

# Package ‘heims’

May 8, 2026

**Title** Decode and Validate HEIMS Data from Department of Education,  
Australia

**Version** 0.4.0

**Date** 2018-01-25

**Description** Decode elements of the Australian Higher Education Information Management System (HEIMS) data for clarity and performance. HEIMS is the record system of the Department of Education, Australia to record enrolments and completions in Australia's higher education system, as well as a range of relevant information. For more information, including the source of the data dictionary, see <http://heimshelp.education.gov.au/sites/heimshelp/dictionary/pages/data-element-dictionary>.

**Depends** R (>= 3.4.0), data.table

**Imports** hutils, magrittr, fastmatch, bit64, lubridate

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**Suggests** testthat, fst

**RoxygenNote** 6.0.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Hugh Parsonage [aut, cre]

**Maintainer** Hugh Parsonage <hugh.parsonage@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2018-01-25 10:05:11 UTC

## Contents

browse_elements . . . . .	2
decoders . . . . .	2
decode_heims . . . . .	4
dummy_enrol . . . . .	5
element_decoders . . . . .	5
element_validation . . . . .	6

first_levels . . . . .	7
fread_heims . . . . .	7
heims_data_dict . . . . .	8
read_heims_fst . . . . .	9
relevel_heims . . . . .	9
utilities . . . . .	10

<b>Index</b>	<b>12</b>
--------------	-----------

---

browse_elements	<i>Browse elements for description</i>
-----------------	--

---

### Description

Browse elements for description

### Usage

browse\_elements(pattern)

### Arguments

pattern	A case-insensitive perl expression or expressions to match in the long name of <a href="#">heims_data_dict</a> .
---------	--

### Value

A data.table of all element-long name combinations matching the perl regular expression.

### Examples

```
browse_elements(c("ProViDer", "Maj"))
```

---

decoders	<i>Decoders</i>
----------	-----------------

---

### Description

Decoders

**Usage**

E089\_decoder

E095\_decoder

E306\_decoder

E310\_decoder

E312\_decoder

E316\_decoder

E329\_decoder

E327\_decoder

E330\_decoder

E331\_decoder

E337\_decoder

E346\_decoder

E348\_decoder

E355\_decoder

E358\_decoder

E386\_decoder

E392\_decoder

E461\_decoder

E463\_decoder

E464\_decoder

E490\_decoder

U490\_decoder

E551\_decoder

E562\_decoder

E919\_decoder

E920\_decoder

E922\_decoder

FOE\_uniter

HE\_Provider\_decoder

### Format

An object of class `data.table` (inherits from `data.frame`) with 2 rows and 2 columns.

---

decode_heims	<i>Decode HEIMS elements</i>
--------------	------------------------------

---

### Description

Decode HEIMS elements

### Usage

```
decode_heims(DT, show_progress = FALSE, check_valid = TRUE, selector)
```

### Arguments

DT	A <code>data.table</code> with the original HEIMS column names.
show_progress	Display the progress of the function (which is likely to be slow on real data).
check_valid	Check the variable is valid before decoding. Setting to <code>FALSE</code> is faster, but should only be done when you know the data has been validated.
selector	Original HEIMS names to restrict the decoding to. Other names will be preserved.

### Details

Each variable in DT is validated according [heims\\_data\\_dict](#) before being decoded. Any failure stops the validation.

If DT has a key, the output will have a key, but set on the **decoded** columns and the ordering will most likely change (to reflect the decoded values).

This function will, on the full HEIMS data, take a long time to finish. Typically in the order of 10 minutes for the enrol file.

### Value

DT with the values decoded and the names renamed.

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
# (E488 is made up so won't work if validation is attempted.)
decode_heims(dummy_enrol)

## End(Not run)
decode_heims(dummy_enrol, show_progress = TRUE, check_valid = FALSE)
```

---

dummy_enrol	<i>Dummy enrolment file</i>
-------------	-----------------------------

---

**Description**

A data.table of five fictitious enrolments.

**Usage**

```
dummy_enrol
```

**Format**

An object of class data.table (inherits from data.frame) with 5 rows and 56 columns.

---

element_decoders	<i>Make HEIMS element nos human-readable</i>
------------------	--

---

**Description**

Make HEIMS element nos human-readable

**Usage**

```
rename_heims(DT)

element2name(v)
```

**Arguments**

DT	The data table with original names
v	A vector of element names.

**Details**

See [heims\\_data\\_dict](#). Note that [decode\\_heims](#) is generally better, as it decodes the variable if a decoder is present in the dictionary.

`element2name` is the inverse of [browse\\_elements](#): given an element like E306, it returns the name (HE\_Provider\_cd.)

**Value**

DT with the new names or the vector with the names translated.

---

element_validation	<i>Validate HEIMS elements</i>
--------------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Return TRUE or FALSE on whether or not each variable in a data.table complies with the HEIMS code limits

**Usage**

```
validate_elements(DT, .progress_cat = FALSE)
```

```
prop_elements_valid(DT, char = FALSE)
```

```
count_elements_invalid(DT, char = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

DT	The data.table whose variables are to be validated.
.progress_cat	Should the progress of the function be displayed on the console? If TRUE the name of the element about to be validated is shown.
char	Return as character vector, in particular marking – any complete or completely absent values.

**Details**

For early detection of invalid results, the type of the variable (in particular integer vs double) is considered first, vetoing a TRUE result if different.

**Value**

A named logical vector, whether or not the variable complies with the style requirements. A value of NA indicates the variable was not checked (perhaps because it is absent from heims\_data\_dict).

**Examples**

```
X <- data.frame(E306 = c(0, 1011, 999, 9998))
validate_elements(X) # FALSE
prop_elements_valid(X)
X <- data.frame(E306 = as.integer(c(0, 1011, 999, 9998)))
validate_elements(X) # TRUE
```

---

first_levels	<i>First levels</i>
--------------	---------------------

---

**Description**

See [relevel\\_heims](#).

**Usage**

```
first_levels
```

**Format**

An object of class `data.table` (inherits from `data.frame`) with 8 rows and 2 columns.

---

fread_heims	<i>Read raw HEIMS file</i>
-------------	----------------------------

---

**Description**

Read raw HEIMS file

**Usage**

```
fread_heims(filename)
```

**Arguments**

`filename` A text-delimited file, passed to `fread` from `data.table`.

**Details**

The strings "" "NA" "?" ". " "\*" "\*\*" are treated as missing, as well as ZZZZZZZZZZ (so students without a CHESSN will be marked with the `integer64` missing value).

**Value**

A `data.table` with column names in ascending (lexicographical) order and any columns starting with `e` will be uppercase.

---

heims_data_dict	<i>HEIMS data dictionary</i>
-----------------	------------------------------

---

**Description**

HEIMS data dictionary

**Usage**

heims\_data\_dict

**Format**

A named list each containing 5 elements:

`long_name` a human-readable version of the variable; `orig_name` the element number;

`mark_missing` a vectorized-function returning TRUE on values of the variable which should be coded as NA;

`ad_hoc_prepare` a function to apply before validation;

`validate` a single-value function returning TRUE or FALSE on vectors which comply with the variable's coding rules.

`ad_hoc_validation_note` If the data dictionary did not cover elements in the file, how the `validate` function was altered to suffer them.

`valid` a vectorized function returning TRUE or FALSE on vectors which do not comply with the variable's coding rules.

`decoder` A function of the `data.table` decoding the variable decoded.

`post_fst` A function of the `data.table` returned by `fst` to be used (for example to reset attributes).

**Details**

Abbreviations in `long_name`:

`amt` Amount

`cd` Code

`det` Detail(s)

`FOE` Field of education

`Maj` Major

**Source**

<http://heimshelp.education.gov.au/sites/heimshelp/dictionary/pages/data-element-dictionary>

---

read_heims_fst	<i>Read HEIMS data from decoded fst files</i>
----------------	---

---

**Description**

Read HEIMS data from decoded fst files

**Usage**

```
read_heims_fst(filename)
```

**Arguments**

filename	File path to .fst file of a decoded HEIMS file ( <a href="#">decode_heims</a> ) produced by <code>fst::write.fst</code> .
----------	---

**Value**

A `data.table` with appropriate attributes.

---

relevel_heims	<i>Relevel categorical variables</i>
---------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Changes categorical variables in a `data.table` to levels with a sensible reference level

**Usage**

```
relevel_heims(DT)
```

**Arguments**

DT	A <code>data.table</code> post <a href="#">decode_heims</a> .
----	---

**Value**

The same `data.table` with character vectors changed to factors whose first level is the level intended.

---

utilities

*Utility functions*

---

### **Description**

Only included here because of the unusual nature of [heims\\_data\\_dict](#).

### **Usage**

AND()

OR()

never(v)

every(v)

always(v)

is.Date(v)

is.YearMonth(v)

nth\_digit\_of(x, n)

between(...)

or(...)

and(...)

if\_else(...)

coalesce(...)

a %fin% tbl

rm\_leading\_0s(v)

as.integer64(v)

is.integer64(v)

force\_integer(v)

ymd(...)

**Arguments**

v	A vector.
x, n	vectors
...	Passed to other functions
a	Element suspected to be in tbl
tbl	A lookup table.

**Details**

`nth_digit_of` returns the `nth` digit of the number **starting from the units and going up in magnitude**.

**Examples**

```
nth_digit_of(503, 1) == 1
```

# Index

- \* **datasets**
  - decoders, 2
  - dummy\_enrol, 5
  - first\_levels, 7
  - heims\_data\_dict, 8
- %fin%(utilities), 10
- always(utilities), 10
- AND(utilities), 10
- and(utilities), 10
- as.integer64(utilities), 10
  
- between(utilities), 10
- browse\_elements, 2, 5
  
- coalesce(utilities), 10
- count\_elements\_invalid
  - (element\_validation), 6
  
- decode\_heims, 4, 5, 9
- decoders, 2
- dummy\_enrol, 5
  
- E089\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E095\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E306\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E310\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E312\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E316\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E327\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E329\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E330\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E331\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E337\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E346\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E348\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E355\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E358\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E386\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E392\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E461\_decoder(decoders), 2
  
- E463\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E464\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E490\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E551\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E562\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E919\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E920\_decoder(decoders), 2
- E922\_decoder(decoders), 2
- element2name(element\_decoders), 5
- element\_decoders, 5
- element\_validation, 6
- every(utilities), 10
  
- first\_levels, 7
- FOE\_uniter(decoders), 2
- force\_integer(utilities), 10
- fread\_heims, 7
  
- HE\_Provider\_decoder(decoders), 2
- heims\_data\_dict, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10
  
- if\_else(utilities), 10
- is.Date(utilities), 10
- is.integer64(utilities), 10
- is.YearMonth(utilities), 10
  
- never(utilities), 10
- nth\_digit\_of(utilities), 10
  
- OR(utilities), 10
- or(utilities), 10
  
- prop\_elements\_valid
  - (element\_validation), 6
  
- read\_heims\_fst, 9
- relevel\_heims, 7, 9
- rename\_heims(element\_decoders), 5
- rm\_leading\_0s(utilities), 10
  
- U490\_decoder(decoders), 2

utilities, [10](#)

validate\_elements (element\_validation),  
[6](#)

ymd (utilities), [10](#)