Package 'readMDTable'

July 23, 2025

Title Read Markdown Tables into Tibbles

Version 0.3.2

Description Efficient reading of raw markdown tables into tibbles. Designed to accept content from strings, files, and URLs with the ability to extract and read multiple tables from markdown for analysis.

Depends R (>= 4.1.0)

Imports cli, httr2, readr, purrr, stringr

URL https://github.com/jrdnbradford/readMDTable, https://jrdnbradford.github.io/readMDTable/

BugReports https://github.com/jrdnbradford/readMDTable/issues

License GPL (>= 3)

Encoding UTF-8

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`extract_md_tables` *Extract Markdown Tables from Markdown Files*

Description

Extract Markdown Tables from Markdown Files

Usage

```
extract_md_tables(file, ...)

extract_md_table(file, ...)
```

Arguments

`file`	Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector). Files starting with `http://`, `https://`, `ftp://`, or `ftps://` will be automatically downloaded.
`...`	Arguments passed on to `readr::read_delim` `quote` Single character used to quote strings. `escape_backslash` Does the file use backslashes to escape special characters? This is more general than `escape_double` as backslashes can be used to escape the delimiter character, the quote character, or to add special characters like `\\n`. `escape_double` Does the file escape quotes by doubling them? i.e. If this option is `TRUE`, the value `""""` represents a single quote, `\"`. `col_names` Either `TRUE`, `FALSE` or a character vector of column names. If `TRUE`, the first row of the input will be used as the column names, and will not be included in the data frame. If `FALSE`, column names will be generated automatically: X1, X2, X3 etc. If `col_names` is a character vector, the values will be used as the names of the columns, and the first row of the input will be read into the first row of the output data frame. Missing (`NA`) column names will generate a warning, and be filled in with dummy names `...1`, `...2` etc. Duplicate column names will generate a warning and be made unique, see `name_repair` to control how this is done. `col_types` One of `NULL`, a `cols()` specification, or a string. See `vignette("readr")` for more details. If `NULL`, all column types will be inferred from `guess_max` rows of the input, interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If the guessed types are wrong, you'll need to increase `guess_max` or supply the correct types yourself. Column specifications created by `list()` or `cols()` must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use `cols_only()`.

Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:

- c = character
- i = integer
- n = number
- d = double
- l = logical
- f = factor
- D = date
- T = date time
- t = time
- ? = guess
- _ or - = skip

By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what `readr` guessed they were. To remove this message, set `show_col_types = FALSE` or set `options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE)`.

`col_select` Columns to include in the results. You can use the same mini-language as `dplyr::select()` to refer to the columns by name. Use `c()` to use more than one selection expression. Although this usage is less common, `col_select` also accepts a numeric column index. See `?tidyselect::language` for full details on the selection language.

`id` The name of a column in which to store the file path. This is useful when reading multiple input files and there is data in the file paths, such as the data collection date. If `NULL` (the default) no extra column is created.

`locale` The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use `locale()` to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.

`na` Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to `character()` to indicate no missing values.

`quoted_na` **[Deprecated]** Should missing values inside quotes be treated as missing values (the default) or strings. This parameter is soft deprecated as of readr 2.0.0.

`comment` A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.

`skip` Number of lines to skip before reading data. If `comment` is supplied any commented lines are ignored *after* skipping.

`n_max` Maximum number of lines to read.

`guess_max` Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. Will never use more than the number of lines read. See `vignette("column-types", package = "readr")` for more details.

`name_repair` Handling of column names. The default behaviour is to ensure column names are `"unique"`. Various repair strategies are supported:

- `"minimal"`: No name repair or checks, beyond basic existence of names.

- "unique" (default value): Make sure names are unique and not empty.
- "check_unique": No name repair, but check they are unique.
- "unique_quiet": Repair with the unique strategy, quietly.
- "universal": Make the names unique and syntactic.
- "universal_quiet": Repair with the universal strategy, quietly.
- A function: Apply custom name repair (e.g., name_repair = make.names for names in the style of base R).
- A purrr-style anonymous function, see rlang::as_function().

This argument is passed on as repair to vctrs::vec_as_names(). See there for more details on these terms and the strategies used to enforce them.

num_threads The number of processing threads to use for initial parsing and lazy reading of data. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser should automatically detect this and fall back to using one thread only. However if you know your file has newlines within quoted fields it is safest to set num_threads = 1 explicitly.

progress Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option readr.show_progress to FALSE.

show_col_types If FALSE, do not show the guessed column types. If TRUE always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If NULL (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the col_types argument.

skip_empty_rows Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is TRUE then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is FALSE then they will be represented by NA values in all the columns.

lazy Read values lazily? By default, this is FALSE, because there are special considerations when reading a file lazily that have tripped up some users. Specifically, things get tricky when reading and then writing back into the same file. But, in general, lazy reading (lazy = TRUE) has many benefits, especially for interactive use and when your downstream work only involves a subset of the rows or columns.
Learn more in should_read_lazy() and in the documentation for the altrep argument of vroom::vroom().

Details

extract_md_tables captures all the markdown tables from file and returns a tibble or list of tibbles.

Value

A tibble or list of tibbles extracted from the markdown tables in file.

Examples

```
md <-
```

```
"# Heading 1

This example splits the `mtcars` dataset into several different tables
with the same header.

## Table 1
The first table contains the initial four rows of the `mtcars` dataset.

|model              |mpg |cyl|disp |hp |drat|wt   |qsec |vs |am |gear|carb|
|-------------------|----|---|-----|---|----|-----|-----|---|---|----|----|
|Mazda RX4          |21  |6  |160  |110|3.9 |2.62 |16.46|0  |1  |4   |4   |
|Mazda RX4 Wag      |21  |6  |160  |110|3.9 |2.875|17.02|0  |1  |4   |4   |
|Datsun 710         |22.8|4  |108  |93 |3.85|2.32 |18.61|1  |1  |4   |1   |
|Hornet 4 Drive     |21.4|6  |258  |110|3.08|3.215|19.44|1  |0  |3   |1   |

## Table 2
The second table includes the next four rows of the dataset.

|model              |mpg |cyl|disp |hp |drat|wt   |qsec |vs |am |gear|carb|
|-------------------|----|---|-----|---|----|-----|-----|---|---|----|----|
|Hornet Sportabout  |18.7|8  |360  |175|3.15|3.44 |17.02|0  |0  |3   |2   |
|Valiant            |18.1|6  |225  |105|2.76|3.46 |20.22|1  |0  |3   |1   |
|Duster 360         |14.3|8  |360  |245|3.21|3.57 |15.84|0  |0  |3   |4   |
|Merc 240D          |24.4|4  |146.7|62 |3.69|3.19 |20   |1  |0  |4   |2   |

## Tables 3 and 4
The last two tables contain four and six rows, respectively.

|model              |mpg |cyl|disp |hp |drat|wt   |qsec |vs |am |gear|carb|
|-------------------|----|---|-----|---|----|-----|-----|---|---|----|----|
|Cadillac Fleetwood |10.4|8  |472  |205|2.93|5.25 |17.98|0  |0  |3   |4   |
|Lincoln Continental|10.4|8  |460  |215|3   |5.424|17.82|0  |0  |3   |4   |
|Chrysler Imperial  |14.7|8  |440  |230|3.23|5.345|17.42|0  |0  |3   |4   |
|Fiat 128           |32.4|4  |78.7 |66 |4.08|2.2  |19.47|1  |1  |4   |1   |

|model              |mpg |cyl|disp |hp |drat|wt   |qsec |vs |am |gear|carb|
|-------------------|----|---|-----|---|----|-----|-----|---|---|----|----|
|Porsche 914-2      |26  |4  |120.3|91 |4.43|2.14 |16.7 |0  |1  |5   |2   |
|Lotus Europa       |30.4|4  |95.1 |113|3.77|1.513|16.9 |1  |1  |5   |2   |
|Ford Pantera L     |15.8|8  |351  |264|4.22|3.17 |14.5 |0  |1  |5   |4   |
|Ferrari Dino       |19.7|6  |145  |175|3.62|2.77 |15.5 |0  |1  |5   |6   |
|Maserati Bora      |15  |8  |301  |335|3.54|3.57 |14.6 |0  |1  |5   |8   |
|Volvo 142E         |21.4|4  |121  |109|4.11|2.78 |18.6 |1  |1  |4   |2   |

# Conclusion
These four markdown tables contain the classic `mtcars` dataset."

# Extract tables from the markdown file
tables <- extract_md_tables(md, show_col_types = FALSE)

# Display the 2nd table in the list
tables[[2]]
```

`read_md_table` *Read a Markdown Table into a Tibble*

Description

Read a Markdown Table into a Tibble

Usage

```
read_md_table(file, warn = TRUE, force = FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

`file`	Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector). Files starting with `http://`, `https://`, `ftp://`, or `ftps://` will be automatically downloaded.
`warn`	Boolean. Should warnings be raised if `file` does not appear to be a markdown table? Defaults to `TRUE`.
`force`	Boolean. Should `read_md_table` attempt to read in a table that does not fit the regex? This param should be used carefully as it may cause `read_md_table` to return unexpected data. Defaults to `FALSE`.
`...`	Arguments passed on to `readr::read_delim` `quote` Single character used to quote strings. `escape_backslash` Does the file use backslashes to escape special characters? This is more general than `escape_double` as backslashes can be used to escape the delimiter character, the quote character, or to add special characters like `\\n`. `escape_double` Does the file escape quotes by doubling them? i.e. If this option is `TRUE`, the value `""""` represents a single quote, `\"`. `col_names` Either `TRUE`, `FALSE` or a character vector of column names. If `TRUE`, the first row of the input will be used as the column names, and will not be included in the data frame. If `FALSE`, column names will be generated automatically: X1, X2, X3 etc. If `col_names` is a character vector, the values will be used as the names of the columns, and the first row of the input will be read into the first row of the output data frame. Missing (`NA`) column names will generate a warning, and be filled in with dummy names `...1`, `...2` etc. Duplicate column names will generate a warning and be made unique, see `name_repair` to control how this is done. `col_types` One of `NULL`, a `cols()` specification, or a string. See `vignette("readr")` for more details. If `NULL`, all column types will be inferred from `guess_max` rows of the input, interspersed throughout the file. This is convenient (and fast), but not robust. If the guessed types are wrong, you'll need to increase `guess_max` or supply the correct types yourself.

Column specifications created by `list()` or `cols()` must contain one column specification for each column. If you only want to read a subset of the columns, use `cols_only()`.
Alternatively, you can use a compact string representation where each character represents one column:

- c = character
- i = integer
- n = number
- d = double
- l = logical
- f = factor
- D = date
- T = date time
- t = time
- ? = guess
- _ or - = skip

By default, reading a file without a column specification will print a message showing what `readr` guessed they were. To remove this message, set `show_col_types = FALSE` or set `options(readr.show_col_types = FALSE)`.

`col_select` Columns to include in the results. You can use the same mini-language as `dplyr::select()` to refer to the columns by name. Use `c()` to use more than one selection expression. Although this usage is less common, `col_select` also accepts a numeric column index. See `?tidyselect::language` for full details on the selection language.

`id` The name of a column in which to store the file path. This is useful when reading multiple input files and there is data in the file paths, such as the data collection date. If `NULL` (the default) no extra column is created.

`locale` The locale controls defaults that vary from place to place. The default locale is US-centric (like R), but you can use `locale()` to create your own locale that controls things like the default time zone, encoding, decimal mark, big mark, and day/month names.

`na` Character vector of strings to interpret as missing values. Set this option to `character()` to indicate no missing values.

`quoted_na` **[Deprecated]** Should missing values inside quotes be treated as missing values (the default) or strings. This parameter is soft deprecated as of readr 2.0.0.

`comment` A string used to identify comments. Any text after the comment characters will be silently ignored.

`skip` Number of lines to skip before reading data. If `comment` is supplied any commented lines are ignored *after* skipping.

`n_max` Maximum number of lines to read.

`guess_max` Maximum number of lines to use for guessing column types. Will never use more than the number of lines read. See `vignette("column-types", package = "readr")` for more details.

`name_repair` Handling of column names. The default behaviour is to ensure column names are `"unique"`. Various repair strategies are supported:

- `"minimal"`: No name repair or checks, beyond basic existence of names.
- `"unique"` (default value): Make sure names are unique and not empty.
- `"check_unique"`: No name repair, but check they are `unique`.
- `"unique_quiet"`: Repair with the `unique` strategy, quietly.
- `"universal"`: Make the names `unique` and syntactic.
- `"universal_quiet"`: Repair with the `universal` strategy, quietly.
- A function: Apply custom name repair (e.g., `name_repair = make.names` for names in the style of base R).
- A purrr-style anonymous function, see `rlang::as_function()`.

This argument is passed on as `repair` to `vctrs::vec_as_names()`. See there for more details on these terms and the strategies used to enforce them.

`num_threads` The number of processing threads to use for initial parsing and lazy reading of data. If your data contains newlines within fields the parser should automatically detect this and fall back to using one thread only. However if you know your file has newlines within quoted fields it is safest to set `num_threads = 1` explicitly.

`progress` Display a progress bar? By default it will only display in an interactive session and not while knitting a document. The automatic progress bar can be disabled by setting option `readr.show_progress` to `FALSE`.

`show_col_types` If `FALSE`, do not show the guessed column types. If `TRUE` always show the column types, even if they are supplied. If `NULL` (the default) only show the column types if they are not explicitly supplied by the `col_types` argument.

`skip_empty_rows` Should blank rows be ignored altogether? i.e. If this option is `TRUE` then blank rows will not be represented at all. If it is `FALSE` then they will be represented by `NA` values in all the columns.

`lazy` Read values lazily? By default, this is `FALSE`, because there are special considerations when reading a file lazily that have tripped up some users. Specifically, things get tricky when reading and then writing back into the same file. But, in general, lazy reading (`lazy = TRUE`) has many benefits, especially for interactive use and when your downstream work only involves a subset of the rows or columns.

Learn more in `should_read_lazy()` and in the documentation for the `altrep` argument of `vroom::vroom()`.

Details

`read_md_table` reads a markdown table into a tibble from a string, file, or URL. It uses `readr::read_delim` to efficiently read in data.

`read_md_table` expects `file` to be a raw markdown table. If `file` is a markdown file that contains more than just a table or tables, the table(s) should be read in with `extract_md_tables` instead.

If `warn` is `TRUE`, `read_md_table` will warn if there are potential issues with the provided markdown table. Depending on the issue, `read_md_table` may still correctly read the table if `force` is `TRUE`. `readr::read_delim` will provide its own warnings if there are potential issues.

Value

A tibble created from the markdown table, or NULL.

Examples

```
# Read from a file
read_md_table(read_md_table_example("mtcars.md"))

# Read from a string
read_md_table(
  "| H1 | H2 | \n|-----|-----|\n| R1C1 | R1C2 |\n| R2C1 | R2C2 |",
  warn = FALSE,
  force = TRUE
)


# Read from a URL
read_md_table(
  "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jrdnbradford/readMDTable/main/inst/extdata/iris.md"
)


# Get warning for malformed tables
read_md_table(
  "| Name  | Age | City        | Date       |
   |-------|-----|-------------|------------|
   | Alice | 30  | New York    | 2021/01/08 |
   | Bob   | 25  | Los Angeles | 2023/07/22 |
     Carol | 27  | Chicago     | 2022/11/01  ",
  force = TRUE
)
```

---

read_md_table_example *Get Path to readMDTable Examples*

Description

Get Path to readMDTable Examples

Usage

```
read_md_table_example(file = NULL)
```

Arguments

file	Name of file. If NULL, the example files will be listed.

Details

readMDTable comes with a number of well-known datasets as example markdown tables in the `inst/extdata` directory. `read_md_table_example` will list the file names or return the path of a specified file.

Value

Vector of example file names if `file` is `NULL`, else the path to the example markdown table file.

Examples

```
# List the available example files
read_md_table_example()

# Get the path to the mtcars example file
read_md_table_example("mtcars.md")

# Read in an example file
mtcars_path <- read_md_table_example("mtcars.md")
read_md_table(mtcars_path)
```

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