Time Series Database Interface: R MySQL (TSMySQL)

November 7, 2009

1 Introduction

The code from the vignette that generates this guide can be loaded into an editor with *edit(vignette("TSMySQL"))*. This uses the default editor, which can be changed using *options()*. It should be possible to view the pdf version of the guide for this package with *print(vignette("TSMySQL"))*.

WARNING: running these example will overwrite tables in the MySQL "test" database on the server.

Once R is started, the functions in this package are made available with

```
> library("TSMySQL")
```

This will also load required packages *TSdbi*, *DBI*, *RMySQL*, *methods*, and *tframe*. Some examples below also require *zoo*, and *tseries*.

The MySQL user, password, and hostname should be set in MySQL client configuration file (.my.cnf) before starting R. Alternatively, this information can be set with environment variables MYSQL_USER, MYSQL_PASSWD and MYSQL_HOST. (An environment variable MYSQL_DATABASE can also be set, but "test" is specified below.) Below, the environment variable MYSQL_USER is used to determine which of these methods is being used. If this environment variable is empty then it is assumed the configuration file will be used.

```
> user <- Sys.getenv("MYSQL_USER")
> if ("" != user) {
      host <- Sys.getenv("MYSQL_HOST")
      if ("" == host)
          host <- Sys.info()["nodename"]
      passwd <- Sys.getenv("MYSQL_PASSWD")
      if ("" == passwd)
          passwd <- NULL
  }
```

The next small section of code is necessary to setup database tables that are used in the examples below. It needs to be done only once for a database and might typically be done by an administrator setting up the database, rather than by an end user.

```
> m <- dbDriver("MySQL")
> con <- if ("" == user) dbConnect(m, dbname = "test") else dbConnect(m,
      dbname = "test", username = user, password = passwd, host = host)
> source(system.file("TSsql/CreateTables.TSsql", package = "TSdbi"))
> dbDisconnect(con)
```

More detailed description of the instructions for building the database tables is given in the vignette for the *TSdbi* package. Those instruction show how to build the database using database utilites rather than R, which might be the way a system administrator would build the database.

2 Using the Database - TSdbi Functions

This section gives several simple examples of putting series on and reading them from the database. (If a large number of series are to be loaded into a database, one would typically do this with a batch process using the database program's utilities for loading data.) The first thing to do is to establish a connection to the database:

```
> con <- if ("" == user) TSconnect("MySQL", dbname = "test") else TSconnect("MySQL",
      dbname = "test", username = user, password = passwd, host = host)
```

TSconnect uses *dbConnect* from the *DBI* package, but checks that the database has expected tables, and checks for additional features. (It cannot be used before the tables are created, as done in the previous section.)

This puts a series called *vec* on the database and then reads is back

```
> z <- ts(rnorm(10), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 1)
> seriesNames(z) <- "vec"
> if (TSexists("vec", con)) TSdelete("vec", con)
> TSput(z, con)
> z <- TSget("vec", con)
```

If the series is printed it is seen to be a "ts" time series with some extra attributes.

TSput fails if the series already exists on the *con*, so the above example checks and deletes the series if it already exists. *TSreplace* does not fail if the series does not yet exist, so examples below use it instead. Several plots below show original data and the data retrieved after it is written to the database. One is added to the original data so that both lines are visible.

And now more examples:

```
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(20), 10, 2), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 1)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("matc1", "matc2")
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> TSget("matc1", con)

Time Series:
Start = 1990
End = 1999
Frequency = 1
          1           2           3           4           5           6
-0.61377268  0.18028380  1.19639991 -0.03000185  0.42739371  0.54288575
          7           8           9          10
 0.44746533  2.38877935  0.27438822 -1.20200187
attr(,"seriesNames")
[1] matc1
attr(,"TSrefperiod")
[1] NA
attr(,"TSmeta")
An object of class "TSmeta"
Slot "TSdescription":
[1] NA

Slot "TSdoc":
[1] NA

Slot "TSlabel":
[1] NA

Slot "serIDs":
[1] "matc1"

Slot "conType":
[1] "TSMySQLConnection"
attr(,"package")
[1] "TSMySQL"

Slot "DateStamp":
[1] NA

Slot "dbname":
[1] "test"

Slot "hasVintages":
[1] FALSE
```

```
Slot "hasPanels":
[1] FALSE
```

```
> TSget("matc2", con)
```

```
Time Series:
Start = 1990
End = 1999
Frequency = 1
          1           2           3           4           5           6
 1.02485987 -0.04226152 -0.52334568  0.64871654 -1.92768997 -0.16938138
          7           8           9          10
 0.53720283  0.16845615 -1.11307551 -0.49414070
attr(,"seriesNames")
[1] matc2
attr(,"TSrefperiod")
[1] NA
attr(,"TSmeta")
An object of class "TSmeta"
Slot "TSdescription":
[1] NA

Slot "TSdoc":
[1] NA

Slot "TSlabel":
[1] NA

Slot "serIDs":
[1] "matc2"

Slot "conType":
[1] "TSMySQLConnection"
attr(,"package")
[1] "TSMySQL"

Slot "DateStamp":
[1] NA

Slot "dbname":
[1] "test"

Slot "hasVintages":
[1] FALSE
```

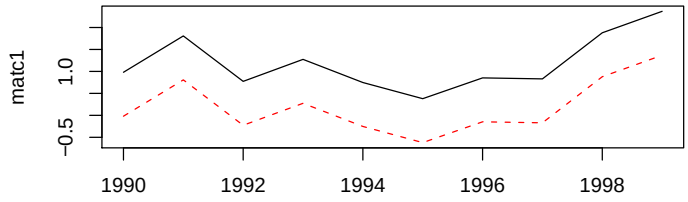
```
Slot "hasPanels":
[1] FALSE
```

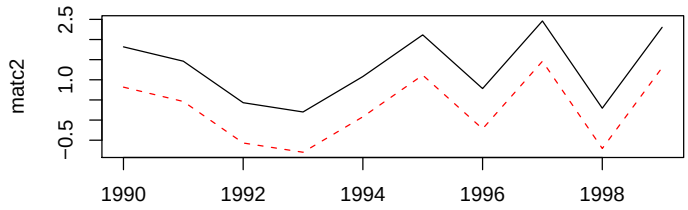
```
> TSget(c("matc1", "matc2"), con)
```

```
Time Series:
Start = 1990
End = 1999
Frequency = 1
           matc1       matc2
1990 -0.61377268  1.02485987
1991  0.18028380 -0.04226152
1992  1.19639991 -0.52334568
1993 -0.03000185  0.64871654
1994  0.42739371 -1.92768997
1995  0.54288575 -0.16938138
1996  0.44746533  0.53720283
1997  2.38877935  0.16845615
1998  0.27438822 -1.11307551
1999 -1.20200187 -0.49414070
attr(,"TSrefperiod")
[1] NA NA
attr(,"TSmeta")
An object of class "TSmeta"
Slot "TSdescription":
[1] NA

Slot "TSdoc":
[1] NA

Slot "TSlabel":
[1] NA

Slot "serIDs":
[1] "matc1" "matc2"

Slot "conType":
[1] "TSMySQLConnection"
attr(,"package")
[1] "TSMySQL"

Slot "DateStamp":
[1] NA

Slot "dbname":
[1] "test"
```

```
Slot "hasVintages":
[1] FALSE

Slot "hasPanels":
[1] FALSE
```

```
> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("matc1", "matc2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```

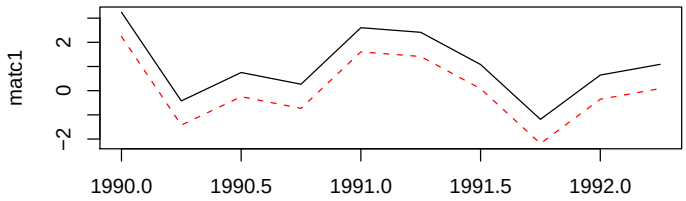


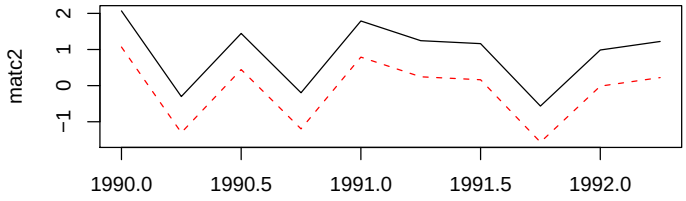



```
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(20), 10, 2), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 4)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("matc1", "matc2")
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> TSget(c("matc1", "matc2"), con)

             matc1      matc2
1990 Q1 -0.9981037  0.6385569
1990 Q2 -0.8457634  0.4015300
1990 Q3 -1.0799716 -0.7485475
1990 Q4  0.8427693  0.0328909
```

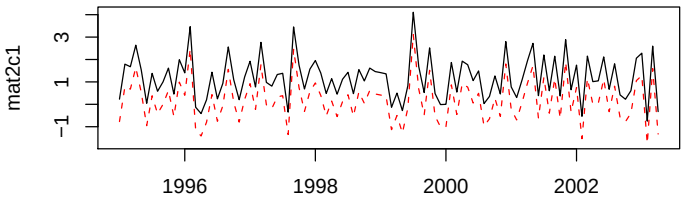
```
1991 Q1  0.8045683 -3.5114036
1991 Q2  0.6663311 -1.0073866
1991 Q3  0.2874661 -0.3848544
1991 Q4 -1.1013533  2.3885317
1992 Q1  0.6602682  0.6234873
1992 Q2 -0.6110268 -0.4616330
attr(,"TSrefperiod")
[1] NA NA
attr(,"TSmeta")
An object of class "TSmeta"
Slot "TSdescription":
[1] NA

Slot "TSdoc":
[1] NA

Slot "TSlabel":
[1] NA

Slot "serIDs":
[1] "matc1" "matc2"

Slot "conType":
[1] "TSMySQLConnection"
attr(,"package")
[1] "TSMySQL"

Slot "DateStamp":
[1] NA

Slot "dbname":
[1] "test"

Slot "hasVintages":
[1] FALSE

Slot "hasPanels":
[1] FALSE
```

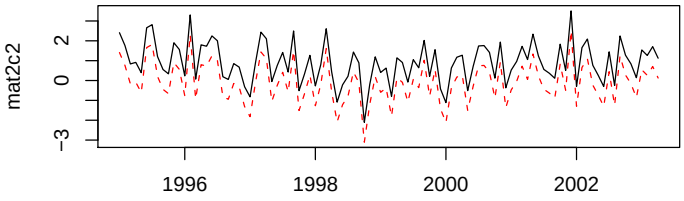
```
> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("matc1", "matc2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```






```
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(200), 100, 2), start = c(1995, 1), frequency = 12)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("mat2c1", "mat2c2")
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("mat2c1", "mat2c2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```





The following extract information about the series from the database, although not much information has been added for these examples.

```
> TSmeta("mat2c1", con)
> TSmeta("vec", con)
> TSdates("vec", con)
> TSdescription("vec", con)
> TSdoc("vec", con)
```

Below are exampoles that make more use of *TSdescription* and codeTSdoc. Often it is convenient to set the default connection:

```
> options(TSconnection = con)
```

and then the *con* specification can be omitted from the function calls unless another connection is needed. The *con* can still be specified, and some examples below do specify it, just to illustrate the alternative syntax.

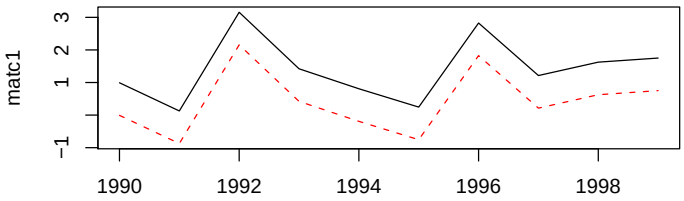
```
> z <- TSget("mat2c1")
> TSmeta("mat2c1")

An object of class "TSmeta"
Slot "TSdescription":
[1] "NA"
```

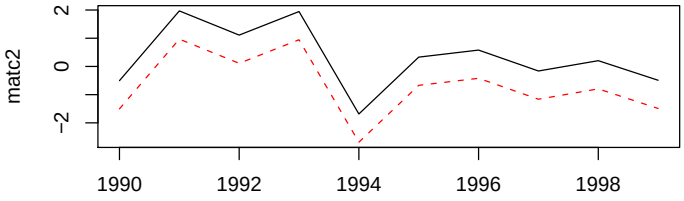
```
Slot "TSdoc":
[1] "NA"

Slot "TSlabel":
[1] NA

Slot "serIDs":
[1] "mat2c1"

Slot "conType":
[1] "TSMySQLConnection"
attr(,"package")
[1] "TSMySQL"

Slot "DateStamp":
[1] NA

Slot "dbname":
[1] "test"

Slot "hasVintages":
[1] FALSE

Slot "hasPanels":
[1] FALSE
```

Data documentation can be in two forms, a description specified by *TSdescription* or longer documentation specified by *TSdoc*. These can be added to the time series object, in which case they will be written to the database when *TSput* or *TSreplace* is used to put the series on the database. Alternatively, they can be specified as arguments to *TSput* or *TSreplace*. The description or documentation will be retrieved as part of the series object with *TSget* only if this is specified with the logical arguments *TSdescription* and *TSdoc*. They can also be retrieved directly from the database with the functions *TSdescription* and *TSdoc*.

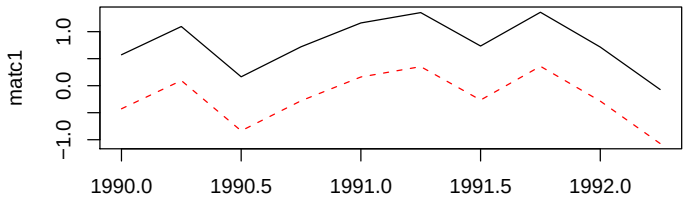
```
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(10), 10, 1), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 1)
> TSreplace(z, serIDs = "Series1", con)

[1] TRUE

> zz <- TSget("Series1", con)
> TSreplace(z, serIDs = "Series1", con, TSdescription = "short rnorm series",
      TSdoc = "Series created as an example in the vignette.")

[1] TRUE
```

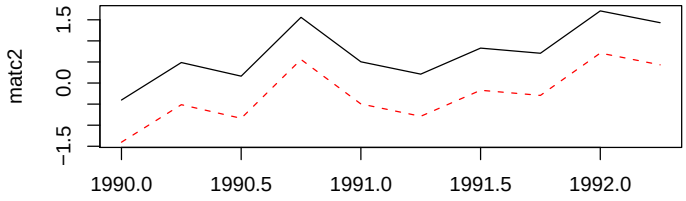
```
> zz <- TSget("Series1", con, TSdescription = TRUE, TSdoc = TRUE)
> start(zz)

[1] 1990    1

> end(zz)

[1] 1999    1

> TSdescription(zz)

[1] "short rnorm series"

> TSdoc(zz)

[1] "Series created as an example in the vignette."

> TSdescription("Series1", con)

[1] "short rnorm series"

> TSdoc("Series1", con)

[1] "Series created as an example in the vignette."

> z <- ts(rnorm(10), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 1)
> seriesNames(z) <- "vec"
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> zz <- TSget("vec", con)
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(20), 10, 2), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 1)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("matc1", "matc2")
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("matc1", "matc2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```



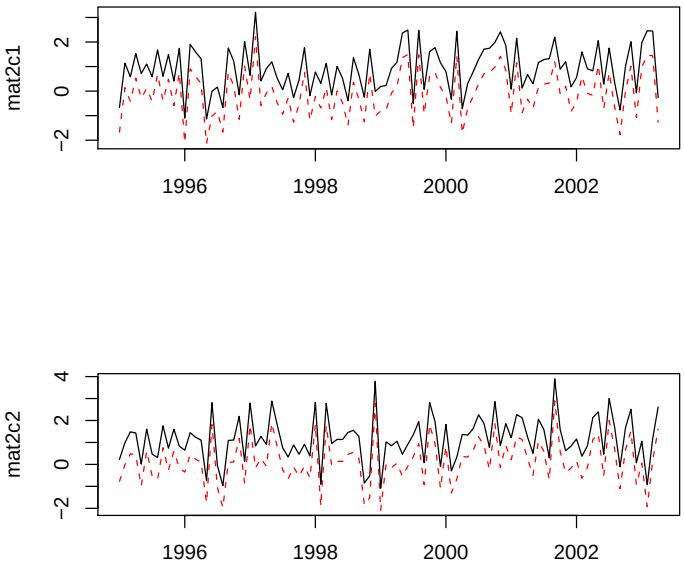



```
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(20), 10, 2), start = c(1990, 1), frequency = 4)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("matc1", "matc2")
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("matc1", "matc2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```



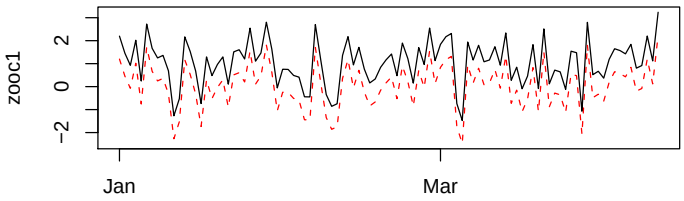


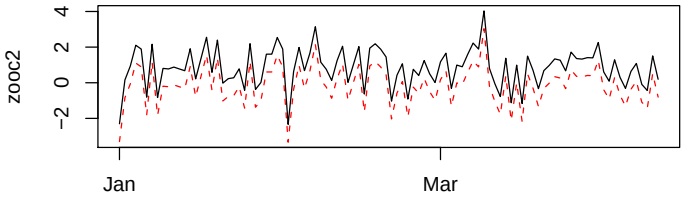

```
> z <- ts(matrix(rnorm(200), 100, 2), start = c(1995, 1), frequency = 12)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("mat2c1", "mat2c2")
> TSreplace(z, con)

[1] TRUE

> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("mat2c1", "mat2c2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```



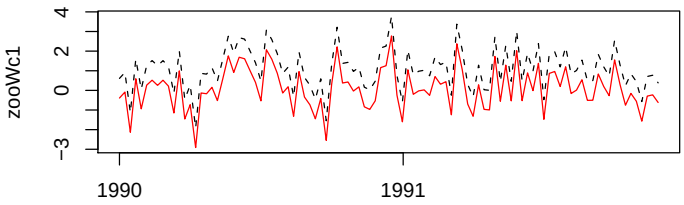
The following examples use dates and times which are not handled by *ts*, so the *zoo* time representation is used.

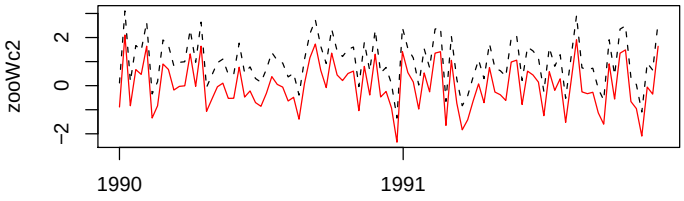
```
> require("zoo")
> z <- zoo(matrix(rnorm(200), 100, 2), as.Date("1990-01-01") +
      0:99)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("zooc1", "zooc2")
> TSreplace(z, con, Table = "D")

[1] TRUE

> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("zooc1", "zooc2"), con), lty = c("solid",
      "dashed"), col = c("black", "red"))
```






```
> z <- zoo(matrix(rnorm(200), 100, 2), as.Date("1990-01-01") +
      0:99 * 7)
> seriesNames(z) <- c("zooWc1", "zooWc2")
> TSreplace(z, con, Table = "W")

[1] TRUE

> tfplot(z + 1, TSget(c("zooWc1", "zooWc2"), con), col = c("black",
      "red"), lty = c("dashed", "solid"))
```






```
> dbDisconnect(con)
```

3 Examples Using Web Data

This section illustrates fetching data from a web server and loading it into the database. This would be a very slow way to load a database, but provides examples of different kinds of time series data. The fetching is done with *TShistQuote* which provides a wrapper for *get.hist.quote* from package *tseries* to give syntax consistent with the *TSdbi*.

Fetching data may fail due to lack of an Interenet connection or delays.

First establish a connection to the database where data will be saved:

```
> con <- if ("" == user) TSconnect("MySQL", dbname = "test") else TSconnect("MySQL",
      dbname = "test", username = user, password = passwd, host = host)
```

Now connect to the web server and fetch data:

```
> require("TShistQuote")
> Yahoo <- TSconnect("histQuote", dbname = "yahoo")
> x <- TSget("^gspc", quote = "Close", con = Yahoo)
> plot(x)
> tfplot(x)
> TSrefperiod(x)
```

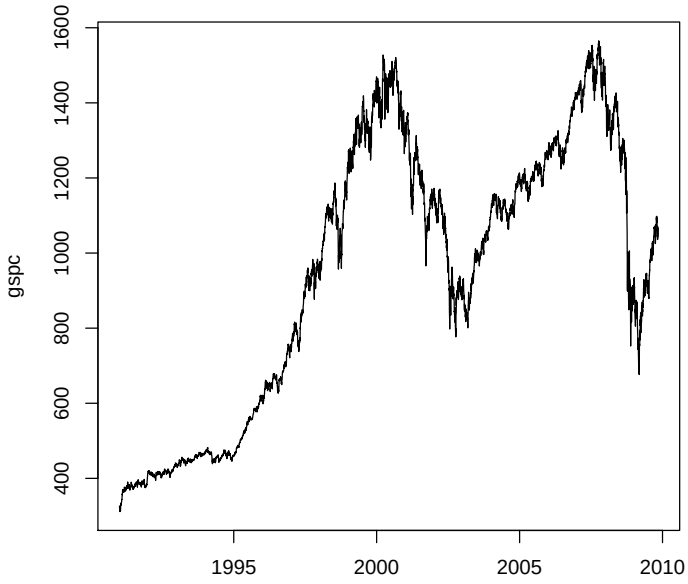
```
[1] "Close"

> TSdescription(x)

[1] "^gspc Close  from  yahoo"

> TSdoc(x)

[1] "^gspc Close  from  yahoo retrieved  2009-11-07 14:32:54"

> TSlabel(x)

[1] "^gspc Close"
```

Then write the data to the local server, specifying table B for business day data (using TSreplace in case the series is already there from running this example previously):

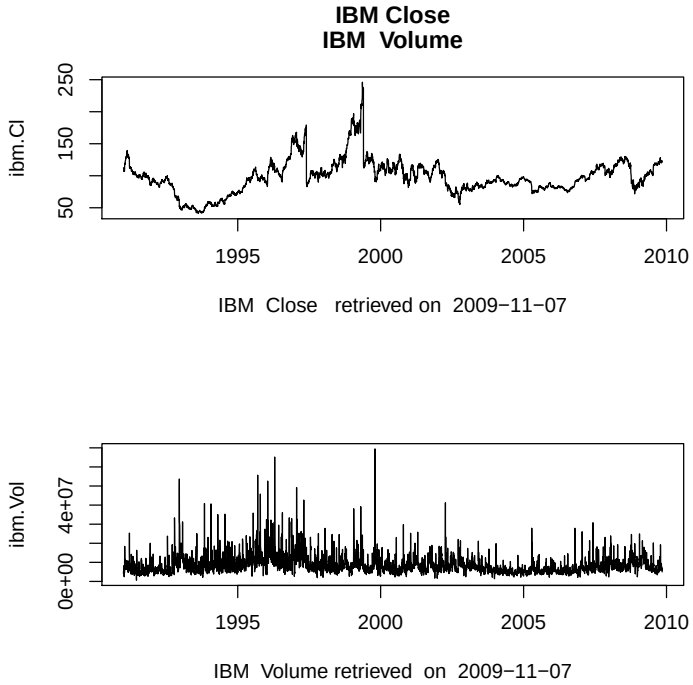
```
> TSreplace(x, serIDs = "gspc", Table = "B", con = con)

[1] TRUE
```

and check the saved version:

```
> TSrefperiod(TSget(serIDs = "gspc", con = con))

[1] "Close"

> TSdescription("gspc", con = con)

[1] "^gspc Close  from  yahoo"

> TSdoc("gspc", con = con)

[1] "^gspc Close  from  yahoo retrieved  2009-11-07 14:32:54"

> TSlabel("gspc", con = con)

[1] NA

> tfplot(TSget(serIDs = "gspc", con = con))
```




```
> x <- TSget("ibm", quote = c("Close", "Vol"), con = Yahoo)
> TSreplace(x, serIDs = c("ibm.Cl", "ibm.Vol"), con = con, Table = "B",
      TSdescription. = c("IBM Close", "IBM  Volume"), TSdoc. = paste(c("IBM  Close   retriev
          "IBM  Volume retrieved  on "), Sys.Date()))

[1] TRUE

> z <- TSget(serIDs = c("ibm.Cl", "ibm.Vol"), TSdescription = TRUE,
      TSdoc = TRUE, con = con)
> TSdescription(z)

[1] "IBM Close"   "IBM  Volume"

> TSdoc(z)

[1] "IBM  Close   retrieved on  2009-11-07"
[2] "IBM  Volume retrieved  on  2009-11-07"

> tfplot(z, xlab = TSdoc(z), Title = TSdescription(z))
> tfplot(z, Title = "IBM", start = "2007-01-01")
```

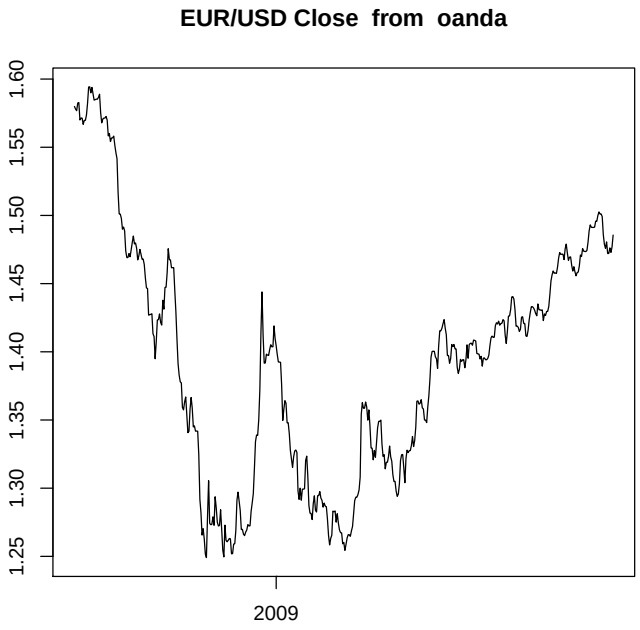


Oanda has maximum of 500 days, so the start date is specified here so as to not exceed that.

```
> Oanda <- TSconnect("histQuote", dbname = "oanda")
> x <- TSget("EUR/USD", start = Sys.Date() - 495, con = Oanda)
> TSreplace(x, serIDs = "EUR/USD", Table = "D", con = con)

[1] TRUE
```

Then check the saved version:

```
> z <- TSget(serIDs = "EUR/USD", TSlabel = TRUE, TSdescription = TRUE,
      con = con)
> tfplot(z, Title = TSdescription(z), ylab = TSlabel(z))
> tfplot(z, Title = "EUR/USD", start = "2007-01-01")
> tfplot(z, Title = "EUR/USD", start = "2007-03-01")
> tfplot(z, Title = "EUR/USD", start = Sys.Date() - 14, end = Sys.Date(),
      xlab = format(Sys.Date(), "%Y"))
```




```
> dbDisconnect(con)
> dbDisconnect(Yahoo)
> dbDisconnect(Oanda)
```

3.1 Examples Using TSdbi with ets

These examples use a database called "ets" which is available at the Bank of Canada. This set of examples illustrates how the programs might be used if a larger database is available. Typically a large database would be installed using database scripts directly rather than from R with *TSput* or *TSreplace*.

The following are wrapped in *if (!inherits(conets, "try-error"))* so that the vignette will build even when the database is not available. This seems to require an explicit call to *print()*, but that is not usually needed to display results below. Another artifact of this is that results printed in the if block do not display until the end of the block.

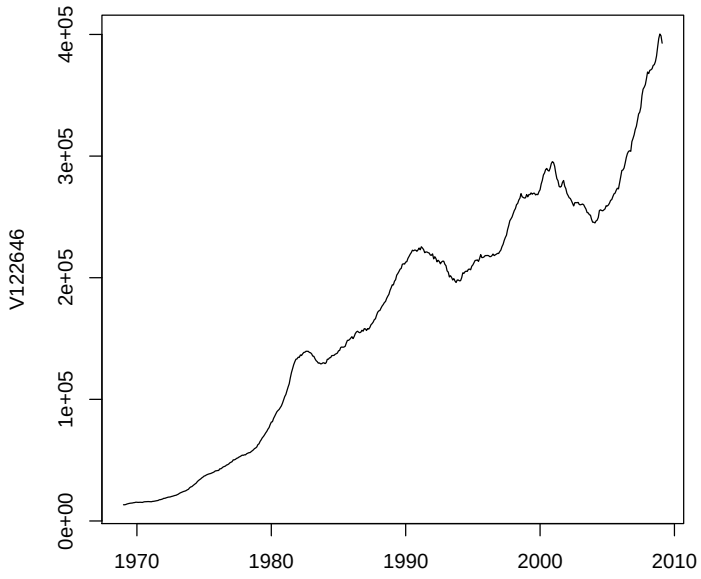
```
> m <- dbDriver("MySQL")
> conets <- try(if ("" == user) TSconnect(m, dbname = "ets") else TSconnect(m,
      dbname = "ets", username = user, password = passwd, host = host))
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      options(TSconnection = conets)
      print(TSmeta("M.SDR.CCUSMA02.ST"))
```

```
      EXCH.IDs <- t(matrix(c("M.SDR.CCUSMA02.ST", "SDR/USD exchange rate",
          "M.CAN.CCUSMA02.ST", "CAN/USD exchange rate", "M.MEX.CCUSMA02.ST",
          "MEX/USD exchange rate", "M.JPN.CCUSMA02.ST", "JPN/USD exchange rate",
          "M.EMU.CCUSMA02.ST", "Euro/USD exchange rate", "M.OTO.CCUSMA02.ST",
          "OECD /USD exchange rate", "M.G7M.CCUSMA02.ST", "G7   /USD exchange rate",
          "M.E15.CCUSMA02.ST", "Euro 15. /USD exchange rate"),
          2, 8))
      print(TSdates(EXCH.IDs[, 1]))
      z <- TSdates(EXCH.IDs[, 1])
      print(start(z))
      print(end(z))
      tfplot(TSget(serIDs = "V122646", conets))
  }
```

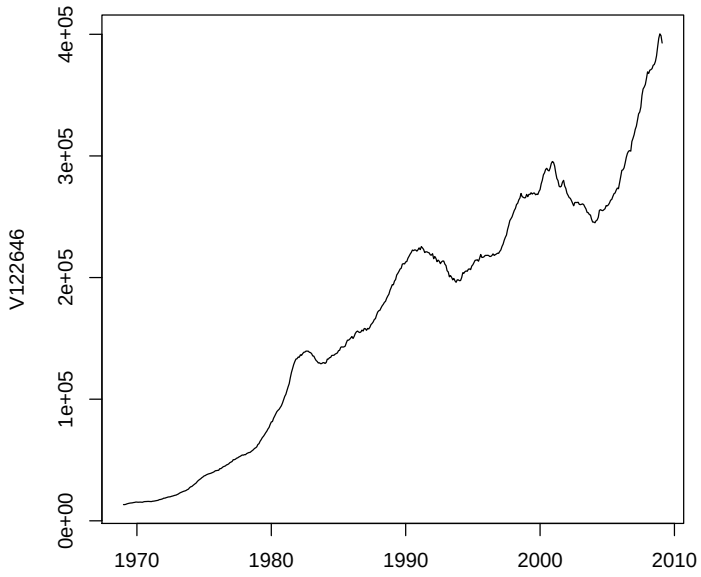
```
An object of class "TSmeta"
Slot "TSdescription":
[1] "Special Drawing Right---Currency Conversions/US$ exchange rate/Average of daily rates/N

Slot "TSdoc":
[1] "Special Drawing Right---Currency Conversions/US$ exchange rate/Average of daily rates/N

Slot "TSlabel":
[1] NA

Slot "serIDs":
[1] "M.SDR.CCUSMA02.ST"

Slot "conType":
[1] "TSMySQLConnection"
attr(,"package")
[1] "TSMySQL"

Slot "DateStamp":
[1] NA

Slot "dbname":
[1] "ets"

Slot "hasVintages":
[1] FALSE

Slot "hasPanels":
[1] FALSE

     [,1]
[1,] "M.SDR.CCUSMA02.ST from 1960 1 to 2009 2 M   NA   "
```

```
[2,] "M.CAN.CCUSMA02.ST from 1960 1 to 2009 2 M   NA   "
[3,] "M.MEX.CCUSMA02.ST from 1963 1 to 2009 2 M   NA   "
[4,] "M.JPN.CCUSMA02.ST from 1960 1 to 2009 2 M   NA   "
[5,] "M.EMU.CCUSMA02.ST from 1979 1 to 2009 2 M   NA   "
[6,] "M.OTO.CCUSMA02.ST  not available"
[7,] "M.G7M.CCUSMA02.ST  not available"
[8,] "M.E15.CCUSMA02.ST  not available"
[[1]]
[1] 1960    1

[[2]]
[1] 1960    1

[[3]]
[1] 1963    1

[[4]]
[1] 1960    1

[[5]]
[1] 1979    1

[[6]]
[1] NA

[[7]]
[1] NA

[[8]]
[1] NA

[[1]]
[1] 2009    2

[[2]]
[1] 2009    2

[[3]]
[1] 2009    2

[[4]]
[1] 2009    2

[[5]]
[1] 2009    2
```

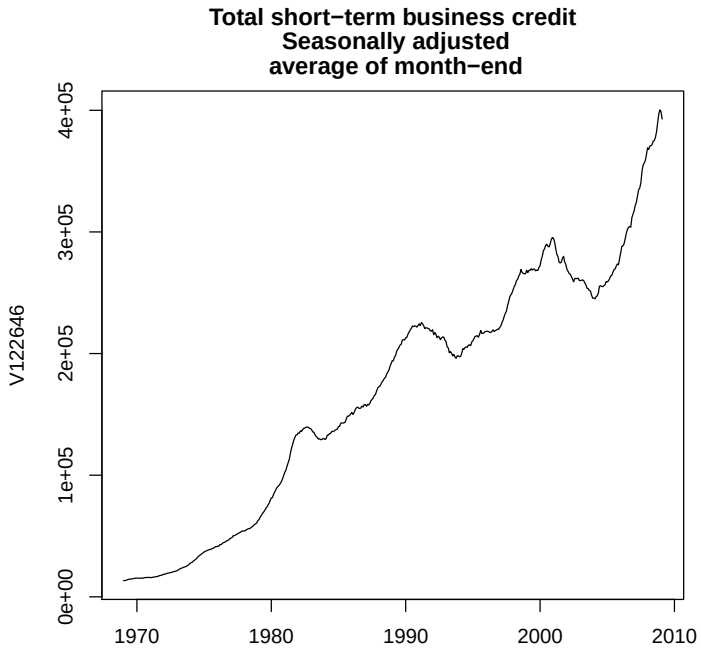
```
[[6]]
[1] NA

[[7]]
[1] NA

[[8]]
[1] NA
```



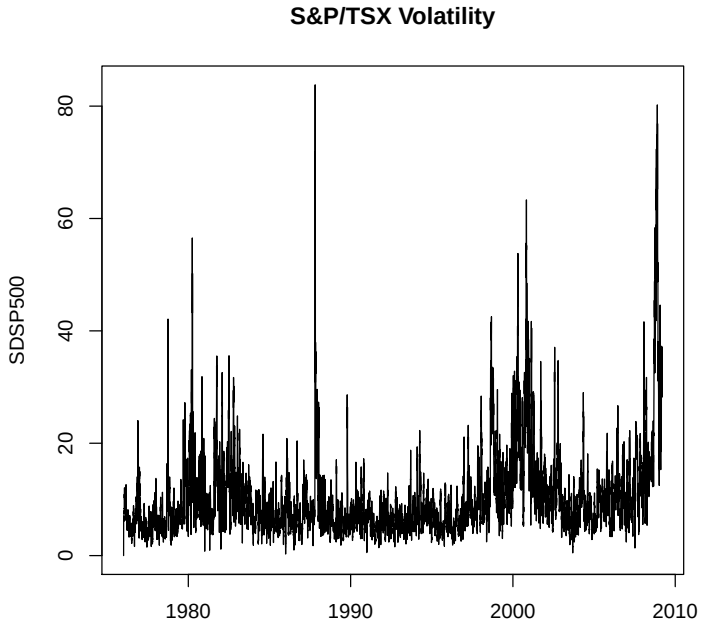

```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      print(TSdescription(TSget("V122646", TSdescription = TRUE)))
      print(TSdescription("V122646"))
      print(TSdoc(TSget("V122646", TSdoc = TRUE)))
      print(TSdoc("V122646"))
      tfplot(TSget("V122646", names = "V122646", conets))
  }

[1] "Total short-term business credit, Seasonally adjusted, average of month-end"
[1] "Total short-term business credit, Seasonally adjusted, average of month-end"
[1] "Same as B171"
[1] "Same as B171"
```



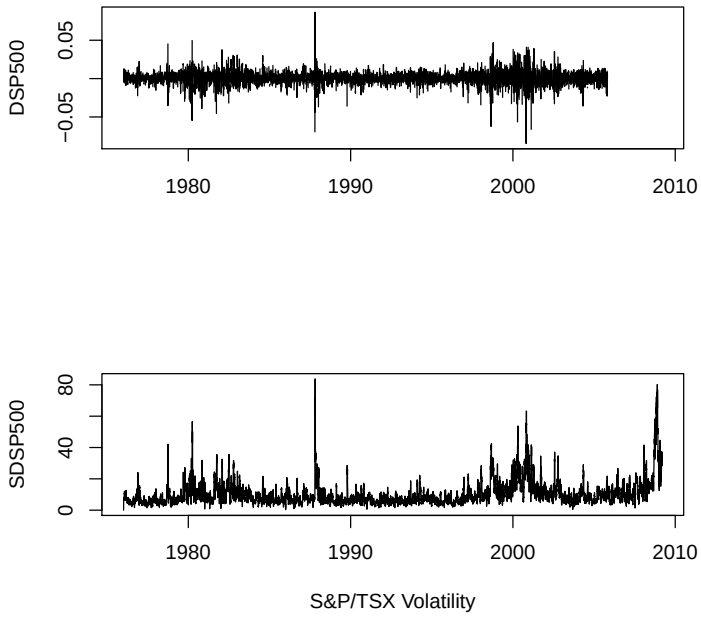

```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      z <- TSget("V122646", TSdescription = TRUE)
      tfplot(z, Title = strsplit(TSdescription(z), ","))
  }
```



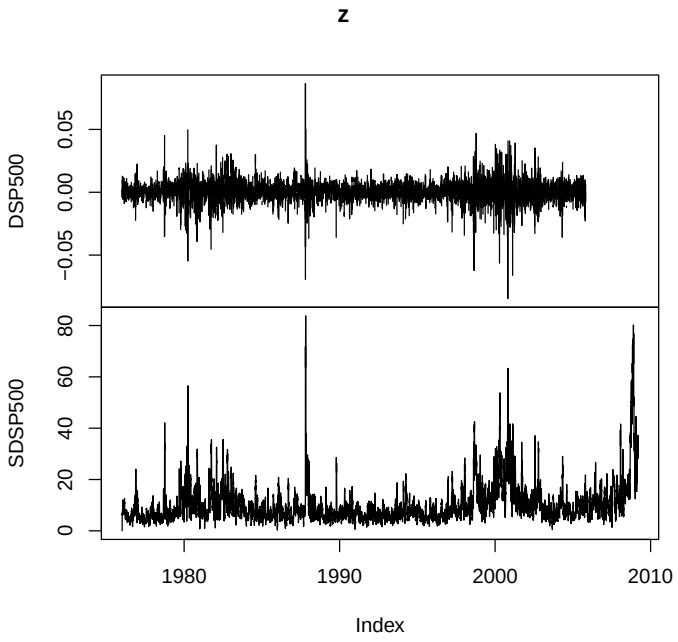

```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      z <- TSget("SDSP500", TSdescription = TRUE)
      tfplot(z, Title = TSdescription(z))
      plot(z)
  }
```



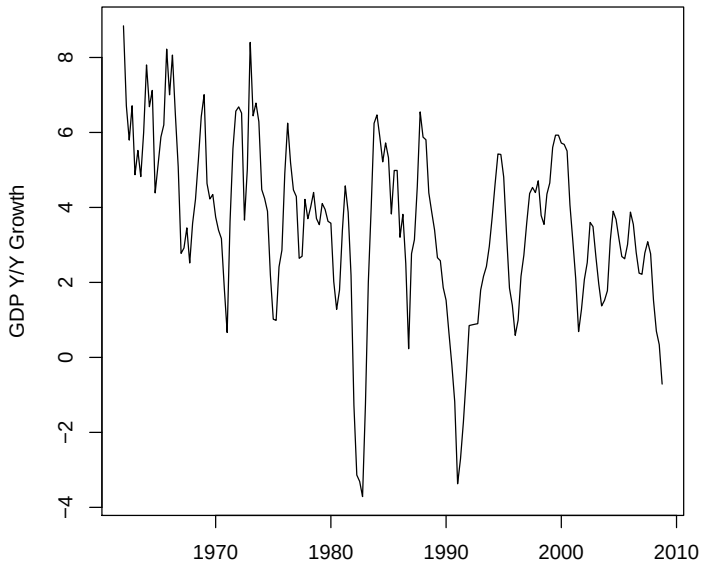

```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      z <- TSget(c("DSP500", "SDSP500"), TSdescription = TRUE)
      tfplot(z, xlab = TSdescription(z))
  }
```




```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      plot(z)
  }
```




```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      ETSgdp <- annualizedGrowth(aggregate(TSget("V1992067"), nfrequency = 4,
          FUN = mean), lag = 4, names = "GDP Y/Y Growth")
      tfplot(ETSgdp)
  }
```




```
> if (!inherits(conets, "try-error")) {
      dbDisconnect(options()$TSconnection)
      options(TSconnection = NULL)
  }
```

4 Examples Using DBI and direct SQL Queries

The following examples are queries using the underlying "DBI" functions. They should not often be needed to access time series, but may be useful to get at more detailed information, or formulate special queries.

```
> m <- dbDriver("MySQL")
> con <- if ("" == user) TSconnect(m, dbname = "test") else TSconnect(m,
      dbname = "test", username = user, password = passwd, host = host)
> options(TSconnection = con)

> dbListTables(con)

 [1] "A"    "B"    "D"    "I"    "M"    "Meta" "Q"    "S"    "T"    "U"
[11] "W"
```

This is Mysql specific. Below is a generic sql way to do this.

```
> dbGetQuery(con, "show tables;")

   Tables_in_test
1               A
2               B
3               D
4               I
5               M
6            Meta
7               Q
8               S
9               T
10              U
11              W

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe A;")

  Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1    id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2  year     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
3     v      double  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe B;")

   Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2   date        date  YES MUL    <NA>
3 period     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
4      v      double  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe D;")

   Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2   date        date  YES MUL    <NA>
3 period     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
4      v      double  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe M;")

   Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2   year     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
3 period     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
4      v      double  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe Meta;")
```

```
          Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1            id varchar(40)   NO PRI    <NA>
2           tbl     char(1)  YES MUL    <NA>
3     refperiod varchar(10)  YES        <NA>
4   description        text  YES        <NA>
5 documentation        text  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe U;")

   Field        Type Null Key           Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL              <NA>
2   date   timestamp   NO MUL CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
3     tz  varchar(4)  YES                  <NA>
4 period     int(11)  YES MUL              <NA>
5      v      double  YES                  <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe Q;")

   Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2   year     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
3 period     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
4      v      double  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe S;")

   Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2   year     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
3 period     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
4      v      double  YES        <NA>

> dbGetQuery(con, "describe W;")

   Field        Type Null Key Default Extra
1     id varchar(40)  YES MUL    <NA>
2   date        date  YES MUL    <NA>
3 period     int(11)  YES MUL    <NA>
4      v      double  YES        <NA>
```

If schema queries are supported then the above can be done in a generic SQL way, but on some systems this will fail because users do not have read priveleges on the INFORMATION_SCHEMA table, so the following are wrapped in *try()*. (SQLite does not seem to support this at all.)

```
> z <- try(dbGetQuery(con, paste("SELECT COLUMN_NAME FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.Columns ",
      " WHERE TABLE_SCHEMA='test' AND table_name='A' ;")))
> if (!inherits(z, "try-error")) print(z)
```

```
  COLUMN_NAME
1          id
2        year
3           v
```

```
> z <- try(dbGetQuery(con, paste("SELECT COLUMN_NAME, COLUMN_DEFAULT, COLLATION_NAME, DATA_T
      "CHARACTER_SET_NAME, CHARACTER_MAXIMUM_LENGTH, NUMERIC_PRECISION",
      "FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.Columns WHERE TABLE_SCHEMA='test' AND table_name='A' ;")))
> if (!inherits(z, "try-error")) print(z)
```

```
  COLUMN_NAME COLUMN_DEFAULT    COLLATION_NAME DATA_TYPE CHARACTER_SET_NAME
1          id           <NA> latin1_swedish_ci   varchar             latin1
2        year           <NA>              <NA>       int               <NA>
3           v           <NA>              <NA>    double               <NA>
  CHARACTER_MAXIMUM_LENGTH NUMERIC_PRECISION
1                       40                NA
2                       NA                10
3                       NA                22
```

```
> z <- try(dbGetQuery(con, paste("SELECT COLUMN_NAME, DATA_TYPE, CHARACTER_MAXIMUM_LENGTH, N
      "FROM INFORMATION_SCHEMA.Columns WHERE TABLE_SCHEMA='test' AND table_name='M';")))
> if (!inherits(z, "try-error")) print(z)
```

```
  COLUMN_NAME DATA_TYPE CHARACTER_MAXIMUM_LENGTH NUMERIC_PRECISION
1          id   varchar                       40                NA
2        year       int                       NA                10
3      period       int                       NA                10
4           v    double                       NA                22
```

Finally, to disconnect gracefully, one should

```
> dbDisconnect(con)
> dbDisconnect(options()$TSconnection)
> options(TSconnection = NULL)
```