

Package ‘gg4way’

October 10, 2025

Title 4way Plots of Differential Expression

Version 1.7.1

Description 4way plots enable a comparison of the logFC values from two contrasts of differential gene expression. The gg4way package creates 4way plots using the ggplot2 framework and supports popular Bioconductor objects. The package also provides information about the correlation between contrasts and significant genes of interest.

License MIT + file LICENSE

URL <https://github.com/ben-laufer/gg4way>

BugReports <https://github.com/ben-laufer/gg4way/issues>

biocViews Software, Visualization, DifferentialExpression,
GeneExpression, Transcription, RNASeq, SingleCell, Sequencing

Encoding UTF-8

Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

Depends R (>= 4.3.0), ggplot2

Imports DESeq2, dplyr, edgeR, ggrepel, glue, janitor, limma, magrittr,
methods, purrr, rlang, scales, stats, stringr, tibble, tidyR

Suggests airway, BiocStyle, knitr, org.Hs.eg.db, rmarkdown, testthat,
vdiffR

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/testthat/edition 3

LazyData false

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/gg4way>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 7ae4e96

git_last_commit_date 2025-07-10

Repository Bioconductor 3.22

Date/Publication 2025-10-09

Author Benjamin I Laufer [aut, cre],
Brad A Friedman [aut]

Maintainer Benjamin I Laufer <blaufer@gmail.com>

Contents

.checkFeatures	2
.checkNames	3
.plot4way	4
.prepareAnnotations	5
.prepareData	5
.testCor	6
.tidyLabel	7
.totalCounts	7
airwayFit	8
extractors	8
gg4way	9
Index	12

.checkFeatures	<i>Missing features warning</i>
----------------	---------------------------------

Description

Warn about features not shared between x and y

Usage

.checkFeatures(DGEdata = DGEdata, x = x, y = y, ID = ID)

Arguments

DGEdata	The object to plot from: • limma: A MArrayLM object from eBayes or treat • edgeR: A list of DGELRT objects from glmQLFTest, glmTreat, or glmLRT • DESeq2: a DESeqDataSet from DESeq or a list of DESeqResults from results • Other packages: A list of data.frames, see details section for more information
x	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the x-axis
y	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the y-axis
ID	Column name for gene IDs

Value

A character

<code>.checkNames</code>	<i>Missing names check</i>
--------------------------	----------------------------

Description

Check for missing names in the DGEdata object

Usage

```
.checkNames(
  DGEdata = DGEdata,
  x = x,
  y = y,
  ID = ID,
  symbol = symbol,
  logFC = logFC,
  FDR = FDR
)
```

Arguments

DGEdata	The object to plot from: • <code>limma</code>: A MArrayLM object from eBayes or treat • <code>edgeR</code>: A list of DGELRT objects from glmQLFTest, glmTreat, or glmLRT • <code>DESeq2</code>: a DESeqDataSet from DESeq or a list of DESeqResults from results • Other packages: A list of <code>data.frames</code>, see details section for more information
x	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the x-axis
y	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the y-axis
ID	Column name for gene IDs
symbol	Column name for gene symbols, which can be the same as the value for the ID column if not present in the object
logFC	Column name for logFC values
FDR	Column name for FDR values

Value

A character

*.plot4way**gg4way plot*

Description

Creates a 4way plot

Usage

```
.plot4way(  
  DGEtibble = DGEtibble,  
  x = x,  
  y = y,  
  sep = sep,  
  logFCcutoff = logFCcutoff,  
  lineColor = lineColor,  
  colorKey = colorKey,  
  corRes = corRes,  
  textKey = textKey,  
  hjust = hjust,  
  vjust = vjust,  
  textSize = textSize,  
  label = label,  
  labelSize = labelSize  
)
```

Arguments

x	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the x-axis
y	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the y-axis
sep	Character specifying the separator between conditions for the contrast name provided to the x and y arguments
logFCcutoff	Numeric for the absolute logFC cut-off for DEGs (default is 1)
lineColor	Color of lines
textSize	Numeric specifying size of text with gene overlap category totals, where 0 will remove the text
label	Character vector specifying the symbols of genes to label (FALSE for none, TRUE for all blue)
labelSize	Numeric specifying size of text with gene labels

Value

A [ggplot](#)

<code>.prepareAnnotations</code>	<i>Prepare annotations</i>
----------------------------------	----------------------------

Description

Prepare text annotations of sums for plotting

Usage

```
.prepareAnnotations(  
  totalTibble = totalTibble,  
  colorKey = colorKey,  
  textNudge = textNudge  
)
```

Arguments

<code>totalTibble</code>	A tibble of summarized counts
<code>textNudge</code>	Numeric specifying nudge of text with gene overlap category totals

Value

A [tibble](#)

<code>.prepareData</code>	<i>Prepare data</i>
---------------------------	---------------------

Description

Prepare data for a 4way plot

Usage

```
.prepareData(  
  DGEdata = DGEdata,  
  x = x,  
  y = y,  
  ID = ID,  
  symbol = symbol,  
  logFC = logFC,  
  FDR = FDR,  
  logFCcutoff = logFCcutoff,  
  FDRcutoff = FDRcutoff  
)
```

Arguments

DGEdata	The object to plot from: • limma: A MArrayLM object from eBayes or treat • edgeR: A list of DGELRT objects from glmQLFTest, glmTreat, or glmLRT • DESeq2: a DESeqDataSet from DESeq or a list of DESeqResults from results • Other packages: A list of data.frames, see details section for more information
x	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the x-axis
y	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the y-axis
ID	Column name for gene IDs
symbol	Column name for gene symbols, which can be the same as the value for the ID column if not present in the object
logFC	Column name for logFC values
FDR	Column name for FDR values
logFCcutoff	Numeric for the absolute logFC cut-off for DEGs (default is 1)
FDRcutoff	Numeric for the FDR cut-off for DEGs (default is 0.05)

Value

A [tibble](#)

.testCor	<i>Correlation test</i>
----------	-------------------------

Description

Test the correlation between DGE contrasts

Usage

```
.testCor(DGEtibble = DGEtibble)
```

Arguments

DGEtibble A [tibble](#) of DGE results

Value

A numeric of the Pearson correlation

<code>.tidyLabel</code>	<i>Tidy axis labels</i>
-------------------------	-------------------------

Description

Process axis labels from contrast names

Usage

```
.tidyLabel(label = NULL, sep = " vs ", labelType = c("x", "y"))
```

Arguments

<code>label</code>	Character vector specifying the symbols of genes to label (FALSE for none, TRUE for all blue)
<code>sep</code>	Character specifying the separator between conditions for the contrast name provided to the x and y arguments

Value

A [call](#)

<code>.totalCounts</code>	<i>Summarize counts</i>
---------------------------	-------------------------

Description

Create a summary table counts for DGE contrast overlaps for shared (quadrants) and non-shared (lines) DEGs

Usage

```
.totalCounts(DGETibble = DGETibble, x = x, y = y, logFCcutoff = logFCcutoff)
```

Arguments

<code>DGETibble</code>	A tibble of DGE results
<code>x</code>	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the x-axis
<code>y</code>	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the y-axis
<code>logFCcutoff</code>	Numeric for the absolute logFC cut-off for DEGs (default is 1)

Value

A [tibble](#)

airwayFit	<i>airwayFit data</i>
-----------	-----------------------

Description

Generate example data from the `airway` data package using `eBayes`

Usage

```
data(airwayFit)
```

Format

An object of class `MArrayLM` with 14516 rows and 2 columns.

Value

A MArrayLM

Source

airway

extractors *Helper Functions for gg4way*

Description

These helper functions provide data used in the plot:

getCor	Get the correlation of the logFC of all genes
getShared	Get only the shared genes that pass the thresholds
getTotals	Get the totals of overlap categories

Usage

```
getCor(p1)
getShared(p1)
getTotals(p1)
```

Arguments

p1 The plot from `gg4way`

Value

Each function returns a different result:

getCor	A numeric
getShared	A tibble
getTotals	A tabyl

Examples

```
data("airwayFit")
p1 <- airwayFit |>
  gg4way(x = "N61311 vs N052611",
        y = "N061011 vs N052611")

## Correlation
getCor(p1)

## Shared
getShared(p1)

## Totals
getTotals(p1)
```

gg4way	<i>Create a 4way plot</i>
--------	---------------------------

Description

Create a 4way plot to compare the logFC values from two contrasts of differential gene expression.

Usage

```
## Default S3 method:
gg4way(
  DGEdata,
  x = NULL,
  y = NULL,
  ID = "ID",
  symbol = "symbol",
  logFC = "logFC",
  FDR = "adj.P.Val",
  sep = " vs ",
  FDRcutoff = 0.05,
  logFCcutoff = 1,
  label = FALSE,
  textSize = 11,
  textNudge = 0.25,
  labelSize = textSize,
```

```

colorVector = c("grey80", "firebrick", "forestgreen", "mediumblue"),
lineColor = "grey60",
...
)

```

Arguments

DGEdata	The object to plot from: • <code>limma</code>: A <code>MArrayLM</code> object from <code>eBayes</code> or <code>treat</code> • <code>edgeR</code>: A list of <code>DGELRT</code> objects from <code>glmQLFTest</code>, <code>glmTreat</code>, or <code>glmLRT</code> • <code>DESeq2</code>: a <code>DESeqDataSet</code> from <code>DESeq</code> or a list of <code>DESeqResults</code> from <code>results</code> • Other packages: A list of data.frames, see details section for more information
x	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the x-axis
y	Character specifying the name of DGE results within the object for the y-axis
ID	Column name for gene IDs
symbol	Column name for gene symbols, which can be the same as the value for the ID column if not present in the object
logFC	Column name for logFC values
FDR	Column name for FDR values
sep	Character specifying the separator between conditions for the contrast name provided to the x and y arguments
FDRcutoff	Numeric for the FDR cut-off for DEGs (default is 0.05)
logFCcutoff	Numeric for the absolute logFC cut-off for DEGs (default is 1)
label	Character vector specifying the symbols of genes to label (FALSE for none, TRUE for all blue)
textSize	Numeric specifying size of text with gene overlap category totals, where 0 will remove the text
textNudge	Numeric specifying nudge of text with gene overlap category totals
labelSize	Numeric specifying size of text with gene labels
colorVector	Character vector of colors in the following order: "not significant", "significant in x", "significant in y", "significant in both"
lineColor	Color of lines
...	Support for additional arguments used internally by <code>gg4way.MArrayLM</code> , <code>gg4way.list</code> , and <code>gg4way.DESeqDataSet</code>

Details

When a named list of data.frames is provided to the `DGEdata` argument, each data.frame can follow the defaults and have the following columns or specify alternate names for the following to the ID, symbol, logFC, and FDR arguments:

ID	Character vector with the feature ID (i.e. <code>EnsemblID</code>)
symbol	Optional character vector with gene symbol for labels

logFC	Numeric with the logFC
adj.P.Val	Numeric with the FDR

The correlation coefficient is useful for comparing across multiple plots. However, it is important to consider whether there are any common factors when comparing values, since that can result in a larger value. Some examples are contrasts with covariates that are shared between groups or contrasts with the same control group.

Value

A [ggplot](#)

Examples

```
data("airwayFit")
airwayFit |>
  gg4way(x = "N61311 vs N052611",
        y = "N061011 vs N052611")
```

Index

- * **datasets**
 - airwayFit, [8](#)
- * **internal**
 - .checkFeatures, [2](#)
 - .checkNames, [3](#)
 - .plot4way, [4](#)
 - .prepareAnnotations, [5](#)
 - .prepareData, [5](#)
 - .testCor, [6](#)
 - .tidyLabel, [7](#)
 - .totalCounts, [7](#)
- .checkFeatures, [2](#)
- .checkNames, [3](#)
- .plot4way, [4](#)
- .prepareAnnotations, [5](#)
- .prepareData, [5](#)
- .testCor, [6](#)
- .tidyLabel, [7](#)
- .totalCounts, [7](#)

- airway, [8](#)
- airwayFit, [8](#)

- call, [7](#)

- DESeq, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)
- DESeqDataSet, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)
- DESeqResults, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)
- DGELRT, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)

- eBayes, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [8](#), [10](#)
- extractors, [8](#)

- getCor (extractors), [8](#)
- getShared (extractors), [8](#)
- getTotals (extractors), [8](#)
- gg4way, [8](#), [9](#)
- ggplot, [4](#), [11](#)
- glmLRT, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)
- glmQLFTest, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)
- glmTreat, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)

- MArrayLM, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [8](#), [10](#)

- results, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)

- tabyl, [9](#)
- tibble, [5–7](#), [9](#)
- treat, [2](#), [3](#), [6](#), [10](#)