

Package ‘multidplyr’

November 13, 2025

Title A Multi-Process 'dplyr' Backend

Version 0.1.4

Description Partition a data frame across multiple worker processes to provide simple multicore parallelism.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://multidplyr.tidyverse.org>,
<https://github.com/tidyverse/multidplyr>

BugReports <https://github.com/tidyverse/multidplyr/issues>

Depends R (>= 3.6)

Imports callr (>= 3.5.1), cli, crayon, dplyr (>= 1.0.0), magrittr,
qs2, R6, rlang (>= 1.0.6), tibble, tidyselect, vctrs (>= 0.3.6)

Suggests covr, knitr, lubridate, mgcv, nycflights13, rmarkdown,
testthat (>= 3.0.2), vroom, withr

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/Needs/website tidyverse/tidytemplate

Config/testthat/edition 3

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Hadley Wickham [aut, cre],
Posit Software, PBC [cph, fnd]

Maintainer Hadley Wickham <hadley@posit.co>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-11-12 23:30:20 UTC

Contents

cluster_call	2
cluster_utils	3
new_cluster	4
partition	5
party_df	6
Index	7

cluster_call	<i>Call a function on each node of a cluster</i>
--------------	--

Description

‘cluster_call()’ executes the code on each worker and returns the results; ‘cluster_send()’ executes the code ignoring the result. Jobs are submitted to workers in parallel, and then we wait until they’re complete.

Usage

```
cluster_call(cluster, code, simplify = FALSE, ptype = NULL)
```

```
cluster_send(cluster, code)
```

Arguments

cluster	A cluster.
code	An expression to execute on each worker.
simplify	Should the results be simplified from a list? * ‘TRUE’: simplify or die trying. * ‘NA’: simplify if possible. * ‘FALSE’: never try to simplify, always leaving as a list. ‘code’ must return a vector of length one in order for simplification to succeed.
ptype	If ‘simplify’ is ‘TRUE’, use ‘ptype’ to enforce the desired output type.

Value

A list of results with one element for each worker in ‘cluster’.

Examples

```
cl <- default_cluster()

# Run code on each cluster and retrieve results
cluster_call(cl, Sys.getpid())
cluster_call(cl, runif(1))

# use ptype to simplify
```

```
cluster_call(cl, runif(1), simplify = TRUE)

# use cluster_send() to ignore results
cluster_send(cl, x <- runif(1))
cluster_call(cl, x, simplify = TRUE)
```

cluster_utils

Cluster utility functions

Description

These functions provide useful helpers for performing common operations. ‘cluster_assign()’ assigns the same value on each worker; ‘cluster_assign_each()’ assigns different values on each worker; ‘cluster_assign_partition()’ partitions vectors so that each worker gets (approximately) the same number of pieces.

Usage

```
cluster_assign(.cluster, ...)

cluster_assign_each(.cluster, ...)

cluster_assign_partition(.cluster, ...)

cluster_copy(cluster, names, env = caller_env())

cluster_rm(cluster, names)

cluster_library(cluster, packages)
```

Arguments

...	Name-value pairs
cluster, .cluster	Cluster to work on
names	Name of variables to copy.
env	Environment in which to look for variables to copy.
packages	Character vector of packages to load

Value

Functions that modify the worker environment invisibly return ‘cluster’ so calls can be piped together. The other functions return lists with one element for each worker.

Examples

```
cl <- default_cluster()
cluster_assign(cl, a = runif(1))
cluster_call(cl, a)

# Assign different values on each cluster
cluster_assign_each(cl, b = c(1, 10))
cluster_call(cl, b)

# Partition a vector so that each worker gets approximately the
# same amount of it
cluster_assign_partition(cl, c = 1:11)
cluster_call(cl, c)

# If you want different to compute different values on each
# worker, use `cluster_call()` directly:
cluster_call(cl, d <- runif(1))
cluster_call(cl, d)

# cluster_copy() is a useful shortcut
e <- 10
cluster_copy(cl, "e")

cluster_call(cl, ls())
cluster_rm(cl, letters[1:5])
cluster_call(cl, ls())

# Use cluster_library() to load packages
cluster_call(cl, search())
cluster_library(cl, "magrittr")
cluster_call(cl, search())
```

new_cluster

Create a new cluster with sensible defaults.

Description

Clusters created with this function will automatically clean up after themselves.

Usage

```
new_cluster(n)
```

Arguments

n Number of workers to create. Avoid setting this higher than the number of cores in your computer as it will degrade performance.

Value

A 'multidplyr_cluster' object.

Examples

```
cluster <- new_cluster(2)
cluster
```

partition

Partition data across workers in a cluster

Description

Partitioning ensures that all observations in a group end up on the same worker. To try and keep the observations on each worker balanced, 'partition()' uses a greedy algorithm that iteratively assigns each group to the worker that currently has the fewest rows.

Usage

```
partition(data, cluster)
```

Arguments

data	Dataset to partition, typically grouped. When grouped, all observations in a group will be assigned to the same cluster.
cluster	Cluster to use.

Value

A [party_df].

Examples

```
library(dplyr)
cl <- default_cluster()
cluster_library(cl, "dplyr")

mtcars2 <- partition(mtcars, cl)
mtcars2 %>% mutate(cyl2 = 2 * cyl)
mtcars2 %>% filter(vs == 1)
mtcars2 %>% group_by(cyl) %>% summarise(n())
mtcars2 %>% select(-cyl)
```

party_df	A 'party_df' partitioned data frame
----------	-------------------------------------

Description

This S3 class represents a data frame partitioned across workers in a cluster. You can use this constructor if you have already spread data frames spread across a cluster. If not, start with `[partition()]` instead.

Usage

```
party_df(cluster, name, auto_rm = FALSE)
```

Arguments

cluster	A cluster
name	Name of data frame variable. Must exist on every worker, be a data frame, and have the same names.
auto_rm	If 'TRUE', will automatically 'rm()' the data frame on the workers when this object is created.

Value

An S3 object with class 'multidplyr_party_df'.

Examples

```
# If a real example, you might spread file names across the clusters
# and read in using data.table::fread()/vroom::vroom()/qs2::qs_read().
cl <- default_cluster()
cluster_send(cl[1], n <- 10)
cluster_send(cl[2], n <- 15)
cluster_send(cl, df <- data.frame(x = runif(n)))

df <- party_df(cl, "df")
df
```

Index

`cluster_assign` (`cluster_utils`), 3
`cluster_assign_each` (`cluster_utils`), 3
`cluster_assign_partition`
 (`cluster_utils`), 3
`cluster_call`, 2
`cluster_copy` (`cluster_utils`), 3
`cluster_library` (`cluster_utils`), 3
`cluster_rm` (`cluster_utils`), 3
`cluster_send` (`cluster_call`), 2
`cluster_utils`, 3

`new_cluster`, 4

`partition`, 5
`party_df`, 6