

# proto reference card

## Creation

**proto** `proto(.., expr, envir, ...)` embeds the components specified in **expr** and/or `...` into the **proto** object or environment specified by **envir**. A new object is created if **envir** is omitted. The parent of the object is set to `..`. The parent object, `..`, defaults to the parent of **envir** or the current environment if **envir** is missing. **expr** and `...` default to empty specifications. The returned object will contain **.that** and **.super** variables referring to the object itself and the parent of the object, respectively.

## Coercion

**as.proto** If **x** is a **proto** object or environment then **x** is returned as a **proto** object with the values of **.that** and **.super** inserted in the case of an environment or refreshed in the case of a **proto** object. If **x** is a list then additional arguments are available: **as.proto(x, envir, parent, FUN, all.names, ...)**. Each component of **x** is copied into **envir**. **envir** may be an **environment** or **proto** object. If it is missing a new **proto** object is created. If **all.names = FALSE** then only list components whose names do not begin with a dot are copied. If **FUN** is specified then, in addition, only list components **v** for which **FUN(v)** is **TRUE** are copied. If **parent** is specified then the resulting **proto** object will have that parent. Otherwise, it will have the parent of **envir** if **envir** was specified. If neither are specified the parent defaults to the current environment.

## Standard methods

**\$** **obj\$x** searches **proto** object **obj** for **x**. If the name **x** does not begin with two dots then ancestors are searched if the name is not found in **obj**. If **x** is a variable or if **obj** is **.super** or **.that** then **x** is returned. Otherwise, the call **obj\$x(...)** is equivalent to the call **get("x", obj)(obj, ...)**. If it is desired to return a method as a value rather than in the context of a call then use **get("x", obj)** (or **obj[["x"]]**) **x** is known to be directly in **obj** rather than **\$** syntax.

**\$<-** **obj\$x <- value** sets **x** in **proto** object **obj** to **value** creating **x** if not present. If **obj** is **.super** then a side effect is to set the parent of **obj** to **value**.

**is.proto(x)** returns **TRUE** if **x** is a **proto** object and otherwise returns **FALSE**.

## Utilities

**dot.proto** **dot.proto(e, file, control)** creates a input file which for the GraphViz dot program which generates an ancestor tree among all **proto** objects in **environment** or **proto** object **e**. **e** defaults to the current environment and **file** defaults to the standard output. **control** is an optional list of display parameters. The components are **include** and **arrow.from.child**. **include** is a string of GraphViz dot commands to be included in the output. **arrow.from.child** causes arrows to point from children to parents if **TRUE** (default) and otherwise from parents to children.