

Package: readABF (via r-universe)

October 3, 2026

Title Loads Axon Binary Files

Version 1.0.2

Description Loads Axon Binary Files (both 'ABF' and 'ABF2') created by
Axon Instruments/Molecular Devices software such as 'pClamp'.

Depends R (>= 3.2.0)

License GPL-3

Imports graphics, methods

Suggests testthat

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Repository <https://zabolekar.r-universe.dev>

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readABF-package

Loads Axon Binary Files

Description

Loads Axon Binary Files (both 'ABF' and 'ABF2') created by Axon Instruments/Molecular Devices software such as 'pClamp'.

Details

Reads ABF2 files, created by pClamp 10 and newer, and ABF files, created by pClamp 9 and older. Currently, code is tested under Linux only. For this purpose, multiple data sets are used which cannot be included in the package. We would very much appreciate to receive further data sets for testing purposes. A repository to upload data sets can be provided at request.

Index: This package was not yet installed at build time.

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- **abf2** by Matthew Caldwell was a useful starting point.
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as.data.frame.ABF*Coerces an ABF Object to a Data Frame*

Description

S3 method to coerce an **ABF** object to a data frame.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ABF'  
as.data.frame(x, row.names = NULL, optional = FALSE, ..., sweep = NULL,  
type = c("all", "one"), channels, unit = NULL)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	an object of class ABF, typically generated by <code>readABF</code> .
<code>row.names, optional, ...</code>	further arguments in case they are passed from other methods; they will be ignored.
<code>sweep</code>	an integer, indicating which sweep should be coerced; required in case of multiple sweeps, otherwise ignored.
<code>type</code>	a string specifying the return value, see 'Value'.
<code>channels</code>	an integer vector of length one or two; required if <code>type == "one"</code> , otherwise ignored, see 'Value'.
<code>unit</code>	a string, specifying the unit of one, if NULL unit will be determined by units in <code>x</code> ; ignored if <code>type == "all"</code> or <code>length(channels) == 1</code>

Value

A data.frame. The first column always contains the time which is calculated from the sampling interval. The earliest data point is believed to be at time 1 divided by the sampling rate.

Column names are accompanied by their units.

If `type == "all"`, all channels are added to the resulting data frame. Their units are copied from the ABF object.

If `type == "one"`, the resulting data frame only contains the time (see above) and one additional column with the actual data, whereby `channels`, a vector of integers, specifies what to read. If `channels` contains one index, then that channel is used for the data column. If `channels` contains two indices, then the data of the first channel is divided by the data of the second channel. This might be for instance helpful to obtain conductance by dividing a channel containing current values by a channel containing voltage values. The unit of the data column is either provided by `unit` or, if not provided, the ratio of the two units (as read from the ABF object) is given.

Examples

```
# loads an example file and coerces its first sweep to data frame
r <- readABF(system.file("extdata", "2009_01_19_0002_varlen_v18.abf", package="readABF"))
as.data.frame(r, sweep=1)
```

plot.ABF

Plots an ABF Object

Description

S3 method to plot ABF objects. Converts the ABF object to a data frame and then plots the data frame.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'ABF'
plot(x, pch = ".", ..., sweep = 1, type = c("all", "one"),
     channels, unit = NULL)
```

Arguments

`x` an object of class ABF, typically generated by [readABF](#).

`pch` same as pch from [par](#).

`...` further arguments that will be passed to [plot](#).

`sweep, type, channels, unit` arguments that will be passed to [as.data.frame.ABF](#).

See Also

[as.data.frame.ABF](#)

Examples

```
# loads an example file and plots its first sweep
r <- readABF(system.file("extdata", "2009_01_19_0002_varlen_v18.abf", package="readABF"))
plot(r, sweep=1)

# leads to the same result
plot(as.data.frame(r, sweep=1), pch = ".")
```

print.ABF

Prints a Short Description of an ABF Object

Description

Prints information about an [ABF](#) object and returns it invisibly. This helps to identify the dataset but does not overwhelm the user with the raw data.

Usage

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

Arguments

`x` an object of class ABF, typically generated by [readABF](#).

`...` further arguments in case they are passed from other methods; they will be ignored.

Examples

```
# loads an example file and prints it
r <- readABF(system.file("extdata", "2009_01_19_0002_varlen_v18.abf", package="readABF"))
print(r)
```

readABF*Reads ABF Files*

Description

Reads ABF2 files, created by pClamp 10 and newer, and ABF files, created by pClamp 9 and older.

Usage

```
readABF(file)
```

Arguments

file character vector, containing the file name or path.

Value

an ABF object, i.e. a [list](#) containing the data and other information like the header.

See Also

[as.data.frame.ABF](#), [plot.ABF](#), [print.ABF](#)

Examples

```
## reads an example file
readABF(system.file("extdata", "2009_01_19_0002_varlen_v18.abf", package="readABF"))
```

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