Package 'duckdb'

May 8, 2026

Title DBI Package for the DuckDB Database Management System

Version 1.5.2

Description The DuckDB project is an embedded analytical data management system with support for the Structured Query Language (SQL). This package includes all of DuckDB and an R Database Interface (DBI) connector.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL https://r.duckdb.org/, https://github.com/duckdb/duckdb-r

BugReports https://github.com/duckdb/duckdb-r/issues

Depends DBI, R (>= 4.1.0)

Imports methods, utils

Suggests adbcdrivermanager, arrow (>= 13.0.0), bit64, callr, clock, DBItest, dbplyr, dplyr, rlang, sf, testthat (>= 3.0.0), tibble, vctrs, wk, withr

Biarch true

Config/build/compilation-database false

Config/build/never-clean true

Config/comment/compilation-database Generate manually with pkgload:::generate_db() for faster pkgload::load_all()

Config/gha/extra-packages arrow=?ignore-before-r=4.2.0 adbcdrivermanager=?ignore-before-r=4.2.0

Config/gha/filter os != ``windows-latest" | r != ``4.1"

Config/gha/filter-note Inexplicable build failures on Windows GHA with R 4.1, works locally

Config/testthat/edition 3

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3.9000

SystemRequirements xz (for building from source)

NeedsCompilation yes

Author Hannes Mühleisen [aut] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8552-0029>),
Mark Raasveldt [aut] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5005-6844>),
Kirill Müller [cre] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1416-3412>),
Stichting DuckDB Foundation [cph],
Apache Software Foundation [cph],
PostgreSQL Global Development Group [cph],
The Regents of the University of California [cph],
Cameron Desrochers [cph],
Victor Zverovich [cph],
RAD Game Tools [cph],
Valve Software [cph],
Rich Geldreich [cph],
Tenacious Software LLC [cph],
The RE2 Authors [cph],
Google Inc. [cph],
Facebook Inc. [cph],
Steven G. Johnson [cph],
Jiahao Chen [cph],
Tony Kelman [cph],
Jonas Fonseca [cph],
Lukas Fittl [cph],
Salvatore Sanfilippo [cph],
Art.sy, Inc. [cph],
Oran Agra [cph],
Redis Labs, Inc. [cph],
Melissa O'Neill [cph],
PCG Project contributors [cph]

Maintainer Kirill Müller <kirill@cynkra.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2026-04-13 19:20:02 UTC

Contents

backend-duckdb *DuckDB SQL backend for dbplyr*

Description

This is a SQL backend for dbplyr tailored to take into account DuckDB's possibilities. This mainly follows the backend for PostgreSQL, but contains more mapped functions.

`tbl_file()` is an experimental variant of `dplyr::tbl()` to directly access files on disk. It is safer than `dplyr::tbl()` because there is no risk of misinterpreting the request, and paths with special characters are supported.

`tbl_function()` is an experimental variant of `dplyr::tbl()` to create a lazy table from a table-generating function, useful for reading nonstandard CSV files or other data sources. It is safer than `dplyr::tbl()` because there is no risk of misinterpreting the query. See https://duckdb.org/docs/data/overview for details on data importing functions.

As an alternative, use `dplyr::tbl(src, dplyr::sql("SELECT ... FROM ..."))` for custom SQL queries.

`tbl_query()` is deprecated in favor of `tbl_function()`.

Use `simulate_duckdb()` with `lazy_frame()` to see simulated SQL without opening a DuckDB connection.

Usage

```
tbl_file(src = NULL, path, ..., cache = FALSE)

tbl_function(src, query, ..., cache = FALSE)

tbl_query(src, query, ...)

simulate_duckdb(...)
```

Arguments

`src`	A duckdb connection object, `default_conn()` if omitted.
`path`	Path to existing Parquet, CSV or JSON file
`...`	Any parameters to be forwarded
`cache`	Enable object cache for Parquet files
`query`	SQL code, omitting the `FROM` clause

Examples

```
library(dplyr, warn.conflicts = FALSE)
con <- DBI::dbConnect(duckdb(), path = ":memory:")

db <- copy_to(con, data.frame(a = 1:3, b = letters[2:4]))
```

```
db %>%
  filter(a > 1) %>%
  select(b)

path <- tempfile(fileext = ".csv")
write.csv(data.frame(a = 1:3, b = letters[2:4]))

db_csv <- tbl_file(con, path)
db_csv %>%
  summarize(sum_a = sum(a))

db_csv_fun <- tbl_function(con, paste0("read_csv_auto('", path, "')"))
db_csv %>%
  count()

DBI::dbDisconnect(con, shutdown = TRUE)
```

`default_conn` *Get the default connection*

Description

[Experimental]

`default_conn()` returns a default, built-in connection.

Usage

```
default_conn()
```

Details

Currently, the connection is established with `duckdb(environment_scan = TRUE)` and `dbConnect(timezone_out = "", array = "matrix")` so that data frames are automatically available as tables, timestamps are returned in the local timezone, and DuckDB's array type is returned as an R matrix. The details of how the connection is established are subject to change. In particular, returning the output as a tibble or other object may be supported in the future.

This connection is intended for interactive use. There is no way for this or other packages to comprehensively track the state of this connection, so scripts and packages should manage their own connections.

Value

A DuckDB connection object

Examples

```
conn <- default_conn()
sql_query("SELECT 42", conn = conn)
```

duckdb *Connect to a DuckDB database instance*

Description

duckdb() creates or reuses a database instance.

duckdb_shutdown() shuts down a database instance.

Return an adbcdrivermanager::adbc_driver() for use with Arrow Database Connectivity via the adbcdrivermanager package.

dbConnect() connects to a database instance.

dbDisconnect() closes a DuckDB database connection. The associated DuckDB database instance is shut down automatically, it is no longer necessary to set shutdown = TRUE or to call duckdb_shutdown().

Usage

```
duckdb(
  dbdir = DBDIR_MEMORY,
  read_only = FALSE,
  bigint = "numeric",
  config = list(),
  ...,
  environment_scan = FALSE
)

duckdb_shutdown(drv)

duckdb_adbc()

## S4 method for signature 'duckdb_driver'
dbConnect(
  drv,
  dbdir = DBDIR_MEMORY,
  ...,
  debug = getOption("duckdb.debug", FALSE),
  read_only = FALSE,
  timezone_out = "UTC",
  tz_out_convert = c("with", "force"),
  config = list(),
  bigint = "numeric",
  array = "none",
  geometry = "blob"
)

## S4 method for signature 'duckdb_connection'
dbDisconnect(conn, ..., shutdown = TRUE)
```

Arguments

dbdir	Location for database files. Should be a path to an existing directory in the file system. With the default (or ""), all data is kept in RAM.
read_only	Set to TRUE for read-only operation. For file-based databases, this is only applied when the database file is opened for the first time. Subsequent connections (via the same drv object or a drv object pointing to the same path) will silently ignore this flag.
bigint	How 64-bit integers should be returned. There are two options: "numeric" and "integer64". If "numeric" is selected, bigint integers will be treated as double/numeric. If "integer64" is selected, bigint integers will be set to bit64 encoding.
config	Named list with DuckDB configuration flags, see https://duckdb.org/docs/configuration/overview#configuration-reference for the possible options. These flags are only applied when the database object is instantiated. Subsequent connections will silently ignore these flags.
...	Reserved for future extensions, must be empty.
environment_scan	Set to TRUE to treat data frames from the calling environment as tables. If a database table with the same name exists, it takes precedence. The default of this setting may change in a future version.
drv	Object returned by duckdb()
debug	Print additional debug information, such as queries.
timezone_out	The time zone returned to R, defaults to "UTC", which is currently the only timezone supported by duckdb. If you want to display datetime values in the local timezone, set to Sys.timezone() or "".
tz_out_convert	How to convert timestamp columns to the timezone specified in timezone_out. There are two options: "with", and "force". If "with" is chosen, the timestamp will be returned as it would appear in the specified time zone. If "force" is chosen, the timestamp will have the same clock time as the timestamp in the database, but with the new time zone.
array	How arrays should be returned. There are two options: "none" and "matrix". If "none" is selected, arrays are not returned. Instead an error is generated. If "matrix" is selected, arrays are returned as a column matrix. Each array is one row in the matrix.
geometry	How geometry columns should be returned. There are two options: "blob" and "wk". If "blob" is selected, geometry columns are returned as a list of raw vectors containing WKB data. If "wk" is selected, geometry columns are returned as **wk** wk_wkb vectors. Use wk::wk_handle() or sf::st_as_sfc() to convert to other geometry formats.
conn	A duckdb_connection object
shutdown	Unused. The database instance is shut down automatically.

Details

The behavior of `with = "force"` at DST transitions depends on how R handles translation from the underlying time representation to a human-readable format. If the timestamp is invalid in the target timezone, the resulting value may be `NA` or an adjusted time.

Value

`duckdb()` returns an object of class duckdb_driver.

`dbDisconnect()` and `duckdb_shutdown()` are called for their side effect.

An object of class "adbc_driver"

`dbConnect()` returns an object of class duckdb_connection.

Examples

```
library(adbcdrivermanager)
with_adbc(db <- adbc_database_init(duckdb_adbc()), {
  as.data.frame(read_adbc(db, "SELECT 1 as one;"))
})

drv <- duckdb()
con <- dbConnect(drv)

dbGetQuery(con, "SELECT 'Hello, world!'")

dbDisconnect(con)
duckdb_shutdown(drv)

# Shorter:
con <- dbConnect(duckdb())
dbGetQuery(con, "SELECT 'Hello, world!'")
dbDisconnect(con, shutdown = TRUE)
```

`duckdb_explain-class` *DuckDB EXPLAIN query tree*

Description

DuckDB EXPLAIN query tree

duckdb_read_csv *Reads a CSV file into DuckDB*

Description

Directly reads a CSV file into DuckDB, tries to detect and create the correct schema for it. This usually is much faster than reading the data into R and writing it to DuckDB.

Usage

```
duckdb_read_csv(
  conn,
  name,
  files,
  ...,
  header = TRUE,
  na.strings = "",
  nrow.check = 500,
  delim = ",",
  quote = "\"",
  col.names = NULL,
  col.types = NULL,
  lower.case.names = FALSE,
  sep = delim,
  transaction = TRUE,
  temporary = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

conn	A DuckDB connection, created by dbConnect().
name	The name for the virtual table that is registered or unregistered
files	One or more CSV file names, should all have the same structure though
...	Reserved for future extensions, must be empty.
header	Whether or not the CSV files have a separate header in the first line
na.strings	Which strings in the CSV files should be considered to be NULL
nrow.check	How many rows should be read from the CSV file to figure out data types
delim	Which field separator should be used
quote	Which quote character is used for columns in the CSV file
col.names	Override the detected or generated column names
col.types	Character vector of column types in the same order as col.names, or a named character vector where names are column names and types pairs. Valid types are DuckDB data types, e.g. VARCHAR, DOUBLE, DATE, BIGINT, BOOLEAN, etc.

lower.case.names	Transform column names to lower case
sep	Alias for delim for compatibility
transaction	Should a transaction be used for the entire operation
temporary	Set to TRUE to create a temporary table

Details

If the table already exists in the database, the csv is appended to it. Otherwise the table is created.

Value

The number of rows in the resulted table, invisibly.

Examples

```
con <- dbConnect(duckdb())

data <- data.frame(a = 1:3, b = letters[1:3])
path <- tempfile(fileext = ".csv")

write.csv(data, path, row.names = FALSE)

duckdb_read_csv(con, "data", path)
dbReadTable(con, "data")

dbDisconnect(con)


# Providing data types for columns
path <- tempfile(fileext = ".csv")
write.csv(iris, path, row.names = FALSE)

con <- dbConnect(duckdb())
duckdb_read_csv(con, "iris", path,
  col.types = c(
    Sepal.Length = "DOUBLE",
    Sepal.Width = "DOUBLE",
    Petal.Length = "DOUBLE",
    Petal.Width = "DOUBLE",
    Species = "VARCHAR"
  )
)
dbReadTable(con, "iris")
dbDisconnect(con)
```

duckdb_register *Register a data frame as a virtual table*

Description

duckdb_register() registers a data frame as a virtual table (view) in a DuckDB connection. No data is copied.

Usage

```
duckdb_register(conn, name, df, overwrite = FALSE, experimental = FALSE)

duckdb_unregister(conn, name)
```

Arguments

conn	A DuckDB connection, created by dbConnect().
name	The name for the virtual table that is registered or unregistered
df	A data.frame with the data for the virtual table
overwrite	Should an existing registration be overwritten?
experimental	Enable experimental optimizations

Details

duckdb_unregister() unregisters a previously registered data frame.

Value

These functions are called for their side effect.

Examples

```
con <- dbConnect(duckdb())

data <- data.frame(a = 1:3, b = letters[1:3])

duckdb_register(con, "data", data)
dbReadTable(con, "data")

duckdb_unregister(con, "data")

dbDisconnect(con)
```

duckdb_register_arrow *Register an Arrow data source as a virtual table*

Description

duckdb_register_arrow() registers an Arrow data source as a virtual table (view) in a DuckDB connection. No data is copied.

Usage

```
duckdb_register_arrow(conn, name, arrow_scannable, use_async = NULL)

duckdb_unregister_arrow(conn, name)

duckdb_list_arrow(conn)
```

Arguments

conn	A DuckDB connection, created by dbConnect().
name	The name for the virtual table that is registered or unregistered
arrow_scannable	A scannable Arrow-object
use_async	Switched to the asynchronous scanner. (deprecated)

Details

duckdb_unregister_arrow() unregisters a previously registered data frame.

Value

These functions are called for their side effect.

sql_query *Run an SQL query or statement*

Description

[Experimental]

sql_query() runs an arbitrary SQL query using DBI::dbGetQuery() and returns a data.frame with the query results. sql_exec() runs an arbitrary SQL statement using DBI::dbExecute() and returns the number of affected rows.

These functions are intended as an easy way to interactively run DuckDB without having to manage connections. By default, data frame objects are available as views.

Scripts and packages should manage their own connections and prefer the DBI methods for more control.

Usage

```
sql_query(sql, conn = default_conn())

sql_exec(sql, conn = default_conn())
```

Arguments

sql	A SQL string
conn	An optional connection, defaults to default_conn()

Value

A data frame with the query result

Examples

```
# Queries
sql_query("SELECT 42")

# Statements with side effects
sql_exec("CREATE TABLE test (a INTEGER, b VARCHAR)")
sql_exec("INSERT INTO test VALUES (1, 'one'), (2, 'two')")
sql_query("FROM test")

# Data frames available as views
sql_query("FROM mtcars")
```

Index