

Package ‘OTUbase’

January 20, 2026

Type Package

Title Provides structure and functions for the analysis of OTU data

Description Provides a platform for Operational Taxonomic Unit based analysis

Version 1.60.0

Date 2010-09-10

Author Daniel Beck, Matt Settles, and James A. Foster

Maintainer Daniel Beck <danlbek@gmail.com>

Depends R (>= 2.9.0), methods, S4Vectors, IRanges, ShortRead (>= 1.23.15), Biobase, vegan

Imports Biostrings

License Artistic-2.0

LazyLoad yes

biocViews Sequencing, DataImport

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/OTUbase>

git_branch RELEASE_3_22

git_last_commit 5c945e4

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.22

Date/Publication 2026-01-19

Contents

OTUbase-package	2
.OTUset-class	3
.TAXset-class	4
abundance	5
accessors	6
assignmentData	7
clusterSamples	8
otherGenerics	9
other_functions	9
readOTUset	10
readTAXset	11

sampleData	12
subOTUset	13
subTAXset	14
Index	15

OTUbase-package	<i>The OTUbase package: A tool for organizing and manipulating Operational Taxonomic Unit data</i>
-----------------	--

Description

The **OTUbase** Base class for OTU data

Details

Package:	OTUbase
Type:	Package
Version:	0.1.0
Date:	2010-04-05
License:	Artistic-2.0
LazyLoad:	yes

~~OTUbase includes a number of OTUset type classes which provide structure for OTU based data. These classes allow the user to store information that may be useful in the analysis of OTUs. Slots are provided for sequence and quality values, OTU classifications, Sample identifications, and metadata associated with samples and OTUs. In addition, basic functions are provided for the analysis and visualization of the data. In addition to OTU type analysis, classification data is also supported with the TAXset classes.~~

Author(s)

Daniel Beck - <danlbek@gmail.com>, Matt Settles - <msettles@uidaho.edu>, and James Foster
Maintainer: Daniel Beck - <danlbek@gmail.com>

References

An_introduction_to_OTUbase.pdf

.OTUset-class	<i>"OTUset" class for OTU data</i>
---------------	------------------------------------

Description

This class provides a way to store and manipulate operational taxonomic unit data. ".OTUset" is inherited by "OTUsetQ", "OTUsetF", and "OTUsetB". The user will want to use "OTUsetQ" when quality data is available, "OTUsetF" when sequence data (without quality data) is available, and "OTUsetB" when only OTU and sample data are available.

Slots

OTUsetB includes Slots id, sampleID, otuID, sampleData, assignmentData.

OTUsetF includes Slots id sampleID, otuID, sampleData, assignmentData, sread.

OTUsetQ includes Slots id sampleID, otuID, sampleData, assignmentData, sread, quality.

Methods

Methods include:

id provides access to the id slot of object

sampleID provides access to the sampleID slot of object

otuID provides access the otuID slot of object

sampleData provides access the sampleData slot of object

assignmentData provides access the assignmentData slot of object

sread provides access to the sread slot of object

quality provides access to the quality slot of object

seqnames returns the first word of the id line. Intended to extract the sequence name from other sequence information.

nsamples returns the number of samples in an OTUset object

notus returns the number of OTUs in an OTUset object

show signature(object=".OTUset"): provides a brief summary of the object, including its class, number of sequences, number of samples, and number of OTUs.

Examples

```
showClass(".OTUset")
showMethods(class=".OTUset")
showClass("OTUsetQ")
```

.TAXset-class	<i>"TAXset" class for TAX data</i>
---------------	------------------------------------

Description

This class provides a way to store and manipulate read-classification data. ".TAXset" is inherited by "TAXsetQ", "TAXsetF", and "TAXsetB". The user will want to use "TAXsetQ" when quality data is available, "TAXsetF" when sequence data (without quality data) is available, and "TAXsetB" when only classification and sample data are available.

Slots

TAXsetB includes Slots id, sampleID, tax, sampleData, assignmentData.

TAXsetF includes Slots id sampleID, tax, sampleData, assignmentData, sread.

TAXsetQ includes Slots id sampleID, tax, sampleData, assignmentData, sread, quality.

Methods

Methods include:

id provides access to the id slot of object

sampleID provides access to the sampleID slot of object

tax provides access the tax slot of object

sampleData provides access the sampleData slot of object

assignmentData provides access the assignmentData slot of object

sread provides access to the sread slot of object

quality provides access to the quality slot of object

seqnames returns the first word of the id line. Intended to extract the sequence name from other sequence information.

nsamples returns the number of samples in an TAXset object

show signature(object=".TAXset"): provides a brief summary of the object, including its class, number of sequences, and number of samples.

Examples

```
showClass(".TAXset")
showMethods(class=".TAXset")
showClass("TAXsetQ")
```

abundance	<i>abundance</i>
-----------	------------------

Description

abundance generates an abundance table. This table can be either weighted or unweighted.

Usage

```
abundance(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An OTUset or a TAXset object
...	Additional arguments. These will depend on if the object is an OTUset or a TAXset object.

Details

These are other arguments passed to abundance

- taxCol If generating the abundance from a TAXset object, taxCol selects the column of the tax dataframe from which to calculate the abundance.
- assignmentCol If generating the abundance from an OTUset object assignmentCol will select a column of the assignmentData dataframe to use when calculating abundance. This will override the default of creating an abundance table of the OTUs and instead create an abundance table of a column in the assignmentData dataframe.
- sampleCol sampleCol generates the abundance table using a column in the sampleData dataframe instead of the default of using the sampleID.
- collab An optional parameter that selects a column of the sampleData dataframe to use when labeling the columns of the abundance table.
- weighted By default this is FALSE. When set to TRUE abundance will return proportional abundances.

Value

The returned value will be a data.frame.

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otu

## calculate abundance
abundance(soginOTU, collab="Site")
```

accessors

Accessor functions for OTUset and TAXset objects

Description

These functions provide access to some of the slots of OTUset and TAXset objects. `otuID` returns the `otuID` slot of OTUset objects. `sampleID` returns the `sampleID` slot of both OTUset and TAXset objects. `tax` and `tax<-` return and replace the `tax` slot of TAXset objects.

Usage

```
sampleID(object, ...)
otuID(object, ...)
tax(object, ...)
tax(object)<-value
```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	An OTUset or a TAXset object
<code>value</code>	The replacement value for <code>tax</code>
<code>...</code>	Added for completeness. Enables the passing of arguments.

Value

`sampleID` and `otuID` return a character. `tax` returns a `data.frame`.

See Also

[ShortRead](#)

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otu

## get the sampleID slot
sampleID(soginOTU)

## get the otuID slot
otuID(soginOTU)
```

assignmentData	<i>assignmentData</i>
----------------	-----------------------

Description

These accessors access and replace the assignmentData slot of OTUbase objects. assignmentData is an AnnotatedDataFrame. assignmentData and assignmentData<- access and replace this AnnotatedDataFrame. assignmentLabels and assignmentLabels<- access and replace the labels of this AnnotatedDataFrame. aData and aData<- access and replace the dataframe component of the AnnotatedDataFrame.

assignmentNames returns the assignment names present in the assignmentData slot.

Usage

```
aData(object,...)
aData(object)<-value
assignmentData(object,...)
assignmentData(object)<-value
assignmentLabels(object,...)
assignmentLabels(object)<-value
assignmentNames(object,...)
```

Arguments

object	An OTUset or a TAXset object
value	The replacement value for assignmentData or assignmentLabels
...	Added for completeness. Enables the passing of arguments.

Value

aData returns a dataframe. assignmentData returns an AnnotatedDataFrame. assignmentLabels returns a character. assignmentNames returns a character.

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otu

## get the aData dataframe
aData(soginOTU)

## get the assignmentData slot
assignmentData(soginOTU)
```

clusterSamples	<i>clusterSamples</i>
----------------	-----------------------

Description

This function is a wrapper for the `vegan` function `vegdist` and `hclust`. It allows the user to cluster samples using a number of different distance measure and clustering methods. Please see the documentation for `vegdist` and `hclust` for a more indepth explanation.

Usage

```
clusterSamples(object, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	An OTUset or a TAXset object
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments. These will depend on if the object is an OTUset or a TAXset object.

Details

These are other arguments passed to `clusterSamples`. For further information on specific arguments, please see [abundance](#), [vegdist](#), or [hclust](#).

- `taxCol` Column of the `tax` slot dataframe on which to cluster (unique to TAXset objects). Passed to the abundance function.
- `assignmentCol` Column of the `assignmentData` dataframe used to classify sequences for clustering. This overrides the default of using the OTUs to cluster samples. This is passed to the abundance function.
- `collab` Specifies a column of the `sampleData` dataframe that will provide the sample lables for the cluster analysis. This is passed to the abundance function.
- `distmethod` The distance method to be used. This value is passed to the `vegdist` function. The default is the Bray-Curtis distance.
- `clustermethod` The clustering method to be used. This value is passed to the `hclust` function. The default is complete clustering.

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", ot

## cluster samples
clusterSamples(soginOTU, collab="Site", distmethod="jaccard")
```

otherGenerics

Other Generics

Description

Various functions. `notus` returns the number of OTUs in an OTUset object. `nsamples` returns the number of samples in either an OTUset or a TAXset object. `seqnames` returns the sequence names of the OTUset or TAXset object without the extra information commonly present with the id.

Usage

```
notus(object, ...)
nsamples(object, ...)
seqnames(object, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	An OTUset or a TAXset object.
<code>...</code>	Other arguments. These are currently nonfunctional.

Examples

```
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otu

## get the number of OTUs
notus(soginOTU)

## get the number of samples
nsamples(soginOTU)
```

other_functions

Other functions

Description

These are other functions available. Caution is advised when using them. Some are still in development and others only work on specific objects (OTUset or TAXset).

Usage

```
getOTUs(object, colnum, value, exact)
getSamples(object, colnum, value, exact)
o_diversity(object, ...)
o_estimateR(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An OTUset or a TAXset object.
colnum	The column of the sampleData or assignmentData dataframe that contains the value.
value	The desired value.
exact	If exact=T value must match perfectly. If exact=F value will grep instead of match.
...	Other arguments. Often these are passed to abundance

Details

- getOTUs Returns OTU names that match given values in the assignmentData dataframe.
- getSamples Returns sample names that match given values in the sampleData dataframe.
- o_diversity Wrapper for vegan's diversity function.
- o_estimateR Wrapper for vegan's estimateR function.
- otuseqplot Plots the samples according to number of OTUs and number of sequences.
- otusize Returns the size of each OTU.
- otuspersample Lists the number of OTUs in each sample.
- rseqplot Plots the samples by estimated richness and number of sequences.
- seqspersample Returns the number of sequences in each sample.
- sharedotus Returns the number of OTUs shared between samples.

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otufile="sogin.otu")

getSamples(soginOTU, colnum="Site", value="Labrador", exact=FALSE)

o_estimateR(soginOTU)
```

readOTUset

readOTUset

Description

This function reads in data and creates an OTUset object

Usage

```
readOTUset(dirPath, otufile, level, fastafile, qualfile, samplefile, sampleADF, assignmentADF, s
```

Arguments

dirPath	The directory path where the datafile are located. This is the current directory by default.
otufile	The OTU file. The only format currently supported is the Mothur format for .list files.
level	The OTU clustering level. By default this is 0.03. This level must correspond to levels present in the otufile.
fastafile	The fasta file. This is read in by ShortRead.
qualfile	The quality file. This is read in by ShortRead.
samplefile	The sample file. Currently this must be in Mothur format (.groups).
sampleADF	The sample meta data file. This is in AnnotatedDataFrame format.
assignmentADF	The assignment meta data file (the OTU meta data). This is generally in AnnotatedDataFrame format although it is also possible to read in an RDP classification file if there is only one read classification for each cluster and rdp=TRUE.
sADF.names	The column of the sampleADF file that has the sample names.
aADF.names	The column of the assignmentADF file that has the assignment names.
rdp	By default this is FALSE. Change to TRUE if assignmentADF is an RDP classification file. The RDP file must be in the fixed format.
otufilename	The type of OTU file. Takes values "mothur", "cdhit", and "blastclust". Defaults to "mothur".

Examples

```

dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otufilename="sogin.list", rdp=FALSE)

soginOTU

```

readTAXset

*readTAXset***Description**

Function to read in data and create a TAXset object

Usage

```
readTAXset(dirPath, taxfile, namefile, fastafile, qualfile, samplefile, sampleADF, assignmentADF)
```

Arguments

<code>dirPath</code>	The directory path where the datafile are located. This is the current directory by default.
<code>taxfile</code>	The classification file. The default format is RDP's fixed format.
<code>namefile</code>	A names file in the Mothur format. This is used to add removed unique sequences back into the dataset.
<code>fastafile</code>	The fasta file. This is read in by ShortRead.
<code>qualfile</code>	The quality file. This is read in by ShortRead.
<code>samplefile</code>	The sample file. Currently this must be in Mothur format (.groups).
<code>sampleADF</code>	The sample meta data file. This is in AnnotatedDataFrame format.
<code>assignmentADF</code>	The assignment meta data file (the OTU meta data) This is in AnnotatedDataFrame format.
<code>sADF.names</code>	The column of the sampleADF file that has the sample names.
<code>aADF.names</code>	The column of the assignmentADF file that has the assignment names.
<code>type</code>	This is the type of taxfile. By default this is the RDP fixed format. However, if type is changed to anything else the <code>read.table</code> function is used to read in the taxfile. In this case the first column of the taxfile must be the sequence names.
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments passed to <code>read.table</code> to read in the taxfile.

Examples

```

dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into TAXset object
soginTAX <- readTAXset(dirPath=dirPath, samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", taxfile="sogin.u
soginTAX

```

sampleData

*sampleData***Description**

These functions access and replace the `sampleData` slot of OTUbase objects. `sampleData` and `sampleData<-` access and replace the AnnotatedDataFrame `sampleData`. `sampleLabels` and `sampleLabels<-` access and replace the labels of this AnnotatedDataFrame. `sData` and `sData<-` access and replace the dataframe component of the AnnotatedDataFrame.

Usage

```

sData(object,...)
sData(object)<-value
sampleData(object,...)
sampleData(object)<-value
sampleLabels(object,...)
sampleLabels(object)<-value

```

Arguments

object	An OTUset or a TAXset object
value	The replacement value for sampleData or sampleLabels
...	Added for completeness. Enables the passing of arguments.

Value

sData returns a dataframe. sampleData returns an AnnotatedDataFrame. sampleLabels returns a character. assignmentNames returns a character.

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otu

## get the sData dataframe
sData(soginOTU)

## get the sampleData slot
sampleData(soginOTU)
```

subOTUset

*subOTUset***Description**

Function to get a subset of an OTUset object.

Usage

```
subOTUset(object, samples, otus)
```

Arguments

object	An OTUset object
samples	A list of sample names
otus	A list of OTU names

Value

subOTUset returns an OTUset

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into OTUset object
soginOTU <- readOTUset(dirPath=dirPath, level="0.03", samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", otu

## get subset of soginOTU

subOTUset(soginOTU, samples=getSamples(soginOTU, colnum="Site", value="Labrador", exact=FALSE))
```

subTAXset	<i>subTAXset</i>
-----------	------------------

Description

Function to get a subset of an TAXset object.

Usage

```
subTAXset(object, samples)
```

Arguments

- object An TAXset object
- samples A list of sample names

Value

subTAXset returns an TAXset

Examples

```
## locate directory with data
dirPath <- system.file("extdata/Sogin_2006", package="OTUbase")

## read in data into TAXset object
soginTAX <- readTAXset(dirPath=dirPath, samplefile="sogin.groups", fastafile="sogin.fasta", taxfile="sogin.u

## get subset of soginTAX

subTAXset(soginTAX, samples=getSamples(soginTAX, colnum="Site", value="Labrador", exact=FALSE))
```

Index

- * **abundance**
 - abundance, [5](#)
- * **classes**
 - .OTUset-class, [3](#)
 - .TAXset-class, [4](#)
- * **package**
 - OTUbase-package, [2](#)
 - .OTUset-class, [3](#)
 - .TAXset-class, [4](#)
- abundance, [5](#), [8](#)
- abundance, .OTUset-method (abundance), [5](#)
- abundance, .TAXset-method (abundance), [5](#)
- accessors, [6](#)
- aData (assignmentData), [7](#)
- aData, .OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- aData<- (assignmentData), [7](#)
- aData<-,.OTUbase,data.frame-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- aData<-,.OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentData, [7](#)
- assignmentData, .OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentData<- (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentData<-,.OTUbase,AnnotatedDataFrame-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentData<-,.OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentLabels (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentLabels, .OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentLabels<- (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentLabels<-,.OTUbase,character-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentLabels<-,.OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentNames (assignmentData), [7](#)
- assignmentNames, .OTUbase-method (assignmentData), [7](#)
- clusterSamples, [8](#)
- clusterSamples, .OTUset-method (clusterSamples), [8](#)
- clusterSamples, .TAXset-method (clusterSamples), [8](#)
- clusterSamples-generic (clusterSamples), [8](#)
- clusterSamples-method (clusterSamples), [8](#)
- getOTUs (other_functions), [9](#)
- getSamples (other_functions), [9](#)
- hclust, [8](#)
- notus (otherGenerics), [9](#)
- notus, .OTUset-method (otherGenerics), [9](#)
- nsamples (otherGenerics), [9](#)
- nsamples, .OTUbase-method (otherGenerics), [9](#)
- o_diversity (other_functions), [9](#)
- o_estimateR (other_functions), [9](#)
- other_functions, [9](#)
- otherGenerics, [9](#)
- OTUbase (OTUbase-package), [2](#)
- OTUbase-package, [2](#)
- otuID (accessors), [6](#)
- otuID, .OTUset-method (accessors), [6](#)
- otuseqplot (other_functions), [9](#)
- OTUset (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- OTUsetB (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- OTUsetB-class (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- OTUsetF (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- OTUsetF-class (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- OTUsetQ (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- OTUsetQ-class (.OTUset-class), [3](#)
- otusize (other_functions), [9](#)
- otuspersample (other_functions), [9](#)
- readOTUset, [10](#)
- readTAXset, [11](#)
- rseqplot (other_functions), [9](#)
- sampleData, [12](#)

sampleData, .OTUbase-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sampleData<- (sampleData), 12
 sampleData<-, .OTUbase, AnnotatedDataFrame-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sampleData<-, .OTUbase-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sampleID (accessors), 6
 sampleID, .OTUbase-method (accessors), 6
 sampleLabels (sampleData), 12
 sampleLabels, .OTUbase-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sampleLabels<- (sampleData), 12
 sampleLabels<-, .OTUbase, character-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sampleLabels<-, .OTUbase-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sData (sampleData), 12
 sData, .OTUbase-method (sampleData), 12
 sData<- (sampleData), 12
 sData<-, .OTUbase, data.frame-method
 (sampleData), 12
 sData<-, .OTUbase-method (sampleData), 12
 seqnames (otherGenerics), 9
 seqnames, .OTUbase-method
 (otherGenerics), 9
 seqspersample (other_functions), 9
 sharedotus (other_functions), 9
 ShortRead, 6
 subOTUset, 13
 subTAXset, 14

 tax (accessors), 6
 tax, .TAXset-method (accessors), 6
 tax<- (accessors), 6
 tax<-, .TAXset, data.frame-method
 (accessors), 6
 tax<-, .TAXset-method (accessors), 6
 TAXset (.TAXset-class), 4
 TAXsetB (.TAXset-class), 4
 TAXsetB-class (.TAXset-class), 4
 TAXsetF (.TAXset-class), 4
 TAXsetF-class (.TAXset-class), 4
 TAXsetQ (.TAXset-class), 4
 TAXsetQ-class (.TAXset-class), 4

 vegdist, 8