

# Package ‘behavr’

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**Title** Canonical Data Structure for Behavioural Data

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**Description**

Implements an S3 class based on data.table to store and process efficiently ethomics (high-throughput behavioural) data.

**Imports** data.table,  
hms,  
methods

**Suggests** testthat

**License** GPL-3

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**URL** <https://github.com/rethomics/behavr>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/rethomics/behavr/issues>

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## R topics documented:

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behavr

*An S3 class, based on [data.table](#), to store ethomics data*

## Description

In the context of analysis of animal behaviour, it is common to record long time series of several behavioural variables (e.g. position) on multiple individuals. In addition to large multivariate time series, each individual is associated with a set of metavariables (i.e. metadata: sex, genotype, treatment and so on). Metavariables are crucial in so far as they generally "contain" the biological question. During analysis, it is therefore important to be able to access, alter and compute interactions between both variables and metavariables. `behavr` is a class that facilitates manipulation and storage of metadata and data in the same object. It is designed to be both memory efficient and user friendly. For instance, it abstracts joins of metavariables.

## Usage

```
behavr(x, metadata)
```

```
is.behavr(x)
```

## Arguments

`x` [data.table](#) containing all measurements  
`metadata` [data.table](#) containing the metadata

## Details

Both `x` and `metadata` should have a **column as a key** with **the same name** (typically named `id`).

## See Also

:

- the `behavr` [webpage](#)
- [xmv](#) to join metavariables

## Examples

```
set.seed(1)
met <- data.table::data.table(id = 1:5,
                              condition=letters[1:5],
                              sex=c("M", "M", "M", "F", "F"),
                              key="id")

data <- met[, list(t=1L:100L,
                  x=rnorm(100),
                  y=rnorm(100),
                  eating=runif(100) > .5 ),
```

```

        by="id"]

d <- behavr(data,met)
print(d)
summary(d)

```

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bind_behavr_list	<i>Put together a list of <a href="#">behavr</a> tables</i>
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## Description

Bind rows of both data and metadata of all [behavr](#) tables in a list. It checks keys, number and names of columns are the same across all data. In addition, it forbids to bind metadata if it generates duplicates (same id in two different metadata)

## Usage

```
bind_behavr_list(l)
```

## Arguments

l                      list of [behavr](#)

## Value

a single [behavr](#) object

## Examples

```

met <- data.table::data.table(id = 1:5,
                             condition=letters[1:5],
                             sex=c("M", "M", "M", "F", "F"),
                             key="id")

data <- met[,list(t=1L:100L,
                 x=rnorm(100),
                 y=rnorm(100),
                 eating=runif(100) > .5 ),
           by="id"]

d1 <- behavr(data,met)

met[,id:= id+5]
data[,id:= id+5]
data.table::setkeyv(met, "id")
data.table::setkeyv(data, "id")
d2 <- behavr(data,met)

d_all <- bind_behavr_list(list(d1, d2))
print(d_all)

```

bin\_apply

*Bin a variable (typically time) and compute an aggregate for each bin***Description**

This function is typically used to summarise (i.e. computing an aggregate of) a variable (y) for bins of a another variable x (typically time).

**Usage**

```
bin_apply(data, y, x = t, x_bin_length = mins(30), wrap_x_by = NULL,
  FUN = mean, string_xy = FALSE, ...)
```

```
bin_apply_all(data, ...)
```

**Arguments**

data	<a href="#">data.table</a> or <a href="#">behavr</a> table (see details)
y	variable to be aggregated
x	variable to be binned
x_bin_length	length of the bins (same using as 'x')
wrap_x_by	numeric value defining wrapping period. NULL means no wrapping
FUN	function used to aggregate (e.g. <a href="#">mean</a> , <a href="#">median</a> , <a href="#">sum</a> and so on)
string_xy	logical whether the names of the variables are quoted
...	additional arguments to be passed to FUN

**Details**

bin\_apply expects data from a single individual. bin\_apply\_all works on multiple individuals identifies by a unique key. wrapping is typically used to compute averages accros several periods. For instance, `wrap_x_by = days(1)`, means bins will aggregate values accross several days. The resulting x can be interpreted as "time relative to the onset of the day" (i.e. ZT).

**Examples**

```
query <- data.frame(experiment_id="toy_experiment",
  region_id=1:5)
dt <- toy_activity_data(query, duration=days(4))

# average by 30min time bins, default
dt_binned <- bin_apply_all(dt,moving)
# equivalent to
dt_binned <- dt[, bin_apply(.SD, moving),by="id"]

# More advanced usage
dt <- toy_dam_data(query, duration=days(4))
```

```
# nsum activity per 60minutes
dt_binned <- bin_apply_all(dt,
                           activity,
                           x=t,
                           x_bin_length = mins(60),
                           FUN=sum)

#' # average activity. time in ZT
dt_binned <- bin_apply_all(dt,
                           activity,
                           x=t,
                           wrap_x_by=days(1)
                           )
```

meta

*Retreive metadata***Description**

This function returns the meta data from a [behavr](#) object

**Usage**

```
meta(x)
```

```
setmeta(x, new)
```

**Arguments**

x	a <a href="#">behavr</a> object
new	a new metadata table

**Value**

a [data.table](#) representing the metadata in x

**See Also**

[behavr](#) to generate a behavr object, [xmv](#) to map metavariables to data

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1)
met <- data.table::data.table(id = 1:5,
                              condition=letters[1:5],
                              sex=c("M", "M", "M", "F", "F"),
                              key="id")
```

```

data <- met[ ,
             list(t=1L:100L,
                  x=rnorm(100),
                  y=rnorm(100),
                  eating=runif(100) > .5 ),
             by="id"]

d <- behavr(data,met)
## show metadata
meta(d)
# same as:
d[meta=TRUE]
## set metadata
m <- d[meta=TRUE]
# only id > 2 is kept
setmeta(d, m[id < 3])
meta(d)

```

---

print.behavr

---

*Print and summarise a [behavr](#) table*


---

## Description

Print and summarise a [behavr](#) table

## Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'behavr'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'behavr'
summary(object, ...)

```

## Arguments

x, object      [behavr](#) table

...            arguments passed on to further method

## See Also

[behavr](#), [print.default](#), [summary.default](#)

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rejoin	<i>Join data and metadata</i>
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## Description

This function joins the data of a [behavr](#) object to its metadata

## Usage

```
rejoin(x)
```

## Arguments

x                    a [behavr](#) object

## Value

a [data.table](#)

## See Also

[behavr](#) to generate a behavr object

## Examples

```
set.seed(1)
met <- data.table::data.table(id = 1:5,
                              condition=letters[1:5],
                              sex=c("M", "M", "M", "F", "F"),
                              key="id")

data <- met[ ,
             list(t=1L:100L,
                  x=rnorm(100),
                  y=rnorm(100),
                  eating=runif(100) > .5 ),
             by="id"]

d <- behavr(data,met)
summary_d <- d[, .(test=mean(x)), by=id]
rejoin(summary_d)
```

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time_conversion	<i>Time conversion utilities</i>
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### Description

Trivial functions to convert time to seconds – as rethomics uses second as a conventionnal unit of time.

### Usage

days(x)

hours(x)

mins(x)

### Arguments

x                      Numerical vector to be converted in second

### Details

Given an dummy function that takes time in second like: myFunction(t), it is always preferable to call myFunction(days(1.5)) rather than myFunction(60\*60\*24\*1.5).

### Value

Number of seconds corresponding to x (1d = 86400s, 1h = 3600s and 1min = 60s)

---

toy_activity_data	<i>Generate toy activity and sleep data mimiking Drosophila behaviour in tubes</i>
-------------------	--

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### Description

This function generates random data that emulates some of the features of fruit fly activity and sleep. This is designed **exclusively to provide material for examples and tests** since it generates "realistic" datasets of arbitrary length.

### Usage

```
toy_activity_data(query = NULL, seed = 1, rate_range = 1/c(60, 10),
  duration = days(5), sampling_period = 10, ...)
```

```
toy_ethoscope_data(...)
```

```
toy_dam_data(...)
```



**Arguments**

query	query (i.e. a dataframe where every row defines an animal). Typically queries have, at least, the columns <code>experiment_id</code> and <code>region_id</code> . The default value (NULL), will generate data for a single animal.
seed	Random seed used.
rate_range	a parameter defining the boundaries of rate at which animals wake up. It will be uniformly distributed between animals, but fixed for each animal.
duration	Length (in second) of the data to generate.
sampling_period	sampling period (in second) of the resulting data.
...	Additional arguments to be passed to <code>simulateAnimalActivity</code>

**Value**

A [behav](#) table with the query columns as meta variables. In addition to `id` and `t` columns different method will output different variables:

- `toy_activity_data` will have `asleep` and `moving` (1/10s)
- `toy_dam_data` will have `activity` (1/60s)
- `toy_ethoscope_data` `xy_dist_log10x1000` `has_interacted` x (2/1s)

**Examples**

```
# just one animal, no query needed
dt <- toy_ethoscope_data(duration=days(3))

# advanced, using a query
query<- data.frame(experiment_id="toy_experiment",
                   region_id=1:10,
                   condition=c("A","B"))

# Data that could come from loadEthoscopeData:
dt <- toy_ethoscope_data(query,duration=days(1))
print(dt)

# Some DAM-like data
dt <- toy_dam_data(query,seed=2,duration=days(3))
print(dt)

# some data that would come from `sleepAnnotation` or `sleepDAMAnnotation`
dt <- toy_activity_data(query,3)
print(dt)
```

xmv

*Extract a metavariable and map it against the data***Description**

This function eXpands a MetaVariable from a parent `behavr` object. That is it matches this variable (from metadata) to the data *by id*.

**Usage**

```
xmv(var)
```

**Arguments**

`var`                      the variable to be extracted

**Details**

This function *can only be called within between the [] of a parent `behavr` object*. It is intended to facilitate operations between data and metadata. For instance, when one wants to modify a column of the data according a metavariable.

**Value**

a vector of the same type as `var`, but of the same length as the number of row in the parent data. As each row of data is matched against metadata for this specific variable.

**Examples**

```
library(data.table)
set.seed(1)
data <- data.table(
  id = rep(c("A", "B"), times=c(10,26)),
  t = c(1:10, 5:30),
  x = rnorm(36), key="id"
)

metadata = data.table(id=c("A", "B"), treatment=c("w", "z"), lifespan=c(19,32), ref_x=c(1,0),key="id")
dt <- behavr(data,metadata)
summary(dt)

#### Subsetting using metadata
dt[xmv(treatment) == "w"]
dt[xmv(treatment) == "w"]
dt[xmv(lifespan) < 30]

#### Allocating new columns using metavariable
# Just joining lifespan (not necessary)
dt[, lif := xmv(lifespan)]
```

```
print(dt)
# Anonymously (more useful)
dt[, x2 := x-xmv(ref_x)]
print(dt)
```

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