

# Package ‘annotationTools’

May 18, 2026

**Version** 1.87.0

**Date** 2020-03-27

**Title** Annotate microarrays and perform cross-species gene expression analyses using flat file databases

**Author** Alexandre Kuhn <alexandre.m.kuhn@gmail.com>

**Maintainer** Alexandre Kuhn <alexandre.m.kuhn@gmail.com>

**Imports** Biobase, stats

**Suggests** BiocStyle

**Description** Functions to annotate microarrays, find orthologs, and integrate heterogeneous gene expression profiles using annotation and other molecular biology information available as flat file database (plain text files).

**biocViews** Microarray, Annotation

**License** GPL

**ZipData** no

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/annotationTools>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** f13657d

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2026-04-28

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.24

**Date/Publication** 2026-05-18

## Contents

annot_HGU133A . . . . .	2
compactList . . . . .	2
gene_orthologs_part . . . . .	3
getANNOTATION . . . . .	4
getGENEID . . . . .	5
getGENEONTOLOGY . . . . .	7
getGENESYMBOL . . . . .	9
getGENETITLE . . . . .	10
getHOMOLOG . . . . .	12
getMULTIANNOTATION . . . . .	14
getOrthologousProbesets . . . . .	16

getPROBESET . . . . .	18
HG-U133_Plus_2_annot_part . . . . .	20
HG-U133_Plus_2_ortholog_part . . . . .	20
homologene_part . . . . .	20
listToCharacterVector . . . . .	21
Mouse430_2_annot_part . . . . .	22
ortho . . . . .	22
ps2ps . . . . .	22
table_human . . . . .	24
table_mouse . . . . .	24

## Index 25

---

annot_HGU133A	<i>annot\HGU133A</i>
---------------	----------------------

---

### Description

Partial Affymetrix annotation for HG-U133A. Used in the example cross-species analysis presented in the vignette of package annotationTools.

### Format

data.frame with 188 rows and 43 columns

### Source

<http://www.affymetrix.com>

---

compactList	<i>Concatenate list elements</i>
-------------	----------------------------------

---

### Description

Concatenates given elements of a list.

### Usage

```
compactList(lst,l)
```

### Arguments

lst	list object
l	numeric vector specifying the number of list elements to be concatenated sequentially

### Details

By definition, the output list is shorter than the input list.

Function stops if 'sum(l)' does not equal 'length(lst)'.

**Value**

clst list of length 'length(l)' where the 'i'-th element has length 'l[i]' and contains concatenated elements of input list 'lst'.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Kuhn

**References**

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

**Examples**

```
##an example list
lst<-vector('list',3)
lst[[1]]<-c('aaa','bbb')
lst[[2]]<-'ccc'
lst[[3]]<-'zzz'
##merge first 2 list elements
compactList(lst,c(2,1))
```

---

gene\_orthologs\_part     *Example gene\_orthologs file*

---

**Description**

Shortened gene\_orthologs database file.

**Format**

A short version of 'gene\_orthologs' table containing 2 ortholog clusters. Ortholog clusters in 'gene\_orthologs' derive from NCBI's Eukaryotic Genome Annotation pipeline (see <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/kis/info/are-orthologs-calculated/>).

**Source**

[ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/DATA/gene\\_orthologs.gz](ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/DATA/gene_orthologs.gz)

---

getANNOTATION	<i>General annotation function</i>
---------------	------------------------------------

---

### Description

Takes a vector of identifiers and an annotation table and matches the identifiers in the table to retrieve the corresponding annotation. Only the first occurrence of each identifier in the annotation table is considered.

### Usage

```
getANNOTATION(identifier, annot, diagnose = FALSE, identifierCol = 1, annotationCol = 15, noAnnotationSymbol = "", noAnnotationProvidedSymbol = "", sep = ",")
```

### Arguments

identifier	vector containing identifiers to be annotated.
annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
identifierCol	column in annotation table where the provided identifiers are to be looked up.
annotationCol	column in annotation table containing the desired annotation.
noAnnotationSymbol	character string to be used in output list 'annotation' if no annotation is found or provided.
noAnnotationProvidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing annotation.
sep	character string used in annotation table to separate multiple annotation of a single identifier.

### Details

The annotation is returned as elements of list 'annotation'. If a single annotation is given for a particular identifier, the corresponding element of 'annotation' has length 1. If multiple annotation is provided for a single identifier (i.e. character string with 'sep' separating multiple annotations), the multiple annotation is split and the corresponding vector is returned as an element of list 'annotation'.

### Value

annotation	list of length 'length(identifier)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the annotation for 'identifier[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(identifier)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'identifier[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(identifier)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'identifier[i]' cannot be found in 'annot[,identifierCol]'.
noannotation	logical vector of length 'length(identifier)'. 'noannotation[i]' is TRUE if 'a[i]==noAnnotationProvidedSymbol' is TRUE.

**Note**

Use getMULTIANNOTATION if the identifiers occur on more than one line in the annotation table.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Kuhn

**References**

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

**See Also**

[getMULTIANNOTATION](#)

**Examples**

```
##example annotation table
annotation<-cbind(gene=c('gene_1a', 'gene_1b', 'gene_2', 'gene_3', 'gene_4'),probe=c('probe_1', 'probe_2', 'probe_3', 'probe_4', 'probe_5'))
print(annotation)

##get sequences for probe_2, probe_3, probe_4 and probe_100
myProbes<-c('probe_2', 'probe_3', 'probe_4', 'probe_100', NA)
getANNOTATION(myProbes, annotation, identifierCol=2, annotationCol=3, noAnnotationProvidedSymbol='', sep=', ')

##track origin of annotation failure for the last 3 probes
getANNOTATION(myProbes, annotation, identifierCol=2, annotationCol=3, noAnnotationProvidedSymbol='', sep=', ', diagnose=TRUE)
```

---

getGENEID

*Find gene IDs*

---

**Description**

Takes a vector of probe set identifiers and an annotation table and retrieves the corresponding gene IDs.

**Usage**

```
getGENEID(ps, annot, diagnose = FALSE, idCol = 19, noIDsymbol = NA, noIDprovidedSymbol = "---", sep = ",")
```

**Arguments**

ps	character vector containing the probe sets identifiers.
annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
idCol	column in annotation table containing the gene IDs.
noIDsymbol	character string to be used in output list 'geneid' if no gene ID is found or provided in the annotation table.

noIDprovidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing gene ID.
sep	character string used in annotation table to separate multiple gene IDs.

### Details

This function can be used with Affymetrix annotation files (e.g. 'HG-U133\Plus\2\annot.csv'). It retrieves gene IDs corresponding to particular probe set identifiers.

Gene IDs are returned as elements of list 'geneid'. If multiple gene IDs are provided for 'ps[i]' (with 'sep' separating gene IDs in the annotation table), a vector containing all gene IDs is returned as the 'i-th' element of list 'geneid'.

The default values for 'idCol', 'noIDsymbol', 'noIDprovidedSymbol' and 'sep' are chosen to suit the format of Affymetrix annotation files. However, options can be set to look up any annotation table, provided the probe set identifiers are in the first column and occur only once.

### Value

geneid	list of length 'length(ps)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the gene ID for 'ps[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' cannot be found in the first column of the annotation table.
noid	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'noid[i]' is TRUE if 'geneid[i]==noIDprovidedSymbol' is TRUE.

### Note

getANNOTATION provides a more flexible solution to be used with arbitrary annotation tables.

### Author(s)

Alexandre Kuhn

### References

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

### See Also

[getANNOTATION](#)

### Examples

```
##example Affymetrix annotation file and its location
annotationFile<-system.file('extdata', 'HG-U133_Plus_2_annot_part.csv', package='annotationTools')

##load annotation file
annotation<-read.csv(annotationFile,colClasses='character',comment.char='#')

##get gene IDs
myPS<-c('117_at', '1007_s_at', '1552288_at', NA, 'xyz_at')
```

```

getGENEID(myPS,annotation)

##track origin of annotation failure for the 3 last probe set IDs
getGENEID(myPS,annotation,diagnose=TRUE)

```

---

```

getGENEONTOLOGY          Find Gene Ontology (GO) annotation

```

---

## Description

Takes a vector of probe set identifiers and an annotation table and retrieves the corresponding GO annotation.

## Usage

```

getGENEONTOLOGY(ps, annot, diagnose = FALSE, specifics = 0, GOcol = 31, noGOsymbol = NA, noGOprovidedSymbol = NA)

```

## Arguments

ps	character vector containing the probe sets identifiers.
annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
specifics	can take value 0, 1, 2, 3, ... . If specifics=i with i>0, the GO biological process annotation is parsed (using " //" as separator) and the i-th part of the expression is returned. If specifics=0, the GO biological process annotation is not parsed.
GOcol	column in annotation table containing the GO biological processes.
noGOsymbol	character string to be used in output list 'go' if no GO biological process is found or provided in the annotation table.
noGOprovidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing GO biological process.
sep	character string used in annotation table to separate multiple GO biological processes.

## Details

This function can be used with Affymetrix annotation files (e.g. 'HG-U133\Plus\\_2\\_annot.csv'). It retrieves GO annotation corresponding to particular probe set identifiers. GO biological processes are returned by default ('GOcol'=31) but GO cellular components ('GOcol'=32) or GO molecular functions ('GOcol'=33) can be returned by setting 'GOcol' appropriately.

GO biological processes are returned as elements of list 'go'. If multiple GO biological processes are provided for 'ps[i]' (with 'sep' separating GO biological processes in the annotation table), a vector containing all GO biological processes is returned as the 'i-th' element of list 'go'.

The default values for 'GOcol', 'noGOsymbol', 'noGOprovidedSymbol' and 'sep' are chosen to suit the format of Affymetrix annotation files. However, options can be set to look up any annotation table, provided the probe set identifiers are in the first column and occur only once.

Note that each GO annotation in Affymetrix annotation files contains 3 attributes: the GO biological process ID, term and quality, separated by " // ". Setting the option 'specifics' to 1, 2, or 3 allows to retrieve any of the 3 attributes separately.

**Value**

go	list of length 'length(ps)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the GO annotation for 'ps[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' cannot be found in the first column of the annotation table.
nogo	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'nogo[i]' is TRUE if 'go[i]==noIDprovidedSymbol' is TRUE.

**Note**

getANNOTATION provides a more flexible solution to be used with arbitrary annotation tables.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Kuhn

**References**

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

**See Also**

[getANNOTATION](#)

**Examples**

```
##example Affymetrix annotation file and its location
annotationFile<-system.file('extdata', 'HG-U133_Plus_2_annot_part.csv', package='annotationTools')

##load annotation file
annotation<-read.csv(annotationFile,colClasses='character',comment.char='#')

##get gene GO biological process (full information)
myPS<-c('117_at', '1007_s_at', '1552288_at', NA, 'xyz_at')
getGENEONTOLOGY(myPS,annotation)

##get gene GO biological process terms only
getGENEONTOLOGY(myPS,annotation,specifics=2)

##track origin of annotation failure for the 3 last probe set IDs
getGENEONTOLOGY(myPS,annotation,diagnose=TRUE)

##GO molecular functions are contained in column 33 of the annotation
colnames(annotation)

##get gene GO molecular functions
getGENEONTOLOGY(myPS,annotation,GOcol=33)
```

---

getGENESYMBOL	<i>Find gene symbols</i>
---------------	--------------------------

---

### Description

Takes a vector of probe set identifiers and an annotation table and retrieves the corresponding gene symbols.

### Usage

```
getGENESYMBOL(ps, annot, diagnose = FALSE, GScol = 15, noGSsymbol = NA, noGSprovidedSymbol = "---", s
```

### Arguments

ps	character vector containing the probe sets identifiers.
annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
GScol	column in annotation table containing the gene IDs.
noGSsymbol	character string to be used in output list 'symbols' if no gene symbol is found or provided in the annotation table.
noGSprovidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing gene symbol.
sep	character string used in annotation table to separate multiple gene symbols.

### Details

This function can be used with Affymetrix annotation files (e.g. 'HG-U133\Plus\2\annot.csv'). It retrieves the gene symbols corresponding to particular probe set identifiers.

Gene symbols are returned as elements of list 'symbols'. If multiple gene symbols are provided for 'ps[i]' (with 'sep' separating gene symbols in the annotation table), a vector containing all gene symbols is returned as the 'i-th' element of list 'symbols'.

The default values for 'GScol', 'noGSsymbol', 'noGSprovidedSymbol' and 'sep' are chosen to suit the format of Affymetrix annotation files. However, these options can be set to look up any annotation table, provided the probe set identifiers are in the first column and occur only once.

### Value

symbols	list of length 'length(ps)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the gene symbol for 'ps[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' cannot be found in the first column of the annotation table.
nogs	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'nogs[i]' is TRUE if 'symbols[i]==noIDprovidedSymbol' is TRUE.

**Note**

getANNOTATION provides a more flexible solution to be used with arbitrary annotation tables.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Kuhn

**References**

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

**See Also**

[getANNOTATION](#)

**Examples**

```
##example Affymetrix annotation file and its location
annotationFile<-system.file('extdata', 'HG-U133_Plus_2_annot_part.csv', package='annotationTools')

##load annotation file
annotation<-read.csv(annotationFile,colClasses='character',comment.char='#')

##get gene symbols
myPS<-c('117_at', '1007_s_at', '1552288_at', NA, 'xyz_at')
getGENESYMBOL(myPS,annotation)

##track origin of annotation failure for the 3 last probe set IDs
getGENESYMBOL(myPS,annotation,diagnose=TRUE)
```

---

getGENETITLE

*Find gene titles*

---

**Description**

Takes a vector of probe set identifiers and an annotation table and retrieves the corresponding gene titles.

**Usage**

```
getGENETITLE(ps, annot, diagnose = FALSE, TITLEcol = 14, noTITLESymbol = NA, noTITLEprovidedSymbol =
```

**Arguments**

ps	character vector containing the probe sets identifiers.
annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
TITLEcol	column in annotation table containing the gene titles.

noTITLESymbol	character string to be used in output list 'genetitle' if no gene title is found or provided in the annotation table.
noTITLEprovidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing gene title.
sep	character string used in annotation table to separate multiple gene titles.

### Details

This function can be used with Affymetrix annotation files (e.g. 'HG-U133\Plus\2\annot.csv'). It retrieves the gene titles corresponding to particular probe set identifiers.

Gene titles are returned as elements of list 'genetitle'. If multiple gene titles are provided for 'ps[i]' (with 'sep' separating gene titles in the annotation table), a vector containing all gene titles is returned as the 'i-th' element of list 'genetitle'.

The default values for 'TITLEcol', 'noTITLESymbol', 'noTITLEprovidedSymbol' and 'sep' are chosen to suit the format of Affymetrix annotation files. However, these options can be set to look up any annotation table, provided the probe set identifiers are in the first column and occur only once.

### Value

genetitle	list of length 'length(ps)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the gene title for 'ps[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]' cannot be found in the first column of the annotation table.
notitle	logical vector of length 'length(ps)'. 'notitle[i]' is TRUE if 'genetitle[i]==noTITLEprovidedSymbol' is TRUE.

### Note

getANNOTATION provides a more flexible solution to be used with arbitrary annotation tables.

### Author(s)

Alexandre Kuhn

### References

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

### See Also

[getANNOTATION](#)

**Examples**

```
##example Affymetrix annotation file and its location
annotationFile<-system.file('extdata', 'HG-U133_Plus_2_annot_part.csv', package='annotationTools')

##load annotation file
annotation<-read.csv(annotationFile,colClasses='character',comment.char='#')

##get gene titles
myPS<-c('117_at','1007_s_at','1552288_at',NA,'xyz_at')
getGENETITLE(myPS,annotation)

##track origin of annotation failure for the 3 last probe set IDs
getGENETITLE(myPS,annotation,diagnose=TRUE)
```

---

getHOMOLOG

*Find homologous/orthologous gene (ID)*


---

**Description**

Takes a vector of gene IDs, a table of homologs/orthologs, and a target species and returns gene IDs corresponding to homologous/orthologous genes.

**Usage**

```
getHOMOLOG(geneid, targetspecies, homol, cluster = FALSE, diagnose = FALSE, noIDsymbol = NA, cluster
```

**Arguments**

geneid	character vector containing gene IDs.
targetspecies	identifier of the target species in the homology/orthology table.
homol	homology/orthology table (data frame) listing gene IDs (1 per line) along with the species and the homology/orthology cluster they belong to.
cluster	logical. If TRUE, the identifiers provided in 'geneid' are homology/orthology cluster IDs. If FALSE, they are gene IDs.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
noIDsymbol	character string to be used in output list 'targetid' if no homologous/orthologous gene is found or provided in the annotation table.
clusterCol	column in homology/orthology table containing homology/orthology cluster IDs.
speciesCol	column in homology/orthology table containing species IDs.
idCol	column in homology/orthology table containing gene IDs.
tableType	character string specifying the type of homology/orthology table used. Either 'homogene' (default) or 'gene_orthologs'.

## Details

The homology/orthology table lists gene IDs (from several species) and the homology/orthology cluster they belong to. Homologous and orthologous genes share a common cluster identifier. Given a certain gene ID, a target species, and a homology/orthology table, all gene IDs belonging to the same homology/orthology cluster and to the specified target species are returned. Various homology/orthology databases can be used, in particular NCBI's HomoloGene and their 'Orthologs from Annotation pipeline', referred to as 'gene\_orthologs' database (see details below). If 'targetspecies' is the species 'geneid' belongs to, by definition, homologous genes are returned (if listed). On the contrary, specifying a 'targetspecies' different from the host species 'geneid' belongs to, results in orthologous genes to be returned. Note that each gene ID is assumed to be unique and to belong to a single homology/orthology cluster.

Gene IDs of homologous/orthologous genes are returned as elements of list 'targetid'. If multiple (homologous/orthologous) gene IDs are provided for 'geneid[i]', a vector containing all gene IDs is returned as the 'i-th' element of list 'targetid'.

Default values for 'clusterCol', 'speciesCol', and 'idCol' are chosen to match the table provided by HomoloGene (homologene.data provided by [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/HomoloGene](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/HomoloGene)). Homology/orthology tables from other sources might require setting these values appropriately.

Orthologs defined in NCBI's 'Orthologs from Annotation pipeline' database (available at <ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/DATA/orthologs/>) and hence referred to as 'gene\_orthologs' can be mined by setting 'tableType' to 'gene\_orthologs' instead of 'homologene' (default). In this case, arguments 'clusterCol', 'speciesCol', and 'idCol' are overridden to fit the data structure used in 'gene\_orthologs'. In short, one difference between 'gene\_orthologs' compared to HomoloGene is that 'gene\_orthologs' does not use ortholog cluster IDs but anchors each ortholog groups using the human gene ID of the ortholog group. If a specific ortholog group does not contain a human gene, a gene ID from another species within the ortholog group may be used as anchor.

'gene\_orthologs' is a rich source of homologs/orthologs between selected vertebrate species and introduced by NCBI in 2014 (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/kis/info/how-are-orthologs-calculated/>). Note that 'gene\_orthologs' does not list (and thus cannot be used to search for) homologs (i.e. only 'Ortholog' relationships, as specified in the 3rd column of 'gene\_orthologs' are considered).

Finally, if 'cluster' is TRUE, cluster IDs can be provided in 'geneid' (instead of gene IDs) and the function will return all (homologous/orthologous) gene IDs belonging to a given cluster ID and a given 'targetspecies'. This can be used to mine orthology tables provided by Affymetrix (e.g. 'Mouse430\_2\_ortholog.csv') for orthologous probe set IDs (see 'examples' below).

## Value

targetid	list of length 'length(geneid)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the homologous/orthologous gene IDs for 'geneid[i]' and 'targetspecies'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(geneid)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'geneid[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(geneid)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'geneid[i]' cannot be found in column 'idCol' (default is column 3) of the homology/orthology table 'homol'.
notargetid	logical vector of length 'length(geneid)'. 'notargetid[i]' is TRUE if 'geneid[i]' is found in the homology/orthology table but no homolog/ortholog is listed for 'targetspecies'.

## Author(s)

Alexandre Kuhn

## References

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

## Examples

```
##example Homologene file and its location
homologeneFile<-system.file('extdata','homologene_part.data',package='annotationTools')

##load Homologene file
homologene<-read.delim(homologeneFile,header=FALSE)

##get mouse (species ID 10090) orthologs of several human (species ID 9606) gene ID (among those: 5982, gene symbol:
myGenes<-c(5982,93587,NA,100)
getHOMOLOG(myGenes,10090,homologene)

##track origin of annotation failure for the last 2 gene IDs
getHOMOLOG(myGenes,10090,homologene,diagnose=TRUE)

##get mouse gene belonging to homologene cluster IDs 6885 and 6886
myClusters<-c(6885,6886)
getHOMOLOG(myClusters,10090,homologene,cluster=TRUE)

##get mouse orthologs of human genes using 'gene_orthologs'
gene_orthologsFile<-system.file('extdata','gene_orthologs_part.data',package='annotationTools')
gene_orthologs<-read.delim(gene_orthologsFile,header=TRUE)
getHOMOLOG(myGenes,10090,gene_orthologs,tableType='gene_orthologs')

##mine Affymetrix (example) ortholog file
affyOrthologFile<-system.file('extdata','HG-U133_Plus_2_ortholog_part.csv',package='annotationTools')
affyOrthologs<-read.csv(affyOrthologFile,colClasses='character')

##get Mouse430_2 probe set IDs 'orthologous' to HG-U133_Plus_2 probe set IDs 1053_at and 121_at
myPS<-c('1053_at','121_at')
getHOMOLOG(myPS,'Mouse430_2',affyOrthologs,cluster=TRUE,clusterCol=1,speciesCol=4,idCol=3)
```

---

getMULTIANNOTATION      *General (multiple) annotation function*

---

## Description

Takes a vector of identifiers and an annotation table and matches the identifiers in the table to retrieve the corresponding annotation. Identifiers can occur on multiple records (i.e. lines) of the annotation table.

## Usage

```
getMULTIANNOTATION(identifier, annot, diagnose = FALSE, identifierCol = 19, annotationCol = 1, noAnn = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

**identifier**      vector containing identifiers to be annotated.

annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
identifierCol	column in annotation table where the provided identifiers are to be looked up.
annotationCol	column in annotation table containing the desired annotation.
noAnnotationSymbol	character string to be used in output list 'annotation' if no annotation is found or provided.
noAnnotationProvidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing annotation.

### Details

The annotation is returned as elements of list 'annotation'. If the 'i'-th identifier occur on multiple lines, all corresponding annotation are retrieved and output as a vector. The length of the 'i'-th element of 'annotation' thus equals the number of lines for 'identifier[i]' in the annotation table.

### Value

annotation	list of length 'length(identifier)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the annotation for 'identifier[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(identifier)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'identifier[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(identifier)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'identifier[i]' cannot be found in 'annot[,identifierCol]'.
noannotation	logical vector of length 'length(identifier)'. 'noannotation[i]' is TRUE if 'a[i]==noAnnotationProvided' is TRUE.

### Note

getANNOTATION runs faster and is to be used if the identifiers occur only once in the annotation table.

### Author(s)

Alexandre Kuhn

### References

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

### See Also

[getANNOTATION](#)

**Examples**

```
##example annotation table
annotation<-cbind(gene=c('gene_1','gene_2','gene_2','gene_3','gene_4'),probe=c('probe_1','probe_2a','probe_2b'))
print(annotation)

##get sequences for gene_2, gene_3, gene_4 and gene_100
myGenes<-c('gene_2','gene_3','gene_4','gene_100', NA)
getMULTIANNOTATION(myGenes,annotation,identifierCol=1,annotationCol=2,noAnnotationProvidedSymbol='')

##track origin of annotation failure for the 3 last genes
getMULTIANNOTATION(myGenes,annotation,identifierCol=1,annotationCol=2,noAnnotationProvidedSymbol='',diagnose=TRUE)
```

---

```
getOrthologousProbesets
```

*Find orthologous/homologous probe sets present in a target set using a mapping table*

---

**Description**

Used for cross-species analysis of gene expression profiles. Takes a vector of probe sets (species 1), a data.frame containing a second set of probe sets (species 2) and associated values (e.g. log fold change, t-statistic, ...) , a mapping table of orthologous probe sets (species 1 to species 2) and returns the list of probe sets orthologous to those in the first vector and found in the second set.

**Usage**

```
getOrthologousProbesets(ps1,ps2,ps2ps,fct=function(x){x},forceProbesetSelection=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

ps1	A vector of probe sets identifiers.
ps2	A data.frame where the first column contains the target probe sets. The second column contains quantities associated with each probe set like e.g. log fold change, t-statistic, etc.
ps2ps	A data.frame containing a mapping table of orthologous probe sets. Can be generated with the function ps2ps.R.
fct	A function for probe sets selection. The function is applied to the values (second column of ps2) associated with all orthologous probe sets corresponding to a given probe set in ps1.
forceProbesetSelection	Logical. If FALSE (default), all orthologous probe sets found in ps2 are returned. If TRUE, only the probe sets associated with values selected with the function fct are returned.

**Details**

Each probe set in the first input vector (ps1) is looked up in the mapping table (ps2ps). Orthologous probe sets given in the mapping table and present in the second input argument (more precisely in the first column of ps2) are returned as a list (ps2\probeSel). By default, values associated with these orthologous probe sets (and given in the second column of ps2) are returned as a list too (ps2\value).

A function can be specified and applied to the values associated with the orthologous probe sets. This can for instance be used to assign a summary value associated with a set orthologous probe sets (e.g. `fct=mean` or `fct=median` in case the associated values are log fold changes). Alternatively, this can be used to filter a single probe set out of multiple orthologous probe sets (e.g. `fct=min` in case the associated value is a p-value) (see below).

By default, the function returns all orthologous probe sets found. You can force the function to return only the probe sets associated with the values selected by the application of the user-specified function (specify `forceProbesetSelection=TRUE`). For instance, if the values in the second column of `ps2` are p-values and `fct=min`, for each probe set in `ps1` the minimal p-value associated with orthologous probe sets in `ps2` is returned (`ps2\_value`) as well as the probe set associated with the minimal p-value (`ps2\_probeSel`).

### Value

`ps2\_probeSel` A list of orthologous probe sets given by the mapping table (`ps2ps`) and present in `ps2`. By default, all orthologous probe sets are returned. If `forceProbesetSelection=TRUE`, only the probe sets whose values are matched after application of the user-defined function (`fct`) are returned.

`ps2\_value` A list of values associated with the orthologous probe sets. By default, all values are returned. If a function is specified (`fct`), it is applied to the values before they are returned.

### Author(s)

Alexandre Kuhn

### References

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

### Examples

```
data(orthologs_example)

##select the first 3 probe sets listed in 'table_mouse' and their orthologs in 'table_human'
##note that no ortholog is found for the top mouse probe set
table_mouse[1:3,]
orthops<-getOrthologousProbesets(table_mouse[1:3,1],table_human,ortho)
orthops[[1]]

##the second item returned contains the values associated with orthologs (second column of 'table_human')
orthops[[2]]

##calculates, for each mouse probe set, the median orthologous log fold change (in case of multiple orthologs)
##(in this case log fold changes need to be in the second column of 'table_mouse')
orthops<-getOrthologousProbesets(table_mouse[1:3,1],table_human,ortho,'median')
orthops[[2]]

##for each mouse probe set having multiple orthologous human probe sets
##select the orthologous probe set with the smallest p-value (column 4 of 'table_human')
orthops<-getOrthologousProbesets(table_mouse[1:3,1],table_human[,c(1,4)],ortho,'min',forceProbesetSelection=TRUE)
orthops[[1]]

##orthologous probe set selection can based on arbitrary functions
```

```
##e.g. select the 2 orthologous probe sets with the smallest p-values
orthops<-getOrthologousProbesets(table_mouse[1:3,1],table_human[,c(1,4)],ortho,function(x){sort(x)[1:2]},f
orthops[[1]]
```

---

getPROBESET

*Find probe set IDs*


---

## Description

Takes a vector of gene IDs (or identifiers of other types) and an annotation table and looks up the gene IDs in the table to retrieve the corresponding probe set identifiers. Each gene ID can occur multiple times (i.e. on multiple lines) in the annotation table.

## Usage

```
getPROBESET(geneid, annot, uniqueID = FALSE, diagnose = FALSE, idCol = 19, noPSSymbol = NA, noPSprovidedSymbol = NA)
```

## Arguments

geneid	character vector containing the gene IDs.
annot	annotation table (data frame) where each row is a record and each column is an annotation field.
uniqueID	logical. If TRUE, only probe set IDs annotated with a single gene ID are returned. If FALSE, probe set IDs annotated with multiple gene IDs are returned too.
diagnose	logical. If TRUE, 3 (logical) vectors used for diagnostic purpose are returned in addition to the annotation. If FALSE (default) only the annotation is returned.
idCol	column in annotation table containing the gene identifiers.
noPSSymbol	character string to be used in output list 'ps' if no probe set ID is found or provided in the annotation table.
noPSprovidedSymbol	character string used in annotation table and indicating missing probe set ID.

## Details

This function can be used with Affymetrix annotation files (e.g. 'HG-U133\Plus\2\annot.csv'). It retrieves probe set IDs corresponding to particular gene identifiers. By default, the function takes gene IDs but any type of identifier (e.g. gene symbol) can be used (set 'idCol' accordingly).

Probe set IDs are returned as elements of list 'ps'. If multiple probe set IDs are found for 'geneid[i]', a vector containing all probe set IDs is returned as the 'i-th' element of list 'ps'.

The default values for 'idCol', 'noPSSymbol', and 'noPSprovidedSymbol' are chosen to suit the format of Affymetrix annotation files. However, options can be set to look up any annotation table, provided the probe set identifiers are in the first column.

**Value**

ps	list of length 'length(geneid)' the 'i'-th element of which contains the probe set IDs for 'geneid[i]'.
empty	logical vector of length 'length(geneid)'. 'empty[i]' is TRUE if 'geneid[i]' is empty or NA.
noentry	logical vector of length 'length(geneid)'. 'noentry[i]' is TRUE if 'geneid[i]' cannot be found in column 'idCol' (default is column 19) of the annotation table.
noid	logical vector of length 'length(geneid)'. 'noid[i]' is TRUE if 'ps[i]==noIDprovidedSymbol' is TRUE.

**Note**

getMULTIANNOTATION provides a more flexible solution that can be used with arbitrary annotation tables.

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Kuhn

**References**

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

**See Also**

[getMULTIANNOTATION](#)

**Examples**

```
##example Affymetrix annotation file and its location
annotationFile<-system.file('extdata', 'HG-U133_Plus_2_annot_part.csv', package='annotationTools')

##load annotation file
annotation<-read.csv(annotationFile,colClasses='character',comment.char='#')

##genes of interest
myGenes<-c('DDR1', 'GUCA1A', 'HSPA6', NA, 'XYZ')

##column 15 in annotation contains gene symbols
colnames(annotation)

##find probe sets probing for particular genes
getPROBESET(myGenes,annotation,idCol=15)

##find probe sets probing only for the genes of interest (i.e. with unique annotation)
getPROBESET(myGenes,annotation,idCol=15,uniqueID=TRUE)

##track origin of annotation failure for the 2 last probe set IDs
getPROBESET(myGenes,annotation,idCol=15,diagnose=TRUE)
```

HG-U133\_Plus\_2\_annot\_part

*Example Affymetrix annotation file*

---

**Description**

Truncated Affymetrix annotation file for GeneChip array HG-U133 Plus 2.

**Format**

A table containing 7 probe set IDs and the associated annotation.

**Source**

<http://www.affymetrix.com>

---

HG-U133\_Plus\_2\_ortholog\_part

*Example Affymetrix ortholog file*

---

**Description**

Truncated Affymetrix ortholog file for GeneChip array HG-U133 Plus 2.

**Format**

A table containing 5 probe set IDs and their orthologs probe set IDs on other GeneChip arrays.

**Source**

<http://www.affymetrix.com>

---

homologene\_part

*Example HomoloGene file*

---

**Description**

Truncated HomoloGene database file.

**Format**

A table containing 3 homology clusters defined by HomoloGene.

**Source**

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/HomoloGene>

---

listToCharacterVector *Turn list into character vector*

---

### Description

Takes a list and returns a character vector by (separately) concatenating the vectors in the list.

### Usage

```
listToCharacterVector(lst, sep=' /// ')
```

### Arguments

lst	list object
sep	character string specifying the separator to concatenate each elements of vectors in the list

### Details

The output vector has same length as the input list.

### Value

v  
vector of length 'length(lst)' where the 'i'-th element contains the concatenation of the 'i'-th element of 'lst'.

### Author(s)

Alexandre Kuhn

### References

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. BMC Bioinformatics, 9:26 (2008)

### Examples

```
##an example list
lst<-vector('list',3)
lst[[1]]<-c('a1','a2')
lst[[2]]<- 'b'
lst[[3]]<-c('c1','c2','c3')
##merge first 2 list elements
listToCharacterVector(lst,sep=', ')
```

---

Mouse430\_2\_annot\_part *Example Affymetrix annotation file*

---

### Description

Truncated Affymetrix annotation file for GeneChip array Mouse 430 2.

### Format

A table containing 9 probe set IDs and the associated annotation.

### Source

<http://www.affymetrix.com>

---

ortho	<i>ortho</i>
-------	--------------

---

### Description

Partial ortholog probe sets mapping table of MG-U74Av2 probe sets to HG-U133A probe sets. Generated with ps2ps.R and Affymetrix annotations for MG-U74Av2 and HG-U133A arrays. Used in the example cross-species analysis presented in the vignette of package annotationTools.

### Format

data.frame with 100 rows and 4 columns.

### Source

<http://www.affymetrix.com> for Affymetrix annotations

---

ps2ps	<i>Find orthologous/homologous probe sets across two different Affymetrix microarray formats using a table of orthologs</i>
-------	---

---

### Description

Takes two Affymetrix annotation files, a table of orthologs (either 'gene\_orthologs' or the HomoloGene database), a target species ID and returns a mapping table with homologous/orthologous probe sets.

### Usage

```
ps2ps(annotation_1,annotation_2,ortholog,target_species,probesets=NULL,tableType="homologene")
```

**Arguments**

annotation_1	A data.frame with Affymetrix annotation for the source microarray format.
annotation_2	A data.frame with Affymetrix annotation for the target microarray format.
ortholog	A data.frame with the HomoloGene or 'gene_orthologs' database.
target_species	The target species identifier (i.e. the species corresponding to the target microarray).
probesets	A vector of probe set identifiers. If not specified, all probe sets on the source microarray format are mapped (default).
tableType	Character string (either 'homologene' or 'gene_orthologs') specifying the type of ortholog table used ('homologene' is the default).

**Details**

A table of orthologous/homologous probe sets is built by looking up gene IDs (corresponding to the probe sets on the source microarray array) in HomoloGene or 'gene\_orthologs' to find their orthologs, and identifying probe sets in the target microarray that probe the orthologous gene transcripts.

Affymetrix annotation files can be obtained from Affymetrix (<http://www.affymetrix.com>). A flat file database version can be obtained from HomoloGene (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/HomoloGene>) or from NCBI's 'Orthologs from Annotation pipeline' database, referred to as 'gene\_orthologs' ([ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/DATA/gene\\_orthologs.gz](ftp.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/gene/DATA/gene_orthologs.gz)). Target species ID are defined by the NCBI Taxonomy database (<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Taxonomy>)

**Value**

mappingTable	A data.frame with four columns and as many rows as there are probe sets in the source annotation. Each row corresponds to a probe set in the source annotation (column 1), the corresponding gene IDs (column 2), the orthologous gene IDs in the target species (column 3), and the probe sets in the target annotation corresponding to the orthologous gene IDs (column 4).
--------------	--

**Author(s)**

Alexandre Kuhn

**References**

Kuhn et al. Cross-species and cross-platform gene expression studies with the Bioconductor-compliant R package 'annotationTools'. *BMC Bioinformatics*, 9:26 (2008)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
##load Affymetrix annotations
annotMouse<-read.csv('Mouse430_2_annot.csv', colClasses='character', comment.char='#')
annotHuman<-read.csv('HG-U133A_annot.csv', colClasses='character', comment.char='#')

##load HomoloGene database
homologene<-read.delim('homologene.data', header=FALSE)

##define target species ID
homoSapiens_ID<-9609
```

```
##map all probe sets on mouse array Mouse 430 2.0 to their orthologs on human array HG-U133A
mappingTable<-ps2ps(annotMouse,annotHuman,homologene,homoSapiens_ID)

##write mapping table to disk
write.table(mappingTable,file='Mouse4302_HGU133A.txt',sep='\t',col.names=T,row.names=F,quote=FALSE)

##to map the first 10 probe sets given in the annotation only
mappingTable<-ps2ps(annotMouse,annotHuman,homologene,targetSpecies,probesets=annotMouse[1:10,1])

## End(Not run)
```

---

table_human	<i>table\_human</i>
-------------	---------------------

---

### Description

Partial list of probe sets from differential expression analysis of Huntington's disease patients versus controls. Used in the example cross-species analysis presented in the vignette of package annotationTools.

### Format

data.frame with 188 rows (probe sets) and 12 columns.

### Source

<http://hdbase.org/cgi-bin/welcome.cgi>

---

table_mouse	<i>table\_mouse</i>
-------------	---------------------

---

### Description

Top 100 probe sets from the differential expression analysis of CHL2 mice versus wild-type mice (MG-U74Av2). Used in the example cross-species analysis presented in the vignette of package annotationTools.

### Format

data.frame with 100 rows and 8 columns

### Source

<http://hdbase.org/cgi-bin/welcome.cgi>

# Index

## \* datasets

- annot\_HGU133A, [2](#)
- gene\_orthologs\_part, [3](#)
- HG-U133\_Plus\_2\_annot\_part, [20](#)
- HG-U133\_Plus\_2\_ortholog\_part, [20](#)
- homologene\_part, [20](#)
- Mouse430\_2\_annot\_part, [22](#)
- ortho, [22](#)
- table\_human, [24](#)
- table\_mouse, [24](#)

## \* manip

- compactList, [2](#)
- getANNOTATION, [4](#)
- getGENEID, [5](#)
- getGENEONTOLOGY, [7](#)
- getGENESYMBOL, [9](#)
- getGENETITLE, [10](#)
- getHOMOLOG, [12](#)
- getMULTIANNOTATION, [14](#)
- getOrthologousProbesets, [16](#)
- getPROBESET, [18](#)
- listToCharacterVector, [21](#)
- ps2ps, [22](#)

annot\_HGU133A, [2](#)

compactList, [2](#)

gene\_orthologs\_part, [3](#)  
getANNOTATION, [4](#), [6](#), [8](#), [10](#), [11](#), [15](#)  
getGENEID, [5](#)  
getGENEONTOLOGY, [7](#)  
getGENESYMBOL, [9](#)  
getGENETITLE, [10](#)  
getHOMOLOG, [12](#)  
getMULTIANNOTATION, [5](#), [14](#), [19](#)  
getOrthologousProbesets, [16](#)  
getPROBESET, [18](#)

HG-U133\_Plus\_2\_annot\_part, [20](#)  
HG-U133\_Plus\_2\_ortholog\_part, [20](#)  
homologene\_part, [20](#)

listToCharacterVector, [21](#)

Mouse430\_2\_annot\_part, [22](#)

ortho, [22](#)

ps2ps, [22](#)

table\_human, [24](#)

table\_mouse, [24](#)