

# Package: sparsediff (via r-universe)

June 4, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** R Interface to the 'SparseDiffEngine' Sparse Differentiation Backend

**Version** 0.4.0

**Description** Bindings for the 'SparseDiffEngine' C library, the sparse Jacobian and Hessian differentiation backend used by 'CVXPY' for its Disciplined Nonlinear Programming (DNLP) extension. Provides low-level routines for building nonlinear expression graphs and evaluating sparse derivatives, intended as a backend for higher-level modeling layers such as 'CVXR'. This is the R analog of the 'sparsediffpy' Python package and wraps the same C library.

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**URL** <https://bnaras.github.io/sparsediff/>,  
<https://github.com/bnaras/sparsediff>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/bnaras/sparsediff/issues>

**Encoding** UTF-8

**SystemRequirements** GNU make

**LinkingTo** cpp11

**Suggests** cpp11, knitr, rmarkdown

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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engine_version	<i>Bundled SparseDiffEngine version</i>
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### Description

Returns the version string of the SparseDiffEngine C library bundled with this package.

### Usage

```
engine_version()
```

### Value

A character scalar, e.g. "0.3.0".

### Examples

```
engine_version()
```

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sparsediff-affine	<i>Affine and shape atoms</i>
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### Description

Affine combinations and shape manipulations of expressions. These have constant (zero) second derivatives but participate in the Jacobian.

**Arguments**

left, right, child, c	expression handles.
d1, d2	target row and column dimensions (for sd_promote, sd_reshape, sd_broadcast, sd_index).
indices	0-based column-major flat indices selected by sd_index.
args	a list of expression handles to stack (sd_hstack, sd_vstack).
n_vars	total number of variables in the problem.
axis	reduction axis for sd_sum: -1 (all entries), 0 (down rows) or 1 (across columns).

**Details**

sd_add	elementwise sum of two expressions.
sd_sum	sum reduction along axis.
sd_trace	matrix trace.
sd_transpose	matrix transpose.
sd_diag_vec	diagonal matrix from a vector.
sd_diag_mat	diagonal vector from a matrix.
sd_upper_tri	the strict upper-triangular entries.
sd_promote	promote a scalar to shape d1 x d2.
sd_reshape	reshape to d1 x d2 (column-major).
sd_broadcast	broadcast to d1 x d2.
sd_index	select entries by 0-based flat indices.
sd_hstack, sd_vstack	horizontal / vertical stacking.

**Value**

An expression handle.

**See Also**

[sparsediff-elementwise](#), [sparsediff-matrix](#)

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sparsediff-bivariate *Bivariate atoms*

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### Description

Functions of two expression arguments.

### Arguments

`l, r, x, y` expression handles.

### Details

`sd_elementwise_mult` elementwise (Hadamard) product.

`sd_matmul` matrix product  $xy$ .

`sd_quad_over_lin` the quadratic-over-linear  $\|x\|^2/y$ .

`sd_rel_entr` elementwise relative entropy  $x \log(x/y)$ .

`sd_rel_entr_first_scalar, sd_rel_entr_second_scalar` relative entropy with a scalar first or second argument broadcast against the other.

### Value

An expression handle.

### See Also

[sparsediff-elementwise](#), [sparsediff-reduction](#)

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sparsediff-elementwise

*Elementwise atoms*

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### Description

Smooth elementwise functions of a single expression. Each returns an expression of the same shape as its argument.

### Arguments

`child, c` an expression handle (the argument).

`p` exponent for `sd_power`.

**Details**

sd\_exp, sd\_log exponential and natural logarithm.  
 sd\_sin, sd\_cos, sd\_tan trigonometric functions.  
 sd\_sinh, sd\_tanh, sd\_asinh, sd\_atanh hyperbolic and inverse-hyperbolic functions.  
 sd\_logistic the logistic  $\log(1 + e^x)$ .  
 sd\_xexp  $xe^x$ .  
 sd\_normal\_cdf the standard normal CDF.  
 sd\_entr the elementwise entropy  $-x \log x$ .  
 sd\_power the power  $x^p$ .  
 sd\_neg negation  $-x$ .

**Value**

An expression handle.

**See Also**

[sparsediff-affine](#), [sparsediff-bivariate](#)

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sparsediff-leaves      *Leaf expressions: variables and parameters*

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**Description**

Create the leaves of an expression graph. A variable is a slice of the differentiation vector; a parameter is fixed data that can be updated between evaluations (see [sd\\_register\\_params](#)).

**Arguments**

d1, d2	row and column dimensions of the leaf.
var_id	0-based flat (column-major) offset of this variable's first entry within the primal vector $u$ .
param_id	0-based parameter offset, analogous to <code>var_id</code> .
n_vars	total number of variables in the problem.
values	numeric data for the parameter (length $d1 * d2$ , column-major).

**Value**

An expression handle.

**See Also**

[sparsediff-elementwise](#), [sd\\_problem](#)

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 sparsediff-matrix

*Parameter- and constant-matrix atoms*


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### Description

Operations that combine an expression with fixed data — a registered parameter node or a constant matrix — so the data can flow through the differentiated graph (and, for parameters, be updated between evaluations).

### Arguments

param	a parameter expression handle (see <a href="#">sd_parameter</a> ).
child	an expression handle (the variable argument).
Qp, Qi, Qx	the column-pointer, row-index and value arrays of a compressed-sparse-column matrix $Q$ (as in a <code>Matrix::dgCMatrix: @p, @i, @x</code> ) for <code>sd_quad_form</code> 's $x^\top Qx$ .
Ap, Ai, Ax	the compressed-sparse-column arrays of a constant matrix $A$ for the sparse matrix products.
ncol	number of columns of the sparse constant matrix $A$ .
m, n	row and column dimensions of the dense constant matrix.
data	the dense constant-matrix entries (length $m * n$ , column-major).

### Details

`sd_scalar_mult`, `sd_vector_mult` multiply a child by a scalar / vector parameter.

`sd_convolve` convolution of a parameter kernel with a child.

`sd_quad_form` the quadratic form  $x^\top Qx$  with sparse constant  $Q$ .

`sd_left_matmul`, `sd_right_matmul` left / right product with a sparse constant matrix  $A$ .

`sd_left_matmul_dense`, `sd_right_matmul_dense` left / right product with a dense constant matrix.

### Value

An expression handle.

### See Also

[sd\\_parameter](#), [sd\\_register\\_params](#)

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 sparsediff-oracle      *Sparse derivative oracle*


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## Description

Initialise and evaluate the value, gradient, sparse constraint Jacobian and sparse lower-triangular Lagrangian Hessian of a problem built with [sd\\_problem](#).

## Arguments

prob	a problem handle from <a href="#">sd_problem</a> .
u	a numeric vector: the primal point at which to evaluate, laid out in the engine's column-major flat ordering (the same ordering used by the <code>var_id</code> offsets passed to <a href="#">sd_variable</a> ).
obj_w	a scalar weight $\sigma$ multiplying the objective Hessian.
w	a numeric vector of constraint multipliers (length equal to the total constraint size) weighting the constraint Hessians.

## Details

Evaluation is ordered: a forward pass first (`sd_objective_forward` / `sd_constraint_forward`) populates the node values at `u`, after which `sd_gradient`, `sd_jacobian_values` and `sd_hessian_values` read them. Sparsity patterns are structural — fixed once the corresponding `sd_init_*` routine has run — so they are queried once and reused, while the values are recomputed at each new point. Row and column indices are 0-based (the engine convention; a higher-level modelling layer such as **CVXR** translates them to 1-based as needed).

## Value

`sd_init_derivatives`, `sd_init_jacobian`, `sd_init_jacobian_coo`, `sd_init_hessian_coo` called for their side effect; return NULL invisibly.

`sd_objective_forward` the scalar objective value at `u`.

`sd_constraint_forward` the constraint vector at `u`.

`sd_gradient` the objective gradient, length `n_vars`.

`sd_jacobian_sparsity`, `sd_hessian_sparsity` a list with integer rows/cols (0-based COO indices) and `nrow/ncol`.

`sd_jacobian_values` the constraint-Jacobian nonzeros, matching the Jacobian sparsity order.

`sd_hessian_values` the nonzeros of  $\sigma \nabla^2 f + \sum_i w_i \nabla^2 g_i$ , lower triangle, matching the Hessian sparsity order.

## See Also

[sd\\_problem](#)

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sparsediff-problem      *Assemble a differentiable problem*

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### Description

Combine an objective expression and a list of constraint expressions (built with the `sd_*` atom constructors) into a single problem object whose value and sparse derivatives can be evaluated repeatedly.

### Arguments

<code>objective</code>	an expression handle for the scalar objective.
<code>constraints</code>	a list of expression handles, stacked vertically to form the constraint vector $g(x)$ (may be empty).
<code>verbose</code>	logical; if TRUE, print diagnostic information while the problem is assembled.
<code>prob</code>	a problem handle returned by <code>sd_problem()</code> .
<code>params</code>	a list of parameter expression handles (see <a href="#">sd_parameter</a> ) to register for fast re-evaluation under changing data.
<code>theta</code>	a numeric vector of new parameter values, concatenated in the order the parameters were registered.

### Details

The typical lifecycle is: build expressions with the `sd_*` constructors, assemble them with `sd_problem()`, initialise the derivative structures once ([sd\\_init\\_derivatives](#) and friends), then evaluate the objective/constraints and their sparse derivatives at as many primal points as needed. When the problem has parameters, register them once with `sd_register_params()` and push new values with `sd_update_params()` to re-evaluate without rebuilding the graph (the DPP-style fast path).

### Value

`sd_problem()` returns an external-pointer problem handle. The handle owns the underlying expression graph and frees it when garbage collected. `sd_register_params()` and `sd_update_params()` are called for their side effect and return NULL invisibly.

### See Also

[sd\\_init\\_derivatives](#) for the evaluation oracle, [sd\\_variable](#) and the atom constructors for building expressions.

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sparsediff-reduction *Product-reduction atoms*

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**Description**

Multiplicative reductions of an expression.

**Arguments**

c                    an expression handle.

**Details**

sd\_prod   product of all entries.

sd\_prod\_axis\_zero   column-wise products (reduce down rows).

sd\_prod\_axis\_one   row-wise products (reduce across columns).

**Value**

An expression handle.

**See Also**

[sparsediff-affine](#)

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