

# Package: validatedb (via r-universe)

June 22, 2024

**Title** Validate Data in a Database using 'validate'

**Version** 0.3.2.9000

**Description** Check whether records in a database table are valid using validation rules in R syntax specified with R package 'validate'. R validation checks are automatically translated to SQL using 'dbplyr'.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Roxygen** list(markdown = TRUE)

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.0

**Depends** validate

**Imports** dplyr, dbplyr, DBI, methods

**Suggests** testthat, RSQLite, covr

**URL** <https://github.com/data-cleaning/validatedb>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/data-cleaning/validatedb/issues>

**Collate** 'aggregate.R' 'tbl\_validation.R' 'as-data-frame.R'  
'check\_rules.R' 'compute.R' 'confront.R' 'confront\_tbl.R'  
'confront\_tbl\_sparse.R' 'contains\_at\_least.R' 'do\_by.R'  
'dump\_sql.R' 'exists\_any.R' 'is\_complete.R' 'is\_record\_based.R'  
'is\_unique.R' 'rewrite.R' 'rule\_works\_on\_tbl.R' 'show\_query.R'  
'summary.R' 'tbl.R' 'unsparse.R' 'validatedb-package.R'  
'values.R' 'violating.R' 'wrap\_expression.R'

**Repository** <https://edwindj.r-universe.dev>

**RemoteUrl** <https://github.com/data-cleaning/validatedb>

**RemoteRef** HEAD

**RemoteSha** 935f1ba79cc37ea30b46e5c11405f09147fc9357

## Contents

aggregate.tbl_validation . . . . .	2
as.data.frame.tbl_validation . . . . .	3
check_rules . . . . .	4
compute.tbl_validation . . . . .	5
confront.tbl_sql . . . . .	6
confront_tbl_sparse . . . . .	8
dump_sql . . . . .	9
rule_works_on_tbl . . . . .	10
show_query.tbl_validation . . . . .	10
tbl_validation-class . . . . .	11
values,tbl_validation-method . . . . .	11
<b>Index</b>	<b>14</b>

---

aggregate.tbl\_validation

*Count the number of invalid rules or records.*

---

### Description

See the number of valid and invalid checks either by rule or by record.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'tbl_validation'
aggregate(x, by = c("rule", "record", "key"), ...)
```

### Arguments

x	tbl_validation() object
by	either by "rule" or by "record"
...	not used

### Details

The result of a `confront()` on a db tbl results in a lazy squery. That is it builds a query without executing it. To store the result in the database use `compute()` or `values()`.

### Value

A `dbplyr::tbl_dbi()` object that represents the aggregation query (to be executed) on the database.

**Examples**

```

income <- data.frame(id = 1:2, age=c(12,35), salary = c(1000,NA))
con <- dbplyr::src_memdb()
tbl_income <- dplyr::copy_to(con, income, overwrite=TRUE)
print(tbl_income)

# Let's define a rule set and confront the table with it:
rules <- validator( is_adult = age >= 18
                   , has_income = salary > 0
                   )

# and confront!
# in general with a db table it is handy to use a key
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key="id")
aggregate(cf, by = "rule")
aggregate(cf, by = "record")

# to tweak performance of the db query the following options are available
# 1) store validation result in db
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key="id", compute = TRUE)
# or identical
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key="id")
cf <- compute(cf)

# 2) Store the validation sparsely
cf_sparse <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key="id", sparse=TRUE )

show_query(cf_sparse)
values(cf_sparse, type="tbl")

```

---

```
as.data.frame.tbl_validation
```

*Retrieve validation results as a data.frame*

---

**Description**

Retrieve validation results as a data.frame

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'tbl_validation'
as.data.frame(x, row.names = NULL, optional = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	<code>tbl_validation()</code> , result of a <code>confront()</code> of <code>tbl</code> with a rule set.
row.names	ignored
optional	ignored
...	ignored

**Value**

data.frame, result of the query on the database.

**Examples**

```
# create a table in a database
income <- data.frame(id = letters[1:2], age=c(12,35), salary = c(1000,NA))
con <- dbplyr::src_memdb()
tbl_income <- dplyr::copy_to(con, income, overwrite=TRUE)

# Let's define a rule set and confront the table with it:
rules <- validator( is_adult = age >= 18
                    , has_income = salary > 0
                    , mean_age = mean(age,na.rm=TRUE) > 20
                    )

# and confront!
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key = "id")
as.data.frame(cf)

# and now with a sparse result:
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key = "id", sparse=TRUE)
as.data.frame(cf)
```

---

check\_rules

*Check validation rules on the database*

---

**Description**

Checks whether validation rules are working on the database, and gives hints on non working rules.

**Usage**

```
check_rules(tbl, x, key = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

tbl	<code>dbplyr::tbl_dbi()</code> table in a database, retrieved with <code>tbl()</code>
x	<code>validate::validator()</code> object with validation rules.
key	character with key column name, must be specified

**Details**

validatedb translates validation rules using dbplyr on a database. Every database engine is different, so it may happen that some validation rules will not work. This function helps in finding out why rules are not working.

In some (easy to fix) cases, this may be due to:

- using variables that are not present in the table
- using a different value type than the column in the database, e.g. using an integer value, while the database column is of type "varchar".
- To debug your rules, a useful thing to do is first to test the rules on a small sub set of the table
- e.g.

```
tbl |>
  head() |>          # debugging on db
  as.data.frame() |> # debugging "rules", do they work on a data.frame
  confront(rules, key = "id") |>
  summary()
```

But it can also be that some R functions are not available on the database, in which case you have to reformulate the rule.

### Value

data.frame with name, rule, working, sql for each rule.

### Examples

```
person <- dbplyr::memdb_frame(id = letters[1:2], age = c(12, 20))
rules <- validator(age >= 18)

check_rules(person, rules, key = "id")

# use the result of check_rules to find out more on the translation
res <- check_rules(person, rules, key = "id")

print(res[-4])
writeLines(res$sql)
```

---

```
compute.tbl_validation
```

*Store the validation result in the db*

---

### Description

Stores the validation result in the db using the `dbplyr::compute()` of the db back-end. This method changes the `tbl_validation` object! Note that for most back-ends the default setting is a temporary table with a random name.

### Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'tbl_validation'
compute(x, name, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x [tbl\\_validation\(\)](#), result of a `confront()` of `tbl` with a rule set.  
 name optional, when omitted, a random name is used.  
 ... passed through to `compute` on `x$query`

**Value**

A `dbplyr::tbl_dbi()` object that refers to the computed (temporary) table in the database. See [dplyr::compute\(\)](#).

**See Also**

Other `tbl_validation`: [tbl\\_validation-class](#)

---

`confront.tbl_sql`      *Validate data in database tbl with validator rules.*

---

**Description**

Confront `dbplyr::tbl_dbi()` objects with [validate::validator\(\)](#) rules, making it possible to execute `validator()` rules on database tables. Validation results can be stored in the db or retrieved into R.

**Usage**

```
confront.tbl_sql(tbl, x, ref, key, sparse = FALSE, compute = FALSE, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ANY,validator,ANY'  
confront(dat, x, ref, key = NULL, sparse = FALSE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

`tbl` [dbplyr::tbl\\_dbi\(\)](#) table in a database, retrieved with [tbl\(\)](#)  
`x` [validate::validator\(\)](#) object with validation rules.  
`ref` reference object (not working)  
`key` character with key column name, must be specified  
`sparse` logical should only fails be stored in the db?  
`compute` logical if TRUE the check stores a temporary table in the database.  
 ... passed through to [compute\(\)](#), if `compute` is TRUE  
`dat` an object of class `'tbl_sql'`.

## Details

validatedb builds upon dplyr and dbplyr, so it works on all databases that have a dbplyr compatible database driver (DBI / odbc). validatedb translates validator rules into dplyr commands resulting in a lazy query object. The result of a validation can be stored in the database using compute or retrieved into R with values.

## Value

a `tbl_validation()` object, containing the confrontation query and processing information.

## See Also

Other validation: [tbl\\_validation-class](#), [values](#), [tbl\\_validation-method](#)

## Examples

```
# create a table in a database
income <- data.frame(id = letters[1:2], age=c(12,35), salary = c(1000,NA))
con <- dbplyr::src_memdb()
tbl_income <- dplyr::copy_to(con, income, overwrite=TRUE)
print(tbl_income)

# Let's define a rule set and confront the table with it:
rules <- validator( is_adult = age >= 18
                   , has_income = salary > 0
                   , mean_age = mean(age,na.rm=TRUE) > 20
                   )

# and confront! (we have to use a key, because a db...)
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key = "id")
print(cf)
summary(cf)

# Values (i.e. validations on the table) can be retrieved like in `validate`
# with `type="matrix"` (simplify = TRUE)
values(cf, type = "matrix")

# But often this seems more handy:
values(cf, type = "tbl")

# We can see the sql code by using `show_query`:
show_query(cf)

# identical
show_query(values(cf, type = "tbl"))

# sparse results in db (that the default)
values(cf, type="tbl", sparse=TRUE)

# or if you like data.frames
values(cf, type="data.frame", sparse=TRUE)
```

---

confront\_tbl\_sparse *Create a sparse confrontation query*

---

## Description

Create a sparse confrontation query. Only errors and missing are stored. This stores all results of a tbl validation in a table with `length(rules)` columns and `nrow(tbl)` rows. Note that the result of this function is a (lazy) query object that still needs to be executed in the database, e.g. with `dplyr::collect()`, `dplyr::collapse()` or `dplyr::compute()`.

## Usage

```
confront_tbl_sparse(tbl, x, key, union_all = TRUE, check_rules = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

tbl	<code>dbplyr::tbl_dbi()</code> table in a database, retrieved with <code>tbl()</code>
x	<code>validate::validator()</code> object with validation rules.
key	character with key column name, must be specified
union_all	if FALSE each rule is a separate query.
check_rules	if TRUE it is checked which rules 'work' on the db.

## Details

The return value of the function is a list with:

- `$query`: A `dbplyr::tbl_dbi()` object that refers to the confrontation query.
- `$errors`: The validation rules that are not working on the database
- `$working`: A logical with which expression are working on the database.
- `$exprs`: All validation expressions.

## Value

A object with the necessary information: see details

## See Also

Other validation: [tbl\\_validation-class](#), [values](#), [tbl\\_validation-method](#)

## Examples

```
# create a table in a database
income <- data.frame(id = letters[1:2], age=c(12,35), salary = c(1000,NA))
con <- dbplyr::src_memdb()
tbl_income <- dplyr::copy_to(con, income, overwrite=TRUE)
print(tbl_income)
```



```

# Let's define a rule set and confront the table with it:
rules <- validator( is_adult = age >= 18
                   , has_income = salary > 0
                   , mean_age = mean(age,na.rm=TRUE) > 20
                   )

# and confront! (we have to use a key, because a db...)
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key = "id")
print(cf)
summary(cf)

# Values (i.e. validations on the table) can be retrieved like in `validate`
# with `type="matrix"` (simplify = TRUE)
values(cf, type = "matrix")

# But often this seems more handy:
values(cf, type = "tbl")

# We can see the sql code by using `show_query`:
show_query(cf)

# identical
show_query(values(cf, type = "tbl"))

# sparse results in db (that the default)
values(cf, type="tbl", sparse=TRUE)

# or if you like data.frames
values(cf, type="data.frame", sparse=TRUE)

```

---

dump\_sql

*dump sql statements*


---

## Description

Write sql statements of a tbl confrontation.

## Usage

```
dump_sql(x, sql_file = stdout(), sparse = x$sparse, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	tbl_validation object
sql_file	filename/connection where the sql code should be written to.
sparse	not used
...	not used

---

rule_works_on_tbl	<i>tests for each rule if it can be executed on the database</i>
-------------------	--

---

**Description**

tests for each rule if it can be executed on the database

**Usage**

```
rule_works_on_tbl(tbl, x, key = NULL, show_errors = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

tbl	a tbl object with columns used in x
x	a <code>validate::validator()</code> object
key	character names of columns that identify a record
show_errors	if TRUE errors on the database are printed.

**Value**

logical encoding which validation rules "work" on the database.

---

show_query.tbl_validation	<i>Show generated sql code</i>
---------------------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Shows the generated sql code for the validation of the tbl.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'tbl_validation'
show_query(x, ..., sparse = x$sparse)
```

**Arguments**

x	<code>tbl_validation()</code> object, result of a <code>confront.tbl_sql()</code> .
...	passed through.
sparse	logical if FALSE the query will be a dense query.

**Value**

Same result as `dplyr::show_query`, i.e. the SQL text of the query.

---

tbl\_validation-class    *Validation object for tbl object*

---

### Description

Validation information for a database `tbl`, result of a `confront.tbl_sql()`.

### Details

The `tbl_validation` object contains all information needed for the confrontation of validation rules with the data in the database table. It contains:

- `$query`: a `dbplyr::tbl_dbi` object with the query to be executed on the database
- `$tbl`: the `dbplyr::tbl_dbi` pointing to the table in the database
- `$key`: Whether there is a key column, and if so, what it is.
- `$record_based`: logical with which rules are record based.
- `$exprs`: list of validation rule expressions
- `$working`: logical, which of the rules work on the database. (whether the database supports this expression)
- `$errors`: list of validation rules that did not execute on the database.
- `$sparse`: If TRUE the query default presented as a sparse validation object.
- `$subqueries`: list of sparse queries for each of the rules.

### Value

`tbl_validation` object. See details.

### See Also

Other validation: `confront.tbl_sql()`, `values`, `tbl_validation-method`

Other `tbl_validation`: `compute.tbl_validation()`

---

`values`, `tbl_validation-method`

*Retrieve the result of a validation/confrontation*

---

### Description

Retrieve the result of a validation/confrontation.

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'tbl_validation'
values(
  x,
  simplify = type == "matrix",
  drop = FALSE,
  type = c("tbl", "matrix", "list", "data.frame"),
  sparse = x$sparse,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

x	<a href="#">tbl_validation()</a> , result of a <code>confront()</code> of <code>tbl</code> with a rule set.
simplify	only use when <code>type = "list"</code> see <code>validate::values</code>
drop	not used at the moment
type	whether to return a list/matrix or to return a query on the database.
sparse	whether to show the results as a sparse query (only fails and NA) or all results for each record.
...	not used

**Details**

Since the validation is done on a database, there are multiple options for storing the result of the validation. The results show per record whether they are valid according to the validation rules supplied.

- Use `compute` (see [confront.tbl\\_sql\(\)](#)) to store the result in the database
- Use `sparse` to only calculate "fails" and "missings"

Default type "tbl" is that everything is "lazy", so the query and/or storage has to be done explicitly by the user. The other types execute the query and retrieve the result into R. When this creates memory problems, the `tbl` option is to be preferred.

Results for type:

- `tbl`: a `dbplyr::tbl_dbi` object, pointing to the database
- `matrix`: a R matrix, similar to `validate::values()`.
- `list`: a R list, similar to `validate::values()`.
- `data.frame`: the result of `tbl` stored in a `data.frame`.

**Value**

depending on type the result is different, see details

**See Also**

Other validation: [confront.tbl\\_sql\(\)](#), [tbl\\_validation-class](#)

## Examples

```
# create a table in a database
income <- data.frame(id = letters[1:2], age=c(12,35), salary = c(1000,NA))
con <- dbplyr::src_memdb()
tbl_income <- dplyr::copy_to(con, income, overwrite=TRUE)
print(tbl_income)

# Let's define a rule set and confront the table with it:
rules <- validator( is_adult = age >= 18
                   , has_income = salary > 0
                   , mean_age = mean(age,na.rm=TRUE) > 20
                   )

# and confront! (we have to use a key, because a db...)
cf <- confront(tbl_income, rules, key = "id")
print(cf)
summary(cf)

# Values (i.e. validations on the table) can be retrieved like in `validate`
# with `type="matrix"` (simplify = TRUE)
values(cf, type = "matrix")

# But often this seems more handy:
values(cf, type = "tbl")

# We can see the sql code by using `show_query`:
show_query(cf)

# identical
show_query(values(cf, type = "tbl"))

# sparse results in db (that the default)
values(cf, type="tbl", sparse=TRUE)

# or if you like data.frames
values(cf, type="data.frame", sparse=TRUE)
```

# Index

- \* **confront**
  - confront\_tbl\_sparse, 8
- \* **tbl\_validation**
  - compute.tbl\_validation, 5
  - tbl\_validation-class, 11
- \* **validation**
  - confront.tbl\_sql, 6
  - tbl\_validation-class, 11
  - values, tbl\_validation-method, 11

aggregate.tbl\_validation, 2

as.data.frame.tbl\_validation, 3

  

check\_rules, 4

compute(), 2, 6

compute.tbl\_validation, 5, 11

confront(), 2

confront, ANY, validator, ANY-method  
    (confront.tbl\_sql), 6

confront.tbl\_sql, 6, 11, 12

confront.tbl\_sql(), 10–12

confront\_tbl\_sparse, 8

  

dbplyr::tbl\_dbi, 11, 12

dbplyr::tbl\_dbi(), 2, 4, 6, 8

dplyr::collapse(), 8

dplyr::collect(), 8

dplyr::compute(), 5, 6, 8

dplyr::show\_query, 10

dump\_sql, 9

  

rule\_works\_on\_tbl, 10

  

show\_query.tbl\_validation, 10

  

tbl(), 4, 6, 8

tbl\_validation (tbl\_validation-class),  
    11

tbl\_validation(), 2, 3, 6, 7, 10, 12

tbl\_validation-class, 11

validate::validator(), 4, 6, 8, 10

validate::values(), 12

values(), 2

values, tbl\_validation-method, 11