

keggorthology: the KEGG orthology as graph

VJ Carey

November 2, 2025

Contents

1	Introduction	1
2	KOgraph	1
3	Application to gene filtering	3
4	Infrastructure considerations	4
5	Session info	4

1 Introduction

KEGG is the Kyoto Encyclopedia of Genes and Genomes. An important product of the KEGG group is a catalog of pathways. The KEGG Orthology (KO) organizes the pathways into a conceptual hierarchy. This package encodes the hierarchy as a graph, and provides some support for deriving sets of array feature identifiers from the hierarchy.

2 KOgraph

```
> library(keggorthology)
> library(graph)
> data(KOgraph)
> KOgraph
```

A graphNEL graph with directed edges

Number of Nodes = 358

Number of Edges = 357

```
> nodes(KOgraph)[1:5]
```

```
[1] "K0.Feb10root"           "Metabolism"
[3] "Carbohydrate Metabolism" "Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis"
[5] "Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)"
```

The upper component of the hierarchy is:

```
> adj(KOgraph, nodes(KOgraph)[1])
```

```
$K0.Feb10root
[1] "Metabolism"
[2] "Genetic Information Processing"
[3] "Environmental Information Processing"
[4] "Cellular Processes"
[5] "Organismal Systems"
[6] "Human Diseases"
```

Graph operations can be used to explore the orthology. For example, the context of the PPAR signaling pathway is found as follows:

```
> library(RBGL)
> sp.between(KOgraph, nodes(KOgraph)[1], "PPAR signaling pathway")

$`K0.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`
$`K0.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`$length
[1] 3

$`K0.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`$path_detail
[1] "K0.Feb10root"           "Organismal Systems"      "Endocrine System"
[4] "PPAR signaling pathway"

$`K0.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`$length_detail
$`K0.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`$length_detail[[1]]
      KO.Feb10root->Organismal Systems
                        1
      Organismal Systems->Endocrine System
                        1
Endocrine System->PPAR signaling pathway
                        1
```

Fixed-length identifiers are used to label pathways. These are available as the 'tag' nodeData attribute.

```
> nodeData(KOgraph, , "tag")[1:5]
```

```
$KO.Feb10root
```

```
[1] "NONE"
```

```
$Metabolism
```

```
[1] "01100"
```

```
$`Carbohydrate Metabolism`
```

```
[1] "01101"
```

```
$`Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis`
```

```
[1] "00010"
```

```
$`Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)`
```

```
[1] "00020"
```

The depth of each term is also available.

```
> nodeData(KOgraph, , "depth")[1:5]
```

```
$KO.Feb10root
```

```
[1] 0
```

```
$Metabolism
```

```
[1] 1
```

```
$`Carbohydrate Metabolism`
```

```
[1] 2
```

```
$`Glycolysis / Gluconeogenesis`
```

```
[1] 3
```

```
$`Citrate cycle (TCA cycle)`
```

```
[1] 3
```

3 Application to gene filtering

Several functions are available for retrieving relevant information from the orthology. If you know a substring of the pathway name of interest, you can obtain the numerical tag(s).

```
> getKOtags("insulin")
```

```
Insulin signaling pathway
```

```
"04910"
```

We can get probe set identifiers corresponding to a term. The default chip annotation package used is hgu95av2.db.

```
> library(hgu95av2.db)
> mp = getK0probes("Methionine")
> library(ALL)
> data(ALL)
> ALL[mp,]
```

```
ExpressionSet (storageMode: lockedEnvironment)
assayData: 30 features, 128 samples
  element names: exprs
protocolData: none
phenoData
  sampleNames: 01005 01010 ... LAL4 (128 total)
  varLabels: cod diagnosis ... date last seen (21 total)
  varMetadata: labelDescription
featureData: none
experimentData: use 'experimentData(object)'
  pubMedIds: 14684422 16243790
Annotation: hgu95av2
```

4 Infrastructure considerations

Based on keggorthology read of KEGG orthology, March 2 2010. Specifically, we run wget on ftp://ftp.genome.jp/pub/kegg/brite/ko/ko00001.keg and use parsing and modeling code given in inst/keggHTML to generate a data frame respecting the hierarchy, and then keggDF2graph function in keggorthology package to construct the graph.

5 Session info

```
> sessionInfo()
```

```
R version 4.5.1 (2025-06-13)
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
Running under: Ubuntu 24.04.3 LTS
```

```
Matrix products: default
BLAS: /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/openblas-pthread/libblas.so.3
LAPACK: /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/openblas-pthread/libopenblas-p-r0.3.26.so; LAPACK ver
```

```
locale:
```

```

[1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8      LC_NUMERIC=C
[3] LC_TIME=en_US.UTF-8       LC_COLLATE=C
[5] LC_MONETARY=en_US.UTF-8   LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
[7] LC_PAPER=en_US.UTF-8      LC_NAME=C
[9] LC_ADDRESS=C              LC_TELEPHONE=C
[11] LC_MEASUREMENT=en_US.UTF-8 LC_IDENTIFICATION=C

```

time zone: Etc/UTC

tzcode source: system (glibc)

attached base packages:

```

[1] stats4      stats      graphics  grDevices  utils      datasets  methods
[8] base

```

other attached packages:

```

[1] ALL_1.53.0      RBGL_1.87.0      keggorthology_2.63.0
[4] graph_1.89.0    hgu95av2.db_3.13.0  org.Hs.eg.db_3.22.0
[7] AnnotationDbi_1.73.0 IRanges_2.45.0    S4Vectors_0.49.0
[10] Biobase_2.71.0   BiocGenerics_0.57.0 generics_0.1.4

```

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

```

[1] crayon_1.5.3      vctrs_0.6.5      httr_1.4.7      cli_3.6.5
[5] knitr_1.50        rlang_1.1.6      xfun_0.53       DBI_1.2.3
[9] png_0.1-8         bit_4.6.0        buildtools_1.0.0 Biostrings_2.79.1
[13] maketools_1.3.2   sys_3.4.3        KEGGREST_1.49.2 Seqinfo_1.1.0
[17] evaluate_1.0.5    fastmap_1.2.0    memoise_2.0.1   compiler_4.5.1
[21] RSQLite_2.4.3     blob_1.2.4       pkgconfig_2.0.3 XVector_0.51.0
[25] R6_2.6.1          tools_4.5.1      bit64_4.6.0-1   cachem_1.1.0

```