Package ‘unittest’

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R topics documented:

unittest-package .................................................. 2
ok ................................................................. 2
ok_group ......................................................... 4
ut_cmp ........................................................... 5
ut_cmp_error ..................................................... 7
Index 8
Description

Concise TAP-compliant unit testing package. Authored unit tests can be run using R CMD check with minimal implementation overhead. If you want more features there are other unit testing packages (see 'See Also').

Details

The unittest package provides two functions, ok and ok_group. The ok function prints ok when the expression provided evaluates to TRUE and prints not ok if the expression evaluates to anything else or results in a runtime error; this is the TAP format (http://testanything.org/) for reporting test results. The ok_group function is a convenience function for grouping related unit tests and produces TAP compliant comments in the output to separate the unit test groups.

A unit test summary is produced at the end of a session when a set of unit tests are run in non-interactive mode, for example when the unit tests are run using Rscript or by R CMD check. For using with R CMD check, see ‘I’m writing a package, how do I put tests in it?’.

For a list of all documentation use library(help="unittest"). Good places to start are the ‘Getting Started’ and ‘FAQ’ vignettes. You can see these by typing vignette('getting_started',package='unittest') and vignette('faq',package='unittest') respectively.

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References

Inspired by Perl’s Test::Simple (http://search.cpan.org/perldoc?Test::Simple).

See Also

testthat, RUnit, svUnit.

ok

The unittest package’s workhorse function

Description

Report the test of an expression in TAP format.

Usage

ok(test, description)
Arguments

test  Expression to be tested. Evaluating to TRUE is treated as success, anything else as failure.
description  Character string describing the test. If a description is not given a character representation of the test expression will be used.

Details

See unittest package documentation.

Value

ok() returns whatever was returned when test is evaluated. More importantly it has the side effect of printing the result of the test in TAP format.

Examples

## Not run:
ok(1==1, "1 equals 1")
# ok - 1 equals 1

ok(!=1)
# ok - 1 == 1

ok(!=2, "1 equals 2")
# not ok - 1 equals 2
## Test returned non-TRUE value:
## [1] FALSE

ok(all.equal(c(1,2),c(1,2)), "compare vectors")
# ok - compare vectors

fn <- function () stop("oops")
ok(fn(), "something with a coding error")
# not ok - something with a coding error
## Test resulted in error:
## oops
## Whilst evaluating:
## fn()

ok(c("Some diagnostic", "messages"), "A failure with diagnostic messages")
# not ok - A failure with diagnostic messages
## Test returned non-TRUE value:
## Some diagnostic
## messages

## End(Not run)
**ok_group**  
*Group associated unit tests*

**Description**

Group associated unit tests with TAP compliant comments separating the output.

**Usage**

```r
ok_group(message, tests)
```

**Arguments**

- **message**: Character vector describing this group. Will be printed as a comment before the tests are ran.
- **tests**: A code block full of tests.

**Details**

Used to group a selection of tests together, for instance you may group the tests relating to a function together.

**Value**

Returns NULL.

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
ok_group("Test addition", {  
  ok(1 + 1 == 2, "Can add 1")
  ok(1 + 3 == 4, "Can add 3")
})
ok_group("Test subtraction", {  
  ok(1 - 1 == 0, "Can subtract 1")
  ok(1 - 3 == -2, "Can subtract 3")
})
## Test addition
# ok - Can add 1
# ok - Can add 3
## Test subtraction
# ok - Can subtract 1
# ok - Can subtract 3

# Multiline group message
ok_group(c("Test multiplication", "but not division"), {  
  ok(1 * 1 == 1, "Can multiply by 1")
  ok(2 * 3 == 6, "Can multiply by 3")
})
```
## ut_cmp

### Description

A wrapper for `all.equal` and `identical` that provides more useful diagnostics when used in a `unittest` `ok` function.

### Usage

```r
ut_cmp_equal(a, b, filter = NULL, ...)
ut_cmp_identical(a, b, filter = NULL)
```

### Arguments

- **a**: First item to compare, usually the result of whatever you are testing
- **b**: Second item to compare, usually the expected output of whatever you are testing
- **filter**: An optional filter function, that turns either `a` or `b` into text, and prints this out
- **...**: Other arguments passed directly to `all.equal` and `identical`

### Details

For both functions, `a` and `b` are first passed to `all.equal` (for `ut_cmp_equal()`) or `identical` (for `ut_cmp_identical()`). If they match, then the function returns TRUE and your test passes.

If this fails, then we turn both `a` and `b` into text, and then use `git diff` to compare the 2 outputs. If you do not have `git` installed, then the 2 outputs will be shown side-by-side.

The step of turning into text is done with the filter function. There are several of these built-in, and it will choose the one that produces the simplest output. This may mean that the output will be from the `print` function if the differences are obvious, or `str` with many decimal places if there are subtle differences between the 2.

You can also provide your own filter function if there’s a particular way you would like to see the data when comparing, for example you can use `write.table` if your data is easiest to understand in tabular output.

### Value

Returns TRUE if `a` & `b` are `all.equal` (for `ut_cmp_equal()`) or `identical` (for `ut_cmp_identical()`). Otherwise, returns an `invisible()` character vector of diagnostic strings helping you find where the difference is.

If called directly in an interactive R session, this output will be printed to the console.
Examples

## Not run:
## A function to test:
> fn <- function(x) { seq(x) }

## Get it right, and test passes:
> ok(ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1,2,3)))
ok - ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1, 2, 3))

## Get it wrong, and we get told where in the output things are different:
> ok(ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1,4,3)))
not ok - ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1, 4, 3))
# Test returned non-TRUE value:
# Mean relative difference: 1
# --- fn(3)
# +++ c(1, 4, 3)
# [1] 1 [-2-]{+4+} 3

## Using a custom filter, we can format the output with write.table:
> ok(ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1,4,3), filter = write.table))
not ok - ut_cmp_equal(fn(3), c(1, 4, 3), filter = write.table)
# Test returned non-TRUE value:
# Mean relative difference: 1
# --- fn(3)
# +++ c(1, 4, 3)
# "x"
# "1" 1
# "2" [-2-]{+4+}
# "3" 3

## With ut_cmp_equal, an integer 1 is the same as a numeric 1
> ok(ut_cmp_equal(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1)))
ook - ut_cmp_equal(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1))

## With ut_cmp_identical, they’re not
> ok(ut_cmp_identical(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1)))
not ok - ut_cmp_identical(as.numeric(1), as.integer(1))
# Test returned non-TRUE value:
# --- as.numeric(1)
# +++ as.integer(1)
# [-int-]{+int+} 1

## all.equal() takes a tolerance parameter, for example:
> all.equal(0.01, 0.02, tolerance = 0.1)
[1] TRUE

## ...we can also give this to to ut_cmp_equal if we want a very
## approximate comparison
> ok(ut_cmp_equal(0.01, 0.02, tolerance = 0.1))
ook - ut_cmp_equal(0.01, 0.02, tolerance = 0.1)

## End(Not run)
ut_cmp_error

---

**ut_cmp_error**  
*Test for and compare errors generated by code*

---

**Description**

A helper to catch expected errors and ensure they match what is expected.

**Usage**

```r
ut_cmp_error(code, expected_regexp, ignore.case = FALSE, perl = FALSE, fixed = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- `code`  
  Code expression to test, should generate an error

- `expected_regexp`  
  Regular expression the error should match

- `ignore.case`  
  Passed to `grepl`

- `perl`  
  Passed to `grepl`

- `fixed`  
  Passed to `grepl`

**Value**

Returns TRUE if `exp` generates an error and matches `expected_regexp`. Returns a string with expected and actual error if `exp` generates an error but does not match. Returns "No error returned" if `exp` does not generate an error.

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
ok(ut_cmp_error({
  stop("Hammer time")
}, "hammer", ignore.case = TRUE), "Returned a hammer-based error")

## End(Not run)
```
**Index**

all.equal, 5

grepl, 7

identical, 5

ok, 2, 2, 5
ok_group, 2, 4

print, 5

str, 5

unittest, 3
unittest (unittest-package), 2
unittest-package, 2
ut_cmp, 5
ut_cmp_equal (ut_cmp), 5
ut_cmp_error, 7
ut_cmp_identical (ut_cmp), 5