Package 'fasttime'

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Title Fast Utility Function for Time Parsing and Conversion

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Description Fast functions for timestamp
manipulation that avoid system calls and take shortcuts
to facilitate operations on very large data.

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R topics documented:

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fastPOSIXct   *Fast version of* as.POSIXct.character *for GMT fixed format.*

Description

fastPOSIXct converts timestamps in textual (string) form into POSIXct objects. It interprets sequences of digits separated by non-digits as a timestamp in GMT. The order of interpretation is fixed: year, month, day, hour, minute, second. Note that only true (positive) POSIX dates (since 1970-01-01 00:00:00) are supported and fastPOSIXct accepts dates up to year 2199.

It is extremely fast (compared to as.POSIXct by several orders of magnitude (on some platfroms 1000x faster) since it uses pure text parsing and no system calls.

Usage

```
fastPOSIXct(x, tz = NULL, required.components = 3L)
```

Arguments

x   string vector to interpret as timestamps

tz   timezone for the resulting POSIXct object - this is NOT the time of x, that will
                     always be GMT!

required.components

                     minimum number of timestamp components that are required. For example 3
                     means only the date is required, 6 means all components (up to the seconds) are
                     required. If the requirement is not met, the result for that entry will be NA.

Value

Numeric vector of the class POSIXct. In fact this function computes the numeric vector and calls
.POSIXct to create the result.

Author(s)

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See Also

[as.POSIXct](#)

Examples

```
## let us generate a bunch of random timestamps until today
ts <- as.character(.POSIXct(runif(1e4) * unclass(Sys.time()), "GMT"))

## convert them using as.POSIXct
system.time(a <- as.POSIXct(ts, "GMT"))

## same using the fast method
system.time(b <- fastPOSIXct(ts, "GMT"))

identical(a, b)
```

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