

# Package ‘ggsql’

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**Title** Grammar of Graphics for SQL

**Version** 0.3.2

**Description** Allows you to write queries that combine SQL (Structured Query Language) data retrieval with visualization specifications in a single, composable syntax. The 'ggsql' package binds directly with the 'ggsql' 'Rust' library and allows you to set up readers and writers and execute queries against it. The package also offers 'knitr' and 'shiny' integration allowing the user to use 'ggsql' in both frameworks.

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**Encoding** UTF-8

**SystemRequirements** Cargo (Rust's package manager), rustc, ODBC driver manager (unixODBC on Linux, iODBC or unixODBC on macOS; built into Windows)

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Imports** cli, htmltools, htmlwidgets, jsonlite, knitr, nanoarrow, R6, rlang (>= 1.1.0), yaml

**Suggests** gapminder, quarto, reticulate, rmarkdown, rsvg, shiny, testthat (>= 3.0.0), V8, withr

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**Depends** R (>= 4.2)

**VignetteBuilder** quarto

**URL** <https://r.ggsql.org>, <https://github.com/posit-dev/ggsql-r>

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**Config/Needs/js** node

**BugReports** <https://github.com/posit-dev/ggsql-r/issues>

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custom_reader	<i>Create a reader backed by R callbacks</i>
---------------	--

---

## Description

Construct a reader whose behavior is defined entirely by R functions you supply. This makes it possible to plug in data sources that aren't provided natively by ggsql (e.g. an in-memory store, a custom HTTP API, a DBI connection, etc.) without touching the Rust side.

## Usage

```
custom_reader(execute_sql, register = NULL, unregister = NULL)
```

## Arguments

execute_sql	A function function(sql) that executes sql and returns either a data frame or a raw vector containing Arrow IPC stream bytes (as produced by nanoarrow::as_nanoarrow_array_stream / arrow IPC writers).
register	Optional function(name, df, replace) that registers df as a table named name. replace is TRUE if the caller expects an existing table with the same name to be replaced.
unregister	Optional function(name) that removes a previously registered table.

## Details

Only `execute_sql` is required. If `register` or `unregister` are omitted, calling `ggsql_register()` / `ggsql_unregister()` on the returned reader raises an error.

## Value

A Reader object, usable anywhere the other `*_reader()` constructors are accepted.

## See Also

Other readers: `duckdb_reader()`, `odbc_reader()`, `snowflake_reader()`

## Examples

```
# A trivial reader backed by a list of data frames in an environment,
# delegating the actual SQL engine to an in-memory DuckDB.
store <- new.env(parent = emptyenv())
backend <- duckdb_reader()
reader <- custom_reader(
  execute_sql = function(sql) ggsql_execute_sql(backend, sql),
  register = function(name, df, replace) {
    store[[name]] <- df
    ggsql_register(backend, df, name, replace = replace)
  },
  unregister = function(name) {
    rm(list = name, envir = store)
    ggsql_unregister(backend, name)
  }
)
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")
ggsql_execute_sql(reader, "SELECT mpg, disp FROM cars LIMIT 3")
```

---

duckdb\_reader

*Create a DuckDB reader*

---

## Description

Creates a DuckDB database connection that can execute SQL queries and register data frames as queryable tables. The default creates an empty in-memory database but you can also pass the path to a DuckDB database to directly interact with that.

## Usage

```
duckdb_reader(database = NULL)
```

## Arguments

`database` Path to a DuckDB database file, or NULL (the default) for an in-memory database.

**Value**

A Reader object.

**See Also**

Other readers: [custom\\_reader\(\)](#), [odbc\\_reader\(\)](#), [snowflake\\_reader\(\)](#)

**Examples**

```
reader <- duckdb_reader()
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")
df <- ggsql_execute_sql(reader, "SELECT mpg, disp FROM cars LIMIT 5")
```

---

ggsqlOutput

*Shiny bindings for ggsql*


---

**Description**

Render ggsql visualizations in a Shiny application. `renderGgsql()` accepts either a ggsql query string or a Spec object (returned by [ggsql\\_execute\(\)](#)). When given a string, it validates and executes the query against reader.

**Usage**

```
ggsqlOutput(outputId, width = "100%", height = "400px")

renderGgsql(expr, reader = NULL, env = parent.frame(), quoted = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

<code>outputId</code>	Output variable to read from.
<code>width, height</code>	CSS dimensions for the output container.
<code>expr</code>	An expression that returns a ggsql query string or a Spec object. Strings may contain <code>r:varname</code> references that resolve variables from the expression's local scope (see Examples).
<code>reader</code>	A Reader object created by <a href="#">duckdb_reader()</a> . When NULL (the default), the session reader set by <a href="#">ggsql_session_reader()</a> is used.
<code>env</code>	The environment in which to evaluate <code>expr</code> .
<code>quoted</code>	Logical. Is <code>expr</code> a quoted expression?

**Value**

`ggsqlOutput()` returns a Shiny UI element. `renderGgsql()` returns a Shiny render function.

**Examples**

```

library(shiny)

ui <- fluidPage(
  ggsqlOutput("chart")
)

server <- function(input, output, session) {
  ggsql_session_reader(duckdb_reader())

  output$chart <- renderGgsql({
    "SELECT * FROM r:mtcars VISUALISE mpg AS x, disp AS y DRAW point"
  })
}

shinyApp(ui, server)

```

---

ggsql_execute	<i>Execute a ggsql query</i>
---------------	------------------------------

---

**Description**

Parses the query, and execute it against the reader's database. Returns either a visualization specification ready for rendering (`ggsql_execute`) or a data frame with the query result (`ggsql_execute_sql`).

**Usage**

```

ggsql_execute(reader, query)

ggsql_execute_sql(reader, query)

```

**Arguments**

reader	A Reader object created by e.g. <code>duckdb_reader()</code> or <code>odbc_reader()</code> .
query	A ggsql query string (SQL + VISUALISE clause).

**Value**

`ggsql_execute()` returns Spec object. `ggsql_execute_sql()` returns a data frame or NULL

**Examples**

```

reader <- duckdb_reader()
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")
spec <- ggsql_execute(reader,
  "SELECT * FROM cars VISUALISE mpg AS x, disp AS y DRAW point"
)

```

---

ggsql_register	<i>Register and unregisters a data frame as a queryable table</i>
----------------	---

---

### Description

After registration, the data frame can be queried by name in SQL statements. You can use `ggsql_table` to extract tables from the reader (both registered ones and those native to the backend) and `ggsql_table_names` to get a vector of all the tables in reader.

### Usage

```
ggsql_register(reader, df, name, replace = FALSE)

ggsql_unregister(reader, name)

ggsql_table(reader, name)

ggsql_table_names(reader)
```

### Arguments

reader	A Reader object created by e.g. <code>duckdb_reader()</code> .
df	A data frame to register.
name	The name of the table.
replace	If TRUE, replace an existing table with the same name. Defaults to FALSE.

### Value

reader for `ggsql_register()` and `ggsql_unregister()`. `ggsql_table` returns a data.frame if the table exists and NULL if not. `ggsql_table_names` return a character vector.

### Examples

```
reader <- duckdb_reader()
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")

ggsql_table_names(reader)

ggsql_table(reader, "cars")

ggsql_unregister(reader, "cars")

ggsql_table_names(reader)
```

---

ggsql_render	<i>Render a spec with a writer</i>
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---

### Description

This function takes a Spec object as returned by `ggsql_execute()` and renders it with the provided writer.

### Usage

```
ggsql_render(writer, spec)
```

### Arguments

writer	A Writer object created by e.g. <code>vegalite_writer()</code> .
spec	A Spec object returned by <code>ggsql_execute()</code> .

### Value

Writer dependent:

- `vegalite_writer`: A string holding the vegalite JSON representation of the visualization

### Examples

```
reader <- duckdb_reader()
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")
spec <- ggsql_execute(reader,
  "SELECT * FROM cars VISUALISE mpg AS x DRAW histogram"
)

ggsql_render(vegalite_writer(), spec)
```

---

ggsql_save	<i>Save a ggsql spec to a file</i>
------------	------------------------------------

---

### Description

This function renders a specification and returns it either as a Vegalite json string, an SVG or a PNG. For the latter two, the Vegalite JSON is rendered to SVG using the `V8` package and, potentially, converted to PNG using the `rsvg` package.

### Usage

```
ggsql_save(spec, file, width = 600, height = 400)
```

**Arguments**

spec	A Spec object returned by <code>ggsql_execute()</code> .
file	Output file path. Extension determines format: <code>.svg</code> , <code>.png</code> , or <code>.json</code> .
width	Width in pixels.
height	Height in pixels.

**Value**

file, invisibly.

**Examples**

```
reader <- duckdb_reader()
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")
spec <- ggsql_execute(reader,
  "SELECT * FROM cars VISUALISE mpg AS x, disp AS y DRAW point"
)
spec_file <- tempfile(fileext = ".json")
ggsql_save(spec, spec_file)
```

---

`ggsql_session_reader` *Set the ggsql reader for the current Shiny session*

---

**Description**

Registers a `duckdb_reader()` for use by all `renderGgsql()` outputs in the current Shiny session. Must be called from within a Shiny server function (i.e., while a session is active). The reader is automatically cleaned up when the session ends.

**Usage**

```
ggsql_session_reader(reader, session = shiny::getDefaultReactiveDomain())
```

**Arguments**

reader	A Reader object created by <code>duckdb_reader()</code> .
session	The Shiny session object. Defaults to the current session.

**Value**

The reader, invisibly.

**Examples**

```
library(shiny)

ui <- fluidPage(
  ggsqlOutput("chart")
)

server <- function(input, output, session) {
  ggsql_session_reader(duckdb_reader())

  output$chart <- renderGgsql({
    "SELECT * FROM r:mtcars VISUALISE mpg AS x, disp AS y DRAW point"
  })
}

shinyApp(ui, server)
```

---

`ggsql_validate`*Validate a ggsql query*

---

**Description**

Checks query syntax and semantics without executing SQL. Returns a validation result that can be inspected for errors and warnings.

**Usage**

```
ggsql_validate(query)
```

```
ggsql_has_visual(x)
```

```
ggsql_is_valid(x)
```

**Arguments**

<code>query</code>	A ggsql query string.
<code>x</code>	A ggsql_validated object

**Value**

A ggsql\_validated object for ggsql\_validate(). A boolean for ggsql\_has\_visual() and ggsql\_is\_valid()

**Examples**

```
result <- ggsql_validate("SELECT 1 AS x, 2 AS y VISUALISE x, y DRAW point")
result
```

odbc\_reader

*Create an ODBC reader***Description**

Creates a connection to a database through an ODBC driver. Can execute SQL queries and, where the backend supports it, register R data frames as temporary tables. Requires an ODBC driver manager (unixODBC/iODBC on Unix, built into Windows) and the appropriate ODBC driver for the target database to be installed.

**Usage**

```
odbc_reader(
  dsn = NULL,
  driver = NULL,
  server = NULL,
  database = NULL,
  uid = NULL,
  pwd = NULL,
  ...,
  connection_string = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

dsn	Name of a data source configured in <code>odbc.ini</code> / <code>odbcinst.ini</code> .
driver	ODBC driver name (e.g. " <code>{PostgreSQL}</code> ", " <code>{Snowflake}</code> "). Curly brackets are optional.
server, database, uid, pwd	Common ODBC parameters.
...	Additional named key = value parameters appended to the connection string (e.g. <code>Port = 5432</code> , <code>Warehouse = "COMPUTE_WH"</code> ).
connection_string	A full ODBC connection string, e.g. <code>"Driver={PostgreSQL};Server=localhost;Database=mydb;UID=...</code> A leading <code>odbc://</code> is accepted and stripped.

**Details**

Either pass a full ODBC connection string via `connection_string`, or supply named components (`dsn`, `driver`, `server`, `database`, `uid`, `pwd`, plus any extra key = value pairs in `...`) and they will be assembled into a connection string. If `connection_string` is supplied, the other named arguments are ignored.

**Value**

A Reader object.

## Credentials

Connection strings are stored in-memory for the life of the reader. Prefer configuring credentials through a DSN, `~/.odbc.ini`, or environment variables rather than hard-coding passwords in scripts.

## See Also

Other readers: `custom_reader()`, `duckdb_reader()`, `snowflake_reader()`

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Using a preconfigured DSN
reader <- odbc_reader(dsn = "mydsn")

# Building a connection string from components
reader <- odbc_reader(
  driver = "{PostgreSQL}",
  server = "localhost",
  database = "mydb",
  uid = "user",
  pwd = "secret",
  Port = 5432
)

# Passing a full connection string
reader <- odbc_reader("Driver={SQLite3};Database=:memory:")

## End(Not run)
```

---

snowflake_reader	<i>Create a Snowflake reader</i>
------------------	----------------------------------

---

## Description

Convenience constructor for Snowflake connections. Uses the ODBC reader under the hood with the Snowflake driver, and takes advantage of the dedicated Snowflake handling in the `ggsql` Rust core:

## Usage

```
snowflake_reader(
  account = NULL,
  warehouse = NULL,
  database = NULL,
  schema = NULL,
  role = NULL,
```

```

    user = NULL,
    password = NULL,
    authenticator = NULL,
    connection_name = NULL,
    driver = NULL,
    ...,
    connection_string = NULL
)

```

### Arguments

account	Snowflake account identifier (e.g. "xy12345" or "xy12345.us-east-1"). Translated to Server={account}.snowflakecomputing.com in the connection string.
warehouse, database, schema, role	Snowflake session defaults.
user, password	User credentials. Prefer a DSN, connection_name, or authenticator = "externalbrowser" over hard-coded passwords.
authenticator	Snowflake authenticator (e.g. "externalbrowser", "snowflake_jwt", "oauth").
connection_name	Named entry in ~/.snowflake/connections.toml whose fields will fill in the remaining connection parameters.
driver	Override the ODBC driver name (defaults to "Snowflake").
...	Additional named key = value parameters appended to the connection string.
connection_string	A full raw connection string, bypassing the named arguments. Driver={Snowflake}; is prepended if it isn't already present.

### Details

Special handling of Snowflake includes:

- If connection\_name is supplied (or ConnectionName= appears in the connection string), it is resolved against ~/.snowflake/connections.toml.
- When running inside Posit Workbench, an OAuth token is automatically injected if one is available.
- Schema introspection uses Snowflake's SHOW DATABASES / SCHEMAS / TABLES commands rather than information\_schema.

Requires the Snowflake ODBC driver to be installed on the system.

### Value

A Reader object.

### See Also

Other readers: [custom\\_reader\(\)](#), [duckdb\\_reader\(\)](#), [odbc\\_reader\(\)](#)

## Examples

```
## Not run:
# Using a named connection from ~/.snowflake/connections.toml
reader <- snowflake_reader(connection_name = "my_workbench")

# Browser-based SSO
reader <- snowflake_reader(
  account = "xy12345.us-east-1",
  user = "alice@example.com",
  authenticator = "externalbrowser",
  warehouse = "COMPUTE_WH",
  database = "ANALYTICS",
  schema = "PUBLIC",
  role = "ANALYST"
)

## End(Not run)
```

---

spec\_utility

*Utility functions for visualization specifications*

---

## Description

These functions allow you to extract various information from a Spec object returned by [ggsql\\_execute\(\)](#).

## Usage

```
ggsql_metadata(spec)
ggsql_sql(spec)
ggsql_visual(spec)
ggsql_layer_count(spec)
ggsql_layer_data(spec, index = 1L)
ggsql_stat_data(spec, index = 1L)
ggsql_layer_sql(spec, index = 1L)
ggsql_stat_sql(spec, index = 1L)
ggsql_warnings(spec)
```

**Arguments**

spec	A Spec object as returned by <code>ggsql_execute()</code>
index	Layer index

**Value**

- `ggsql_metadata`: A list with elements `rows`, `columns`, and `layer_count`
- `ggsql_sql`: A character string with the SQL portion of the query
- `ggsql_visual`: A character string with the visual portion of the query
- `ggsql_layer_count`: An integer giving the number of layers
- `ggsql_layer_data`: A data frame, or NULL if no data is available for this layer
- `ggsql_stat_data`: A data frame, or NULL if the layer doesn't use a stat transform
- `ggsql_layer_sql`: A character string with the SQL query used by the layer to fetch its data, or NULL if the layer doesn't have any data.
- `ggsql_stat_sql`: A character string with the SQL query used by the layers stat transform, or NULL if the layer doesn't have a stat transform.
- `ggsql_warnings`: A data.frame with columns `message`, `line`, and `column` giving the validation warnings for the spec

**Examples**

```
reader <- duckdb_reader()
ggsql_register(reader, mtcars, "cars")
spec <- ggsql_execute(reader,
  "SELECT * FROM cars VISUALISE mpg AS x DRAW histogram"
)

ggsql_metadata(spec)

ggsql_visual(spec)
```

---

vegalite\_writer

*Create a Vega-Lite writer*


---

**Description**

This function creates a vegalite writer which is currently the only writer type for ggsql

**Usage**

```
vegalite_writer()
```

**Value**

A Writer object.

**Examples**

`vegalite_writer()`

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