E19957-01/806-3568/ncg_goldberg.html

Examples

```

DT = data.table(a=seq(0,1,by=0.2),b=1:2, key="a")
DT
setNumericRounding(0) # By default, rounding is turned off
DT[.(0.4)] # works
DT[.(0.6)] # no match, can be confusing since 0.6 is clearly there in DT
           # happens due to floating point representation limitations

setNumericRounding(2) # round off last 2 bytes
DT[.(0.6)] # works

# using type 'numeric' for integers > 2^31 (typically ids)
DT = data.table(id = c(1234567890123, 1234567890124, 1234567890125), val=1:3)
print(DT, digits=15)
DT[,.N,by=id] # 1 row, (last 2 bytes rounded)
setNumericRounding(0)
DT[,.N,by=id] # 3 rows, (no rounding, default)
# better to use bit64::integer64 for such ids

```

setops

Set operations for data tables

Description

Similar to base R set functions, `union`, `intersect`, `setdiff` and `setequal` but for `data.tables`. Additional `all` argument controls how duplicated rows are handled. Functions `fintersect`, `setdiff` (MINUS or EXCEPT in SQL) and `funion` are meant to provide functionality of corresponding SQL operators. Unlike SQL, `data.table` functions will retain row order.

Usage

```

fintersect(x, y, all = FALSE)
fsetdiff(x, y, all = FALSE)
funion(x, y, all = FALSE)
fsetequal(x, y, all = TRUE)

```

Arguments

<code>x, y</code>	<code>data.tables</code> .
<code>all</code>	Logical. Default is <code>FALSE</code> and removes duplicate rows on the result. When <code>TRUE</code> , if there are x_n copies of a particular row in <code>x</code> and y_n copies of the same row in <code>y</code> , then: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <code>fintersect</code> will return $\min(x_n, y_n)$ copies of that row. • <code>fsetdiff</code> will return $\max(0, x_n - y_n)$ copies of that row. • <code>funion</code> will return $x_n + y_n$ copies of that row. • <code>fsetequal</code> will return <code>FALSE</code> unless $x_n == y_n$.

Details

bit64::integer64 columns are supported but not complex and list, except for funion.

Value

A data.table in case of fintersect, funion and fsetdiff. Logical TRUE or FALSE for fsetequal.

References

<https://db.apache.org/derby/papers/Intersect-design.html>

See Also

[data.table](#), [rbindlist](#), [all.equal.data.table](#), [unique](#), [duplicated](#), [uniqueN](#), [anyDuplicated](#)

Examples

```
x = data.table(c(1,2,2,2,3,4,4))
x2 = data.table(c(1,2,3,4)) # same set of rows as x
y = data.table(c(2,3,4,4,4,5))
fintersect(x, y)           # intersect
fintersect(x, y, all=TRUE) # intersect all
fsetdiff(x, y)            # except
fsetdiff(x, y, all=TRUE) # except all
funion(x, y)              # union
funion(x, y, all=TRUE)    # union all
fsetequal(x, x2, all=FALSE) # setequal
fsetequal(x, x2)          # setequal all
```

setorder

Fast row reordering of a data.table by reference

Description

In data.table parlance, all set* functions change their input *by reference*. That is, no copy is made at all, other than temporary working memory, which is as large as one column. The only other data.table operator that modifies input by reference is :=. Check out the See Also section below for other set* function data.table provides.

setorder (and setorderv) reorders the rows of a data.table based on the columns (and column order) provided. It reorders the table *by reference* and is therefore very memory efficient.

Also x[order(.)] is now optimised internally to use data.table's fast order. data.table always reorders in "C-locale" (see Details). To sort by session locale, use x[base::order(.)].

bit64::integer64 type is also supported for reordering rows of a data.table.

Usage

```
setorder(x, ..., na.last=FALSE)
setorderv(x, cols = colnames(x), order=1L, na.last=FALSE)
# optimised to use data.table's internal fast order
# x[order(., na.last=TRUE)]
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	A <code>data.table</code> .
<code>...</code>	The columns to sort by. Do not quote column names. If <code>...</code> is missing (ex: <code>setorder(x)</code>), <code>x</code> is rearranged based on all columns in ascending order by default. To sort by a column in descending order prefix a <code>"-"</code> , i.e., <code>setorder(x, a, -b, c)</code> . The <code>-b</code> works when <code>b</code> is of type character as well.
<code>cols</code>	A character vector of column names of <code>x</code> by which to order. By default, sorts over all columns; <code>cols = NULL</code> will return <code>x</code> untouched. Do not add <code>"-"</code> here. Use <code>order</code> argument instead.
<code>order</code>	An integer vector with only possible values of 1 and -1, corresponding to ascending and descending order. The length of <code>order</code> must be either 1 or equal to that of <code>cols</code> . If <code>length(order) == 1</code> , it is recycled to <code>length(cols)</code> .
<code>na.last</code>	logical. If <code>TRUE</code> , missing values in the data are placed last; if <code>FALSE</code> , they are placed first; if <code>NA</code> they are removed. <code>na.last=NA</code> is valid only for <code>x[order(., na.last)]</code> and its default is <code>TRUE</code> . <code>setorder</code> and <code>setorderv</code> only accept <code>TRUE/FALSE</code> with default <code>FALSE</code> .

Details

`data.table` implements fast radix based ordering. In versions $\leq 1.9.2$, it was only capable of increasing order (ascending). From 1.9.4 on, the functionality has been extended to decreasing order (descending) as well.

`setorder` accepts unquoted column names (with names preceded with a `-` sign for descending order) and reorders `data.table` rows *by reference*, for e.g., `setorder(x, a, -b, c)`. Note that `-b` also works with columns of type character unlike `base::order`, which requires `-xtfrm(y)` instead (which is slow). `setorderv` in turn accepts a character vector of column names and an integer vector of column order separately.

Note that `setkey` still requires and will always sort only in ascending order, and is different from `setorder` in that it additionally sets the sorted attribute.

`na.last` argument, by default, is `FALSE` for `setorder` and `setorderv` to be consistent with `data.table`'s `setkey` and is `TRUE` for `x[order(.)]` to be consistent with `base::order`. Only `x[order(.)]` can have `na.last = NA` as it is a subset operation as opposed to `setorder` or `setorderv` which reorders the `data.table` by reference.

`data.table` always reorders in "C-locale". As a consequence, the ordering may be different to that obtained by `base::order`. In English locales, for example, sorting is case-sensitive in C-locale. Thus, sorting `c("c", "a", "B")` returns `c("B", "a", "c")` in `data.table` but `c("a", "B", "c")` in `base::order`. Note this makes no difference in most cases of data; both return identical results on ids where only upper-case or lower-case letters are present ("`AB123`" < "`AC234`" is true in both), or on country names and other proper nouns which are consistently capitalized. For

example, neither "America" < "Brazil" nor "america" < "brazil" are affected since the first letter is consistently capitalized.

Using C-locale makes the behaviour of sorting in `data.table` more consistent across sessions and locales. The behaviour of `base::order` depends on assumptions about the locale of the R session. In English locales, "america" < "BRAZIL" is true by default but false if you either type `Sys.setlocale(locale="C")` or the R session has been started in a C locale for you – which can happen on servers/services since the locale comes from the environment the R session was started in. By contrast, "america" < "BRAZIL" is always false in `data.table` regardless of the way your R session was started.

If `setorder` results in reordering of the rows of a keyed `data.table`, then its key will be set to NULL.

Value

The input is modified by reference, and returned (invisibly) so it can be used in compound statements; e.g., `setorder(DT,a,-b)[, cumsum(c), by=list(a,b)]`. If you require a copy, take a copy first (using `DT2 = copy(DT)`). See `?copy`.

See Also

[setkey](#), [setcolorder](#), [setattr](#), [setnames](#), [set](#), [:=](#), [setDT](#), [setDF](#), [copy](#), [setNumericRounding](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(45L)
DT = data.table(A=sample(3, 10, TRUE),
               B=sample(letters[1:3], 10, TRUE), C=sample(10))

# setorder
setorder(DT, A, -B)

# same as above, but using setorderv
setorderv(DT, c("A", "B"), c(1, -1))
```

shift

Fast lead/lag for vectors and lists

Description

lead or lag vectors, lists, data.frames or data.tables implemented in C for speed.

`bit64::integer64` is also supported.

Usage

```
shift(x, n=1L, fill=NA, type=c("lag", "lead", "shift"), give.names=FALSE)
```

Arguments

x	A vector, list, data.frame or data.table.
n	integer vector denoting the offset by which to lead or lag the input. To create multiple lead/lag vectors, provide multiple values to n; negative values of n will "flip" the value of type, i.e., n=-1 and type='lead' is the same as n=1 and type='lag'.
fill	Value to use for padding when the window goes beyond the input length.
type	default is "lag" (look "backwards"). The other possible values "lead" (look "forwards") and "shift" (behave same as "lag" except given names).
give.names	default is FALSE which returns an unnamed list. When TRUE, names are automatically generated corresponding to type and n.

Details

shift accepts vectors, lists, data.frames or data.tables. It always returns a list except when the input is a vector and `length(n) == 1` in which case a vector is returned, for convenience. This is so that it can be used conveniently within data.table's syntax. For example, `DT[, (cols) := shift(.SD, 1L), by=id]` would lag every column of .SD by 1 for each group and `DT[, newcol := colA + shift(colB)]` would assign the sum of two *vectors* to newcol.

Argument n allows multiple values. For example, `DT[, (cols) := shift(.SD, 1:2), by=id]` would lag every column of .SD by 1 and 2 for each group. If .SD contained four columns, the first two elements of the list would correspond to lag=1 and lag=2 for the first column of .SD, the next two for second column of .SD and so on. Please see examples for more.

shift is designed mainly for use in data.tables along with := or set. Therefore, it returns an unnamed list by default as assigning names for each group over and over can be quite time consuming with many groups. It may be useful to set names automatically in other cases, which can be done by setting give.names to TRUE.

Value

A list containing the lead/lag of input x.

See Also

[data.table](#)

Examples

```
# on vectors, returns a vector as long as length(n) == 1, #1127
x = 1:5
# lag with n=1 and pad with NA (returns vector)
shift(x, n=1, fill=NA, type="lag")
# lag with n=1 and 2, and pad with 0 (returns list)
shift(x, n=1:2, fill=0, type="lag")
# getting a window by using positive and negative n:
shift(x, n = -1:1)
shift(x, n = -1:1, type = "shift", give.names = TRUE)
```

```

# on data.tables
DT = data.table(year=2010:2014, v1=runif(5), v2=1:5, v3=letters[1:5])
# lag columns 'v1,v2,v3' DT by 1 and fill with 0
cols = c("v1","v2","v3")
anscols = paste("lead", cols, sep="_")
DT[, (anscols) := shift(.SD, 1, 0, "lead"), .SDcols=cols]

# return a new data.table instead of updating
# with names automatically set
DT = data.table(year=2010:2014, v1=runif(5), v2=1:5, v3=letters[1:5])
DT[, shift(.SD, 1:2, NA, "lead", TRUE), .SDcols=2:4]

# lag/lead in the right order
DT = data.table(year=2010:2014, v1=runif(5), v2=1:5, v3=letters[1:5])
DT = DT[sample(nrow(DT))]
# add lag=1 for columns 'v1,v2,v3' in increasing order of 'year'
cols = c("v1","v2","v3")
anscols = paste("lag", cols, sep="_")
DT[order(year), (cols) := shift(.SD, 1, type="lag"), .SDcols=cols]
DT[order(year)]

# while grouping
DT = data.table(year=rep(2010:2011, each=3), v1=1:6)
DT[, c("lag1", "lag2") := shift(.SD, 1:2), by=year]

# on lists
ll = list(1:3, letters[4:1], runif(2))
shift(ll, 1, type="lead")
shift(ll, 1, type="lead", give.names=TRUE)
shift(ll, 1:2, type="lead")

```

shouldPrint

For use by packages that mimic/divert auto printing e.g. IRkernel and knitr

Description

Not for use by users. Exported only for use by IRkernel (Jupyter) and knitr.

Usage

```
shouldPrint(x)
```

Arguments

x A data.table.

Details

Should IRkernel/Jupyter print a `data.table` returned invisibly by `DT[:,:=]` ? This is a read-once function since it resets an internal flag. If you need the value more than once in your logic, store the value from the first call.

Value

TRUE or FALSE.

References

<https://github.com/IRkernel/IRkernel/issues/127>

<https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/issues/933>

special-symbols

Special symbols

Description

`.SD`, `.BY`, `.N`, `.I` and `.GRP` are *read only* symbols for use in `j`. `.N` can be used in `i` as well. See the vignettes and examples here and in [data.table](#).

Details

The bindings of these variables are locked and attempting to assign to them will generate an error. If you wish to manipulate `.SD` before returning it, take a `copy(.SD)` first (see FAQ 4.5). Using `:=` in the `j` of `.SD` is reserved for future use as a (tortuously) flexible way to update `DT` by reference by group (even when groups are not contiguous in an ad hoc by).

These symbols are used in `j` and defined as follows.

- `.SD` is a `data.table` containing the **S**ubset of `x`'s **D**ata for each group, excluding any columns used in `by` (or `keyby`).
- `.BY` is a `list` containing a length 1 vector for each item in `by`. This can be useful when `by` is not known in advance. The `by` variables are also available to `j` directly by name; useful for example for titles of graphs if `j` is a plot command, or to branch with `if()` depending on the value of a group variable.
- `.N` is an integer, length 1, containing the number of rows in the group. This may be useful when the column names are not known in advance and for convenience generally. When grouping by `i`, `.N` is the number of rows in `x` matched to, for each row of `i`, regardless of whether `nomatch` is `NA` or `NULL`. It is renamed to `N` (no dot) in the result (otherwise a column called `".N"` could conflict with the `.N` variable, see FAQ 4.6 for more details and example), unless it is explicitly named; e.g., `DT[, list(total=.N), by=a]`.
- `.I` is an integer vector equal to `seq_len(nrow(x))`. While grouping, it holds for each item in the group, its row location in `x`. This is useful to subset in `j`; e.g. `DT[, .I[which.max(somecol)], by=grp]`.
- `.GRP` is an integer, length 1, containing a simple group counter. 1 for the 1st group, 2 for the 2nd, etc.

See Also

[data.table](#), [:=](#), [set](#), [datatable-optimize](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
DT = data.table(x=rep(c("b","a","c"),each=3), v=c(1,1,1,2,2,1,1,2,2), y=c(1,3,6), a=1:9, b=9:1)
DT
X = data.table(x=c("c","b"), v=8:7, foo=c(4,2))
X

DT[.N]                # last row, only special symbol allowed in 'i'
DT[, .N]              # total number of rows in DT
DT[, .N, by=x]        # number of rows in each group
DT[, .SD, .SDcols=x:y] # select columns 'x' and 'y'
DT[, .SD[1]]          # first row of all columns
DT[, .SD[1], by=x]    # first row of 'y' and 'v' for each group in 'x'
DT[, c(.N, lapply(.SD, sum)), by=x] # get rows *and* sum columns 'v' and 'y' by group
DT[, .I[1], by=x]     # row number in DT corresponding to each group
DT[, .N, by=rleid(v)] # get count of consecutive runs of 'v'
DT[, c(.y=max(y)), lapply(.SD, min),
      by=rleid(v), .SDcols=v:b] # compute 'j' for each consecutive runs of 'v'
DT[, grp := .GRP, by=x] # add a group counter
X[, DT[.BY, y, on="x"], by=x] # join within each group

## End(Not run)
```

split

Split data.table into chunks in a list

Description

Split method for data.table. Faster and more flexible. Be aware that processing list of data.tables will be generally much slower than manipulation in single data.table by group using by argument, read more on [data.table](#).

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
split(x, f, drop = FALSE,
      by, sorted = FALSE, keep.by = TRUE, flatten = TRUE,
      ..., verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose"))
```

Arguments

x data.table

f factor or list of factors. Same as [split.data.frame](#). Use by argument instead, this is just for consistency with data.frame method.

drop	logical. Default FALSE will not drop empty list elements caused by factor levels not referred by that factors. Works also with new arguments of split data.table method.
by	character vector. Column names on which split should be made. For length(by) > 1L and flatten FALSE it will result nested lists with data.tables on leafs.
sorted	When default FALSE it will retain the order of groups we are splitting on. When TRUE then sorted list(s) are returned. Does not have effect for f argument.
keep.by	logical default TRUE. Keep column provided to by argument.
flatten	logical default TRUE will unlist nested lists of data.tables. When using f results are always flattened to list of data.tables.
...	passed to data.frame way of processing when using f argument.
verbose	logical default FALSE. When TRUE it will print to console data.table split query used to split data.

Details

Argument `f` is just for consistency in usage to `data.frame` method. Recommended is to use `by` argument instead, it will be faster, more flexible, and by default will preserve order according to order in data.

Value

List of `data.tables`. If using `flatten FALSE` and `length(by) > 1L` then recursively nested lists having `data.tables` as leafs of grouping according to `by` argument.

See Also

[data.table](#), [rbindlist](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(123)
DT = data.table(x1 = rep(letters[1:2], 6),
               x2 = rep(letters[3:5], 4),
               x3 = rep(letters[5:8], 3),
               y = rnorm(12))
DT = DT[sample(.N)]
DF = as.data.frame(DT)

# split consistency with data.frame: `x, f, drop`
all.equal(
  split(DT, list(DT$x1, DT$x2)),
  lapply(split(DF, list(DF$x1, DF$x2)), setDT)
)

# nested list using `flatten` arguments
split(DT, by=c("x1", "x2"))
split(DT, by=c("x1", "x2"), flatten=FALSE)
```

```

# dealing with factors
fdt = DT[, c(lapply(.SD, as.factor), list(y=y)), .SDcols=x1:x3]
fdf = as.data.frame(fdt)
sdf = split(fdf, list(fdf$x1, fdf$x2))
all.equal(
  split(fdt, by=c("x1", "x2"), sorted=TRUE),
  lapply(sdf[sort(names(sdf))], setDT)
)

# factors having unused levels, drop FALSE, TRUE
fdt = DT[, .(x1 = as.factor(c(as.character(x1), "c"))[-13L],
  x2 = as.factor(c("a", as.character(x2)))[-1L],
  x3 = as.factor(c("a", as.character(x3), "z"))[c(-1L,-14L)]),
  y = y]
fdf = as.data.frame(fdt)
sdf = split(fdf, list(fdf$x1, fdf$x2))
all.equal(
  split(fdt, by=c("x1", "x2"), sorted=TRUE),
  lapply(sdf[sort(names(sdf))], setDT)
)
sdf = split(fdf, list(fdf$x1, fdf$x2), drop=TRUE)
all.equal(
  split(fdt, by=c("x1", "x2"), sorted=TRUE, drop=TRUE),
  lapply(sdf[sort(names(sdf))], setDT)
)

```

subset.data.table *Subsetting data.tables*

Description

Returns subsets of a data.table.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
subset(x, subset, select, ...)
```

Arguments

x	data.table to subset.
subset	logical expression indicating elements or rows to keep
select	expression indicating columns to select from data.table
...	further arguments to be passed to or from other methods

Details

The subset argument works on the rows and will be evaluated in the data.table so columns can be referred to (by name) as variables in the expression.

The data.table that is returned will maintain the original keys as long as they are not select-ed out.

Value

A data.table containing the subset of rows and columns that are selected.

See Also

[subset](#)

Examples

```
DT <- data.table(a=sample(c('a', 'b', 'c'), 20, replace=TRUE),
                b=sample(c('a', 'b', 'c'), 20, replace=TRUE),
                c=sample(20), key=c('a', 'b'))

sub <- subset(DT, a == 'a')
all.equal(key(sub), key(DT))
```

tables	<i>Display 'data.table' metadata</i>
--------	--------------------------------------

Description

Convenience function for concisely summarizing some metadata of all data.tables in memory (or an optionally specified environment).

Usage

```
tables(mb=TRUE, order.col="NAME", width=80,
       env=parent.frame(), silent=FALSE, index=FALSE)
```

Arguments

mb	logical; TRUE adds the rough size of each data.table in megabytes to the output under column MB.
order.col	Column name (character) by which to sort the output.
width	integer; number of characters beyond which the output for each of the columns COLS, KEY, and INDICES are truncated.
env	An environment, typically the .GlobalEnv by default, see Details.
silent	logical; should the output be printed?
index	logical; if TRUE, the column INDICES is added to indicate the indices assorted with each object, see indices .

Details

Usually `tables()` is executed at the prompt, where `parent.frame()` returns `.GlobalEnv`. `tables()` may also be useful inside functions where `parent.frame()` is the local scope of the function; in such a scenario, simply set it to `.GlobalEnv` to get the same behaviour as at prompt.

Note that on older versions of R, `object.size` may be slow, so setting `mb=FALSE` may speed up execution of `tables` significantly.

Setting `silent=TRUE` prints nothing; the metadata are returned as a `data.table`, invisibly, whether `silent` is `TRUE` or `FALSE`.

Value

A `data.table` containing the information printed.

See Also

[data.table](#), [setkey](#), [ls](#), [objects](#), [object.size](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(A=1:10, B=letters[1:10])
DT2 = data.table(A=1:10000, ColB=10000:1)
setkey(DT,B)
tables()
```

test.data.table	<i>Runs a set of tests.</i>
-----------------	-----------------------------

Description

Runs a set of tests to check `data.table` is working correctly.

Usage

```
test.data.table(verbose=FALSE, pkg="pkg", silent=FALSE,
                with.other.packages=FALSE, benchmark=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>verbose</code>	If <code>TRUE</code> sets <code>datatable.verbose</code> to <code>TRUE</code> for the duration of the tests.
<code>pkg</code>	Root directory name under which all package content (ex: <code>DESCRIPTION</code> , <code>src/</code> , <code>R/</code> , <code>inst/</code> etc..) resides.
<code>silent</code>	Logical, default <code>FALSE</code> , when <code>TRUE</code> it will not raise error on in case of test fails.
<code>with.other.packages</code>	Run compatibility tests with other packages.
<code>benchmark</code>	Run the benchmark script.

Details

Runs a series of tests. These can be used to see features and examples of usage, too. Running `test.data.table` will tell you the full location of the test file(s) to open.

Value

When `silent` equals to `TRUE` it will return `TRUE` if all tests were successful. `FALSE` otherwise. If `silent` equals to `FALSE` it will return `TRUE` if all tests were successful. Error otherwise.

See Also

[data.table](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
  library(data.table)
  test.data.table()

## End(Not run)
```

timetaken

Pretty print of time taken

Description

Pretty print of time taken since last started.at.

Usage

```
timetaken(started.at)
```

Arguments

`started.at` The result of `proc.time()` taken some time earlier.

Value

A character vector of the form `HH:MM:SS`, or `SS.MMMsec` if under 60 seconds.

Examples

```
started.at=proc.time()
Sys.sleep(1)
cat("Finished in",timetaken(started.at),"\n")
```

transform.data.table *Data table utilities*

Description

Utilities for data.table transformation.

transform **by group is particularly slow. Please use := by group instead.**

within, transform and other similar functions in data.table are not just provided for users who expect them to work, but for non-data.table-aware packages to retain keys, for example. Hopefully the (much) faster and more convenient data.table syntax will be used in time. See examples.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'data.table'  
transform(`_data`, ...)  
## S3 method for class 'data.table'  
within(data, expr, ...)
```

Arguments

data, _data	data.table to be transformed.
...	for transform, Further arguments of the form tag=value. Ignored for within.
expr	expression to be evaluated within the data.table.

Details

within is like with, but modifications (columns changed, added, or removed) are updated in the returned data.table.

Note that transform will keep the key of the data.table provided the *targets* of the transform (i.e. the columns that appear in ...) are not in the key of the data.table. within also retains the key provided the key columns are not *touched*.

Value

The modified value of a copy of data.

See Also

[transform](#), [within](#) and [:=](#)

Examples

```

DT <- data.table(a=rep(1:3, each=2), b=1:6)

DT2 <- transform(DT, c = a^2)
DT[, c:=a^2]
identical(DT,DT2)

DT2 <- within(DT, {
  b <- rev(b)
  c <- a*2
  rm(a)
})
DT[, `:=`(b = rev(b),
         c = a*2,
         a = NULL)]
identical(DT,DT2)

DT$d = ave(DT$b, DT$c, FUN=max)           # copies entire DT, even if it is 10GB in RAM
DT = DT[, transform(.SD, d=max(b)), by="c"] # same, but even worse as .SD is copied for each group
DT[, d:=max(b), by="c"]                 # same result, but much faster, shorter and scales

# Multiple update by group. Convenient, fast, scales and easy to read.
DT[, `:=`(minb = min(b),
          meanb = mean(b),
          bplused = sum(b+d)), by=c%%5]

DT

```

 transpose

Efficient transpose of list

Description

transpose is an efficient way to transpose lists, data frames or data tables.

Usage

```
transpose(l, fill=NA, ignore.empty=FALSE)
```

Arguments

l	A list, data.frame or data.table.
fill	Default is NA. It is used to fill shorter list elements so as to return each element of the transposed result of equal lengths.
ignore.empty	Default is FALSE. TRUE will ignore length-0 list elements.

Details

The list elements (or columns of `data.frame/data.table`) should be all atomic. If list elements are of unequal lengths, the value provided in `fill` will be used so that the resulting list always has all elements of identical lengths. The class of input object is also preserved in the transposed result.

The `ignore.empty` argument can be used to skip or include length-0 elements.

This is particularly useful in tasks that require splitting a character column and assigning each part to a separate column. This operation is quite common enough that a function `tstrsplit` is exported.

factor columns are converted to character type. Attributes are not preserved at the moment. This may change in the future.

Value

A transposed list, `data.frame` or `data.table`.

See Also

[data.table](#), [tstrsplit](#)

Examples

```
ll = list(1:5, 6:8)
transpose(ll)
setDT(transpose(ll, fill=0))[]

DT = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
transpose(DT)
```

truelength

Over-allocation access

Description

These functions are experimental and somewhat advanced. By *experimental* we mean their names might change and perhaps the syntax, argument names and types. So if you write a lot of code using them, you have been warned! They should work and be stable, though, so please report problems with them.

Usage

```
truelength(x)
alloc.col(DT,
  n = getOption("datatable.alloccol"),      # default: 1024L
  verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose")) # default: FALSE
```

Arguments

x	Any type of vector, including <code>data.table</code> which is a list vector of column pointers.
DT	A <code>data.table</code> .
n	The number of spare column pointer slots to ensure are available. If DT is a 1,000 column <code>data.table</code> with 24 spare slots remaining, <code>n=1024L</code> means grow the 24 spare slots to be 1024. <code>truelength(DT)</code> will then be 2024 in this example.
verbose	Output status and information.

Details

When adding columns by reference using `:=`, we *could* simply create a new column list vector (one longer) and memcopy over the old vector, with no copy of the column vectors themselves. That requires negligible use of space and time, and is what v1.7.2 did. However, that copy of the list vector of column pointers only (but not the columns themselves), a *shallow copy*, resulted in inconsistent behaviour in some circumstances. So, as from v1.7.3 `data.table` over allocates the list vector of column pointers so that columns can be added fully by reference, consistently.

When the allocated column pointer slots are used up, to add a new column `data.table` must re-allocate that vector. If two or more variables are bound to the same `data.table` this shallow copy may or may not be desirable, but we don't think this will be a problem very often (more discussion may be required on `data.table` issue tracker). Setting `options(datatable.verbose=TRUE)` includes messages if and when a shallow copy is taken. To avoid shallow copies there are several options: use [copy](#) to make a deep copy first, use `alloc.col` to reallocate in advance, or, change the default allocation rule (perhaps in your `.Rprofile`); e.g., `options(datatable.alloccol=10000L)`.

Please note : over allocation of the column pointer vector is not for efficiency *per se*; it is so that `:=` can add columns by reference without a shallow copy.

Value

`truelength(x)` returns the length of the vector allocated in memory. `length(x)` of those items are in use. Currently, it is just the list vector of column pointers that is over-allocated (i.e. `truelength(DT)`), not the column vectors themselves, which would in future allow fast row `insert()`. For tables loaded from disk however, `truelength` is 0 in R 2.14.0+ (and random in R <= 2.13.2), which is perhaps unexpected. `data.table` detects this state and over-allocates the loaded `data.table` when the next column addition occurs. All other operations on `data.table` (such as fast grouping and joins) do not need `truelength`.

`alloc.col` *reallocates* DT by reference. This may be useful for efficiency if you know you are about to going to add a lot of columns in a loop. It also returns the new DT, for convenience in compound queries.

See Also

[copy](#)

Examples

```
DT = data.table(a=1:3,b=4:6)
length(DT)           # 2 column pointer slots used
truelength(DT)      # 1026 column pointer slots allocated
alloc.col(DT,2048)
length(DT)           # 2 used
truelength(DT)      # 2050 allocated, 2048 free
DT[,c:=7L]           # add new column by assigning to spare slot
truelength(DT)-length(DT) # 2047 slots spare
```

<code>tstrsplit</code>	<i>strsplit and transpose the resulting list efficiently</i>
------------------------	--

Description

This is equivalent to `transpose(strsplit(...))`. This is a convenient wrapper function to split a column using `strsplit` and assign the transposed result to individual columns. See examples.

Usage

```
tstrsplit(x, ..., fill=NA, type.convert=FALSE, keep, names=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	The vector to split (and transpose).
<code>...</code>	All the arguments to be passed to <code>strsplit</code> .
<code>fill</code>	Default is <code>NA</code> . It is used to fill shorter list elements so as to return each element of the transposed result of equal lengths.
<code>type.convert</code>	<code>TRUE</code> calls <code>type.convert</code> with <code>as.is=TRUE</code> on the columns.
<code>keep</code>	Specify indices corresponding to just those list elements to retain in the transposed result. Default is to return all.
<code>names</code>	<code>TRUE</code> auto names the list with <code>V1</code> , <code>V2</code> etc. Default (<code>FALSE</code>) is to return an unnamed list.

Details

It internally calls `strsplit` first, and then `transpose` on the result.

`names` argument can be used to return an auto named list, although this argument does not have any effect when used with `:=`, which requires names to be provided explicitly. It might be useful in other scenarios.

Value

A transposed list after splitting by the pattern provided.

See Also[data.table](#), [transpose](#)**Examples**

```
x = c("abcde", "ghij", "klmnopq")
strsplit(x, "", fixed=TRUE)
tstrsplit(x, "", fixed=TRUE)
tstrsplit(x, "", fixed=TRUE, fill="<NA>")

# using keep to return just 1,3,5
tstrsplit(x, "", fixed=TRUE, keep=c(1,3,5))

# names argument
tstrsplit(x, "", fixed=TRUE, keep=c(1,3,5), names=LETTERS[1:3])

DT = data.table(x=c("A/B", "A", "B"), y=1:3)
DT[, c("c1") := tstrsplit(x, "/", fixed=TRUE, keep=1L)][]
DT[, c("c1", "c2") := tstrsplit(x, "/", fixed=TRUE)][]
```

update.dev.pkg

*Perform update of development version of a package***Description**

It will download and install package from devel repository only when new commit is available there, otherwise only PACKAGES file is transferred. Defaults are set to update `data.table`, other packages can be used. Their repository has to include git commit information in PACKAGES file.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'dev.pkg'
update(object="data.table",
       repo="https://Rdatatable.gitlab.io/data.table", field="Revision",
       type=getOption("pkgType"),...)
```

Arguments

object	character scalar, package name.
repo	character scalar, url of package devel repository.
field	character scalar, metadata field to use in PACKAGES file and DESCRIPTION file, default "Revision".
type	character scalar, default <code>getOption("pkgType")</code> , used to define if package has to be installed from sources, binaries or both.
...	passed to install.packages .

Details

In case if devel repository does not provide package binaries user has have development tools installed for package compilation to use this function.

Value

NULL.

See Also

[data.table](#)

Examples

```
# data.table::update.dev.pkg()
```

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