

Package ‘convertBCD’

May 8, 2026

Type Package

Title Convert Decimal to Binary-Coded Decimal (BCD) Form and Vice Versa

Version 1.0

Date 2024-06-24

Description Convert BCD (raw bytes) to decimal numbers and vice versa. BCD format is used to preserve decimals exactly, as opposed to the binary rounding errors inherent in ``numeric'' or ``floating-point'' formats.

License LGPL-3

Imports Rmpfr, gmp, methods

NeedsCompilation no

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Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2024-06-28 15:00:02 UTC

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convertBCD-package	<i>Convert Decimal to Binary-Coded Decimal (BCD) Form and Vice Versa</i>
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Description

Convert BCD (raw bytes) to decimal numbers and vice versa. BCD format is used to preserve decimals exactly, as opposed to the binary rounding errors inherent in "numeric" or "floating-point" formats.

Details

The DESCRIPTION file:

```

Package:      convertBCD
Type:        Package
Title:       Convert Decimal to Binary-Coded Decimal (BCD) Form and Vice Versa
Version:     1.0
Date:       2024-06-24
Authors@R:  c(person(given = "Carl", family = "Witthoft", role = c("aut","cre"), email= "cellocgw@gmail.com"))
Description: Convert BCD (raw bytes) to decimal numbers and vice versa. BCD format is used to preserve decimals exactly
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LazyData:   FALSE
Imports:    Rmpfr, gmp, methods
Author:     Carl Witthoft [aut, cre]
Maintainer: Carl Witthoft <cellocgw@gmail.com>

```

Author(s)

Carl Witthoft [aut, cre]
 Maintainer: Carl Witthoft <cellocgw@gmail.com>

bcd2dec	<i>Function to convert binary-coded decimal (BCD) data to decimal form. ~~</i>
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Description

Given one or two input vectors of class "raw", representing an integer and optionally a decimal portion of a number, the decimal values are returned.

Usage

```
bcd2dec(x, xdec = NULL, mergex = TRUE, endian = c("little", "big"))
```

Arguments

x	The vector of bytes containing the BCD representation of the integer portion of a value. Must be of class 'raw'.
xdec	The vector of bytes containing the BCD representation of the decimal portion of a value. Must be of class 'raw'. The default is NULL.
mergex	A logical value. If TRUE, The integer and decimal parts are combined to return a single number. Otherwise the integer and decimal parts are returned separately.
endian	The order of bytes in the raw BCD input.

Details

The BCD format reserves a full byte for each character (number) in an input value. While this is memory-expensive, it guarantees the exact value is stored, unlike class `numeric` or others, which are subject to binary expansion rounding errors. There is no standard for indicating the location of a decimal point in BCD data, which is why the integer and decimal portion must be entered separately here.

Value

A list with elements: `intx`, character strings representing the decimal numbers produced or, if `mergex == FALSE`, the integer portions of the numbers. `decx`, set to `NULL` unless `mergex == FALSE`, in which case character strings representing the decimal portions of the numbers generated.

Author(s)

Carl Witthoft, <carl@witthoft.com>

See Also

[bcdToInteger](#) `dec2bcd`

Examples

```
foo <- dec2bcd('37.852')
bar <- bcd2dec(foo$xint[[1]],foo$xdec[[1]])
```

dec2bcd	<i>Convert decimal numbers to binary-coded decimal (BCD) form. ~~</i>
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Description

The input decimal values are converted to one or two vectors of class "raw", representing an integer and optionally a decimal portion of a number.

Usage

```
dec2bcd(x, endian = c("little", "big"))
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	Decimal numbers. Can be one of the following classes: <code>numeric</code> , <code>bigz</code> , <code>character</code> .
<code>endian</code>	The order of bytes desired in the raw BCD output.

Details

The BCD format reserves a full byte for each character (number) in an input value. While this is memory-expensive, it guarantees the exact value is stored, unlike class `numeric` or others, which are subject to binary expansion rounding errors. There is no standard for indicating the location of a decimal point in BCD data, which is why the integer and decimal portion are returned separately.

Value

A list containing: `intx`, a vector of strings representing the integer parts of the decimal number
`decx`, a vector of strings representing the decimal parts of the decimal number, if any.

Author(s)

Carl Witthoft, <carl@witthoft.com>

See Also

[bcdToInteger](#), [bcd2dec](#)

Examples

```
foo <- dec2bcd('37.852')
bar <- bcd2dec(foo$xint[[1]],foo$xdec[[1]])
```

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