

# Using ReportingTools in an Analysis of RNA-seq Data

Jessica L. Larson and Christina Chaivorapol

October 29, 2025

## Contents

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

# 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
<a href="#">258294</a>	Olf1115	olfactory receptor 1115	-14.00	1.59e-11	
<a href="#">108637</a>	Snord14c	small nucleolar RNA, C/D box 14C	-13.40	8.67e-11	
<a href="#">383320</a>	Gm5235	predicted gene 5235	-10.90	7.63e-10	
<a href="#">71277</a>	4933435N07Rik	RIKEN cDNA 4933435N07 gene	-12.60	7.63e-10	
<a href="#">71846</a>	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
<a href="#">PF00413</a>	Matrixin	8		4	16.40	0.000653
<a href="#">PF00057</a>	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