Package ‘R.methodsS3’

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Author Henrik Bengtsson [aut, cre, cph]
Maintainer Henrik Bengtsson <henrikb@braju.com>
Description Methods that simplify the setup of S3 generic functions and S3 methods. Major effort has been made in making definition of methods as simple as possible with a minimum of maintenance for package developers. For example, generic functions are created automatically, if missing, and naming conflict are automatically solved, if possible. The method setMethodS3() is a good start for those who in the future may want to migrate to S4. This is a cross-platform package implemented in pure R that generates standard S3 methods.
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Description

Methods that simplify the setup of S3 generic functions and S3 methods. Major effort has been made in making definition of methods as simple as possible with a minimum of maintenance for package developers. For example, generic functions are created automatically, if missing, and naming conflict are automatically solved, if possible. The method `setMethodS3()` is a good start for those who in the future may want to migrate to S4. This is a cross-platform package implemented in pure R that generates standard S3 methods. This contents of this package originates from the `R.oo` package [1].

Installation and updates

To install this package do

```r
install.packages("R.methodsS3")
```

To get the "devel" version, see [https://github.com/HenrikBengtsson/R.methodsS3/](https://github.com/HenrikBengtsson/R.methodsS3/).

Dependencies and other requirements

This package only requires a standard R installation.

To get started

To get started, see:

1. `setMethodS3()` - Simple and safe creation of S3 methods and, whenever needed, automatic creation of S3 generic function.

Further readings

For a detailed introduction to the package, see [1].

How to cite this package

Whenever using this package, please cite [1] as


License

The releases of this package is licensed under LGPL version 2.1 or newer.
getGenericS3

Author(s)
Henrik Bengtsson

References

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genericS3 | Gets an S3 generic function

### Description

Gets an S3 generic function.

### Usage

```r
## Default S3 method:
genericS3(name, envir=parent.frame(), inherits=TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

- **name**
  - The name of the generic function.

- **envir**
  - The *environment* from which the search for the generic *function* is done.

- **inherits**
  - A logical specifying whether the enclosing frames should be searched or not.

- **...**
  - Not used.

### Author(s)
Henrik Bengtsson

### See Also

`setGenericS3()`, `getMethodS3()`, `isGenericS3()`.
getMethodS3

*Gets an S3 method*

**Description**

Gets an S3 method.

**Usage**

```
## Default S3 method:
getMethodS3(name, class="default", envir=parent.frame(), ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `name`: The name of the method.
- `class`: The class of the method.
- `envir`: The *environment* from which the search for the S3 method is done.
- `...`: Not used.

**Author(s)**

Henrik Bengtsson

**See Also**

This is just a conveniency wrapper around `getS3method` that have arguments consistent with `setMethodS3()`. `getGenericS3()`.

isGenericS3

*Checks if a function is a S3 generic function*

**Description**

Checks if a function is a S3 generic function.

**Usage**

```
## Default S3 method:
isGenericS3(fcn, envir=parent.frame(), ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `fcn`: A *function* or a *character* string.
- `envir`: If argument `fcn` is a *character*, this is the *environment* from which the search for the *function* is done.
- `...`: Not used.
setGenericS3

Details
A function is considered to be a generic S3/UseMethod function if its name matches one of the known S3 generic functions, or if it calls UseMethod().

Value
Returns TRUE if a generic S3/UseMethod function, otherwise FALSE.

Author(s)
Henrik Bengtsson

setGenericS3 Creates an S3 generic function

Description
Note that this method is an internal method called by setMethodS3() and there is no reason for calling it directly!

Creates a generic function in S3 style, i.e. setting a function with name name that dispatches the method name via UseMethod. If there is already a function named name that function is renamed to name.default.

Usage
## Default S3 method:
setGenericS3(name, export=TRUE, envir=parent.frame(), dontWarn=getOption("dontWarnPkgs"),
validators=getOption("R.methodsS3:validators:setGenericS3"), overwrite=FALSE, ...)

Arguments
name The name of the generic function.
export A logical setting attribute "export".
envir The environment for where this method should be stored.
dontWarn If a non-generic method with the same name is found it will be "renamed" to a default method. If that method is found in a package with a name that is not found in dontWarn a warning will be produced, otherwise it will be renamed silently.
validators An optional list of functions that can be used to assert that the generated generic function meets certain criteria.
... Not used.
overwrite If TRUE an already existing generic function with the same name will be overwritten, otherwise not.
Author(s)
Henrik Bengtsson

See Also
To define a method for a class see `setMethodS3()`. For more information about S3, see `UseMethod()`.

Examples

```r
myCat.matrix <- function(..., sep=" ", ) {
  cat(" A matrix:
"
  cat(..., sep=sep)
  cat("\n")
}

myCat.default <- function(..., sep=" ", ) {
  cat(..., sep=sep)
  cat("\n")
}

setGenericS3("myCat")

myCat(1:10)
mat <- matrix(1:10, ncol=5)
myCat(mat)
```

---

**setMethodS3**

*Creates an S3 method*

Description

Creates an S3 method. A function with name `<name>..<class>` will be set to definition. The method will get the modifiers specified by `modifiers`. If there exists no generic function for this method, it will be created automatically.

Usage

```r
## Default S3 method:
setMethodS3(name, class="default", definition, private=FALSE, protected=FALSE,
export=FALSE, static=FALSE, abstract=FALSE, trial=FALSE, deprecated=FALSE,
environ=parent.frame(), overwrite=TRUE, conflict=c("warning", "error", "quiet"),
createGeneric=TRUE, exportGeneric=TRUE, appendVarArgs=TRUE,
validators=getOption("R.methodsS3:validators:setMethodS3"), ...)
```
Arguments

- **name**: The name of the method.
- **class**: The class for which the method should be defined. If `class == "default"` a function with name `<name>`.default will be created.
- **definition**: The method definition.
- **private, protected**: If `private=TRUE`, the method is declared private. If `protected=TRUE`, the method is declared protected. In all other cases the method is declared public.
- **export**: A logical setting attribute "export".
- **static**: If `TRUE` this method is defined to be static, otherwise not. Currently this has no effect expect as an indicator.
- **abstract**: If `TRUE` this method is defined to be abstract, otherwise not. Currently this has no effect expect as an indicator.
- **trial**: If `TRUE` this method is defined to be a trial method, otherwise not. A trial method is a method that is introduced to be tried out and it might be modified, replaced or even removed in a future release. Some people prefer to call trial versions, beta version. Currently this has no effect expect as an indicator.
- **deprecated**: If `TRUE` this method is defined to be deprecated, otherwise not. Currently this has no effect expect as an indicator.
- **envir**: The environment for where this method should be stored.
- **overwrite**: If `TRUE` an already existing generic function and an already existing method with the same name (and of the same class) will be overwritten, otherwise not.
- **conflict**: If a method already exists with the same name (and of the same class), different actions can be taken. If "error", an exception will be thrown and the method will not be created. If "warning", a warning will be given and the method will be created, otherwise the conflict will be passed unnoticed.
- **createGeneric, exportGeneric**: If `createGeneric=TRUE`, a generic S3/UseMethod function is defined for this method, iff missing, and `exportGeneric` species attribute "export" of it.
- **appendVarArgs**: If `TRUE`, argument ... is added with a warning, if missing. For special methods such as $ and [[, this is never done (argument is ignored). This will increase the chances that the method is consistent with a generic function with many arguments and/or argument ....
- **validators**: An optional list of functions that can be used to assert that the generated method meets certain criteria.

... Passed to `setGenericS3()`, iff called.

Author(s)

Henrik Bengtsson

See Also

For more information about S3, see `UseMethod()`.
Examples

# Example 1

setMethodS3("foo", "default", function(x, ...) {
  cat("In default foo():\n");
  print(x, ...);
})

setMethodS3("foo", "character", function(s, ...) {
  cat("In foo() for class 'character':\n");
  print(s, ...);
})

# The generic function is automatically created!
print(foo)
foo(123)
foo("123")

# Example 2

# Assume that in a loaded package there is already a function bar(),
# but you also want to use the name 'bar' for the character string.
# It may even be the case that you do not know of the other package,
# but your users do!

# bar() in other package
bar <- function(x, y, ...) {
  cat("In bar() of 'other' package:\n");
}

# Your definition; will redefine bar() above to bar.default().
setMethodS3("bar", "character", function(object, ...) {
  cat("In bar() for class 'character':\n");
  print(object, ...);
})

bar(123)
bar("123")
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