

# Package: MsBackendMongoDb (via r-universe)

June 3, 2026

**Title** NoSQL-based Mass Spectrometry Data Backend

**Version** 0.97.3

**Description** Mass spectrometry (MS) data backend for data storage in NoSQL MongoDB databases. Objects from this package expand the data storage and handling infrastructure of the Spectra Bioconductor package. This package adds support to store and retrieve MS data from MongoDB databases.

**Depends** R (>= 4.5.0), Spectra (>= 1.19.8)

**Imports** jsonlite, mongolite, S4Vectors, MsCoreUtils, ProtGenerics, IRanges, fastmatch, methods, DBI

**Suggests** testthat, knitr (>= 1.1.0), roxygen2, BiocStyle (>= 2.5.19), msdata, rmarkdown, mzR

**License** Artistic-2.0

**Encoding** UTF-8

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**BugReports** <https://github.com/RforMassSpectrometry/MsBackendMongoDb/issues>

**URL** <https://github.com/RforMassSpectrometry/MsBackendMongoDb>

**biocViews** Infrastructure, MassSpectrometry, Metabolomics, DataImport, Proteomics

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connectMsBackendMongoDb  
*Create a connection to MongoDB*

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### Description

Creates connections to required MongoDB collections used by the [MsBackendMongoDb](#).

### Usage

```
connectMsBackendMongoDb(
  db = "spectra_db",
  url = "mongodb://localhost",
  clean = FALSE
)
```

### Arguments

db	character(1) scalar, name of the MongoDB database.
url	character(1) a MongoDB server URL.
clean	logical(1) whether the collection should be <i>cleaned</i> , i.e., if all content should be deleted. Be careful with this parameter as setting to TRUE will delete eventually persent content from the database.

### Value

A named `list()` of mongo connection objects.

### Author(s)

Ahlam Mentag

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MsBackendMongoDb	Spectra <i>MS backend storing data in a MongoDB database</i>
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## Description

MsBackendMongoDb is an implementation of the `Spectra::MsBackend()` class for `Spectra::Spectra()` objects, storing and retrieving MS data from a MongoDB database.

This backend allows read-only access to spectra and peaks stored in MongoDB, but supports temporary modifications of spectra variables via caching.

## Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
show(object)

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
backendInitialize(object, dbcon, data, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
dataStorage(object)

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
peaksData(object, columns = c("mz", "intensity"))

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
peaksVariables(object)

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
mz(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
mz(object) <- value

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
intensity(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
intensity(object) <- value

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
spectraNames(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
spectraNames(object) <- value

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
```

```
spectraData(object, columns = spectraVariables(object))

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
x[i, j, ..., drop = FALSE]

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb,ANY'
extractByIndex(object, i)

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
reset(object)

## S4 method for signature 'MsBackendMongoDb'
supportsSetBackend(object, ...)
```

### Arguments

object	A MsBackendMongoDb instance
dbcon	list() of MongoDB collections, e.g., list(compounds_info_coll = mongo_conn)
data	Optional DataFrame with data to insert into MongoDB
...	Additional arguments passed internally
columns	Character() vector of columns to fetch for peaksData or spectraData
value	Replacement values for setter functions
x	for [i]: a MsBackendMongoDb instance
i	integer() Indices to subset the backend
j	integer() Ignored.
drop	logical(1), ignored for subsetting

### Value

Depends on the method. See individual function documentation.

### Creation of backend objects

New backend objects can be created using:

```
con <- connectMsBackendMongoDb(db = <database name>, url = <db url>)
backend <- backendInitialize(MsBackendMongoDb(), dbcon = con)
```

- dbcon: A list of MongoDB collections (e.g. from `mongolite::mongo()`) as created by the [connectMsBackendMongoDb\(\)](#).
- backendInitialize(): populates the object with spectrum IDs and caches metadata. If data is provided, it can insert data into the collection.

### Accessing data

- `peaksData(object, columns = c("mz", "intensity"))`: returns a list of matrices containing the peak data for each spectrum.
- `peaksVariables(object)`: returns available columns for `peaksData`.
- `intensity(object), mz(object)`: return `SimpleList` objects with numeric intensity or m/z values for each spectrum.
- `spectraData(object, columns)`: returns a `DataFrame` with requested spectrum metadata columns.
- `spectraNames(object)`: returns `spectrum_id` values as character.

### Read-only data

- `intensity<-` and `mz<-` are **not supported**.
- `spectraNames<-` is **not supported**.

### Subsetting and extraction

- `[i]` and `extractByIndex(object, i)` subset the backend by spectrum indices. Original data in the database is never changed.
- `reset(object)` restores the backend to its original state, removing subsetting and cached variables.

### Miscellaneous

- `dataStorage(object)` returns a string describing the MongoDB collections used by the backend.

### Implementation notes

Internally, the backend stores:

- `spectraIds`: integer vector of spectrum IDs
- `dbcon`: MongoDB connection(s)
- `.collections`: list of collection names
- `peak_fun`: function used to fetch peak data
- `localData`: cached spectrum variables
- `nspectra`: total number of spectra

Data access functions use `peak_fun` to fetch peaks on demand.

### Note

`MsBackendMongoDb` keeps a connection to a MongoDB collection(s) and fetches spectra and peaks data on demand. By storing only the primary keys (`spectrum_id`) in memory, it ensures minimal memory usage, while peaks and metadata are fetched dynamically.

The backend inherits from `Spectra::MsBackendCached()` and supports temporary modification of spectra variables via the `$<-` operator. Original data in the database cannot be changed (intensities and m/z values are read-only).

**Author(s)**

Ahlan Mentag

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