

# Package ‘DBmaps’

September 8, 2025

**Title** A Metadata-Driven Framework for Streamlining Database Joins

**Version** 0.1.0

**Description** Simplifies and automates the process of exploring and merging data from relational databases. This package allows users to discover table relationships, create a map of all possible joins, and generate executable plans to merge data based on a structured metadata framework.

**URL** <https://github.com/akshat09867/DBmaps>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/akshat09867/DBmaps/issues>

**License** MIT + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), DiagrammeR

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Imports** data.table

**Depends** R (>= 3.5)

**LazyData** true

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Akshat Maurya [aut, cre],  
David Shilane [aut]

**Maintainer** Akshat Maurya <codingmaster902@gmail.com>

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-09-08 19:20:01 UTC

## Contents

add_table . . . . .	2
create_join_plan . . . . .	2
create_metadata_registry . . . . .	4

customers . . . . .	4
execute_join_plan . . . . .	5
generate_aggregation_code . . . . .	5
map_join_paths . . . . .	7
plot_join_plan . . . . .	7
products . . . . .	8
table_info . . . . .	8
transactions . . . . .	9
views . . . . .	10

<b>Index</b>	<b>11</b>
--------------	-----------

---

add_table	<i>Add a Table’s Metadata to a Registry</i>
-----------	---------------------------------------------

---

**Description**

A generic function to add new table metadata to a registry object.

**Usage**

```
add_table(registry, table_metadata)
```

**Arguments**

- registry           The registry object to which metadata will be added.
- table\_metadata    A data.table object created by table\_info().

**Value**

The updated registry object.

---

create_join_plan	<i>Create a Plan for Aggregating and Merging Tables</i>
------------------	---------------------------------------------------------

---

**Description**

This function acts as a "planner." It takes a user’s request for a final dataset, finds a path using a join map, and creates a structured plan (or "recipe") of the necessary steps.

**Usage**

```
create_join_plan(  
  base_table,  
  selections,  
  metadata_dt,  
  join_map = NULL,  
  tables_dis = NULL  
)
```

**Arguments**

base_table	A character string specifying the main table.
selections	A named list specifying the columns or aggregations to include.
metadata_dt	The master metadata data.table.
join_map	An optional "Join Map" data.table produced by map_join_paths(). If NULL (the default), the map will be generated automatically from the metadata.
tables_dis	An optional named list of data.tables used for data-driven (inferred) join discovery. If NULL, only metadata-driven joins are used. If NULL (the default), the map will be generated automatically from the metadata.

**Value**

A list object representing the "join plan."

**Examples**

```
# --- 1. Define Metadata (Prerequisite) ---
customers_meta <- table_info(
  table_name = "customers",
  source_identifier = "customers.csv",
  identifier_columns = "customer_id",
  key_outcome_specs = list(
    list(OutcomeName = "CustomerCount", ValueExpression = 1, AggregationMethods = list(
      list(AggregatedName = "CountByRegion", AggregationFunction = "sum",
        GroupingVariables = "region")
    ))
  )
)
transactions_meta <- table_info(
  "transactions", "t.csv", "tx_id",
  key_outcome_specs = list(list(OutcomeName = "Revenue", ValueExpression = quote(r),
    AggregationMethods = list(list(AggregatedName = "RevenueByCustomer",
      AggregationFunction = "sum", GroupingVariables = "customer_id"))))
)
master_metadata <- data.table::rbindlist(list(customers_meta, transactions_meta))

# --- 2. Define the Desired Output ---
user_selections <- list(
  customers = "region",
  transactions = "RevenueByCustomer"
)

# --- 3. Create the Join Plan WITHOUT providing the join_map ---
# The function will now generate it automatically.
join_plan <- create_join_plan(
  base_table = "customers",
  selections = user_selections,
  metadata_dt = master_metadata
)
```

```
# --- 4. Inspect the Plan ---
str(join_plan)
```

---

```
create_metadata_registry
```

*Create a Metadata Registry*

---

### Description

Initializes an empty data.table with a custom class "MetadataRegistry" to store and manage metadata definitions.

### Usage

```
create_metadata_registry()
```

### Value

An empty data.table with the class "MetadataRegistry".

---

```
customers
```

*Sample Customer Data*

---

### Description

A sample dataset containing demographic information for customers included with the DBmaps package.

### Usage

```
customers
```

### Format

A data.table with 5 variables:

**customer\_id** A unique identifier for each customer.

**age** The age of the customer in years.

**gender** The gender of the customer.

**income** The income level of the customer.

**region** The geographical region where the customer resides.

### Source

Generated for package examples.

---

execute_join_plan	<i>Execute a Join Plan</i>
-------------------	----------------------------

---

**Description**

Takes a plan generated by `create_join_plan()` and executes it sequentially to produce a final, merged `data.table`.

**Usage**

```
execute_join_plan(join_plan, data_list)
```

**Arguments**

join_plan	A <code>data.table</code> created by <code>create_join_plan()</code> .
data_list	A named list of the source <code>data.tables</code> .

**Value**

A final, merged `data.table`.

---

generate_aggregation_code	<i>Generate data.table Aggregation Code from Metadata</i>
---------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Reads metadata from a master `data.table` and generates executable `data.table` code strings for performing aggregations.

**Usage**

```
generate_aggregation_code(table_name_filter, metadata_dt)
```

**Arguments**

table_name_filter	Character string, the name of the table for which to generate aggregation code.
metadata_dt	A <code>data.table</code> containing the master metadata, created by calling <code>table_info()</code> for multiple tables and combining them.

**Value**

A named character vector where each element is a runnable `data.table` code string, and the names correspond to the grouping variables.

## Examples

```
# First, create some metadata
customers_info <- table_info(
  table_name = "customers",
  source_identifier = "customers.csv",
  identifier_columns = "customer_id",
  key_outcome_specs = list(
    list(OutcomeName = "CustomerCount", ValueExpression = 1, AggregationMethods = list(
      list(AggregatedName = "CountByRegion", AggregationFunction = "sum",
        GroupingVariables = "region")
    ))
  ))

transactions_info <- table_info(
  table_name = "transactions",
  source_identifier = "transactions.csv",
  identifier_columns = "transaction_id",
  key_outcome_specs = list(
    list(OutcomeName = "Revenue", ValueExpression = quote(amount), AggregationMethods = list(
      list(AggregatedName = "RevenueByCustomer", AggregationFunction = "sum",
        GroupingVariables = "customer_id"),
      list(AggregatedName = "RevenueByProduct", AggregationFunction = "sum",
        GroupingVariables = "product_id")
    )),
    list(OutcomeName = "Transactions", ValueExpression = 1, AggregationMethods = list(
      list(AggregatedName = "TransactionsByCustomer", AggregationFunction = "sum",
        GroupingVariables = "customer_id")
    ))
  ))

master_metadata <- data.table::rbindlist(list(customers_info, transactions_info))

# Now, generate the code for the "transactions" table
generated_code <- generate_aggregation_code("transactions", master_metadata)
print(generated_code)

# To demonstrate execution:
# 1. Create the sample data
transactions <- data.table::data.table(
  transaction_id = c("T001", "T002", "T003"),
  customer_id = c("C001", "C002", "C001"),
  product_id = c("P001", "P002", "P001"),
  amount = c(10.0, 20.0, 15.0)
)

# 2. Parse and evaluate the first generated statement
revenue_by_customer_code <- generated_code["customer_id"]
cat("Executing code:\n", revenue_by_customer_code)
revenue_by_customer_dt <- eval(parse(text = revenue_by_customer_code))
print(revenue_by_customer_dt)
```

---

map_join_paths	<i>Discover Potential Join Paths from Metadata and Data</i>
----------------	-------------------------------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Analyzes metadata for explicit joins and optionally scans data to infer additional joins. Handles single- and multi-variable join keys.

**Usage**

```
map_join_paths(metadata_dt, data_list = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

metadata_dt	A data.table containing the master metadata.
data_list	A named list of data.tables (names match table_name in metadata_dt). If provided, scans data to find inferred join paths. Defaults to NULL.

**Value**

A data.table representing the "Join Map" with columns: table\_from, table\_to, key\_from, key\_to

---

plot_join_plan	<i>Plot a Join Plan as a Flowchart</i>
----------------	----------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Takes a plan generated by create\_join\_plan() and creates a flowchart visualizing the sequence of aggregations and merges.

**Usage**

```
plot_join_plan(join_plan)
```

**Arguments**

join_plan	A data.table created by create_join_plan().
-----------	---------------------------------------------

**Value**

A DiagrammeR graph object that can be printed to the RStudio Viewer pane.

---

products	<i>Sample Product Data</i>
----------	----------------------------

---

### Description

A sample dataset containing product information included with the DBmaps package.

### Usage

```
products
```

### Format

A data.table with 3 variables:

**product\_id** A unique identifier for each product.

**category** The category to which the product belongs.

**original\_price** The original price of the product.

### Source

Generated for package examples.

---

table_info	<i>Define Metadata for a Data Table in a Tidy data.table</i>
------------	--------------------------------------------------------------

---

### Description

Takes descriptive information about a table and returns a tidy data.table.

### Usage

```
table_info(
  table_name,
  source_identifier,
  identifier_columns,
  key_outcome_specs
)
```

### Arguments

**table\_name** Character string, the conceptual name of the table.

**source\_identifier**

Character string, the file name or DB table identifier.

**identifier\_columns**

Character vector, names of column(s) acting as primary key(s).

**key\_outcome\_specs**

A list of 'OutcomeSpec' lists.



**Value**

A tidy data.table with the table's metadata. The identifier\_columns and grouping\_variables columns are list-columns.

**Examples**

```
transactions_info <- table_info(
  table_name = "transactions",
  source_identifier = "transactions.csv",
  identifier_columns = c("customer_id", "product_id", "time"),
  key_outcome_specs = list(
    list(
      OutcomeName = "Revenue",
      ValueExpression = quote(price * quantity),
      AggregationMethods = list(
        list(AggregatedName = "RevenueByCustomer", AggregationFunction = "sum",
              GroupingVariables = "customer_id"),
        list(AggregatedName = "RevenueByProduct", AggregationFunction = "sum",
              GroupingVariables = "product_id")
      )
    )
  )
)
# Note the structure of the list-columns
print(transactions_info)
str(transactions_info[, .(identifier_columns, grouping_variable)])
```

---

transactions

*Sample Transaction Data*

---

**Description**

A sample dataset of transaction events, linking customers and products. This is a typical "fact" table in a relational schema.

**Usage**

```
transactions
```

**Format**

A data.table with 5 variables:

**customer\_id** Identifier for the customer making the transaction.

**product\_id** Identifier for the product being purchased.

**time** The timestamp of the transaction (POSIXct format).

**quantity** The number of units of the product purchased.

**price** The price per unit at the time of transaction.

**Source**

Generated for package examples.

---

views

*Sample Product View Data*

---

**Description**

A sample dataset of product view events, linking customers and products. This is a smaller, sampled version of a potentially very large event log.

**Usage**

views

**Format**

A data.table with 3 variables:

**customer\_id** Identifier for the customer viewing the product.

**product\_id** Identifier for the product being viewed.

**time** The timestamp of the view event (POSIXct format).

**Source**

Generated for package examples.

# Index

## \* **datasets**

- customers, [4](#)
- products, [8](#)
- transactions, [9](#)
- views, [10](#)

add\_table, [2](#)

create\_join\_plan, [2](#)

create\_metadata\_registry, [4](#)

customers, [4](#)

execute\_join\_plan, [5](#)

generate\_aggregation\_code, [5](#)

map\_join\_paths, [7](#)

plot\_join\_plan, [7](#)

products, [8](#)

table\_info, [8](#)

transactions, [9](#)

views, [10](#)