

# Package ‘mlr3db’

October 29, 2019

**Title** Data Base Backend for 'mlr3'

**Version** 0.1.3

**Description** Extends the 'mlr3' package with a backend to transparently work with data bases. Internally relies on the abstraction of package 'dbplyr' to interact with one of the many supported data base management systems (DBMS).

**License** LGPL-3

**URL** <https://mlr3db.mlr-org.com>, <https://github.com/mlr-org/mlr3db>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/mlr-org/mlr3db/issues>

**Depends** R (>= 3.1.0)

**Imports** checkmate, data.table, digest, dplyr, mlr3 (>= 0.1.4), R6

**Suggests** DBI, dbplyr, lgr, RSQLite, testthat, tibble

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**NeedsCompilation** no

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### Description

Extends the 'mlr3' package with a backend to transparently work with data bases. Internally relies on the abstraction of package 'dbplyr' to interact with one of the many supported data base management systems (DBMS).

### Author(s)

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### See Also

Useful links:

- <https://mlr3db.mlr-org.com>
- <https://github.com/mlr-org/mlr3db>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/mlr-org/mlr3db/issues>

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as_sqlite_backend	<i>Convert to use a SQLite Backend</i>
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### Description

Converts to a `DataBackendDplyr` using a **RSQLite** data base, depending on the input type:

- `data.frame`: Converts to a `DataBackendDplyr`.
- `[mlr3::DataBackend]`: Creates a new `DataBackendDplyr` using the data of the provided `mlr3::DataBackend`.
- `[mlr3::Task]`: Replaces the `DataBackend` in slot `$task` with a new backend. Only active columns and rows are considered.

### Usage

```
as_sqlite_backend(data, path = NULL, ...)
```

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	<code>(data.frame()   mlr3::DataBackend   mlr3::Task)</code> See description.
<code>path</code>	<code>(NULL   character(1))</code> Path for the SQLite data base. Defaults to a file in the temporary directory of the R session, see <code>tempfile()</code> .
<code>...</code>	<code>(any)</code> Additional arguments, currently ignored.

**Value**

[DataBackendDplyr](#).

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DataBackendDplyr	<i>DataBackend for dplyr/dbplyr</i>
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**Description**

A `mlr3::DataBackend` using `dplyr::tbl()` from packages **dplyr/dbplyr**. This includes `tibbles`. Allows to let a `mlr3::Task` interface an out-of-memory data base.

**Format**

`R6::R6Class` object inheriting from `mlr3::DataBackend`.

**Construction**

```
DataBackendDplyr$new(data, primary_key = NULL, strings_as_factors = TRUE)
```

- `data :: dplyr::tbl()`  
The data object.
- `primary_key :: character(1)`  
Name of the primary key column.
- `strings_as_factors :: logical(1) || character()`  
Either a character vector of column names to convert to factors, or a single logical flag: if FALSE, no column will be converted, if TRUE all string columns (except the primary key). The backend is queried for distinct values of the respective columns and their levels are stored in `$levels`.

Alternatively, use `mlr3::as_data_backend()` on a `dplyr::tbl()` which will construct a `DataBackend` for you.

**Fields**

All fields from `mlr3::DataBackend`, and additionally:

- `levels :: named list()`  
List of factor levels, named with column names. The columns get automatically converted to factors in `$data()` and `head()`.

**Methods**

All methods from `mlr3::DataBackend`.

**Examples**

```

# Backend using a in-memory tibble
data = tibble::as_tibble(iris)
data$Sepal.Length[1:30] = NA
data$row_id = 1:150
b = DataBackendDplyr$new(data, primary_key = "row_id")

# Object supports all accessors of DataBackend
print(b)
b$row
b$ncol
b$colnames
b$data(rows = 100:101, cols = "Species")
b$distinct(b$rownames, "Species")

# Classification task using this backend
task = mlr3::TaskClassif$new(id = "iris_tibble", backend = b, target = "Species")
print(task)
task$head()

# Create a temporary SQLite data base
con = DBI::dbConnect(RSQLite::SQLite(), ":memory:")
dplyr::copy_to(con, data)
tbl = dplyr::tbl(con, "data")

# Define a backend on a subset of the data base
tbl = dplyr::select_at(tbl, setdiff(colnames(tbl), "Sepal.Width")) # do not use column "Sepal.Width"
tbl = dplyr::filter(tbl, row_id %in% 1:120) # Use only first 120 rows
b = DataBackendDplyr$new(tbl, primary_key = "row_id")
print(b)

# Query distinct values
b$distinct(b$rownames, "Species")

# Query number of missing values
b$missings(b$rownames, b$colnames)

# Note that SQLite does not support factors, column Species has been converted to character
lapply(b$head(), class)

# Cleanup
rm(tbl)
DBI::dbDisconnect(con)

```

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