Package ‘rdflib’

March 9, 2023

Title  Tools to Manipulate and Query Semantic Data
Version  0.2.6

Description  The Resource Description Framework, or 'RDF' is a widely used
data representation model that forms the cornerstone of the
Semantic Web. 'RDF' represents data as a graph rather than
the familiar data table or rectangle of relational databases.
The 'rdflib' package provides a friendly and concise user interface
for performing common tasks on 'RDF' data, such as reading, writing
and converting between the various serializations of 'RDF' data,
including 'rdfxml', 'turtle', 'nquads', 'ntriples', and 'json-ld';
creating new 'RDF' graphs, and performing graph queries using 'SPARQL'.
This package wraps the low level 'redland' R package which
provides direct bindings to the 'redland' C library. Additionally,
the package supports the newer and more developer friendly
'JSON-LD' format through the 'jsonld' package. The package
interface takes inspiration from the Python 'rdflib' library.

License  MIT + file LICENSE
Encoding  UTF-8
URL  https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib
BugReports  https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib/issues
Imports  redland, jsonld, methods, utils, stringi, readr, dplyr, tidyr
RoxygenNote  7.2.3
Suggests  magrittr, covr, testthat, knitr, rmarkdown, jqr, DT, tibble,
purr, lubridate, htr, xml2, jsonlite, repurrrsive,
nycflights13, spelling
VignetteBuilder  knitr
Language  en-US
NeedsCompilation  no
Author  Carl Boettiger [aut, cre, cph]
(https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1642-628X),
Bryce Mecum [rev] (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0381-3766),
Anna Krystalli [rev] (https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2378-4915),
Viktor Senderov [ctb] (https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3340-5963)
Description

The Resource Description Framework, or RDF is a widely used data representation model that forms the cornerstone of the Semantic Web. ‘RDF’ represents data as a graph rather than the familiar data table or rectangle of relational databases.

Details

It has three main goals:

- Easily read, write, and convert between all major RDF serialization formats
- Support SPARQL queries to extract data from an RDF graph into a data.frame
- Support JSON-LD format as a first-class citizen in RDF manipulations

For more information, see the Wikipedia pages for RDF, SPARQL, and JSON-LD:

To learn more about rdflib, start with the vignettes: `browseVignettes(package = "rdflib")`

Configurations via `options()`

**rdf_print_format:**
- NULL or "nquads" (default)
- any valid serializer name: e.g. "rdfxml", "jsonld", "turtle", "ntriples"

**rdf_base_uri:**
- Default base URI to use (when serializing JSON-LD only at this time) default is "localhost://"

**rdf_max_print:**
- maximum number of lines to print from rdf, default 10

**Author(s)**

Maintainer: Carl Boettiger <cboettig@gmail.com> (ORCID) [copyright holder]

Other contributors:
- Bryce Mecum (ORCID) [reviewer]
- Anna Krystalli (ORCID) [reviewer]
- Viktor Senderov <vsenderov@gmail.com> (ORCID) [contributor]

**See Also**

Useful links:
- [https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib](https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib)
- Report bugs at [https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib/issues](https://github.com/ropensci/rdflib/issues)

---

**as_rdf**

Coerce an object into RDF

**Description**

Coerce an object into RDF

**Usage**

```r
as_rdf(
  x,
  rdf = NULL,
  prefix = NULL,
  base = getOption("rdf_base_uri", "localhost://"),
  context = NULL,
  key_column = NULL
)
```
Arguments

- **x**: an object to coerce into RDF (list, list-like, or data.frame)
- **rdf**: An existing rdf object, (by default a new object will be initialized)
- **prefix**: A default vocabulary (URI prefix) to assume for all predicates
- **base**: A base URI to assume for blank subject nodes
- **context**: a named list mapping any string to a URI
- **key_column**: name of a column which should be treated as the primary key in a table. must be unique

Examples

```r
c rdf(mtcars)
c rdf(list(repo = "rdflib", owner = list("id", "ropensci")))
```

---

**c.rdf**  
**Concatenate rdf Objects.**

---

Description

All subsequent rdf objects will be appended to the first rdf object. Note: this does not free memory from any of the individual rdf objects. Note: It is generally better to avoid the use of this function by passing an existing rdf object to and rdf_parse or rdf_add objects. Multiple active rdf objects can cause problems when using disk-based storage backends.

Usage

```r
## S3 method for class 'rdf'
c(...)
```

Arguments

- `...`: objects to be concatenated

---

**rdf**  
**Initialize an rdf Object**

---

Description

Initialize an rdf Object
Usage

```r
rdf(
    storage = c("memory", "BDB", "sqlite", "postgres", "mysql", "virtuoso"),
    host = NULL,
    port = NULL,
    user = NULL,
    password = NULL,
    database = NULL,
    charset = NULL,
    dir = NULL,
    dsn = "Local Virtuoso",
    name = "rdflib",
    new_db = FALSE,
    fallback = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

- `storage`: Storage backend to use; see details
- `host`: host address for mysql, postgres, or virtuoso storage
- `port`: port for mysql (mysql storage defaults to mysql standard port, 3306) or postgres (postgres storage defaults to postgres standard port, 4321)
- `user`: user name for postgres, mysql, or virtuoso
- `password`: password for postgres, mysql, or virtuoso
- `database`: name of the database to be created/used
- `charset`: charset for virtuoso database, if desired
- `dir`: directory of where to write sqlite or berkeley database.
- `dsn`: Virtuoso dsn, either "Local Virtuoso" or "Remote Virtuoso"
- `name`: name for the storage object created. Default is usually fine.
- `new_db`: logical, default FALSE. Create new database or connect to existing?
- `fallback`: logical, default TRUE. If requested storage system cannot initialize, should `rdf()` fall back on memory (default) or throw an error (fallback=FALSE)??

Details

An `rdf` Object is a list of class `"rdf"`, consisting of three pointers to external C objects managed by the redland library. These are the `world` object: basically a top-level pointer for all RDF models, and a `model` object: a collection of RDF statements, and a `storage` object, indicating how these statements are stored.

`rdflib` defaults to an in-memory hash-based storage structure, which should be best for most use cases. For very large triplestores, disk-based storage will be necessary. Enabling external storage devices will require additional libraries and custom compiling. See the storage vignette for details.

Value

- an `rdf` object
rdf_add

Add RDF Triples

Description

add a triple (subject, predicate, object) to the RDF graph

Usage

```r
df_add(
  rdf,
  subject,
  predicate,
  object,
  subjectType = as.character(NA),
  objectType = as.character(NA),
  datatype_uri = as.character(NA)
)
```

Arguments

- `rdf` an rdf object
- `subject` character string containing the subject
- `predicate` character string containing the predicate
- `object` character string containing the object
- `subjectType` the Node type of the subject, i.e. "uri", "blank"
- `objectType` the Node type of the object, i.e. "literal", "uri", "blank"
- `datatype_uri` the datatype URI to associate with a object literal value

Details

`rdf_add()` will automatically 'duck type' nodes (if looks like a duck...). That is, strings that look like URIs will be declared as URIs. (See URI). Predicate should always be a URI (e.g. URL or a prefix:string), cannot be blank or literal. Subjects that look like strings will be treated as Blank Nodes (i.e. will be prefixed with _:). An empty subject, "", will create a blank node with random name. Objects that look like URIs will be typed as resource nodes, otherwise as literals. An empty object "" will be treated as blank node. Set `subjectType` or `objectType` explicitly to override this behavior, e.g. to treat an object URI as a literal string. NAs are also treated as blank nodes in subject or object See examples for details.
Value

Silently returns the updated RDF graph (rdf object). Since the rdf object simply contains external pointers to the model object in C code, note that the input object is modified directly, so you need not assign the output of rdf_add() to anything.

References


Examples

```r
rdf <- rdf()
rdf_add(rdf,
    subject="http://www.dajobe.org/",
    predicate="http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/language",
    object="en")
```

## non-URI string in subject indicates a blank subject
## (prefixes to ":b0")
rdf_add(rdf, "b0", "http://schema.org/jobTitle", "Professor")

## identically a blank subject.
## Note rdf is unchanged when we add the same triple twice.
rdf_add(rdf, "b0", "http://schema.org/jobTitle", "Professor",
    subjectType = "blank")

## blank node with empty string creates a default blank node id
rdf_add(rdf, ",", "http://schema.org/jobTitle", "Professor")

## Subject and Object both recognized as URI resources:
rdf_add(rdf,
    "https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1642-628X",
    "http://schema.org/homepage",
    "http://carlboettiger.info")

## Force object to be literal, not URI resource
rdf_add(rdf,
    "https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1642-628X",
    "http://schema.org/homepage",
    "http://carlboettiger.info",
    objectType = "literal")
```

---

**rdf_free**

Free Memory Associated with RDF object
Description
Free Memory Associated with RDF object

Usage
rdf_free(rdf, rm = TRUE)

Arguments
rdf an rdf object
rm logical, default TRUE. Remove pointer from parent.frame()? Usually a good idea since referring to a pointer after it has been removed can crash R.

Details
Free all pointers associated with an rdf object. Frees memory associated with the storage, world, and model objects.

Examples
rdf <- rdf()
rdf_free(rdf)
rm(rdf)

rdf_has_bdb Check for BDB support

Description
Detect whether Berkeley Database for disk-based storage of RDF graphs is available. Disk-based storage requires redland package to be installed from source with support for the Berkeley DB (libdb-dev on Ubuntu, berkeley-db on homebrew), otherwise rdf() will fall back to in-memory storage with a warning.

Usage
rdf_has_bdb()

Value
TRUE if BDB support is detected, false otherwise

Examples
rdf_has_bdb()
Parse RDF Files

Usage

```r
rdf_parse(
  doc,
  format = c("guess", "rdfxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle", "jsonld"),
  rdf = NULL,
  base = getOption("rdf_base_uri", "localhost://"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

- `doc`: path, URL, or literal string of the rdf document to parse
- `format`: rdf serialization format of the doc, one of "rdfxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle" or "jsonld". If not provided, will try to guess based on file extension and fall back on rdfxml.
- `rdf`: an existing rdf triplestore to extend with triples from the parsed file. Default will create a new rdf object.
- `base`: the base URI to assume for any relative URIs (blank nodes)
- `...`: additional parameters (not implemented)

Value

- an rdf object, containing the redland world and model objects

Examples

```r
doc <- system.file("extdata", "dc.rdf", package="redland")
rdf <- rdf_parse(doc)
```
**rdf_query**

**Perform a SPARQL Query**

**Description**

Perform a SPARQL Query

**Usage**

```
rdf_query(rdf, query, data.frame = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- **rdf**
  - an rdf object (e.g. from `rdf_parse`)
- **query**
  - a SPARQL query, as text string
- **data.frame**
  - logical, should the results be returned as a data.frame?
- **...**
  - additional arguments to a redland initialize-Query

**Value**

a data.frame of all query results (default.) Columns will be named according to variable names in the SPARQL query. Returned object values will be coerced to match the corresponding R type to any associated datatype URI, if provided. If a column would result in mixed classes (e.g. strings and numerics), all types in the column will be coerced to character strings. If `data.frame` is false, results will be returned as a list with each element typed by its data URI.

**Examples**

```r
doc <- system.file("extdata", "dc.rdf", package="redland")

sparql <-
  "PREFIX dc: <http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/>\n  SELECT ?a ?c
  WHERE { ?a dc:creator ?c . }"

rdf <- rdf_parse(doc)
rdf_query(rdf, sparql)
```
Serialize an RDF Document

Usage

```r
rdf_serialize(
  rdf, 
  doc = NULL,  
  format = c("guess", "rdfxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle", "jsonld"),  
  namespace = NULL,  
  prefix = names(namespace),  
  base = getOption("rdf_base_uri", "localhost://"),  
  ... 
)
```

Arguments

- **rdf**: an existing rdf triplestore to extend with triples from the parsed file. Default will create a new rdf object.
- **doc**: file path to write out to. If null, will write to character.
- **format**: rdf serialization format of the doc, one of "rdfxml", "nquads", "ntriples", "turtle" or "jsonld". If not provided, will try to guess based on file extension and fall back on rdfxml.
- **namespace**: a named character containing the prefix to namespace bindings. names(namespace) are the prefixes, whereas namespace are the namespaces
- **prefix** (optional) for backward compatibility. See namespace. It contains the matching prefixes to the namespaces in namespace and is set automatically if you provide namespace as a named character vector.
- **base**: the base URI to assume for any relative URIs (blank nodes)
- **...**: additional arguments to redland::serializeToFile

Value

`rdf_serialize` returns the output file path doc invisibly. This makes it easier to use `rdf_serialize` in pipe chains with `rdf_parse`.

Examples

```r
infile <- system.file("extdata", "dc.rdf", package="redland")
out <- tempfile("file", fileext = ".rdf")

some_rdf <- rdf_parse(infile)
```
```r
rdf_add(some_rdf,
subject = "http://www.dajobe.org/dave-beckett",
predicate = "http://www.w3.org/1999/02/22-rdf-syntax-ns#type",
object = "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/Person")
rdf_serialize(some_rdf, out)

## With a namespace
rdf_serialize(some_rdf,
  out,
  format = "turtle",
  namespace = c(dc = "http://purl.org/dc/elements/1.1/",
                 foaf = "http://xmlns.com/foaf/0.1/"))

readLines(out)
```

---

**read_nquads**

*read an nquads file*

**Description**

read an nquads file

**Usage**

```r
read_nquads(file, ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `file`  
  path to nquads file
- `...`  
  additional arguments to `rdf_parse()`

**Value**

an rdf object. See `rdf_parse()`

**Examples**

```r
tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".nq")
library(datasets)
write_nquads(iris, tmp)
read_nquads(tmp)
```
write_nquads

write_nquads
write object out as nquads

Description

write object out as nquads

Usage

write_nquads(x, file, ...)

Arguments

x an object that can be represented as nquads
file output filename
... additional parameters, see examples

Examples

tmp <- tempfile(fileext = ".nq")
library(datasets)

## convert data.frame to nquads
write_nquads(iris, tmp)
.rdf <- read_nquads(tmp)

## or starting a native rdf object
write_nquads(rdf, tempfile(fileext = ".nq"))
Index

as_rdf, 3

C.rdf, 4

rdf, 4
rdf_add, 6
rdf_free, 7
rdf_has_bdb, 8
rdf_parse, 9, 10, 11
rdf_parse(), 12
rdf_query, 10
rdf_serialize, 11
rdflib (rdflib-package), 2
rdflib-package, 2
read_nquads, 12

write_nquads, 13