Package ‘assertr’

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Type Package

Title Assertive Programming for R Analysis Pipelines

Version 2.7

Description Provides functionality to assert conditions that have to be met so that errors in data used in analysis pipelines can fail quickly. Similar to ’stopifnot()’ but more powerful, friendly, and easier for use in pipelines.

URL https://docs.ropensci.org/assertr (website)

https://github.com/ropensci/assertr

BugReports https://github.com/ropensci/assertr/issues

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Author Tony Fischetti [aut, cre]

Maintainer Tony Fischetti <tony.fischetti@gmail.com>

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assert

Raises error if predicate is FALSE in any columns selected

Description

Meant for use in a data analysis pipeline, this function will just return the data it’s supplied if there are no FALSEs when the predicate is applied to every element of the columns indicated. If any element in any of the columns, when applied to the predicate, is FALSE, then this function will raise an error, effectively terminating the pipeline early.

Usage

assert(
  data,
  predicate,
  ...,  # remaining arguments
  success_fun = success_continue,
  error_fun = error_stop
)

assert_()}
assert

data, predicate, ...
.dots,
success_fun = success_continue,
error_fun = error_stop
)

Arguments

data A data frame
predicate A function that returns FALSE when violated
... Comma separated list of unquoted expressions. Uses dplyr's select to select columns from data.
success_fun Function to call if assertion passes. Defaults to returning data.
error_fun Function to call if assertion fails. Defaults to printing a summary of all errors.
.dots Use assert_() to select columns using standard evaluation.

Details

For examples of possible choices for the success_fun and error_fun parameters, run help("success_and_error_functions")

Value

By default, the data is returned if predicate assertion is TRUE and an error is thrown if not. If a non-default success_fun or error_fun is used, the return values of these functions will be returned.

Note

See vignette("assertr") for how to use this in context

See Also

verify insist assert_rows insist_rows

Examples

# returns mtcars
assert(mtcars, not_na, vs)

# return mtcars
assert(mtcars, not_na, mpg:carb)

library(magrittr) # for piping operator

mtcars %>%
assert(in_set(c(0,1)), vs)
# anything here will run
## Not run:

```r
mtcars %>%
  assert(in_set(c(1, 2, 3, 4, 6), carb)
# the assertion is untrue so
# nothing here will run
## End(Not run)
```

---

**assertr**

**assertr: Assertive programming for R analysis pipeline.**

### Description

The assertr package supplies a suite of functions designed to verify assumptions about data early in an analysis pipeline. See the assertr vignette or the documentation for more information:

```r
> vignette("assertr")
```

### Details

You may also want to read the documentation for the functions that assertr provides:

- `assert`
- `verify`
- `insist`
- `assert_rows`
- `insist_rows`
- `not_na`
- `in_set`
- `has_all_names`
- `is_uniq`
- `num_row_NAs`
- `maha_dist`
- `col_concat`
- `within_bounds`
- `within_n_sds`
- `within_n_mads`
- `success_and_error_functions`
- `chaining_functions`
assert_rows

Examples

```r
library(magrittr) # for the piping operator
library(dplyr)

# this confirms that
# - that the dataset contains more than 10 observations
# - that the column for 'miles per gallon' (mpg) is a positive number
# - that the column for 'miles per gallon' (mpg) does not contain a datum
# that is outside 4 standard deviations from its mean, and
# - that the am and vs columns (automatic/manual and v/straight engine,
# respectively) contain 0s and 1s only
# - each row contains at most 2 NAs
# - each row's mahalanobis distance is within 10 median absolute deviations of
# all the distance (for outlier detection)

mtcars %>%
  verify(nrow(.) > 10) %>%
  verify(mpg > 0) %>%
  insist(within_n_sds(4), mpg) %>%
  assert(in_set(0,1), am, vs) %>%
  assert_rows(num_row_NAs, within_bounds(0,2), everything()) %>%
  insist_rows(maha_dist, within_n_mads(10), everything()) %>%
  group_by(cyl) %>%
  summarise(avg.mpg=mean(mpg))
```

assert_rows

- Raises error if predicate is FALSE for any row after applying row reduction function

Description

Meant for use in a data analysis pipeline, this function applies a function to a data frame that reduces each row to a single value. Then, a predicate function is applied to each of the row reduction values. If any of these predicate applications yield FALSE, this function will raise an error, effectively terminating the pipeline early. If there are no FALSEs, this function will just return the data that it was supplied for further use in later parts of the pipeline.

Usage

```r
assert_rows(
  data,
  row_reduction_fn,
  predicate,
  ...,
  success_fun = success_continue,
  error_fun = error_stop
```
assert_rows(
    data,
    row_reduction_fn,
    predicate,
    ..., .dots,
    success_fun = success_continue,
    error_fun = error_stop
)

Arguments

data A data frame
row_reduction_fn A function that returns a value for each row of the provided data frame
predicate A function that returns FALSE when violated
... Comma separated list of unquoted expressions. Uses dplyr's select to select columns from data.
success_fun Function to call if assertion passes. Defaults to returning data.
error_fun Function to call if assertion fails. Defaults to printing a summary of all errors.
dots Use assert_rows_() to select columns using standard evaluation.

Details

For examples of possible choices for the success_fun and error_fun parameters, run help("success_and_error_functions")

Value

By default, the data is returned if predicate assertion is TRUE and and error is thrown if not. If a non-default success_fun or error_fun is used, the return values of these function will be returned.

Note

See vignette("assertr") for how to use this in context

See Also

insist_rows assert verify insist

Examples

# returns mtcars
assert_rows(mtcars, num_row_NAs, within_bounds(0,2), mpg:carb)

library(magrittr) # for piping operator
### Chaining functions

**Description**

These functions are for starting and ending a sequence of assertr assertions and overriding the default behavior of assertr halting execution on the first error.

**Usage**

```r
chain_start(data)

chain_end(data, success_fun = success_continue, error_fun = error_report)
```

**Arguments**

- **data**
  - A data frame
- **success_fun**
  - Function to call if assertion passes. Defaults to returning `data`.
- **error_fun**
  - Function to call if assertion fails. Defaults to printing a summary of all errors.

**Details**

For more information, read the relevant section in this package's vignette using `vignette("assertr")`

For examples of possible choices for the `success_fun` and `error_fun` parameters, run `help("success_and_error_functions")`

**Examples**

```r
library(magrittr)

mtcars %>%
  chain_start() %>%
  verify(nrow(mtcars) > 10) %>%
  verify(mpg > 0) %>%
  insist(within_n_sds(4), mpg) %>%
  assert(in_set(0,1), am, vs) %>%
  chain_end()
```
col_concat  

Concatenate all columns of each row in data frame into a string

Description

This function will return a vector, with the same length as the number of rows of the provided data frame. Each element of the vector will be its corresponding row with all of its values (one for each column) “pasted” together in a string.

Usage

col_concat(data, sep = "")

Arguments

data  
A data frame

sep  
A string to separate the columns with (default: ")"

Value

A vector of rows concatenated into strings

See Also

paste

Examples

col_concat(mtcars)

library(magrittr)  
# for piping operator

# you can use "assert_rows", "is_uniq", and this function to
# check if joint duplicates (across different columns) appear
# in a data frame
## Not run:
mtcars %>%
  assert_rows(col_concat, is_uniq, mpg, hp)
# fails because the first two rows are jointly duplicates
# on these two columns

## End(Not run)

mtcars %>%
  assert_rows(col_concat, is_uniq, mpg, hp, wt) # ok
has_all_names

## Description

This function checks parent frame environment for existence of names. This is meant to be used with `assertr`’s `verify` function to check for the existence of specific column names in a `data.frame` that is piped to `verify`. It can also work on a non-`data.frame` list.

## Usage

```r
has_all_names(...)  
```

## Arguments

- `...` A arbitrary amount of quoted names to check for

## Value

TRUE is all names exist, FALSE if not

## See Also

`exists`

## Examples

```r
verify(mtcars, has_all_names("mpg", "wt", "qsec"))

library(magrittr) # for pipe operator

## Not run:
mtcars %>%
  verify(has_all_names("mpgg")) # fails

## End(Not run)

mpgg <- "something"

mtcars %>%
  verify(exists("mpgg")) # passes but big mistake

## Not run:
mtcars %>%
  verify(has_all_names("mpgg")) # correctly fails

## End(Not run)
```
Description

Meant for use in a data analysis pipeline, this function applies a predicate generating function to each of the columns indicated. It will then use these predicates to check every element of those columns. If any of these predicate applications yield FALSE, this function will raise an error, effectively terminating the pipeline early. If there are no FALSES, this function will just return the data that it was supplied for further use in later parts of the pipeline.

Usage

```r
insist(
  data,
  predicate_generator,
  ..., 
  success_fun = success_continue,
  error_fun = error_stop
)

insist_
  ( 
  data,
  predicate_generator,
  ..., 
  .dots,
  success_fun = success_continue,
  error_fun = error_stop
)
```

Arguments

data A data frame

predicate_generator A function that is applied to each of the column vectors selected. This will produce, for every column, a true predicate function to be applied to every element in the column vectors selected

... Comma separated list of unquoted expressions. Uses dplyr’s `select` to select columns from data.

success_fun Function to call if assertion passes. Defaults to returning data.

error_fun Function to call if assertion fails. Defaults to printing a summary of all errors.

.dots Use insist_() to select columns using standard evaluation.

Details

For examples of possible choices for the success_fun and error_fun parameters, run `help("success_and_error_functions")`
insist_rows

Value

By default, the data is returned if dynamically created predicate assertion is TRUE and an error is thrown if not. If a non-default success_fun or error_fun is used, the return values of these functions will be returned.

Note

See vignette("assertr") for how to use this in context

See Also

assert verify insist_rows assert_rows

Examples

```r
insist(iris, within_n_sds(3), Sepal.Length)  # returns iris

library(magrittr)

iris %>%
  insist(within_n_sds(4), Sepal.Length:Petal.Width)
  # anything here will run

## Not run:
iris %>%
  insist(within_n_sds(3), Sepal.Length:Petal.Width)
  # datum at index 16 of "Sepal.Width" vector is (4.4)
  # is outside 3 standard deviations from the mean of Sepal.Width.
  # The check fails, raises a fatal error, and the pipeline
  # is terminated so nothing after this statement will run

## End(Not run)
```

insist_rows

Raises error if dynamically created predicate is FALSE for any row after applying row reduction function

Description

Meant for use in a data analysis pipeline, this function applies a function to a data frame that reduces each row to a single value. Then, a predicate generating function is applied to row reduction values. It will then use these predicates to check each of the row reduction values. If any of these predicate applications yield FALSE, this function will raise an error, effectively terminating the pipeline early. If there are no FALSEs, this function will just return the data that it was supplied for further use in later parts of the pipeline.
Usage

```r
insist_rows(
  data,
  row_reduction_fn,
  predicate_generator,
  ..., 
  success_fun = success_continue,  
  error_fun = error_stop
)
```

```r
insist_rows_(
  data,
  row_reduction_fn,
  predicate_generator,
  ..., 
  .dots,
  success_fun = success_continue,  
  error_fun = error_stop
)
```

Arguments

- `data` - A data frame
- `row_reduction_fn` - A function that returns a value for each row of the provided data frame
- `predicate_generator` - A function that is applied to the results of the row reduction function. This will produce, a true predicate function to be applied to every element in the vector that the row reduction function returns.
- `...` - Comma separated list of unquoted expressions. Uses dplyr’s `select` to select columns from data.
- `success_fun` - Function to call if assertion passes. Defaults to returning `data`.
- `error_fun` - Function to call if assertion fails. Defaults to printing a summary of all errors.
- `.dots` - Use `insist_rows_()` to select columns using standard evaluation.

Details

For examples of possible choices for the `success_fun` and `error_fun` parameters, run `help("success_and_error_functions")`.

Value

By default, the data is returned if dynamically created predicate assertion is TRUE and an error is thrown if not. If a non-default `success_fun` or `error_fun` is used, the return values of these function will be returned.

Note

See `vignette("assertr")` for how to use this in context
### in_set

returns TRUE if value in set

#### Description

This function returns a predicate function that will take a single value and return TRUE if the value is a member of the set of objects supplied. This doesn’t actually check the membership of anything—it only returns a function that actually does the checking when called with a value. This is a convenience function meant to return a predicate function to be used in an `asserttr` assertion.

You can use the ‘inverse’ flag (default FALSE) to check if the arguments are NOT in the set.

#### Usage

```r
in_set(..., allow.na = TRUE, inverse = FALSE)
```

#### Arguments

- `...` objects that make up the set
- `allow.na` A logical indicating whether NAs (including NaNs) should be permitted (default TRUE)
- `inverse` A logical indicating whether it should test if arguments are NOT in the set

#### Value

A function that takes one value and returns TRUE if the value is in the set defined by the arguments supplied by `in_set` and FALSE otherwise

### Examples

```r
# returns mtcars
insist_rows(mtcars, maha_dist, within_n_mads(30), mpg:carb)

library(magrittr) # for piping operator

mtcars %>%
  insist_rows(maha_dist, within_n_mads(10), vs:am)
  # anything here will run

## Not run:
mtcars %>%
  insist_rows(maha_dist, within_n_mads(1), everything())
  # the assertion is untrue so
  # nothing here will run
## End(Not run)
```
is_uniq

Returns TRUE where no elements appear more than once

Description

This function is meant to take only a vector. It relies heavily on the duplicated function where it can be thought of as the inverse. Where this function differs, though—besides being only meant for one vector or column—is that it marks the first occurrence of a duplicated value as "non unique", as well.

Usage

is_uniq(...) is_uniq(..., allow.na = FALSE)
Arguments

... One or more vectors to check for unique combinations of elements
allow.na A logical indicating whether NAs should be preserved as missing values in the return value (FALSE) or if they should be treated just like any other value (TRUE) (default is FALSE)

Value

A vector of the same length where the corresponding element is TRUE if the element only appears once in the vector and FALSE otherwise

See Also
duplicated

Examples

is_uniq(1:10)
is_uniq(c(1,1,2,3), c(1,2,2,3))

## Not run:
# returns FALSE where a "5" appears
is_uniq(c(1:10, 5))

## End(Not run)
library(magrittr)

## Not run:
# this fails 4 times
mtcars %>% assert(is_uniq, qsec)

## End(Not run)

maha_dist

Computes mahalanobis distance for each row of data frame

Description

This function will return a vector, with the same length as the number of rows of the provided data frame, corresponding to the average mahalanobis distances of each row from the whole data set.

Usage

maha_dist(data, keep.NA = TRUE, robust = FALSE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
Arguments

- **data**: A data frame
- **keep.NA**: Ensure that every row with missing data remains NA in the output? TRUE by default.
- **robust**: Attempt to compute mahalanobis distance based on robust covariance matrix? FALSE by default
- **stringsAsFactors**: Convert non-factor string columns into factors? FALSE by default

Details

This is useful for finding anomalous observations, row-wise.

It will convert any categorical variables in the data frame into numerics as long as they are factors. For example, in order for a character column to be used as a component in the distance calculations, it must either be a factor, or converted to a factor by using the `stringsAsFactors` parameter.

Value

A vector of observation-wise mahalanobis distances.

See Also

- `insist_rows`

Examples

```r
maha_dist(mtcars)

maha_dist(iris, robust=TRUE)
```

```r
library(magrittr) # for piping operator
library(dplyr) # for "everything()" function

# using every column from mtcars, compute mahalanobis distance
# for each observation, and ensure that each distance is within 10
# median absolute deviations from the median
mtcars %>%
  insist_rows(maha_dist, within_n_mads(10), everything())
  ## anything here will run
```
not_na  

**Returns TRUE if value is not NA**

**Description**

This is the inverse of **is.na**. This is a convenience function meant to be used as a predicate in an **assertr** assertion.

**Usage**

```
not_na(x, allow.NaN = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- `x`  
  A R object that supports **is.na** an **is.nan**

- `allow.NaN`  
  A logical indicating whether NaNs should be allowed (default FALSE)

**Value**

A vector of the same length that is TRUE when the element is not NA and FALSE otherwise

**See Also**

**is.na**  
**is.nan**

**Examples**

```
not_na(NA)
nan(2.8)
nan("tree")
nan(c(1, 2, NA, 4))
```

---

**num_row_NAs**  

**Counts number of NAs in each row**

**Description**

This function will return a vector, with the same length as the number of rows of the provided data frame, corresponding to the number of missing values in each row

**Usage**

```
um_row_NAs(data, allow.NaN = FALSE)
```
Arguments

- `data` A data frame
- `allow.NaN` Treat NaN like NA (by counting it). FALSE by default

Value

A vector of number of missing values in each row

See Also

- `is.na` `is.nan` `not_na`

Examples

```r
num_row_NAs(mtcars)

library(magrittr)  # for piping operator
library(dplyr)      # for "everything()" function

# using every column from mtcars, make sure there are at most
# 2 NAs in each row. If there are any more than two, error out
mtcars %>%
  assert_rows(num_row_NAs, within_bounds(0, 2), everything())
  ## anything here will run
```

Description

`print.assertr_assert_error` This prints the error message and the entire two-column `data.frame` holding the indexes and values of the offending data.

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'assertr_assert_error'
print(x, ...)
```

Arguments

- `x` An assertr_assert_error object
- `...` Further arguments passed to or from other methods
**Description**

`'summary'` method for class "assertr_verify_error"

**Usage**

```r
## S3 method for class 'assertr_verify_error'
print(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- **x**: An assertr_verify_error object.
- **...**: Further arguments passed to or from other methods

**See Also**

`summary.assertr_verify_error`

---

**success_and_error_functions**

*Success and error functions*

**Description**

The behavior of functions like `assert`, `assert_rows`, `insist`, `insist_rows`, `verify` when the assertion passes or fails is configurable via the `success_fun` and `error_fun` parameters, respectively. The `success_fun` parameter takes a function that takes the data passed to the assertion function as a parameter. You can write your own success handler function, but there are two provided by this package:

- `success_continue` - just returns the data that was passed into the assertion function
- `success_logical` - returns TRUE

The `error_fun` parameter takes a function that takes the data passed to the assertion function as a parameter. You can write your own error handler function, but there are a few provided by this package:

- `error_stop` - Prints a summary of the errors and halts execution.
• **error_report** - Prints all the information available about the errors in a "tidy" data.frame (including information such as the name of the predicate used, the offending value, etc...) and halts execution.

• **error_append** - Attaches the errors to a special attribute of data and returns the data. This is chiefly to allow assertr errors to be accumulated in a pipeline so that all assertions can have a chance to be checked and so that all the errors can be displayed at the end of the chain.

• **error_return** - Returns the raw object containing all the errors

• **error_df_return** - Returns a "tidy" data.frame containing all the errors, including informations such as the name of the predicate used, the offending value, etc...

• **error_logical** - returns FALSE

• **just_warn** - Prints a summary of the errors but does not halt execution, it just issues a warning.

• **warn_report** - Prints all the information available about the errors but does not halt execution, it just issues a warning.

**Usage**

success_logical(data, ...)

success_continue(data, ...)

error_stop(errors, data = NULL, warn = FALSE, ...)

just_warn(errors, data = NULL)

error_report(errors, data = NULL, warn = FALSE, ...)

warn_report(errors, data = NULL)

error_append(errors, data = NULL)

error_return(errors, data = NULL)

error_df_return(errors, data = NULL)

error_logical(errors, data = NULL, ...)

**Arguments**

data A data frame

... Further arguments passed to or from other methods

errors A list of objects of class assertr_errors

warn If TRUE, assertr will issue a warning instead of an error
Description

‘s`summary`’ method for class "assertr_assert_error" This prints the error message and the first five rows of the two-column ‘data.frame’ holding the indexes and values of the offending data.

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'assertr_assert_error'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object An assertr_assert_error object
...
Additional arguments affecting the summary produced

See Also

print.assertr_assert_error

Description

‘summary’ method for class "assertr_verify_error"

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'assertr_verify_error'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object An assertr_verify_error object
...
Additional arguments affecting the summary produced

See Also

print.assertr_verify_error
verify

**Description**

Meant for use in a data analysis pipeline, this function will just return the data it’s supplied if all the logicals in the expression supplied are TRUE. If at least one is FALSE, this function will raise an error, effectively terminating the pipeline early.

**Usage**

```
verify(data, expr, success_fun = success_continue, error_fun = error_stop)
```

**Arguments**

- **data**
  A data frame, list, or environment

- **expr**
  A logical expression

- **success_fun**
  Function to call if assertion passes. Defaults to returning `data`.

- **error_fun**
  Function to call if assertion fails. Defaults to printing a summary of all errors.

**Details**

For examples of possible choices for the `success_fun` and `error_fun` parameters, run `help("success_and_error_functions")`.

**Value**

By default, the data is returned if predicate assertion is TRUE and an error is thrown if not. If a non-default `success_fun` or `error_fun` is used, the return values of these functions will be returned.

**Note**

See vignette("assertr") for how to use this in context

**See Also**

- `assert`
- `insist`

**Examples**

```r
verify(mtcars, drat > 2)  # returns mtcars
## Not run:
verify(mtcars, drat > 3)  # produces error
## End(Not run)

library(magrittr)  # for piping operator
```
within_bounds

## Not run:
```r
mtcars %>%
  verify(drat > 3) %>%
  # anything here will not run
## End(Not run)
```

```r
mtcars %>%
  verify(nrow(mtcars) > 2)
# anything here will run
```

```r
alist <- list(a=c(1,2,3), b=c(4,5,6))
verify(alist, length(a) > 2)
verify(alist, length(a) > 2 && length(b) > 2)
verify(alist, a > 0 & b > 2)
```

## Not run:
```r
alist %>%
  verify(alist, length(a) > 5)
# nothing here will run
## End(Not run)
```

---

**within_bounds**

_Creates bounds checking predicate_

### Description

This function returns a predicate function that will take a numeric value or vector and return TRUE if the value(s) is/are within the bounds set. This does not actually check the bounds of anything—it only returns a function that actually does the checking when called with a number. This is a convenience function meant to return a predicate function to be used in an `assertr` assertion.

### Usage

```r
within_bounds(
  lower.bound,
  upper.bound,
  include.lower = TRUE,
  include.upper = TRUE,
  allow.na = TRUE
)
```

### Arguments

- `lower.bound`: The lowest permitted value
- `upper.bound`: The upper permitted value
- `include.lower`: A logical indicating whether lower bound should be inclusive (default TRUE)
include.upper  A logical indicating whether upper bound should be inclusive (default TRUE)
allow.na      A logical indicating whether NAs (including NaNs) should be permitted (default TRUE)

Value

A function that takes numeric value or numeric vector and returns TRUE if the value(s) is/are within the bounds defined by the arguments supplied by within_bounds and FALSE otherwise

Examples

predicate <- within_bounds(3,4)
predicate(pi)

## is equivalent to
within_bounds(3,4)(pi)

# a correlation coefficient must always be between 0 and 1
coeff <- cor.test(c(1,2,3), c(.5, 2.4, 4))[["estimate"]]
within_bounds(0,1)(coeff)

## check for positive number
positivep <- within_bounds(0, Inf, include.lower=FALSE)

## this is meant to be used as a predicate in an assert statement
assert(mtcars, within_bounds(4,8), cyl)

## or in a pipeline

library(magrittr)

mtcars %>%
  assert(within_bounds(4,8), cyl)

within_n_mads  Return a function to create robust z-score checking predicate

Description

This function takes one argument, the number of median absolute deviations within which to accept a particular data point. This is generally more useful than its sister function within_n_sds because it is more robust to the presence of outliers. It is therefore better suited to identify potentially erroneous data points.

Usage

within_n_mads(n, ...)

within_n_mads

Arguments

n
The number of median absolute deviations from the median within which to accept a datum

... Additional arguments to be passed to within_bounds

Details

As an example, if '2' is passed into this function, this will return a function that takes a vector and figures out the bounds of two median absolute deviations (MADs) from the median. That function will then return a within_bounds function that can then be applied to a single datum. If the datum is within two MADs of the median of the vector given to the function returned by this function, it will return TRUE. If not, FALSE.

This function isn’t meant to be used on its own, although it can. Rather, this function is meant to be used with the insist function to search for potentially erroneous data points in a data set.

Value

A function that takes a vector and returns a within_bounds predicate based on the MAD of that vector.

See Also

within_n_sds

Examples

test.vector <- rnorm(100, mean=100, sd=20)

within.one.mad <- within_n_mads(1)
custom.bounds.checker <- within.one.mad(test.vector)
custom.bounds.checker(105)  # returns TRUE  
custom.bounds.checker(40)  # returns FALSE

# same as
within_n_mads(1)(test.vector)(40)  # returns FALSE

within_n_mads(2)(test.vector)(as.numeric(NA))  # returns TRUE  
# because, by default, within_bounds() will accept  
# NA values. If we want to reject NAs, we have to  
# provide extra arguments to this function  
within_n_mads(2, allow.na=FALSE)(test.vector)(as.numeric(NA))  # returns FALSE

# or in a pipeline, like this was meant for

library(magrittr)

iris %>%  
  insist(within_n_mads(5), Sepal.Length)
Return a function to create z-score checking predicate

Description
This function takes one argument, the number of standard deviations within which to accept a particular data point.

Usage
within_n_sds(n, ...)

Arguments
n        The number of standard deviations from the mean within which to accept a datum
...      Additional arguments to be passed to within_bounds

Details
As an example, if '2' is passed into this function, this will return a function that takes a vector and figures out the bounds of two standard deviations from the mean. That function will then return a within_bounds function that can then be applied to a single datum. If the datum is within two standard deviations of the mean of the vector given to the function returned by this function, it will return TRUE. If not, FALSE.

This function isn’t meant to be used on its own, although it can. Rather, this function is meant to be used with the insist function to search for potentially erroneous data points in a data set.

Value
A function that takes a vector and returns a within_bounds predicate based on the standard deviation of that vector.

See Also
within_n_mads

Examples
test.vector <- rnorm(100, mean=100, sd=20)

within.one.sd <- within_n_sds(1)
custom.bounds.checker <- within.one.sd(test.vector)
custom.bounds.checker(105) # returns TRUE
custom.bounds.checker(40) # returns FALSE

# same as
within_n_sds(1)(test.vector)(40) # returns FALSE
within_n_sds(2)(test.vector)(as.numeric(NA)) # returns TRUE
# because, by default, within_bounds() will accept
# NA values. If we want to reject NAs, we have to
# provide extra arguments to this function
within_n_sds(2, allow.na=FALSE)(test.vector)(as.numeric(NA)) # returns FALSE

# or in a pipeline, like this was meant for

library(magrittr)

iris %>%
  insist(within_n_sds(5), Sepal.Length)
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