

Package ‘pmparser’

December 15, 2025

Title Create and Maintain a Relational Database of Data from
PubMed/MEDLINE

Version 1.0.23

Description Provides a simple interface for extracting various elements from
the publicly available PubMed XML files, incorporating PubMed's regular
updates, and combining the data with the NIH Open Citation Collection. See
Schoenbachler and Hughey (2021) <doi:10.7717/peerj.11071>.

URL <https://pmparser.hugheylib.org>,
<https://github.com/hugheylib/pmparser>

License GPL-2

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Depends R (>= 3.6)

Imports curl (>= 4.3.2), data.table (>= 1.12.2), DBI (>= 1.1.0),
foreach (>= 1.5.0), glue (>= 1.4.2), iterators (>= 1.0.12),
jsonlite (>= 1.7.0), R.utils (>= 2.10.1), RCurl (>= 1.98),
withr (>= 2.3.0), xml2 (>= 1.3.3)

Suggests bigquery (>= 1.3.2), doParallel (>= 1.0.16), RMariaDB (>= 1.0.9), RPostgres (>= 1.2.0), RSQLite (>= 2.2.0), testthat (>= 2.3.2), knitr, rmarkdown

SystemRequirements head, unzip, sqlite

VignetteBuilder knitr

NeedsCompilation no

Author Jake Hughey [aut, cre],
Josh Schoenbachler [aut],
Elliot Outland [aut]

Maintainer Jake Hughey <jakejhughey@gmail.com>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2025-12-15 11:50:02 UTC

Contents

getCitation	2
getPgParams	3
modifyPubmedDb	4
parseElement	5

Index	9
--------------	----------

getCitation	<i>Get public-domain citation data</i>
-------------	--

Description

Get the latest version of the NIH Open Citation Collection from figshare [here](#), and optionally write it to the database. This function requires the shell command `unzip`, available by default on most Unix systems. This function should not normally be called directly, as it is called by `modifyPubmedDb()`.

Usage

```
getCitation(
  localDir,
  filename = "open_citation_collection.csv",
  nrows = Inf,
  tableSuffix = NULL,
  overwrite = FALSE,
  con = NULL,
  checkMd5 = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

localDir	String indicating path to directory containing the citation file or to which the citation file should be downloaded.
filename	String indicating name of the citation file. This should not normally be changed from the default.
nrows	Number indicating how many rows of the citation file to read. This should not normally be changed from the default.
tableSuffix	String indicating suffix, if any, to append to the table name.
overwrite	Logical indicating whether to overwrite an existing table.
con	Connection to the database, created using <code>DBI::dbConnect()</code> .
checkMd5	Logical indicating whether to download the citation file if the MD5 sums of the local and remote versions do not match. This should not normally be changed from the default.

Value

If con is NULL, the function returns a data.table with columns citing_pmid and cited_pmid. Beware this is a large table and could swamp the machine's memory. If con is not NULL, the function returns NULL invisibly.

See Also

[parsePmidStatus\(\)](#), [modifyPubmedDb\(\)](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
dCitation = getCitation('.')

## End(Not run)
```

getPgParams

Get Postgres connection parameters

Description

This is a helper function to get parameters from a .pgpass file. See [here](#) for details.

Usage

```
getPgParams(path = "~/ .pgpass")
```

Arguments

path Path to .pgpass file.

Value

A data.table with one row for each set of parameters.

See Also

[modifyPubmedDb\(\)](#)

Examples

```
pg = getPgParams(system.file('extdata', 'pgpass', package = 'pmparser'))
```

 modifyPubmedDb

Create or update a PubMed database

Description

This function downloads PubMed/MEDLINE XML files, parses them, and adds the information to the database, then downloads the NIH Open Citation Collection and adds it to the database. Only the most recent version of each PMID is retained. Parsing of XML files will use a parallel backend if one is registered, such as with `doParallel::registerDoParallel()`.

Usage

```
modifyPubmedDb(
  localDir,
  dbname,
  dbtype = c("postgres", "mariadb", "mysql", "sqlite"),
  nFiles = Inf,
  retry = TRUE,
  nCitations = Inf,
  mode = c("create", "update"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

<code>localDir</code>	Directory in which to download the files from PubMed.
<code>dbname</code>	Name of database.
<code>dbtype</code>	Type of database, either 'postgres', 'mariadb', 'mysql', or 'sqlite'. Make sure to install the corresponding DBI driver package first: RPostgres, RMariaDB (for both 'mariadb' and 'mysql'), or RSQLite. Due to the large size of the database, SQLite is recommended only for small-scale testing.
<code>nFiles</code>	Maximum number of xml files to parse that are not already in the database. This should not normally be changed from the default.
<code>retry</code>	Logical indicating whether to retry parsing steps that fail.
<code>nCitations</code>	Maximum number of rows of the citation file to read. This should not normally be changed from the default.
<code>mode</code>	String indicating whether to create the database using the baseline files or to update the database using the update files.
<code>...</code>	Other arguments passed to <code>DBI::dbConnect()</code> .

Value

NULL, invisibly. Tab-delimited log files will be created in a logs folder in `localDir`.

See Also

[parsePmidStatus\(\)](#), [getCitation\(\)](#), [getPgParams\(\)](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
modifyPubmedDb('.', 'pmdb', mode = 'create')

## End(Not run)
```

parseElement

Parse elements from a PubMed XML file

Description

Elements are parsed according to the MEDLINE®PubMed® XML Element Descriptions and their Attributes [here](#). These functions should not normally be called directly, as they are called by [modifyPubmedDb\(\)](#).

Usage

```
parsePmidStatus(rawXml, filename, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseArticleId(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseArticle(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parsePubHistory(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseJournal(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parsePubType(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseMesh(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseKeyword(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseGrant(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseChemical(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseDataBank(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseComment(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)

parseAbstract(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)
```

```
parseOther(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)
```

```
parseAuthor(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)
```

```
parseInvestigator(pmXml, dPmid, con = NULL, tableSuffix = NULL)
```

Arguments

rawXml	An xml document obtained by loading a PubMed XML file using <code>xml2::read_xml()</code> .
filename	A string that will be added to a column <code>xml_filename</code> .
con	Connection to the database, created using <code>DBI::dbConnect()</code> .
tableSuffix	String to append to the table names.
pmXml	An xml nodeset derived from <code>rawXml</code> , such as that returned by <code>parsePmidStatus()</code> , where each node corresponds to a PMID.
dPmid	A <code>data.table</code> with one row for each node of <code>pmXml</code> , should have columns <code>pmid</code> , <code>version</code> , and possibly <code>xml_filename</code> .

Value

`parsePmidStatus()` returns a list of two objects. The first is an xml nodeset in which each node corresponds to a `PubmedArticle` in the `rawXml` object. The second is a `data.table` with columns `pmid`, `version`, `xml_filename`, and `status`, in which each row corresponds to a `PubmedArticle` in the `rawXml` object or a deleted `pmid`. The `status` column is parsed from the `DeleteCitation` and `MedlineCitation` sections.

The following functions return a `data.table` or list of `data.tables` with columns from `dPmid` plus the columns specified.

`parseArticleId()`: a `data.table` with columns `id_type` and `id_value`, parsed from the `ArticleIdList` section. Only `id_types` "doi" and "pmc" are retained.

`parseArticle()`: a `data.table` with columns `title`, `language`, `vernacular_title`, `pub_model`, and `pub_date`, parsed from the `Article` section.

`parsePubHistory()`: a `data.table` with columns `pub_status` and `pub_date`, parsed from the `History` section.

`parseJournal()`: a `data.table` with columns `journal_name`, `journal_iso`, `pub_date`, `pub_year`, `pub_month`, `pub_day`, `medline_date`, `volume`, `issue`, and `cited_medium`, parsed from the `Journal` section.

`parsePubType()`: a `data.table` with columns `type_name` and `type_id`, parsed from the `PublicationTypeList` section.

`parseMesh()`: a list of three `data.tables` parsed mostly from the `MeshHeadingList` section. The first has column `indexing_method` (parsed from the `MedlineCitation` section), the second has columns `descriptor_pos`, `descriptor_name`, `descriptor_ui`, and `descriptor_major_topic`, the third has columns `descriptor_pos`, `qualifier_name`, `qualifier_ui`, and `qualifier_major_topic`.

`parseKeyword()`: a list of two `data.tables` parsed from the `KeywordList` section. The first has column `list_owner`, the second has columns `keyword_name` and `major_topic`.

parseGrant(): a list of two data.tables parsed from the GrantList section. The first has column complete, the second has columns grant_id, acronym, agency, and country.

parseChemical(): a data.table with columns registry_number, substance_name, and substance_ui, parsed from the ChemicalList section.

parseDataBank(): a data.table with columns data_bank_name and accession_number, parsed from the DataBankList section.

parseComment(): a data.table with columns ref_type and ref_pmid, parsed from the CommentsCorrectionsList section.

parseAbstract(): a list of two data.tables parsed from the Abstract section. The first has column copyright. The second has columns text, label, and nlm_category.

parseAuthor(): a list of data.tables parsed from the AuthorList section. The first is for authors and has columns author_pos, last_name, fore_name, initials, suffix, valid, equal_contrib, and collective_name. The second is for affiliations and has columns author_pos, affiliation_pos, and affiliation. The third is for author identifiers and has columns author_pos, source, and identifier. The fourth is for author affiliation identifiers and has columns author_pos, affiliation_pos, source, and identifier. The fifth is for the author list itself and has a column complete.

parseInvestigator(): a list of data.tables similar to those returned by parseAuthor(), except parsed from the InvestigatorList section, with column names containing "investigator" instead of "author", and where the first data.table lacks columns for equal_contrib and collective_name and the fifth data.table does not exist.

parseOther(): a list of data.tables parsed from the OtherAbstract and OtherID sections. The first has columns text, type, and language. The second has columns source and id_value.

See Also

[getCitation\(\)](#), [modifyPubMedDb\(\)](#)

Examples

```
library('data.table')
library('xml2')

filename = 'pubmed20n1016.xml.gz'
rawXml = read_xml(system.file('extdata', filename, package = 'pmparser'))

pmidStatusList = parsePmidStatus(rawXml, filename)
pmXml = pmidStatusList[[1L]]
dPmidRaw = pmidStatusList[[2L]]
dPmid = dPmidRaw[status != 'Deleted', !'status']

dArticleId = parseArticleId(pmXml, dPmid)
dArticle = parseArticle(pmXml, dPmid)
dJournal = parseJournal(pmXml, dPmid)
dPubType = parsePubType(pmXml, dPmid)
dPubHistory = parsePubHistory(pmXml, dPmid)
meshRes = parseMesh(pmXml, dPmid)
keywordRes = parseKeyword(pmXml, dPmid)
grantRes = parseGrant(pmXml, dPmid)
```

```
dChemical = parseChemical(pmXml, dPmid)
dDataBank = parseDataBank(pmXml, dPmid)
dComment = parseComment(pmXml, dPmid)
abstractRes = parseAbstract(pmXml, dPmid)
authorRes = parseAuthor(pmXml, dPmid)
investigatorRes = parseInvestigator(pmXml, dPmid)
otherRes = parseOther(pmXml, dPmid)
```


Index

DBI::dbConnect(), [2](#), [4](#), [6](#)
doParallel::registerDoParallel(), [4](#)

getCitation, [2](#)
getCitation(), [5](#), [7](#)
getPgParams, [3](#)
getPgParams(), [5](#)

modifyPubmedDb, [4](#)
modifyPubmedDb(), [2](#), [3](#), [5](#), [7](#)

parseAbstract (parseElement), [5](#)
parseArticle (parseElement), [5](#)
parseArticleId (parseElement), [5](#)
parseAuthor (parseElement), [5](#)
parseChemical (parseElement), [5](#)
parseComment (parseElement), [5](#)
parseDataBank (parseElement), [5](#)
parseElement, [5](#)
parseGrant (parseElement), [5](#)
parseInvestigator (parseElement), [5](#)
parseJournal (parseElement), [5](#)
parseKeyword (parseElement), [5](#)
parseMesh (parseElement), [5](#)
parseOther (parseElement), [5](#)
parsePmidStatus (parseElement), [5](#)
parsePmidStatus(), [3](#), [5](#)
parsePubHistory (parseElement), [5](#)
parsePubType (parseElement), [5](#)

xml2::read_xml(), [6](#)