

# Package ‘rgrass7’

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**Title** Interface Between GRASS 7 Geographical Information System and R

**Description** Interpreted interface between GRASS 7 geographical information system and R, based on starting R from within the GRASS GIS environment, or running free-standing R in a temporary GRASS location; the package provides facilities for using all GRASS commands from the R command line. This package may not be used for GRASS 6, for which `spgrass6` should be used.

**Depends** R (>= 3.1), sp (>= 0.9), XML

**Imports** stats, utils, methods

**Suggests** rgdal (>= 1.0-6), RSQLite

**SystemRequirements** GRASS (>= 7)

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**URL** <http://grass.osgeo.org/>,  
<https://r-forge.r-project.org/projects/spgrass/>

**Collate** AAA.R options.R rgrass.R bin\_link.R vect\_link.R initGRASS.R  
xml1.R

**NeedsCompilation** no

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rgrass7-package	<i>Interface between GRASS geographical information system and R</i>
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### Description

Interpreted interface between GRASS geographical information system, version 7, and R, based on starting R from within the GRASS environment, or on running R stand-alone and creating a throw-away GRASS environment from within R. The interface uses classes defined in the sp package to hold spatial data.

### Details

Index:

readRAST	read GRASS raster files
writeRAST	write GRASS raster files
readVECT	read GRASS vector object files
writeVECT	write GRASS vector object files
gmeta	read GRASS metadata from the current LOCATION
getLocationProj	return a PROJ.4 string of projection information
gmeta2grd	create a GridTopology object from the GRASS region
vInfo	return vector geometry information
vColumns	return vector database columns information
vDataCount	return count of vector database rows
vect2neigh	return area neighbours with shared boundary length

Note that the examples now use the smaller subset North Carolina location: [http://grass.osgeo.org/sampledata/north\\_carolina/nc\\_basic\\_spm\\_grass7.tar.gz](http://grass.osgeo.org/sampledata/north_carolina/nc_basic_spm_grass7.tar.gz)

### Author(s)

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## Examples

```

if (nchar(Sys.getenv("GISRC")) > 0 &&
    read.dcf(Sys.getenv("GISRC"))[1,"LOCATION_NAME"] == "nc_basic_spm_grass7") {
  require(rgdal)
  elevation <- readRAST("elevation", ignore.stderr=TRUE, plugin=FALSE)
  summary(elevation)
  grd <- gmeta2grd(ignore.stderr=TRUE)
  grd
  set.seed(1)
  pts <- spsample(elevation, 200, "random")
  smple <- SpatialPointsDataFrame(pts, data=over(pts, elevation))
  summary(smple)
  writeVECT(smple, "sp_dem", v.in.ogr_flags="overwrite", ignore.stderr=TRUE)
  bugsDF <- readVECT("schools", ignore.stderr=TRUE, mapset="PERMANENT")
  summary(bugsDF)
  vInfo("streams", ignore.stderr=TRUE)
  vColumns("streams", ignore.stderr=TRUE)
  vDataCount("streams", ignore.stderr=TRUE)
  streams <- readVECT("streams", type="line",
    remove.duplicates=FALSE, ignore.stderr=TRUE, plugin=FALSE)
  summary(streams)
}

```

---

execGRASS

*Run GRASS commands*

---

## Description

The functions provide an interface to GRASS commands run through system, based on the values returned by the `--interface description` flag using XML parsing. If required parameters are omitted, and have declared defaults, the defaults will be used.

## Usage

```

execGRASS(cmd, flags = NULL, ..., parameters = NULL, intern = NULL,
  ignore.stderr = NULL, Sys_ignore.stdout=FALSE, Sys_wait=TRUE,
  Sys_input=NULL, Sys_show.output.on.console=TRUE, Sys_minimized=FALSE,
  Sys_invisible=TRUE, echoCmd=NULL, redirect=FALSE, legacyExec=NULL)
doGRASS(cmd, flags = NULL, ..., parameters = NULL, echoCmd=NULL,
  legacyExec=NULL)
parseGRASS(cmd, legacyExec=NULL)
## S3 method for class 'GRASS_interface_desc'
print(x, ...)
getXMLencoding()
setXMLencoding(enc)

```

**Arguments**

<code>cmd</code>	GRASS command name
<code>flags</code>	character vector of GRASS command flags
<code>...</code>	for <code>execGRASS</code> and <code>doGRASS</code> , GRASS module parameters given as R named arguments directly. For the <code>print</code> method, other arguments to <code>print</code> method. The storage modes of values passed must match those required in GRASS, so a single GRASS string must be a character vector of length 1, a single GRASS integer must be an integer vector of length 1 (may be an integer constant such as 10L), and a single GRASS float must be a numeric vector of length 1. For multiple values, use vectors of suitable length
<code>parameters</code>	list of GRASS command parameters, used if GRASS parameters are not given as R arguments directly; the two methods for passing GRASS parameters may not be mixed. The storage modes of values passed must match those required in GRASS, so a single GRASS string must be a character vector of length 1, a single GRASS integer must be an integer vector of length 1 (may be an integer constant such as 10L), and a single GRASS float must be a numeric vector of length 1. For multiple values, use vectors of suitable length
<code>intern</code>	default NULL, in which case set internally from <code>get.useInternOption</code> ; a logical (not 'NA') which indicates whether to make the output of the command an R object. Not available unless 'popen' is supported on the platform
<code>ignore.stderr</code>	default NULL, taking the value set by <code>set.ignore.stderrOption</code> , a logical indicating whether error messages written to 'stderr' should be ignored
<code>Sys_ignore.stdout</code> , <code>Sys_wait</code> , <code>Sys_input</code>	pass extra arguments to system
<code>Sys_show.output.on.console</code> , <code>Sys_minimized</code> , <code>Sys_invisible</code>	pass extra arguments to system on Windows systems only
<code>echoCmd</code>	default NULL, taking the logical value set by <code>set.echoCmdOption</code> , print GRASS command to be executed to console
<code>redirect</code>	default FALSE, if TRUE, add "2>&1" to the command string and set <code>intern</code> to TRUE; only used in legacy mode
<code>legacyExec</code>	default NULL, taking the logical value set by <code>set.legacyExecOption</code> which is initialised to FALSE on "unix" platforms and TRUE otherwise. If TRUE, use <code>system</code> , if FALSE use <code>system2</code> and divert <code>stderr</code> to temporary file to record error messages and warnings from GRASS modules
<code>x</code>	object to be printed
<code>enc</code>	character string to replace UTF-8 in header of XML data generated by GRASS module <code>-interface-description</code> output when the internationalised messages are not in UTF-8 (known to apply to French, which is in latin1)

**Details**

`parseGRASS` checks to see whether the GRASS command has been parsed already and cached in this session; if not, it reads the interface description, parses it and caches it for future use. `doGRASS` assembles a proposed GRASS command with flags and parameters as a string, wrapping `parseGRASS`, and `execGRASS` is a wrapper for `doGRASS`, running the command through `system` (from 0.7-4, the

... argument is not used for passing extra arguments for system). The command string is termed proposed, because not all of the particular needs of commands are provided by the interface description, and no check is made for the existence of input objects. Support for multiple parameter values added with help from Patrick Caldon. Support for defaults and for direct use of GRASS parameters instead of a parameter list suggested by Rainer Krug.

### Value

parseGRASS returns a GRASS\_interface\_desc object, doGRASS returns a character string with a proposed GRASS command - the expanded command name is returned as an attribute, and execGRASS returns what system or system2 return, particularly depending on the intern argument when the character strings output by GRASS modules are returned. If intern is FALSE, system returns the module exit code, while system2 returns the module exit code with “resOut” and “resErr” attributes.

### Note

If any package command fails with a UTF-8 error from the XML package, try using setXMLencoding to work around the problem that GRASS modules declare –interface-description output as UTF-8 without ensuring that it is (French is of 6.4.0 RC5 latin1).

### Author(s)

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### See Also

[system](#)

### Examples

```
if (nchar(Sys.getenv("GISRC")) > 0 &&
    read.dcf(Sys.getenv("GISRC"))[1,"LOCATION_NAME"] == "nc_basic_spm_grass7") {
  oechoCmd <- get.echoCmdOption()
  set.echoCmdOption(TRUE)
  print(parseGRASS("r.slope.aspect"))
  doGRASS("r.slope.aspect", flags=c("overwrite"),
         elevation="elevation.dem", slope="slope", aspect="aspect")
  pars <- list(elevation="elevation", slope="slope", aspect="aspect")
  doGRASS("r.slope.aspect", flags=c("overwrite"), parameters=pars)
  print(parseGRASS("r.buffer"))
  doGRASS("r.buffer", flags=c("overwrite"), input="schools", output="bmap",
         distances=seq(1000,15000,1000))
  pars <- list(input="schools", output="bmap", distances=seq(1000,15000,1000))
  doGRASS("r.buffer", flags=c("overwrite"), parameters=pars)
  set.echoCmdOption(oechoCmd)
  try(res <- execGRASS("r.stats", input = "fire_blocksgg", # no such file
                    flags = c("C", "n")), silent=FALSE)
  res <- execGRASS("r.stats", input = "fire_blocksgg", flags = c("C", "n"),
                 legacyExec=TRUE)
  print(res)
```

```

if (res != 0) {
  resERR <- execGRASS("r.stats", input = "fire_blocksgg",
    flags = c("C", "n"), redirect=TRUE, legacyExec=TRUE)
  print(resERR)
}
}

```

---

gmeta

*Reads GRASS metadata from the current LOCATION*


---

### Description

GRASS LOCATION metadata are read into a list in R; helper function getLocationProj returns an sproj-compliant PROJ.4 string of projection information. The helper function gmeta2grd creates a GridTopology object from the current GRASS mapset region definitions.

### Usage

```

gmeta(ignore.stderr = FALSE)
getLocationProj(ignore.stderr = FALSE)
gmeta2grd(ignore.stderr = FALSE)
## S3 method for class 'gmeta'
print(x, ...)
get.ignore.stderrOption()
get.stop_on_no_flags_parasOption()
get.useGDALOption()
get.pluginOption()
get.echoCmdOption()
get.useInternOption()
get.legacyExecOption()
get.defaultFlagsOption()
get.suppressEchoCmdInFuncOption()
set.ignore.stderrOption(value)
set.stop_on_no_flags_parasOption(value)
set.useGDALOption(value)
set.pluginOption(value)
set.echoCmdOption(value)
set.useInternOption(value)
set.legacyExecOption(value)
set.defaultFlagsOption(value)
set.suppressEchoCmdInFuncOption(value)

```

### Arguments

ignore.stderr	default FALSE, can be set to TRUE to silence system() output to standard error; does not apply on Windows platforms
x	S3 object returned by gmeta

... arguments passed through print method

value logical value for setting options on ignore.stderr set by default on package load to FALSE, stop\_on\_no\_flags\_paras set by default on package load to TRUE, useGDAL set by default on package load to TRUE, plugin set by default on package load to NULL, echoCmd set by default on package load to FALSE. useIntern sets the intern argument globally; legacyExec sets the legacyExec option globally, but is initialized to FALSE on unix systems (all but Windows) and TRUE on Windows; defaultFlags is initialized to NULL, but may be a character vector with values from c("quiet", "verbose") suppressEchoCmdInFunc default TRUE suppresses the effect of echoCmd within package functions, may be set FALSE for debugging.

### Value

Returns list of g.gisenv, g.region -g3, and g.proj values

### Author(s)

Roger S. Bivand, e-mail: <Roger.Bivand@nhh.no.>

### Examples

```
if (nchar(Sys.getenv("GISRC")) > 0 &&
    read.dcf(Sys.getenv("GISRC"))[1,"LOCATION_NAME"] == "nc_basic_spm_grass7") {
  G <- gmeta()
  print(G)
  CRS(getLocationProj())
  grd <- gmeta2grd()
  print(grd)
  ncells <- prod(slot(grd, "cells.dim"))
  df <- data.frame(k=rep(1, ncells))
  mask_SG <- SpatialGridDataFrame(grd, data=df)
  print(summary(mask_SG))
}
```

---

initGRASS

*Initiate GRASS session*

---

### Description

Run GRASS interface in an R session not started within GRASS. In general, most users will use `initGRASS` in throwaway locations, to use GRASS modules on R objects without the need to define and populate a location. The function initializes environment variables used by GRASS, the `.gisrc` used by GRASS for further environment variables, and a temporary location.

The locking functions are used internally, but are exposed for experienced R/GRASS scripters needing to use the GRASS module “`g.mapset`” through `initGRASS` in an existing GRASS location. In particular, “`g.mapset`” may leave a `.gislock` file in the current MAPSET, so it may be important to call `unlink_.gislock` to clean up before quitting the R session. `remove_GISRC` may be used

to try to remove the file given in the “GISRC” environment variable if created by initGRASS with argument `remove_GISRC= TRUE`.

### Usage

```
initGRASS(gisBase, home, SG, gisDbase, addon_base, location, mapset,
  override = FALSE, use_g.dirseps.exe = TRUE, pid, remove_GISRC=FALSE)
get.GIS_LOCK()
set.GIS_LOCK(pid)
unset.GIS_LOCK()
unlink_.gislock()
remove_GISRC()
```

### Arguments

<code>gisBase</code>	The directory path to GRASS binaries and libraries
<code>home</code>	The directory in which to create the <code>.gisrc</code> file; defaults to <code>\$HOME</code> on Unix systems and to <code>USERPROFILE</code> on Windows systems; can usually be set to <code>tempdir()</code>
<code>SG</code>	An optional <code>SpatialGrid</code> object to define the <code>DEFAULT_WIND</code> of the temporary location
<code>gisDbase</code>	if missing, <code>tempdir()</code> will be used; GRASS <code>GISDBASE</code> directory for the working session
<code>addon_base</code>	if missing, assumed to be “ <code>\$HOME/.grass7/addons</code> ” on Unix-like platforms, on MS Windows “ <code>%APPDATA%\GRASS7\addons</code> ”, and checked for existence
<code>location</code>	if missing, <code>basename(tempfile())</code> will be used; GRASS location directory for the working session
<code>mapset</code>	if missing, <code>basename(tempfile())</code> will be used; GRASS mapset directory for the working session
<code>override</code>	default <code>FALSE</code> , set to <code>TRUE</code> if accidental trashing of GRASS <code>.gisrc</code> files and locations is not a problem
<code>use_g.dirseps.exe</code>	default <code>TRUE</code> ; when <code>TRUE</code> appears to work for WinGRASS Native binaries, when <code>FALSE</code> for QGIS GRASS binaries; ignored on other platforms.
<code>pid</code>	default <code>as.integer(round(runif(1, 1, 1000)))</code> , integer used to identify <code>GIS_LOCK</code> ; the value here is arbitrary, but probably should be set correctly
<code>remove_GISRC</code>	default <code>FALSE</code> ; if <code>TRUE</code> , attempt to unlink the temporary file named in the “GISRC” environment variable when the R session terminates or when this package is unloaded

### Details

The function establishes an out-of-GRASS working environment providing GRASS commands with the environment variable support required, and may also provide a temporary location for use until the end of the running R session if the `home` argument is set to `tempdir()`, and the `gisDbase` argument is not given. Running `gmeta6` shows where the location is, should it be desired to archive it before leaving R.



**Value**

The function runs `gmeta6` before returning the current values of the running GRASS session that it provides.

**Note**

If any package command fails with a UTF-8 error from the XML package, try using `setXMLencoding` to work around the problem that GRASS modules declare `-interface-description` output as UTF-8 without ensuring that it is (French is of 6.4.0 RC5 latin1).

**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

[gmeta](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
initGRASS("/usr/bin/grass-7.0.0", home=tempdir())
initGRASS("C:/GRASS", home=tempdir())

## End(Not run)
```

---

readRAST

*Read and write GRASS 7 raster files*

---

**Description**

Read GRASS 7 raster files from GRASS 7 into R `SpatialGridDataFrame` objects, and write single columns of R `SpatialGridDataFrame` objects to GRASS 7. `readRAST` and `writeRAST` use temporary binary files and `r.out.bin` and `r.in.bin` for speed reasons.

**Usage**

```
readRAST(vname, cat=NULL, ignore.stderr = get.ignore.stderrOption(),
  NODATA=NULL, plugin=get.pluginOption(), mapset=NULL,
  useGDAL=get.useGDALOption(), close_OK=TRUE, drivename="GTiff",
  driverFileExt=NULL, return_SGDF=TRUE)
writeRAST(x, vname, zcol = 1, NODATA=NULL,
  ignore.stderr = get.ignore.stderrOption(), useGDAL=get.useGDALOption(),
  overwrite=FALSE, flags=NULL, drivename="GTiff")
```

**Arguments**

vname	A vector of GRASS 7 raster file names
cat	default NULL; if not NULL, must be a logical vector matching vname, stating which (CELL) rasters to return as factor
ignore.stderr	default taking the value set by <code>set.ignore.stderrOption</code> ; can be set to TRUE to silence <code>system()</code> output to standard error; does not apply on Windows platforms
plugin	default taking the value set by <code>set.pluginOption</code> ; NULL does auto-detection, changes to FALSE if vname is longer than 1, and a sanity check will be run on raster and current region, and the function will revert to FALSE if mismatch is found; if TRUE, the plugin is available and the raster should be read in its original region and resolution; if the plugin is used, no further arguments other than mapset are respected
mapset	default NULL, if plugin is TRUE, the mapset of the file to be imported will be autodetected; if not NULL and if plugin is TRUE, a character string overriding the autodetected mapset, otherwise ignored
useGDAL	(effectively defunct, only applies to use of plugin) default taking the value set by <code>set.useGDALOption</code> ; use plugin and <code>readGDAL</code> if autodetected or <code>plugin=TRUE</code> ; or for writing <code>writeGDAL</code> , <code>GTiff</code> , and <code>r.in.gdal</code> , if FALSE using <code>r.out.bin</code> or <code>r.in.bin</code>
close_OK	default TRUE - clean up possible open connections used for reading metadata; may be set to FALSE to avoid the side-effect of other user-opened connections being broken
drivername	default "GTiff"; a valid GDAL writable driver name to define the file format for intermediate files
driverFileExt	default NULL; otherwise string value of required driver file name extension
return_SGDF	default TRUE returning a <code>SpatialGridDataFrame</code> object, if FALSE, return a list with a <code>GridTopology</code> object, a list of bands, and a <code>proj4string</code> ; see example below
x	A <code>SpatialGridDataFrame</code> object for export to GRASS as a raster layer
zcol	Attribute column number or name
NODATA	by default NULL, in which case it is set to one less than <code>floor()</code> of the data values, otherwise an integer NODATA value (required to be integer by GRASS <code>r.out.bin</code> )
overwrite	default FALSE, if TRUE inserts "overwrite" into the value of the flags argument if not already there to allow existing GRASS rasters to be overwritten
flags	default NULL, character vector, for example "overwrite"

**Value**

`readRAST` returns a `SpatialGridDataFrame` objects with an `data.frame` in the data slots, and with the projection argument set. Note that the projection argument set is the the GRASS rendering of `proj4`, and will differ from the WKT/ESRI rendering returned by `readVECT` in form but not meaning. They are exchangeable but not textually identical, usually with the `+ellps=` term replaced by ellipsoid parameters verbatim. If `return_SGDF` is FALSE, a list with a `GridTopology` object, a list of bands, and a `proj4string` is returned, with an S3 class attribute of "gridList".

**Author(s)**

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**Examples**

```

if (nchar(Sys.getenv("GISRC")) > 0 &&
    read.dcf(Sys.getenv("GISRC"))[1,"LOCATION_NAME"] == "nc_basic_spm_grass7") {
  GV <- Sys.getenv("GRASS_VERBOSE")
  Sys.setenv("GRASS_VERBOSE"=0)
  require(rgdal)
  ois <- get.ignore.stderrOption()
  set.ignore.stderrOption(TRUE)
  get.useGDALOption()
  nc_basic <- readRAST(c("geology", "elevation"), cat=c(TRUE, FALSE),
    useGDAL=FALSE)
  nc_basic <- readRAST(c("geology", "elevation"), cat=c(TRUE, FALSE),
    useGDAL=TRUE)
  print(table(nc_basic$geology))
  execGRASS("r.stats", flags=c("c", "l", "quiet"), input="geology")
  boxplot(nc_basic$elevation ~ nc_basic$geology)
  nc_basic$sqdem <- sqrt(nc_basic$elevation)
  if ("GRASS" %in% gdalDrivers()$name) {
    execGRASS("g.region", raster="elevation")
    dem1 <- readRAST("elevation", plugin=TRUE, mapset="PERMANENT")
    print(summary(dem1))
    execGRASS("g.region", raster="elevation")
  }
  writeRAST(nc_basic, "sqdemSP", zcol="sqdem", flags="quiet")
  execGRASS("r.info", map="sqdemSP")
  execGRASS("g.remove", flags="f", name="sqdemSP", type="raster")
  writeRAST(nc_basic, "sqdemSP", zcol="sqdem", useGDAL=TRUE, flags="quiet")
  execGRASS("r.info", map="sqdemSP")
  print(system.time(sqdemSP <- readRAST(c("sqdemSP", "elevation"),
    useGDAL=TRUE, return_SGDF=FALSE)))
  print(system.time(sqdemSP <- readRAST(c("sqdemSP", "elevation"),
    useGDAL=TRUE, return_SGDF=TRUE)))
  print(system.time(sqdemSP <- readRAST(c("sqdemSP", "elevation"),
    useGDAL=FALSE, return_SGDF=TRUE)))
  print(system.time(sqdemSP <- readRAST(c("sqdemSP", "elevation"),
    useGDAL=FALSE, return_SGDF=FALSE)))
  str(sqdemSP)
  mat <- do.call("cbind", sqdemSP$dataList)
  str(mat)
  print(system.time(SGDF <- SpatialGridDataFrame(grid=sqdemSP$grid,
    proj4string=sqdemSP$proj4string, data=as.data.frame(sqdemSP$dataList))))
  summary(SGDF)
  execGRASS("g.remove", flags="f", name="sqdemSP", type="raster")
  execGRASS("r.mapcalc", expression="basins0 = basins - 1")
  execGRASS("r.stats", flags="c", input="basins0")
  basins0 <- readRAST("basins0")
  print(table(basins0$basins0))
  basins0 <- readRAST("basins0", plugin=FALSE)

```

```

print(table(basins0$basins0))
execGRASS("g.remove", flags="f", name="basins0", type="raster")
Sys.setenv("GRASS_VERBOSE"=GV)
set.ignore.stderrOption(ois)
}

```

---

readVECT

*Read and write GRASS 7 vector object files*


---

## Description

readVECT moves one GRASS 7 vector object file with attribute data through a temporary shapefile to a Spatial\*DataFrame object of type determined by the GRASS 7 vector object; writeVECT moves a Spatial\*DataFrame object through a temporary shapefile to a GRASS vector object file. vect2neigh returns neighbour pairs with shared boundary length as described by Markus Neteler, in <https://stat.ethz.ch/pipermail/r-sig-geo/2005-October/000616.html>. cygwin\_clean\_temp can be called to try to clean the GRASS mapset-specific temporary directory under cygwin.

## Usage

```

readVECT(vname, layer, type=NULL, plugin=NULL,
  remove.duplicates = TRUE, ignore.stderr=NULL,
  with_prj=TRUE, with_c=FALSE, mapset=NULL,
  pointDropZ=FALSE, driver=NULL)
writeVECT(SDF, vname, v.in.ogr.flags=NULL,
  ignore.stderr = NULL, driver=NULL,
  min_area=0.0001, snap=-1)
vInfo(vname, layer, ignore.stderr = NULL)
vColumns(vname, layer, ignore.stderr = NULL)
vDataCount(vname, layer, ignore.stderr = NULL)
vect2neigh(vname, ID=NULL, ignore.stderr = NULL, remove=TRUE, vname2=NULL,
  units="k")

```

## Arguments

vname	A GRASS 7 vector file name
layer	a layer name (string); if missing set to default of "1"
type	override type detection when multiple types are non-zero, passed to v.out.ogr
plugin	default NULL if which case it will be set to the value set by set.pluginOption; NULL for auto-detection, may be set to FALSE to avoid or TRUE if the plugin is known to be available; if the plugin is used, no further arguments other than mapset are respected
remove.duplicates	In line and area vector objects, multiple geometrical features may be associated with a single cat number, leading to duplication of data rows; this argument attempts to combine the geometrical features so that they match a single data row

<code>ignore.stderr</code>	default the value set by <code>set.ignore.stderrOption</code> ; NULL, taking the value set by <code>set.ignore.stderrOption</code> , can be set to TRUE to silence <code>system()</code> output to standard error; does not apply on Windows platforms
<code>with_prj</code>	default TRUE, write ESRI-style PRJ file for transferred data
<code>with_c</code>	default FALSE in GRASS 7; if FALSE, export features with category (labeled) only; if not default, all features are exported, including GRASS “islands” which are probably spurious exterior rings filling holes.
<code>mapset</code>	if plugin is TRUE, the mapset of the file to be imported may be changed from the current mapset by passing a character string
<code>pointDropZ</code>	default FALSE, if TRUE, discard third coordinates for point geometries; third coordinates are always discarded for line and polygon geometries
<code>driver</code>	default NULL, which will lead to the choice of the first driver found in a ordered preferred vector, currently <code>c("SQLite", "ESRI Shapefile")</code> ; a valid OGR writable driver name to define the file format for intermediate files, one of <code>c("GML", "SQLite")</code> , <code>c("ESRI Shapefile", "MapInfo_File")</code> is preferred as these construct the names of the intermediate files adequately
<code>min_area</code>	default 0.0001; Minimum size of area to be imported (square meters) Smaller areas and islands are ignored. Should be greater than <code>snap^2</code>
<code>snap</code>	default -1; Snapping threshold for boundaries (map units). '-1' for no snap
<code>SDF</code>	A <code>Spatial*DataFrame</code> to be moved to GRASS 7 as a vector object, for <code>SpatialPointsDataFrame</code> , <code>SpatialLinesDataFrame</code> , and <code>SpatialPolygonsDataFrame</code> objects
<code>v.in.ogr.flags</code>	Character vector containing additional optional flags and/or options for <code>v.in.ogr</code> , particularly "o" and "overwrite"
<code>ID</code>	A valid DB column name for unique identifiers (optional)
<code>remove</code>	default TRUE, remove copied vectors created in <code>vect2neigh</code>
<code>vname2</code>	If on a previous run, <code>remove</code> was FALSE, the name of the temporary vector may be given to circumvent its generation
<code>units</code>	default “k”; see GRASS <code>v.to.db</code> manual page for alternatives

## Value

`readVECT` imports a GRASS 7 vector object into a `Spatial*DataFrame` object with the type determined by the type of the GRASS 7 vector object. `readVECT` and `writeVECT` attempt to preserve longer column/field names despite using the “ESRI Shapefile” format for transfer.

`vect2neigh` returns a data frame object with left and right neighbours and boundary lengths, also given class `GRASSneigh` and `spatial.neighbour` (as used in `spdep`). The incantation to retrieve the neighbours list is `sn2listw(vect2neigh())$neighbours`, and to retrieve the boundary lengths: `sn2listw(vect2neigh())$weights`. The `GRASSneigh` object has two other useful attributes: `external` is a vector giving the length of shared boundary between each polygon and the external area, and `total` giving each polygon’s total boundary length.

**Note**

Please note that the OGR drivers used may not handle missing data gracefully. From rgdal release 0.5-27, missing values are taken as unset OGR field values. If the OGR driver encodes them in this way, NAs will be moved across the interface correctly from R to GRASS, and from GRASS to R using the OGR GRASS vector plugin. Work is continuing to correct v.out.ogr so that it emits unset fields, which affects users with no OGR GRASS plugin for the present. Thanks to Dylan Beaudette for helping with missing data handling.

**Author(s)**

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**Examples**

```
if (nchar(Sys.getenv("GISRC")) > 0 &&
    read.dcf(Sys.getenv("GISRC"))[1,"LOCATION_NAME"] == "nc_basic_spm_grass7") {
  GV <- Sys.getenv("GRASS_VERBOSE")
  Sys.setenv("GRASS_VERBOSE"=0)
  require(rgdal)
  ois <- get.ignore.stderrOption()
  set.ignore.stderrOption(TRUE)
  execGRASS("v.info", map="schools", layer="1")
  print(vInfo("schools"))
  schs <- readVECT("schools", plugin=NULL)
  print(summary(schs))
  schs1 <- readVECT("schools", plugin=FALSE)
  print(summary(schs1))
  writeVECT(schs, "newsch", v.in.ogr_flags=c("o", "overwrite"))
  execGRASS("v.info", map="newsch", layer="1")
  nschs <- readVECT("newsch")
  print(summary(nschs))
  print(all.equal(names(nschs), as.character(vColumns("newsch"))[2])))
  names(nschs) <- paste("ABCDEFGHJKLMNO", names(nschs), sep="")
  writeVECT(nschs, "newsch1", v.in.ogr_flags=c("o", "overwrite"))
  print(all.equal(names(nschs), as.character(vColumns("newsch1"))[-1,2])))
  nschs1 <- readVECT("newsch1")
  print(all.equal(names(nschs), names(nschs1)[-1]))
  print(summary(nschs1))
  schs <- readVECT("schools", driver="ESRI Shapefile")
  names(schs) <- paste("ABCDEFGHJKLMNO", names(schs), sep="")
  writeVECT(schs, "newsch", v.in.ogr_flags=c("o", "overwrite"),
            driver="ESRI Shapefile")
  print(all.equal(names(schs), as.character(vColumns("newsch"))[-1,2])))
  nschs <- readVECT("newsch", driver="ESRI Shapefile")
  all.equal(names(schs), names(nschs)[-1])
  print(vInfo("roadsmajor"))
  roads <- readVECT("roadsmajor")
  print(summary(roads))
  cen_neig <- vect2neigh("census")
  str(cen_neig)
  Sys.setenv("GRASS_VERBOSE"=GV)
```

```
    set.ignore.stderrOption(ois)  
}
```

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