

Package ‘twbparser’

September 30, 2025

Title Parse 'Tableau' Workbooks into Functional Data

Version 0.2.3

Description High-performance parsing of 'Tableau' workbook files into tidy data frames and dependency graphs for other visualization tools like R 'Shiny' or 'Power BI' replication.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://prigasg.github.io/twbparser/>,
<https://github.com/PrigasG/twbparser>

BugReports <https://github.com/PrigasG/twbparser/issues>

Depends R (>= 4.2.0)

Imports dplyr, igraph, purrr, R6, rlang, stringr, tibble, tidyr,
withr, xml2

Suggests cli, covr, ggraph, knitr, lintr, magrittr, optparse,
rmarkdown, spelling, styler, testthat (>= 3.0.0), tidygraph,
vctrs, zip

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

Encoding UTF-8

Language en-US

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

NeedsCompilation no

Author George Arthur [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1975-1459>>)

Maintainer George Arthur <prigasgenthian48@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-09-30 08:30:02 UTC

Contents

build_dependency_graph	2
extract_calculated_fields	3
extract_columns_with_table_source	4
extract_datasource_details	5
extract_joins	6
extract_named_connections	7
extract_parameters	8
extract_raw_fields	9
extract_relations	10
extract_relationships	11
extract_twbx_from_twbx	12
infer_implicit_relationships	12
plot_dependency_graph	13
plot_relationship_graph	14
plot_source_join_graph	15
prettify_calculated_fields	15
tableau_formula_pretty	16
tbs_custom_sql_graphql	16
tbs_publish_info	17
TwbParser	18
twbx_extract_files	19
twbx_list	20
twb_custom_sql	21
twb_initial_sql	21
twb_published_refs	22
validate_relationships	22
Index	24

build_dependency_graph

Build a field dependency graph from calculated fields

Description

Creates a directed graph where edges point from input fields used in a formula to the calculated output field. Tokens are extracted from bracketed references like [Table].[Field] or [Field].

Usage

```
build_dependency_graph(fields_df)
```

Arguments

fields_df A data frame with at least columns name and formula.

Value

An igraph directed graph where vertices are field names and edges represent dependencies (input -> output).

Examples

```
fields <- tibble::tibble(
  name = c("X_plus_Y", "Z"),
  formula = c("[X] + [Y]", "[X_plus_Y] * 2")
)
g <- build_dependency_graph(fields)
```

```
extract_calculated_fields
```

Extract calculated fields from a TWB

Description

Finds columns that contain <calculation> nodes and returns metadata and formulas, with a heuristic flag for table calculations.

Usage

```
extract_calculated_fields(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

`xml_doc` An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A tibble with columns:

datasource Datasource name.

name User-visible caption or cleaned internal name.

tableau_internal_name Internal Tableau name (often bracketed).

datatype Tableau datatype.

role Tableau role.

formula Calculation formula string.

calc_class Tableau calc class (often "tableau").

is_table_calc Heuristic flag for table calcs (e.g., WINDOW_, LOOKUP).

table Raw table reference.

table_clean Cleaned table name.

Examples

```
# A tiny TWB shipped with the package:
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
# Extract calculated fields
calcs <- extract_calculated_fields(xml)
head(calcs)
```

extract_columns_with_table_source

Extract columns with their source tables from a TWB

Description

Scans top-level <datasource> nodes (excluding view-specific references) and returns fields with raw names/captions, cleaned table/field names, and basic metadata.

Usage

```
extract_columns_with_table_source(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

`xml_doc` An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A tibble with columns:

datasource Datasource name.

name Raw column name (may include brackets/qualifiers).

caption Column caption if present.

datatype Tableau datatype.

role Tableau role.

semantic_role Semantic role if present.

table Raw table reference.

table_clean Cleaned table name (no brackets/suffix).

field_clean Cleaned field name.

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
fields <- extract_columns_with_table_source(xml)
```

extract_datasource_details

Extract datasource details from a Tableau TWB

Description

Gathers runtime tables (from the object graph), merges in named connection metadata (class, caption, targets), and augments with top-level datasource definitions (field counts, connection type, location). Also returns a filtered table of parameter datasources.

Usage

```
extract_datasource_details(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

`xml_doc` An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A named list with:

data_sources Tibble of datasources joined with connection metadata.

parameters Tibble of parameter datasources (if present).

all_sources Same as `data_sources` (placeholder for future variants).

Examples

```
# Preferred: from a tiny .twb
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
if (nzchar(twb) && file.exists(twb)) {
  xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
  res <- extract_datasource_details(xml)
  head(res$data_sources)
}
```

```
# Alternative: from a tiny .twbx
twbx <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_zip.twbx", package = "twbparser")
if (nzchar(twbx) && file.exists(twbx)) {
  members <- twbx_list(twbx)
```

```
twb_member <- members$Name[grepl("\\.twb$", members$Name)][1]
if (!is.na(twb_member)) {
xml <- xml2::read_xml(unz(twbx, twb_member))
res <- extract_datasource_details(xml)
head(res$data_sources)
}
}
```

extract_joins	<i>Extract Tableau join clauses from <relation type="join"> nodes</i>
---------------	---

Description

Handles both column-based clauses (<clause><column/></clause>) and expression-based predicates (<expression op=...>) found in TWB XML.

Usage

```
extract_joins(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A tibble with columns:

join_type Join kind (e.g., inner, left), if available.

left_table Left table name (cleaned).

left_field Left field name.

operator Predicate operator (defaults to "=" when missing).

right_table Right table name (cleaned).

right_field Right field name.

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
extract_joins(xml)
```

`extract_named_connections`*Extract <named-connection> entries from a TWB*

Description

Rich, safe extraction of <named-connection> nodes and their <connection> attributes into a tidy tibble.

Usage

```
extract_named_connections(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

`xml_doc` An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

Tibble with columns like `connection_id`, `connection_caption`, `connection_class`, `connection_target`, `dbname`, `schema`, `warehouse`, `region`, `filename`, and `location_named`.

Examples

```
# Preferred: read from a tiny '.twb'
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
if (nzchar(twb) && file.exists(twb)) {
  xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
  extract_named_connections(xml)
}

# Alternative: read from a tiny '.twbx'
twbx <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_zip.twbx", package = "twbparser")
if (nzchar(twbx) && file.exists(twbx)) {
  members <- twbx_list(twbx)
  twb_member <- members$Name[grepl("\\.twb$", members$Name)][1]
  if (!is.na(twb_member)) {
    xml <- xml2::read_xml(utils::unz(twbx, twb_member))
    extract_named_connections(xml)
  }
}
```

extract_parameters *Extract parameter fields from a TWB*

Description

Returns parameter columns (those with param-domain-type) and basic metadata, including a best-effort current value if present.

Usage

```
extract_parameters(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A tibble with columns:

datasource Datasource name.

name User-visible caption or cleaned internal name.

tableau_internal_name Internal Tableau name.

datatype Tableau datatype.

role Tableau role.

parameter_type Tableau parameter domain type.

allowable_type Underlying data-type (if present).

current_value Current value if specified.

is_parameter Always TRUE.

table Raw table reference.

table_clean Cleaned table name.

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
params <- extract_parameters(xml)
head(params)
```

extract_raw_fields	<i>Extract non-calculated, non-parameter fields from a TWB</i>
--------------------	--

Description

Returns raw columns excluding calculated fields and parameters.

Usage

```
extract_raw_fields(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

`xml_doc` An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A tibble with columns:

datasource Datasource name.

name User-visible caption or cleaned internal name.

tableau_internal_name Internal Tableau name.

datatype Tableau datatype.

role Tableau role.

is_hidden Whether the field is hidden.

is_parameter Always FALSE.

table Raw table reference.

table_clean Cleaned table name.

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
raw_fields <- extract_raw_fields(xml)
head(raw_fields)
```

extract_relations	<i>Extract all <relation> tags from a TWB</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Returns a tibble of <relation> elements found in a Tableau TWB XML, with key attributes and any custom SQL text.

Usage

```
extract_relations(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc	An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.
---------	--------------------------------------

Value

A tibble with columns:

name	Relation name
table	Table reference
connection	Connection ID
type	Relation type (table, join, etc.)
join	Join type if applicable
custom_sql	Inline SQL text if present

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
fields <- extract_columns_with_table_source(xml)
inferred <- infer_implicit_relationships(fields)
head(inferred)
```

extract_relationships *Extract modern relationships from a Tableau TWB*

Description

Parses Tableau "relationships" (introduced in 2020.2) between logical tables, including the join predicate fields and operator.

Usage

```
extract_relationships(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc An xml2 document for a Tableau .twb.

Value

A tibble with columns:

relationship_type	Always "Relationship"
left_table	Left table name
right_table	Right table name
left_field	Field name on left side
operator	Join operator (e.g., "=")
right_field	Field name on right side
left_is_calc	Logical, whether left field is a calculation
right_is_calc	Logical, whether right field is a calculation

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
extract_relationships(xml)
```

`extract_twb_from_twbx` *Extract the .twb (and optionally all files) from a .twbx*

Description

Extract the .twb (and optionally all files) from a .twbx

Usage

```
extract_twb_from_twbx(
  twbx_path,
  extract_dir = file.path(tempdir(), paste0("twbx_",
    tools::file_path_sans_ext(basename(twbx_path)), "_", format(Sys.time(),
      "%Y%m%d%H%M%S")),
  extract_all = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

`twbx_path` Path to a .twbx file.

`extract_dir` Directory to extract into (defaults to a timestamped temp dir).

`extract_all` If TRUE, extract entire archive; otherwise only the largest .twb.

Value

List with `twb_path`, `exdir`, `twbx_path`, and `manifest` (tibble).

Examples

```
twbx <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_zip.twbx", package = "twbparser")
res <- extract_twb_from_twbx(twbx, extract_all = FALSE)
basename(res$twb_path)
```

`infer_implicit_relationships`

Infer implicit relationships between tables from field metadata

Description

Generates candidate join pairs by:

- Matching `semantic_role` across different tables.
- Matching field names (case-insensitive) across different tables.

Usage

```
infer_implicit_relationships(fields_df, max_pairs = 50000L)
```

Arguments

fields_df A data frame like the output of `extract_columns_with_table_source()`.
max_pairs Maximum number of candidate pairs to return (default 50,000).

Value

A tibble with columns:

left_table Left table name.
left_field Left field name.
right_table Right table name.
right_field Right field name.
reason Why the pair was suggested.

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
stopifnot(nzchar(twb), file.exists(twb))
xml <- xml2::read_xml(twb)
fields <- extract_columns_with_table_source(xml)
inferred <- infer_implicit_relationships(fields)
head(inferred)
```

`plot_dependency_graph` *Plot a field dependency graph*

Description

Draws a quick base-graphics plot of a dependency graph. Vertices that are calculated fields (present in `fields_df$name`) are drawn differently.

Usage

```
plot_dependency_graph(g, fields_df = NULL, seed = NULL)
```

Arguments

g An igraph directed graph from `build_dependency_graph()`.
fields_df Optional data frame with a name column to mark calculated outputs.
seed Optional integer seed to make the layout reproducible. If NULL (default), the function will not alter the caller's RNG state.

Value

Invisibly returns g.

Examples

```
fields <- tibble::tibble(
  name = c("X_plus_Y", "Z"),
  formula = c("[X] + [Y]", "[X_plus_Y] * 2")
)
g <- build_dependency_graph(fields)
plot_dependency_graph(g, fields) # nondeterministic layout
plot_dependency_graph(g, fields, seed = 1) # deterministic layout
```

plot_relationship_graph

Plot a field-level relationship DAG (legacy)

Description

Uses relationships_df with columns left_table, right_table, left_field, right_field, and optional operator.

Usage

```
plot_relationship_graph(relationships_df, seed = NULL)
```

Arguments

relationships_df	Data frame of field-level relationships.
seed	Optional integer seed to make the layout reproducible. If NULL (default), the function preserves the caller's RNG state.

Value

Invisibly returns the plotted graph.

 plot_source_join_graph

Plot a source join graph

Description

Visualizes joins between sources. Expects joins_df with columns left_table, right_table, left_field, right_field. If relationships_df is provided (modern relationships), it will render a second graph highlighting those relationships.

Usage

```
plot_source_join_graph(joins_df, relationships_df = NULL, seed = NULL)
```

Arguments

joins_df	Data frame with join edges.
relationships_df	Optional data frame with modern relationships.
seed	Optional integer seed to make layouts reproducible. If NULL (default), the function preserves the caller's RNG state.

Value

Invisibly returns the join graph, or a list `list(joins = g, relationships = gr)` if relationships_df is provided.

 prettify_calculated_fields

Add a prettified formula column to calculated fields table

Description

Add a prettified formula column to calculated fields table

Usage

```
prettify_calculated_fields(calcs, strip_brackets = FALSE, wrap = 100L)
```

Arguments

calcs	tibble from extract_calculated_fields()
strip_brackets	logical
wrap	integer wrap width; default 100

Value

tibble with extra column formula_pretty

tableau_formula_pretty

Prettify a Tableau calculation formula for display

Description

Prettify a Tableau calculation formula for display

Usage

```
tableau_formula_pretty(formula, strip_brackets = FALSE, wrap = NA_integer_)
```

Arguments

formula	character scalar
strip_brackets	logical; remove [] around field names (default FALSE) []: R:%20
wrap	optional integer to hard-wrap lines (use NA to disable)

Value

character scalar (multi-line, indented)

tbs_custom_sql_graphql

Custom SQL (Metadata API) for a published item

Description

Queries the Metadata (GraphQL) API for Custom SQL tables in the content graph.

Usage

```
tbs_custom_sql_graphql(
  content_id,
  base_url = Sys.getenv("TABLEAU_BASE_URL"),
  site = Sys.getenv("TABLEAU_SITE"),
  token = Sys.getenv("TABLEAU_PAT")
)
```


Arguments

content_id	Character. Workbook or datasource ID (GUID).
base_url	Character. Server/Cloud base URL (e.g., "https://...").
site	Character. Site contentUrl ("" for default site).
token	Character. REST credentials token.

Value

A tibble with columns such as custom_sql_name, custom_sql_query, database, schema. Zero rows if none.

Examples

```
tbs_custom_sql_graphql("abc-123")
```

tbs_publish_info	<i>Publish info for a workbook or datasource on 'Tableau' Server/Cloud</i>
------------------	--

Description

Returns an empty tibble when credentials are missing or the item is not found.

Usage

```
tbs_publish_info(
  content_id,
  base_url = Sys.getenv("TABLEAU_BASE_URL"),
  site = Sys.getenv("TABLEAU_SITE"),
  token = Sys.getenv("TABLEAU_PAT")
)
```

Arguments

content_id	Character. Workbook or datasource ID (GUID).
base_url	Character. Server/Cloud base URL (e.g., "https://...").
site	Character. Site contentUrl ("" for the default site).
token	Character. REST credentials token (from a prior sign-in).

Value

A tibble with columns like content_id, site, project, web_url, created_at, updated_at. May be zero rows if unavailable.

Examples

```
tbs_publish_info("abc-123")
```

Description

Initialize the parser from a .twb or .twbx path.
 Return the TWBX manifest (if available).
 Return TWBX extract entries.
 Return TWBX image entries.
 Extract files from the TWBX to disk.
 Validate relationships; optionally stop on failure.
 Print a one-line summary of parsed content.

Arguments

path	Path to a .twb or .twbx file.
types	Optional vector of types (e.g., "image", "extract").
pattern	Optional regex to match archive paths.
files	Optional explicit archive paths to extract.
exdir	Output directory (defaults to parser's twbx dir or tempdir()).
error	If TRUE, stop() when validation fails.

Format

An R6 class generator.

Details

Create a parser for Tableau .twb / .twbx files. On initialization, the parser reads the XML and precomputes relationships, joins, fields, calculated fields, inferred relationships, and datasource details. For .twbx, it also extracts the largest .twb and records a manifest.

Fields

path Path to the .twb or .twbx file on disk.
xml_doc Parsed xml2 document of the workbook.
twbx_path Original .twbx path if the workbook was packaged.
twbx_dir Directory where the .twbx was extracted.
twbx_manifest Tibble of .twbx contents from twbx_list().
relations Tibble of <relation> nodes from extract_relations().
joins Tibble of join clauses from extract_joins().
relationships Tibble of modern relationships from extract_relationships().

inferred_relationships Tibble of inferred relationship pairs by name and role.
datasource_details List containing data_sources, parameters, and all_sources.
fields Tibble of raw fields with table information.
calculated_fields Tibble of calculated fields.
last_validation Result from validate() as list with ok and issues elements.

Methods

new(path) Create a parser from .twb or .twbx file.
get_twbx_manifest() Return .twbx manifest tibble.
get_twbx_extracts() Return .twbx extract entries.
get_twbx_images() Return .twbx image entries.
extract_twbx_assets(types, pattern, files, exdir) Extract files from .twbx archive.
get_relations() Return relations tibble.
get_joins() Return joins tibble.
get_relationships() Return modern relationships tibble.
get_inferred_relationships() Return inferred relationship pairs.
get_datasources() Return datasource details tibble.
get_parameters() Return parameters tibble.
get_datasources_all() Return all sources tibble.
get_fields() Return raw fields tibble.
get_calculated_fields(pretty = FALSE, strip_brackets = FALSE, wrap = 100L) Return calculated fields tibble. When pretty = TRUE, includes a formula_pretty column with line breaks and indentation.
validate(error = FALSE) Validate relationships. Stops execution if error = TRUE.
summary() Print a brief summary to console.

twbx_extract_files *Extract specific files from a .twbx*

Description

Extract specific files from a .twbx

Usage

```
twbx_extract_files(  
  twbx_path,  
  files = NULL,  
  pattern = NULL,  
  types = NULL,  
  exdir = NULL  
)
```

Arguments

twbx_path	Path to a .twbx.
files	Vector of archive paths to extract (optional).
pattern	Perl regex to match archive paths (optional).
types	Subset by .twbx entry type (see <code>twbx_list()</code>) (optional).
exdir	Output directory (defaults to temp).

Value

Tibble with name, type, and out_path of extracted files.

Examples

```
twbx <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_zip.twbx", package = "twbparser")
files <- twbx_extract_files(twbx, types = c("workbook"))
head(files)
```

twbx_list	<i>List contents of a Tableau .twbx</i>
-----------	---

Description

List contents of a Tableau .twbx

Usage

```
twbx_list(twbx_path)
```

Arguments

twbx_path	Path to a .twbx file.
-----------	-----------------------

Value

Tibble with columns: name, size_bytes, modified, type.

Examples

```
twbx <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_zip.twbx", package = "twbparser")
twbx_list(twbx)
```

twb_custom_sql	<i>Extract Custom SQL relations from a TWB XML</i>
----------------	--

Description

Extract Custom SQL relations from a TWB XML

Usage

```
twb_custom_sql(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc	An xml2 document for a .twb
---------	-----------------------------

Value

tibble with relation_name, relation_type, custom_sql

twb_initial_sql	<i>Extract Initial SQL statements from connections (if present)</i>
-----------------	---

Description

Extract Initial SQL statements from connections (if present)

Usage

```
twb_initial_sql(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc	An xml2 document for a .twb
---------	-----------------------------

Value

tibble with connection_id, initial_sql

twb_published_refs	<i>Detect likely references to published data sources (vs embedded)</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Detect likely references to published data sources (vs embedded)

Usage

```
twb_published_refs(xml_doc)
```

Arguments

xml_doc	An xml2 document for a .twb
---------	-----------------------------

Value

tibble with datasource name, caption, likely_published, hints

validate_relationships	<i>Validate relationships against available datasources and fields</i>
------------------------	--

Description

Checks that relationship endpoints reference known datasource tables and that the predicate fields appear somewhere in the workbook (calculated, raw, or parameter fields), using a lenient token match (e.g., INT([GEOID]) = GEOID).

Usage

```
validate_relationships(parser, strict = FALSE)
```

Arguments

parser	A TwbParser-like object that exposes: get_relationships(), get_datasources(), get_fields(), and get_calculated_fields(). (S3/R6 both fine.)
strict	Logical. Reserved for future table-scoped checks that can be overly conservative with federated sources. Currently not used.

Value

A list with:

ok TRUE if no issues; FALSE otherwise.

issues A named list of tibbles. Possible elements:

- unknown_tables: endpoints not found among known tables.
- unknown_fields: predicate fields not found in the field pool.

Examples

```
twb <- system.file("extdata", "test_for_wenjie.twb", package = "twbparser")
if (nzchar(twb) && file.exists(twb)) {
  parser <- TwbParser$new(twb)
  res <- validate_relationships(parser)
  if (!res$ok) print(res$issues)
}
```

Index

build_dependency_graph, 2
build_dependency_graph(), 13

extract_calculated_fields, 3
extract_columns_with_table_source, 4
extract_columns_with_table_source(),
13

extract_datasource_details, 5
extract_joins, 6
extract_named_connections, 7
extract_parameters, 8
extract_raw_fields, 9
extract_relations, 10
extract_relationships, 11
extract_twb_from_twbx, 12

infer_implicit_relationships, 12

plot_dependency_graph, 13
plot_relationship_graph, 14
plot_source_join_graph, 15
prettify_calculated_fields, 15

tableau_formula_pretty, 16
tbs_custom_sql_graphql, 16
tbs_publish_info, 17
twb_custom_sql, 21
twb_initial_sql, 21
twb_published_refs, 22
TWBParser (TwbParser), 18
TwbParser, 18
twbx_extract_files, 19
twbx_list, 20
twbx_list(), 20

validate_relationships, 22