
bids-matlab

Release v0.1.0dev

BIDS-MATLAB developers

Mar 05, 2022

CONTENT

1	Indexing and querying a BIDS dataset	3
2	BIDS file handling	7
3	Function description	11
4	Utility functions	17
5	Using the BIDS schema	21
6	Indices and tables	23
	MATLAB Module Index	25
	Index	27

This repository aims at centralising MATLAB/Octave tools to interact with datasets conforming to the BIDS (Brain Imaging Data Structure) format.

For more information about BIDS, visit [the BIDS website](#).

To see how to install BIDS-Matlab, please check [the github repository](#).

INDEXING AND QUERYING A BIDS DATASET

BIDS-Matlab allows you to index a raw or derivative BIDS dataset with `bids.layout()`, and then query the content of that dataset with `bids.query()`.

The general API of these functions is detailed below.

For an example on how to use them, check out [this jupyter notebook](#).

+**bids.layout**(*varargin*)

Parse a directory structure formatted according to the BIDS standard

USAGE:

```
BIDS = bids.layout(pwd, ...
                  'use_schema', true, ...
                  'index_derivatives', false, ...
                  'tolerant', true, ...
                  'verbose', false)
```

Parameters

- **root** (string) – directory of the dataset formatted according to BIDS [default: `pwd`]
- **use_schema** (boolean) – If set to `true`, the parsing of the dataset will follow the bids-schema provided with bids-matlab. If set to `false` files just have to be of the form `sub-label_[entity-label]_suffix.ext` to be parsed. If a folder path is provided, then the schema contained in that folder will be used for parsing.
- **index_derivatives** (boolean) – if `true` this will index the content of the any derivatives folder in the BIDS dataset.
- **tolerant** (boolean) – Set to `true` to turn validation errors into warnings
- **verbose** (boolean) – Set to `true` to get more feedback

(C) Copyright 2016-2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+**bids.query**(*BIDS, query, varargin*)

Queries a directory structure formatted according to the BIDS standard

USAGE:

```
result = bids.query(BIDS, query, ...)
```

Parameters

- **BIDS** (structure or string) – BIDS directory name or BIDS structure (from bids.layout)
- **query** (string) – type of query (see list below)

Type of query allowed:

- 'sessions'
- 'subjects'
- 'modalities'
- 'tasks'
- 'runs'
- 'spaces'
- 'labels'
- 'descriptions'
- 'resolutions'
- 'suffixes'
- 'entities'
- 'data'
- 'metadata'
- 'metafiles'
- 'dependencies'
- 'extensions'
- 'prefixes'

Warning: Note that all the query types are plurals.
--

Queries can “filtered” by passing more arguments key-value pairs as a list of strings or as a cell or a structure.

Note that for the entities listed below can be queried using integers:

- 'run'
- 'flip'
- 'inv'
- 'split'
- 'echo'

It is also possible to use regular expressions in the value.

Regex example:


```
% The following 2 will return the same thing
data = bids.query(BIDS, 'data', 'sub', '01')
data = bids.query(BIDS, 'data', 'sub', '^01$')

% But the following would return all the data for all subjects
% whose label ends in '01'
data = bids.query(BIDS, 'data', 'sub', '.*01')
```

Example 1:

```
data = bids.query(BIDS, 'data', ...
                  'sub', '01', ...
                  'task', 'stopsignalwithpseudowordnaming', ...
                  'run', 1:5, ...
                  'extension', '.nii.gz', ...
                  'suffix', 'bold');
```

Example 2:

```
filters = struct('sub', '01', ...
                 'task', 'stopsignalwithpseudowordnaming', ...
                 'run', 1:5, ...
                 'extension', '.nii.gz', ...
                 'suffix', 'bold');

data = bids.query(BIDS, 'data', filters);
```

Example 3:

```
filters = {'sub', '0[1-5]'; ...
           'task', 'stopsignal.*'; ...
           'run', 1:5; ...
           'extension', '.nii.*'; ...
           'suffix', 'bold'};

data = bids.query(BIDS, 'data', filters);
```

(C) Copyright 2016-2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

BIDS FILE HANDLING

class +`bids.File`(*varargin*)

Class to deal with BIDS files and to help to create BIDS valid names

USAGE:

```
file = bids.File(input, ...
                 'use_schema', false, ...
                 'tolerant', true,
                 'verbose', false);
```

Parameters

- **input** (filename or structure) –
- **use_schema** (boolean) –
- **tolerant** (boolean) – turns errors into warning
- **verbose** (boolean) – silences warnings

Initilize with a filename

EXAMPLE:

```
input = fullfile(pwd, 'sub-01_ses-02_T1w.nii');
file = bids.File(input);
```

Initialize with a structure

EXAMPLE:

```
input = struct('ext', '.nii', ...
              'suffix', 'T1w', ...
              'entities', struct('sub', '01', ...
                                'ses', '02'));
file = bids.File(input);
```

Remove prefixes and add a ``desc-preproc`` entity-label pair

EXAMPLE:

```
input = 'wuasub-01_ses-test_task-faceRecognition_run-02_bold.nii';
file = bids.File(input, 'use_schema', false);
file.prefix = '';
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
file.entities.desc = 'preproc';  
disp(file.filename)
```

Use the BIDS schema to get entities in the right order

EXAMPLE:

```
input.suffix = 'bold';  
input.ext = '.nii';  
input.entities = struct('sub', '01', ...  
                        'acq', '1pt5', ...  
                        'run', '02', ...  
                        'task', 'face recognition');  
  
file = bids.File(name_spec, 'use_schema', true);
```

(C) Copyright 2021 BIDS-MATLAB developers

```
prefix = ''  
    bids prefix  
  
extension = ''  
    file extension  
  
suffix = ''  
    file suffix  
  
entities = 'struct([])'  
    list of entities  
  
modality = ''  
    name of file modality  
  
path = ''  
    absolute path  
  
bids_path = ''  
    path within dataset  
  
filename = ''  
    bidsified name  
  
json_filename = ''  
    bidsified name for json file  
  
metadata_files = '{}'  
    list of metadata files related  
  
metadata = '{}'  
    Required entities  
  
entity_order = '{}'  
    Expected order of entities  
  
schema = '[]'  
    BIDS schema used  
  
update()  
    excuted automatically before getting a value
```

reorder_entities(*entity_order*)

USAGE:

```
file = file.reorder_entities([entity_order]);
```

If the no entity order is provided, it will try to rely on the schema to find an appropriate order

EXAMPLE:

```
% filename with ses entity in the wrong position
filename = 'wuasub-01_task-faceRecognition_ses-test_run-02_bold.nii';
file = bids.File(filename, 'use_schema', false);
file = file.reorder_entities({'sub', 'ses'});

% use the schema to do the reordering
filename = 'wuasub-01_task-faceRecognition_ses-test_run-02_bold.nii';
file = bids.File(filename, 'use_schema', false);
file = file.use_schema();
file = file.reorder_entities();
```

use_schema()

Loads BIDS schema into instance and tries to update properties:

- file.modality
- file.required_entity
- file.entity_order
- file.relative_pth

USAGE:

```
file = file.use_schema();
```

validate_entities()

use entity_order got from schema as a proxy for allowed entity keys

USAGE:

```
file.validate_entities();
```

get_required_entities()

USAGE:

```
[file, required_entities] = file.get_required_entities()
```

get_modality_from_schema()

USAGE:

```
[file, modality] = file.get_modality_from_schema()
```

get_entity_order_from_schema()

USAGE:

```
[file, entity_order] = file.get_entity_order_from_schema()
```

check_required_entities()

USAGE:

```
file.check_required_entities()
```

FUNCTION DESCRIPTION

+**bids.derivatives_json**(*varargin*)

Creates dummy content for a given BIDS derivative file.

USAGE:

```
json = derivatives_json(derivative_filename, 'force', false)
```

Parameters

- **derivative_filename** (string) –
- **force** (boolean) – when *true* it will force the creation of a json content even when the filename contains no BIDS derivatives entity.

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+**bids.init**(*varargin*)

Initialize dataset with README, description, folder structure...

USAGE:

```
bids.init(pth, ...  
         'folders', folders, ...  
         'is_derivative', false, ...  
         'is_datalad_ds', false)
```

Parameters

- **pth** (string) – directory where to create the dataset
- **folders** (structure) – define the folder structure to create. `folders.subjects`
`folders.sessions` `folders.modalities`
- **is_derivative** (boolean) –
- **is_datalad_ds** –

(C) Copyright 2021 BIDS-MATLAB developers

class +**bids.Description**(*pipeline*, *BIDS*)

Class to deal with dataset_description files.

USAGE:

```
ds_desc = bids.Description(pipeline, BIDS);
```

Parameters

- **pipeline** (string) – pipeline name
- **BIDS** (structure) – output from BIDS layout to identify the source dataset used when creating a derivatives dataset

(C) Copyright 2021 BIDS-MATLAB developers

content = None

dataset description content

is_derivative = 'false'

boolean

pipeline = ''

name of the pipeline used to generate this derivative dataset

Description(pipeline, BIDS)

Instance constructor

set_derivative()

USAGE:

```
ds_desc = ds_desc.set_derivative();
```

set_field(varargin)

USAGE:

```
ds_desc = ds_desc.set_field(key, value);
ds_desc = ds_desc.set_field(struct(key1, value1, ...
                                   key2, value2));
```

append(key, value)

Appends an item to the dataset description content.

USAGE:

```
ds_desc = ds_desc.append(key, value);
```

write(folder)

Writes json file of the dataset description.

USAGE:

```
ds_desc.write([folder = pwd]);
```

+bids.copy_to_derivative(varargin)

Copy selected data from BIDS layout to given derivatives folder, returning layout of new derivatives folder

USAGE:

```
bids.copy_to_derivative(BIDS, ...
                        'pipeline_name', '', ...
                        'out_path', '', ...
                        'filters', struct(), ...
```

(continues on next page)

(continued from previous page)

```
'unzip', true, ...
'force', false, ...
'skip_dep', false, ...
'use_schema', use_schema, ...
'verbose', true);
```

Parameters

- **BIDS** (structure or string) – BIDS directory name or BIDS structure (from bids.layout)
- **pipeline_name** (string) – name of pipeline to use
- **out_path** (string) – path to directory containing the derivatives
- **filter** (structure or cell) – list of filters to choose what files to copy (see bids.query)
- **unzip** (boolean) – If true then all .gz files will be unzipped after being copied.
- **force** (boolean) – If set to false it will not overwrite any file already present in the destination.
- **skip_dep** (boolean) – If set to false it will copy all the dependencies of each file.
- **use_schema** (boolean) – If set to true it will only copy files that are BIDS valid.
- **verbose** (boolean) –

All the metadata of each file is read through the whole hierarchy and dumped into one side-car json file for each file copied. In practice this “unravels” the inheritance principle.

(C) Copyright 2021 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+bids.report(varargin)

Create a short summary of the acquisition parameters of a BIDS dataset.

The output can be saved to a markdown file and/or printed to the screen.

USAGE:

```
bids.report(BIDS,
    'filter', filter, ...
    'output_path', output_path, ...
    'read_nifti', read_nifti, ...
    'verbose', verbose);
```

Parameters

- **BIDS** (string or structure) – Path to BIDS dataset or output of bids.layout [Default = pwd]
- **filter** (structure) – Specifies which the subject, session, ... to take as template. [Default = struct('sub', '', 'ses', '')]. See bids.query for more information.
- **output_path** (string) – Folder where the report should be printed. If empty (default) then the output is sent to the prompt.
- **read_nifti** (boolean) – If set to true (default) the function will try to read the NIFTI file to get more information. This relies on the `spm_vol.m` function from SPM.

- **verbose** (boolean) – If set to `false` (default) the function does not output anything to the prompt.

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+**bids.validate**(*root*)

BIDS Validator

USAGE:

```
[sts, msg] = bids.validate(root)
```

Parameters **root** – directory formatted according to BIDS [Default: `pwd`]

Returns

- **sts** 0 if successful
- **msg** warning and error messages

Command line version of the BIDS-Validator: <https://github.com/bids-standard/bids-validator>

Web version: <https://bids-standard.github.io/bids-validator/>

(C) Copyright 2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+**bids.diagnostic**(*varargin*)

Creates a summary figure listing the number of files for each subject / session and and imaging modality (possibly split by task)

USAGE:

```
diagnostic_table = diagnostic(BIDS, ...
                             'use_schema', true, ...
                             'output_path', '', ...
                             'filter', struct(), ...
                             'split_by', {''})
```

Parameters

- **BIDS** (structure or string) – BIDS directory name or BIDS structure (from `bids.layout`)
- **split_by** (cell) – splits results by a given BIDS entity (now only `task` is supported)
- **use_schema** (boolean) – If set to `true`, the parsing of the dataset will follow the bids-schema provided with bids-matlab. If set to `false` files just have to be of the form `sub-label_[entity-label]_suffix.ext` to be parsed. If a folder path is provided, then the schema contained in that folder will be used for parsing.
- **out_path** (string) – path to directory containing the derivatives
- **filter** (structure or cell) – list of filters to choose what files to copy (see `bids.query`)

Examples:

```
BIDS = bids.layout(path_to_dataset);
diagnostic_table = bids.diagnostic(BIDS, 'output_path', pwd);
diagnostic_table = bids.diagnostic(BIDS, 'split_by', {'task'}, 'output_path', pwd);
```

(C) Copyright 2021 BIDS-MATLAB developers

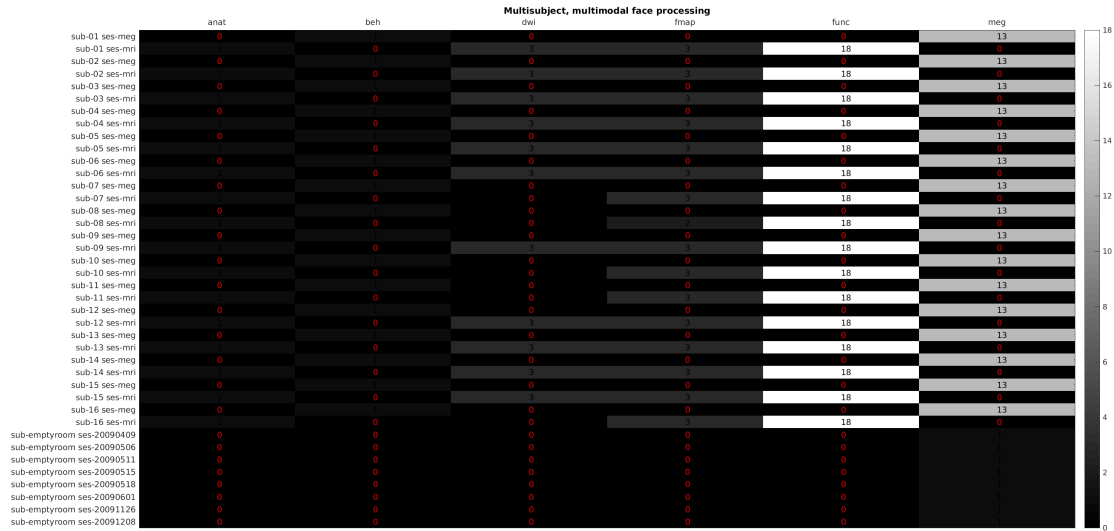


Fig. 1: output of diagsnotic

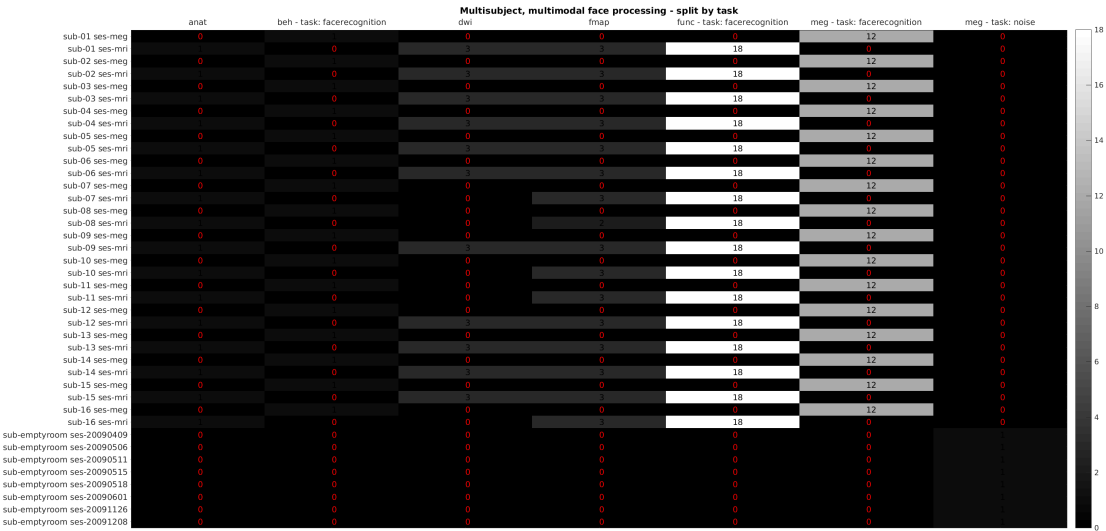


Fig. 2: output of diagsnotic split by task

UTILITY FUNCTIONS

+**bids.util.jsondecode**(*file*, *varargin*)

Decode JSON-formatted file

USAGE:

```
json = bids.util.jsondecode(file, opts)
```

Parameters

- **file** (string) – name of a JSON file or JSON string
- **opts** (structure) – structure of optional parameters (only with JSONio):

`opt.replaceStyle`: string to control how non-alphanumeric characters are replaced.

- 'underscore' Default
- 'hex'
- 'delete'
- 'nop'

Returns

- **json** JSON structure

(C) Copyright 2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+**bids.util.jsonwrite**(*varargin*)

Serialize a JSON (JavaScript Object Notation) structure

USAGE:

```
jsonwrite(filename, json)
```

Parameters

- **filename** (string) – JSON filename
- **json** (structure) – JSON structure

USAGE:

```
S = jsonwrite(json)
```

Parameters **json** (structure) – JSON structure

Returns **S** - serialized JSON structure (string)

USAGE:

```
[...] = jsonwrite(..., opts)
```

Parameters **opts** (structure or list) – name/value pairs of optional parameters.

- 'prettyPrint': indent output [Default: true]
- 'replacementStyle': string to control how non-alphanumeric characters are replaced {'underscore', 'hex', 'delete', 'nop'} [Default: 'underscore']
- 'convertInfAndNaN': encode NaN, Inf and -Inf as “null” [Default: true]

References:

- [JSON Standard](#)
- [jsonencode](#)

(C) Copyright 2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

\$Id: spm_jsonwrite.m 8031 2020-12-10 13:37:00Z guillaume \$

+bids.+util.**tsvread**(filename, field_to_return, hdr)

Load text and numeric data from tab-separated-value or other file.

USAGE:

```
file_content = tsvread(filename, field_to_return, hdr)
```

Parameters

- **filename** (string) – filename (can be gzipped) {txt,mat,csv,tsv,json}ename
- **field_to_return** – name of field to return if data stored in a structure [default: '']; or index of column if data stored as an array
- **hdr** (boolean) – detect the presence of a header row for csv/tsv [default: true]

Returns

- **file_content** corresponding data array or structure

Based on spm_load.m from SPM12.

(C) Copyright 2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+bids.+util.**tsvwrite**(filename, var)

Save text and numeric data to tab-separated-value file

USAGE:

```
tsvwrite(f, var)
```

Parameters

- **filename** (string) –
- **var** (data array or structure) –

Based on `spm_save.m` from SPM12.

(C) Copyright 2018 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

+bids.+util.**mkdir**(*varargin*)

Make new directory trees

USAGE:

```
sts = bids.util.mkdir(dir, ...)
```

Parameters **dir** (character array, or cell array of strings) – directory structure to create

Returns

- **sts** status is `true` if all directories were successfully created or already existing, `false` otherwise.

EXAMPLE:

```
bids.util.mkdir('dataset', {'sub-01', 'sub-02'}, {'mri', 'eeg'});
```

Based on `spm_mkdir` from SPM12

(C) Copyright 2017-2021 Guillaume Flandin, Wellcome Centre for Human Neuroimaging

(C) Copyright 2018 BIDS-MATLAB developers

USING THE BIDS SCHEMA

class +`bids.Schema`(*use_schema*)

Class to interact with the BIDS schema

USAGE:

```
schema = bids.Schema(use_schema)
```

use_schema: boolean

(C) Copyright 2021 BIDS-MATLAB developers

Schema(*use_schema*)

Constructor

load(*use_schema*)

Loads a json schema by recursively looking through a folder structure.

The nesting of the output structure reflects a combination of the folder structure and any eventual nesting within each json.

USAGE:

```
schema = bids.Schema
schema = schema.load
```

return_modalities(*subject, modality_group*)

if we go schema-less or use another schema than the “official” one we list directories in the subject/session folder as proxy of the modalities that we have to parse

return_modality_groups()

Returns a dummy variable if we go schema less

required_entities_for_suffix_group(*this_suffix_group*)

Returns a logical vector to track which entities of a suffix group are required in the bids schema

USAGE:

```
required_entities = schema.required_entities_for_suffix_group(this_suffix_group)
```

find_suffix_group(*modality, suffix*)

For a given suffix and modality, this returns the “suffix group” this suffix belongs to

USAGE:

```
idx = schema.find_suffix_group(modality, suffix)
```

return_datatypes_for_suffix(suffix)

For a given suffix, returns all the possible datatypes that have this suffix.

EXAMPLE:

```
schema = bids.Schema();  
datatypes = schema.return_datatypes_for_suffix('bold');  
assertEqual(datatypes, {'func'});
```

return_entities_for_suffix_modality(suffix, modality)

returns the list of entities for a given suffix of a given modality

USAGE:

```
[entities, required] = schema.return_entities_for_suffix_modality(suffix, ↵  
↵modality)
```

return_modality_suffixes_regex(modality)

creates a regular expression of suffixes for a given imaging modality

USAGE:

```
reg_ex = schema.return_modality_suffixes_regex(modality)
```

return_modality_extensions_regex(modality)

creates a regular expression of extensions for a given imaging modality

USAGE:

```
reg_ex = schema.return_modality_extensions_regex(modality)
```

return_modality_regex(modality)

creates a regular expression of suffixes and extension for a given imaging modality

USAGE:

```
reg_ex = schema.return_modality_regex(modality)
```

static append_json_to_schema(structure, json_file_list)

Reads a json file and appends its content to the bids schema

USAGE:

```
structure = append_json_to_schema(structure, json_file_list)
```

static inspect_subdir(structure, subdir_list)

Recursively inspects subdirectory for json files and reflects folder hierarchy in the output structure.

USAGE:

```
structure = inspect_subdir(obj, structure, subdir_list)
```

static ci_check(variable_to_check)

Mostly to avoid some crash in continuous integration

INDICES AND TABLES

- `genindex`

MATLAB MODULE INDEX

+
+bids, [21](#)
+bids.+util, [17](#)

Symbols

+bids (*module*), 3, 7, 11, 21
+bids.+util (*module*), 17

A

append() (+bids.Description *method*), 12
append_json_to_schema() (+bids.Schema *static method*), 22

B

bids_path (+bids.File *attribute*), 8

C

check_required_entities() (+bids.File *method*), 9
ci_check() (+bids.Schema *static method*), 22
content (+bids.Description *attribute*), 12
copy_to_derivative() (*in module* +bids), 12

D

derivatives_json() (*in module* +bids), 11
Description (*class in* +bids), 11
Description() (+bids.Description *method*), 12
diagnostic() (*in module* +bids), 14

E

entities (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
entity_order (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
extension (+bids.File *attribute*), 8

F

File (*class in* +bids), 7
filename (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
find_suffix_group() (+bids.Schema *method*), 21

G

get_entity_order_from_schema() (+bids.File *method*), 9
get_modality_from_schema() (+bids.File *method*), 9
get_required_entities() (+bids.File *method*), 9

I

init() (*in module* +bids), 11
inspect_subdir() (+bids.Schema *static method*), 22
is_derivative (+bids.Description *attribute*), 12

J

json_filename (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
jsondecode() (*in module* +bids.+util), 17
jsonwrite() (*in module* +bids.+util), 17

L

layout() (*in module* +bids), 3
load() (+bids.Schema *method*), 21

M

metadata (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
metadata_files (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
mkdir() (*in module* +bids.+util), 19
modality (+bids.File *attribute*), 8

P

path (+bids.File *attribute*), 8
pipeline (+bids.Description *attribute*), 12
prefix (+bids.File *attribute*), 8

Q

query() (*in module* +bids), 3

R

reorder_entities() (+bids.File *method*), 8
report() (*in module* +bids), 13
required_entities_for_suffix_group() (+bids.Schema *method*), 21
return_datatypes_for_suffix() (+bids.Schema *method*), 22
return_entities_for_suffix_modality() (+bids.Schema *method*), 22
return_modalities() (+bids.Schema *method*), 21
return_modality_extensions_regex() (+bids.Schema *method*), 22

`return_modality_groups()` (*+bids.Schema method*),
21
`return_modality_regex()` (*+bids.Schema method*),
22
`return_modality_suffixes_regex()` (*+bids.Schema
method*), 22

S

`schema` (*+bids.File attribute*), 8
`Schema` (*class in +bids*), 21
`Schema()` (*+bids.Schema method*), 21
`set_derivative()` (*+bids.Description method*), 12
`set_field()` (*+bids.Description method*), 12
`suffix` (*+bids.File attribute*), 8

T

`tsvread()` (*in module +bids.+util*), 18
`tsvwrite()` (*in module +bids.+util*), 18

U

`update()` (*+bids.File method*), 8
`use_schema()` (*+bids.File method*), 9

V

`validate()` (*in module +bids*), 14
`validate_entities()` (*+bids.File method*), 9

W

`write()` (*+bids.Description method*), 12