# Package 'squarebrackets'

October 19, 2024

Type Package

Title Subset Methods as Alternatives to the Square Brackets Operators for Programming

**Version** 0.0.0.9

**Description** Provides subset methods

(supporting both atomic and recursive S3 classes)

that may be more convenient alternatives to the `[` and `[<-` operators, whilst maintaining similar performance.

Some nice properties of these methods include, but are not limited to, the following.

1) The `[` and `[<-` operators use different rule-sets for different data.frame-like types (data.frames, tibbles, data.tables, tibbles, etc.).

The 'squarebrackets' methods use the same rule-sets for the different data.frame-like types.

2) Performing dimensional subset operations on an array using `[` and `[<-`, requires a-priori knowledge of the number of dimensions the array has.

The 'squarebrackets' methods work on any arbitrary dimensions without requiring such prior knowledge.

3) When selecting names with the `[` and `[<-` operators,

only the first occurrence of the names are selected in case of duplicate names.

The 'squarebrackets' methods always perform on all names in case of duplicates, not just the first.

4) The `[[` and `[[<-` operators

allow operating on a recursive subset of a nested list.

But these only operate on a single recursive subset,

and are not vectorized for multiple recursive subsets of a nested list at once.

'squarebrackets' provides a way to reshape a nested list

into a 2D recursive array of lists,

thereby allowing vectorized operations on recursive subsets of such a nested list.

5) The `[<-` operator only supports copy-on-modify semantics for most classes.

The 'squarebrackets' methods provides explicit pass-by-reference and pass-by-value semantics, whilst still respecting things like binding-locks and mutability rules.

6) 'squarebrackets' supports index-less sub-set operations,

which is faster and more memory efficient than sub-set operations using the `[` and `[<- ` operators.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

LinkingTo Rcpp

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

RoxygenNote 7.3.1

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```
Suggests rlang,
 knitr.
 rmarkdown,
 tinytest,
 tinycodet,
 tidytable,
 tibble,
 ggplot2,
 sf,
 future.apply,
 collections,
 rrapply,
 abind
Depends R (>= 4.2.0)
Imports Rcpp (>= 1.0.11),
 collapse (>= 2.0.2),
 data.table (>= 1.14.8),
 stringi (>= 1.7.12)
URL https://github.com/tony-aw/squarebrackets/, https:
 //tony-aw.github.io/squarebrackets/
BugReports https://github.com/tony-aw/squarebrackets/issues/
Language en-gb
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# **Description**

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squarebrackets: Subset Methods as Alternatives to the Square Brackets Operators for Programming

# **Goal & Properties**

Among programming languages, 'R' has perhaps one of the most flexible and comprehensive subsetting functionality, provided by the square brackets operators ([, [<-).

But in some situations the square brackets operators are occasionally less than optimally convenient (see squarebrackets\_inconveniences).

The Goal of the 'squarebrackets' package is not to replace the square-brackets operators, but to provide **alternative** sub-setting methods and functions, to be used in situations where the square bracket operators are inconvenient.

These alternative sub-setting methods and functions have the following properties:

# • Programmatically friendly:

- Unlike base [, it's not required to know the number of dimensions of an array a-priori, to perform subset-operations on an array.
- Missing arguments can be filled with NULL, instead of using dark magic like base::quote(expr = ).
- No Non-standard evaluation.
- Functions are pipe-friendly.
- No (silent) vector recycling.
- Extracting and removing subsets uses the same syntax.

#### • Class consistent:

sub-setting of multi-dimensional objects by specifying dimensions (i.e. rows, columns, ...) use drop = FALSE.
 So matrix in, matrix out.

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The methods deliver the same results for data.frames, data.tables, tibbles, and tidytables.
 No longer does one have to re-learn the different brackets-based sub-setting rules for different types of data.frame-like objects.

Powered by the subclass agnostic 'C'-code from 'collapse' and 'data.table'.

## • Explicit copy semantics:

- Sub-set operations that change its memory allocations, always return a modified (partial) copy of the object.
- For sub-set operations that just change values in-place (similar to the [<- methods) the user can choose a method that modifies the object by reference, or choose a method that returns a (partial) copy.</li>

## • Careful handling of names:

- Sub-setting an object by index names returns ALL matches with the given names, not just the first.
- Data.frame-like objects (see supported classes below) are forced to have unique column names.
- Sub-setting arrays using x[indx1, indx2, etc.] will drop names(x).
   The methods from 'squarebrackets' will not drop names(x).
- · Concise function and argument names.

#### • Performance aware:

Despite the many checks performed, the functions are kept reasonably speedy, through the use of the 'Rcpp', 'collapse', and 'data.table' R-packages.

## **Supported Classes**

'squarebrackets' only supports S3 classes, and only those that primarily use square brackets for sub-setting (hence the name of the package).

```
Supported immutable classes:
```

 $atomic, \ list, \ data. \ frame\ (including\ tibble, \ sf-data. \ frame, \ and\ sf-tibble).$ 

# Supported mutable classes:

 ${\color{blue} mutable\_atomic}, \, {\color{blue} data.} \, {\color{blue} table} \, (including \, \, {\color{blue} tidytable}), \, {\color{blue} sf-data.} \, {\color{blue} table}, \, {\color{blue} and} \, \, {\color{blue} sf-tidytable}).$ 

There are, of course, a lot of classes which are not supported by 'squarebrackets'.

Most notably, key-value stores - such as environments, and the various 'collections' classes from the 'collections' package - are not supported.

#### **Methods**

The main focus of this package is on its generic methods and dimensional binding implementations.

Generic methods for atomic objects start with sb\_.

Generic methods for recursive objects (list, data.frame, etc.) start with sb2\_.

The binding implementations for atomic dimensional objects (atomic arrays) start with bind\_.

The binding implementations for recursive dimensional objects (recursive arrays, data.frames) start with bind2\_.

There is also the somewhat separate idx method, which works on both recursive and non-recursive objects.

And finally there are the slcseq\_ methods, which (currently) only work on atomic vectors.

## **SELECTION METHODS**

- sb\_x, sb2\_x: extract, exchange, or duplicate subsets.
- sb rm, sb2 rm: un-select/remove subsets.
- sb2\_rec: access recursive subsets of lists.
- slcseq\_x, slcseq\_rm: efficiently extract or remove subset from a (long) vector.

## **MODIFICATION METHODS**

- idx: translate given indices/subscripts, for the purpose of copy-on-modify substitution.
- sb2\_recin: replace, transform, remove, or add recursive subsets to a list, through R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics.
- sb\_mod, sb2\_mod: return a (partial) copy of an object with modified (transformed or replaced) subsets.
- sb\_set, sb2\_set: modify (transform or replace) subsets of a mutable object using pass-by-reference semantics.
- slcseq\_set: efficiently modify a (long) vector subset using pass-by-reference semantics.

## OTHER METHODS

- bind\_, bind2\_: implementations for binding dimensional objects.
- cp\_seq: construct parameters for margin-based sequences.
   Not actually a method, but can be used to predict the exact sequence lay-out, like used in the slcseq\_ methods.

So for example, use sb\_rm() to remove subsets from atomic arrays, and use sb2\_rm() to remove subsets from recursive arrays.

See squarebrackets\_method\_dispatch for more information on how 'squarebrackets' uses its S3 Method dispatch.

# **Functions**

## SPECIALIZED FUNCTIONS

Additional specialized sub-setting functions are provided:

• lst\_untree: unnest tree-like nested list into a recursive array, to make vectorized sub-setting on recursive subsets of the list easier.

- The dt\_-functions to programmatically perform data.table-specific [-operations, with the security measures provided by the 'squarebrackets' package.
- setapply: apply functions over mutable matrix margins using pass-by-reference semantics.
- ma\_setv: Find & Replace values in mutable\_atomic objects using pass-by-reference semantics.

This is considerably faster and more memory efficient than using sb\_set for this.

#### **HELPER FUNCTIONS**

A couple of helper functions for creating ranges, sequences, and indices (often needed in subsetting) are provided:

- currentBindings: list or lock all currently existing bindings that share the share the same address as the input variable.
- n: Nested version of c, and short-hand for list.
- sub2coord, coord2ind: Convert subscripts (array indices) to coordinates, coordinates to flat indices, and vice-versa.
- match\_all: Find all matches, of one vector in another, taking into account the order and any duplicate values of both vectors.
- Computing indices:

idx\_r to compute an integer index range.

idx\_by to compute grouped indices.

idx\_ord\_-functions to compute ordered indices.

# **DEVELOPER FUNCTIONS**

And finally some developer functions for constructing indices.

These are also used internally by 'squarebrackets', and package authors can use these to create additional sb\_/sb2\_ S3 methods, or even entirely new subset-related functions.

- tci\_ functions, for type-casting indices.
- ci\_ functions, for constructing indices.
- indx\_x and indx\_rm, for testing methods.

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#### References

The badges shown in the documentation of this R-package were made using the services of: https://shields.io/

aaa1\_squarebrackets\_immutable\_classes

Supported Immutable S3 Classes, With Auto-Coercion Rules

## **Description**

The sb\_ generic methods support the following immutable S3 classes:

- base atomic vector classes (atomic vectors, matrices, and arrays).
- classes derived from atomic vectors (factors, date, POSIXct, etc.). 'squarebrackets' treats these classes as regular atomic vectors.
- base list classes
   (recursive vectors, matrices, and arrays)
   (note that lists are merely pointers to other objects, and these other objects may be of a different class and may even be mutable).
- data.frame
   (including the classes tibble, sf-data.frame and sf-tibble).

Note that "immutable" does not mean you cannot modify it. It simply means that modification leads to a copy being made.

## **Auto-Coercion Rules**

## Atomic

coercion through copy: YES

Atomic objects are automatically coerced to fit the modified subset values, when modifying through copy.

For example, replacing one or multiple values in an integer vector (type int) with a decimal number (type dbl) will coerce the entire vector to type dbl.

# **Derived From Atomic**

coercion\_through\_copy: depends

Factors, datetime, POSIXct and so on are derived from atomic vectors, but have attributes and special methods that make them behave differently.

Depending on their behaviour, they may or may not allow coercion.

Factors, for example, only accept values that are part of their levels, and thus do not support coercion on modification.

There are highly specialized packages to handle objects derived from atomic objects.

For example the 'forcats' package for handling factors, and the 'anytime' package to handle ddate-time objects.

#### List

## coercion\_through\_copy: depends

Lists themselves allow complete change of their elements, since lists are merely pointers.

For example, the following code performs full coercion:

```
x <- list(factor(letters), factor(letters))
sb_mod(x, 1, rp = list(1))</pre>
```

However, a recursive subset of a list which itself is not a list, follows the coercion rules of whatever class the recursive subset is.

For example the following code:

```
x <- list(1:10, 1:10)
sb_rec(x, 1, rp = "a") # coerces to character</pre>
```

transforms recursive subsets according to the - in this case - atomic auto-coercion rules.

## Data.frames when replacing/transforming whole columns

```
coercion_through_copy: YES
```

A data.frame is actually a list, where each column is itself a list. As such, replacing/transforming whole columns, so row = NULL and filter = NULL, allows completely changing the type of the column.

Note that coercion of columns needs arguments row = NULL and filter = NULL in the  $sb\_mod$  and  $sb\_set$  methods; no auto-coercion will take place when specifying something like row = 1:nrow(x) (see next section).

# Data.frames, when partially replacing/transforming columns

```
coercion_through_copy: NO
```

If rows are specified in the sb\_mod and sb\_set methods, and thus not whole columns but parts of columns are replaced or transformed, no auto-coercion takes place.

I.e.: replacing/transforming a value in an integer (int) column to become 1.5, will not coerce the column to the decimal type (dbl); instead, the replacement value 1.5 is coerced to integer 1.

The coe argument in the sb\_mod method allows the user to enforce coercion, even if subsets of columns are replaced/transformed instead of whole columns.

Specifically, the coe arguments allows the user to specify a coercive function to be applied on the entirety of every column specified in col or vars; columns outside this subset are not affected.

This coercion function is, of course, applied before replacement (rp) or transformation (tf()).

## **Examples**

```
# Coercion examples - lists ====
x <- list(factor(letters), factor(letters))
print(x)
sb2_mod(x, 1, rp = list(1)) # first element fully changed.

x <- list(1:10, 1:10)
print(x)
sb2_recin(x, 1, rp = "a") # coerces first element to character</pre>
```

```
print(x)
# Coercion examples - data.frame-like - whole columns ====
obi <- data.frame(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_mod(
 obj, vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # SAFE: row=NULL & filter = NULL, so coercion performed
# Coercion examples - data.frame-like - partial columns ====
# sb_mod():
obj <- data.frame(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2 mod(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # WARNING: sqrt() results in `dbl`, but columns are `int`, so decimals lost
sb2_mod(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 coe = as.double, tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed
```

```
aaa 2\_square brackets\_mutable\_classes
```

Supported Mutable S3 Classes, With Auto-Coercion Rules

# **Description**

The sb\_generic methods support the following Mutable S3 classes:

- mutable\_atomic (this vector class supports any dimension, thus also matrices and arrays);
- data.table (including the classes tidytable and sf-data.table);
- Views of Lists: Though lists themselves are treated as immutable, lists can contain mutable
  objects, and so modification by reference of mutable views of lists is support by 'squarebrackets'.

The mutable version of the list class would be the environment class, and the various key-value storage classes available in other packages, such as the 'collapse' package.

Key-value storage classes generally do not use square brackets for their primary sub-setting method, and are thus not covered by this package.

## **Auto-Coercion Rules**

#### **Coercion Semantics**

The mutable classes support "copy-on-modify" semantics like the immutable classes, but - unlike the immutable classes - they also support "pass-by-reference" semantics.

The sb\_mod method modify subsets of an object through a (partial) copy.

The sb\_set method and dt\_setcoe function modify subsets of an object by reference.

These 2 copy semantics - "pass by reference" or "modify copy" - have slightly different auto-coercion rules.

These are explained in this section.

## mutable\_atomic

```
coercion_through_copy: YES
coercion_by_reference: NO
```

Mutable atomic objects are automatically coerced to fit the modified subset values, when modifying through copy, just like regular atomic classes.

For example, replacing one or multiple values in an integer vector (type int) with a decimal number (type dbl) will coerce the entire vector to type dbl.

Replacing or transforming subsets of mutable atomic objects **by reference** does not support coercion. Thus, for example, the following code,

```
x <- 1:16
sb_set(x, i = 1:6, rp = 8.5)
x
```

gives c(rep(8, 6) 7:16) instead of c(rep(8.5, 6), 7:16), because x is of type integer, so rp is interpreted as type integer also.

# data.table, when replacing/transforming whole columns

```
coercion_through_copy: YES coercion_by_reference: YES
```

A data.table is actually a list made mutable, where each column is itself a list. As such, replacing/transforming whole columns, so row = NULL and filter = NULL, allows completely changing the type of the column.

Note that coercion of columns needs arguments row = NULL and filter = NULL in the sb\_mod and sb\_set methods; no auto-coercion will take place when specifying something like row = 1:nrow(x) (see next section).

# data.table, when partially replacing/transforming columns

```
coercion_through_copy: NO coercion_by_reference: NO
```

If rows are specified in the sb\_mod and sb\_set methods, and thus not whole columns but parts of columns are replaced or transformed, no auto-coercion takes place.

I.e.: replacing/transforming a value in an integer (int) column to become 1.5, will not coerce the column to the decimal type (dbl); instead, the replacement value 1.5 is coerced to integer 1.

The coe argument in the sb\_mod method allows the user to enforce coercion, even if subsets of columns are replaced/transformed instead of whole columns.

Specifically, the coe arguments allows the user to specify a coercive function to be applied on the entirety of every column specified in col or vars; columns outside this subset are not affected.

This coercion function is, of course, applied before replacement (rp) or transformation (tf()).

#### Views of Lists

## coercion\_by\_reference: depends

Regular lists themselves are not treated as mutable objects by 'squarebrackets'.

However, lists are not actually really objects, merely a (potentially hierarchical) structure of pointers.

Thus, even if a list itself is not treated as mutable, subsets of a list which are themselves mutable classes, are mutable.

For example, if you have a list of data.table objects, the data.tables themselves are mutable. Therefore, the following will work:

```
x <- list(
  a = data.table(cola = 1:10, colb = letters[1:10]),
  b = data.table(cola = 11:20, colb = letters[11:20]))
mypointer <- x$a
sb_set(mypointer, col = "cola", tf = \(x)x^2\)</pre>
```

Notice in the above code that mypointer is not a copy of x\$a, since they have the same address.

Thus changing mypointer also changes x\$a.

In other words: mypointer is what could be called a "view" of x\$a.

Notice also that  $sb_set(x$a, ...)$  will not work, since  $sb_set()$  requires **actual variables**, similar to in-place functions in the style of `myfun()<-`.

The auto-coercion rules of Views of Lists, depends entirely on the object itself.

Thus if the View is a data.table, coercion rules of data.tables apply.

And if the View is a mutable\_atomic matrix, coercion rules of mutable\_atomic matrices apply, etc.

#### **Examples**

```
# Coercion examples - mutable_atomic ====

x <- as.mutable_atomic(1:16)
sb_set(x, i = 1:6, rp = 8.5) # 8.5 coerced to 8, because `x` is of type `integer`
print(x)</pre>
```

```
# Coercion examples - data.table - whole columns ====
# sb_mod():
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2 mod(
 obj, vars = is.numeric.
 tf = sqrt # SAFE: row=NULL & filter = NULL, so coercion performed
# sb_set():
sb2_set(
 obj, vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # SAFE: row=NULL & filter = NULL, so coercion performed
)
str(obj)
# Coercion examples - data.table - partial columns ====
# sb_mod():
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_mod(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt
 # WARNING: sqrt() results in `dbl`, but columns are `int`, so decimals lost
)
sb2_mod(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 coe = as.double, tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed
# sb_set():
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_set(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 # WARNING: sqrt() results in `dbl`, but columns are `int`, so decimals lost
)
print(obj)
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
)
str(obj)
```

```
dt_setcoe(obj, vars = is.numeric, v = as.numeric)
str(obj)
sb2_set(obj
 filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed by dt_setcoe(); so no warnings
print(obj)
# View of List ====
x <- list(
a = data.table::data.table(cola = 1:10, colb = letters[1:10]),
b = data.table::data.table(cola = 11:20, colb = letters[11:20])
print(x)
mypointer <- x$a
address(mypointer) == address(x$a) # they are the same
sb2\_set(mypointer, col = "cola", tf = \(x)x^2)
print(x) # notice x has been changed
```

aaa3\_squarebrackets\_indx\_args

Index Arguments in the Generic Sub-setting Methods

# Description

There are 6 types of arguments that can be used in the generic methods of 'squarebrackets' to specify the indices to perform operations on:

- i: to specify flat (i.e. dimensionless) indices.
- row, col: to specify rows and/or columns in tabular objects.
- sub, dims: to specify indices of arbitrary dimensions in arrays.
- filter, vars: to specify rows and/or columns specifically in data.frame-like objects.
- margin, slice: to specify indices of one particular dimension.

In this help page x refers to the object on which subset operations are performed.

### **Fundamentals**

Base 'R' supports indexing through logical, integer, and character vectors. 'squarebrackets' supports these also (albeit with some improvements), but also supports some additional methods of indexing.

#### Whole numbers

Whole numbers are the most basic form on index selection.

All forms of indexing in 'squarebrackets' are internally translated to integer (or double if > (2^31 - 1)) indexing first, ensuring consistency.

Indexing through integer/numeric indices in 'squarebrackets' works the same as in base 'R', except that negative values are not allowed.

# Logical

Selecting indices with a logical vector in 'squarebrackets' works the same as in base 'R', except that recycling is not allowed.

Thus the logical vector must be of the correct length (i.e. length(x) or dim(x)[L], depending on the situation).

#### Characters

When selecting indices using a character vector, base 'R' only selects the first matches in the names. 'squarebrackets', however, selects ALL matches.

Character indices are internally translated to integer indices using match\_all.

## **Imaginary Numbers**

A complex vector y is structured as

```
y = a + b * i
```

where Re(y) returns a, and Im(y) returns b.

squarebrackets' includes support for indexing through imaginary numbers (Im(y)) of complex vectors

Indexing with imaginary numbers is a generalization of indexing with regular integers.

#### It works as follows:

Imaginary numbers that are positive integers, like 1:10 \* 1i, work the same as regular integers.

Imaginary numbers that are negative integers, like 1:10  $\star$  -1i, index by counting backwards (i.e. from the end), where the integer indices are computed as n + Im(y) + 1L.

Here n is the maximum possible integer (i.e. length(x), or dim(x)[L], depending on the situation), and Im(y) is negative.

Note that **only** the Imaginary part of a complex vector is used (Im(y)); the Real part (Re(y)) is **ignored**.

See the results of the following code as an example:

```
x <- 1:30 # vector of 30 elements

sb_x(x, 1:10 * 1i) # extract first 10 elements
#> [1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

sb_x(x, 1:10 * -1i) # extract last 10 elements
#> [1] 30 29 28 27 26 25 24 23 22 21

sb_x(x, 10:1 * -1i) # last 10 elements, in tail()-like order
#> [1] 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
```

Thus complex vectors allow the user to choose between counting from the beginning, like regular

integers, or counting from the end.

What follows are detailed descriptions of the common arguments in 'squarebrackets' used to select indices.

## Argument i

class: atomic vector

class: factor

class: recursive vector

Any of the following can be specified for argument i:

- NULL, corresponds to missing argument.
- a vector of length 0, in which case no indices are selected for the operation (i.e. empty selection).
- a strictly positive whole numbers vector with indices.
- a **complex** vector, as explained at the start of this help page.
- a **logical vector**, of the same length as x, giving the indices to select for the operation.
- a character vector of index names.

If an object has multiple indices with the given name, ALL the corresponding indices will be selected for the operation.

• a **function** that takes as input x, and returns a logical vector, giving the element indices to select for the operation.

For atomic objects, i is interpreted as i(x).

For recursive objects, i is interpreted as lapply(x, i).

Using the i arguments corresponds to doing something like the following:

```
sb_x(x, i = i) # ==> x[i]
```

# Arguments row, col

class: atomic matrix class: recursive matrix class: data.frame-like

Any of the following can be specified for the arguments row / col:

- NULL (default), corresponds to a missing argument.
- a vector of length 0, in which case no indices are selected for the operation (i.e. empty selection).
- a strictly positive whole numbers vector with dimension indices to select for the operation.
- a complex vector, as explained at the start of this help page.

- a logical vector of the same length as the corresponding dimension size, giving the indices of this dimension to select for the operation.
- a **character** vector of index names. If a dimension has multiple indices with the given name, ALL the corresponding indices will be selected for the operation.

NOTE: The arguments row and col will be ignored if i is specified.

Using the row, col arguments corresponds to doing something like the following:

```
sb_x(x, row = row, col = col) # ==> x[row, col, drop = FALSE]
```

## Argument Pair sub, dims

class: atomic array class: recursive array

The sub, dims argument pair is inspired by the abind::asub function from the 'abind' package (see reference below).

dims must be an integer vector of the same length as sub, giving the dimensions over which to select indices (i.e. dims specifies the "non-missing" index margins).

sub must be a list of subscripts, of the same length as dims. Each element of sub can be any of the following:

- a vector of length 0, in which case no indices are selected for the operation (i.e. empty selection).
- a strictly positive whole numbers vector with dimension indices to select for the operation.
- a **complex** vector, as explained at the start of this help page.
- a **logical** vector of the same length as the corresponding dimension size, giving the indices of this dimension to select for the operation.
- a **character** vector of index names. If a dimension has multiple indices with the given name, ALL the corresponding indices will be selected for the operation.

Note also the following:

- If dims is a single integer, one can specify sub as an atomic vector of any of the above specified types, instead of as a list of length 1.
- As stated, dims specifies which index margins are non-missing.

  If dims and thus also sub is of length 0, it is taken as "all index margins are missing".

To keep the syntax short, the user can use the n function instead of list() to specify sub.

Using the sub, dims arguments, corresponds to doing something like the following, here using an example of extracting subsets from a 4-dimensional array:

```
sb_x(x, n(1:10, 1:5), c(1, 3)) # ==> x[1:10, , 1:5, , drop = FALSE]
```

For a brief explanation of the relationship between flat indices (i), and dimensional subscripts (sub, dims), see the Details section in sub2ind.

## Arguments filter, vars

class: data.frame-like

filter must be a one-sided formula with a single logical expression using the column names of the data.frame, giving the condition which observation/row indices should be selected for the operation. For example, to perform an operation on the rows for which column height > 2 and for which column sex != "female", specify the following formula:

```
~ (height > 2) & (sex != "female")
```

If the formula is linked to an environment, any variables not found in the data set will be searched from the environment.

vars must be a function that returns a logical vector, giving the column indices to select for the operation.

For example, to select all numeric columns, specify vars = is.numeric.

## Argument Pair margin, slice

class: atomic array class: recursive array class: data.frame-like

Relevant only for the idx method.

The margin argument specifies the dimension on which argument slice is used.

I.e. when margin = 1, slice selects rows;
when margin = 2, slice selects columns;

The slice argument can be any of the following:

- a strictly positive whole numbers vector with dimension indices to select for the operation.
- a **complex** vector, as explained at the start of this help page.
- a **logical** vector of the same length as the corresponding dimension size, giving the dimension indices to select for the operation.
- a character vector of index names.

If a dimension has multiple indices with the given name, ALL the corresponding indices will be selected for the operation.

One could also give a vector of length 0 for slice;

Argument slice is only used in the idx method , and the result of idx are meant to be used inside the regular [ and [<- operators.

Thus the result of a zero-length index specification depends on the rule-set of [.class(x)] and [<-.class(x)].

#### **Argument inv**

## all classes

Relevant for the sb\_mod/sb2\_mod, sb\_set/sb2\_set, and idx methods.

By default, inv = FALSE, which translates the indices like normally.

When inv = TRUE, the inverse of the indices is taken.

Consider, for example, an atomic matrix x;

using  $sb_mod(x, col = 1:2, tf = tf)$  corresponds to something like the following:

```
x[, 1:2] <- tf(x[, 1:2])
x
```

and using  $sb_mod(x, col = 1:2, inv = TRUE, tf = tf)$  corresponds to something like the following:

```
x[, -1:-2] \leftarrow tf(x[, -1:-2])
```

#### NOTE

The order in which the user gives indices when inv = TRUE generally does not matter.

The order of the indices as they appear in the original object x is maintained, just like in base 'R'. Therefore, when replacing multiple values where the order of the replacement matters, it is better to keep inv = FALSE, which is the default.

For replacement with a single value or with a transformation function, inv = TRUE can be used without considering the ordering.

# All NULL indices

NULL in the indexing arguments corresponds to a missing argument.

Thus, for **both** sb\_x and sb\_rm, using NULL for all indexing arguments corresponds to something like the following:

x[]

Similarly, for sb mod and sb set, using NULL corresponds to something like the following:

```
x[] \leftarrow rp \# for replacement
x[] \leftarrow tf(x) \# for transformation
```

The above is true **even if** inv = TRUE and/or red = TRUE.

#### Out-of-Bounds Integers, Non-Existing Names/Levels, and NAs

- Integer indices that are out of bounds (including NaN and NA\_integer\_) always give an error.
- Specifying non-existing names/levels (including NA\_character\_) as indices is considered a form of zero-length indexing.
- Logical indices are translated internally to integers using which, and so NAs are ignored.

## **Disallowed Combinations of Index Arguments**

One cannot specify i and the other indexing arguments simultaneously; it's either i, or the other arguments.

One cannot specify row and filter simultaneously; it's either one or the other.

One cannot specify col and vars simultaneously; it's either one or the other.

One cannot specify the sub, dims pair and slice, margin pair simultaneously; it's either one pair or the other pair.

In the above cases it holds that if one set is specified, the other is set is ignored.

# Drop

Sub-setting with the generic methods from the 'squarebrackets' R-package using dimensional arguments (row, col, lyr, sub, dims, filter, vars) always use drop = FALSE.

To drop potentially redundant (i.e. single level) dimensions, use the drop function, like so:

```
sb_x(x, row = row, col = col) > drop() # ==> x[row, col, drop = TRUE]
```

# **Regarding Performance**

Integer indices and logical indices are the fastest.

Indexing through names or levels (i.e. character vectors) is the slowest.

Thus if performance is important, use integer or logical indices.

#### References

Plate T, Heiberger R (2016). *abind: Combine Multidimensional Arrays*. R package version 1.4-5, https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=abind.

## **Description**

This help page gives some additional details regarding the S3 method dispatch used in 'squarebrackets'.

#### **Atomic vs Recursive**

With the exception of the idx method, the main generic methods are available in 2 forms:

The Atomic form (sb\_), and the Recursive Form (sb2\_).

This because some S3 classes are available in both atomic and recursive forms.

For example, the array S3 class and the matrix S3 class (which inherits from the "array" S3 class) have both an atomic form, and a recursive form.

The recursive form of arrays and matrices is sometimes referred to as a "dimensional list".

Atomic and recursive objects are quite different from each other in some ways:

- homo- or heterogeneous: atomic object are homogeneous, in that they can only contain one data-type (logical, integer, double, character, complex, raw).

  In contrast, recursive objects are heterogeneous, as they can have any combination of data-types.
- copy semantics: copying atomic data (almost) always performs a *deep copy* (though this statement comes with some technical caveats).

  But since recursive objects are pointers to other data, copies of recursive objects are often *shallow copies*.
- **vectorization**: most vectorized operations generally work on atomic objects, whereas recursive objects often require loops or apply-like functions.

  This is especially relevant for transforming subsets.
- recursive subsets: Recursive objects distinguish between "regular" subset operations (in base R using [, [<-), and recursive subset operations (in base R using [[, [[<-). For both forms, atomic objects give atomic objects.

  But for recursive objects, these 2 subset operations are significantly different.
- **views**: Recursive objects are weird in that they are *pointers* to other objects.

  As such they allow their extracted subsets to be *views* of these pointers (see squarebrackets\_mutable\_classes for more information on how to use "views" of recursive objects).

  Atomic objects do now allow for subset views.

The S3 method dispatch system does not have a built-in method to have separate dispatches for recursive and atomic objects.

Hence, given all the above, the 'squarebrackets' package has separate methods for recursive and atomic objects.

# **Manual Dispatch**

The 'squarebrackets' package intentionally exports each function in its S3 method dispatch system. This is handy for programming purposes.

For example: atomic matrices and atomic arrays each have their own dispatch.

Thus, when looping though matrices and arrays to extract some elements, it may be easier to treat

them all as arrays (remember that matrices inherit from arrays).

Thus one can use sb\_x.array() to ensure the "array" method is used, instead of the "matrix" method.

Another advantage is that one can alias a specific dispatch of a method, if one so desires.

```
I.e.: array2_x <- sb2_x.array.</pre>
```

Under certain circumstances, this may help your code to be more clear.

# **Ellipsis**

Due to how the S3 method dispatch system works in 'R', all generic methods have the ellipsis argument (...).

For the user's safety, 'squarebrackets' does check that the user doesn't accidentally add arguments that make no sense for that method (like specifying the inv argument when calling  $sb_x$ ).

```
{\it aaa5\_square brackets\_modify} \\ {\it Regarding\ Modification}
```

# **Description**

This help page describes the main modification semantics available in 'squarebrackets'.

## Base R's default modification

For most average users, R's default copy-on-modify semantics are fine.

The benefits of the indexing arguments from 'squarebrackets' can be combined the [<- operator, through the idx method.

The result of the idx() method can be used inside the regular square-brackets operators.

For example like so:

```
x <- array(...)
my_indices <- idx(x, sub, dims)
x[my_indices] <- value

y <- data.frame(...)
rows <- idx(y, 1:10, 1, inv = TRUE)
cols <- idx(y, c("a", "b"), 2)
y[rows, cols] <- value</pre>
```

thus allowing the user to benefit from the convenient index translations from 'squarebrackets', whilst still using R's default copy-on-modification semantics (instead of the semantics provided by 'squarebrackets').

# **Explicit Copy**

'squarebrackets' provides the sb\_mod method to modify through copy.

This method always copies the modification.

For recursive objects, sb\_mod returns the original object, where only the modified subsets are copied, thus preventing unnecessary usage of memory.

# Pass-by-Reference

'squarebrackets' provides the sb\_set method to modify by reference, meaning no copy is made at all.

Pass-by-Reference is fastest and the most memory efficient.

But it is also more involved than the other modification forms, and requires more thought.

See squarebrackets\_PassByReference for more information.

# Arguments rp, tf, .lapply

Using the rp argument in the modification methods, corresponds to something like the following:

```
x[...] <- rp
```

Using the tf argument (and .lapply argument, for recursive objects) in the modification methods, corresponds to something like the following:

```
x[...] \leftarrow tf(x[...]) \# for atomic objects
x[...] \leftarrow .lapply(x[...], tf) \# for recursive objects
```

where tf is a function that **returns** an object of appropriate type and size (so tf should not be a pass-by-reference function).

For recursive objects, tf is accompanied by the .lapply argument.

By default, .lapply = lapply.

The user may supply a custom lapply()-like function in this argument to use instead.

For example, the perform parallel transformation, the user may supply future.apply::future\_lapply.

The supplied function must use the exact same argument convention as lapply, otherwise errors or unexpected behaviour may occur.

## **Recycling and Coercion**

Recycling is not allowed in the modification methods.

So, for example, length(rp) must be equal to the length of the selected subset, or equal to 1.

The user should also take into account the auto-coercion rules of the object's class. See squarebrackets immutable classes and squarebrackets mutable classes for details.

aaa6\_squarebrackets\_options

squarebrackets Options

# **Description**

This help page explains the various global options that can be set for the 'squarebrackets' package, and how it affects the functionality.

## **Check Duplicates**

argument: chkdup

option: squarebrackets.chkdup

The sb\_x method is the only method where providing duplicate indices actually make sense.

For the other methods, it doesn't make sense.

Giving duplicate indices usually won't break anything; however, when replacing/transforming or removing subsets, it is almost certainly not the intention to provide duplicate indices.

Providing duplicate indices anyway might lead to unexpected results.

Therefore, for the methods where giving duplicate indices does not make sense, the chkdup argument is present.

This argument controls whether the method in question checks for duplicates (TRUE) or not (FALSE).

Setting chkdup = TRUE means the method in question will check for duplicate indices, and give an error when it finds them.

Setting chkdup = FALSE will disable these checks, which saves time and computation power, and is thus more efficient.

Since checking for duplicates can be expensive, it is set to FALSE by default.

The default can be changed in the squarebrackets.chkdup option.

# **Mutable Atomic Messages**

option: squarebrackets.ma\_messages

The [<-.mutable\_atomic method notifies the user of copy-on-modification.

Should the user find this annoying, the user can disable these messages by setting squarebrackets.ma\_messages to FALSE.

 ${\tt aaa7\_squarebrackets\_PassByReference}$ 

Regarding Modification By Reference

# **Description**

This help page describes how modification using "pass-by-reference" semantics is handled by the 'squarebrackets' package.

This help page does not explain all the basics of pass-by-reference semantics, as this is treated as prior knowledge.

All functions/methods in the 'squarebrackets' package with the word "set" in the name use pass-by-reference semantics.

## **Advantages and Disadvantages**

The main advantage of pass-by-reference is that much less memory is required to modify objects, and modification is also generally faster.

But it does have several disadvantages.

First, the coercion rules are slightly different: see squarebrackets\_mutable\_classes.

Second, if 2 or more variables refer to exactly the same object, changing one variable also changes the other ones.

I.e. the following code,

```
x <- y <- mutable_atomic(1:16)
sb_set(x, i = 1:6, rp = 8)</pre>
```

modifies not just x, but also y.

This is true even if one of the variables is locked (see bindingIsLocked).

I.e. the following code,

```
x <- mutable_atomic(1:16)
y <- x
lockBinding("y", environment())
sb_set(x, i = 1:6, rp = 8)</pre>
```

modifies both x and y without error, even though y is a locked constant.

# **Mutable vs Immutable Classes**

With the exception of environments, most of base R's S3 classes are treated as immutable: Modifying an object in 'R' will make a copy of the object, something called 'copy-on-modify' semantics.

A prominent mutable S3 class is the data.table class, which is a mutable data.frame class, and

supported by 'squarebrackets'.

Similarly, 'squarebrackets' adds a class for mutable atomic objects: mutable atomic.

#### Material vs Immaterial objects

Most objects in 'R' are material objects:

the values an object contains are actually stored in memory.

For example, given  $x \leftarrow rnorm(1e6)$ , x is a material object:

1 million values (decimal numbers, in this case) are actually stored in memory.

In contrast, ActiveBindings are immaterial:

They are objects that, when accessed, call a function to generate values on the fly, rather than actually storing values.

Since immaterial objects do not actually store the values in memory, the values obviously also cannot be changed in memory.

Therefore, Pass-by-Reference semantics do not work on immaterial objects.

#### **ALTREP**

the mutable\_atomic constructors (i.e. mutable\_atomic, as.mutable\_atomic, etc.) will automatically materialize ALTREP objects, to ensure consistent behaviour for 'pass-by-reference' semanthics.

A data.table can have ALTREP columns.

A data.tables will coerce the column to a materialized column when it is modified, even by reference.

This works since a data. table is a recursive object.

# **Mutability Rules With Respect To Recursive Objects**

Lists are difficult objects in that they do not contain elements, they simply point to other objects, that one can access via a list.

When a recursive object is of a mutable class, all its subsets are treated as mutable, as long as they are part of the object.

On the other hand, When a recursive object is of an immutable class, than its recursive subsets retain their original mutability.

# **Example 1: Mutable data.tables**

A data. table is a mutable class.

So all columns of the data. table are treated as mutable;

There is no requirement to, for instance, first change all columns into the class of mutable\_atomic to modify these columns by reference.

## **Example 2: Immutable lists**

A regular list is an immutable class.

So the list itself is immutable, but the recursive subsets of the list retain their mutability.

If you have a list of data.table objects, for example, the data.tables themselves remain mutable. Therefore, the following pass-by-reference modification will work without issue:

```
x <- list(
  a = data.table(cola = 1:10, colb = letters[1:10]),
  b = data.table(cola = 11:20, colb = letters[11:20]))
mypointer <- x$a
sb_set(mypointer, col = "cola", tf = \(x)x^2\)</pre>
```

Notice in the above code that mypointer has the same address as x\$a, and is therefore not a copy of x\$a.

Thus changing mypointer also changes x\$a.

In other words: mypointer is what could be called a "View" of x\$a.

## **Input Variable**

Methods/functions that perform in-place modification by reference only works on objects that actually exist as an actual variable, similar to functions in the style of  $some_function(x, ...) <-value$ .

```
Thus things like any of the following, sb\_set(1:10, ...), sb2\_set(x$a, ...), or sb\_set(base::letters), will not work.
```

# **Lock Binding**

Mutable classes are, as the name suggests, meant to be mutable.

Locking the binding of a mutable object is **mostly** fruitless (but not completely; see the current-Bindings function).

To prevent modification of an object's binding, 2 things must be true:

- the object must be an immutable class.
- the binding must be **locked** (see lockBinding).

Some packages that provide pass-by-reference semantics tend to ignore the lock of an object's binding.

Use the 'squarebrackets' methods and (of course) core/base 'R' methods, in case the user fears the binding locks will not be respected.

# **Protection**

Due to the properties described above in this help page, something like the following will not work:

```
# letters = base::letters
sb_set(letters, i = 1, rp = "XXX")
```

The above won't work because:

- 1. addresses in baseenv() are protected;
- 2. immutable objects are disallowed (you'll have to create a mutable object, which will create a copy of the original, thus keeping the original object safe from modification by reference);
- 3. locked bindings are disallowed.

Despite the checks made by this package, the user should never actively try to modify a **locked** or **protected** object by reference, as that would defeat the purpose of locking an object.

# **Examples**

```
# the following code demonstrates how locked bindings,
# such as `base::letters`,
# are being safe-guarded
x <- list(a = base::letters)</pre>
mypointer <- x$a # view of a list</pre>
address(mypointer) == address(base::letters) # TRUE: point to the same memory
bindingIsLocked("letters", baseenv()) # base::letters is locked ...
bindingIsLocked("mypointer", environment()) # ... but this pointer is not!
if(requireNamespace("tinytest")) {
  tinytest::expect_error(
    sb_set(mypointer, i = 1, rp = "XXX") # this still gives an error though ...
  )
}
is.mutable_atomic(mypointer) # ... because it's not of class `mutable_atomic`
x <- list(
 a = as.mutable_atomic(base::letters) # `as.mutable_atomic()` makes a copy
mypointer <- x$a # view of a list</pre>
address(mypointer) == address(base::letters) # FALSE: it's a copy
 mypointer, i = 1, rp = "XXX" # modifies x, does NOT modify `base::letters`
print(x) # x is modified
base::letters # but this still the same
```

aaa8\_squarebrackets\_inconveniences

Examples Where the Square Bracket Operators Are Less Convenient

# **Description**

This help page shows some examples where the square bracket operators ( [, [<-) are less than optimally convenient, and how the methods provided by 'squarebrackets' can be helpful in those cases.

## **Arrays**

In order to perform subset operations on some array x with the square brackets operator ([, [<-), one needs to know how many dimensions it has.

I.e. if x has 3 dimensions, one would use:

```
x[i, j, k, drop = FALSE]
x[i, j, k] <- value</pre>
```

But how would one the use the [ and [<- operators, when number of dimensions of x is not known a-priori?

It's not impossible, but still rather convoluted.

The methods provided by 'squarebrackets' do not use position-based arguments, and as such work on any arbitrary dimensions without requiring prior knowledge; see squarebrackets\_indx\_args for details.

When extracting/removing dimensional sub-set from an array, i.e. x[indx1, indx2], dimnames(x) will be preserved (within the range of the subset of course), but names(x) will be dropped completely.

The methods provided by 'squarebrackets' do not completely remove names(x) when extracting/removing subsets.

After all: why bother giving arrays flat names if they'll be stripped anyway?

## Rule-sets for data.frame-like Objects

The data.frame, tibble, data.table, and tidytable classes all inherit from class "data.frame".

Yet they use different rules regarding the usage of the square bracket operators.

Constantly switching between these rules is annoying, and makes one's code inconsistent.

The methods provided by 'squarebrackets' use the same sub-setting rules for all data.frame inherited classes, thus solving this issue.

The 'squarebrackets' package attempts to keep the data.frame methods as class agnostic as possible, through the class agnostic functionality of the 'collapse' and 'data.table' R-packages.

This attempt to keep data.frame-like classes consistent does, admittedly, result in some oddities in how data.frames are treated by 'squarebrackets', compared to how other classes are treated by 'squarebrackets':

- Whole-columns will be auto-coerced when replaced/transformed by sb\_mod, but partial columns will not be auto-coerced by default.
- The sb\_x and sb\_rm methods always automatically conserve all attributes (though names and dimensions are adjusted accordingly, of course); the attributes are not stripped, unlike the other classes.
- Giving a data.frame-like object with non-unique column names to the sb\_-methods returns an error;
   duplicating columns with sb\_x will automatically adjust the column names to make them unique.

## **Long Vectors**

Performing sub-set operations on a long vector x using [, like any other object, requires an indexing vector.

The indexing vector may need to be of type double (since long vectors can be longer than 2^31 – 1), and the indexing vector may need to be very large itself also.

This is can be quite inefficient, as one may need up to twice the memory of the object itself.

'squarebrackets' provides the slcseq\_ methods, which can perform sub-set operations on large atomic vectors, **without** the need of any indexing vector at all.

Note that dimensional objects, such as arrays and data.frame-like objects, are in less dire need of a slcseq\_ method due to dimensional indexing:

For example, a 1500 by 1500 by 1500 array is already a long vector ( $1500^3 > (2^31 - 1)$ ), yet one does not need indexing vectors longer than 1500 elements or of type double.

# **Annoying Sub-setting By Names**

When selecting names for sub-setting, only the first occurrences of the names are selected for the sub-set;

and when un-selecting/removing names for sub-setting, the syntax is very different from selecting names.

The methods provided by 'squarebrackets' uses the same syntax for both selecting and removing sub-sets.

Moreover, selecting/removing sub-sets by names always selects/removes all sub-sets with the given names, not just the first match.

# **Modification Semantics**

'R' adheres to copy-on-modify semantics when replacing values using [<-.

But sometimes one would like explicit control when to create a copy, and when to modify using pass-by-reference semantics.

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The 'squarebrackets' package provides the sb\_mod method to return a copy of an object with modified subsets, and the sb\_set method to modify using pass-by-reference semantics.

The idx method can be used in combination with R's own [<- operator for R's default copy-on-modify semantics.

## **Regarding Other Packages**

There are some packages that solve some of these issues.

But using different packages for solving different issues for the same common theme (in this case: solving some inconveniences in the square bracket operators) leads to inconsistent code.

I have not found an R-package that provides a holistic approach to providing alternative methods to the square brackets operators.

Thus, this 'R' package was born.

bind

Dimensional Binding of Objects

## **Description**

The bind\_ and bind2\_ implementations provide dimensional binding functionalities. bind\_ is for atomic objects, and bind2\_ for recursive objects.

When possible, the bind\_/bind2\_ functions return mutable classes.

The following implementations are available:

• bind\_row(), bind\_col(), bind2\_row(), bind2\_col() bind dimensionless vectors row- or column-wise.

Can also bind matrices.

When the output is atomic, returns a mutable\_atomic array.

- bind\_array() binds atomic arrays and matrices.
   Returns a mutable\_atomic array.
- bind2\_array() binds recursive arrays and matrices. Returns a recursive array (immutable).
- bind2\_dt() binds data.tables and other data.frame-like objects.
   Returns a data.table.
   Faster than do.call(cbind, ...) or do.call(rbind, ...) for regular data.frame objects.

# Usage

```
bind_row(arg.list, deparse.level = 1)
bind2_row(arg.list, deparse.level = 1)
```

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```
bind_col(arg.list, deparse.level = 1)
    bind2_col(arg.list, deparse.level = 1)
    bind_array(
      arg.list,
      along,
      name_along = TRUE,
      comnames_from = 1L,
      name_flat = FALSE
    )
    bind2_array(
      arg.list,
      along,
      name_along = TRUE,
      comnames_from = 1L,
      name_flat = FALSE
    )
    bind2_dt(arg.list, along)
Arguments
                      a list of only the appropriate objects.
    arg.list
                      Do not mix recursive and atomic objects in the same list, as that may result in
                      unexpected results.
    deparse.level
                      see cbind and rbind.
                      a single integer, indicating the dimension along which to bind the dimensions.
    along
                      I.e. use along = 1 for row-binding, along = 2 for column-binding, etc.
                      For arrays, additional flexibility is available:
                        • Specifying along = 0 will bind the arrays on a new dimension before the
                           first, making along the new first dimension.
                        • Specifying along = n+1, with n being the last available dimension, will cre-
                          ate an additional dimension (n+1) and bind the arrays along that new dimen-
                      Boolean, for bind_array() and bind2_array().
    name_along
                      Indicates if dimension along should be named.
    comnames_from
                      integer scalar or NULL, for bind_array() and bind2_array().
                      Indicates which object in arg.list should be used for naming the shared di-
                      mension.
                      If NULL, no communal names will be given.
                      For example:
                      When binding columns of atomic matrices, comnames_from = 1 results in bind_array()
                      using rownames(arg.list[[1]]) for the row names of the output.
                      Boolean, for bind_array() and bind2_array().
    name_flat
                      Indicates if flat indices should be named.
                      Note that setting this to TRUE will reduce performance considerably.
```

for performance: set to FALSE

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#### **Details**

bind\_array() and bind2\_array() are modified versions of the fantastic abind::abind function by Tony Plare and Richard Heiberger (see reference below).

bind\_array() has slightly better performance than abind::abind, and has more streamlined naming options.

bind2\_array() also has the streamlined naming options, and additionally differs from abind::abind in that it can handle recursive arrays properly (the original abind::abind function would unlist everything to atomic arrays).

#### Value

The new object.

#### References

Plate T, Heiberger R (2016). *abind: Combine Multidimensional Arrays*. R package version 1.4-5, https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=abind.

## **Examples**

```
# atomic arrays ====
x <- matrix(1:12,3,4)
dimnames(x) <- n(letters[1:3], LETTERS[1:4])
names(x) <- month.abb
print(x)
y <- x+100
arg.list <- list(x = x, y = y)
bind_array(arg.list, along=0, name_flat = TRUE) # binds on new dimension before first
bind_array(arg.list, along=1, name_flat = TRUE) # binds on first dimension
bind_array(arg.list, along=2, name_flat = TRUE)
bind_array(arg.list, along=3, name_flat = TRUE) # bind on new dimension after last</pre>
```

```
# recursiv arrays ====
x <- matrix(as.list(1:12),3,4)
dimnames(x) <- n(letters[1:3], LETTERS[1:4])
names(x) <- month.abb
print(x)
y <- lapply(x, \(x) + 100\)
dim(y) <- dim(x)
arg.list <- list(x = x, y=y)
bind2_array(arg.list, along=0, name_flat = TRUE) # binds on new dimension before first
bind2_array(arg.list, along=1, name_flat = TRUE) # binds on first dimension
bind2_array(arg.list, along=2, name_flat = TRUE)
bind2_array(arg.list, along=3, name_flat = TRUE) # bind on new dimension after last</pre>
```

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ci\_flat

Construct Indices

# **Description**

These functions construct flat or dimensional indices.

- ci\_flat() constructs an integer vector flat indices.
- ci\_margin() constructs an integer vector of indices for one particular dimension margin.
- ci\_sub() constructs a list of integer subscripts.
- ci\_df() is the same as ci\_margin(), except it is specifically designed for data.frame-like objects.

It is a separate function, because things like dimnames(x)[1] and rownames(x) do not always return the same output for certain data.frame-like objects.

# Usage

```
ci_flat(
  х,
  i,
  inv = FALSE,
  chkdup = FALSE,
  uniquely_named = FALSE,
  .abortcall = sys.call()
)
ci_margin(
  х,
  slice,
  margin,
  inv = FALSE,
  chkdup = FALSE,
  uniquely_named = FALSE,
  .abortcall = sys.call()
ci_sub(
  Х,
  sub,
  dims,
  inv = FALSE,
  chkdup = FALSE,
  uniquely_named = FALSE,
  .abortcall = sys.call()
ci_df(
  х,
```

```
slice,
margin,
inv = FALSE,
chkdup = FALSE,
uniquely_named = FALSE,
.abortcall = sys.call()
```

# **Arguments**

```
x the object for which the indices are meant.
i, slice, margin, sub, dims, inv
See squarebrackets_indx_args.
chkdup see squarebrackets_options.
for performance: set to FALSE
uniquely_named Boolean, indicating if the user knows a-priori that the relevant names of x are unique.
If set to TRUE, speed may increase.
But specifying TRUE when the relevant names are not unique will result in incorrect output.
```

environment where the error message is passed to.

# Value

.abortcall

An integer vector of casted indices.

# **Examples**

```
x.dim <- c(10, 10, 3)
x.len <- prod(x.dim)
x <- array(1:x.len, x.dim)
sub <- list(c(4, 3), c(3, 2), c(2, 3))
coord <- sub2coord(sub, x.dim)
print(coord)
ind <- coord2ind(coord, x.dim)
print(ind)
all(x[ind] == c(x[c(4, 3), c(3, 2), c(2, 3)])) # TRUE
coord2 <- ind2coord(ind, x.dim)
print(coord)
all(coord == coord2) # TRUE
sub2 <- coord2sub(coord2)
sapply(1:3, \(i)\) sub2[[i]] == sub[[i]]) |> all() # TRUE
```

class\_mutable\_atomic 35

#### **Description**

The mutable\_atomic class is a mutable version of atomic classes.

It works exactly the same in all aspects as regular atomic classes, with only one real difference:

The 'squarebrackets' methods and functions that perform modification by reference (basically all methods and functions with "set" in the name) accept mutable\_atomic, but do not accept regular atomic.

See squarebrackets\_PassByReference for details.

Like data.table, [<- performs R's default copy-on-modification semantics. For modification by reference, use sb\_set.

Exposed functions (beside the S3 methods):

- mutable\_atomic(): create a mutable\_atomic object from given data.
- couldb.mutable\_atomic(): checks if an object could become mutable\_atomic. An objects can become mutable\_atomic if it is one of the following types: logical, integer, double, character, complex, raw. bit64::integer64 type is also supported, since it is internally defined as double.
- materialize\_atomic(): takes an immaterial ALTREP atomic object, and returns a materialized mutable\_atomic object.
- typecast.mutable\_atomic() type-casts and possibly reshapes a (mutable) atomic object, and returns a mutable\_atomic object.
   Does not preserve dimension names if dimensions are changed.

## Usage

```
mutable_atomic(data, names = NULL, dim = NULL, dimnames = NULL)
as.mutable_atomic(x, ...)
is.mutable_atomic(x)

couldb.mutable_atomic(x)

typecast.mutable_atomic(x, type = typeof(x), dims = dim(x))
materialize_atomic(x)

## S3 method for class 'mutable_atomic'
c(..., use.names = TRUE)

## S3 method for class 'mutable_atomic'
x[...]

## S3 replacement method for class 'mutable_atomic'
x[...] <- value

## S3 method for class 'mutable_atomic'
format(x, ...)</pre>
```

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

## **Arguments**

data atomic vector giving data to fill the mutable\_atomic object.

names, dim, dimnames
see setNames and array.

x an atomic object.
... method dependent arguments.

type a string giving the type; see typeof.

dims integer vector, giving the new dimensions.

use.names Boolean, indicating if names should be preserved.

value see Extract.

## Value

```
For mutable_atomic(), as.mutable_atomic(), materialize_atomic(), typecast.mutable_atomic(): Returns a mutable_atomic object.
```

```
For is.mutable_atomic():
```

Returns TRUE if the object is mutable\_atomic, and returns FALSE otherwise.

```
For couldb.mutable_atomic():
```

Returns TRUE if the object is one of the following types:

logical, integer, double, character, complex, raw.

bit64::integer64 type is also supported, since it is internally defined as double.

Returns FALSE otherwise.

# Warning

Always use the exported functions given by 'squarebrackets' to create a mutable\_atomic object, as they make necessary checks.

Circumventing these checks may break things!

## **Examples**

```
x <- mutable_atomic(
   1:20, dim = c(5, 4), dimnames = list(letters[1:5], letters[1:4])
)
x
typecast.mutable_atomic(x, "character")

x <- matrix(1:10, ncol = 2)
x <- as.mutable_atomic(x)
is.mutable_atomic(x)
print(x)</pre>
```

cp\_seq 37

```
x[, 1]

x[] \leftarrow as.double(x) \# notifies the user a copy is being made print(x)

<math>is.mutable\_atomic(x)
```

cp\_seq

Construct Parameters for a Sequence Based on Margins

# Description

cp\_seq() returns a list of parameters to construct a sequence based on the margins of an object. It is internally used by the idx\_r function.

#### Usage

```
cp_seq(x, m = 0L, from = NULL, to = NULL, by = 1L)
```

## **Arguments**

x the object for which to compute margin-based sequence parameters.

m integer or complex, giving the margin(s).

For non-dimensional objects or for flat indices, specify m = 0L.

from integer or complex, of the same length as m or of length 1, specifying the from

point.

to integer or complex, of the same length as m or of length 1, specifying the maxi-

mally allowed end value.

by integer, of the same length as m or of length 1, specifying the step size.

#### Value

A list of the following elements:

## \$start:

The actual starting point of the sequence.

This is simply from translated to regular numeric.

#### \$end:

The **actual** ending point of the sequence.

This is **not** the same as to, not even whe translated to regular numeric.

For example, the following code:

```
seq(from = 1L, to = 10L, by = 2L) #> [1] 1 3 5 7 9
```

specifies to = 10L.

But the sequence doesn't actually end at 10; it ends at 9.

Therefore,  $cp\_seq(x, m, 1, 10, 2)$  will return end = 9, not end = 10.

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This allows the user to easily predict where an sequence given in idx\_r.

\$by:

This will give by, but with it's sign adjusted, if needed.

\$length.out:

The actual vector lengths of the sequences would be, given the translated parameters.

#### **Arguments Details**

#### Multiple dimensions at once

The cp\_seq function can construct the sequence parameters needed for multiple dimensions at once, by specifying a vector for m.

The lengths of the other arguments are then recycled if needed.

#### Using only by

If from, to are not specified, using by will construct the following sequence:

If by is positive, seq.int(1L, n, by).

If by is negative, seq.int(n, 1L, by).

Where n is the maximum index (i.e. length(x) or dim(x)[m], depending on the situation).

```
Using from, to, by
```

If from, to, by are all specified, by is stored as abs(by), and the sign of by is automatically adjusted to ensure a sensible sequence is created.

So, for example, to construct the parameters to get n:1, one can simply call  $cp_seq(x, m, by = -1L)$ .

```
x <- data.frame(
    a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = factor(letters[1:10]), d = -1:-10
)
print(x)
ind1 <- idx_r(x, 1, 2, 2* -1i) # rows 2:(nrow(x)-1)
sb2_x(x, ind1) # extract the row range

x <- array(1:125, c(5,5,5))
dims <- 1:3
sub <- idx_r(x, dims, 2, 2* -1i) # 2:(n-1) for every dimension
sb_x(x, sub, dims) # same as x[ 2:4, 2:4, drop = FALSE]

x <- letters
x[idx_r(x, 0, 2, 2* -1i)]</pre>
```

currentBindings 39

currentBindings

List or Lock All Currently Existing Bindings Pointing To Same Address

## **Description**

```
currentBindings(x, action = "list")
```

lists all currently existing objects sharing the same address as x, in a given environment.

```
currentBindings(x, action = "checklock")
```

searches all **currently existing** objects sharing the same **address** as x, in a given environment, and reports which of these are locked and which are not locked.

```
currentBindings(x, action = "lockbindings")
```

searches all **currently existing** objects sharing the same **address** as x, in a given environment, and locks them using lockBinding.

See also squarebrackets\_PassByReference for information regarding the relation between locked bindings and pass-by-reference modifications.

## Usage

```
currentBindings(x, action = "list", env = NULL)
```

# Arguments

x the existing variable whose address to use when searching for bindings.

action a single string, giving the action to perform.

Must be one of the following:

- "list" (default).
- "checklock".
- "lockbindings".

env the environment where to look for objects.

If NULL (default), the caller environment is used.

#### **Details**

The lockBinding function locks a binding of an object, preventing modification.

'R' also uses locked bindings to prevent modification of objects from package namespaces.

The pass-by-reference semantics of 'squarebrackets' in principle respect this, and disallows modification of objects by reference.

However, lockBinding does not lock the address/pointer of an object, only one particular binding of an object.

This problematic; consider the following example:

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```
x <- mutable_atomic(1:16)
y <- x
lockBinding("y", environment())
sb_set(x, i = 1:6, rp = 8)</pre>
```

In the above code, x and y share the same address, thus pointing to the same memory, yet only y is actually locked.

Since x is not locked, modifying x is allowed.

But since sb\_set()/sb2\_set() performs modification by reference, y will still be modified, despite being locked.

The currentBindings() function allows to user to: find all **currently existing** bindings in the **caller environment** sharing the same address as x, and locking all these bindings.

#### Value

```
For currentBindings(x, action = "list"):
Returns a character vector.

For currentBindings(x, action = "checklock"):
Returns a named logical vector.
The names give the names of the bindings,
and each associated value indicates whether the binding is locked (TRUE) or not locked (FALSE).

For currentBindings(x, action = "lockbindings"):
Returns VOID. It just locks the currently existing bindings.
To unlock the bindings, remove the objects (see rm).
```

# Warning

The currentBindings() function only locks **currently existing** bindings in the **caller environment**:

bindings that are created after calling currentBindings() will not automatically be locked.

Thus, every time the user creates a new binding of the same object, and the user wishes it to be locked, currentBindings() must be called again.

```
x <- as.mutable_atomic(1:10)
y <- x
lockBinding("y", environment())
currentBindings(x)
currentBindings(x, "checklock") # only y is locked

# since only y is locked, we can still modify y through x by reference:
sb_set(x, i = 1, rp = -1)</pre>
```

```
print(y) # modified!
rm(list= c("y")) # clean up
# one can fix this by locking ALL bindings:
y <- x
currentBindings(x, "lockbindings") # lock all
currentBindings(x, "checklock") # all bindings are locked, including y
# the 'squarebrackets' package respects the lock of a binding,
# provided all bindings of an address are locked;
# so this will give an error, as it should:
if(requireNamespace("tinytest")) {
  tinytest::expect_error(
    sb_set(x, i = 1, rp = -1),
    pattern = "object is locked"
  )
}
# creating a new variable will NOT automatically be locked:
z <- y # new variable; will not be locked!
currentBindings(x, "checklock") # z is not locked
currentBindings(x, "lockbindings") # we must re-run this
currentBindings(x, "checklock") # now z is also locked
if(requireNamespace("tinytest")) {
  tinytest::expect_error( # now z is also protected
    sb_set(z, i = 1, rp = -1),
    pattern = "object is locked"
  )
}
rm(list= c("x", "y", "z")) # clean up
```

dt

Functional Forms of data.table Operations

# **Description**

Functional forms of special data.table operations.

These functions do not use Non-Standard Evaluation.

These functions also benefit from the security measures that 'squarebrackets' implements for the pass-by-reference semantics.

- dt\_aggregate() aggregates a data.table or tidytable, and returns the aggregated copy.
- dt\_setcoe() coercively transforms columns of a data.table or tidytable using pass-by-reference semantics.
- dt\_setrm() removes columns of a data.table or tidytable using pass-by-reference semantics.
- dt\_setadd(x, new) adds the columns from data.table/tidytable new to data.table/tidytable x, thereby modifying x using pass-by-reference semantics.

• dt\_setreorder() reorders the rows and/or variables of a data. table using pass-by-reference semantics.

# Usage

```
dt_aggregate(x, SDcols = NULL, f, by, order_by = FALSE)

dt_setcoe(
    x,
    col = NULL,
    vars = NULL,
    v,
    chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)

dt_setrm(
    x,
    col = NULL,
    vars = NULL,
    chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)

dt_setadd(x, new)

dt_setreorder(x, roworder = NULL, varorder = NULL)
```

a data.table or tidytable.

See data.table::setcolorder.

# **Arguments** ×

SDcols	atomic vector, giving the columns to which the aggregation function f() is to be applied on.
f	the aggregation function
by	atomic vector, giving the grouping columns.
order_by	Boolean, indicating if the aggregated result should be ordered by the columns specified in by.
col, vars	see squarebrackets_indx_args.  Duplicates are not allowed.
V	the coercive transformation function
chkdup	see squarebrackets_options. for performance: set to FALSE
new	a data.frame-like object.  It must have column names that do not already exist in x.
roworder	a integer vector of the same length as nrow(x), giving the order in which the rows are to be re-order. Internally, this numeric vector will be turned into an order using order, thus ensuring it is a strict permutation of 1:nrow(x).
varorder	integer or character vector of the same length as ncol(x), giving the new column order.

#### **Details**

dt\_setreorder(x, roworder = roworder) internally creates a new column to reorder the data.table by, and then removes the new column.

The column name is randomized, and extra care is given to ensure it does not overwrite any existing columns.

#### Value

```
For dt_aggregate():
```

The aggregated data.table object.

For the rest of the functions:

Returns: VOID. These functions modify the object by reference.

Do not use assignments like  $x \leftarrow dt_setcoe(x, ...)$ .

Since these functions return void, you'll just get NULL.

## **Examples**

```
# dt_aggregate on sf-data.table ====
if(requireNamespace("sf")) {
    x <- sf::st_read(system.file("shape/nc.shp", package = "sf"))
    x <- data.table::as.data.table(x)

    x$region <- ifelse(x$CNTY_ID <= 2000, 'high', 'low')
    d.aggr <- dt_aggregate(
        x, SDcols = "geometry", f= sf::st_union, by = "region"
    )
    head(d.aggr)
}</pre>
```

```
# dt_setcoe ====

obj <- data.table::data.table(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_set(
  obj, filter = ~ (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
  tf = sqrt # WARNING: sqrt() results in `dbl`, but columns are `int`, so decimals lost
)
str(obj)
obj <- data.table::data.table(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
dt_setcoe(obj, vars = is.numeric, v = as.numeric) # integers are now numeric
str(obj)
sb2_set(obj,
  filter = ~ (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,</pre>
```

```
tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed; so no warnings
str(obj)
# dt_setrm ====
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
)
str(obj)
dt_setrm(obj, col = 1)
str(obj)
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
str(obj)
dt_setrm(obj, vars = is.numeric)
str(obj)
# dt_setadd ====
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10])
new <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 e = sample(c(TRUE, FALSE), 10, TRUE),
 f = sample(c(TRUE, FALSE), 10, TRUE)
)
dt_setadd(obj, new)
print(obj)
# dt_setreorder====
n <- 1e4
obj <- data.table::data.table(</pre>
 a = 1L:n, b = n:1L, c = as.double(1:n), d = as.double(n:1)
dt_setreorder(obj, roworder = n:1)
head(obj)
dt_setreorder(obj, varorder = ncol(obj):1)
head(obj)
```

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idx

Convert/Translate Indices (for Copy-On-Modify Substitution)

#### **Description**

The idx() method converts indices.

The type of output depends on the type of input index arguments given:

- idx(x, i = i, ...) converts linear indices to a strictly positive integer vector of linear indices.
- idx(x, sub = sub, dims = dims, ...) converts dimensional indices to a strictly positive integer vector of linear indices.
- idx(x, slice = slice, margin = margin, ...) converts indices of one dimension to a strictly positive integer vector of indices for that specific dimension.

Vectors (both atomic and recursive) only have index argument i.

Data.frame-like objects only have the slice, margin index argument pair.

Arrays (both atomic and recursive) have the sub, dims index argument pair, as well as the arguments i and slice, margin.

The result of the idx() method can be used inside the regular square-brackets operators. For example like so:

```
x <- array(...)
my_indices <- idx(x, sub, dims)
x[my_indices] <- value

y <- data.frame(...)
rows <- idx(y, 1:10, 1, inv = TRUE)
cols <- idx(y, c("a", "b"), 2)
y[rows, cols] <- value</pre>
```

thus allowing the user to benefit from the convenient index translations from 'squarebrackets', whilst still using R's default copy-on-modification semantics (instead of the semantics provided by 'squarebrackets').

#### Usage

```
idx(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
idx(x, i, inv = FALSE, ..., chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE))
## S3 method for class 'array'
idx(
    x,
    sub = NULL,
    dims = NULL,
```

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```
slice = NULL,
margin = NULL,
i = NULL,
inv = FALSE,
...,
chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)

## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
idx(
    x,
    slice,
    margin,
    inv = FALSE,
    ...,
    chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)
```

## **Arguments**

```
    vector, matrix, array, or data.frame; both atomic and recursive objects are supported.
    see squarebrackets_method_dispatch.
    sub, dims, margin, slice, inv
    See squarebrackets_indx_args.
    Duplicates are not allowed.
    chkdup
    see squarebrackets_options.
    for performance: set to FALSE
```

# Value

```
For idx(x, i = i, ...) and idx(x, sub = sub, dims = dims, ...):
A strictly positive integer vector of flat indices.

For idx(x, margin = margin, slice = slice, ...):
A strictly positive integer vector of indices for the dimension specified in margin.
```

```
# atomic ====

x <- 1:10
x[idx(x, \(x)x>5)] <- -5
print(x)

x <- array(1:27, dim = c(3,3,3))
x[idx(x, n(1:2, 1:2), c(1,3))] <- -10
print(x)</pre>
```

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```
# recursive ====
x <- as.list(1:10)
x[idx(x, (x)x>5)] < -5
print(x)
x \leftarrow array(as.list(1:27), dim = c(3,3,3))
x[idx(x, n(1:2, 1:2), c(1,3))] < -10
print(x)
x <- data.frame(</pre>
  a = sample(c(TRUE, FALSE, NA), 10, TRUE),
 b = 1:10,
 c = rnorm(10),
 d = letters[1:10],
 e = factor(letters[11:20])
rows \leftarrow idx(x, 1:5, 1, inv = TRUE)
cols <- idx(x, c("b", "a"), 2)
x[rows, cols] <- NA
print(x)
```

idx\_by

Compute Grouped Indices

## **Description**

Given:

- a sub-set function f;
- an object x with its margin m;
- and a grouping factor grp;

the idx\_by() function takes indices **per group** grp.

The result of idx\_by() can be supplied to the indexing arguments (see squarebrackets\_indx\_args) to perform **grouped** subset operations.

#### Usage

```
idx_by(x, m, f, grp, parallel = FALSE, mc.cores = 1L)
```

## **Arguments**

m

x the object from which to compute the indices.

a single non-negative integer giving the margin for which to compute indices. For flat indices or for non-dimensional objects, use m = 0L.

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## Value

A vector of indices.

#### **Examples**

```
# vectors ====
(a <- 1:20)
(grp <- factor(rep(letters[1:5], each = 4)))
# get the last element of `a` for each group in `grp`:
i <- idx_by(a, 0L, last, grp)</pre>
sb_x(cbind(a, grp), row = i)
# data.frame ====
x <- data.frame(</pre>
 a = sample(1:20),
 b = letters[1:20],
  group = factor(rep(letters[1:5], each = 4))
print(x)
# get the first row for each group in data.frame `x`:
row <- idx_by(x, 1, first, x$group)</pre>
sb2_x(x, row)
# get the first row for each group for which a > 10:
x2 <- sb2_x(x, filter = ~a > 10)
row <- na.omit(idx_by(x2, 1, first, x2$group))</pre>
sb2_x(x2, row)
```

idx\_ord\_v

Compute Ordered Indices

# **Description**

Computes ordered indices. Similar to order, except the user must supply a vector, a list of equallength vectors, a data.frame or a matrix (row-wise and column-wise are both supported), as the input.

For a vector x,

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```
idx_ord_v(x) is equivalent to
order(x).

For a data.frame or a list of equal-length vectors x, with p columns/elements,
idx_ord_df(x) is equivalent to
order(x[[1]], ..., x[[p]]).

For a matrix (or array) x with p rows,
idx_ord_m(x, margin = 1) is equivalent to
order(x[1, ], ..., x[p, ], ...).

For a matrix (or array) x with p columns,
idx_ord_m(x, margin = 2) is equivalent to
order(x[, 1], ..., x[, p], ...).
```

Note that these are merely convenience functions, and that these are actually slightly slower than order (except for idx\_ord\_v()), due to the additional functionality.

## Usage

```
idx_ord_v(
 х,
 na.last = TRUE,
 decr = FALSE,
 method = c("auto", "shell", "radix")
idx_ord_m(
 х,
 margin,
 na.last = TRUE,
 decr = FALSE,
 method = c("auto", "shell", "radix")
idx_ord_df(
 х,
 na.last = TRUE,
 decr = FALSE,
 method = c("auto", "shell", "radix")
```

## **Arguments**

```
x a vector, data.frame, or array

na.last, method see order and sort.

decr see argument decreasing in order

margin the margin over which to cut the matrix/array into vectors.

I.e. margin = 1L will cut x into individual rows, and apply the order on those
```

 $idx_r$ 

rows.

And margin = 2L will cut x into columns, etc.

#### Value

See order.

# **Examples**

```
x <- sample(1:10)
order(x)
idx_ord_v(x)
idx_ord_m(rbind(x, x), 1)
idx_ord_m(cbind(x, x), 2)
idx_ord_df(data.frame(x, x))</pre>
```

idx\_r

Compute Integer Index Range

# Description

idx\_r() computes integer index range(s).

## Usage

```
idx_r(x, m = 0L, from = NULL, to = NULL, by = 1L)
```

# **Arguments**

```
x the object for which to compute subset indices.
m, from, to, by see cp_seq.
```

### Value

```
If length(m) == 1L: a vector of numeric indices.
```

If length(m) > 1L: a list of the same length as m, containing numeric vectors of indices.

```
x <- data.frame(
    a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = factor(letters[1:10]), d = -1:-10
)
print(x)
ind1 <- idx_r(x, 1, 2, 2* -1i) # rows 2:(nrow(x)-1)
sb2_x(x, ind1) # extract the row range</pre>
```

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```
x \leftarrow array(1:125, c(5,5,5))

dims \leftarrow 1:3

sub \leftarrow idx_r(x, dims, 2, 2* -1i) # 2:(n-1) for every dimension sb_x(x, sub, dims) # same as x[ 2:4, 2:4, 2:4, drop = FALSE]

x \leftarrow letters

x[idx_r(x, 0, 2, 2* -1i)]
```

 $indx\_x$ 

**Exported Utilities** 

# Description

Exported utilities.

Usually the user won't need these functions.

## Usage

```
indx_x(i, x, xnames, xsize)
indx_rm(i, x, xnames, xsize)
```

## **Arguments**

i See squarebrackets\_indx\_args.
 x a vector, vector-like object, factor, data.frame, data.frame-like object, or a list.
 xnames names or dimension names
 xsize length or dimension size

## Value

The subsetted object.

```
x <- 1:10
names(x) <- letters[1:10]
indx_x(1:5, x, names(x), length(x))
indx_rm(1:5, x, names(x), length(x))</pre>
```

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1st Unnest Tree-like List to Recursive 2d Array or Flattened Recursive Vector

## **Description**

[[, [[<-, sb2\_rec, and sb2\_recin, can performing recursive subset operation on a nested list. Such recursive subset operations only operate on a single element.

Performing recursive subset operations on multiple elements is not vectorized, and requires a (potentially slow) loop.

The lst\_untree() function takes a nested tree-like list, and turns it into a 2d recursive array (i.e. a list-matrix), allowing vectorized subset operations to be performed on the list.

1st\_untree() can also simply flatten the list, making it a non-nested list.

See the Examples section to understand how the list will be arranged and named.

The lst\_nlists() counts the total number of recursive list-elements inside a list.

#### Usage

```
lst_nlists(x)

lst_untree(x, margin, use.names = FALSE)
```

## **Arguments**

Χ

a tree-like nested list.

margin

a single integer, indicating how the result should be arranged:

- margin = 0 produces a simple flattened recursive vector (i.e. list) without dimensions.
- margin = 1 produces a 2D recursive array (i.e. a matrix of lists), with length(x) rows and n columns, where n = sapply(x, lst\_nlists) |> max().
   Empty elements will be filled with list(NULL).
- margin = 2 produces a 2D recursive array (i.e. a matrix of lists), with length(x) columns and n rows, where n = sapply(x, lst\_nlists) |> max().
   Empty elements will be filled with list(NULL).

use.names

Boolean, indicating if the elements returned from lst\_untree() should be named.

Names of nested elements, such as x[[c("A", "B", "C")]], will become "A.B.C", as that is the behaviour of the rapply function (which  $lst\_untree()$  calls internally).

It is therefore advised not to use dots (".") in your list names, and use underscores ("\_") instead, before calling lst\_untree().

See the rrapply::rrapply function for renaming (and other forms of transforming) recursive subsets of lists.

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#### Value

```
For lst_untree():
```

A non-nested (dimensional) list.

Note that if margin = 1 or margin = 2, lst\_untree() returns a recursive matrix (i.e. a recursive array with 2 dimensions), **not** a data.frame.

(One advantage of a recursive matrix over a data.frame, is that a recursive matrix can have separate column names and regular names, whereas the names of a data.frame are necessarily equal to the column names).

```
For lst_nlists():
```

A single integer, giving the total number of recursive list-elements in the given list.

```
# show-casing how the list-elements are arranged and named ====
x <- list(
 A = list(
   A = list(A = "AAA", B = "AAB"),
    A = list(A = "AA2A", B = "AA2B"),
   B = list(A = "ABA", B = "ABB"),
   C = letters
  ),
  Y = list(
   Z = list(Z = "YZZ", Y = "YZY"),
   Y = list(Z = "YYZ", Y = "YYY"),
    X = "YX"
  )
)
# un-tree column-wise:
sapply(x, lst_nlists) |> max() # number of rows `y` will have
y <- lst_untree(x, margin = 2, use.names = TRUE)</pre>
dim(y)
print(y)
y[["Y.Z.Y"]] # you can still use names for selecting/replacing
sb2_x(y, 1:3, 1:2) # vectorized selection of multiple recursive elements
# un-tree row-wise:
sapply(x, lst_nlists) |> max() # number of columns `y` will have
y <- lst_untree(x, margin = 1, use.names = TRUE)</pre>
dim(y)
print(y)
y[["Y.Z.Y"]] # you can still use names for selecting/replacing
sb2\_x(y,1:2,\ 1:3) # vectorized selection of multiple recursive elements
# simple flattened list:
y <- lst_untree(x, margin = 0, use.names = TRUE)</pre>
print(y)
y[["Y.Z.Y"]]
```

54 match\_all

```
x[[c("Y", "Z", "Y")]] # equivalent in the original list
# showcasing that only list-elements are recursively flattened ====
# i.e. atomic vectors in recursive subsets remain atomic
x \leftarrow lapply(1:10, \x) list(sample(letters), sample(1:10)))
sapply(x, lst_nlists) |> max()
y <- lst_untree(x, margin = 1)</pre>
dim(y)
print(y)
lst_untree(x, margin = 1)
# showcasing vectorized sub-setting ====
x \leftarrow lapply(1:10, \(x) list(
 list(sample(letters[1:10]), sample(LETTERS[1:10])),
 list(sample(month.abb), sample(month.name)),
 list(sample(1:10), rnorm(10))
))
y <- lst_untree(x, 1)</pre>
# getting the first recursive elements in the second level/depth in base R:
for(i in seq_along(x)) {
 x[[c(i, c(1,1))]]
# the same, but vectorized using the untree'd list:
y[seq_len(nrow(y)), 1]
```

match\_all

Match All, Order-Sensitive and Duplicates-Sensitive

## **Description**

Find all indices of vector haystack that are equal to vector needles, taking into account the order of both vectors, and their duplicate values.

It is essentially a much more efficient version of:

```
lapply(needles, \(i) which(haystack == i))
```

Like lapply(needles,  $\setminus$ (i) which(haystack == i)), NAs are ignored.

Core of the code is based on a suggestion by Sebastian Kranz (author of the 'collapse' package).

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#### Usage

```
match_all(needles, haystack, unlist = TRUE)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
needles, haystack
```

vectors

unlist

Boolean, indicating if the result should be a single integer vector (TRUE, default), or a list (length = length(needles)) of integer vectors (FALSE).

#### Value

An integer vector, or list of integer vector.

If a list, each element of the list corresponds to each value of needles.

When needles and/or haystack is/are empty or fully NA, match\_all() returns an empty integer vector (if unlist = TRUE), or an empty list (if unlist = FALSE).

## **Examples**

```
n <- 200
haystack <- sample(letters, n, TRUE)
needles <- sample(letters, n/2, TRUE)
indices1 <- match_all(needles, haystack)
head(indices1)</pre>
```

ma\_setv

Find and Replace Present Values in mutable\_atomic Objects By Reference

### **Description**

```
The ma_setv(x, v rp) function performs the equivalent of x[which(x == v)] <- rp but using pass-by-reference semantics.
```

```
This is faster than using sb_set(x, i = which(x == v), rp = rp).
```

Inspired by collapse::setv, but written in 'C++' through 'Rcpp', with additional safety checks.

# Usage

```
ma_setv(x, v, rp, invert = FALSE, NA.safety = TRUE)
```

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#### **Arguments**

x a mutable\_atomic variable.

v non-missing (so no NA or NaN) atomic scalar to find.

rp atomic scalar giving the replacement value.

invert Boolean.

If FALSE (default), the equivalent of x[which(x == v()] <- rp is performed;

If TRUE, the equivalent of x[which(x != v)] <- rp is performed instead.

NA. safety Boolean.

just like in which, NA and NaN results in x==v should be ignored, thus NA. safety

is TRUE by default.

However, if it is known that x contains no NAs or NaNs, setting NA. safety to

FALSE will increase performance a bit.

NOTE: Setting NA. safety = FALSE when x does contain NAs or NaNs, may result

in unexpected behaviour.

for performance: set to FALSE

#### Value

Returns: VOID. This function modifies the object by reference.

Do not use assignment like  $x \le ma_setv(x, ...)$ .

Since this function returns void, you'll just get NULL.

#### **Examples**

```
x <- mutable_atomic(c(1:20, NA, NaN))
print(x)
ma_setv(x, 2, 100)
print(x)</pre>
```

n Nest

# Description

The c() function concatenates vectors or lists into a vector (if possible) or else a list.

In analogy to that function, the n() function **nests** objects into a list (not into an atomic vector, as atomic vectors cannot be nested).

It is a short-hand version of the list function.

This is handy because lists are often needed in 'squarebrackets', especially for arrays.

## Usage

n()

#### Value

The list.

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#### **Examples**

```
obj <- array(1:64, c(4,4,3))
print(obj)
sb_x(obj, n(1:3, 1:2), c(1,3))
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, , 1:2, drop = FALSE]</pre>
```

sb2\_rec

Access, Replace, Transform, Remove, or Extend Recursive Subsets

#### **Description**

The sb2\_rec() and sb2\_recin() methods are essentially convenient wrappers around [[ and [[<-, respectively.

sb2\_rec() will access recursive subsets of lists.

sb2\_recin() can do the following things:

- replace or transform recursive subsets of a list, using R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics, by specifying the rp or tf argument, respectively.
- remove a recursive subset of a list, using R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics, by specifying argument rp = NULL.
- extending a list with additional recursive elements, using R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics.

This is done by specifying an out-of-bounds index in argument rec, and entering the new values in argument rp.

Note that adding surface level elements of a dimensional list will remove the dimension attributes of that list.

#### Usage

```
sb2_rec(x, rec)
sb2_recin(x, rec, rp, tf)
```

#### **Arguments**

x a list, or list-like object.

rec an integer (including negative integers) or character vector of length p, such that

x[[rec]] is equivalent to x[[rec[1]]]...[[rec[p]]], providing all but

the final indexing results in a list.

When on a certain subset level of a nested list, multiple subsets with the same name exist, only the first one will be selected when performing recursive index-

ing by name, due to the recursive nature of this type of subsetting.

rp optional, and allows for multiple functionalities:

sb2\_rec

- In the simplest case, performs x[[rec]] <- rp, using R's default semantics. Since this is a replacement of a recursive subset, rp does not necessarily have to be a list itself; rp can be any type of object.
- When specifying rp = NULL, will **remove** (recursive) subset x[[rec]]. To specify actual NULL instead of removing a subset, use list(NULL).
- When rec is an integer, and specifies an out-of-bounds subset, sb2\_recin() will add value rp to the list.

Any empty positions in between will be filled with NA.

• When rec is character, and specifies a non-existing name, sb2\_recin() will add value rp to the list as a new element at the end.

tf

an optional function. If specified, performs  $x[[rec]] \leftarrow tf(x[[rec]])$ , using R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics.

Does not support extending a list like argument rp.

#### **Details**

Since recursive objects are pointers to objects, extending a list or removing an element of a list does not copy the entire list, in contrast to atomic vectors.

#### Value

```
For sb2_rec():
```

Returns the recursive subset.

```
For sb2\_recin(..., rp = rp):
```

Returns VOID, but replaces, adds, or removes the specified recursive subset, using R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics.

```
For sb2\_recin(..., tf = tf):
```

Returns VOID, but transforms the specified recursive subset, using R's default Copy-On-Modify semantics.

# **Examples**

```
lst <- list(
    A = list(
    A = list(A = "AAA", B = "AAB"),
    A = list(A = "AA2A", B = "AA2B"),
    B = list(A = "ABA", B = "ABB")
),
    B = list(
    A = list(A = "BAA", B = "BAB"),
    B = list(A = "BBA", B = "BBB")
)
)</pre>
```

```
# access recursive subsets ====
sb2\_rec(lst, c(1,2,2)) # this gives "AA2B"
sb2_rec(lst, c("A", "B", "B")) # this gives "ABB"
sb2\_rec(lst, c(2,2,1)) \# this gives "BBA"
sb2_rec(lst, c("B", "B", "A")) # this gives "BBA"
# replace recursive subset with R's default in-place semantics ====
# replace "AAB" using R's default in-place semantics:
sb2_recin(
 lst, c("A", "A", "B"),
 rp = "THIS IS REPLACED WITH IN-PLACE SEMANTICS"
print(lst)
# replace shallow subsets with R's default in-place semantics ====
for(i in c("A", "B")) sb2_recin(lst, i, rp = "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE")
print(lst)
# Modify View of List By Reference ====
x <- list(
a = data.table::data.table(cola = 1:10, colb = letters[1:10]),
b = data.table::data.table(cola = 11:20, colb = letters[11:20])
)
print(x)
mypointer <- sb2_rec(x, "a")</pre>
address(mypointer) == address(x$a) # they are the same
sb2\_set(mypointer, col = "cola", tf = \(x)x^2)
print(x) # notice x has been changed
```

sb\_mod

Method to Return a Copy of an Object With Modified Subsets

# Description

This is an S3 Method to return a copy of an object with modified subsets. Use  $sb_{mod}(x, ...)$  if x is an atomic object; this returns a full copy. Use  $sb_{mod}(x, ...)$  if x is a recursive object (i.e. list or data.frame-like); this returns a partial

copy.

For modifying subsets using R's default copy-on-modification semantics, see idx.

# Usage

```
sb_mod(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb_mod(
  х,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb_mod(
  Х,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  . . . ,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb_mod(
  х,
  sub = NULL,
  dims = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
sb2\_mod(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb2_mod(
  х,
  i = NULL,
```

```
inv = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE),
  .lapply = lapply
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb2_mod(
  Х,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE),
  .lapply = lapply
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb2_mod(
  х,
  sub = NULL,
 dims = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE),
  .lapply = lapply
## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
sb2_mod(
  х,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  filter = NULL,
  vars = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  coe = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE),
  .lapply = lapply
```

#### **Arguments**

x see squarebrackets\_immutable\_classes and squarebrackets\_mutable\_classes.

... see squarebrackets\_method\_dispatch.

i, row, col, sub, dims, filter, vars, inv

See squarebrackets indx args.

An empty index selection returns the original object unchanged.

 ${\tt rp,\,tf,\,.lapply} \quad see \, \underline{\sf squarebrackets\_modify}.$ 

chkdup see squarebrackets\_options.

for performance: set to FALSE

coe Either FALSE (default), TRUE, or a function.

The argument coe is ignored if both the row and filter arguments are set to

NULL.

See Details section for more info. for performance: set to FALSE

#### **Details**

## **Transform or Replace**

Specifying argument tf will transform the subset.

Specifying rp will replace the subset.

One cannot specify both tf and rp. It's either one set or the other.

#### Argument coe

For data.frame-like objects, sb\_mod() can only auto-coerce whole columns, not subsets of columns. So it does not automatically coerce column types when row or filter is also specified.

The coe arguments provides 2 ways to circumvent this:

1. The user can supply a coercion function to argument coe.

The function is applied on the entirety of every column specified in col or vars; columns outside this subset are not affected.

This coercion function is, of course, applied before replacement (rp) or transformation (tf()).

2. The user can set coe = TRUE.

In this case, the whole columns specified in col or vars are extracted and copied to a list. Subsets of each list element, corresponding to the selected rows, are modified with rp or tf(), using R's regular auto-coercion rules.

The modified list is then returned to the data.frame-like object, replacing the original columns.

Note that coercion required additional memory.

The larger the data.frame-like object, the larger the memory.

The default, coe = FALSE, uses the least amount of memory.

#### Value

A copy of the object with replaced/transformed values.

```
# atomic objects ====
obj \leftarrow matrix(1:16, ncol = 4)
colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
print(obj)
rp <- -1:-9
sb_mod(obj, 1:3, 1:3, rp = rp)
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3] <- -1:-9; obj
sb_{mod}(obj, i = (x)x \le 5, rp = -1:-5)
# above is equivalent to obj[obj <= 5] <- -1:-5; obj</pre>
sb_{mod}(obj, col = "a", rp = -1:-8)
# above is equivalent to obj[, which(colnames(obj) %in% "a")] <- -1:-8; obj</pre>
sb_{mod}(obj, 1:3, 1:3, tf = (x) -x)
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3] \leftarrow (-1 * obj[1:3, 1:3]); obj
sb_mod(obj, i = \(x)x \le 5, tf = \(x) -x)
# above is equivalent to obj[obj \le 5] <- (-1 * obj[obj \le 5]); obj
obj \leftarrow matrix(1:16, ncol = 4)
colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
print(obj)
sb_{mod}(obj, 1:3, 1:3, tf = (x) -x)
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3] <- -1 * obj[1:3, 1:3]
sb_mod(obj, i = (x)x \le 5, tf = (x) -x)
# above is equivalent to obj[obj <= 5] <- -1:-5; obj</pre>
sb_mod(obj, col = "a", tf = \(x) -x)
# above is equivalent to obj[, which(colnames(obj) %in% "a")] <- -1:-8; obj</pre>
obj <- array(1:64, c(4,4,3))
print(obj)
sb_{mod}(obj, list(1:3, 1:2), c(1,3), rp = -1:-24)
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, , 1:2] <- -1:-24
sb_{mod}(obj, i = (x)x \le 5, rp = -1:-5)
# above is equivalent to obj[obj <= 5] <- -1:-5</pre>
# lists ====
obj <- list(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:11], c = 11:20)
print(obi)
sb2_mod(obj, "a", rp = list(1L))
# above is equivalent to obj[["a"]] <- 1L; obj</pre>
sb2_mod(obj, is.numeric, rp = list(-1:-10, -11:-20))
# above is equivalent to obj[which(sapply(obj, is.numeric))] <- list(-1:-10, -11:-20); obj
# dimensional lists ====
obj <- rbind(</pre>
  lapply(1:4, \x)sample(c(TRUE, FALSE, NA))),
  lapply(1:4, \x) sample(1:10)),
  lapply(1:4, \(x)rnorm(10)),
  lapply(1:4, \(x)sample(letters))
```

```
colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
print(obj)
sb2\_mod(obj, 1:3, 1:3, rp = n(-1))
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3] <- list(-1)</pre>
sb2\_mod(obj, i = is.numeric, rp = n(-1))
# above is equivalent to obj[sapply(obj, is.numeric)] <- list(-1)</pre>
sb2\_mod(obj, col = c("a"), rp = n(-1))
# above is equivalent to
\# obj[, lapply(c("a", "a"), \(i) which(colnames(obj) == i)) |> unlist()] <- list(-1)
obj <- array(as.list(1:64), c(4,4,3))
print(obj)
sb2_mod(obj, list(1:3, 1:2), c(1,3), rp = as.list(-1:-24))
\# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, , 1:2] <- as.list(-1:-24)
sb2_mod(obj, i = \(x)x \le 5, rp = as.list(-1:-5))
# above is equivalent to obj[sapply(onj, (x) x \le 5)] <- as.list(-1:-5)
# data.frame-like objects - whole columns ====
\label{eq:continuous} obj <- \ data.frame(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_mod(
 obj, vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # SAFE: row=NULL & filter = NULL, so coercion performed
# data.frame-like objects - partial columns ====
obj <- data.frame(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_mod(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # WARNING: sqrt() results in `dbl`, but columns are `int`, so decimals lost
sb2_mod(
  obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
  coe = as.double, tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed
sb2_mod(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 coe = TRUE, tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed
```

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sb\_rm

Method to Un-Select/Remove Subsets of an Object

# Description

```
This is an S3 Method to un-select/remove subsets from an object. Use sb_rm(x, ...) if x is an atomic object. Use sb_rm(x, ...) if x is a recursive object (i.e. list or data.frame-like).
```

## Usage

```
sb_rm(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb_rm(x, i = NULL, ..., chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE))
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb_rm(
  х,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb_rm(
  х,
  sub = NULL,
  dims = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
sb2_rm(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb2_rm(
  х,
  i = NULL,
  red = FALSE,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb2_rm(
```

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```
Χ,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  red = FALSE,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb2_rm(
  х,
  sub = NULL,
  dims = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  red = FALSE,
  . . . ,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)
## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
sb2_rm(
  Х,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  filter = NULL,
  vars = NULL,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
)
```

# **Arguments**

```
    x see squarebrackets_immutable_classes and squarebrackets_mutable_classes.
    ... see squarebrackets_method_dispatch.
    i, row, col, sub, dims, filter, vars
        See squarebrackets_indx_args.
        An empty index selection results in nothing being removed, and the entire object is returned.
    chkdup see squarebrackets_options.
        for performance: set to FALSE
    red Boolean, for list only.
        I f red = TRUE, selecting a single element with non-empty arguments will give
```

the simplified result, like using [[]].

If red = FALSE, a list is always returned regardless of the number of elements.

## Value

A copy of the sub-setted object.

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```
# atomic objects ====
obj \leftarrow matrix(1:16, ncol = 4)
colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
print(obj)
sb_rm(obj, 1:3, 1:3)
# above is equivalent to obj[-1:-3, -1:-3, drop = FALSE]
sb_rm(obj, i = (x)x>5)
# above is equivalent to obj[!obj > 5]
sb_rm(obj, col = "a")
# above is equivalent to obj[, which(!colnames(obj) %in% "a")]
obj \leftarrow array(1:64, c(4,4,3))
print(obj)
sb_rm(obj, n(1, c(1, 3)), c(1, 3))
# above is equivalent to obj[-1, , c(-1, -3), drop = FALSE]
sb_rm(obj, i = (x)x>5)
# above is equivalent to obj[!obj > 5]
# lists ====
obj <- list(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:11], c = 11:20)
print(obj)
sb2_rm(obj, "a")
# above is equivalent to obj[which(!names(obj) %in% "a")]
sb2_rm(obj, 1) # obj[-1]
sb2_rm(obj, 1:2)
# above is equivalent to obj[seq_len(length(obj))[-1:-2]]
sb2_rm(obj, is.numeric, red = TRUE)
# above is equivalent to obj[[!sapply(obj, is.numeric)]] IF this returns a single element
obj <- list(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:11], c = letters)
sb2_rm(obj, is.numeric)
# above is equivalent to obj[!sapply(obj, is.numeric)] # this time singular brackets?
# for recusive indexing, see sb2_rec()
# dimensional lists ====
obj <- rbind(</pre>
 lapply(1:4, \(x)sample(c(TRUE, FALSE, NA))),
  lapply(1:4, \x) sample(1:10)),
 lapply(1:4, \(x)rnorm(10)),
 lapply(1:4, \(x)sample(letters))
colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
print(obj)
sb2_rm(obj, 1:3, 1:3)
```

```
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3, drop = FALSE]
sb2_rm(obj, i = is.numeric)
# above is equivalent to obj[sapply(obj, is.numeric)]
sb2_rm(obj, col = c("a", "a"))
# above is equivalent to obj[, lapply(c("a", "a"), (i) which(colnames(obj) == i)) |> unlist()]
obj <- array(as.list(1:64), c(4,4,3))
print(obj)
sb2_rm(obj, n(1, c(1, 3)), c(1, 3))
# above is equivalent to obj[-1, , c(-1, -3), drop = FALSE]
sb2_rm(obj, i = (x)x>5)
# above is equivalent to obj[!sapply(obj, (x) \times 5)]
# data.frame-like objects ====
obj <- data.frame(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
print(obj)
sb2_rm(obj, 1:3, 1:3)
# above is equivalent to obj[-1:-3, -1:-3, drop = FALSE]
sb2_rm(obj, filter = ~(a > 5) & (c < 19), vars = is.numeric)
```

sb\_set

Method to Modify Subsets of a Mutable Object By Reference

# **Description**

This is an S3 Method to replace or transform a subset of a supported mutable object using pass-byreference semantics

```
Use sb\_set(x, ...) if x is an atomic object (i.e. mutable_atomic). Use sb2\_set(x, ...) if x is a recursive object (i.e. data.table).
```

## Usage

```
sb_set(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb_set(
    x,
    i = NULL,
    inv = FALSE,
    ...,
    rp,
    tf,
    chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
```

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```
)
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb_set(
  х,
  row = NULL,
  col = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  . . . ,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb_set(
  х,
  sub = NULL,
  dims = NULL,
  i = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  ...,
  rp,
 tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE)
sb2\_set(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb2\_set(x, ...)
## S3 method for class 'data.table'
sb2_set(
 Χ,
  row = NULL,
 col = NULL,
  filter = NULL,
  vars = NULL,
  inv = FALSE,
  . . . ,
  rp,
  tf,
  chkdup = getOption("squarebrackets.chkdup", FALSE),
  .lapply = lapply
```

# **Arguments**

Χ

a **variable** belonging to one of the supported mutable classes.

```
... see squarebrackets_method_dispatch.

i, row, col, sub, dims, filter, vars, inv
See squarebrackets_indx_args.
An empty index selection leaves the original object unchanged.

rp, tf, .lapply see squarebrackets_modify.

chkdup see squarebrackets_options.
for performance: set to FALSE
```

#### **Details**

# **Transform or Replace**

Specifying argument tf will transform the subset. Specifying rp will replace the subset. One cannot specify both tf and rp. It's either one set or the other.

#### Value

```
Returns: VOID. This method modifies the object by reference. Do not use assignments like x <- sb_set(x, ...). Since this function returns void, you'll just get NULL.
```

```
# mutable_atomic objects ====
gen_mat <- function() {</pre>
  obj <- as.mutable_atomic(matrix(1:16, ncol = 4))</pre>
  colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
  return(obj)
}
obj <- obj2 <- gen_mat()</pre>
obj
sb_set(obj, 1:3, 1:3, rp = -1:-9)
obj2
obj <- obj2 <- gen_mat()</pre>
sb_set(obj, i = (x)x <= 5, rp = -1:-5)
obj <- obj2 <- gen_mat()</pre>
obj
sb_set(obj, col = "a", rp = cbind(-1:-4, -5:-8))
obj <- obj2 <- gen_mat()</pre>
sb_set(obj, 1:3, 1:3, tf = \(x) -x)
obj <- obj2 <- gen_mat()</pre>
```

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```
obj
sb_set(obj, i = \(x)x \le 5, tf = \(x) -x)
obj <- obj2 <- gen_mat()</pre>
sb_set(obj, col = "a", tf = \(x) -x)
obj2
gen_array <- function() {</pre>
 as.mutable_atomic(array(1:64, c(4,4,3)))
obj <- gen_array()</pre>
sb_set(obj, list(1:3, 1:2, c(1, 3)), 1:3, rp = -1:-12)
obi
obj <- gen_array()</pre>
obj
sb_set(obj, i = (x)x <= 5, rp = -1:-5)
obj
# data.table ====
obj <- data.table::data.table(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2 set(
 obj, filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # WARNING: sqrt() results in `dbl`, but columns are `int`, so decimals lost
print(obj)
obj <- data.table::data.table(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
dt_setcoe(obj, vars = is.numeric, v = as.numeric)
str(obj)
sb2_set(obj,
 filter = \sim (a >= 2) & (c <= 17), vars = is.numeric,
  tf = sqrt # SAFE: coercion performed by dt_setcoe(); so no warnings
print(obj)
obj <- data.table::data.table(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:10], c = 11:20, d = factor(letters[1:10]))
str(obj) # notice that columns "a" and "c" are INTEGER (`int`)
sb2_set(
 obj, vars = is.numeric,
 tf = sqrt # SAFE: row=NULL & filter = NULL, so coercion performed
str(obj)
```

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#### **Description**

```
This is an S3 Method to extract, exchange, or duplicate (i.e. repeat x times) subsets of an object. Use sb_x(x, ...) if x is an atomic object. Use sb_x(x, ...) if x is a recursive object (i.e. list or data.frame-like).
```

## Usage

```
sb_x(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb_x(x, i = NULL, ...)
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb_x(x, row = NULL, col = NULL, i = NULL, ...)
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb_x(x, sub = NULL, dims = NULL, i = NULL, ...)
sb2_x(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
sb2_x(x, i = NULL, red = FALSE, ...)
## S3 method for class 'matrix'
sb2_x(x, row = NULL, col = NULL, i = NULL, red = FALSE, ...)
## S3 method for class 'array'
sb2_x(x, sub = NULL, dims = NULL, i = NULL, red = FALSE, ...)
## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
sb2_x(x, row = NULL, col = NULL, filter = NULL, vars = NULL, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

```
x see squarebrackets_immutable_classes and squarebrackets_mutable_classes.
... see squarebrackets_method_dispatch.
i, row, col, sub, dims, filter, vars
See squarebrackets_indx_args.
Duplicates are allowed, resulting in duplicated indices.
An empty index selection results in an empty object of length 0.

red
Boolean, for lists only, indicating if the result should be reduced.
If red = TRUE, selecting a single element with non-empty arguments will give the simplified result, like using [[]].
```

If red = FALSE, a list is always returned regardless of the number of elements.

## Value

Returns a copy of the sub-setted object.

 $sb_x$ 

```
# atomic objects ====
obj <- matrix(1:16, ncol = 4)
colnames(obj) \leftarrow c("a", "b", "c", "a")
print(obj)
sb_x(obj, 1:3, 1:3)
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3, drop = FALSE]
sb_x(obj, i = (x)x>5)
# above is equivalent to obj[obj > 5]
sb_x(obj, col = c("a", "a"))
# above is equivalent to obj[, lapply(c("a", "a"), \(i) which(colnames(obj) == i)) |> unlist()]
obj <- array(1:64, c(4,4,3))
print(obj)
sb_x(obj, n(1:3, 1:2), c(1,3))
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, , 1:2, drop = FALSE]
sb_x(obj, i = (x)x>5)
# above is equivalent to obj[obj > 5]
# lists ====
obj <- list(a = 1:10, b = letters[1:11], c = 11:20)
print(obj)
sb2_x(obj, 1) # obj[1]
sb2_x(obj, 1, red = TRUE) # obj[[1]]
sb2_x(obj, 1:2) # obj[1:2]
sb2_x(obj, is.numeric) # obj[sapply(obj, is.numeric)]
# for recursive subsets, see sb2_rec()
# dimensional lists ====
obj <- rbind(</pre>
 lapply(1:4, \(x)sample(c(TRUE, FALSE, NA))),
  lapply(1:4, \(x)sample(1:10)),
 lapply(1:4, \xspace(x)rnorm(10)),
 lapply(1:4, \(x)sample(letters))
colnames(obj) <- c("a", "b", "c", "a")</pre>
print(obj)
sb2_x(obj, 1:3, 1:3)
# above is equivalent to obj[1:3, 1:3, drop = FALSE]
sb2_x(obj, i = is.numeric)
# above is equivalent to obj[sapply(obj, is.numeric)]
sb2_x(obj, col = c("a", "a"))
# above is equivalent to obj[, lapply(c("a", "a"), \(i) which(colnames(obj) == i)) \mid > unlist()]
obj <- array(as.list(1:64), c(4,4,3))
```

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setapply

Apply Functions Over mutable\_atomic Matrix Margins By Reference

## **Description**

The setapply() function applies a functions over the rows or columns of a mutable\_atomic matrix, through pass-by-reference semantics.

For every iteration, a copy of only a single row or column (depending on the margin) is made, the function is applied on the copy, and the original row/column is replaced by the modified copy through pass-by-reference semantics.

The setapply() is a bit faster and uses less memory than apply.

#### Usage

```
setapply(x, MARGIN, FUN)
```

# Arguments

x a mutable\_atomic matrix. Arrays are not supported.

MARGIN a single integer scalar, giving the subscript to apply the function over.

1 indicates rows, 2 indicates columns.

FUN the function to be applied.

The function must return a vector of the same type of x, and the appropriate length (i.e. length ncol(x) when MARGIN == 1 or length nrow(x) when MARGIN

== 2).

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#### Value

Returns: VOID. This function modifies the object by reference. Do NOT use assignment like x <- setapply(x, ...). Since this function returns void, you'll just get NULL.

## **Examples**

```
# re-order elements matrix by reference ====
x <- mutable_atomic(1:20, dim = c(5,4))
print(x)
setapply(x, 1, FUN = \(x)x[c(4,1,3,2)])
print(x)

# sort elements of matrix by reference ====
x <- mutable_atomic(20:1, dim = c(5,4))
print(x)
setapply(x, 2, FUN = sort)
print(x)</pre>
```

slcseq\_x

Efficient Sequence-based Subset Methods on (Long) Vectors

# Description

The slcseq\_ - methods are similar to the sb\_ - methods, except they don't require an indexing vector, and are designed for memory efficiency.

## Usage

```
slcseq_x(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
slcseq_x(x, from = NULL, to = NULL, by = 1L, ..., use.names = TRUE)
slcseq_rm(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
slcseq_rm(x, from = NULL, to = NULL, by = 1L, ..., use.names = TRUE)
slcseq_set(x, ...)
## Default S3 method:
slcseq_set(x, from = NULL, to = NULL, by = 1L, inv = FALSE, ..., rp, tf)
```

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## **Arguments**

an atomic object. Х For slcseq\_set it must be a mutable\_atomic variable. see squarebrackets\_method\_dispatch from, to, by see cp\_seq. use.names Boolean, indicating if flat names should be preserved. Note that, since slcseq operates on flat indices only, dimnames are always dropped. inv Boolean, indicating whether to invert the sequence. If TRUE, slcseq\_set() will apply replacement/transformation on all elements of the vector, except for the elements of the specified sequence. rp, tf see squarebrackets\_modify.

#### Value

Similar to the sb\_ methods.

## **Examples**

```
x <- mutable_atomic(1:1e7)
# extract:
slcseq_x(x, 1, 10)
# reverse:
slcseq_x(x, -1i, 1) |> head()
# remove:
slcseq_rm(x, 1, -11i) # all elements except the last 10
# replace every other element:
x <- mutable_atomic(1:1e7)
slcseq_set(x, 2, -1i, 2, rp = -1)
head(x)
# replace all elements except the first element:
x <- mutable_atomic(1:1e7)
slcseq_set(x, 1, 1, inv = TRUE, rp = -1)
head(x)</pre>
```

Convert Subscripts to Coordinates, Coordinates to Flat Indices, and Vice-Versa

# Description

sub2ind

These functions convert a list of integer subscripts to an integer matrix of coordinates, an integer matrix of coordinates to an integer vector of flat indices, and vice-versa. Inspired by the sub2ind function from 'MatLab'.

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- sub2coord() converts a list of integer subscripts to an integer matrix of coordinates.
- coord2ind() converts an integer matrix of coordinates to an integer vector of flat indices.
- ind2coord() converts an integer vector of flat indices to an integer matrix of coordinates.
- coord2sub() converts an integer matrix of coordinates to a list of integer subscripts; it performs a very simple (one might even say naive) conversion.
- sub2ind() is a faster and more memory efficient version of coord2ind(sub2coord(sub, x.dims), x.dims) (especially for up to 8 dimensions).

All of these functions are written to be memory-efficient.

The coord2ind() is thus the opposite of arrayInd, and ind2coord is merely a convenient wrapper around arrayInd.

Note that the equivalent to the sub2ind function from 'MatLab' is actually the coord2ind() function here.

# Usage

```
sub2coord(sub, x.dim)
coord2sub(coord)
coord2ind(coord, x.dim, checks = TRUE)
ind2coord(ind, x.dim)
sub2ind(sub, x.dim, checks = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

sub a list of integer subscripts.

The first element of the list corresponds to the first dimension (rows), the second

element to the second dimensions (columns), etc. The length of sub must be equal to the length of x. dim.

One cannot give an empty subscript; instead fill in something like seq\_len(dim(x)[margin]).

NOTE: The coord2sub() function does not support duplicate subscripts.

x.dim an integer vector giving the dimensions of the array in question. I.e. dim(x). coord an integer matrix, giving the coordinate indices (subscripts) to convert.

Each row is an index, and each column is the dimension.

The first columns corresponds to the first dimension, the second column to the

second dimensions, etc.

The number of columns of coord must be equal to the length of x.dim.

checks Boolean, indicating if arguments checks should be performed.

Defaults to TRUE.

Can be set to FALSE for minor speed improvements.

for performance: set to FALSE

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ind

an integer vector, giving the flat position indices to convert.

#### Details

Subscripts and coordinates only exist for dimensional objects (such as arrays).

Flat indices (or just "indices" for non-dimensional objects) exist for all objects (in data.frame-like objects, flat indices are actually equal to column indices).

Thus flat indices are the "default" indices.

The base S3 vector classes in 'R' use the standard Linear Algebraic convention, as in academic fields like Mathematics and Statistics, in the following sense:

- vectors are **column** vectors (i.e. vertically aligned vectors);
- index counting starts at 1;
- rows are the first dimension/subscript, columns are the second dimension/subscript, etc.

Thus, the orientation of flat indices in, for example, a 4 by 4 matrix, is as follows:

	[,1]	[,2]	[,3]	[,4]
[1,]	1	5	9	13
[2,]	2	6	10	14
[3,]	3	7	11	15
[4,]	4	8	12	16

The subscript [1,2] refers to the first row and the second column. In a 4 by 4 matrix, subscript [1,2] corresponds to flat index 5.

The functions described here thus follow also this convention.

## Value

For sub2coord() and ind2coord():

Returns an integer matrix of coordinates (with properties as described in argument coord).

For coord2ind():

Returns an integer vector of flat indices (with properties as described in argument ind).

For coord2sub():

Returns a list of integer subscripts (with properties as described in argument sub)

#### Note

These functions were not specifically designed for duplicate indices per-sé.

For efficiency, they do not check for duplicate indices either.

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#### **Examples**

```
x.dim <- c(10, 10, 3)
x.len <- prod(x.dim)
x <- array(1:x.len, x.dim)
sub <- list(c(4, 3), c(3, 2), c(2, 3))
coord <- sub2coord(sub, x.dim)
print(coord)
ind <- coord2ind(coord, x.dim)
print(ind)
all(x[ind] == c(x[c(4, 3), c(3, 2), c(2, 3)])) # TRUE
coord2 <- ind2coord(ind, x.dim)
print(coord)
all(coord == coord2) # TRUE
sub2 <- coord2sub(coord2)
sapply(1:3, \(i) sub2[[i]] == sub[[i]]) |> all() # TRUE
```

tci\_bool

Type Cast Indices

## **Description**

These functions typecast indices to proper integer indices.

## Usage

```
tci_bool(indx, n, inv = FALSE, .abortcall = sys.call())
tci_int(indx, n, inv = FALSE, chkdup = FALSE, .abortcall = sys.call())
tci_chr(
   indx,
   nms,
   inv = FALSE,
   chkdup = FALSE,
   uniquely_named = FALSE,
   .abortcall = sys.call()
)
tci_cplx(indx, n, inv = FALSE, chkdup = FALSE, .abortcall = sys.call())
```

#### **Arguments**

inv

indx the indices to typecast
n the relevant size, when typecasting integer or logical indices. Examples:

If the target is row indices, input nrow for n.
If the target is flat indices, input the length for n.

Boolean, indicating if the indices should be inverted.

See squarebrackets\_indx\_args.

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. abortcall environment where the error message is passed to.

chkdup see squarebrackets\_options.

for performance: set to FALSE

nms the relevant names, when typecasting character indices.

Examples:

• If the target is row indices, input row names for nms.

• If the target is flat indices, input flat names for nms.

uniquely\_named Boolean, indicating if the user knows a-priori that the relevant names of x are

unique.

If set to TRUE, speed may increase.

But specifying TRUE when the relevant names are not unique will result in incor-

rect output.

#### Value

An integer vector of casted indices.

```
x.dim <- c(10, 10, 3)
x.len <- prod(x.dim)
x <- array(1:x.len, x.dim)
sub <- list(c(4, 3), c(3, 2), c(2, 3))
coord <- sub2coord(sub, x.dim)
print(coord)
ind <- coord2ind(coord, x.dim)
print(ind)
all(x[ind] == c(x[c(4, 3), c(3, 2), c(2, 3)])) # TRUE
coord2 <- ind2coord(ind, x.dim)
print(coord)
all(coord == coord2) # TRUE
sub2 <- coord2sub(coord2)
sapply(1:3, \(i) sub2[[i]] == sub[[i]]) |> all() # TRUE
```

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