

# Package ‘RNifti’

January 31, 2020

**Version** 1.1.0

**Date** 2020-01-31

**Title** Fast R and C++ Access to NifTI Images

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.11.0)

**Suggests** testthat (>= 0.11.0), covr, reportr, shades

**Enhances** oro.nifti, tractor.base

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**Description** Provides very fast read and write access to images stored in the NifTI-1 and ANALYZE-7.5 formats, with seamless synchronisation between compiled C and interpreted R code. Also provides a simple image viewer, and a C/C++ API that can be used by other packages. Not to be confused with 'RNiftyReg', which performs image registration.

**License** GPL-2

**URL** <https://github.com/jonclayden/RNifti>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/jonclayden/RNifti/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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**Date/Publication** 2020-01-31 18:20:02 UTC

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asNifti	<i>Create or modify an NIFTI image object</i>
---------	---

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### Description

This function converts a filename, array or other image class into an object of class "niftiImage", and optionally updates its metadata from a reference image and/or changes its internal datatype. The dimensions and pixel dimensions from the image will replace those from the reference object, if they are available.

### Usage

```
asNifti(image, reference = NULL, datatype = "auto", internal = NA)
```

### Arguments

image	Any suitable object (see Details).
reference	An image, or a named list of NIFTI-1 properties like that produced by <code>niftiHeader</code> . The default of NULL will have no effect.
datatype	The NIFTI datatype to use within the internal image. The default, "auto" uses the R type. Other possibilities are "float", "int16", etc., which may be preferred to reduce object size. However, no checks are done to ensure that the coercion maintains precision, and this option is for advanced usage only.
internal	Logical value. If FALSE, the result will be an array of class "niftiImage" containing the image pixel or voxel values, with some metadata in attributes. If TRUE, the result will be an object of class "internalImage", which exposes some basic metadata to R but stores the pixel data internally. If NA, the default, the result will be an internal image only if the input image is. If a new datatype is set then this value is implicitly TRUE.

## Details

If the `image` has an internal NIfTI pointer, that will be retrieved directly. Otherwise, if it is a string, it will be taken to be a filename. If it looks like a "nifti" object (from package `oro.nifti`), or an "MriImage" object (from package `tractor.base`), a conversion will be performed. A list will be assumed to be of the form produced by `niftiHeader`. Finally, a numeric array or matrix, or RGB array, will be converted using default image parameters.

If `reference` is a complete list of NIfTI-1 header fields, like that produced by `niftiHeader`, or an image, then it will be used to create the internal object, and then the data and metadata associated with the `image` will overwrite the appropriate parts. If `reference` is an incomplete list, the `image` will be used to create the internal object, and then the specified fields will be overwritten from the list. This allows users to selectively update certain fields while leaving others alone (but see the note below).

If multiple values are passed for a field that expects a scalar (which is most of them), the first element of the vector will be used, with a warning. An empty vector will be ignored, also with a warning. If a value of the wrong length is passed to a vector-valued field, an error will be generated.

Datatype information in a list `reference` is ignored. The datatype can only be changed using the `datatype` argument, but in this case the internal object gets out of sync with the R array, so an internal image is returned to avoid the mismatch. Changing the internal datatype in this way is for advanced usage only.

`retrieveNifti` and `updateNifti` are soft-deprecated alternative interfaces to this function, which behave like the pre-existing functions of the same names. They may be removed in future.

## Value

An array or internal image, with class "niftiImage" (and possibly also "internalImage").

## Note

The `scl_slope` and `scl_inter` fields affect the numerical interpretation of the pixel data, so it is impossible in general to change them without also changing the array values on both the C and the R side. Therefore, to avoid unexpected side-effects, these fields are not affected by this function. The `dim` and `pixdim` fields can be changed, but for most users the accessor functions of the same name are much safer, and should be used in preference.

## Author(s)

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

## See Also

`readNifti`, `$.niftiImage`, `dim.internalImage`, `pixdim`, `xform`

---

channels	<i>Extract channels from RGB data</i>
----------	---------------------------------------

---

### Description

Extract one or more channels from an RGB data array that was obtained from an RGB NIFTI image or created by the `rgbArray` function. The result is more amenable to numeric manipulation.

### Usage

```
channels(array, channels = c("red", "green", "blue", "alpha"),
         raw = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

array	An image, an <code>rgbArray</code> , or another array that can be converted to the latter.
channels	A character vector of channels to extract.
raw	Boolean value: if TRUE, return a raw array, which is the most compact representation; otherwise return an integer array.

### Value

A raw-mode or integer-mode array with one more dimension than the first argument, corresponding to channels.

### Author(s)

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

---

defaultInfoPanel	<i>Info panels for the built-in viewer</i>
------------------	--

---

### Description

A default info panel for `view`, which shows the labels and values of each image at the current point, and a panel suitable for plotting four-dimensional time series images.

### Usage

```
defaultInfoPanel(point, data, labels)

timeSeriesPanel(point, data, labels)
```

**Arguments**

point	A numeric vector giving the current point location.
data	A list of data values for each image at the current point. Note that, for images of more than three dimensions, there will be more than one value per image.
labels	A character vector of image labels.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**See Also**

[view](#)

---

dim.internalImage      *Internal images*

---

**Description**

An internal image is a simple R object with a few attributes including a pointer to an internal C structure, which contains the full image data. They are used in the package for efficiency, but can be converted to a normal R array using the `as.array` method. Attributes of these objects should not be changed.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'internalImage'  
dim(x)  
  
## S3 replacement method for class 'internalImage'  
dim(x) <- value  
  
## S3 method for class 'internalImage'  
as.array(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'internalImage'  
x[i, j, ..., drop = TRUE]  
  
## S3 replacement method for class 'internalImage'  
x[i, j, ...] <- value
```

**Arguments**

x	An "internalImage" object.
value	Not used. Changing the dimensions of (or data in) an internal image is invalid, and will produce an error. Convert to an array first.



---

niftiHeader

*Dump or construct a raw NIfTI or ANALYZE header*


---

## Description

These functions extract the contents of a NIfTI-1 or ANALYZE-7.5 header, closely approximating how it is (or would be) stored on disk. Defaults will be used where information is missing, but no processing is performed on the metadata.

## Usage

```
niftiHeader(image = list())

analyzeHeader(image = list())

## S3 method for class 'niftiHeader'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'analyzeHeader'
print(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

image	An image, in any acceptable form (see <a href="#">asNifti</a> ). A list containing partial header information is acceptable, including an empty list, which returns defaults for every field.
x	A "niftiHeader" object.
...	Ignored.

## Details

The NIfTI-1 standard was originally formulated as a roughly backwards-compatible improvement on the ANALYZE format. Both formats use a binary header structure of 348 bytes, but the field names and their interpretation is often non-equivalent. These functions dump these fields, without regard to whether or not the result makes proper sense.

`dumpNifti` is an alias of `niftiHeader`, but the former is now soft-deprecated.

## Value

For `niftiHeader`, a list of class "niftiHeader", with named components corresponding to the elements in a raw NIfTI-1 header. For `analyzeHeader`, the equivalent for ANALYZE-7.5.

## Note

Several medical image analysis packages, such as SPM and FSL, use the ANALYZE originator field to store a coordinate origin. This interpretation is also returned, in the `origin` field.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**References**

The NIfTI-1 standard (<http://www.nitrc.org/docman/view.php/26/64/nifti1.h>).

**See Also**

[niftiVersion](#)

**Examples**

```
niftiHeader(system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti"))  
  
# Default header for a standard R array  
niftiHeader(array(0L, dim=c(10,10)))
```

---

niftiVersion	<i>Check the format version of a file</i>
--------------	---

---

**Description**

This function identifies the likely NIfTI format variant used by one or more files on disk.

**Usage**

```
niftiVersion(file)
```

**Arguments**

`file`            A character vector of file names.

**Value**

A vector of integers, of the same length as `file`. Each element will be 0 for ANALYZE format (the precursor to NIfTI-1), 1 for NIfTI-1 (which is now most common), 2 for NIfTI-2, or -1 if the file doesn't exist or doesn't look plausible in any of these formats.

**Note**

NIfTI-2 format, mostly a variant of NIfTI-1 with wider datatypes used for many fields, is not currently supported for reading, but it is detected by this function.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>



**See Also**[readNifti](#), [niftiHeader](#)**Examples**

```
path <- system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti")
niftiVersion(path)      # 1
```

---

pixdim	<i>Pixel dimensions and units</i>
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---

**Description**

By default, these generic functions return or replace the "pixdim" and "pixunits" attributes of their arguments. These represent the physical step size between pixel or voxel centre points, and the spatial and temporal units that they are given in. The former defaults to 1 in each dimension, if there is no attribute.

**Usage**

```
pixdim(object)

## Default S3 method:
pixdim(object)

pixdim(object) <- value

## Default S3 replacement method:
pixdim(object) <- value

pixunits(object)

## Default S3 method:
pixunits(object)

pixunits(object) <- value

## Default S3 replacement method:
pixunits(object) <- value
```

**Arguments**

object	An R object, generally an image.
value	Numeric vector of pixel dimensions along each axis, or character vector of abbreviated units. For dimensions, a scalar value will be recycled if necessary.

**Value**

`pixdim` returns a numeric vector of pixel dimensions. `pixunits` returns a character vector of length up to two, giving the spatial and temporal unit names.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**Examples**

```
im <- readNifti(system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti"))
pixdim(im)
pixunits(im)
```

---

readNifti

*Read a NIFTI-1 format file*

---

**Description**

This function reads one or more NIFTI-1 or ANALYZE-7.5 files into R, using the standard NIFTI-1 C library.

**Usage**

```
readNifti(file, internal = FALSE, volumes = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

<code>file</code>	A character vector of file names.
<code>internal</code>	Logical value. If FALSE (the default), an array of class "niftiImage", containing the image pixel or voxel values, will be returned. If TRUE, the return value will be an object of class "internalImage", which contains only minimal meta-data about the image. Either way, the return value has an attribute which points to a C data structure containing the full image.
<code>volumes</code>	An integer vector giving the volumes to read (counting along all dimensions beyond the third jointly), or NULL, the default, in which case every volume is read. This cannot currently be set differently for each file read.

**Value**

An array or internal image, with class "niftiImage" (and possibly also "internalImage"), or a list of such objects if `file` has length greater than one.

**Note**

If the internal argument is FALSE (the default), the data type of the image pointer will be set to match one of R's native numeric data types, i.e., 32-bit signed integer or 64-bit double-precision floating-point. In these circumstances the data type reported by the `niftiHeader` function will therefore not, in general, match the storage type used in the file. See also the `datatype` argument to `writeNifti`.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**References**

The NIFTI-1 standard (<http://www.nitrc.org/docman/view.php/26/64/nifti1.h>).

**See Also**

`writeNifti`

**Examples**

```
path <- system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti")
readNifti(path)
readNifti(path, internal=TRUE)
```

---

rgbArray

*RGB arrays*

---

**Description**

The `rgbArray` function constructs an integer array whose values are byte-packed representations of 8-bit RGBA colour values. The `channels` attribute (with value 3 or 4) indicates how many channels are being used. The resulting array can be used to construct an RGB(A) NIFTI image, or converted to standard R colour strings using the `as.character` method.

**Usage**

```
rgbArray(red, green, blue, alpha, max = NULL, dim = NULL, ...)
```

```
## S3 method for class 'rgbArray'
as.character(x, flatten = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

red	A numeric vector (or array) of red channel values. If this is the only channel argument, it can also be a character vector of colour values (including alpha, if required), or a numeric array whose last dimension is 2 (for grey + alpha), 3 (for RGB) or 4 (for RGBA).
green, blue, alpha	Numeric vectors (or arrays) containing values for the appropriate channel. These will be combined with the red values using <code>cbind</code> , and hence recycled as necessary. Alpha, or green and blue, can be missing.
max	The maximum possible value for any channel. The default is 255 when the data is of integer mode, and 1 otherwise. Values above this, or below zero, will be clipped to the appropriate extreme.
dim	An integer vector of dimensions for the final array. The dimensions of red are used if this is NULL.
...	For <code>rgbArray</code> , additional attributes to set on the result, such as <code>pixdim</code> . These are passed directly to <code>structure</code> . For the <code>as.character</code> method, this argument is ignored.
x	An <code>rgbArray</code> object.
flatten	Logical value. If FALSE, the dimensions of x will be retained in the result. The default is TRUE, for consistency with the usual behaviour of <code>as.character</code> , which strips all attributes.

**Value**

`rgbArray` returns an integer-mode array of class "rgbArray". The `as.character` method returns a character-mode vector of colour strings.

**Note**

The values of an "rgbArray" are not easily interpreted, and may depend on the endianness of the platform. For manipulation or use as colours they should generally be converted to character mode, or the channels extracted using the `channels` function.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

---

view

*A basic 3D image viewer*

---

**Description**

This function displays one or more 2D or 3D images, with optional click-to-navigate interactivity.

**Usage**

```
view(..., point = NULL, radiological = getOption("radiologicalView",
  FALSE), interactive = base::interactive(), crosshairs = TRUE,
  labels = TRUE, infoPanel = defaultInfoPanel)

lyr(image, scale = "grey", min = NULL, max = NULL, mask = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

...	One or more images, or "viewLayer" objects, to display.
point	A numeric vector giving the location to initially centre the view on. If crosshairs are in use, they will be placed at this point. For 3D images, this parameter also determines the planes shown in each subview.
radiological	Logical value. If TRUE, images will be displayed in the radiological convention whereby the left of the image is shown on the right; otherwise left is on the left.
interactive	Logical value. If TRUE, the user can navigate around the image by repeatedly clicking on a new centre point; otherwise the view is fixed.
crosshairs	Logical value, indicating whether crosshairs should be shown or not.
labels	Logical value, indicating whether orientation labels should be shown or not. Ignored (defaulting to FALSE) if the image is 2D or orientation information is not available.
infoPanel	A function of three arguments, which must produce a plot for the information panel of the view. <code>defaultInfoPanel</code> is the default, which shows the labels and values of each image at the current point. A NULL value will suppress the panel.
image	The image being shown in this layer.
scale	A character vector of colour values for the scale, or a single string naming a predefined scale: "grey" or "gray" for greyscale, "heat" for a heatmap, "rainbow" for a rainbow scale, or any of the scales defined in the shades package (see <code>?shades::gradient</code> , if that package is installed). A fixed colour can be used by wrapping a string in a call to <code>I</code> . Ignored for RGB images.
min, max	The window minimum and maximum for the layer, i.e., the black and white points. These are ignored for RGB images. Otherwise, if NULL, the default, they are taken from the <code>cal_min</code> or <code>cal_max</code> NIfTI header fields. If either is NA, the image has no window stored in its header, or the two values are equal, then the 1st and 99th percentiles of the data are used, with values close to zero rounded to that extreme. If these values are still equal, the untrimmed range of the image data is used.
mask	A optional mask array, which may be of lower dimensionality than the main image. If specified, this is converted to logical mode and pixels that evaluate FALSE will be set to NA for that layer, meaning they will not be plotted. This operation is performed last, and so will not affect auto-windowing.

**Value**

`lyr` returns a list of class "viewLayer", to be used in a view. `view` is called for its side-effect of showing a view.

**Note**

Because of the way R's main run-loop interacts with graphics, it will not be possible to issue further commands to the terminal while interactive mode is enabled. Instructions for leaving this mode are shown by the default info panel; see also [locator](#), which is the underlying core function.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**See Also**

[defaultInfoPanel](#), [orientation](#), [locator](#)

**Examples**

```
im <- readNifti(system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti"))
view(im, interactive=FALSE)
view(lyr(im, max=800), interactive=FALSE)
view(lyr(im, mask=im<800), interactive=FALSE)
```

---

 voxelToWorld

---

*Transform points between voxel and "world" coordinates*


---

**Description**

These functions are used to transform points from dimensionless pixel or voxel coordinates to "real-world" coordinates, typically in millimetres, and back. Actual pixel units can be obtained using the [pixunits](#) function. The `origin` function gives the voxel coordinates of the real-world origin.

**Usage**

```
voxelToWorld(points, image, simple = FALSE, ...)
```

```
worldToVoxel(points, image, simple = FALSE, ...)
```

```
origin(image, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>points</code>	A vector giving the coordinates of a point, or a matrix with one point per row.
<code>image</code>	The image in whose space the points are given, or a 4x4 numeric xform matrix.
<code>simple</code>	A logical value: if TRUE then the transformation is performed simply by rescaling the points according to the voxel dimensions recorded in the <code>image</code> . Otherwise the full xform matrix is used.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments to <a href="#">xform</a> .

**Value**

A vector or matrix of transformed points.

**Note**

Voxel coordinates are assumed by these functions to use R's indexing convention, beginning from 1.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**See Also**

[xform](#), [pixdim](#), [pixunits](#)

**Examples**

```
im <- readNifti(system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti"))  
  
# Find the origin  
origin(im)
```

---

writeNifti

*Write a NIFTI-1 format file*

---

**Description**

This function writes an image to NIFTI-1 format, using the standard NIFTI-1 C library.

**Usage**

```
writeNifti(image, file, template = NULL, datatype = "auto")
```

**Arguments**

image	An image, in any acceptable form (see <a href="#">asNifti</a> ).
file	A character string containing a file name.
template	An optional template object to derive NIFTI-1 properties from. Passed to <a href="#">asNifti</a> if image is an array.
datatype	The NIFTI datatype to use when writing the data out. The default, "auto" uses the R type or, for internal images, the original datatype. Other possibilities are "float", "int16", etc., which may be preferred to reduce file size. However, no checks are done to ensure that the coercion maintains precision.

**Author(s)**

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

**References**

The NIfTI-1 standard (<http://www.nitrc.org/docman/view.php/26/64/nifti1.h>).

**See Also**

[readNifti](#), [asNifti](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run: writeNifti(im, "image.nii.gz", datatype="float")
```

---

xform

*Obtain or replace the “xform” transforms for an image*

---

**Description**

These functions convert the “qform” or “sform” information in a NIfTI header to or from a corresponding affine matrix. These two “xform” mechanisms are defined by the NIfTI standard, and may both be in use in a particular image header. They define the relationship between the storage order of the image and real space.

**Usage**

```
xform(image, useQuaternionFirst = TRUE)

qform(x) <- value

sform(x) <- value

orientation(x, useQuaternionFirst = TRUE)

orientation(x) <- value

rotation(x, useQuaternionFirst = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

image, x	An image, in any acceptable form (see <a href="#">asNifti</a> ), or a 4x4 numeric xform matrix.
useQuaternionFirst	A single logical value. If TRUE, the “qform” matrix will be used first, if it is defined; otherwise the “sform” matrix will take priority.
value	A new 4x4 qform or sform matrix, or orientation string. If a matrix has a “code” attribute, the appropriate qform or sform code is also set.



## Details

Image orientation is indicated using a three-character string, with each character indicating the approximate world-space direction of the positive axes in the first, second and third dimensions, in order. Each character may be ‘R’ for left-to-right, ‘L’ for right-to-left, ‘A’ for posterior-to- anterior, ‘P’ for anterior-to-posterior, ‘S’ for inferior-to-superior, or ‘I’ for superior-to-inferior. The default for NIfTI is RAS, meaning that the first dimension points towards the right, the second towards the front and the third towards the top. An xform matrix is an affine transform relative to that default.

The upper-left 3x3 matrix in a 3D affine transform governs scale, rotation and skew, while the last column is a translation. (The `rotation` function extracts the rotation part alone.) The final row is always (0,0,0,1). Reorienting an image involves permuting and possibly reversing some of the axes, both in the data and the metadata. The sense of the translation may also need to be reversed, but this is only possible if the image dimensions are known, which isn’t the case when reorienting an xform alone.

## Value

For xform, an affine matrix corresponding to the “qform” or “sform” information in the image header, with a “code” attribute giving the corresponding xform code. For orientation, a string with three characters indicating the (approximate) orientation of the image. The replacement forms return the modified object.

## Note

The qform and sform replacement functions are for advanced users only. Modifying the transforms without knowing what you’re doing is usually unwise, as you can make the image object inconsistent.

## Author(s)

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

## References

The NIfTI-1 standard (<http://www.nitrc.org/docman/view.php/26/64/nifti1.h>) is the definitive reference on “xform” conventions.

## Examples

```
im <- readNifti(system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti"))
xform(im)

# Remove the qform information
qform(im) <- structure(diag(4), code=0L)

# The same as above, since the sform is unmodified
xform(im)

# The identity matrix corresponds to RAS orientation
orientation(diag(4))
```

---

\$.niftiImage                      *Access to metadata elements*

---

### Description

These methods provide shorthand access to metadata elements from the NIFTI header corresponding to an image. The extraction version returns the corresponding element from the result of `niftiHeader`, while the replacement version calls `asNifti` to replace it.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'niftiImage'  
x$name  
  
## S3 replacement method for class 'niftiImage'  
x$name <- value
```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	A "niftiImage" object, internal or otherwise.
<code>name</code>	A string naming the field required.
<code>value</code>	A new value for the field.

### Author(s)

Jon Clayden <code@clayden.org>

### See Also

[niftiHeader](#), [asNifti](#)

### Examples

```
im <- readNifti(system.file("extdata", "example.nii.gz", package="RNifti"))  
print(im$descrip)
```

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