

Package ‘ontoFAST’

May 9, 2026

Type Package

Title Interactive Annotation of Characters with Biological Ontologies

Version 1.0.0

Author Sergei Tarasov

Maintainer Sergei Tarasov <sergei.tarasov@helsinki.fi>

Description Tools for annotating characters (character matrices) with anatomical and phenotype ontologies. Includes functions for visualising character annotations and creating simple queries using ontological relationships.

URL <https://github.com/sergeitarasov/ontoFAST>

License GPL (>= 2)

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.0.2

Imports shinydashboard, pbapply, stringr, utils, stats, dplyr, plyr, sunburstR, usethis

Depends R (>= 3.5), shiny, ontologyIndex, visNetwork

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown

NeedsCompilation no

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2021-04-29 07:10:02 UTC

Contents

annot_all_chars	2
annot_char_grep	3
chars_per_term	4
edges2list	4
exclude_terms	5
export_annotations	5
export_cytoscape	6

get_ancestors_chars	7
get_descendants_chars	8
get_onto_id	9
get_onto_name	9
HAO	10
list2edges	11
make_shiny_in	11
onto_process	12
paths_sunburst	13
runOntoFast	14
Scarab	15
Sharkey_2011	15
Sharkey_2011_annot	16
syn_extract	17
table2list	17
Tarasov_2017_annot	18
Index	19

annot_all_chars	<i>Annotate all character statements with ontology terms</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Matches character statement and returns most similar ontology terms using grep and distance-based matching

Usage

```
annot_all_chars(ontology, use.synonyms = TRUE, min_set = TRUE)
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology_index object with character names (ontology\$name_characters) and ids (ontology\$id_characters)
use.synonyms	using synonyms list during search. It has to be included in ontology, see syn_extract()
min_set	if TRUE eliminates higher order inferred ontology terms

Value

The list of matched ontology terms and their character ids.

Examples

```

#getting ontology
data(HAO)
data(Sharkey_2011)
ontology<-HAO
#parsing synonyms
ontology$parsed_synonyms<-syn_extract(HAO)
# reading in characters
char_et_states<-Sharkey_2011
# embedding characters and character ids into ontology
id_characters<-paste("CHAR:",c(1:392), sep="")
name_characters<-char_et_states[,1]
names(name_characters)<-id_characters
ontology$name_characters<-name_characters
ontology$id_characters<-id_characters
# running annotations

auto_annotations<-annot_all_chars(ontology)

```

annot_char_grep

Annotate a character statement with ontology terms

Description

Matches character statement and returns most similar ontology terms

Usage

```
annot_char_grep(ontology, char.statement, use.synonyms = TRUE, min_set = TRUE)
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology.
char.statement	character statement
use.synonyms	if TRUE then the synonyms are used during search. The synonyms have to be included in the ontology using syn_extract() function
min_set	if TRUE eliminates higher order inferred ontology terms

Value

The vector of matches ontology terms.

Examples

```

data(HAO)
annot_char_grep(HAO, "Mola on right mandible")

```

chars_per_term	<i>Get number of chracters per each ontology term</i>
----------------	---

Description

Returns matrix summarizing number of characters per each ontology terms in descending order

Usage

```
chars_per_term(ontology, annotations = "auto")
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology_index object with character annotations included (ontology\$annot_characters).
annotations	which annotations to use: "auto" means automatic annotations, "manual" means manual ones. Alternatively, any other list element containing annotations can be specified.

Value

The matrix of ontology terms IDs, their names and character number.

Examples

```
data(HAO)
ontology<-HAO
ontology$terms_selected_id<-list(`CHAR:1`=c("HAO:0000653"), `CHAR:2`=c("HAO:0000653"))
chars_per_term(ontology, annotations="manual")
```

edges2list	<i>Convert edge matrix to list</i>
------------	------------------------------------

Description

Takes two-column edge matrix (columns from and to) and produces a list

Usage

```
edges2list(edge.matrix)
```

Arguments

edge.matrix	Two-column edge matrix.
-------------	-------------------------

Value

The list.

Examples

```
annot_list<-list(`CHAR:1`=c("HAO:0000933", "HAO:0000958"), `CHAR:2`=c("HAO:0000833", "HAO:0000258"))
edge.matrix<-list2edges(annot_list)
edges2list(edge.matrix)
```

exclude_terms	<i>Ontology terms to exclude for sunburst plot</i>
---------------	--

Description

List of ontology terms from Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology that can be considered redundant and need to be excluded from some operations.

Usage

```
exclude_terms
```

Format

List containing ontological terms.

Examples

```
exclude_terms
```

export_annotiations	<i>Export annotation data</i>
---------------------	-------------------------------

Description

This function converts character annotations stored in shiny_in object to table format.

Usage

```
export_annotiations(  
  ontology,  
  annotations = "auto",  
  incl.names = FALSE,  
  sep.head = ", ",  
  sep.tail = NULL,  
  collapse = NULL  
)
```

Arguments

ontology	Ontology
annotations	which annotations to use: "auto" means automatic annotations, "manual" means manual ones. Alternatively, any other list element containing annotations can be specified.
incl.names	if TRUE includes terms' names and IDs, otherwise includes just IDs.
sep.head	if incl.names=TRUE, this is a separator attached to the beginning of term's ID
sep.tail	if incl.names=TRUE, this is a separator attached to the end of term's ID
collapse	if NULL all annotations of a term placed in separate columns, if a value is specified (e.g., "; ") then all annotations are collapsed in one line given that values

Value

Returns a table

Examples

```

data(Sharkey_2011)
data(HAO)
hao_obo<-onto_process(HAO, Sharkey_2011[,1], do.annot = FALSE)
ontofast <- new.env(parent = emptyenv())
ontofast$shiny_in <- make_shiny_in(hao_obo)
# runOntoFast(is_a = c("is_a"), part_of = c("BF0:0000050"), shiny_in="shiny_in" )
tb<-export_annotations(ontofast$shiny_in, annotations="manual", incl.names=TRUE,collapse="; ")
tb<-export_annotations(ontofast$shiny_in, annotations="auto", incl.names=TRUE,collapse="; ")
tb<-export_annotations(ontofast$shiny_in, annotations="auto", incl.names=TRUE,collapse=NULL)
# save annotations in csv
# write.csv(tb, "annotated_characters.csv")

```

export_cytoscape *Export to Cytoscape format*

Description

This function converts character annotations to Cytoscape format. It returns a table that can be saved as in csv format and imported in Cytoscape. In Cytoscape choose File -> Import -> Network -> File. Then assign columns to nodes and edges. Do not select columns that enumerate the tables' rows!

Usage

```

export_cytoscape(
  ontology,
  annotations = "auto",
  is_a = c("is_a"),
  part_of = c("BF0:0000050")
)

```

Arguments

ontology	Ontology
annotations	which annotations to use: "auto" means automatic annotations, "manual" means manual ones. Alternatively, any other list containing annotations can be specified.
is_a	is_a
part_of	part_of

Value

Returns a table

Examples

```
data(HAO)
data(Sharkey_2011)
data(Sharkey_2011_annot)
ontology<-HAO
# processing ontology to incorporate character statements
ontology<-onto_process(ontology, Sharkey_2011[,1], do.annot = F)
# embedding manual annotations
ontology$annot_characters<-Sharkey_2011_annot
# exporting
cyto<-export_cytoscape(ontology, annotations = ontology$annot_characters,
is_a = c("is_a"), part_of = c("BF0:0000050"))
#write.csv(cyto, file="cyto.csv")
```

get_ancestors_chars *Get ancestral ontology terms for a set of characters*

Description

Returns all ontology terms which are ancestors of a given character set

Usage

```
get_ancestors_chars(ontology, char_id, annotations = "auto")
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology_index object with character annotations included (ontology\$annot_characters).
char_id	IDs of character.
annotations	which annotations to use: "auto" means automatic annotations, "manual" means manual ones. Alternatively, any other list element containing annotations can be specified.

Value

The vector of ontology terms IDs.

Examples

```
data(HAO)
ontology<-HAO
ontology$terms_selected_id<-list(`CHAR:1`=c("HAO:0000653"), `CHAR:2`=c("HAO:0000653"))
get_ancestors_chars(ontology, c("CHAR:1","CHAR:2"), annotations="manual")
```

get_descendants_chars *Get characters that descendants of selected ontology term*

Description

Returns all characters located (associated) with given ontology term(s)

Usage

```
get_descendants_chars(ontology, annotations = "auto", terms, ...)
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology_index object.
annotations	which annotations to use: "auto" means automatic annotations, "manual" means manual ones. Alternatively, any other list element containing annotations can be specified.
terms	IDs of ontology terms for which descendants are queried.
...	other parameters for ontologyIndex::get_descendants() function

Value

The vector of character IDs.

Examples

```
data(HAO)
ontology<-HAO
ontology$terms_selected_id<-list(`CHAR:1`=c("HAO:0000653"), `CHAR:2`=c("HAO:0000653"))
get_descendants_chars(ontology, annotations="manual", "HAO:0000653")
```

get_onto_id	<i>Get IDs for ontology names</i>
-------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Returns IDs of ontology terms given terms' names

Usage

```
get_onto_id(vec_name, ontology, names = FALSE)
```

Arguments

vec_name	names od terms
ontology	ontology
names	use element name

Value

vector of IDs.

Examples

```
data(HAO)  
vec_name=c("ventral mesofurco-profurcal muscle", "anatomical entity")  
get_onto_id(vec_name, HAO)
```

get_onto_name	<i>Get names for ontology IDs</i>
---------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Returns names of ontology terms for ontology IDs

Usage

```
get_onto_name(vec, onto, names = FALSE)
```

Arguments

vec	ID or a vector of IDs
onto	ontology
names	use element name

Value

vector of names.

Examples

```
data(HAO)
get_onto_name("HAO:0002272", HAO)
```

HAO

Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology (HAO)

Description

Anatomy ontology of Hymenoptera. This ontology was imported into R using `get_OBO()` function from `ontologyIndex` package (see the examples).

Usage

HAO

Format

List containing various ontological relationships and terms.

References

Yoder MJ, Mikó I, Seltmann KC, Bertone MA, Deans AR. 2010. A Gross Anatomy Ontology for Hymenoptera. PLoS ONE 5 (12): e15991. ([Read](#))

[Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology Portal](#)

Examples

```
data(HAO)
# you can also parse the original .obo file
get_OBO(system.file("data_onto", "HAO.obo", package = "ontoFAST"),
extract_tags="everything", propagate_relationships = c("BFO:0000050", "is_a"))
```

list2edges	<i>Convert list to edge matrix</i>
------------	------------------------------------

Description

Takes a list of character annotations and creates an edge matrix comprising two columns: from and to. The list to table conversion can be done using `ldply` function from `plyr` package: `plyr::ldply(list, rbind)`.

Usage

```
list2edges(annotated.char.list, col_order_inverse = FALSE)
```

Arguments

`annotated.char.list`

Character list with ontology annotations.

`col_order_inverse`

The default creates the first columns consisting if character IDs and the second columns consisting of ontology annotations. The inverse order changes the columns order.

Value

Two-column matrix.

Examples

```
annot_list<-list(`CHAR:1`=c("HA0:0000933", "HA0:0000958"), `CHAR:2`=c("HA0:0000833", "HA0:0000258"))
list2edges(annot_list)
# use plyr package and run
plyr::ldply(annot_list, rbind)
```

make_shiny_in	<i>Make an ontology object for visualization</i>
---------------	--

Description

Make an ontology object for visualization in a separate environment "ontofast"

Usage

```
make_shiny_in(ontology)
```

Arguments

`ontology` Ontology

Value

Ontology index object named as shiny_in.

Examples

```
data(Sharkey_2011)
data(HAO)
hao_obo<-onto_process(HAO, Sharkey_2011[,1], do.annot = FALSE)
ontofast <- new.env(parent = emptyenv())
ontofast$shiny_in <- make_shiny_in(hao_obo)
runOntoFast(is_a = c("is_a"), part_of = c("BF0:0000050"), shiny_in="shiny_in" )
```

onto_process

Shortcut to process characters and ontology

Description

This is a shortcut function to make characters and ontology suitable for visualization using onto-FAST interactive tools.

Usage

```
onto_process(ontology, name_characters, do.annot = TRUE, ...)
```

Arguments

ontology	Ontology
name_characters	a vector of character names
do.annot	specifies if you need to run automatic annotations or not
...	other arguments for annot_all_chars() function

Value

Ontology index object named

Examples

```
data(Sharkey_2011)
data(HAO)
hao_obo<-onto_process(HAO, Sharkey_2011[,1], do.annot = FALSE)
ontofast <- new.env(parent = emptyenv())
ontofast$shiny_in <- make_shiny_in(hao_obo)
runOntoFast(is_a = c("is_a"), part_of = c("BF0:0000050"), shiny_in="shiny_in" )
```

paths_sunburst	<i>Return ontology paths for characters</i>
----------------	---

Description

Returns ontology paths for all characters. These paths can be used to create a sunburst plot of ontological dependencies.

Usage

```
paths_sunburst(
  ontology,
  annotations = "auto",
  exclude.terms = NULL,
  include.terms = NULL,
  use.chars = TRUE,
  sep = "-"
)
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology_index object with character annotations included.
annotations	which annotations to use: "auto" means automatic annotations, "manual" means manual ones. Alternatively, any other list element containing annotations can be specified.
exclude.terms	list of terms to exclude
include.terms	list of terms to include
use.chars	indicate whether character ids should be included in output
sep	separator used to delimit ontology terms

Value

Table.

Examples

```
ontology_partof=get_OBO(system.file("data_onto", "HAO.obo", package = "ontoFAST"),
extract_tags="everything", propagate_relationships = c("BF0:000050"))
ontology_partof<-onto_process(ontology_partof, Sharkey_2011[,1], do.annot = F)
ontology_partof$annot_characters<-Sharkey_2011_annot
tb<-paths_sunburst(ontology_partof,
annotations = ontology_partof$annot_characters, exclude.terms=exclude_terms)
# library(sunburst)
sunburst(tb)
```

runOntoFast

Run ontoFAST interactively

Description

This function runs ontoFAST in interactive mode. Interactive mode allows character annotation and navigation through ontology network.

Usage

```
runOntoFast(
  is_a = c("is_a"),
  part_of = c("BF0:0000050"),
  nchar = "all",
  show.chars = TRUE,
  shiny_in = "shiny_in",
  file2save = "OntoFAST_shiny_in.RData",
  ...
)
```

Arguments

is_a	term for is_a relationships
part_of	term for part_of relationships
nchar	number of characters to show
show.chars	shows character statements
shiny_in	a name of ontology (shiny_in) object in "ontofast" environment
file2save	a name of the file to which shiny_in object is saved in interactive mode
...	other arguments

Value

runs ontoFAST interactively using Shiny.

Examples

```
data(Sharkey_2011)
data(HAO)
hao_obo<-onto_process(HAO, Sharkey_2011[,1], do.annot = FALSE)
ontofast <- new.env(parent = emptyenv())
ontofast$shiny_in <- make_shiny_in(hao_obo)
runOntoFast(is_a = c("is_a"), part_of = c("BF0:0000050"), shiny_in="shiny_in" )
```

Scarab	<i>A modified Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology (HAO) to accommodate anatomy of dung beetles</i>
--------	---

Description

Anatomy ontology of Hymenoptera + Dung beetles. This ontology was imported into R using `get_OBO()` function from `ontologyIndex` packages (see the examples). The added terms for dung beetle anatomy have prefix "SCR".

Usage

Scarab

Format

List containing various ontological relationships and terms.

References

Yoder MJ, Mikó I, Seltmann KC, Bertone MA, Deans AR. 2010. A Gross Anatomy Ontology for Hymenoptera. PLoS ONE 5 (12): e15991. ([Read](#))

[Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology Portal](#)

Examples

```
data(Scarab)
#you can also parse the original .obo file
get_OBO(system.file("data_onto", "HA04scarabs.obo", package = "ontoFAST"),
extract_tags="everything", propagate_relationships = c("BFO:0000050", "is_a"))
```

Sharkey_2011	<i>Hymenoptera character statements</i>
--------------	---

Description

A table of characters and character states from Hymenoptera character matrix (Sharkey et al., 2011: Cladistics). The table contains 392 character statements.

Usage

Sharkey_2011

Format

A data table with 392 rows; each row is a character statement with character states:

CHARACTER STATEMENTS: Character statements

STATES states of the character

STATES

References

Sharkey, M.J., et al. 2011. Phylogenetic relationships among superfamilies of Hymenoptera. *Cladistics* 28(1), 80-112. ([Read](#))

Examples

```
data(Sharkey_2011)
# read .csv file directly
char_et_states<-read.csv(system.file("data_onto", "Sharkey_2011.csv",
package = "ontoFAST"), header=TRUE, stringsAsFactors = FALSE, na.strings = "")
```

Sharkey_2011_annot *Hymenoptera characters annotated with ontology terms*

Description

List of character IDs and their ontology annotations. The characters are from Hymenoptera phylogeny (Sharkey et al., 2011: *Cladistics*). The ontology annotations are from Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology (HAO).

Usage

Sharkey_2011_annot

Format

List containing characters and ontology terms.

References

Sharkey, M.J., et al. 2011. Phylogenetic relationships among superfamilies of Hymenoptera. *Cladistics* 28(1), 80-112. ([Read](#))

Examples

Sharkey_2011_annot

syn_extract	<i>Link synonyms with ontology terms</i>
-------------	--

Description

Extracts and parses synonyms from ontology to make them readable and searchable

Usage

```
syn_extract(ontology, list_id = "synonym")
```

Arguments

ontology	ontology_index object.
list_id	ID of list where synonyms are stored

Value

vector of ontology IDs and synonym names.

Examples

```
data(HA0)
syn_extract(HA0)
```

table2list	<i>Converts a table to list</i>
------------	---------------------------------

Description

Takes a table where each row consists of character ID + an ontology annotation and returns a list. Each character is assigned its own ID CHAR:XXXX

Usage

```
table2list(table, id_col = c(1), descendants_cols = c(2:ncol(table)))
```

Arguments

table	A character table with annotations.
id_col	A column ID corresponding to character
descendants_cols	IDs of columns corresponding to character annotations

Value

The list.

Examples

```
# converting Sharkey_2011 dataset to list of character states  
table2list(Sharkey_2011)
```

Tarasov_2017_annot *Dung beetle characters annotated with ontology terms*

Description

List of character IDs and their ontology annotations. All 232 characters are from Scarabaeinae phylogeny (Tarasov, 2017: Zootaxa). The ontology annotations are from a modified version Hymenoptera Anatomy Ontology (HAO) that was enriched with additional terms (SCR:) to accommodate anatomy of the dung beetles.

Usage

```
Tarasov_2017_annot
```

Format

List containing characters and ontology terms.

References

Tarasov, S., 2017. A cybertaxonomic revision of the new dung beetle tribe Parachoriini (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae) and its phylogenetic assessment using molecular and morphological data. Zootaxa, 4329(2), pp.101-149. ([Read](#))

Examples

```
Tarasov_2017_annot
```

Index

* datasets

- exclude_terms, 5
- HAO, 10
- Scarab, 15
- Sharkey_2011, 15
- Sharkey_2011_annot, 16
- Tarasov_2017_annot, 18

annot_all_chars, 2

annot_char_grep, 3

chars_per_term, 4

edges2list, 4

exclude_terms, 5

export_annotations, 5

export_cytoscape, 6

get_ancestors_chars, 7

get_descendants_chars, 8

get_onto_id, 9

get_onto_name, 9

HAO, 10

list2edges, 11

make_shiny_in, 11

onto_process, 12

paths_sunburst, 13

runOntoFast, 14

Scarab, 15

Sharkey_2011, 15

Sharkey_2011_annot, 16

syn_extract, 17

table2list, 17

Tarasov_2017_annot, 18