Package ‘R.cache’

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Title Fast and Light-Weight Caching (Memoization) of Objects and Results to Speed Up Computations
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Description Memoization can be used to speed up repetitive and computational expensive function calls. The first time a function that implements memoization is called the results are stored in a cache memory. The next time the function is called with the same set of parameters, the results are momentarily retrieved from the cache avoiding repeating the calculations. With this package, any R object can be cached in a key-value storage where the key can be an arbitrary set of R objects. The cache memory is persistent (on the file system).
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Description

Memoization can be used to speed up repetitive and computational expensive function calls. The first time a function that implements memoization is called the results are stored in a cache memory. The next time the function is called with the same set of parameters, the results are momentarily retrieved from the cache avoiding repeating the calculations. With this package, any R object can be cached in a key-value storage where the key can be an arbitrary set of R objects. The cache memory is persistent (on the file system).

Installation and updates

To install this package and all of its dependent packages, do: install.packages("R.cache")

To get started

- loadCache, saveCache Methods for loading and saving objects from and to the cache.
- getCacheRootPath, setCacheRootPath Methods for getting and setting the directory where cache files are stored.

How to cite this package

Whenever using this package, please cite [1] as


Wishlist

Here is a list of features that would be useful, but which I have too little time to add myself. Contributions are appreciated.

- Add a functionality to identify cache files that are no longer of use. For now, there is an extra header field for arbitrary comments which can be used, but maybe more formal fields are useful, e.g. keywords, user, etc?

If you consider implement some of the above, make sure it is not already implemented by downloading the latest "devel" version!
Related work

See also the filehash package, and the cache() function in the Biobase package of Bioconductor.

License

The releases of this package is licensed under LGPL version 2.1 or newer.

The development code of the packages is under a private licence (where applicable) and patches sent to the author fall under the latter license, but will be, if incorporated, released under the "release" license above.

References


Author(s)

Henrik Bengtsson

addMemoization Creates a copy of an existing function such that its results are memoized

Description

Creates a copy of an existing function such that its results are memoized.

Usage

## Default S3 method:
addMemoization(fcn, envir=parent.frame(), ...)

Arguments

fcn A function (or the name of a function) that should be copied and have memoization added.

envir The environment from where to look for the function.

... Additional arguments for controlling the memoization, i.e. all arguments of memoizedCall() that are not passed to do.call().
evalWithMemoization

Details
The new function is setup such that the memoized call is done in the environment of the caller (the parent frame of the function).
If the function returns NULL, that particular function call is not memoized.

Value
Returns a function.

Author(s)
Henrik Bengtsson

See Also
The returned function utilized memoizedCall() internally.

Description
Evaluates an R expression with memoization such that the same objects are assigned to the current environment and the same result is returned, if any.

Usage
evalWithMemoization(expr, key=NULL, ..., envir=parent.frame(), force=FALSE)

Arguments
expr The expression to be evaluated.
key Additional objects to uniquely identify the evaluation.
... Additional arguments passed to loadCache() and saveCache().
envir The environment in which the expression should be evaluated.
force If TRUE, existing cached results are ignored.

Value
Returns the value of the evaluated expr expression, if any.

Author(s)
Henrik Bengtsson
See Also

Internally, `eval()` is used to evaluate the expression.

Examples

```r
for (kk in 1:5) {
  cat(sprintf("Iteration #\d:\n", kk))
  res <- evalWithMemoization({
    cat("Evaluating expression...\n")
    a <- 1
    b <- 2
    c <- 4
    Sys.sleep(1)
    cat("done\n")
    b
  })
  print(res)
}
```

```r
# Sanity checks
stopifnot(a == 1 && b == 2 && c == 4)
```

```r
# Clean up
rm(a, b, c)
```

```r
## OUTPUTS:
## Iteration #1:
## Evaluating expression...done
## [1] 2
## Iteration #2:
## [1] 2
## Iteration #3:
## [1] 2
## Iteration #4:
## [1] 2
## Iteration #5:
## [1] 2
```

```r
# WARNING
# If the expression being evaluated depends on
# "input" objects, then these must be specified
# explicitly as "key" objects.
for (ii in 1:2) {
  for (kk in 1:3) {
    cat(sprintf("Iteration #\d:\n", kk))
    res <- evalWithMemoization({
      cat("Evaluating expression...\n")
      a <- kk
    })
    print(res)
  }
}
```
getCacheRootPath

---

**Description**

Gets the root path to the file cache directory.

**Usage**

```r
## Default S3 method:
getCacheRootPath(defaultPath="~/.Rcache", ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `defaultPath` The default path, if no user-specified directory has been given.
- `...` Not used.
loadCache

Value

Returns the path as a character string.

Author(s)

Henrik Bengtsson

See Also

To set the directory where cache files are stored, see `setCacheRootPath()`.

Examples

```
print(getCacheRootPath())
```

loadCache      Loads data from file cache

Description

Loads data from file cache, which is unique for an optional key object.

Usage

```r
## Default S3 method:
loadCache(key=NULL, sources=NULL, suffix=".Rcache", removeOldCache=TRUE, pathname=NULL, 
dirs=NULL, ..., onerror=c("warning", "error", "message", "quiet", "print"))
```

Arguments

- **key**
  - An optional object from which a hexadecimal hash code will be generated and appended to the filename.
- **sources**
  - Optional source objects. If the cache object has a timestamp older than one of the source objects, it will be ignored and removed.
- **suffix**
  - A character string to be appended to the end of the filename.
- **removeOldCache**
  - If TRUE and the cache is older than the sources, the cache file is removed, otherwise not.
- **pathname**
  - The pathname to the cache file. If specified, arguments key and suffix are ignored. Note that this is only needed in order to read a cache file for which the key is unknown, for instance, in order to investigate an unknown cache file.
- **dirs**
  - A character vector constituting the path to the cache subdirectory (of the cache root directory as returned by `getCacheRootPath()`) to be used. If NULL, the path will be the cache root path.
- **...**
  - Not used.
- **onError**
  - A character string specifying what the action is if an exception is thrown.
Details

The hash code calculated from the key object is a 32 characters long hexadecimal MD5 hash code. For more details, see `getChecksum()`.

Value

Returns an R object or `NULL`, if cache does not exist.

Author(s)

Henrik Bengtsson

See Also

`saveCache()`.

Examples

```r
simulate <- function(mean, sd) {
  # 1. Try to load cached data, if already generated
  key <- list(mean, sd)
  data <- loadCache(key)
  if (!is.null(data)) {
    cat("Loaded cached data\n")
    return(data);
  }

  # 2. If not available, generate it.
  cat("Generating data from scratch...\n")
  data <- rnorm(1000, mean=mean, sd=sd)
  Sys.sleep(1) # Emulate slow algorithm
  cat("\n")
  saveCache(data, key=key, comment="simulate()")

  data;
}

data <- simulate(2.3, 3.0)
data <- simulate(2.3, 3.5)
data <- simulate(2.3, 3.0) # Will load cached data

# Clean up
file.remove(findCache(key=list(2.3,3.0)))
file.remove(findCache(key=list(2.3,3.5)))
```
**memoizedCall**

*Calls a function with memoization*

---

**Description**

Calls a function with memoization, that is, caches the results to be retrieved if the function is called again with the exact same arguments.

**Usage**

```r
## Default S3 method:
memoizedCall(what, ..., envir=parent.frame(), force=FALSE, sources=NULL, dirs=NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- `what`:
  
The function to be called, or a character string specifying the name of the function to be called, cf. `do.call()`.

- `...`:
  
Arguments passed to the function.

- `envir`:
  
The environment in which the function is evaluated.

- `force`:
  
If TRUE, any cached results are ignored, otherwise not.

- `sources`, `dirs`:
  
Optional arguments passed to `loadCache()` and `saveCache()`.

**Details**

If the function returns `NULL`, that particular function call is *not* memoized.

**Value**

Returns the result of the function call.

**Author(s)**

Henrik Bengtsson

**See Also**

Internally, `loadCache()` is used to load memoized results, if available. If not available, then `do.call()` is used to evaluate the function call, and `saveCache()` is used to save the results to cache.
saveCache

Saves data to file cache

**Description**

Saves data to file cache, which is unique for an optional key object.

**Usage**

```r
### Default S3 method:
saveCache(object, key=NULL, sources=NULL, suffix=".Rcache", comment=NULL, pathname=NULL,
dirs=NULL, compress=NULL, ...)  
```

**Arguments**

- **object**  
  The object to be saved to file.

- **key**  
  An optional object from which a hexadecimal hash code will be generated and appended to the filename.

- **sources**  
  Source objects used for comparison of timestamps when cache is loaded later.

- **suffix**  
  A character string to be appended to the end of the filename.

- **comment**  
  An optional character string written in ASCII at the beginning of the file.

- **pathname**  
  (Advanced) An optional character string specifying the pathname to the cache file. If not specified (default), a unique one is automatically generated from arguments key and suffix among other things.

- **dirs**  
  A character vector constituting the path to the cache subdirectory (of the cache root directory as returned by `getCacheRootPath()`) to be used. If NULL, the path will be the cache root path.

- **compress**  
  If TRUE, the cache file will be saved using gzip compression, otherwise not.

- **...**  
  Additional argument passed to `save()`.

**Value**

Returns (invisible) the pathname of the cache file.

**Compression**

The `saveCache()` method saves a compressed cache file (with filename extension *.gz) if argument `compress` is TRUE. The `loadCache()` method locates (via `findCache()`) and loads such cache files as well.

**Author(s)**

Henrik Bengtsson
**setCacheRootPath**

*See Also*

For more details on how the hash code is generated etc, **loadCache**().

*Examples*

```r
## Not run: For an example, see ?loadCache
```

---

**setCacheRootPath**  
Sets the root path to the file cache directory

---

**Description**

Sets the root path to the file cache directory. By default, this function will set it to `~/.Rcache`.

**Usage**

```r
## Default S3 method:
setCacheRootPath(path="~/.Rcache", ...)
```

**Arguments**

- `path`  
The path.
- `...`  
Not used.

**Value**

Returns (invisibly) the old root path.

**Author(s)**

Henrik Bengtsson

*See Also*

**getCacheRootPath**().
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