

Using ReportingTools in an Analysis of RNA-seq Data

Jessica L. Larson and Christina Chaivorapol

April 21, 2026

Contents

| | | |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | Introduction | 2 |
| 2 | Differential expression analysis with <code>edgeR</code> | 2 |
| 3 | Differential expression analysis with <code>DESeq2</code> | 3 |
| 4 | GO analysis using <code>GStats</code> | 4 |
| 5 | PFAM analysis | 5 |
| 6 | Putting it all together | 5 |
| 7 | References | 5 |

1 Introduction

The `ReportingTools` package can be used with differential gene expression results from RNA-sequencing analysis. In this vignette we show how to publish output from an `edgeR`, Gene Ontology (GO) and/or Protein family (PFAM) analysis. In the final section we publish all our pages onto one, creating a comprehensive output page.

2 Differential expression analysis with `edgeR`

In this section we demonstrate how to use the `ReportingTools` package to generate a table of differentially expressed genes as determined by the `edgeR` software. We begin by loading our library and data set. The `mockRnaSeqData` contains random RNA-seq output for random mouse genes.

```
> library(ReportingTools)
> data(mockRnaSeqData)
```

Next, we run `edgeR` to find differentially expressed genes.

```
> library(edgeR)
> conditions <- c(rep("case", 3), rep("control", 3))
> d <- DGEList(counts = mockRnaSeqData, group = conditions)
> d <- calcNormFactors(d)
> d <- estimateCommonDisp(d)
> ## Get an edgeR object
> edgeR.de <- exactTest(d)
```

Now the results can be written to a report using the `DGEEExact` object.

```
> library(lattice)
> rep.theme <- reporting.theme()
> ## Change symbol colors in plots
> rep.theme$superpose.symbol$col <- c("blue", "red")
> rep.theme$superpose.symbol$fill <- c("blue", "red")
> lattice.options(default.theme = rep.theme)
> ## Publish a report of the top 10 genes with p-values < 0.05 and log-fold change > 2
> ## In this case, the plots contain the counts from mockRnaSeqData, which are not normalized
> ## The publish function does not normalize counts for the countTable argument to allow for
> ## flexibility in plotting various units (e.g. RPKM instead of counts).
>
> deReport <- HTMLReport(shortName = 'RNAseq_analysis_with_edgeR',
+   title = 'RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using edgeR',
+   reportDirectory = "./reports")
> publish(edgeR.de, deReport, countTable=mockRnaSeqData,
+   conditions=conditions, annotation.db = 'org.Mm.eg',
+   pvalueCutoff = .05, lfc = 2, n = 10, name="edgeR")
> finish(deReport)
>
> ## If you would like to plot normalized counts, run the following commands instead:
> ## mockRnaSeqData.norm <- d$pseudo.counts
> ## publish(edgeR.de, deReport, mockRnaSeqData.norm,
> ##   conditions, annotation.db = 'org.Mm.eg',
> ##   pvalueCutoff = .05, lfc = 2, n = 10)
> ## finish(deReport)
```

RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using edgeR

10 records per page Search all columns:

| EntrezId | Symbol | GeneName | logFC | Adjusted p-Value | Image |
|------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------|-------|
| 258294 | Olf1115 | olfactory receptor 1115 | -14.00 | 1.59e-11 | |
| 108637 | Snord14c | small nucleolar RNA, C/D box 14C | -13.40 | 8.67e-11 | |
| 383320 | Gm5235 | predicted gene 5235 | -10.90 | 7.63e-10 | |
| 71277 | 4933435N07Rik | RIKEN cDNA 4933435N07 gene | -12.60 | 7.63e-10 | |
| 71846 | Syce2 | synaptonemal complex central element protein 2 | -13.80 | 7.93e-10 | |

Figure 1: Resulting page created by `publish` for `edgeR.de`.

We can also output results of the LRT test from edgeR.

```
> d <- DGEList(counts = mockRnaSeqData, group = conditions)
> d <- calcNormFactors(d)
> design <- model.matrix(~conditions)
> d <- estimateGLMCommonDisp(d, design)
> d <- estimateGLMTrendedDisp(d, design)
> d <- estimateGLMTagwiseDisp(d, design)
> fit <- glmFit(d, design)
> edgeR.lrt <- glmLRT(fit, coef=2)
> deReport2 <- HTMLReport(shortName = 'RNAseq_analysis_with_edgeR_2',
+   title = 'RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using edgeR (LRT)',
+   reportDirectory = "./reports")
> publish(edgeR.lrt, deReport2, countTable=mockRnaSeqData,
+   conditions=conditions, annotation.db = 'org.Mm.eg',
+   pvalueCutoff = .05, lfc = 2, n = 10, name="edgeRlrt")
> finish(deReport2)
```

3 Differential expression analysis with DESeq2

In this section we demonstrate how to use the `ReportingTools` package to generate a table of differentially expressed genes as determined by the `DESeq2` packages.

We start by running `DESeq2` to find differentially expressed genes.

```
> library(DESeq2)
> conditions <- c(rep("case", 3), rep("control", 3))
> mockRna.dse <- DESeqDataSetFromMatrix(countData = mockRnaSeqData,
+   colData = as.data.frame(conditions), design = ~ conditions)
> colData(mockRna.dse)$conditions <- factor(colData(mockRna.dse)$conditions, levels=c("control", "case"))
> ## Get a DESeqDataSet object
> mockRna.dse <- DESeq(mockRna.dse)
```

Now the results can be written to a report using the `DESeqDataSet` object.

RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using DESeq2

10 records per page

Search all columns:

| Entrezid | Symbol | GeneName | Image | logFC | p-Value | Adjusted p-Value |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|----------|------------------|
| 665972 | Gm7871 | predicted gene 7871 | | 5.77 | 3.15e-22 | 5.77e-18 |
| 111941 | lap5rc10 | intracisternal A-type particle, U5 region, SINE repeat c-10 | | -4.96 | 8.26e-16 | 7.58e-12 |
| 100040696 | Gm2912 | predicted gene 2912 | | 3.31 | 8.13e-12 | 4.97e-08 |
| 109594 | Lmo1 | LIM domain only 1 | | -4.41 | 1.47e-11 | 6.74e-08 |
| 85079 | D9Mit14 | DNA segment, Chr 9, Massachusetts Institute of Technology 14 | | 4.14 | 5.50e-10 | 2.02e-06 |
| 100035905 | Kdw1 | kidney weight 1 | | -4.32 | 7.59e-10 | 2.32e-06 |

Figure 2: Resulting page created with DESeqDataSet object from DESeq2 analysis

```
> des2Report <- HTMLReport(shortName = 'RNAseq_analysis_with_DESeq2',
+   title = 'RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using DESeq2',
+   reportDirectory = "./reports")
> publish(mockRna.dse, des2Report, pvalueCutoff=0.05,
+   annotation.db="org.Mm.eg.db", factor = colData(mockRna.dse)$conditions,
+   reportDir="./reports")
> finish(des2Report)
```

4 GO analysis using GOstats

This section will demonstrate how to use ReportingTools to write a table of GO analysis results to an html file. First we select our genes of interest, and then run the hyperGTest.

```
> library(GOstats)
> library(org.Mm.eg.db)
> tt <- topTags(edgeR.de, n = 1000, adjust.method = 'BH', sort.by = 'p.value')
> selectedIDs <- rownames(tt$table)
> universeIDs <- rownames(mockRnaSeqData)
> goParams <- new("GOHyperGParams",
+   geneIds = selectedIDs,
+   universeGeneIds = universeIDs,
+   annotation = "org.Mm.eg" ,
+   ontology = "MF",
+   pvalueCutoff = 0.01,
+   conditional = TRUE,
```

```
+ testDirection = "over")
> goResults <- hyperGTest(goParams)
```

With these results, we can then make the GO report.

```
> goReport <- HTMLReport(shortName = 'go_analysis_rnaseq',
+ title = "GO analysis of mockRnaSeqData",
+ reportDirectory = "./reports")
> publish(goResults, goReport, selectedIDs=selectedIDs, annotation.db="org.Mm.eg",
+ pvalueCutoff= 0.05)
> finish(goReport)
```

5 PFAM analysis

In this section, we show how to use `ReportingTools` to write a table of PFAM analysis results to an html file. First we run the `hyperGTest` using our genes of interest from the previous section.

```
> library(Category)
> params <- new("PFAMHyperGParams",
+ geneIds= selectedIDs,
+ universeGeneIds=universeIDs,
+ annotation="org.Mm.eg",
+ pvalueCutoff= 0.01,
+ testDirection="over")
> PFAMResults <- hyperGTest(params)
```

Then we make the PFAM report.

```
> PFAMReport <- HTMLReport(shortName = 'pfam_analysis_rnaseq',
+ title = "PFAM analysis of mockRnaSeqData",
+ reportDirectory = "./reports")
> publish(PFAMResults, PFAMReport, selectedIDs=selectedIDs, annotation.db="org.Mm.eg", category=category)
> finish(PFAMReport)
```

6 Putting it all together

Here, we make an index page that puts all three analyses together for easy navigation.

```
> indexPage <- HTMLReport(shortName = "indexRNASeq",
+ title = "Analysis of mockRnaSeqData",
+ reportDirectory = "./reports")
> publish(Link(list(deReport, des2Report, goReport, PFAMReport), report = indexPage),
+ indexPage)
> finish(indexPage)
```

7 References

Huntley, M.A., Larson, J.L., Chaivorapol, C., Becker, G., Lawrence, M., Hackney, J.A., and J.S. Kaminker. (2013). ReportingTools: an automated results processing and presentation toolkit for high throughput genomic analyses. *Bioinformatics*. **29**(24): 3220-3221.

PFAM analysis of mockRnaSeqData

10 records per page

Search all columns:



| PFAM ID | PFAM Term | PFAM Size | Image | Overlap | Odds Ratio | P-value |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|------------|----------|
| PF00413 | Matrixin | 8 |  | 4 | 16.40 | 0.000653 |
| PF00057 | Low-density lipoprotein receptor domain class A | 15 |  | 5 | 8.21 | 0.001190 |

Figure 3: Resulting page created by `publish` for `PFAMResults`

Analysis of mockRnaSeqData

[RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using edgeR](#)
[RNA-seq analysis of differential expression using DESeq2](#)
[GO analysis of mockRnaSeqData](#)
[PFAM analysis of mockRnaSeqData](#)

Figure 4: Resulting page created by calling `publish` on all our analysis pages