

# Package ‘rrvgo’

November 14, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Reduce + Visualize GO

**Version** 1.22.0

**Description** Reduce and visualize lists of Gene Ontology terms by identifying redundancy based on semantic similarity.

**URL** <https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/rrvgo>,  
<https://ssayols.github.io/rrvgo/index.html>

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** GOSemSim, AnnotationDbi, GO.db, pheatmap, ggplot2, ggrepel,  
treemap, tm, wordcloud, shiny, grDevices, grid, stats, methods,  
umap

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, BiocStyle, testthat (>= 2.1.0),  
shinydashboard, DT, plotly, heatmaply, magrittr, utils,  
clusterProfiler, DOSE, slam, org.Ag.db, org.At.tair.db,  
org.Bt.db, org.Ce.db, org.Cf.db, org.Dm.db,  
org.Dr.db, org.EcK12.db, org.EcSakai.db, org.Gg.db,  
org.Hs.db, org.Mm.db, org.Mmu.db, org.Pt.db,  
org.Rn.db, org.Sc.sgd.db, org.Ss.db, org.Xl.db

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**biocViews** Annotation, Clustering, GO, Network, Pathways, Software

**NeedsCompilation** no

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

**git\_branch** RELEASE\_3\_22

**git\_last\_commit** 76f2f43

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-10-29

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.22

**Date/Publication** 2025-11-13

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|                    |                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| calculateSimMatrix | <i>calculateSimMatrix Calculate the score similarity matrix between terms</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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Description

calculateSimMatrix Calculate the score similarity matrix between terms

Usage

```
calculateSimMatrix(  
  x,  
  orgdb,  
  keytype = "ENTREZID",  
  semdata = GOSemSim::godata(annoDb = orgdb, ont = ont, keytype = keytype),  
  ont = c("BP", "MF", "CC"),  
  method = c("Resnik", "Lin", "Rel", "Jiang", "Wang"),  
  include_terms_without_IC = FALSE  
)
```

Arguments

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x                        | vector of GO terms                                                                                                                                                             |
| orgdb                    | one of org.* Bioconductor packages (the package name, or the package itself)                                                                                                   |
| keytype                  | keytype passed to AnnotationDbi::keys to retrieve GO terms associated to gene ids in your orgdb                                                                                |
| semdata                  | object with prepared GO DATA for measuring semantic similarity                                                                                                                 |
| ont                      | ontology. One of c("BP", "MF", "CC")                                                                                                                                           |
| method                   | distance method. One of the supported methods by GOSemSim: c("Resnik", "Lin", "Rel", "Jiang", "Wang")                                                                          |
| include_terms_without_IC | whether to include terms for which there's no Information Content in OrgDb. NOTE: Including them can mess up with the algorithm that aggregates the distances. Default: FALSE. |

## Details

All similarity measures available are those implemented in the [GOSemSim package](https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/vignettes/GOSemSim/inst/doc/GOSemSim-similarity-measurement-based-on-go) namely the Resnik, Lin, Relevance, Jiang and Wang methods. See the [Semantic Similarity Measurement Based on GO](https://www.bioconductor.org/packages/release/bioc/vignettes/GOSemSim/inst/doc/GOSemSim-similarity-measurement-based-on-go) section from the GOSemSim documentation for more details.

## Value

a square matrix with similarity scores between terms

## Examples

```
go_analysis <- read.delim(system.file("extdata/example.txt", package="rrvgo"))
simMatrix <- calculateSimMatrix(go_analysis$ID, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db", ont="BP", method="Rel")
```

---

|           |                                                |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|
| getGoSize | <i>getGoSize</i> Get GO term size (# of genes) |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

getGoSize Get GO term size (# of genes)

## Usage

```
getGoSize(terms, orgdb, keytype, children)
```

## Arguments

|          |                                                                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| terms    | GO terms                                                                                        |
| orgdb    | one of org.* Bioconductor packages (the package name, or the package itself)                    |
| keytype  | keytype passed to AnnotationDbi::keys to retrieve GO terms associated to gene ids in your orgdb |
| children | include genes in children terms (based on relationships in the GO DAG hierarchy)                |

## Value

number of genes associated with each term

---

|           |                                                   |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|
| getGoTerm | <i>getGoTerm</i> Get the description of a GO term |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

getGoTerm Get the description of a GO term

**Usage**

```
getGoTerm(x)
```

**Arguments**

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| x | GO terms |
|---|----------|

**Value**

the Term slot in GO.db::GOTERM[[x]]

---

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| getTermDisp | <i>getTermDisp</i> Calculate the term dispensability score, defined as the semantic similarity threshold a term was assigned to a cluster (namely, the similarity of a term to the cluster representative term). |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

getTermDisp Calculate the term dispensability score, defined as the semantic similarity threshold a term was assigned to a cluster (namely, the similarity of a term to the cluster representative term).

**Usage**

```
getTermDisp(simMatrix, cluster, clusterRep)
```

**Arguments**

|            |                                      |
|------------|--------------------------------------|
| simMatrix  | a (square) similarity matrix         |
| cluster    | the cluster assignment for each term |
| clusterRep | the cluster representative term      |

**Value**

a vector of term dispensability scores

---

|             |                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| getTermUniq | <i>getTermUniq Calculate the term uniqueness score, defined as 1 minus the average semantic similarity of a term to all other terms.</i> |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

getTermUniq Calculate the term uniqueness score, defined as 1 minus the average semantic similarity of a term to all other terms.

**Usage**

```
getTermUniq(simMatrix, cluster = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|           |                                                                            |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| simMatrix | a (square) similarity matrix                                               |
| cluster   | vector with the cluster each entry in the simMatrix belongs to. If NULL, a |

**Value**

a vector of term uniqueness scores

---

|              |                                                    |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| gg_color_hue | <i>gg_color_hue Emulate ggplot2 color palette.</i> |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

gg\_color\_hue Emulate ggplot2 color palette.

**Usage**

```
gg_color_hue(n)
```

**Arguments**

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| n | number of colors |
|---|------------------|

**Details**

It is just equally spaced hues around the color wheel, starting from 15:

**Value**

a vector with colors (alphanumeric)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:  
plot(1:10, pch=16, cex=2, col=gg_color_hue(10))  
  
## End(Not run)
```

---

|             |                                                        |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| heatmapPlot | <i>heatmapPlot</i> Plot similarity matrix as a heatmap |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

heatmapPlot Plot similarity matrix as a heatmap

## Usage

```
heatmapPlot(
  simMatrix,
  reducedTerms = NULL,
  annotateParent = TRUE,
  annotationLabel = "parentTerm",
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

|                 |                                                            |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| simMatrix       | a (square) similarity matrix.                              |
| reducedTerms    | a data.frame with the reduced terms from reduceSimMatrix() |
| annotateParent  | whether to add annotation of the parent                    |
| annotationLabel | display "parent" ids or "parentTerm" string                |
| ...             | other parameters sent to pheatmap::pheatmap()              |

## Details

Matrix with similarity scores between terms is represented as a heatmap.

## Value

Invisibly a pheatmap object that is a list with components

## Examples

```
go_analysis <- read.delim(system.file("extdata/example.txt", package="rrvgo"))
simMatrix <- calculateSimMatrix(go_analysis$ID, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db", ont="BP", method="Rel")
scores <- setNames(-log10(go_analysis$qvalue), go_analysis$ID)
reducedTerms <- reduceSimMatrix(simMatrix, scores, threshold=0.7, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db")
heatmapPlot(simMatrix, reducedTerms, annotateParent=TRUE, annotationLabel="parentTerm", fontsize=6)
```

---

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| loadOrgdb | <i>loadOrgdb Load an orgdb object</i> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

loadOrgdb Load an orgdb object

**Usage**

```
loadOrgdb(orgdb)
```

**Arguments**

orgdb                      one of org.\* Bioconductor packages

**Value**

the loaded orgdb

---

|                 |                                                                                                |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| reduceSimMatrix | <i>reduceSimMatrix Reduce a set of GO terms based on their semantic similarity and scores.</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

reduceSimMatrix Reduce a set of GO terms based on their semantic similarity and scores.

**Usage**

```
reduceSimMatrix(
  simMatrix,
  scores = c("uniqueness", "size"),
  threshold = 0.7,
  orgdb,
  keytype = "ENTREZID",
  children = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| simMatrix | a (square) similarity matrix                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| scores    | one of c("uniqueness", "size"), or a *named* vector with scores provided for each term, where higher values favor choosing the term as the cluster representative. The default "uniqueness" uses a score reflecting how unique the term is. Note: if you like to use p-values as scores, consider -1*log-transforming them ('-log(p)') |
| threshold | similarity threshold (0-1). Some guidance: Large (allowed similarity=0.9), Medium (0.7), Small (0.5), Tiny (0.4) Defaults to Medium (0.7)                                                                                                                                                                                              |

|          |                                                                                                                                   |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| orgdb    | one of org.* Bioconductor packages (the package name, or the orgdb object itself)                                                 |
| keytype  | keytype passed to AnnotationDbi::keys to retrieve GO terms associated to gene ids in your orgdb                                   |
| children | when retrieving GO term size, include genes in children terms. (based on relationships in the GO DAG hierarchy). Defaults to TRUE |

## Details

Group terms which are at least within a similarity below ‘threshold’. Decide which term remains based on a score. If no score is provided, then decide based on the "uniqueness" or the term "size".

Currently, rrvgo uses the similarity between pairs of terms to compute a distance matrix, defined as  $(1 - \text{simMatrix})$ . The terms are then hierarchically clustered using complete linkage, and the tree is cut at the desired threshold, picking the term with the highest score as the representative of each group.

Therefore, higher thresholds lead to fewer groups, and the threshold should be read as the minimum similarity between group representatives.

## Value

a data.frame identifying the different clusters of terms, the parent term representing the cluster, and some metrics of importance describing how unique and dispensable a term is.

## Examples

```
go_analysis <- read.delim(system.file("extdata/example.txt", package="rrvgo"))
simMatrix <- calculateSimMatrix(go_analysis$ID, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db", ont="BP", method="Rel")
scores <- setNames(-log10(go_analysis$qvalue), go_analysis$ID)
reducedTerms <- reduceSimMatrix(simMatrix, scores, threshold=0.7, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db")
```

---

scatterPlot

*scatterPlot Plot GO terms as scattered points.*

---

## Description

scatterPlot Plot GO terms as scattered points.

## Usage

```
scatterPlot(
  simMatrix,
  reducedTerms,
  algorithm = c("pca", "umap"),
  onlyParents = FALSE,
  size = "score",
  addLabel = TRUE,
  labelSize = 3
)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                                                        |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| simMatrix    | a (square) similarity matrix.                                                          |
| reducedTerms | a data.frame with the reduced terms from reduceSimMatrix()                             |
| algorithm    | algorithm for dimensionality reduction. Either pca or umap.                            |
| onlyParents  | plot only parent terms. Point size is the number of aggregated terms under the parent. |
| size         | what to use as point size. Can be either GO term's "size" or "score".                  |
| addLabel     | add labels with the most representative term of the group.                             |
| labelSize    | text size in the label.                                                                |

**Details**

Distances between points represent the similarity between terms. Axes are the first 2 components of applying one of this dimensionality reduction algorithms: - a PCoA to the (di)similarity matrix. - a UMAP (Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection,[1]) Size of the point represents the provided scores or, in its absence, the number of genes the GO term contains.

**Value**

ggplot2 object ready to be printed (or manipulated)

**References**

[1] Konopka T (2022). `_umap: Uniform Manifold Approximation and Projection_`. R package version 0.2.8.0, <https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=umap>.

**Examples**

```
go_analysis <- read.delim(system.file("extdata/example.txt", package="rrvgo"))
simMatrix <- calculateSimMatrix(go_analysis$ID, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db", ont="BP", method="Rel")
scores <- setNames(-log10(go_analysis$qvalue), go_analysis$ID)
reducedTerms <- reduceSimMatrix(simMatrix, scores, threshold=0.7, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db")
scatterPlot(simMatrix, reducedTerms)
```

---

shiny\_rrvgo

*shiny\_rrvgo Launch an interactive web interface.*


---

**Description**

shiny\_rrvgo Launch an interactive web interface.

**Usage**

```
shiny_rrvgo(...)
```

**Arguments**

... other params sent to shiny::runApp().

**Value**

Nothing

---

|             |                                                |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|
| treemapPlot | <i>treemapPlot</i> Plot GO terms as a treemap. |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

treemapPlot Plot GO terms as a treemap.

**Usage**

```
treemapPlot(reducedTerms, size = "score", title = "", ...)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                                      |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| reducedTerms | a data.frame with the reduced terms from reduceSimMatrix()           |
| size         | what to use as point size. Can be either GO term's "size" or "score" |
| title        | title of the plot. Defaults to nothing                               |
| ...          | other parameters sent to treemap::treemap()                          |

**Value**

A list from the call to the 'treemap()' function is silently returned

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
go_analysis <- read.delim(system.file("extdata/example.txt", package="rrvgo"))
simMatrix <- calculateSimMatrix(go_analysis$ID, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db", ont="BP", method="Rel")
scores <- setNames(-log10(go_analysis$qvalue), go_analysis$ID)
reducedTerms <- reduceSimMatrix(simMatrix, scores, threshold=0.7, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db")
treemapPlot(reducedTerms)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|               |                                                            |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| wordcloudPlot | <i>wordcloudPlot</i> Plot GO reduced terms as a wordcloud. |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

wordcloudPlot Plot GO reduced terms as a wordcloud.

**Usage**

```
wordcloudPlot(reducedTerms, onlyParents = TRUE, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                             |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| reducedTerms | a data.frame with the reduced terms from reduceSimMatrix(). |
| onlyParents  | use only parent terms to calculate frequencies.             |
| ...          | other parameters sent to wordcloud::wordcloud()             |

**Value**

Nothing

**Examples**

```
go_analysis <- read.delim(system.file("extdata/example.txt", package="rrvgo"))
simMatrix <- calculateSimMatrix(go_analysis$ID, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db", ont="BP", method="Rel")
scores <- setNames(-log10(go_analysis$qvalue), go_analysis$ID)
reducedTerms <- reduceSimMatrix(simMatrix, scores, threshold=0.7, orgdb="org.Hs.eg.db")
wordcloudPlot(reducedTerms, min.freq=1, colors="black")
```

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