Package 'goSTAG'

July 23, 2025

Type Package

Title A tool to use GO Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set

Version 1.32.0 **Date** 2017-06-02

Author Brian D. Bennett and Pierre R. Bushel

Maintainer Brian D. Bennett <bri>h. gov>

Description Gene lists derived from the results of genomic analyses are rich in biological information. For instance, differentially expressed genes (DEGs) from a microarray or RNA-Seq analysis are related functionally in terms of their response to a treatment or condition. Gene lists can vary in size, up to several thousand genes, depending on the robustness of the perturbations or how widely different the conditions are biologically. Having a way to associate biological relatedness between hundreds and thousands of genes systematically is impractical by manually curating the annotation and function of each gene. Overrepresentation analysis (ORA) of genes was developed to identify biological themes. Given a Gene Ontology (GO) and an annotation of genes that indicate the categories each one fits into, significance of the over-representation of the genes within the ontological categories is determined by a Fisher's exact test or modeling according to a hypergeometric distribution. Comparing a small number of enriched biological categories for a few samples is manageable using Venn diagrams or other means for assessing overlaps. However, with hundreds of enriched categories and many samples, the comparisons are laborious. Furthermore, if there are enriched categories that are shared between samples, trying to represent a common theme across them is highly subjective. goSTAG uses GO subtrees to tag and annotate genes within a set. goSTAG visualizes the similarities between the overrepresentation of DEGs by clustering the p-values from the enrichment statistical tests and labels clusters with the GO term that has the most paths to the root within the subtree generated from all the GO terms in the cluster.

License GPL-3 **Depends** R (>= 3.4)

Imports AnnotationDbi, biomaRt, GO.db, graphics, memoise, stats, utils

Suggests BiocStyle, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

VignetteBuilder knitr

LazyData true

2 goSTAG-package

biocViews GeneExpression, DifferentialExpression, GeneSetEnrichment, Clustering, Microarray, mRNAMicroarray, RNASeq, Visualization, GO, ImmunoOncology
git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/goSTAG
git_branch RELEASE_3_21
git_last_commit 955f884
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.21
Date/Publication 2025-07-23

Contents

goSTAG-package goSTAG Package		
Index		15
	rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists	14
	plotHeatmap	12
	performHierarchicalClustering	1
	performGOEnrichment	10
	loadGOTerms	9
	loadGeneLists	8
	groupClusters	-
	goSTAG_go_genes_rat	
	goSTAG_go_genes_mouse	
	goSTAG_go_genes_human	
	goSTAG_example_gene_lists	
	annotateClusters	
	goSTAG-package	

Description

A tool to use GO Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set.

Details

Package: goSTAG Type: Package annotateClusters 3

Author(s)

Brian D. Bennett Pierre R. Bushel

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
enrichment_matrix <- performGOEnrichment( goSTAG_example_gene_lists, go_terms )
hclust_results <- performHierarchicalClustering( enrichment_matrix )
clusters <- groupClusters( hclust_results )
cluster_labels <- annotateClusters( clusters )
plotHeatmap( enrichment_matrix, hclust_results, clusters, cluster_labels )</pre>
```

annotateClusters

Annotate Clusters

Description

Annotates each cluster of GO terms with the term containing the most paths to the root.

Usage

```
annotateClusters(clusters)
```

Arguments

clusters

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a cluster, and each vector contains the GO terms in the cluster.

Details

All of the GO terms within all of the clusters must belong to the same GO domain (either BP, CC, or MF).

Value

A vector of cluster labels.

Author(s)

Brian D. Bennett Pierre R. Bushel

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
enrichment_matrix <- performGOEnrichment( goSTAG_example_gene_lists, go_terms )
hclust_results <- performHierarchicalClustering( enrichment_matrix )
clusters <- groupClusters( hclust_results )

cluster_labels <- annotateClusters( clusters )
head( cluster_labels )</pre>
```

```
{\it goSTAG\_example\_gene\_lists} \\ {\it goSTAG~Example~Gene~Lists}
```

Description

An example set of gene lists.

Usage

```
data(goSTAG_example_gene_lists)
```

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a gene list, and each vector contains the genes in the gene list.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
lapply( head( goSTAG_example_gene_lists ), head )
```

```
goSTAG_go_genes_human goSTAG GO Genes (Human)
```

Description

A list of GO terms and the human genes associated with them.

Usage

```
data(goSTAG_go_genes_human)
```

Details

This data is meant for internal goSTAG use.

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a GO term, and each vector contains the genes associated with the GO term. The list also has an additional element named "ALL", which is a vector that contains all annotated genes.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_go_genes_human )
lapply( head( goSTAG_go_genes_human ), head )
```

```
goSTAG_go_genes_mouse goSTAG GO Genes (Mouse)
```

Description

A list of GO terms and the mouse genes associated with them.

Usage

```
data(goSTAG_go_genes_mouse)
```

Details

This data is meant for internal goSTAG use.

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a GO term, and each vector contains the genes associated with the GO term. The list also has an additional element named "ALL", which is a vector that contains all annotated genes.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_go_genes_mouse )
lapply( head( goSTAG_go_genes_mouse ), head )
```

```
goSTAG_go_genes_rat goSTAG GO Genes (Rat)
```

Description

A list of GO terms and the rat genes associated with them.

Usage

```
data(goSTAG_go_genes_rat)
```

Details

This data is meant for internal goSTAG use.

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a GO term, and each vector contains the genes associated with the GO term. The list also has an additional element named "ALL", which is a vector that contains all annotated genes.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

groupClusters 7

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_go_genes_rat )
lapply( head( goSTAG_go_genes_rat ), head )
```

groupClusters

Group Clusters

Description

Groups similar leaves of a hierarchical cluster analysis into clusters.

Usage

```
groupClusters(hclust_results, distance_threshold = 0.2)
```

Arguments

hclust_results An object of class "hclust" containing a tree produced by hierarchical clustering. distance_threshold

The distance threshold at which to group leaves into clusters. Leaves whose distance is less than or equal to this threshold will be grouped together. A larger distance threshold will produce fewer clusters with more members, whereas a smaller one will produce more clusters with fewer members.

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a cluster, and each vector contains the GO terms in the cluster.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

8 loadGeneLists

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
enrichment_matrix <- performGOEnrichment( goSTAG_example_gene_lists, go_terms )
hclust_results <- performHierarchicalClustering( enrichment_matrix )

clusters <- groupClusters( hclust_results )
lapply( head( clusters ), head )</pre>
```

loadGeneLists

Load Gene Lists

Description

Loads gene lists from a file or directory.

Usage

```
loadGeneLists(location, type = "GMT", sep = "\t", header = FALSE, col = 1)
```

Arguments

location	The location of the GMT file or the directory containing the gene lists.
type	A value indicating whether to load the gene lists from a single GMT file or a directory containing a separate file for each gene list. Acceptable options are "GMT" or "DIR".
sep	The field separator character by which values on each line are separated.
header	A logical value indicating whether the gene list files contain a header that should be ignored. Only applicable when type = "DIR".
col	The column in the gene lists files containing the genes. Only applicable when type = "DIR".

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a gene list, and each vector contains the genes in the gene list.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

loadGOTerms 9

Examples

```
tf <- tempfile()</pre>
writeLines( c( "Gene_List_1\tNA\tGene1\tGene4",
                 "Gene_List_2\tNA\tGene2\tGene7\tGene5",
                 "Gene_List_3\tNA\tGene4\tGene8"), tf)
gene_lists <- loadGeneLists( tf )</pre>
lapply( head( gene_lists ), head )
td <- tempdir()</pre>
unlink( paste( sep="/", td, list.files(td) ) )
writeLines( c( "Gene1", "Gene4" ), paste(sep="/",td,"Gene_List_1.txt") )
\label{eq:writeLines} \textit{writeLines(c("Gene2", "Gene7", "Gene5"), paste(sep="/",td,"Gene\_List\_2.txt"))}
writeLines( c( "Gene4", "Gene8" ), paste(sep="/",td,"Gene_List_3.txt") )
gene_lists <- loadGeneLists( td, type = "dir" )</pre>
lapply( head( gene_lists ), head )
```

loadGOTerms

Load GO Terms

Description

Loads a list of GO terms and the genes associated with them.

takes very little time.

Usage

```
loadGOTerms(species = "human", domain = "BP", min_num_genes = 5, use_archived = TRUE)
```

Arguments

spec1es	The species to use for associating genes with GO terms. Available options are "human", "mouse", or "rat".
domain	The GO domain to use. Acceptable options are "BP" (biological process), "CC" (cellular component), or "MF" (molecular function).
min_num_genes	The minimum number of genes required to be associated with each GO term. Any GO terms with fewer genes will be excluded.
use_archived	A logical value indicating whether to use an archived version of the gene associations. If FALSE, this function will use BioMart to generate the latest version of the gene associations, but may take several minutes. If TRUE (default), this

function will use a previously generated version of the gene associations, which

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a GO term, and each vector contains the genes associated with the GO term. The list also has an additional element named "ALL", which is a vector that contains all annotated genes.

Author(s)

Brian D. Bennett Pierre R. Bushel

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
lapply( head( go_terms ), head )</pre>
```

performGOEnrichment

Perform GO Enrichment

Description

Performs a GO enrichment analysis on a set of gene lists and GO terms. Will filter out GO terms having no significant enrichment in any of the gene lists.

Usage

performGOEnrichment(gene_lists, go_terms, filter_method = "pval", significance_threshold = 0.05, p.adj

Arguments

gene_lists A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a gene list, and each

vector contains the genes in the gene list.

go_terms A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a GO term, and each

vector contains the genes associated with the GO term. The list must also have an additional element named "ALL", which is a vector that contains all anno-

tated genes.

filter_method A value indicating whether to filter out GO terms based on a nominal p-value

or an adjusted p-value. Acceptable options are "pval" (nominal p-value) or

"p.adjust" (adjusted p-value).

significance_threshold

The significance threshold at which to filter out GO terms. GO terms with a nominal or adjusted p-value (indicated by "filter_method") of greater than or

equal to this threshold in all gene lists will be filtered out.

p.adjust_method

The correction method used to adjust the p-values. Available options are those of the "method" argument for the "p.adjust" function, which are currently "holm", "hochberg", "hommel", "bonferroni", "BH", "BY", "fdr", or "none". Only applicable when filter_method = "p.adjust".

Value

A matrix of enrichment scores. Rows correspond to GO terms and columns correspond to gene lists

Author(s)

Brian D. Bennett Pierre R. Bushel

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
enrichment_matrix <- performGOEnrichment( goSTAG_example_gene_lists, go_terms )
head( enrichment_matrix )</pre>
```

performHierarchicalClustering

Perform Hierarchical Clustering

Description

Performs a hierarchical clustering analysis on a GO enrichment matrix.

Usage

performHierarchicalClustering(enrichment_matrix, feature = "row", distance_method = "correlation", clu

Arguments

enrichment_matrix

A matrix of enrichment scores. Rows correspond to GO terms and columns correspond to gene lists.

feature

A value indicating whether to cluster the rows or the columns. Acceptable options are "row" or "col".

distance_method

The distance measure to use when generating the distance matrix. If "correlation" (default), this function will use one minus the absolute value of the correlation to measure distance. Otherwise, this function will use the "dist" function to measure distance. Available options are those of the "method" argument for the "dist" function, which are currently "euclidean", "maximum", "manhattan", "canberra", "binary", or "minkowski".

12 plotHeatmap

clustering_method

The agglomeration method to use when performing the hierarchical clustering. Available options are those of the "method" argument for the "hclust" function, which are currently "ward.D", "ward.D2", "single", "complete", "average", "mcquitty", "median", or "centroid".

Value

An object of class "hclust" containing a tree produced by hierarchical clustering.

Author(s)

```
Brian D. Bennett
Pierre R. Bushel
```

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
enrichment_matrix <- performGOEnrichment( goSTAG_example_gene_lists, go_terms )
hclust_results <- performHierarchicalClustering( enrichment_matrix )
sample_hclust_results <- performHierarchicalClustering( enrichment_matrix, feature = "col" )</pre>
```

plotHeatmap

Plot Heatmap

Description

Plots a heatmap of goSTAG analysis results.

Usage

```
plotHeatmap(enrichment_matrix, hclust_results, clusters, cluster_labels, sample_hclust_results = NULL
```

Arguments

```
enrichment_matrix
```

A matrix of enrichment scores. Rows correspond to GO terms and columns correspond to gene lists.

hclust_results An object of class "hclust" containing a tree produced by hierarchical clustering.

This tree is for the GO terms (rows) in the enrichment matrix.

plotHeatmap 13

clusters

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a cluster, and each vector contains the GO terms in the cluster.

cluster_labels A vector of cluster labels.

sample_hclust_results

An object of class "hclust" containing a tree produced by hierarchical clustering. This tree is for the samples (columns) in the enrichment matrix. If NULL (default), the samples will appear in their original order with no dendrogram.

min_num_terms

The minimum number of GO terms required to plot a cluster label. Any cluster with fewer GO terms will not be labeled.

maximum_heatmap_value

The maximum value in the heatmap. Any values in the enrichment matrix greater than this value will be made equal to this value. This is to increase contrast in the heatmap by controlling outliers.

heatmap_colors The color range for the heatmap. Available options are "auto", "extra", or a vector containing the color range. If "auto" (default), this function will use a color range from grey to red. If "extra", this function will use a color range from grey to yellow to red.

sample_colors

A vector of colors for the sample labels. If NULL (default), the sample labels will not have any color.

margin_size

The size of the margin between the elements of the plot, as a percentage of the entire width of the plot.

dendrogram_width

The size of the GO term dendrogram (including the cluster labels), as a percentage of the entire width of the plot (excluding the margins).

cluster_label_width

The size of the cluster labels, as a percentage of the GO term dendrogram.

header_height

The size of the header (including the sample labels), as a percentage of the entire height of the plot (excluding the margins).

sample_label_height

The size of the sample labels, as a percentage of the header.

dendrogram_lwd The width of the GO term dendrogram lines.

header_lwd The width of the sample dendrogram lines.

cluster_label_cex

A value that scales the cluster label text size.

sample_label_cex

A value that scales the sample label text size.

Value

None, the function is invoked for its side effect.

Author(s)

Brian D. Bennett Pierre R. Bushel

References

Bennett BD and Bushel PR. goSTAG: Gene Ontology Subtrees to Tag and Annotate Genes within a set. Source Code Biol Med. 2017 Apr 13.

Examples

```
data( goSTAG_example_gene_lists )
go_terms <- loadGOTerms()
enrichment_matrix <- performGOEnrichment( goSTAG_example_gene_lists, go_terms )
hclust_results <- performHierarchicalClustering( enrichment_matrix )
clusters <- groupClusters( hclust_results )
cluster_labels <- annotateClusters( clusters )

plotHeatmap( enrichment_matrix, hclust_results, clusters, cluster_labels )</pre>
```

```
rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists

Rat Cancer Therapeutics Gene Lists
```

Description

Differentially expressed genes from gene expression analysis (Affymetrix GeneChip Rat Genome 230 2.0 arrays) of samples acquired from the bone marrow of rats exposed to cancer therapeutic drugs (topotecan in combination with oxaliplatin) for 1, 6, or 24 hrs. Comparisons were treated samples to time-matched controls using limma with an FDR < 0.05 and absolute fold change > 2.0. Details of the analysis are as previously described (Davis et al., 2015). The raw data are available in the Gene Expression Omnibus under accession number GSE63902.

Usage

```
data(rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists)
```

Value

A list of vectors. Each element of the list corresponds to a gene list, and each vector contains the genes in the gene list.

References

Davis M, Li J, Knight E, Eldridge SR, Daniels KK, Bushel PR. Toxicogenomics profiling of bone marrow from rats treated with topotecan in combination with oxaliplatin: a mechanistic strategy to inform combination toxicity. Front Genet. 2015 Feb 12;6:14.

Examples

```
data( rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists )
lapply( head( rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists ), head )
```

Index

```
* datasets
    goSTAG_example_gene_lists, 4
    goSTAG_go_genes_human, 5
    goSTAG_go_genes_mouse, 5
    goSTAG_go_genes_rat, 6
    rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists,
* package
    goSTAG-package, 2
annotateClusters, 3
goSTAG (goSTAG-package), 2
goSTAG-package, 2
goSTAG_example_gene_lists,4
goSTAG_go_genes_human, 5
goSTAG_go_genes_mouse, 5
goSTAG_go_genes_rat, 6
groupClusters, 7
loadGeneLists, 8
loadGOTerms, 9
performGOEnrichment, 10
performHierarchicalClustering, 11
\verb|plotHeatmap|, 12|
\verb|rat_cancer_therapeutics_gene_lists|, 14|
```