

Package ‘profmem’

December 13, 2020

Version 0.6.0

Title Simple Memory Profiling for R

Imports utils

Suggests R.rsp, markdown, microbenchmark

VignetteBuilder R.rsp

Description A simple and light-weight API for memory profiling of R expressions. The profiling is built on top of R's built-in memory profiler ('utils::Rprofmem()'), which records every memory allocation done by R (also native code).

License LGPL (>= 2.1)

LazyLoad TRUE

URL <https://github.com/HenrikBengtsson/profmem>

BugReports <https://github.com/HenrikBengtsson/profmem/issues>

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

NeedsCompilation no

Author Henrik Bengtsson [aut, cre, cph]

Maintainer Henrik Bengtsson <henrikb@braju.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2020-12-13 20:40:02 UTC

R topics documented:

| | |
|------------------------|----------|
| profmem | 2 |
| readRprofmem | 4 |
| Index | 6 |

profmem

Memory profiling R

Description

profmem() evaluates and memory profiles an R expression.

profmem_begin() starts the memory profiling of all the following R evaluations until profmem_end() is called.

Usage

```
profmem(  
  expr,  
  envir = parent.frame(),  
  substitute = TRUE,  
  threshold = getOption("profmem.threshold", 0L)  
)  
  
profmem_begin(threshold = getOption("profmem.threshold", 0L))  
  
profmem_end()  
  
profmem_suspend()  
  
profmem_resume()  
  
profmem_status()  
  
profmem_depth()
```

Arguments

| | |
|------------|--|
| expr | An R expression to be evaluated and profiled. |
| envir | The environment in which the expression should be evaluated. |
| substitute | Should expr be <code>base::substitute():d</code> or not. |
| threshold | The smallest memory allocation (in bytes) to log. |

Details

In order for memory profiling to work, R must have been *built* with memory profiling enabled. Function `base::capabilities("profmem")` will return TRUE if it is enabled, otherwise FALSE. If memory profiling is *not* supported, profmem() and profmem_begin() will produce an informative error. The pre-built R binaries on [CRAN](#) support memory profiling.

What is logged? The profmem() function uses `utils::Rprofmem()` for logging memory, which logs all memory *allocations* that are done via the R framework. Specifically, the logger is tied to `allocVector3()` part of R's native API. This means that nearly all memory allocations done in R

are logged. *Neither* memory deallocations *nor* garbage collection events are logged. Furthermore, allocations done by non-R native libraries or R packages that use native code `Calloc()` / `Free()` for internal objects are also *not* logged.

Any memory events that would occur due to calling any of the **profmem** functions themselves will *not* be logged and *not* be part of the returned profile data (regardless whether memory profiling is active or not). This is intentional.

If a profmem profiling is already active, `profmem()` and `profmem_begin()` performs an *independent, nested* profiling, which does not affect the already active one. When the active one completes, it will contain all memory events also collected by the nested profiling as if the nested one never occurred.

Profiling gathered by **profmem** *will* be corrupted if the code profiled calls `utils::Rprofmem()`, with the exception of such calls done via the **profmem** package itself.

Value

`profmem()` and `profmem_end()` returns the collected allocation data as an Rprofmem data.frame with additional attributes set. An Rprofmem data.frame has columns `what`, `bytes`, and `trace`, with:

- `what`: (character) type of memory event; either "alloc" or "new page"
- `bytes`: (numeric) number of bytes allocated or `NA_real_` (when `what` is "new page")
- `trace`: (list of character vectors) zero or more function names

The attributes set are:

- `threshold`: The threshold used (= argument `threshold`)
- `expression`: The expression profiled (= argument `expr`)
- `value`: The value of the evaluated expression (only set if there was no error)
- `error`: The error object in case the evaluation failed (only set if there was an error)

`profmem_begin()` returns (invisibly) the number of nested profmem session currently active.

`profmem_suspend()` and `profmem_resume()` returns nothing.

`profmem_status()` returns "inactive", "active", or "suspended".

`profmem_depth()` returns a non-negative integer.

Examples

```
if (capabilities("profmem")) {

  ## Memory profile an R expression
  p <- profmem({
    x <- raw(1000)
    A <- matrix(rnorm(100), ncol = 10)
  })

  ## Display the results
  print(p)

  ## Total amount of memory allocation
```

```

total(p)

## Allocations greater than 1 kB
p2 <- subset(p, bytes > 1000)
print(p2)

## The expression is evaluated in the calling environment
str(x)
str(A)

}

```

readRprofmem

Read an Rprofmem log file

Description

Reads and parses an Rprofmem log file that was created by `utils::Rprofmem()`.

Usage

```
readRprofmem(pathname, as = c("Rprofmem", "fixed", "raw"), drop = 0L, ...)
```

Arguments

| | |
|----------|--|
| pathname | The Rprofmem log file to be read. |
| as | Specifies in what format data should be returned. If "raw", the line content of the file is returned as is (as a character vector). If "fixed", as "raw" but with missing newlines added to lines with empty stack calls that may be introduced in R (< 3.5.0) (see Ref. 1). If "Rprofmem", the collected Rprofmem data is fully parsed into bytes and call stack information. |
| drop | Number of levels to drop from the top of the call stack. |
| ... | Not used |

Value

An Rprofmem data.frame or a character vector (if as is "raw" or "fixed"). An Rprofmem data.frame has columns what, bytes, and trace, with:

- what: (character) type of memory event; either "alloc" or "new page"
- bytes: (numeric) number of bytes allocated or NA_real_ (when what is "new page")
- trace: (list of character vectors) zero or more function names

References

Ref. 1: <https://github.com/HenrikBengtsson/Wishlist-for-R/issues/25>

Examples

```
file <- system.file("extdata", "example.Rprofmem.out", package = "profmem")
```

```
raw <- readRprofmem(file, as = "raw")
```

```
cat(raw, sep = "\n")
```

```
profmem <- readRprofmem(file, as = "Rprofmem")
```

```
print(profmem)
```

Index

`base::capabilities(profmem)`, [2](#)

`base::substitute()`, [2](#)

`profmem`, [2](#)

`profmem_begin (profmem)`, [2](#)

`profmem_depth (profmem)`, [2](#)

`profmem_end (profmem)`, [2](#)

`profmem_resume (profmem)`, [2](#)

`profmem_status (profmem)`, [2](#)

`profmem_suspend (profmem)`, [2](#)

`readRprofmem`, [4](#)

`utils::Rprofmem()`, [2-4](#)