Package: hunspell (via r-universe)

October 30, 2026

Type Package

Title High-Performance Stemmer, Tokenizer, and Spell Checker

Version 3.0.7

Depends R (>= 3.0.2)

Encoding UTF-8

Description Low level spell checker and morphological analyzer based on the famous 'hunspell' library <https://hunspell.github.io>. The package can analyze or check individual words as well as parse text, latex, html or xml documents. For a more user-friendly interface use the 'spelling' package which builds on this package to automate checking of files, documentation and vignettes in all common formats.

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URL https://docs.ropensci.org/hunspell/
https://ropensci.r-universe.dev/hunspell

BugReports https://github.com/ropensci/hunspell/issues

Imports Rcpp, digest

LinkingTo Rcpp (>= 0.12.12)

Suggests spelling, testthat, knitr, rmarkdown

VignetteBuilder knitr

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Language en-US

Repository https://ropensci.r-universe.dev

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`hunspell` *Hunspell Spell Checking and Morphological Analysis*

Description

The `hunspell` function is a high-level wrapper for finding spelling errors within a text document. It takes a character vector with text (`plain`, `latex`, `man`, `html` or `xml` format), parses out the words and returns a list with incorrect words for each line. It effectively combines `hunspell_parse` with `hunspell_check` in a single step. Other functions in the package operate on individual words, see details.

Usage

```
hunspell(
  text,
  format = c("text", "man", "latex", "html", "xml"),
  dict = dictionary("en_US"),
  ignore = en_stats
)

hunspell_parse(
  text,
  format = c("text", "man", "latex", "html", "xml"),
  dict = dictionary("en_US")
)

hunspell_check(words, dict = dictionary("en_US"))

hunspell_suggest(words, dict = dictionary("en_US"))

hunspell_analyze(words, dict = dictionary("en_US"))

hunspell_stem(words, dict = dictionary("en_US"))

hunspell_info(dict = dictionary("en_US"))

dictionary(lang = "en_US", affix = NULL, add_words = NULL, cache = TRUE)

list_dictionaries()
```

Arguments

text	character vector with arbitrary input text
format	input format; supported parsers are text, latex, man, xml and html.
dict	a dictionary object or string which can be passed to dictionary.
ignore	character vector with additional approved words added to the dictionary
words	character vector with individual words to spell check
lang	dictionary file or language, see details
affix	file path to corresponding affix file. If NULL it is is assumed to be the same path as dict with extension .aff.
add_words	a character vector of additional words to add to the dictionary
cache	speed up loading of dictionaries by caching

Details

Hunspell uses a special dictionary format that defines which stems and affixes are valid in a given language. The hunspell_analyze function shows how a word breaks down into a valid stem plus affix. The hunspell_stem function is similar but only returns valid stems for a given word. Stemming can be used to summarize text (e.g in a wordcloud). The hunspell_check function takes a vector of individual words and tests each one for correctness. Finally hunspell_suggest is used to suggest correct alternatives for each (incorrect) input word.

Because spell checking is usually done on a document, the package includes some parsers to extract words from various common formats. With hunspell_parse we can parse plain-text, latex and man format. R also has a few built-in parsers such as RdTextFilter and SweaveTeXFilter, see also ?aspell.

The package searches for dictionaries in the working directory as well as in the standard system locations. list_dictionaries provides a list of all dictionaries it can find. Additional search paths can be specified by setting the DICPATH environment variable. A US English dictionary (en_US) is included with the package; other dictionaries need to be installed by the system. Most operating systems already include compatible dictionaries with names such as hunspell-en-gb or myspell-en-gb.

To manually install dictionaries, copy the corresponding .aff and .dic file to ~/Library/Spelling or a custom directory specified in DICPATH. Alternatively you can pass the entire path to the .dic file as the dict parameter. Some popular sources of dictionaries are SCOWL, OpenOffice, debian, github/titoBouzout or github/wooorm.

Note that hunspell uses iconv to convert input text to the encoding used by the dictionary. This will fail if text contains characters which are unsupported by that particular encoding. For this reason UTF-8 dictionaries are preferable over legacy 8-bit dictionaries.

Examples

```
# Check individual words
words <- c("beer", "wiskey", "wine")
correct <- hunspell_check(words)
print(correct)
```

```
# Find suggestions for incorrect words
hunspell_suggest(words[!correct])

# Extract incorrect from a piece of text
bad <- hunspell("spell checkers are not neccessairy for langauge ninja's")
print(bad[[1]])
hunspell_suggest(bad[[1]])

# Stemming
words <- c("love", "loving", "lovingly", "loved", "lover", "lovely", "love")
hunspell_stem(words)
hunspell_analyze(words)


# Check an entire latex document
tmpfile <- file.path(tempdir(), "1406.4806v1.tar.gz")
download.file("https://arxiv.org/e-print/1406.4806v1", tmpfile,  mode = "wb")
untar(tmpfile, exdir = tempdir())
text <- readLines(file.path(tempdir(), "content.tex"), warn = FALSE)
bad_words <- hunspell(text, format = "latex")
sort(unique(unlist(bad_words)))

# Summarize text by stems (e.g. for wordcloud)
allwords <- hunspell_parse(text, format = "latex")
stems <- unlist(hunspell_stem(unlist(allwords)))
words <- head(sort(table(stems), decreasing = TRUE), 200)
```

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