

# Package ‘alabaster.matrix’

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**Title** Load and Save Artifacts from File

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## **Description**

Save matrices, arrays and similar objects into file artifacts, and load them back into memory. This is a more portable alternative to serialization of such objects into RDS files. Each artifact is associated with metadata for further interpretation; downstream applications can enrich this metadata with context-specific properties.

**Depends** alabaster.base

**Imports** methods, BiocGenerics, S4Vectors, DelayedArray (>= 0.27.2), S4Arrays, SparseArray, rhdf5 (>= 2.47.1), HDF5Array, Matrix, Rcpp

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|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| AmalgamatedArray | <i>Amalgamated array class</i> |
|------------------|--------------------------------|

---

### Description

Implements an amalgamated array, equivalent to a delayed combination of DelayedArray objects. It allows `stageObject` to save a combination of multiple matrices without actually aggregating their data into a single file.

### Constructors

`AmalgamatedArraySeed(..., along=1)` accepts any number of named array-like objects and returns a `AmalgamatedArraySeed`. Each object corresponds to a block and should be named accordingly; names should be unique and non-empty. The `along` argument specifies the dimension in which matrices should be combined - for matrices, this is 1 for rows, 2 for columns.

`AmalgamatedArray(..., along=1)` accepts any number of named array-like objects and returns a `AmalgamatedArray`. Alternatively, a single `AmalgamatedArraySeed` may be provided in ...

### Functions

`componentNames(x)` will return a character vector of names of component arrays in a `AmalgamatedArray(Seed)` object `x`.

`extractComponents(x)` will return a named list of array-like objects, corresponding to the component arrays used to construct the `AmalgamatedArray(Seed)` object `x`.

`stageObject(x, dir, path, child = FALSE)` will save the `AmalgamatedArray` `x` and its components into the `path` inside `dir`. Each component array is staged into its own subdirectory inside `path`.

**Comments on usage**

The AmalgamatedArraySeed is closely related to (and in fact, is a subclass of) the [DelayedAbind](#) class. This means that we can leverage many of the **DelayedArray** methods for handling the delayed bind. In theory, we could just use a [DelayedAbind](#) directly and save it with **chihaya** in [stageObject](#) (via [preserveDelayedOperations\(TRUE\)](#)). However, this provides fewer opportunities for tracking and manipulating the samples. It also saves the per-sample matrices into a single file, which eliminates possibilities for per-file deduplication and linking, e.g., with [recycleHdf5Files\(TRUE\)](#).

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**Examples**

```
first <- Matrix::rsparsematrix(10, 10, 0.1)
second <- Matrix::rsparsematrix(10, 20, 0.1)
mat <- AmalgamatedArray(list(foo = first, bar = second), along=2)
mat

componentNames(mat)
out <- extractComponents(mat)
lapply(out, dim)
```

---

createRawArraySeed     *Array loading utilities*

---

**Description**

Utilities for loading an array saved by [stageObject](#).

**Usage**

```
.createRawArraySeed(info, project, names = TRUE)

.extractArrayDimnames(path, group, ndim)
```

**Arguments**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| info    | A named list of metadata for this array.   |
| project | Any argument accepted by the acquisition functions, see <a href="#">?acquireFile</a> . By default, this should be a string containing the path to a staging directory. |
| names   | Logical scalar indicating whether the seed should be annotated with dimnames (if available).   |
| path    | String containing the path to the file containing said array.  |
| group   | String containing the name of the group with the dimnames.   |
| ndim    | Integer scalar specifying the number of dimensions.  |

## Details

For `.createArraySeed`, the array should be one of:

- `hdf5_dense_array`
- `hdf5_sparse_matrix`
- `hdf5_delayed_array`
- `amalgamated_array`

For delayed arrays, the file may contain a seed array with the "custom alabaster local array" type. This should have a path dataset containing a relative path to another array in the same project, which is loaded and used as the seed for this delayed array. Callers can overwrite this behavior by setting "custom alabaster local array" in the knownArrays from **chihaya** before calling `.createRawArraySeed`.

For `.extractArrayDimnames`, path is expected to be a HDF5 file with a group specified by group. Each child of this group is a string dataset named after a (0-indexed) dimension, containing the names for that dimension.

## Value

`.createRawArraySeed` returns a seed that can be used in the [DelayedArray](#) constructor.

`.extractArrayDimnames` returns a list of character vectors or NULL, containing the dimnames.

## Author(s)

Aaron Lun

## Examples

```
# Staging an array as an example:
dir <- tempfile()
dir.create(dir)
mat <- array(rpois(10000, 10), c(50, 20, 10))
meta <- stageObject(mat, dir, "whee")

# Loading it back as a DelayedArray seed:
.createRawArraySeed(meta, project=dir)
```

---

DelayedMask

*Delayed masking*

---

## Description

Delayed masking of missing values, based on replacement of placeholder values with NA. This allows missingness to be encoded in frameworks without the same concept of NA as R.

## Usage

```
DelayedMask(x, placeholder)
```

## Arguments

`x` An existing **DelayedArray** seed.  
`placeholder` Placeholder value to replace with NA. This should be of the same type as `type(x)`.

## Details

If `is.na(placeholder)` is true for double-precision `x`, masking is performed for all values of `x` where `is.na` is true. This includes both NaNs and NAs; no attempt is made to distinguish between the NaN payloads.

Currently, an error is raised for any integer `x` that produces non-missing values of  $-2^{31}$  without a placeholder of `NA_integer_`. This is because R cannot distinguish the integer  $-2^{31}$  from an integer-type NA.

## Value

A `DelayedMask` object, to be wrapped in a `DelayedArray`.

## Author(s)

Aaron Lun

## Examples

```
original <- DelayedArray(matrix(rpois(40, lambda=2), ncol=5))
original
masked <- DelayedMask(original, 0)
DelayedArray(masked)
```

---

```
preserveDelayedOperations
```

*Preserve delayed operations during staging*

---

## Description

Preserve delayed operations via **chihaya** when staging a `DelayedArray` with `stageObject`.

## Usage

```
preserveDelayedOperations(preserve)
```

## Arguments

`preserve` Whether to preserve delayed operations using the **chihaya** specification.

**Details**

By default, any DelayedArray in `stageObject` will be saved as a new dense array or sparse matrix. However, if this option is enabled, DelayedArrays will instead be saved in the **chihaya** specification, where the delayed operations are themselves stored in the HDF5 file (see <https://tla.github.io/chihaya> for details).

The **chihaya** specification is more complicated to parse but can be helpful in reducing disk usage. One simple example is to avoid sparsity-breaking or integer-to-float operations by storing their delayed representations in the file. If the seed matrix is derived from some immutable reference location, advanced users can even store links to that location instead of duplicating the seed data.

**Value**

Logical scalar indicating whether delayed operations are to be preserved by the DelayedArray method. If `preserve` is supplied, it is used to set this scalar, and the *previous* value of the scalar is invisibly returned.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**Examples**

```
preserveDelayedOperations()
old <- preserveDelayedOperations(TRUE)
preserveDelayedOperations()
preserveDelayedOperations(old)
```

---

|           |                                     |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| readArray | <i>Read a dense array from disk</i> |
|-----------|-------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Read a dense high-dimensional array from its on-disk representation. This is usually not directly called by users, but is instead called by dispatch in `readObject`.

**Usage**

```
readArray(path, metadata, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| path     | String containing a path to a directory, itself created by the <code>saveObject</code> method for a dense array. |
| metadata | Named list of metadata for this object, see <code>readObject</code> for more details.                            |
| ...      | Further arguments, ignored.  |

**Value**

A dense file-backed [ReloadedArray](#).

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**See Also**

["saveObject,array-method"](#), to create the directory and its contents.

**Examples**

```
arr <- array(rpois(10000, 10), c(50, 20, 10))
dimnames(arr) <- list(
  paste0("GENE_", seq_len(nrow(arr))),
  letters[1:20],
  NULL
)

dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(arr, dir)
readObject(dir)
```

---

|                  |                                       |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| readDelayedArray | <i>Read a delayed array from disk</i> |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Read a delayed high-dimensional array from its on-disk representation. This is usually not directly called by users, but is instead called by dispatch in [readObject](#).

**Usage**

```
readDelayedArray(path, metadata, delayed_array.reload.args = list(), ...)
```

**Arguments**

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| path                      | String containing a path to a directory, itself created by the <a href="#">saveObject</a> method for a delayed array. |
| metadata                  | Named list of metadata for this object, see <a href="#">readObject</a> for more details.                              |
| delayed_array.reload.args | Named list of arguments to be passed to <a href="#">reloadDelayedObject</a> .   |
| ...                       | Further arguments, ignored.   |

**Value**

A multi-dimensional array-like object.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**See Also**

["saveObject,DelayedArray-method"](#), to create the directory and its contents.

**Examples**

```
arr <- array(rpois(10000, 10), c(50, 20, 10))
dimnames(arr) <- list(
  paste0("GENE_", seq_len(nrow(arr))),
  letters[1:20],
  NULL
)

dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(arr, dir)
readObject(dir)
```

---

readSparseMatrix      *Read a sparse matrix from disk*

---

**Description**

Read a sparse matrix from its on-disk representation. This is usually not directly called by users, but is instead called by dispatch in [readObject](#).

**Usage**

```
readSparseMatrix(path, metadata, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| path     | String containing a path to a directory, itself created by the <a href="#">saveObject</a> method for a sparse matrix. |
| metadata | Named list of metadata for this object, see <a href="#">readObject</a> for more details.                              |
| ...      | Further arguments, ignored.   |

**Value**

A sparse [ReloadedMatrix](#) object.



**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**See Also**["saveObject,sparseMatrix-method"](#), to create the directory and its contents.**Examples**

```
mat <- Matrix::rsparsematrix(100, 200, density=0.2)
rownames(mat) <- paste0("GENE_", seq_len(nrow(mat)))
dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(mat, dir)
readObject(dir)
```

---

|                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| recycleHdf5Files | <i>Recycle existing HDF5 files</i> |
|------------------|------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Re-use existing files in HDF5-backed arrays rather than reserializing them in [stageObject](#).

**Usage**

```
recycleHdf5Files(recycle)
```

**Arguments**

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| recycle | Whether to recycle existing files for HDF5-backed DelayedArrays. |
|---------|--|

**Details**

If this options is enabled, `stageObject` will attempt to link/copy existing files for any HDF5-backed DelayedArray instances - most specifically, [HDF5Array](#) objects and [H5SparseMatrix](#) objects using the 10X format. This avoids re-serialization of the data for faster staging. It also allows advanced users to add their own customizations into the HDF5 file during staging, as long as they do not interfere with [loadArray](#).

By default, this option is disabled as the properties of the existing file are not known in the general case. In particular, the file might contain other groups/datasets that are irrelevant, and use up extra disk space if copied; or confidential, and should not be stored in the staging directory. Users should only enable this option if they have full control over the generation and contents of the backing HDF5 files.

Also note that any dimnames on x will be ignored during recycling.

**Value**

Logical scalar indicating whether HDF5 files are to be reused. If `recycle` is supplied, it is used to set this scalar, and the *previous* value of the scalar is invisibly returned.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**Examples**

```
recycleHdf5Files()
old <- recycleHdf5Files(TRUE)
recycleHdf5Files()
recycleHdf5Files(old)
```

---

ReloadedArraySeed      *Reloaded **alabaster** array*

---

**Description**

An array that was reloaded from disk by the `readObject` function. This allows methods to refer to the existing on-disk representation by inspecting the path. For example, `saveObject` can just copy/link to the files instead of repeating the saving process.

**Usage**

```
ReloadedArraySeed(path, seed = NULL, ...)
```

```
ReloadedArray(path, seed = NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <code>path</code> | String containing a path to the directory with the on-disk array representation. Alternatively an existing <code>ReloadedArraySeed</code> , which is returned without modification.      |
| <code>seed</code> | Contents of the loaded array, e.g., as an ordinary R array, a <code>DelayedArray</code> or a sparse matrix. If <code>NULL</code> , this is obtained by calling <code>readObject</code> . |
| <code>...</code>  | Further arguments to pass to <code>readObject</code> when <code>seed=NULL</code> .   |

**Details**

The `ReloadedArraySeed` is a subclass of the `WrapperArraySeed` and will just forward all operations to the underlying seed. Its main purpose is to track the path that was originally used to generate seed, which enables optimizations for methods that need to operate on the files.

One obvious optimization is the specialization of `saveObject` on `ReloadedArray` instances. Instead of loading the array data back into the R session and saving it again, the `saveObject` method can just

link or copy the existing files. This behavior is controlled by the optional `ReloadedArray.reuse.files` option in the `saveObject` method, which can be one of:

- "copy": copy the files from the original directory (as stored in the `ReloadedArray` object) to the new path specified in `saveObject`.
- "link": create a hard link from the files in the original directory to the new path. If this fails, we silently fall back to a copy. This mode is the default approach.
- "symlink": create a symbolic link from the files in the original directory to the new path.
- "none": ignore existing files and just save the contents by calling "`saveObject,DelayedArray-method`".

### Value

For the constructors, an instance of the [ReloadedArraySeed](#) or [ReloadedArray](#).

### Examples

```
arr <- array(rpois(10000, 10), c(50, 20, 10))
dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(arr, dir)
obj <- readArray(dir)
obj
DelayedArray::showtree(obj)
```

---

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| saveArray | <i>Save a multi-dimensional array to disk</i> |
|-----------|---|

---

### Description

Save a high-dimensional array to its on-disk representations.

### Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'array'
saveObject(x, path, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'denseMatrix'
saveObject(x, path, ...)
```

### Arguments

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <code>x</code>    | An integer, numeric, logical or character array. Alternatively, any of the <a href="#">denseMatrix</a> subclasses from the <b>Matrix</b> package. |
| <code>path</code> | String containing the path to a directory in which to save <code>x</code> .   |
| <code>...</code>  | Further arguments, currently ignored.   |

**Value**

x is saved to path and NULL is invisibly returned.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**See Also**

[readArray](#), to read the directory contents back into the R session.

**Examples**

```
mat <- array(rpois(10000, 10), c(50, 20, 10))
dimnames(mat) <- list(
  paste0("GENE_", seq_len(nrow(mat))),
  letters[1:20],
  NULL
)

dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(mat, dir)
list.files(dir)
```

---

saveDelayedArray

*Save DelayedArrays to disk*

---

**Description**

Save [DelayedArray](#) objects to their on-disk representation.

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'DelayedArray'
saveObject(
  x,
  path,
  DelayedArray.dispatch.pristine = TRUE,
  DelayedArray.preserve.ops = FALSE,
  DelayedArray.store.args = list(),
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

x                    A [DelayedArray](#) object.

path                 String containing a path to a directory in which to save x.

DelayedArray.dispatch.pristine  
                     Logical scalar indicating whether to call the [saveObject](#) methods of seeds of  
                     pristine arrays.

DelayedArray.preserve.ops  
                     Logical scalar indicating whether delayed operations should be preserved on-  
                     disk.

DelayedArray.store.args  
                     Named arguments to pass to [storeDelayedObject](#).

...                  Further arguments, ignored.

**Value**

x is saved to path and NULL is invisibly returned.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**Examples**

```
mat <- Matrix::rsparsematrix(100, 200, density=0.2)
rownames(mat) <- paste0("GENE_", seq_len(nrow(mat)))
dmat <- DelayedArray::DelayedArray(mat) * 1

dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(dmat, dir, delayed.preserve.ops=TRUE)
list.files(dir)
```

---

saveSparseMatrix            *Save a sparse matrix to disk*

---

**Description**

Save a sparse matrix to its on-disk representations.

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'sparseMatrix'
saveObject(x, path, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'SVT_SparseMatrix'
saveObject(x, path, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| x    | A sparse matrix of some kind, typically from either the <b>Matrix</b> or <b>SparseArray</b> packages. |
| path | String containing the path to a directory in which to save x.   |
| ...  | Further arguments, currently ignored.   |

**Value**

x is saved to path and NULL is invisibly returned.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**See Also**

[readSparseMatrix](#), to read the directory contents back into the R session.

**Examples**

```
mat <- Matrix::rsparsematrix(100, 200, density=0.2)
rownames(mat) <- paste0("GENE_", seq_len(nrow(mat)))

dir <- tempfile()
saveObject(mat, dir)
list.files(dir)
```

---

storeDelayedObject      *Store operations in a DelayedArray*

---

**Description**

Store the delayed operations of a [DelayedArray](#) in a HDF5 file.

**Arguments**

|      |   |
|------|---|
| x    | Any of the delayed operation classes from <b>DelayedArray</b> . |
| file | String containing the path to a HDF5 file.                      |
| name | String containing the name of the group to save into.           |
| ...  | Arguments to be passed to specific methods.                     |

**Value**

The contents of x are saved to file, and NULL is invisibly returned.

**Author(s)**

Aaron Lun

**Examples**

```
library(DelayedArray)
X <- DelayedArray(matrix(runif(100), ncol=20))
Y <- cbind(X, DelayedArray::ConstantArray(value=50, c(5, 10)))

library(rhdf5)
temp <- tempfile()
dir.create(temp)

fpath <- file.path(temp, "foo.h5")
fhandle <- H5Fcreate(fpath)
storeDelayedObject(Y@seed, fhandle, "YAY")
rhdf5::h5ls(fhandle)
H5Fclose(fhandle)

fhandle <- H5Fopen(fpath, "H5F_ACC_RDONLY")
reloadDelayedObject(fhandle, "YAY")
H5Fclose(fhandle)
```

---

 WrapperArraySeed

*DelayedArray wrapper seed*


---

**Description**

The WrapperArraySeed is, as the name suggests, a virtual class for a DelayedArray wrapper seed. This forwards most of the DelayedArray generic operations onto an internal seed class, typically a [H5SparseMatrixSeed](#) or [HDF5ArraySeed](#) objects from [readSparseMatrix](#) or [readArray](#). Similarly, the WrapperArray is a virtual DelayedArray class that contains a WrapperArraySeed.

If an **alabaster** application operates on large arrays, developers may consider defining concrete subclasses of the WrapperArraySeed (and WrapperArray). These subclasses can store application-specific provenance-tracking information that persist throughout the lifetime of the array. Such information is most useful for optimizing [saveObject](#) calls, which can instruct the application to link to the existing array rather than creating a new file. Check out the [ReloadedArraySeed](#) class for an example of this approach.

**Examples**

```
# Mocking up a concrete wrapper array class, which contains an
# extra 'foo_id' slot to track the provenance of the data.
setClass("FooArraySeed", contains="WrapperArraySeed",
  slots=c(seed="ANY", foo_id="character"))

y <- Matrix::rsparsematrix(1000, 100, 0.01)
```

```
foo <- new("FooArraySeed", seed=y, foo_id="F00.0001")

dim(foo)
is_sparse(foo)
extract_array(foo, list(1:10, 1:10))
OLD_extract_sparse_array(foo, list(1:10, 1:10))
```

---

writeSparseMatrix      *Write a sparse matrix*

---

## Description

Writes a sparse matrix to file in a compressed sparse format.

## Usage

```
writeSparseMatrix(
  x,
  file,
  name,
  chunk = 10000,
  column = TRUE,
  tenx = FALSE,
  guess.integer = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| x             | A sparse matrix of some sort. This includes sparse <a href="#">DelayedMatrix</a> objects.    |
| file          | String containing a path to the HDF5 file. The file is created if it is not already present. |
| name          | String containing the name of the group to store x.  |
| chunk         | Integer scalar specifying the chunk size for the indices and values.                         |
| column        | Logical scalar indicating whether to store as compressed sparse column format.               |
| tenx          | Logical scalar indicating whether to use the 10X compressed sparse column format.            |
| guess.integer | Logical scalar specifying whether to guess an appropriate integer type from x.               |

## Details

This writes a sparse matrix to file in various formats:

- column=TRUE and tenx=FALSE uses H5AD's `csr_matrix` format.
- column=FALSE and tenx=FALSE uses H5AD's `csc_matrix` format.
- tenx=TRUE uses 10X Genomics' HDF5 matrix format.



For the first two formats, the apparent transposition is deliberate, because columns in R are interpreted as rows in H5AD. This allows us to retain consistency the interpretation of samples (columns in R, rows in H5AD) and features (vice versa). Constructors for classes like [H5SparseMatrix](#) will automatically transpose so no extra work is required.

If `guess.integer=TRUE`, we attempt to save `x`'s values into the smallest type that will accommodate all of its values. If `x` only contains unsigned integers, we will attempt to save either 8-, 16- or 32-bit unsigned integers. If `x` contains signed integers, we will fall back to 32-bit signed integers. For all other values, we will fall back to double-precision floating point values.

We attempt to save `x`'s indices to unsigned 16-bit integers if the relevant dimension of `x` is small enough. Otherwise we will save it as an unsigned 32-bit integer.

### Value

A NULL invisibly. The contents of `x` are written to `name` in `file`.

### Author(s)

Aaron Lun

### Examples

```
library(Matrix)
x <- rsparsematrix(100, 20, 0.5)
tmp <- tempfile(fileext=".h5")
writeSparseMatrix(x, tmp, "csc_matrix")
writeSparseMatrix(x, tmp, "csr_matrix", column=FALSE)
writeSparseMatrix(x, tmp, "tenx_matrix", tenx = TRUE)

rhdf5::h5ls(tmp)
library(HDF5Array)
H5SparseMatrix(tmp, "csc_matrix")
H5SparseMatrix(tmp, "csr_matrix")
H5SparseMatrix(tmp, "tenx_matrix")
```

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