Package ‘data.table’

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Description Fast aggregation of large data (e.g. 100GB in RAM), fast or-
dered joins, fast add/modify/delete of columns by group us-
ing no copies at all, list columns, friendly and fast character-separated-value read/write. Of-
ers a natural and flexible syntax, for faster development.
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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", NA),
   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(i))`.

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 vignette("datatable-keys-fast-subset") and vignette("datatable-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.

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.

As long as `j` returns a list, each element of the list becomes a column in the resulting data.table. When the output of `j` is not a list, the output is returned as-is (e.g. `x[,a]` returns the column vector `a`, unless by is used, in which case it is implicitly wrapped in list for convenience (e.g. `x[,sum(a),by=b]`) will create a column named `V1` with value `sum(a)` for each group).

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.)

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. Note that `with=FALSE` is still necessary when using a logical vector with length `ncol(x)` to include/exclude columns. 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`. See `special-symbols` and the Examples below for more.

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[,.(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[,.(x.a-i.a,b),on="a"]`

See vignette("datatable-intro") and example(data.table)

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.
• 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=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 `setkey()` 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
By default `with=TRUE` and `j` is evaluated within the frame of `x`; column names can be used as variables. In case of overlapping variable names inside dataset and in parent scope you can use double dot prefix `.cols` to explicitly refer to `.cols` variable parent scope and not from your dataset.

When `j` is a character vector of column names, a numeric vector of column positions to select or of the form `startcol:endcol`, and the value returned is always a data.table. `with=FALSE` is not necessary anymore to select columns dynamically. Note that `x[,cols]` is equivalent to `x[.,cols]` and to `x[,cols,with=FALSE]` and to `x[,.,SD,.SDcols=cols]`.

nomatch
When a row in `i` has no match to `x`, `nomatch=NA` (default) means `NA` is returned. `NULL` (or 0 for backward compatibility) means no rows will be returned for that row of `i`. Use `options(datatable.nomatch=NULL)` to change the default value (used when `nomatch` is not supplied).

mult
When `i` is a list (or data.frame or data.table) and `multiple` rows in `x` match to the row in `i`, mult controls which are returned: "all" (default), "first" or "last".

roll
When `i` is a data.table and its row matches to all but the last `x` join column, and its value in the last `i` join column falls in a gap (including after the last observation in `x` for that group), then:
• `+Inf` (or `TRUE`) rolls the prevailing value in `x` forward. It is also known as last observation carried forward (LOCF).
• `-Inf` 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.
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.

A common idiom is to select a contemporaneous regular time series (dts) across a set of identifiers (ids): `DT[CJ(ids,dts),roll=TRUE]` where DT has a 2-column key (id,date) and CJ stands for cross join.

**rollends**

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.

- If `rollends[2]=TRUE`, it will roll the last value forward. TRUE by default for LOCF and FALSE for NOCB rolls.
- If `rollends[1]=TRUE`, it will roll the first value backward. TRUE by default for NOCB and FALSE for LOCF rolls.

When roll is a finite number, that limit is also applied when rolling the ends.

**which**

TRUE returns the row numbers of x that i matches to. If NA, returns the row numbers of i that have no match in x. By default FALSE and the rows in x that match are returned.

**.SDcols**

Specifies the columns of x to be included in the special symbol .SD which stands for Subset of data.table. May be character column names or numeric positions. This is useful for speed when applying a function through a subset of (possibly very many) columns: e.g., `DT[,lapply(.SD,sum),by="x,y",.SDcols=301:350]`. For convenient interactive use, the form `startcol:endcol` is also allowed (as in by), e.g., `DT[,lapply(.SD,sum),by=x:y,.SDcols=a:f]`. Inversion (column dropping instead of keeping) can be accomplished be prepending the argument with ! or - (there's no difference between these), e.g. `.SDcols = !c('x','y')`.

Finally, you can filter columns to include in .SD based on their names according to regular expressions via `.SDcols=patterns(regex1,regex2,...)`. The included columns will be the intersection of the columns identified by each pattern; pattern unions can easily be specified with | in a regex. You can filter columns on values by passing a function, e.g. `.SDcols=is.numeric`. You can also invert a pattern as usual with `.SDcols=!patterns(...)`. For example, `.SDcols=!is.numeric`.

**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.

**allow.cartesian**

FALSE prevents joins that would result in more than `nrow(x)*nrow(i)` rows. This is usually caused by duplicate values in i’s join columns, each of which join to the same group in x over and over again: a misspecified 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 data.table: where every row in i joins to every row in x (a `nrow(x)*nrow(i)` row result). 'cartesian' is just meant in a 'large multiplicative' sense, so FALSE does not always prevent a traditional cartesian join.

**drop**

Never used by data.table. Do not use. It needs to be here because data.table inherits from data.frame. See vignette("datatable-faq").
on

Indicate which columns in \texttt{x} should be joined with which columns in \texttt{i} 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 \texttt{x} and \texttt{i}. When \texttt{.NATURAL} keyword provided then \textit{natural join} is made (join on common columns). There are multiple ways of specifying the \texttt{on} argument:

- As an unnamed character vector, e.g., \texttt{X[Y,on=c("a","b")]}, used when columns \texttt{a} and \texttt{b} are common to both \texttt{X} and \texttt{Y}.

- \textbf{Foreign key joins}: As a \textit{named} character vector when the join columns have different names in \texttt{X} and \texttt{Y}. For example, \texttt{X[Y,on=c("y1","y2")]} joins \texttt{X} and \texttt{Y} by matching columns \texttt{x1} and \texttt{x2} in \texttt{X} with columns \texttt{y1} and \texttt{y2} in \texttt{Y}, respectively.

  From v1.9.8, you can also express foreign key joins using the binary operator \texttt{==}, e.g. \texttt{X[Y,on=c("x1==y1","x2==y2")]}.

  NB: shorthand like \texttt{X[Y,on=c("a",V2="b")]} is also possible if, e.g., column "\texttt{a}" is common between the two tables.

- For convenience during interactive scenarios, it is also possible to use \texttt{.()} syntax as \texttt{X[Y,on=.(a,b)]}.

  From v1.9.8, (non-equi) joins using binary operators \texttt{>=,>,<=,<} are also possible, e.g., \texttt{X[Y,on=c("x>=a","y<=b")]}, or for interactive use as \texttt{X[Y,on=.(x>=a,y<=b)]}.

See examples as well as \texttt{vignette("datatable-secondary-indices-and-auto-indexing")}.

\textbf{Details}

\texttt{data.table} builds on base \texttt{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 \texttt{data.table} syntax is:

\begin{verbatim}
DT[ i, j, by ] # + extra arguments
| | |
| | -------> grouped by what?
| -------> what to do?
----> on which rows?
\end{verbatim}

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

\begin{verbatim}
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 j and by on single expression for convenience.
\end{verbatim}
X[, sum(a), by=c:f]  # get sum(a) grouped by all columns in between 'c' and 'f' (both inclusive)

X[, sum(a), keyby=b]  # get sum(a) grouped by 'b', and sort that result by the grouping column 'b'
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 rows
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 data
# 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)
https://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, :=, setallcol, 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 yourself
## End(Not run)

```r
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[1:4]` # all rows other than 1:4
- `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[2:3, 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=.("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=.("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=.("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
XDT, 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=.(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<foo), 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=.EACH][]  # 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
DT[, dput(.BY), by=.((x,y))]]  # .BY is a list of singletons for each group
X[, DT[,BY, y, on="x"], by=x]]  # join within each group
DT[, ]
  # write each group to a different file
  fwrite(.SD, file.path(tempdir(), paste0("x=", .BY$x, ".csv")))]
), by=x]]

# 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(package="data.table")  # 9 vignettes
        test.data.table()  # 6,000 tests

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

        # get the latest devel version
        update.dev.pkg()
        # read more at:
        # https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/wiki/Installation
    }

## End(Not run)
.Last.updated  Number of rows affected by last update

Description

Returns number of rows affected by last := or set().

Usage

.Last.updated

Details

Be aware that in the case of duplicate indices, multiple updates occur (duplicates are overwritten); .Last.updated will include all of the updates performed, including duplicated ones. See examples.

Value

Integer.

See Also

:=

Examples

d = data.table(a=1:4, b=2:5)
d[2:3, z:=5L]
.Last.updated

# updated count takes duplicates into account #2837
DT = data.table(a = 1L)
DT[c(1L, 1L), a := 2:3]
.Last.updated

:=  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, by reference.

RHS A list of replacement values. It is recycled in the usual way to fill the number of rows satisfying i, if any. To remove a column use NULL.

x A data.table. Or, set() accepts data.frame, too.

i Optional. Indicates the rows on which the values must be updated with. If not provided, implies all rows. The := form is more powerful as it allows subsets and joins based add/update columns by reference. See Details.

In set, only integer type is allowed in i indicating which rows value should be assigned to. NULL represents all rows more efficiently than creating a vector such as 1:nrow(x).

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 x[i,j].

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. Please read vignette("datatable-reference-semantics") and follow with examples. Some typical usages are:

DT[, col := val] # update (or add at the end if doesn't exist) a column called "col"
DT[i, col := val] # same as above, but only for those rows specified in i and (for new columns) NA elsewhere.
DT[i, "col a" := val] # same. column is called "col a"
DT[i, colvector := val, with = FALSE] # OLD syntax. The contents of "colvector" in calling scope are assigned.
DT[i, (colvector) := val] # same (NOW PREFERRED) shorthand syntax. The parens are enough to stop the LHS being a symbol; same as c(colvector).
DT[i, colC := mean(colB), by = colA] # update (or add) column called "colC" by reference by group.
DT[,'::(new1 = sum(colB), new2 = sum(colC))] # Functional form

The .Last.updated variable contains the number of rows updated by the most recent := or set calls, which may be useful, for example, in production settings for testing assumptions about the number of rows affected by a statement; see .Last.updated for details.
Note that for efficiency no check is performed for duplicate assignments, i.e. if multiple values are passed for assignment to the same index, assignment to this index will occur repeatedly and sequentially; for a given use case, consider whether it makes sense to create your own test for duplicates, e.g. in production code.

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

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

For additional resources, please read vignette("datatable-faq"). Also have a look at Stack-Overflow’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`. Please see vignette("datatable-reference-semantics") 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, setalloccol, true_length, set, .Last.updated

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 an 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\_b', 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, `^`, 2L), .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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>address</th>
<th>Address in RAM of a variable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Description**

Returns the pointer address of its argument.

**Usage**

```r
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.
all.equal

Equality Test Between Two Data Tables

Description

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

Usage

```r
## 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. If current is not a data.table, but check.attributes is FALSE, it will be coerced to one via as.data.table.

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)
x = data.table(1L)
y = 1L
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, key=NULL, 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.
key Character vector of one or more column names which is passed to setkeyv.
sorted logical used in array method, default TRUE is overridden when key is provided.
value.name character scalar used in array method, default "value".
na.rm logical used in array 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, :=. setalloccol, 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")
as.data.table(mm, key="c1")

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)
as.data.table(DT, key='x')

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'
\[
\text{as.data.table}(x, \text{keep.rownames} = \text{TRUE}, \text{key=NULL, \ldots})
\]

Arguments
\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{x} \hspace{1cm} \text{xts to convert to data.table}
\item \textbf{keep.rownames} \hspace{1cm} \text{Default is TRUE. If TRUE, adds the xts input's index as a separate column named "index". keep.rownames = "id" names the index column "id" instead.}
\end{itemize}
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

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

Arguments

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

Examples

```r
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))
}
```
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

```r
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

```r
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

```r
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 `lower<=x & x<=upper` when `incbounds=TRUE`, or `lower<x & y<upper` when `FALSE`. With a caveat that NA in `lower` or `upper` are taken as unlimited bounds not NA. This can be changed by setting `NAbounds` to NA.

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

Usage

```r
between(x, lower, upper, incbounds=TRUE, NAbounds=TRUE, check=FALSE)
x %between% y

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

Arguments

`x` Any orderable vector, i.e., those with relevant methods for `<=`, such as numeric, character, Date, etc. in case of between and a numeric vector in case of inrange.

`lower` Lower range bound. Either length 1 or same length as `x`.

`upper` Upper range bound. Either length 1 or same length as `x`.

`y` A length-2 vector or list, with `y[[1]]` interpreted as `lower` and `y[[2]]` as `upper`.

`incbounds` TRUE means inclusive bounds, i.e., [lower,upper]. FALSE means exclusive bounds, i.e., (lower,upper). It is set to TRUE by default for infix notations.

`NAbounds` If lower (upper) contains an NA what should lower<=x (x<=upper) return? By default TRUE so that a missing bound is interpreted as unlimited.

`check` Produce error if any(lower>upper)? FALSE by default for efficiency, in particular type character.
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

```r
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
```
Details

For details how to use those see Writing R Extensions manual Linking to native routines in other packages section.

Note

Be aware C routines are likely to have less input validation than their corresponding R interface. For example one should not expect DT[-5L] will be equal to .Call(CsubsetDT,DT,-5L,seq_along(DT)) because translation of i=-5L to seq_len(nrow(DT))[-5L] might be happening on R level. Moreover checks that i argument is in range of 1:nrow(DT), missingness, etc. might be happening on R level too.

References

https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-exts.html

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 charmatch 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)

system.time(a <- match(x,y))     # With N=1e8 ...
    # 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 ...

```r
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

```r
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)
```

---

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

```r
## 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))
```
Description

data.table internally optimizes certain expressions in order to improve performance. This section briefly summarizes those optimizations.

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

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

Details

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

At optimization level >= 1, i.e., `getOption("datatable.optimize")` >= 1, these are the optimizations:

- 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 optimization level >= 2, i.e., `getOption("datatable.optimize")` >= 2, additional optimizations are implemented on top of the optimizations already shown above.

- Expressions in `j` which contain only the functions `min,max,median,var,sd,sum,prod,first,last,head,tail` (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

```r
## Not run:
set.seed(1L)
DT = lapply(1:20, function(x) sample(c(-100:100), 5e6L, TRUE))
setDT(DT)
print(object.size(DT), units="Mb") # 400MB, not huge, but will do
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])
options(datatable.optimize = 0L) # optimisation 'off'
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 *data.table*’s long-to-wide reshaping tool. In the spirit of *data.table*, it is very fast and memory efficient, making it well-suited to handling large data sets in RAM. More importantly, it is capable of handling very large data quite efficiently in terms of memory usage.
dcast.data.table can also cast multiple value.var columns and accepts multiple functions to fun.aggregate. See Examples for more.

Usage

```r
## 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. To use multiple aggregation functions, pass a list; 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. c(FALSE, TRUE) will only include all missing combinations of formula LHS; 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. Cast multiple value.var columns simultaneously by passing their names as a character vector. 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: . represents no variable, while ... represents all variables not otherwise mentioned in formula; see Examples.
When not all combinations of LHS & RHS values are present in the data, some or all (in accordance with drop) missing combinations will replaced with the value specified by fill. Note that fill will be converted to the class of value.var; see Examples.

dcast also allows value.var columns of type list.

When variable combinations in formula don't identify a unique value, fun.aggregate will have to be specified, which defaults to length. For the formula var1 ~ var2, this means there are some (var1,var2) combinations in the data corresponding to multiple rows (i.e. x is not unique by (var1,var2).

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.

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 one, or a list of length equal to length(fun.aggregate). When value.var is a character vector or a list of length one, 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.

Historical note: dcast.data.table was originally designed as an enhancement to reshape2::dcast in terms of computing and memory efficiency. reshape2 has since been deprecated, and dcast has had a generic defined within data.table since v1.9.6 in 2015, at which point the dependency between the packages became more etymological than programmatic. We thank the reshape2 authors for the inspiration.

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

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

# dcast is an S3 method in data.table from v1.9.6
dcast(DT, time ~ variable, fun=mean) # using partial matching of argument

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))

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)

# fill and types
dcast(DT, v2 ~ v3, value.var = 'v1', fill = 0L) # 0L --> 0

dcast(DT, v2 ~ v3, value.var = 'v4', fill = 1.1) # 1.1 --> 1L

# 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)

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"))

duplicated

Determine Duplicate Rows
**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**

```r
## 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**

- **x** A data.table. uniqueN accepts atomic vectors and data.frames as well.
- **...** Not used at this time.
- **incomparables** Not used. Here for S3 method consistency.
- **fromLast** logical indicating if duplication should be considered from the reverse side, i.e., the last (or rightmost) of identical elements would correspond to duplicated = FALSE.
- **by** character or integer vector indicating which combinations of columns from x to use for uniqueness checks. By default all columns are being used. That was changed recently for consistency to data.frame methods. In version < 1.9.8 default was key(x).
- **na.rm** Logical (default is FALSE). Should missing values (including NaN) 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(3L,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, 3.142, 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))
fcase

Description

fcase is a fast implementation of SQL CASE WHEN statement for R. Conceptually, fcase is a nested version of fifelse (with smarter implementation than manual nesting). It is comparable to dplyr::case_when and supports bit64's integer64 and nanotime classes.

Usage

fcase(..., default=NA)

Arguments

... A sequence consisting of logical condition (when)-resulting value (value) pairs in the following order when1,value1,when2,value2,...,whenN,valueN. Logical conditions when1,when2,...,whenN must all have the same length, type and attributes. Each value may either share length with when or be length 1. Please see Examples section for further details.

default Default return value, NA by default, for when all of the logical conditions when1,when2,...,whenN are FALSE or missing for some entries.

Value

Vector with the same length as the logical conditions (when) in ..., filled with the corresponding values (value) from ..., or eventually default. Attributes of output values value1,value2,...valueN in ... are preserved.

See Also

fifelse
fcoalesce

Examples

```r
x = 1:10
fcase(
x < 5L, 1L,
x > 5L, 3L
)

fcase(
x < 5L, 1L:10L,
x > 5L, 3L:12L
)

# Lazy evaluation example
fcase(
x < 5L, 1L,
x >= 5L, 3L,
x == 5L, stop("provided value is an unexpected one!")
)

# fcase preserves attributes, example with dates
fcase(
x < 5L, as.Date("2019-10-11"),
x > 5L, as.Date("2019-10-14")
)

# fcase example with factor; note the matching levels
fcase(
x < 5L, factor("a", levels=letters[1:3]),
x > 5L, factor("b", levels=letters[1:3])
)

# Example of using the 'default' argument
fcase(
x < 5L, 1L,
x > 5L, 3L,
default = 5L
)
```

fcoalesce Coalescing missing values

Description

Fill in missing values in a vector by successively pulling from candidate vectors in order. As per the ANSI SQL function COALESCE, dplyr::coalesce and hutils::coalesce. Unlike BBmisc::coalesce which just returns the first non-NULL vector. Written in C, and multithreaded for numeric and factor types.

Usage

```r
fcoalesce(...)```
Arguments

A set of same-class vectors. These vectors can be supplied as separate arguments or as a single plain list, data.table or data.frame, see examples.

Details

Factor type is supported only when the factor levels of each item are equal.

NaN is considered missing (note is.na(NaN) and all.equal(NA_real_, NaN) are both TRUE).

Value

Atomic vector of the same type and length as the first vector, having NA values replaced by corresponding non-NA values from the other vectors. If the first item is NULL, the result is NULL.

See Also

fifelse

Examples

```r
x = c(11L, NA, 13L, NA, 15L, NA)
y = c(NA, 12L, 5L, NA, NA, NA)
z = c(11L, NA, 1L, 14L, NA, NA)
fcoalesce(x, y, z)
fcoalesce(list(x,y,z))  # same
fcoalesce(x, list(y,z)) # same
```

Description

fifelse is a faster and more robust replacement of ifelse. It is comparable to dplyr::if_else and hutils::if_else. It returns a value with the same length as test filled with corresponding values from yes, no or eventually na, depending on test. Supports bit64’s integer64 and nanotime classes.

Usage

```r
fifelse(test, yes, no, na=NA)
```

Arguments

- **test**: A logical vector.
- **yes, no**: Values to return depending on TRUE/FALSE element of test. They must be the same type and be either length 1 or the same length of test.
- **na**: Value to return if an element of test is NA. It must be the same type as yes and no and length 1. Default value NA. NULL is treated as NA.
Details

In contrast to \texttt{ifelse} attributes are copied from \texttt{yes} to the output. This is useful when returning \texttt{Date}, \texttt{factor} or other classes.

Value

A vector of the same length as \texttt{test} and attributes as \texttt{yes}. Data values are taken from the values of \texttt{yes} and \texttt{no}, eventually \texttt{na}.

See Also

\texttt{fcoalesce}

Examples

\begin{verbatim}
x = c(1:4, 3:2, 1:4)
fifelse(x > 2L, x, x - 1L)

# unlike ifelse, fifelse preserves attributes, taken from the 'yes' argument
dates = as.Date(c("2011-01-01","2011-01-02","2011-01-03","2011-01-04","2011-01-05"))
ifelse(dates == "2011-01-01", dates - 1, dates)
ifelse(dates == "2011-01-01", dates - 1, dates)
yes = factor(c("a","b","c"))
no = yes[1L]
ifelse(c(TRUE,FALSE,TRUE), yes, no)
ifelse(c(TRUE,FALSE,TRUE), yes, no)

# Example of using the 'na' argument
ifelse(test = c(-5L:5L < 0L, NA), yes = 1L, no = 0L, na = 2L)
\end{verbatim}

\begin{tabular}{ll}
\textbf{foverlaps} & \textit{Fast overlap joins} \\
\end{tabular}

Description

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

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

\textbf{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", NA),
        which = FALSE, verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose"))

Arguments

x, y          data.tables. y needs to be keyed, but not necessarily x. See examples.
by.x, by.y    A vector of column names (or numbers) to compute the overlap joins. The last
two columns in both by.x and by.y should each correspond to the start and
end interval columns in x and y respectively. And the start column should
always be <= end column. If x is keyed, by.x is equal to key(x), else key(y).
by.y defaults to key(y).
maxgap        It should be a non-negative integer value, >= 0. Default is 0 (no gap). For in-
tervals [a,b] and [c,d], where a<=b and c<=d, when c > b or d < a, the two
intervals don’t overlap. If the gap between these two intervals is <= maxgap,
these two intervals are considered as overlapping. Note: This is not yet imple-
mented.
minoverlap    It should be a positive integer value, > 0. Default is 1. For intervals [a,b] and
[c,d], where a<=b and c<=d, when c<=b and d>=a, the two intervals overlap.
If the length of overlap between these two intervals is >= minoverlap, then these
two intervals are considered to be overlapping. Note: This is not yet imple-
mented.
type          Default value is any. Allowed values are any, within, start, end and equal.
The types shown here are identical in functionality to the function findOverlaps
in the bioconductor package IRanges. Let [a,b] and [c,d] be intervals in x
and y with a<=b and c<=d. For type="start", 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 ad-
tion 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 0 for backward compatibility) means no rows will be re-
turned 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 `0` 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 <= 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**


**Examples**

```r
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"),
               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)

---

frank

**Fast rank**

**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".

Like forder, sorting is done in "C-locale"; in particular, this may affect how capital/lowercase letters are ranked. See Details on forder for more.

bit64::integer64 type is also supported.

**Usage**

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

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

x  A vector, or list with all its elements identical in length or data.frame or data.table.

...  Only for lists, data.frames and data.tables. The columns to calculate ranks based on. Do not quote column names. If ... is missing, all columns are considered by default. To sort by a column in descending order prefix "-", e.g., frank(x, a, -b, c). -b works when b is of type character as well.

cols  A character vector of column names (or numbers) of x, for which to obtain ranks.

order  An integer vector with only possible values of 1 and -1, corresponding to ascending and descending order. The length of order must be either 1 or equal to that of cols. If length(order) == 1, it is recycled to length(cols).

na.last  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.

ties.method  A character string specifying how ties are treated, see Details.

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's 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, 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)
frankv(DT, x, ties.method="dense", na.last=NA) # equivalent of above using frank
# on both columns
frankv(DT, ties.method="first", na.last="keep")
frankv(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")
Arguments

input  A single character string. The value is inspected and deferred to either file= (if no \n present), text= (if at least one \n is present) or cmd= (if no \n is present, at least one space is present, and it isn’t a file name). Exactly one of input=, file=, text=, or cmd= should be used in the same call.

file  File name in working directory, path to file (passed through path.expand for convenience), or a URL starting http://, file://, etc. Compressed files with extension ‘.gz’ and ‘.bz2’ are supported if the R.utils package is installed.

text  The input data itself as a character vector of one or more lines, for example as returned by readLines().

cmd  A shell command that pre-processes the file; e.g. fread(cmd=paste("grep",word,"filename")). See Details.

sep  The separator between columns. Defaults to the character in the set [\t |;:] that separates the sample of rows into the most number of lines with the same number of fields. Use NULL or "" to specify no separator; i.e. each line a single character column like base::readLines does.

sep2  The separator within columns. A list column will be returned where each cell is a vector of values. This is much faster using less working memory than strsplit afterwards or similar techniques. For each column sep2 can be different and is the first character in the same set above [\t |;:], other than sep, that exists inside each field outside quoted regions in the sample. NB: sep2 is not yet implemented.

nrows  The maximum number of rows to read. Unlike read.table, 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.

header  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 TRUE is supplied, any empty column names are given a default name.

na.strings  A character vector of strings which are to be interpreted as NA values. By default, "\""," for columns of all types, including type character is read as NA for consistency. ","," is unambiguous and read as an empty string. To read ,NA, as NA, set na.strings="NA". To read ,, as blank string ",", set na.strings=NULL. When they occur in the file, the strings in na.strings should not appear quoted since that is how the string literal ,"NA", is distinguished from ,NA,, for example, when na.strings="NA".
stringsAsFactors: Convert all character columns to factors?

verbose: Be chatty and report timings?

skip: 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. skip>0 means ignore the first skip rows manually. skip="string" searches for "string" in the file (e.g. a substring of the column names row) and starts on that line (inspired by read.xls in package gdata).

select: A vector of column names or numbers to keep, drop the rest. select may specify types too in the same way as colClasses; i.e., a vector of colname=type pairs, or a list of type=col(s) pairs. In all forms of select, the order that the columns are specified determines the order of the columns in the result.

drop: Vector of column names or numbers to drop, keep the rest.

colClasses: As in utils::read.csv; i.e., an unnamed vector of types corresponding to the columns in the file, or a named vector specifying types for a subset of the columns by name. The default, NULL means types are inferred from the data in the file. Further, data.table supports a named list of vectors of column names or numbers where the list names are the class names; see examples. The list form makes it easier to set a batch of columns to be a particular class. When column numbers are used in the list form, they refer to the column number in the file not the column number after select or drop has been applied. If type coercion results in an error, introduces NAs, or would result in loss of accuracy, the coercion attempt is aborted for that column with warning and the column’s type is left unchanged. If you really desire data loss (e.g. reading 3.14 as integer) you have to truncate such columns afterwards yourself explicitly so that this is clear to future readers of your code.

integer64: "integer64" (default) reads columns detected as containing integers larger than 2^31 as type bit64::integer64. Alternatively, "double" | "numeric" reads as utils::read.csv does; i.e., possibly with loss of precision and if so silently. Or, "character".

dec: The decimal separator as in utils::read.csv. If not "." (default) then usually ",". See details.

col.names: A vector of optional names for the variables (columns). The default is to use the header column if present or detected, or if not "V" followed by the column number. This is applied after check.names and before key and index.

check.names: default is FALSE. If TRUE then the names of the variables in the data.table are checked to ensure that they are syntactically valid variable names. If necessary they are adjusted (by make.names) 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 Details. If it fails, then another attempt is
made to read the field as is, i.e., as if quotes are disabled. By setting quote="\", 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 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"). Only valid when argument data.table=TRUE. Where applicable, this should refer to column names given in col.names.

**index**

Character vector or list of character vectors of one or more column names which is passed to setindexv. As with key, comma-separated notation like index="x,y,z" is accepted for convenience. Only valid when argument data.table=TRUE. Where applicable, this should refer to column names given in col.names.

**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) txtProgressBar and tkProgressBar are not easily available.

**data.table**

TRUE returns a data.table. FALSE returns a data.frame. The default for this argument can be changed with options(data.table.fread.data.table=FALSE).

**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.

**keepLeadingZeros**

If TRUE a column containing numeric data with leading zeros will be read as character, otherwise leading zeros will be removed and converted to numeric.

**yaml**

If TRUE, fread will attempt to parse (using yaml.load) the top of the input as YAML, and further to glean parameters relevant to improving the performance of fread on the data itself. The entire YAML section is returned as parsed into a list in the yaml_metadata attribute. See Details.

**autostart**

Deprecated and ignored with warning. Please use skip instead.

**tmpdir**

Directory to use as the tmpdir argument for any tempfile calls, e.g. when the input is a URL or a shell command. The default is tempdir() which can be controlled by setting TMPDIR before starting the R session; see base::tempdir.

**tz**

Relevant to datetime values which have no Z or UTC-offset at the end, i.e. unmarked datetime, as written by utils::write.csv. The default tz="UTC" reads unmarked datetime as UTC POSIXct efficiently. tz="" reads unmarked datetime as type character (slowly) so that as.POSIXct can interpret (slowly) the character datetimes in local timezone; e.g. by using "POSIXct" in colClasses=.

Note that fwrite() by default writes datetime in UTC including the final Z and therefore fwrite’s output will be read by fread consistently and quickly without needing to use tz= or colClasses=. If the TZ environment variable is set
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
strtd to read numeric data; e.g., 1.23 or 1,23. `strtd` retrieves the decimal separator (, or , usually) from the locale of the R session rather than as an argument passed to the `strtd` 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 = ""`.

CSVY Support:

Currently, the `yaml` setting is somewhat inflexible with respect to incorporating metadata to facilitate file reading. Information on column classes should be stored at the top level under the heading `schema` and subheading `fields`; those with both a type and a name sub-heading will be merged into `colClasses`. Other supported elements are as follows:

- `sep` (or alias `delimiter`)
- `header`
- `quote` (or aliases `quoteChar`, `quote_char`)
- `dec` (or alias `decimal`)
- `na.strings`

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 (ftp:// and https://) are downloaded with `curl::curl_download`; ftp:// and http:// paths
are downloaded with download.file and method set to 

```r
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.

**Shell commands:**

fread accepts shell commands for convenience. The input command is run and its output written to a file in tmpdir (tempdir() by default) to which fread is applied "as normal". The details are platform dependent – system is used on UNIX environments, shell otherwise; see system.

**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
https://stackoverflow.com/questions/9061736/faster-than-scan-with-rcpp
https://stackoverflow.com/questions/11782084/reading-in-large-text-files-in-r
https://stackoverflow.com/questions/45972/mmap-vs-reading-blocks
https://stackoverflow.com/questions/258091/when-should-i-use-mmap-for-file-access
https://stackoverflow.com/a/9818473/403310

finagler = "to get or achieve by guile or manipulation" https://dictionary.reference.com/browse/finagler

On YAML, see https://yam1.org/; on csvy, see https://csvy.org/.

**See Also**

read.csv, url, Sys.setlocale, setDTthreads, fwrite, bit64::integer64

**Examples**

```r
# Reads text input directly :
```

```r
defree("A,B\n1,2\n3,4")
```

```r
# Reads pasted input directly :
```

```r
defree("A,B
1,2
3,4")
```

```r
# Finds the first data line automatically :
```
# Detects whether column names are present automatically:
fread("A,B
1,2
3,4
")

# Numerical precision:
DT = fread("A
1.010203040506070809010203040506\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
1.46761e-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, 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

# select and types combined
fread(data, select=c(A="numeric", D="character"))
fread(data, select=list(numeric="A", character="D"))

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

# fill with skip blank lines
fread("a,b\n1,a\n2\n3,c\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

## 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))
# 5.4 sec (first time in fresh R session)
system.time(DF1 <- read.csv("test.csv",stringsAsFactors=FALSE))
# 3.9 sec (immediate repeat is faster, varies)
system.time(DF2 <- read.table("test.csv",header=TRUE,sep="",quote="",
                                stringsAsFactors=FALSE,comment.char="",
                                nrow=n,
                                colClasses=c("integer","integer","numeric",
                                 "character","numeric","integer")))
# 1.2 sec (consistently). All known tricks and known nrows, see references.
system.time(DT <- fread("test.csv"))
# 0.1 sec (faster and friendlier)
identical(DF1, DF2)
all.equal(as.data.table(DF1), DT)

# Scaling up ...
1 = 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 csv (10 million rows x 6 columns)
system.time(DF <- read.table("testbig.csv",header=TRUE,sep="",
                           quote="",stringsAsFactors=FALSE,comment.char="",
                           nrow=1e7,
                           colClasses=c("integer","integer","numeric",
                                        "character","numeric","integer")))
# 17.0 sec (varies)
system.time(DT <- fread("testbig.csv"))
  # 0.8 sec
all(mapply(all.equal, DF, DT))

# Real data example (Airline data)
             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,stringsAsFactors=FALSE),class)
  # 4 character, 24 integer, 1 logical. Incorrect.
colClasses = sapply(read.csv("2008.csv",nrows=200,stringsAsFactors=FALSE),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))
  # 24.4 secs
system.time(DT <- fread("2008.csv"))
  # 1.9 secs
table(sapply(DT,class))
  # 5 character and 24 integer columns. Correct without needing to worry about colClasses
  # issue above.

# Reads URLs directly :
fread("https://www.stats.ox.ac.uk/pub/datasets/csb/ch11b.dat")

# Decompresses .gz and .bz2 automatically :

## End(Not run)

**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

- `x`: A vector. Type double, currently.
- `decreasing`: Decreasing order?
- `na.last`: 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.
- `internal`: Internal use only. Temporary variable. Will be removed.
- `verbose`: Print tracing information.
- `...`: 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

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

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.
fwrite

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
scipen = getOption("scipen", 0L),
dateTimeAs = c("ISO", "squash", "epoch", "write.csv"),
buffMB = 8L, nThread = getDTthreads(verbse),
showProgress = getOption("datatable.showProgress", interactive()),
compress = c("auto", "none", "gzip"),
yaml = FALSE,
bom = FALSE,
verbse = getOption("datatable.verbse", FALSE))

Arguments

x Any list of same length vectors; e.g. data.frame and data.table. If matrix, it gets internally coerced to data.table preserving col names but not row names
file Output file name. "" indicates output to the console.
append If TRUE, the file is opened in append mode and column names (header row) are not written.
quote When "auto", 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 sep, a line ending \n, the double quote itself or (when list columns are present) sep2[2] (see sep2 below). If FALSE 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.
sep The separator between columns. Default is ",".
sep2 For columns of type list where each item is an atomic vector, sep2 controls how to separate items within the column. sep2[1] is written at the start of the output field, sep2[2] is placed between each item and sep2[3] is written at the end. sep2[1] and sep2[3] may be any length strings including empty "" (default). sep2[2] must be a single character and (when list columns are present and therefore sep2 is used) different from both sep and dec. The default (\n) is chosen to visually distinguish from the default sep. In speaking, writing and in code comments we may refer to sep2[2] as simply "sep".
eol Line separator. Default is "\r\n" for Windows and "\n" otherwise.
na The string to use for missing values in the data. Default is a blank string "".
dec The decimal separator, by default ".". See link in references. Cannot be the same as sep.
row.names Should row names be written? For compatibility with data.frame and write.csv since data.table never has row names. Hence default FALSE unlike write.csv.
fwrite

col.names Should the column names (header row) be written? The default is TRUE for new files and when overwriting existing files (append=FALSE). Otherwise, the default is FALSE to prevent column names appearing again mid-file when stacking a set of data.tables or appending rows to the end of a file.

qmethod A character string specifying how to deal with embedded double quote characters when quoting strings.

- "escape" - the quote character (as well as the backslash character) is escaped in C style by a backslash, or
- "double" (default, same as write.csv), in which case the double quote is doubled with another one.

logical01 Should logical values be written as 1 and 0 rather than "TRUE" and "FALSE"?

logicalAsInt Deprecated. Old name for 'logical01'. Name change for consistency with fread for which 'logicalAsInt' would not make sense.

scipen integer In terms of printing width, how much of a bias should there be towards printing whole numbers rather than scientific notation? See Details.

dateTimeAs How Date/IDate, ITime and POSIXct items are written.

- "ISO" (default) - 2016-09-12, 18:12:16 and 2016-09-12T18:12:16.999999Z. 0, 3 or 6 digits of fractional seconds are printed if and when present for convenience, regardless of any R options such as digits.secs. 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 "$ TZ='UTC' R" at the shell (NB: it must be one or more spaces between TZ='UTC' and R, anything else will be silently ignored; this TZ setting applies just to that R process) or Sys.setenv(TZ='UTC') at the R prompt and then continue as if UTC were local time.

- "squash" - 20160912, 181216 and 20160912181216999. This option allows fast and simple extraction of yyyy, mm, dd and (most commonly to group by) yyyyymm parts using integer div and mod operations. In R for example, one line helper functions could use %/%1000, %/%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 "tzone" 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 \texttt{Date} and \texttt{Date} 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.

\textbf{buffMB} 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.

\textbf{nThread} The number of threads to use. Experiment to see what works best for your data on your hardware.

\textbf{showProgress} Display a progress meter on the console? Ignored when \texttt{file=""}.

\textbf{compress} If \texttt{compress = "auto"} and if \texttt{file} ends in .gz then output format is gzipped csv else csv. If \texttt{compress = "none"}, output format is always csv. If \texttt{compress = "gzip"} then format is gzipped csv. Output to the console is never gzipped even if \texttt{compress = "gzip"}. By default, \texttt{compress = "auto"}.

\textbf{yaml} If \texttt{TRUE}, \texttt{fwrite} will output a CSVY file, that is, a CSV file with metadata stored as a YAML header, using \texttt{as.yaml}. See Details.

\textbf{bom} If \texttt{TRUE} a BOM (Byte Order Mark) sequence (EF BB BF) is added at the beginning of the file; format 'UTF-8 with BOM'.

\textbf{verbose} Be chatty and report timings?

\textbf{Details}

\texttt{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: \url{https://www.h2o.ai/blog/fast-csv-writing-for-r/}. Final items were tracked in issue \#1664 such as automatic quoting, \texttt{bit64::integer64} support, decimal/scientific formatting exactly matching \texttt{write.csv} between 2.225074e-308 and 1.797693e+308 to 15 significant figures, \texttt{row.names}, dates (between 0000-03-01 and 9999-12-31), times and \texttt{sep2} for list columns where each cell can itself be a vector.

To save space, \texttt{fwrite} prefers to write wide numeric values in scientific notation – e.g. 10000000000 takes up much more space than 1e+10. Most file readers (e.g. \texttt{fread}) understand scientific notation, so there’s no fidelity loss. Like in base R, users can control this by specifying the \texttt{scipen} argument, which follows the same rules as \texttt{options('scipen')}. \texttt{fwrite} will see how much space a value will take to write in scientific vs. decimal notation, and will only write in scientific notation if the latter is more than \texttt{scipen} characters wider. For 10000000000, then, 1e+10 will be written whenever \texttt{scipen<6}.

\textbf{CSVY Support:}
fwrite

The following fields will be written to the header of the file and surrounded by `---` on top and bottom:

- **source** - Contains the R version and data.table version used to write the file
- **creation_time_utc** - Current timestamp in UTC time just before the header is written
- **schema with element fields giving name-type (class) pairs for the table; multi-class objects (e.g. `c('POSIXct','POSIXt')`) will have their first class written.**
- **header** - same as `col.names` (which is `header` on input)
- **sep**
- **sep2**
- **eol**
- **na.strings** - same as `na`
- **dec**
- **qmethod**
- **logical01**

References

https://howardhinnant.github.io/date_algorithms.html

See Also

`setDTthreads, fread, write.csv, write.table, bit64::integer64`

Examples

```r
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) # same
df.csv(DF)

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=sample("%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),
    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

https://www.postgresql.org/docs/9.5/static/queries-table-expressions.html#QUERIES-GROUPING-SETS
https://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

```r
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

```r
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**

```r
as.IDate(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
as.IDate(x, ..., tz = attr(x, "tzone", exact=TRUE))
## 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'
round(x, digits = c("hours", "minutes"), ...)
## S3 method for class 'ITime'
trunc(x, units = c("hours", "minutes"), ...)

## 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**

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

- `second(x)`
- `minute(x)`
- `hour(x)`
- `yday(x)`
- `wday(x)`
- `mday(x)`
- `week(x)`
- `isoweek(x)`
- `month(x)`
- `quarter(x)`
- `year(x)`

**Arguments**

- **x** an object
- **...** arguments to be passed to or from other methods. For `as.IDate.default`, arguments are passed to `as.Date`. For `as.ITime.default`, arguments are passed to `as.POSIXlt`.
- **tz** time zone (see `strptime`).
- **date** date object convertible with `as.IDate`.
- **time** time-of-day object convertible with `as.ITime`.
- **digits** really units; one of the units listed for rounding. May be abbreviated.
- **units** one of the units listed for truncating. May be abbreviated.
- **ms** For `as.ITime` 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. Similarly, the round and trunc methods for ITime's are useful for grouping and plotting. They can round or truncate to hours and minutes. Note for ITime's with 30 seconds, rounding is inconsistent due to rounding off a 5. See 'Details' in round for more information.

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

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(untime))]
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")

(seqtimes <- seq(as.ITime("07:00"), as.ITime("08:00"), by = 20))
round(seqtimes, "hours")
trunc(seqtimes, "hours")

J  Creates a join data.table
Description

Creates a data.table for use in `i` in a `[.data.table` join.

Usage

```r
# DT[J(...)]  # J() only for use inside DT[...]
# DT[.(...)]  # .() only for use inside DT[...]
# DT[list(...)]  # same; .(), list() and J() are identical
SJ(...)  # DT[SJ(...)]
CJ(..., sorted=TRUE, unique=FALSE)  # DT[CJ(...)]
```

Arguments

- `...` Each argument is a vector. Generally each vector is the same length, but if they are not then the usual silent recycling is applied.
- `sorted` logical. Should `setkey()` be called on all the columns in the order they were passed to `CJ`?
- `unique` logical. When `TRUE`, only unique values of each vectors are used (automatically).

Details

`SJ` and `CJ` are convenience functions to create a data.table to be used in `i` when performing 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)]`.

When using a join table in `i`, `x` must either be keyed or the on argument be used to indicate the columns in `x` and `i` which should be joined. See `[.data.table`.

Value

- `J`: the same result as calling `list`, for which `J` is a direct alias.
- `SJ`: Sorted Join. The same value as `J()` but additionally `setkey()` is called on all columns in the order they were passed to `SJ`. For efficiency, to invoke a binary merge rather than a repeated binary full search for each row of `i`.
- `CJ`: Cross Join. A data.table is formed from the cross product of the vectors. For example, `CJ` on 10 ids and 100 dates, returns a 1000 row table containing all dates for all ids. If `sorted = TRUE` (default), `setkey()` is called on all columns in the order they were passed in to `CJ`. If `sorted = FALSE`, the result is unkeyed and input order is retained.

See Also

- `data.table`, `test.data.table`

Examples

```r
DT = data.table(A=5:1, B=letters[5:1])
setkey(DT, B)  # reorders table and marks it sorted
DT[J("b")]]  # returns the 2nd row
```
DT[list("b")]
DT[.("b")]

# 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
z = 0:1 + (0:1)*1i
CJ(x, z, sorted = FALSE) # support for sorting complex is not yet implemented

Description

Returns the first/last item of a vector or list, or the first/last row of a data.frame or data.table. The main difference to head/tail is that the default for n is 1 rather than 6.

Usage

first(x, n=1L, ...)  
last(x, n=1L, ...)

Arguments

x  
A vector, list, data.frame or data.table. Otherwise the S3 method of xts::first is deployed.

n  
A numeric vector length 1. How many items to select.

...  
Not applicable for data.table first/last. Any arguments here are passed through to xts's first/last.

Value

If no other arguments are supplied it depends on the type of x. The first/last item of a vector or list. The first/last row of a data.frame or data.table. For other types, or if any argument is supplied in addition to x (such as n, or keep in xts) regardless of x's type, then xts::first/xts::last is called if xts has been loaded, otherwise utils::head/utils::tail.

See Also

NROW, head, tail
Examples

\begin{verbatim}
first(1:5) # [1] 1
x = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
first(x) # same as head(x, 1)

last(1:5) # [1] 5
x = data.table(x=1:5, y=6:10)
last(x) # same as tail(x, 1)
\end{verbatim}

like

Convenience function for calling grep.

Description

Intended for use in \texttt{i} in \texttt{[.data.table}, i.e., for subsetting/filtering.

Syntax should be familiar to SQL users, with interpretation as regex.

Usage

\begin{verbatim}
like(vector, pattern, ignore.case = FALSE, fixed = FALSE)
vector %like% pattern
vector %ilike% pattern
vector %flike% pattern
\end{verbatim}

Arguments

\begin{itemize}
  \item vector Either a character or a factor vector.
  \item pattern Pattern to be matched
  \item ignore.case logical; is pattern case-sensitive?
  \item fixed logical; should pattern be interpreted as a literal string (i.e., ignoring regular expressions)?
\end{itemize}

Details

Internally, \texttt{like} is essentially a wrapper around \texttt{base::grep}, except that it is smarter about handling factor input (\texttt{base::grep} uses slow as.character conversion).

Value

Logical vector, \texttt{TRUE} for items that match pattern.

Note

Current implementation does not make use of sorted keys.
melt.data.table

See Also

base::grepl

Examples

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

Description

melt is data.table’s wide-to-long reshaping tool. We provide an S3 method for melting data.tables. It is written in C for speed and memory efficiency. Since v1.9.6, melt.data.table allows melting into multiple columns simultaneously.

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

data A data.table object to melt.

id.vars 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.

measure.vars Measure variables for melting. Can be missing, vector, list, or pattern-based.

• When missing, measure.vars will become all columns outside id.vars.
• 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.

`variable.name` name for the measured variable names column. The default name is 'variable'.

`value.name` name for the molten data values column(s). The default name is 'value'. Multiple names can be provided here for the case when `measure.vars` is a list, though note well that the names provided in `measure.vars` take precedence.

`na.rm` If TRUE, NA values will be removed from the molten data.

`variable.factor` If TRUE, the variable column will be converted to factor, else it will be a character column.

`value.factor` If TRUE, the value column will be converted to factor, else the molten value type is left unchanged.

`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.

... 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. To get a factor column, set `value.factor = TRUE`. `melt.data.table` also preserves ordered factors.

Historical note: `melt.data.table` was originally designed as an enhancement to `reshape2::melt` in terms of computing and memory efficiency. `reshape2` has since been deprecated, and `melt` has had a generic defined within `data.table` since v1.9.6 in 2015, at which point the dependency between the packages became more etymological than programmatic. We thank the `reshape2` authors for the inspiration.
Value

An unkeyed data.table containing the molten data.

See Also
dcast. 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, 6:10),
  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(c(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]]
DT[, l_2 := DT[, list(c=list(rep(c_1, sample(5,1)))), by = i_1]]
# 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) # '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)
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

```r
## 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

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

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 `merge.data.frame` method does.

no.dups

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.

allow.cartesian

See allow.cartesian in `.data.table`.

... 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 <= 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 1.11 for a detailed comparison of `merge` and `x[y,...]`.

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

```r
(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, all = 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**

```r
## 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

```r
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"))
```
**nafill**  
*Fill missing values*

**Description**

Fast fill missing values using constant value, *last observation carried forward* or *next observation carried backward*.

**Usage**

```r
nafill(x, type=c("const","locf","nocb"), fill=NA, nan=NA)  
setnafill(x, type=c("const","locf","nocb"), fill=NA, nan=NA, cols=seq_along(x))
```

**Arguments**

- `x`: vector, list, data.frame or data.table of numeric columns.
- `type`: character, one of "const", "locf" or "nocb". Defaults to "const".
- `fill`: numeric or integer, value to be used to fill when `type="const"`.
- `nan`: (numeric `x` only) Either NaN or NA; if the former, NaN is treated as distinct from NA, otherwise, they are treated the same during replacement?
- `cols`: numeric or character vector specifying columns to be updated.

**Details**

Only *double* and *integer* data types are currently supported.  
Note that both `nafill` and `setnafill` provide some verbose output when `getOption('datatable.verbose')` is TRUE.

**Value**

A list except when the input is a vector in which case a vector is returned. For `setnafill` the input argument is returned, updated by reference.

**See Also**

`shift`, `data.table`

**Examples**

```r
x = 1:10  
x[c(1:2, 5:6, 9:10)] = NA  
nafill(x, "locf")

dt = data.table(v1=x, v2=shift(x)/2, v3=shift(x, -1L)/2)  
nafill(dt, "nocb")

setnafill(dt, "locf", cols=c("v2","v3"))  
dt
```
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

```r
## 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
    trunc.cols=getOption("datatable.print.trunc.cols"), # default: FALSE
    quote=FALSE,
    timezone=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.
- **trunc.cols** If `TRUE`, only the columns that can be printed in the console without wrapping the columns to new lines will be printed (similar to tibbles).
- **quote** If `TRUE`, all output will appear in quotes, as in `print.default`.
- **timezone** If `TRUE`, time columns of class POSIXct or POSIXlt will be printed with their timezones (if attribute is available).
- **...** Other arguments ultimately passed to `format`.

Details

By default, with an eye to the typically large number of observations in a `data.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

```r
# output compression
DT <- data.table(a = 1:1000)
print(DT, nrow = 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)

#'trunc.cols' will make it so only columns that fit in console will be printed
# with a message that states the variables not shown
old_width = options("width" = 40)
DT <- data.table(thing_11 = vector("integer", 3),
                 thing_21 = vector("complex", 3),
                 thing_31 = as.IDate(paste0("2016-02-0", 1:3)),
                 thing_41 = "aasdfasdfasdfasdfasdfasdf",
                 thing_51 = vector("integer", 3),
                 thing_61 = vector("complex", 3))
print(DT, trunc.cols=TRUE)
options(old_width)
```

---

**rbindlist**

*Makes one data.table from a list of many*

---

**Description**

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

**Usage**

`rbindlist(l, use.names="check", fill=FALSE, idcol=NULL)`

# `rbind(..., use.names=TRUE, fill=FALSE, idcol=NULL)`
Arguments

l

A list containing `data.table`, `data.frame` or list objects. ... is the same but you pass the objects by name separately.

use.names

TRUE binds by matching column name, FALSE by position. ‘check’ (default) warns if all items don’t have the same names in the same order and then currently proceeds as if ‘use.names=FALSE’ for backwards compatibility (TRUE in future); see news for v1.12.2.

fill

TRUE fills missing columns with NAs. By default FALSE. When TRUE, use.names is set to TRUE.

idcol

Creates a column in the result showing which list item those rows came from. TRUE names this column ".id". idcol="file" names this column "file". If the input list has names, those names are the values placed in this id column, otherwise the values are an integer vector 1:length(l). 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 an unknown number of (potentially many) objects to stack, such as returned by `lapply(fileNames,fread)`. `rbind` 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.

Columns with duplicate names are bound in the order of occurrence, similar to base. The position (column number) that each duplicate name occurs is also retained.

If column i does not have the same type in each of the list items; e.g, the column is integer in item 1 while others are numeric, they are coerced to the highest type.

If a column contains factors then a factor is created. If any of the factors are also ordered factors then the longest set of ordered levels are found (the first if this is tied). Then the ordered levels from each list item are checked to be an ordered subset of these longest levels. If any ambiguities are found (e.g. blue<green vs green<blue), or any ordered levels are missing from the longest, then a regular factor is created with warning. Any strings in regular factor and character columns which are missing from the longest ordered levels are added at the end.

Value

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

See Also

`data.table`, `split.data.table`

Examples

```r
# 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**

Generate run-length type group id

**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 \texttt{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.

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

Value

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

See Also

\texttt{data.table}, \texttt{rowid}, \url{https://stackoverflow.com/q/21421047/559784}

Examples

\begin{verbatim}
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"))]
\end{verbatim}

Description

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

Usage

\begin{verbatim}
frollmean(x, n, fill=NA, algo=c("fast", "exact"), align=c("right", "left", "center"), na.rm=FALSE, hasNA=NA, adaptive=FALSE)
frollsum(x, n, fill=NA, algo=c("fast", "exact"), align=c("right", "left", "center"), na.rm=FALSE, hasNA=NA, adaptive=FALSE)
frollapply(x, n, FUN, ..., fill=NA, align=c("right", "left", "center"))
\end{verbatim}
Arguments

x
integer vector, for adaptive rolling function also list of integer vectors, rolling window size.

n
integer vector, for adaptive rolling function also list of integer vectors, rolling window size.

fill
numeric, value to pad by. Defaults to NA.

algo
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.

align
character, define if rolling window covers preceding rows ("right"), following rows ("left") or centered ("center"). Defaults to "right".

na.rm
logical. Should missing values be removed when calculating window? Defaults to FALSE. For details on handling other non-finite values, see details below.

hasNA
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.

FUN
the function to be applied in rolling fashion; see Details for restrictions

... extra arguments passed to FUN in frollapply.

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" then on-line algorithm is used, also 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 also handles NaN,+Inf,-Inf consistently to base R. In case of some functions (like mean), it will additionally make extra pass to perform floating point error correction. Error corrections might not be truly exact on some platforms (like Windows) when using multiple threads.

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. Except for the algo="exact" which runs in parallel already.

frollapply computes rolling aggregate on arbitrary R functions. The input x (first argument) to the function FUN is coerced to numeric beforehand and FUN has to return a scalar numeric value.
Checks for that are made only during the first iteration when FUN is evaluated. Edge cases can be found in examples below. Any R function is supported, but it is not optimized using our own C implementation—hence, for example, using frollapply to compute a rolling average is inefficient. It is also always single-threaded because there is no thread-safe API to R’s C eval. Nevertheless we’ve seen the computation speed up vis-a-vis versions implemented in base R.

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 and logical 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)

# frollsum
frollsum(d, 3:4)

# frollapply
frollapply(d, 3:4, sum)
f = function(x, ...) if (sum(x, ...) > 5) min(x, ...) else max(x, ...)
frollapply(d, 3:4, f, na.rm=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))
system.time(ans4<-frollmean(x, n, algo="exact"))
system.time(ans5<-frollapply(x, n, mean))
anserr = list(
    fastma = ans2-ans1,
    froll_fast = ans3-ans1,
    froll_exact = ans4-ans1,
    frollapply = ans5-ans1
)
errs = sapply(lapply(anserr, abs), sum, na.rm=TRUE)
sapply(errs, format, scientific=FALSE) # roundoff

# frollapply corner cases
f = function(x) head(x, 2)     ## FUN returns non length 1
try(frollapply(1:5, 3, f))
f = function(x) {
    n = length(x)
    # length 1 will be returned only for first iteration where we check length
if (n==x[n]) x[1L] else range(x) # range(x)[2L] is silently ignored!
}
frollapply(1:5, 3, f)
options(datatable.verbose=TRUE)
x = c(1,2,1,1,2,3,2)
frollapply(x, 3, uniqueN)    ## FUN returns integer
numUniqueN = function(x) as.numeric(uniqueN(x))
frollapply(x, 3, numUniqueN)
x = c(1,2,1,NA,2,NA,2)
frollapply(x, 3, anyNA)       ## FUN returns logical
as.logical(frollapply(x, 3, anyNA))
options(datatable.verbose=FALSE)
f = function(x) {         ## FUN returns character
  if (sum(x)>5) "big" else "small"
}
try(frollapply(1:5, 3, f))
f = function(x) {         ## FUN is not type-stable
  n = length(x)
  # double type will be returned only for first iteration where we check type
  if (n==x[n]) 1 else NA  # NA logical turns into garbage without coercion to double
}                         
try(frollapply(1:5, 3, f))

rowid                 Generate unique row ids within each group

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 col-
        umn 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).
setattr

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

x           setnames accepts data.frame and data.table. setattr accepts any input;
name            e.g, list, columns of a data.frame or data.table.

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
value  The value to assign to the attribute or NULL removes the attribute, if present.

old  When new is provided, character names or numeric positions of column names to change. When new is not provided, a function or the new column names (i.e., it’s implicitly treated as new; excluding old and explicitly naming new is equivalent). If a function, it will be called with the current column names and is supposed to return the new column names. The new column names must be the same length as the number of columns. See examples.

new  Optional. It can be a function or the new column names. If a function, it will be called with old and expected to return the new column names. The new column names must be the same length as columns provided to old argument.

skip_absent  Skip items in old that are missing (i.e. absent) in ‘names(x)’. Default FALSE 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")[, ,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
¹names(¹ 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))
setnames(DT,tolower) # replace all names with their lower case
setnames(DT,2:3,toupper) # replace the 2nd and 3rd names with their upper case

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

---

**setcolorder**

*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.

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

setcolorder(x, neworder=key(x))

Arguments

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

Details

To reorder data.table columns, the idiomatic way is to use setcolorder(x, neworder), instead of doing x <- x[, neworder, with=FALSE]. This is because the latter makes an entire copy of the data.table, which maybe unnecessary in most situations. setcolorder 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")
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

```r
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

```r
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

x A named or unnamed list, data.frame or data.table.

keep.rownames For data.frames, TRUE retains the data.frame's row names under a new column rn. keep.rownames = "id" names the column "id" instead.

key Character vector of one or more column names which is passed to setkeyv. 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").

check.names Just as check.names 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[, , , 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

```r
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**

Set or get number of threads that data.table should use

**Description**

Set and get number of threads to be used in data.table functions that are parallelized with OpenMP. The number of threads is initialized when data.table is first loaded in the R session using optional environment variables. Thereafter, the number of threads may be changed by calling `setDTthreads`. If you change an environment variable using `Sys.setenv` you will need to call `setDTthreads` again to reread the environment variables.

**Usage**

```r
setDTthreads(threads = NULL, restore_after_fork = NULL, percent = NULL, throttle = NULL)
getDTthreads(verbos = getOption("datatable.verbose"))
```

**Arguments**

- `threads` NULL (default) rereads environment variables. 0 means to use all logical CPUs available. Otherwise a number >= 1
setDTthreads

restore_after_fork
Should data.table be multi-threaded after a fork has completed? NULL leaves the current setting unchanged which by default is TRUE. See details below.

percent
If provided it should be a number between 2 and 100; the percentage of logical CPUs to use. By default on startup, 50%.

throttle
1024 (default) means that, roughly speaking, a single thread will be used when nrow(DT)<=1024, 2 threads when nrow(DT)<=2048, etc. The throttle is to speed up small data tasks (especially when repeated many times) by not incurring the overhead of managing multiple threads. Hence the number of threads is throttled (restricted) for small tasks.

verbose
Display the value of relevant OpenMP settings plus the restore_after_fork internal option.

Details

data.table automatically switches to single threaded mode upon fork (the mechanism used by parallel::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 with 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.

The number of logical CPUs is determined by the OpenMP function omp_get_num_procs() whose meaning may vary across platforms and OpenMP implementations. setDTthreads() will not allow more than this limit. Neither will it allow more than omp_get_thread_limit() nor the current value of Sys.getenv("OMP_THREAD_LIMIT"). Note that CRAN’s daily test system (results for data.table here) sets OMP_THREAD_LIMIT to 2 and should always be respected; e.g., if you have written a package that uses data.table and your package is to be released on CRAN, you should not change OMP_THREAD_LIMIT in your package to a value greater than 2.

Some hardware allows CPUs to be removed and/or replaced while the server is running. If this happens, our understanding is that omp_get_num_procs() will reflect the new number of processors available. But if this happens after data.table started, setDTthreads(...) will need to be called again by you before data.table will reflect the change. If you have such hardware, please let us know your experience via GitHub issues / feature requests.

Use getDTthreads(verbosetrue) to see the relevant environment variables, their values and the current number of threads data.table is using. For example, the environment variable R_DATATABLE_NUM_PROCS_PERCENT can be used to change the default number of logical CPUs from 50% to another value between 2 and 100. If you change these environment variables using ‘Sys.setenv()’ after data.table and/or OpenMP has initialized then you will need to call setDTthreads(threads=NULL) to reread their current values. getDTthreads() merely retrieves the internal value that was set by the last call to setDTthreads(). setDTthreads(threads=NULL) is called when data.table is first loaded and is not called again unless you call it.
setDTthreads() 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." Every parallel region in data.table contains a num_threads(getDTthreads()) directive. This is mandated by a grep in data.table’s quality control script.

setDTthreads(0) is the same as setDTthreads(percent=100); i.e. use all logical CPUs, subject to Sys.getenv("OMP_THREAD_LIMIT"). Please note again that CRAN’s daily test system sets OMP_THREAD_LIMIT to 2, so developers of CRAN packages should never change OMP_THREAD_LIMIT inside their package to a value greater than 2.

Internally parallelized code is used in the following places:

- ‘between.c’ - between()
- ‘cj.c’ - CJ()
- ‘coalesce.c’ - fcoalesce()
- ‘fifelse.c’ - fifelse()
- ‘fread.c’ - fread()
- ‘forder.c’, ‘fsort.c’, and ‘reorder.c’ - forder() and related
- ‘froll.c’, ‘frolladaptive.c’, and ‘frollR.c’ - froll() and family
- ‘fwrite.c’ - fwrite()
- ‘gsumm.c’ - GForce in various places, see GForce
- ‘nafill.c’ - nafill()
- ‘subset.c’ - Used in [.data.table subsetting
- ‘types.c’ - Internal testing usage

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**  
Create key on a data.table

**Description**

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 number of columns. The columns are always sorted in ascending order. The table is changed by reference and setkey is very memory efficient.

There are three reasons setkey is desirable: i) binary search and joins are faster when they detect they can use an existing key, ii) grouping by a leading subset of the key columns is faster because the groups are already gathered contiguously in RAM, iii) simpler shorter syntax; e.g. DT["id",]
finds the group "id" in the first column of DT’s key using binary search. It may be helpful to think of a key as super-charged rownames: multi-column and multi-type rownames.

In data.table parlance, all set* functions change their input by reference. That is, no copy is made at all other than for 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* functions data.table provides.

setindex creates an index for the provided columns. This index is simply an ordering vector of the dataset’s rows according to the provided columns. This order vector is stored as an attribute of the data.table and the dataset retains the original order of rows in memory. See the vignette("datatable-secondary-indices-and-auto-indexing") for more details.

key returns the data.table’s key if it exists; NULL if none exists.

haskey returns TRUE/FALSE if the data.table has a key.

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)

Arguments

x A data.table.
...
The columns to sort by. Do not quote the column names. If ... is missing (i.e. setkey(DT)), all the columns are used. NULL removes the key.
cols A character vector of column names. For setindexv, this can be a list of character vectors, in which case each element will be applied as an index in turn.
verbose Output status and information.
physical TRUE changes the order of the data in RAM. FALSE adds an index.
vectors logical scalar, default FALSE; when set to TRUE, a list of character vectors is returned, each referring to one index.

Details

setkey reorders (i.e. sorts) the rows of a data.table by the columns provided. The sort method used has developed over the years and we have contributed to base R too; see sort. Generally speaking we avoid any type of comparison sort (other than insert sort for very small input) preferring instead counting sort and forwards radix. We also avoid hash tables.

Note that setkey always uses "C-locale"; see the Details in the help for setorder for more on why. The sort is stable; i.e., the order of ties (if any) is preserved.

For character vectors, data.table takes advantage of R’s internal global string cache, also exported as chorder.
Value

The input is modified by reference and returned (invisibly) so it can be used in compound statements: e.g., `setkey(DT,a)[.("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.

Good practice

In general, it's good practice to use column names rather than numbers. 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,names(DT)[1:2]).`

If you wanted to use `grep` to select key columns according to a pattern, note that you can just set `value = TRUE` to return a character vector instead of the default integer indices.

References

http://stereopsis.com/radix.html
https://codercorner.com/RadixSortRevisited.htm
https://cran.r-project.org/package=bit64
https://github.com/Rdatatable/data.table/wiki/Presentations

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 the prompt and browse output

```r
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)

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 > 2^31), 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
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Floating_point
https://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

Description

Set operations for data tables

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)
fsdiff(x, y, all = FALSE)
funion(x, y, all = FALSE)
fsetequal(x, y, all = TRUE)

Arguments

x, y  data.tables.
all  Logical. Default is FALSE and removes duplicate rows on the result. When TRUE, if there are xn copies of a particular row in x and yn copies of the same row in y, then:
• \texttt{fintersect} will return \(\min(x_n, y_n)\) copies of that row.
• \texttt{fsetdiff} will return \(\max(0, x_n-y_n)\) copies of that row.
• \texttt{funion} will return \(x_n+y_n\) copies of that row.
• \texttt{fsetequal} will return \texttt{FALSE} unless \(x_n = y_n\).

Details

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

Value

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

References

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

See Also

data.table, \texttt{rbindlist}, \texttt{all.equal.data.table}, \texttt{unique}, \texttt{duplicated}, \texttt{uniqueN}, \texttt{anyDuplicated}

Examples

```r
x = data.table(c(1,2,2,3,4,4))
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
```

\texttt{setorder} \hspace{1cm} \textit{Fast row reordering of a data.table by reference}

Description

In \texttt{data.table} parlance, all \texttt{set*} functions change their input \textit{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 \texttt{data.table} operator that modifies input by reference is \texttt{:=}. Check out the See Also section below for other \texttt{set*} function \texttt{data.table} provides.

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

Note that queries like \texttt{x[order(.)]} are optimised internally to use \texttt{data.table}'s fast order.
Also note that `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**

```r
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**

- **x**: A `data.table`.
- **...**: The columns to sort by. Do not quote column names. If `...` is missing (ex: `setorder(x)`), `x` is rearranged based on all columns in ascending order by default. To sort by a column in descending order prefix the symbol "-" which means "descending" (not "negative", in this context), i.e., `setorder(x,a,-b,c)`.

  The "-b works when b is of type character as well.

- **cols**: A character vector of column names of `x` by which to order. By default, sorts over all columns; `cols = NULL` will return `x` untouched. Do not add "-" here. Use order argument instead.

- **order**: An integer vector with only possible values of 1 and -1, corresponding to ascending and descending order. The length of `order` must be either 1 or equal to that of `cols`. If `length(order) == 1`, it is recycled to `length(cols)`.

- **na.last**: logical. If `TRUE`, missing values in the data are placed last; if `FALSE`, they are placed first; if `NA` they are removed. `na.last=NA` is valid only for `x[order(., na.last)]` and its default is `TRUE`. `setorder` and `setorderv` only accept `TRUE/FALSE` with default `FALSE`.

**Details**

data.table implements its own fast radix-based ordering. See the references for some exposition on the concept of radix sort.

`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)`. We emphasize that this means "descending" and not "negative" because the implementation simply reverses the sort order, as opposed to sorting the opposite of the input (which would be inefficient).

Note that "-b also works with columns of type character unlike `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.

References

http://stereopsis.com/radix.html
https://codercorner.com/RadixSortRevisited.htm

See Also

setkey, setcolorder, setattr, setnames, set请您，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. If answer is an atomic vector, then the argument is ignored.

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")
ancols = 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")
ancols = 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")

# fill using first or last by group
DT = data.table(x=1:6, g=rep(1:2, each=3))
DT[ , shift(x, fill=x[1L]), by=g]
DT[ , shift(x, fill=x[,N], type="lead"), by=g]
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, .GRP, and .NGRP 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. .EACHI is a symbol passed to by; i.e. by=.EACHI.
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 used in j are defined as follows.

- **.SD** is a data.table containing the **Subset of** x’s **Data** 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.
- **.NGRP** is an integer, length 1, containing the number of groups.

.EACHI is defined as NULL but its value is not used. Its usage is by=.EACHI (or keyby=.EACHI) which invokes grouping-by-each-row-of-i; see data.table’s by argument for more details.

See Also

data.table, :=, set, datatable-optimize

Examples

```r
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
DT[, grp_pct := .GRP/.NGRP, by=x]  # add a group "progress" counter
X[, DT[.BY, y, on="x"], by=x]  # join within each group

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 leaves.
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 by 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.
split

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"), 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

```r
## 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

```r
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

Display 'data.table' metadata

Description

Convenience function for concisely summarizing some metadata of all data.tables in memory (or an optionally specified environment).

Usage

```r
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

```r
DT = data.table(A=1:10, B=letters[1:10])
DT2 = data.table(A=1:10000, ColB=10000:1)
setkey(DT,B)
tables()
```

test

Test assertions for equality, exceptions and console output

Description

An internal testing function used in `data.table` test scripts that are run by `test.data.table`.

Usage

```r
test(num, x, y = TRUE,
    error = NULL, warning = NULL, message = NULL,
    output = NULL, notOutput = NULL, ignore.warning = NULL)
```

Arguments

- **num**: A unique identifier for a test, helpful in identifying the source of failure when testing is not working. Currently, we use a manually-incremented system with tests formatted as `n.m`, where essentially `n` indexes an issue and `m` indexes aspects of that issue. For the most part, your new PR should only have one value of `n` (scroll to the end of `inst/tests/tests.Rraw` to see the next available ID) and then index the tests within your PR by increasing `m`. Note – `n.m` is interpreted as a number, so `123.4` and `123.40` are actually the same – please 0-pad as appropriate. Test identifiers are checked to be in increasing order at runtime to prevent duplicates being possible.
- **x**: An input expression to be evaluated.
- **y**: Pre-defined value to compare to `x`, by default `TRUE`.
- **error**: When you are testing behaviour of code that you expect to fail with an error, supply the expected error message to this argument. It is interpreted as a regular expression, so you can be abbreviated, but try to include the key portion of the error so as not to accidentally include a different error message.
- **warning**: Same as `error`, in the case that you expect your code to issue a warning. Note that since the code evaluates successfully, you should still supply `y`.
- **message**: Same as `warning` but expects `message` exception.
- **output**: If you are testing the printing/console output behaviour; e.g. with `verbose=TRUE` or options(`datatable.verbose=TRUE`). Again, regex-compatible and case sensitive.
- **notOutput**: Or if you are testing that a feature does not print particular console output. Case insensitive (unlike `output`) so that the test does not incorrectly pass just because the string is not found due to case.
- **ignore.warning**: A single character string. Any warnings emitted by `x` that contain this string are dropped. Remaining warnings are compared to the expected `warning` as normal.
Value

Logical TRUE when test passes, FALSE when test fails. Invisibly.

Note

NA_real_ and NaN are treated as equal, use identical if distinction is needed. See examples below.

If warning= is not supplied then you are automatically asserting no warning is expected; the test will fail if any warning does occur. Similarly for message=.

Multiple warnings are supported; supply a vector of strings to warning=. If x does not produce the correct number of warnings in the correct order, the test will fail.

Strings passed to notOutput= should be minimal; e.g. pick out single words from the output that you desire to check does not occur. The reason being so that the test does not incorrectly pass just because the output has slightly changed. For example notOutput="revised" is better than notOutput="revised flag to true". notOutput= is automatically case insensitive for this reason.

See Also

test.data.table

Examples

test = data.table:::test
test(1, x = sum(1:5), y = 15L)
test(2, log(-1), NaN, warning="NaNs")
test(3, sum("a"), error="invalid.*character")
  # test failure example
  stopifnot(
    test(4, TRUE, FALSE) == FALSE
  )
  # NA_real_ vs NaN
  test(5.01, NA_real_, NaN)
test(5.03, all.equal(NaN, NA_real_))
test(5.02, identical(NaN, NA_real_), FALSE)

---

**test.data.table**

Runs a set of tests.

Description

Runs a set of tests to check data.table is working correctly.

Usage

test.data.table(script = "tests.Rraw", verbose = FALSE, pkg = ".",
               silent = FALSE,
               showProgress = interactive() && !silent)
Arguments

script
Run arbitrary R test script.

verbose
TRUE sets options(datatable.verbose=TRUE) for the duration of the tests. This tests there are no errors in the branches that produce the verbose output, and produces a lot of output. The output is normally used for tracing bugs or performance tuning. Tests which specifically test the verbose output is correct (typically looking for an expected substring) always run regardless of this option.

pkg
Root directory name under which all package content (ex: DESCRIPTION, src/, R/, inst/ etc..) resides. Used only in dev-mode.

silent
Controls what happens if a test fails. Like silent in try, TRUE causes the error message to be suppressed and FALSE to be returned, otherwise the error is returned.

showProgress
Output ‘Running test <n> ...\r’ at the start of each test?

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.

Setting silent=TRUE sets showProgress=FALSE too, via the default of showProgress.

Value

If all tests were successful, TRUE is returned. Otherwise, see the silent argument above. silent=TRUE is intended for use at the start of production scripts; e.g. stopifnot(test.data.table(silent=TRUE)) to check data.table is passing its own tests before proceeding.

See Also
data.table, test

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.
transpose

Value

A character vector of the form HH:MM:SS, or SS.MMMsec if under 60 seconds.

Examples

```r
started.at = proc.time()
Sys.sleep(1)
cat("Finished in", timetaken(started.at), "\n")
```

Description

transpose is an efficient way to transpose lists, data frames or data tables.

Usage

```r
transpose(l, fill = NA, ignore.empty = FALSE, keep.names = NULL, make.names = NULL)
```

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.
- `keep.names`: The name of the first column in the result containing the names of the input; e.g. `keep.names = "rn"`. By default NULL and the names of the input are discarded.
- `make.names`: The name or number of a column in the input to use as names of the output; e.g. `make.names = "rn"`. By default NULL and default names are given to the output columns.

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

```r
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. alloc.col is just an alias to setalloccol. We recommend to use setalloccol (though alloc.col will continue to be supported) because the set* prefix in setalloccol makes it clear that its input argument is modified in-place.

Usage

```r
truelength(x)
setalloccol(DT, 
  n = getOption("datatable.alloccol"), # default: 1024L
  verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose") # default: FALSE
alloc.col(DT, 
  n = getOption("datatable.alloccol"), # default: 1024L
  verbose = getOption("datatable.verbose") # default: FALSE
```

Arguments

- **x**: Any type of vector, including data.table which is a list vector of column pointers.
- **DT**: A data.table.
- **n**: The number of spare column pointer slots to ensure are available. If DT is a 1,000 column data.table with 24 spare slots remaining, n=1024L means grow the 24 spare slots to be 1024. truelength(DT) 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 memcpy 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 reallocate 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 `setalloccol` 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.

setalloccol 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

```r
DT = data.table(a=1:3,b=4:6)
length(DT) # 2 column pointer slots used
truelength(DT) # 1026 column pointer slots allocated
setalloccol(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
```
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

- **x**: The vector to split (and transpose).
- **...**: All the arguments to be passed to `strsplit`.
- **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.
- **type.convert**: TRUE calls `type.convert` with `as.is=TRUE` on the columns.
- **keep**: Specify indices corresponding to just those list elements to retain in the transposed result. Default is to return all.
- **names**: TRUE auto names the list with V1, V2 etc. Default (FALSE) 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

```r
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 as well. Their repository has to include git commit information in PACKAGES file.

### Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'dev.pkg'
update(object="data.table",
    repo="https://Rdatatable.gitlab.io/data.table",
    field="Revision", type=getOption("pkgType"), lib=NULL, ...)
```

### 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 `getOption("pkgType")`, used to define if package has to be installed from sources, binaries or both.
- `lib` character scalar, library location where package is meant to be upgraded.
- `...` passed to `install.packages`.

### Details

In case if a devel repository does not provide binaries user will need development tools installed for package compilation, like Rtools on Windows, and eventually set `type="source"`.

### Value

NULL.
Note

Package namespace is unloaded before attempting to install newer version.

See Also

data.table

Examples

    # data.table::update.dev.pkg()
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