

Package ‘prettyunits’

May 9, 2026

Title Pretty, Human Readable Formatting of Quantities

Version 1.2.0

Description Pretty, human readable formatting of quantities.

Time intervals: '1337000' -> '15d 11h 23m 20s'.

Vague time intervals: '2674000' -> 'about a month ago'.

Bytes: '1337' -> '1.34 kB'.

Rounding: '99' with 3 significant digits -> '99.0'

p-values: '0.00001' -> '<0.0001'.

Colors: '#FF0000' -> 'red'.

Quantities: '1239437' -> '1.24 M'.

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URL <https://github.com/r-lib/prettyunits>

BugReports <https://github.com/r-lib/prettyunits/issues>

Depends R(>= 2.10)

Suggests codetools, covr, testthat

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Encoding UTF-8

NeedsCompilation no

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```
prettyunits
```

Prettier formatting of quantities

Description

Render quantities with a pretty, human-readable formatting.

- Time intervals: '1337000' -> '15d 11h 23m 20s'.
- Vague time intervals: '2674000' -> 'about a month ago'.
- Bytes: '1337' -> '1.34 kB'.
- p-values: '0.00001' -> '<0.0001'.
- Colors: '#FF0000' -> 'red'.
- Quantities: '1239437' -> '1.24 M'.

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See Also

Useful links:

- <https://github.com/r-lib/prettyunits>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/r-lib/prettyunits/issues>

pretty_bytes	<i>Bytes in a human readable string</i>
--------------	---

Description

Use `pretty_bytes()` to format bytes. `compute_bytes()` is the underlying engine that may be useful for custom formatting.

Usage

```
pretty_bytes(bytes, style = c("default", "nopad", "6"))
```

```
compute_bytes(bytes, smallest_unit = "B")
```

Arguments

`bytes` Numeric vector, number of bytes.

`style` Formatting style:

- "default" is the original `pretty_bytes` formatting, and it always pads the output, so that all vector elements are of the same width,
- "nopad" is similar, but does not pad the output,
- "6" always uses 6 characters, The "6" style is useful if it is important that the output always has the same width (number of characters), e.g. in progress bars. See some examples below.

`smallest_unit` A character scalar, the smallest unit to use.

Value

Character vector, the formatted sizes. For `compute_bytes`, a data frame with columns `amount`, `unit`, `negative`.

Examples

```
bytes <- c(1337, 133337, 13333337, 1333333337, 133333333337)
pretty_bytes(bytes)
pretty_bytes(bytes, style = "nopad")
pretty_bytes(bytes, style = "6")
```

pretty_color	<i>Color definition (like RGB) to a name</i>
--------------	--

Description

Color definition (like RGB) to a name

Usage

```
pretty_color(color)
```

```
pretty_colour(color)
```

Arguments

color	A scalar color that is usable as an input to <code>col2rgb()</code> (assumed to be in the sRGB color space).
-------	--

Value

A character string that is the closest named colors to the input color. The output will have an attribute of alternate color names (named "alt").

pretty_dt	<i>Pretty formatting of time intervals (difftime objects)</i>
-----------	---

Description

Pretty formatting of time intervals (difftime objects)

Usage

```
pretty_dt(dt, compact = FALSE)
```

Arguments

dt	A difftime object, a vector of time differences.
compact	If true, then only the first non-zero unit is used. See examples below.

Value

Character vector of formatted time intervals.

See Also

Other time: [pretty_ms\(\)](#), [pretty_sec\(\)](#)

Examples

```
pretty_dt(as.difftime(1000, units = "secs"))
pretty_dt(as.difftime(0, units = "secs"))
```

pretty_ms

Pretty formatting of milliseconds

Description

Pretty formatting of milliseconds

Usage

```
pretty_ms(ms, compact = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`ms` Numeric vector of milliseconds

`compact` If true, then only the first non-zero unit is used. See examples below.

Value

Character vector of formatted time intervals.

See Also

Other time: [pretty_dt\(\)](#), [pretty_sec\(\)](#)

Examples

```
pretty_ms(c(1337, 13370, 133700, 1337000, 1337000000))

pretty_ms(c(1337, 13370, 133700, 1337000, 1337000000),
          compact = TRUE)
```

pretty_num

Linear quantities in a human readable string

Description

Use `pretty_num()` to format numbers `compute_num()` is the underlying engine that may be useful for custom formatting.

Usage

```
pretty_num(number, style = c("default", "nopad", "6"))
```

```
compute_num(number, smallest_prefix = "y")
```

Arguments

`number` Numeric vector, number related to a linear quantity.

`style` Formatting style:

- "default" is the original `pretty_num` formatting, and it always pads the output, so that all vector elements are of the same width,
- "nopad" is similar, but does not pad the output,
- "6" always uses 6 characters, The "6" style is useful if it is important that the output always has the same width (number of characters), e.g. in progress bars. See some examples below.

`smallest_prefix`

A character scalar, the smallest prefix to use.

Value

Character vector, the formatted sizes. For `compute_num`, a data frame with columns `amount`, `prefix`, `negative`.

Examples

```
numbers <- c(1337, 1.3333e-5, 13333337, 1333333337, 133333333337)
pretty_num(numbers)
pretty_num(numbers, style = "nopad")
pretty_num(numbers, style = "6")
```

pretty_p_value	<i>p-values in a human-readable string</i>
----------------	--

Description

p-values in a human-readable string

Usage

```
pretty_p_value(x, minval = 1e-04)
```

Arguments

x	A numeric vector.
minval	The minimum p-value to show (lower values will show as <code>paste0("<", minval)</code>).

Value

A character vector of p-value representations.

Examples

```
pretty_p_value(c(1, 0, NA, 0.01, 0.0000001))
pretty_p_value(c(1, 0, NA, 0.01, 0.0000001), minval = 0.05)
```

pretty_round	<i>Round a value to a defined number of digits printing out trailing zeros, if applicable</i>
--------------	---

Description

Round a value to a defined number of digits printing out trailing zeros, if applicable

Usage

```
pretty_round(x, digits = 0, sci_range = Inf, sci_sep = "e")
```

Arguments

x	The number to round.
digits	integer indicating the number of decimal places.
sci_range	See help for pretty_signif() (and you likely want to round with pretty_signif() if you want to use this argument).
sci_sep	The separator to use for scientific notation strings (typically this will be either "e" or "x10^" for computer- or human-readable output).

Details

Values that are not standard numbers like Inf, NA, and NaN are returned as "Inf", "NA", and "NaN".

Value

A string with the value.

See Also

[round\(\)](#), [pretty_signif\(\)](#).

pretty_sec

Pretty formatting of seconds

Description

Pretty formatting of seconds

Usage

```
pretty_sec(sec, compact = FALSE)
```

Arguments

sec	Numeric vector of seconds.
compact	If true, then only the first non-zero unit is used. See examples below.

Value

Character vector of formatted time intervals.

See Also

Other time: [pretty_dt\(\)](#), [pretty_ms\(\)](#)

Examples

```
pretty_sec(c(1337, 13370, 133700, 1337000, 13370000))  
pretty_sec(c(1337, 13370, 133700, 1337000, 13370000),  
           compact = TRUE)
```

pretty_signif	<i>Round a value to a defined number of significant digits printing out trailing zeros, if applicable</i>
---------------	---

Description

Round a value to a defined number of significant digits printing out trailing zeros, if applicable

Usage

```
pretty_signif(x, digits = 6, sci_range = 6, sci_sep = "e")
```

Arguments

x	The number to round.
digits	integer indicating the number of significant digits.
sci_range	integer (or Inf) indicating when to switch to scientific notation instead of floating point. Zero indicates always use scientific; Inf indicates to never use scientific notation; otherwise, scientific notation is used when $\text{abs}(\log_{10}(x)) > \text{sci_range}$.
sci_sep	The separator to use for scientific notation strings (typically this will be either "e" or "x10^" for computer- or human-readable output).

Details

Values that are not standard numbers like Inf, NA, and NaN are returned as "Inf", "NA", and NaN.

Value

A string with the value.

See Also

[signif\(\)](#), [pretty_round\(\)](#).

time_ago	<i>Human readable format of the time interval since a time point</i>
----------	--

Description

It calls [vague_dt](#) to do the actual formatting.

Usage

```
time_ago(date, format = c("default", "short", "terse"))
```

Arguments

date	Date(s), as .POSIXct will be called on them.
format	Format, currently available formats are: 'default', 'short', 'terse'. See examples below.

Value

Character vector of the formatted time intervals.

Examples

```

now <- Sys.time()

time_ago(now)
time_ago(now - as.difftime(30, units = "secs"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(14, units = "mins"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(5, units = "hours"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(25, units = "hours"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(5, units = "days"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(30, units = "days"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(365, units = "days"))
time_ago(now - as.difftime(365 * 10, units = "days"))

## Short format
time_ago(format = "short", now)
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(30, units = "secs"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(14, units = "mins"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(5, units = "hours"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(25, units = "hours"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(5, units = "days"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(30, units = "days"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(365, units = "days"))
time_ago(format = "short", now - as.difftime(365 * 10, units = "days"))

## Even shorter, terse format, (almost always) exactly 3 characters wide
time_ago(format = "terse", now)
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(30, units = "secs"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(14, units = "mins"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(5, units = "hours"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(25, units = "hours"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(5, units = "days"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(30, units = "days"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(365, units = "days"))
time_ago(format = "terse", now - as.difftime(365 * 10, units = "days"))

```

Description

Human readable format of a time interval

Usage

```
vague_dt(dt, format = c("default", "short", "terse"))
```

Arguments

dt	A difftime object, the time interval(s).
format	Format, currently available formats are: 'default', 'short', 'terse'. See examples below.

Value

Character vector of the formatted time intervals.

Examples

```
vague_dt(as.difftime(30, units = "secs"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(14, units = "mins"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(5, units = "hours"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(25, units = "hours"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(5, units = "days"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(30, units = "days"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(365, units = "days"))
vague_dt(as.difftime(365 * 10, units = "days"))

## Short format
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(30, units = "secs"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(14, units = "mins"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(5, units = "hours"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(25, units = "hours"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(5, units = "days"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(30, units = "days"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(365, units = "days"))
vague_dt(format = "short", as.difftime(365 * 10, units = "days"))

## Even shorter, terse format, (almost always) exactly 3 characters wide
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(30, units = "secs"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(14, units = "mins"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(5, units = "hours"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(25, units = "hours"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(5, units = "days"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(30, units = "days"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(365, units = "days"))
vague_dt(format = "terse", as.difftime(365 * 10, units = "days"))
```

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