

Package ‘GEOfastq’

January 24, 2026

Type Package

Title Downloads ENA Fastqs With GEO Accessions

Version 1.19.0

Description GEOfastq is used to download fastq files from the European Nucleotide Archive (ENA) starting with an accession from the Gene Expression Omnibus (GEO). To do this, sample metadata is retrieved from GEO and the Sequence Read Archive (SRA). SRA run accessions are then used to construct FTP and aspera download links for fastq files generated by the ENA.

License MIT + file LICENSE

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

BugReports <https://github.com/alexvpickering/GEOfastq/issues>

Imports xml2, rvest, stringr, RCurl, doParallel, foreach, plyr

Suggests BiocCheck, roxygen2, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

biocViews RNASeq, DataImport

VignetteBuilder knitr

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

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 8f661e7

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2026-01-23

Author Alex Pickering [cre, aut] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0002-6759>>)

Maintainer Alex Pickering <alexvpickering@gmail.com>

Contents

ascpR	2
crawl_gse	2
crawl_gsms	3
extract_gsms	4
get_dldir	4
get_ebi_fastqs	5
get_fastqs	5
Index	7

ascpR	<i>Utility function to run aspera</i>
-------	---------------------------------------

Description

Utility function to run aspera

Usage

```
ascpR(ascp_args, file, destDir = getwd())
```

Arguments

- ascp_args Character vector of arguments to ascp.
- file Url to aspera file to download.
- destDir Path to directory to download files into.

Value

return code from call to ascp

crawl_gse	<i>Get GSE text from GEO</i>
-----------	------------------------------

Description

Get GSE text from GEO

Usage

```
crawl_gse(gse_name)
```

Arguments

- gse_name GEO study name to get metadata for

Value

Character vector of lines on GSE record.

Examples

```
gse_text <- crawl_gse('GSE111459')
```

<code>crawl_gsms</code>	<i>Crawls SRX pages for each GSM to get metadata.</i>
-------------------------	---

Description

Goes to each GSM page to get SRX then to each SRX page to get some more metadata.

Usage

```
crawl_gsms(gsm_names, max.workers = 50)
```

Arguments

<code>gsm_names</code>	Character vector of GSMs.
<code>max.workers</code>	Maximum number of parallel workers to split task between

Value

data.frame

Examples

```
srp_meta <- crawl_gsms("GSM3031462")

# returns NULL because records on dbGAP for privacy reasons
srp_meta <- crawl_gsms("GSM2439650")

# example with empty values
srp_meta <- crawl_gsms('GSM4043025')
```

extract_gsms	<i>Extract GSMs needed to download RNA-seq data for a series</i>
--------------	--

Description

Extract GSMs needed to download RNA-seq data for a series

Usage

```
extract_gsms(gse_text)
```

Arguments

gse_text	GSE text returned from crawl_gse
----------	--

Value

Character vector of sample GSMs for the series gse_name

Examples

```
gse_text <- crawl_gse('GSE111459')
gsm_names <- extract_gsms(gse_text)
```

get_dldir	<i>Gets part of path to download bulk RNAseq sample from EBI or NCBI</i>
-----------	--

Description

Gets part of path to download bulk RNAseq sample from EBI or NCBI

Usage

```
get_dldir(srr, type = c("ebi", "ncbi"))
```

Arguments

srr	SRR/ERR run name
type	Either 'ebi' or 'ncbi'

Value

String path used by [get_fastqs](#).

Examples

```
get_dldir('SRR014242')
```

get_ebi_fastqs	<i>Download fastqs from EBI</i>
----------------	---------------------------------

Description

Much faster to use aspera than ftp

Usage

```
get_ebi_fastqs(  
  srp_meta,  
  srr_name,  
  data_dir,  
  method = c("ftp", "aspera"),  
  max_rate = "300m"  
)
```

Arguments

srp_meta	data.frame with SRP meta info. Returned from crawl_gsms .
srr_name	Run accession as string.
data_dir	Path to folder that fastq files will be downloaded to. Will be created if doesn't exist.
method	One of 'aspera' or 'ftp'. 'aspera' is generally faster but requires the ascp command line utility to be on your path and in the authors experience frequently stalls.
max_rate	Used when method = 'aspera' only. Sets the target transfer rate. The default is '300m'.

Value

Integer return code from ascp or download.file.

get_fastqs	<i>Download and RNA-seq fastq data from EBI</i>
------------	---

Description

First tries to get RNA-Seq fastq files from EBI.

Usage

```
get_fastqs(srp_meta, data_dir, method = c("ftp", "aspera"), max_rate = "1g")
```

Arguments

srp_meta	data.frame with SRP meta info. Returned from crawl_gsms .
data_dir	Path to folder that fastq files will be downloaded to. Will be created if doesn't exist.
method	One of 'aspera' or 'ftp'. 'aspera' is generally faster but requires the ascp command line utility to be on your path and in the authors experience frequently stalls.
max_rate	Used when method = 'aspera' only. Sets the target transfer rate. The default is '300m'.

Value

Named vector of integer return codes from ascp or download.file. Names are SRR runs.

Examples

```
gsm_name <- 'GSM3926903'
srp_meta <- crawl_gsms(gsm_name)
data_dir <- tempdir()
res <- get_fastqs(srp_meta, data_dir)
```

Index

* **internal**

ascpR, [2](#)

get_ebi_fastqs, [5](#)

ascpR, [2](#)

crawl_gse, [2](#), [4](#)

crawl_gsms, [3](#), [5](#), [6](#)

extract_gsms, [4](#)

get_dldir, [4](#)

get_ebi_fastqs, [5](#)

get_fastqs, [4](#), [5](#)