

# Package ‘textutils’

April 1, 2021

**Type** Package

**Title** Utilities for Handling Strings and Text

**Version** 0.2-1

**Date** 2021-04-01

**Imports** utils

**Suggests** tinytest

**Maintainer** Enrico Schumann <es@enricoschumann.net>

**Description** Utilities for handling character vectors that store human-readable text (either plain or with markup, such as HTML or LaTeX). The package provides, in particular, functions that help with the preparation of plain-text reports, e.g. for expanding and aligning strings that form the lines of such reports. The package also provides generic functions for transforming R objects to HTML and to plain text.

**License** GPL-3

**URL** <http://enricoschumann.net/R/packages/textutils/>,  
<https://github.com/enricoschumann/textutils>

**NeedsCompilation** no

**Author** Enrico Schumann [aut, cre] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7601-6576>>)

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2021-04-01 07:20:02 UTC

## R topics documented:

textutils-package . . . . .	2
btable . . . . .	2
dctable . . . . .	3
fill_in . . . . .	4
here . . . . .	5
HTMLencode . . . . .	7

latexrule . . . . .	8
rmp . . . . .	9
spaces . . . . .	10
stexp . . . . .	11
TeXencode . . . . .	12
TeXunits . . . . .	13
title_case . . . . .	14
toHTML . . . . .	15
toLatex.data.frame . . . . .	16
toText . . . . .	17
trim . . . . .	18
valign . . . . .	19

<b>Index</b>	<b>21</b>
--------------	-----------

---

textutils-package	<i>Utilities for Handling Strings and Text</i>
-------------------	--

---

### Description

Utilities for handling character vectors that store human-readable text (either plain or with markup, such as HTML or LaTeX). The package provides, in particular, functions that help with the preparation of plain-text reports, e.g. for expanding and aligning strings that form the lines of such reports. The package also provides generic functions for transforming R objects to HTML and to plain text.

### Details

The package comprises a number of functions that help with manipulating character strings. For more information and a complete list of functions, use `'library(help = "textutils")'`.

### Author(s)

NA  
 Maintainer: Enrico Schumann <es@enricoschumann.net>

---

btable	<i>Barplot Table</i>
--------	----------------------

---

### Description

Create a LaTeX-table.

### Usage

```
btable(x, unit = "cm", before = "", after = "", raise = "0.2ex",
       height = "1ex", ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	numeric: the numbers for which the barplot is to be created
unit	character: a valid TeX unit
before	character
after	character
raise	character
height	character
...	more arguments

**Details**

Creates a barplot table.

**Value**

character

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**See Also**

[toLatex](#), [TeXunits](#)

**Examples**

```
## see vignette
```

---

dctable

*Dotchart Table*

---

**Description**

Create a LaTeX-table.

**Usage**

```
dctable(x, unitlength = "1 cm", width = 5,  
        y.offset = 0.07, circle.size = 0.1, xlim,  
        na.rm = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x	numeric: the numbers for which the barplot is to be created
unitlength	character
width	numeric
y.offset	numeric
circle.size	numeric
xlim	character
na.rm	logical

**Details**

Creates a dotchart table.

This function is currently very experimental.

**Value**

character

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**References**

Cleveland, W. S. (1985) *The Elements of Graphing Data*. Wadsworth.

**See Also**

[toLatex](#), [TeXunits](#)

**Examples**

```
## see vignette
```

---

fill\_in

*Fill In Templates*

---

**Description**

Light-weight template filling: replace placeholders in a string by values.

**Usage**

```
fill_in(s, ..., delim = c("{", "}"), replace.NA = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

s	character
...	typically name/value pairs. See Examples.
delim	characters
replace.NA	logical: if TRUE, NA values are replaced by the string "NA". May also be a string. See Examples.

**Details**

A light-weight replacement function.

**Value**

character

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**Examples**

```
template <- "{1} meets {2}"
fill_in(template, "Peter", "Paul") ## "Peter meets Paul"

template <- "{one} meets {other}"
fill_in(template, one = "Peter", other = "Paul") ## "Peter meets Paul"

## handling missing values
fill_in("{name}: {score}", name = "Peter", score = NA)
## [1] "Peter: NA"

fill_in("{name}: {score}", name = "Peter", score = NA, replace.NA = ".")
## [1] "Peter: ."
```

---

here

*Here Documents*

---

**Description**

Read lines and convert into appropriate vector or data frame.

**Usage**

```
here(s, drop = TRUE, guess.type = TRUE, sep = NULL, header = TRUE,
     stringsAsFactors = FALSE, trim = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

<code>s</code>	a string
<code>drop</code>	logical: drop empty first and last element
<code>guess.type</code>	logical
<code>sep</code>	NULL or character
<code>header</code>	logical
<code>stringsAsFactors</code>	logical
<code>trim</code>	logical: trim whitespace?
<code>...</code>	named arguments to be passed to <a href="#">read.table</a>

### Details

Experimental. (Notably, the function's name may change.)

The function reads a (typically multi-line) string and treats each line as one element of a vector or, if `sep` is specified, a `data.frame`.

If `sep` is not specified, here calls [type.convert](#) on the input `s`.

If `sep` is specified, the input `s` is fed to [read.table](#). Additional arguments may be passed through `...`

### Value

a vector or, if `sep` is specified, a `data.frame`

### Author(s)

Enrico Schumann

### References

[http://rosettacode.org/wiki/Here\\_document](http://rosettacode.org/wiki/Here_document)

(note that R supports multi-line strings, so in a way it has built-in support for here documents as defined on that website)

### See Also

[type.convert](#)

### Examples

```
## numbers
here("
1
2
3
4
```

```
)  
  
## character  
here("  
Al  
Bob  
Carl  
David  
")  
  
## data frame  
here("  
letter, number  
  x,      1  
  y,      2  
  z,      3",  
sep = ",")
```

---

HTMLencode

*Decode and Encode HTML Entities*

---

## Description

Decode and encode HTML entities.

## Usage

```
HTMLdecode(x, named = TRUE, hex = TRUE, decimal = TRUE)  
HTMLencode(x, use.iconv = FALSE, encode.only = NULL)
```

## Arguments

x	a string (character vector of length one)
use.iconv	logical. Should conversion via <code>iconv</code> be tried from native encoding to UTF-8?
named	logical: replace named character references?
hex	logical: replace hexadecimal character references?
decimal	logical: replace decimal character references?
encode.only	character

## Details

HTMLdecode replaces named, hexadecimal and decimal character references as defined by HTML5 (see References) with characters. The resulting character vector is marked as UTF-8 (see [Encoding](#)).

HTMLencode replaces UTF-8-encoded substrings with HTML5 named entities (a.k.a. “named character references”). A semicolon ‘;’ will not be replaced by the entity ‘&semi;’. Other than that, however, HTMLencode is quite thorough in its job: it will replace all characters for which named entities exists, even ‘&comma;’ and or ‘&quest;’. You can restrict the characters to be replaced by specifying `encode.only`.

**Value**

character

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**References**

<https://www.w3.org/TR/html5/syntax.html#named-character-references>

<https://html.spec.whatwg.org/multipage/syntax.html#character-references>

**See Also**

[TeXencode](#)

**Examples**

```
HTMLdecode(c("Max & Moritz", "4 &lt; 9"))
## [1] "Max & Moritz" "4 < 9"
```

```
HTMLencode(c("Max & Moritz", "4 < 9"))
## [1] "Max & Moritz" "4 &LT; 9"
```

```
HTMLencode("Max, Moritz & more")
## [1] "Max&comma; Moritz & more"
HTMLencode("Max, Moritz & more", encode.only = c("&", "<", ">"))
## [1] "Max, Moritz & more"
```

---

latexrule

*LaTeX Rule.*

---

**Description**

Create a LaTeX-rule, including colours.

**Usage**

```
latexrule(x, y, col = NULL, x.unit = "cm", y.unit = "cm", noindent = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

x	numeric
y	numeric
col	character
x.unit	character
y.unit	character
noindent	logical



**Details**

Experimental. Create LaTeX code that produces rules.

**Value**

character

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**Examples**

```
## see vignette
```

---

rmp

*Remove Repeated Pattern*

---

**Description**

Remove a repeated pattern in a character vector.

**Usage**

```
rmp(s, pattern, ...)
```

**Arguments**

s	a character vector
pattern	a regular expression
...	arguments passed to <a href="#">grep</a>

**Details**

rmp removes a repeated pattern in a character vector (e.g. repeated blank lines).

**Value**

a character vector

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**See Also**

[strwrap](#), [format](#)

## Examples

```
## remove repeated blanks from vector
s <- c("* Header", "", " ", "", "** Subheader")
rmp(s, "^ *$")
```

---

spaces

*Create Vectors of White Space*

---

## Description

Create character vectors of white space.

## Usage

```
spaces(n)
```

## Arguments

n                    integer

## Details

The function creates a character vector of white-space strings. Such vectors are useful, for instance, for padding character vectors.

## Value

character

## Author(s)

Enrico Schumann

## See Also

[strep](#)

## Examples

```
spaces(0:3)
```

---

strexp                      *Expand String to Fixed Width*

---

## Description

Expand strings to a fixed 'length' (in the sense of [nchar](#)).

## Usage

```
strexp(s, after, width, fill = " ", at)
```

## Arguments

s	a character vector
after	character: a pattern, to be passed to <a href="#">regexpr</a>
width	integer
fill	character
at	integer

## Details

strexp inserts blanks into the elements of a character vector such that all elements have the same width (i.e. [nchar](#)). Note that it will (currently) not contract a string, only expand it.

## Value

a character vector

## Author(s)

Enrico Schumann

## See Also

[strwrap](#), [format](#)

## Examples

```
## expand to width 10, but keep two initial blanks
s <- c(" A 1", " B    2")
strexp(s, after = " +[^\s]+ +", width = 10)
```

---

TeXencode

*Encode Special Characters for TeX/LaTeX*

---

### **Description**

Encode special characters for TeX/LaTeX.

### **Usage**

TeXencode(s)

### **Arguments**

s                    character

### **Details**

Probably incomplet

### **Value**

numeric

### **Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

### **References**

Donald E. Knuth. *The TeXbook*. Addison Wesley, 1986 (with corrections made in 1996).

Leslie Lamport. *LaTeX: A Document Preparation System*. Addison Wesley, 1994.

### **Examples**

```
TeXencode("Peter & Paul")  
## [1] "Peter & Paul"
```

**Description**

Translates units of measurement known to TeX and LaTeX.

**Usage**

```
TeXunits(from, to, from.unit = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

from	Typically character, such as "1in". When numeric, from.unit needs to be specified.
to	character
from.unit	character

**Details**

Available units are centimetre (cm), inch (in), point (pt), pica (pc), big point(bp), millimetre (mm), Didot points (dd) and Cicero (cc).

See Chapter 10 of the TeXbook for details.

**Value**

numeric

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**References**

Donald E. Knuth. *The TeXbook*. Addison Wesley, 1986 (with corrections made in 1996).

**Examples**

```
TeXunits("1in",
         c("in", "mm", "pt", "in"))
TeXunits(c("1in", "2in"),
         "cm")
```

---

title_case	<i>Remove Leading and Trailing White Space</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

Remove leading and/or trailing white space from character vectors.

**Usage**

```
title_case(s, strict = FALSE, ignore = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

s	a character vector
strict	logical: if TRUE, only the first letter of each word is uppercase
ignore	character

**Details**

Set string in title case.

**Value**

a character vector

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**See Also**

[tolower](#), [toupper](#).

**Examples**

```
title_case("text mining")
```

---

`toHTML`*Convert R Objects to HTML*

---

### Description

Convert an R object to an HTML snippet.

### Usage

```
toHTML(x, ...)  
  
## S3 method for class 'data.frame'  
toHTML(x, ...,  
        row.names = FALSE,  
        col.names = TRUE,  
        class.handlers = list(),  
        col.handlers = list())
```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	an object
<code>...</code>	arguments passed to methods
<code>row.names</code>	logical
<code>col.names</code>	logical
<code>class.handlers</code>	a list of named functions
<code>col.handlers</code>	a list of named functions

### Details

There exists `toHTML` methods in several packages, e.g. in **tools** or **XML**. Package **R2HTML** has a `HTML` generic.

The ‘semantics’ of this function may differ from other implementations: the function is expected to take an arbitrary R object and return an HTML snippet that can be placed in reports (i.e. in the same spirit as `toLatex`). By contrast, the purpose of `toHTML` in **tools** is to provide a whole HTML document.

The `data.frame` method has two `handlers` arguments: these may store helper functions for formatting columns, either of a specific name (`col.handlers`) or of a specific class (`class.handlers`). The functions in `col.handlers` are applied first; and the affected columns are not touched by `class.handlers`. See Examples.

### Value

a character vector

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**See Also**

[toLatex](#)

**Examples**

```
x <- data.frame(a = 1:3, b = rnorm(3))
cat(toHTML(x,
  col.handlers = list(b = function(x) round(x, 1)),
  class.handlers = list(integer = function(x) 100*x)))

## [ pretty-printed... ]
## <tr> <th>a</th> <th>b</th> </tr>
## <tr> <td>100</td><td>-2.3</td> </tr>
## <tr> <td>200</td><td>-0.1</td> </tr>
## <tr> <td>300</td><td>-2.8</td> </tr>
```

---

toLatex.data.frame      *Convert Data Frame to LaTeX*

---

**Description**

Convert data frames to character vector in LaTeX markup.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'data.frame'
toLatex(object, row.names = FALSE,
  col.handlers = list(), class.handlers = list(),
  eol = "\\n", ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	a <a href="#">data.frame</a>
row.names	include the row names as the first column
col.handlers	a list of named functions
class.handlers	a list of named functions
eol	character: the line ending; may be a vector of length greater than one
...	other arguments



## Details

A method for `toLatex` that converts data frames into LaTeX markup. Any formatting to be applied must be specified as a function and passed with `col.handlers` and `class.handlers`.

`col.handlers` take precedent over `class.handlers`.

## Value

character

## Author(s)

Enrico Schumann

## See Also

[toLatex](#)

## Examples

```
df <- data.frame(letter = letters[1:5],
                 number = runif(5),
                 stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
toLatex(df,
        col.handlers = list(letter = toupper),
        class.handlers = list(numeric = function(x) format(x, digits = 4)),
        eol = "\\[1ex]")
cat(toLatex(df,
           col.handlers = list(letter = toupper),
           class.handlers = list(numeric = function(x) format(x, digits = 4)),
           eol = "\\[1ex]"), sep = "\n")
```

---

toText

*Convert Objects to (Plain) Text*

---

## Description

Converts an R object into a text representation.

## Usage

```
toText(x, ...)
```

```
## Default S3 method:
toText(x, ...)
```

## Arguments

x                    an object  
...                   arguments passed to methods

## Details

A generic function. Method are expected to coerce a given object to lines of human-readable text that can be used, for instance, for reports. The purpose of `toText` is **not** to store data in a form that can be read and understood by R; for that, see [dput](#) or [dump](#).

The `print` method is essentially equivalent to `cat(x, sep = "\n")`.

There is no restriction on encoding, so plain text does not necessarily mean ASCII. But current methods do not map into markup-representations.

## Value

A character vector (lines of text), possibly with a class attribute `text`.

## Author(s)

Enrico Schumann

## See Also

[toLatex](#), [toHTML](#)

## Examples

```
toText(c("a", "b", "c"))  
cat(toHTML(toText(c("a", "b", "c"))))
```

---

trim

*Remove Leading and Trailing White Space*

---

## Description

Remove leading and/or trailing white space from character vectors.

## Usage

```
trim(s, leading = TRUE, trailing = TRUE, perl = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

s	a character vector
leading	logical
trailing	logical
perl	logical
...	arguments passed to <a href="#">gsub</a>

**Details**

`trim` removes leading and trailing space, which is defined through the (Perl) regular expression `\s`. The base package has a function [trimws](#) these days, so you may not actually need the function (any more).

**Value**

a character vector

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**See Also**

[trimws](#), [gsub](#), [strtrim](#)

**Examples**

```
s <- c("\t 2 2\n \t", "  ab ")
trim(s)
```

---

valign	<i>Vertically Align Strings</i>
--------	---------------------------------

---

**Description**

Vertically align character vectors.

**Usage**

```
valign(s, align = "|", insert.at = "<>", replace = TRUE, fixed = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

s	a character vector
align	a regular expression
insert.at	a regular expression
replace	logical
fixed	logical

**Details**

The function expands the elements of a character vector in such a way that the elements are vertically aligned, which can be handy when generating reports. See Examples.

**Value**

a character vector

**Author(s)**

Enrico Schumann

**See Also**

[strwrap](#), [format](#)

**Examples**

```
s <- c("Player 1 <>| 100",
      "another player <>| 999999")

cat(paste(s, collapse = "\n"))
## Player 1 <>| 100
## another player <>| 999999

cat(paste(valign(s), collapse = "\n"))
## Player 1      100
## another player 999999
```

# Index

- \* **package**
  - textutils-package, 2
- btable, 2
- data.frame, 6, 15, 16
- dctable, 3
- dput, 18
- dump, 18
- Encoding, 7
- fill\_in, 4
- format, 9, 11, 20
- grep, 9
- gsub, 19
- here, 5
- HTMLdecode (HTMLencode), 7
- HTMLencode, 7
- iconv, 7
- latexrule, 8
- NA, 5
- nchar, 11
- read.table, 6
- regexpr, 11
- rmp, 9
- spaces, 10
- strexpr, 10, 11
- strtrim, 19
- strwrap, 9, 11, 20
- TeXencode, 8, 12
- textutils (textutils-package), 2
- textutils-package, 2
- TeXunits, 3, 4, 13
- title\_case, 14
- toHTML, 15, 15, 18
- toLatex, 3, 4, 15–18
- toLatex.data.frame, 16
- tolower, 14
- toText, 17
- toupper, 14
- trim, 18
- trimws, 19
- type.convert, 6
- valign, 19