

Package ‘gtrellis’

June 5, 2026

Type Package

Title Genome Level Trellis Layout

Version 1.45.0

Date 2026-01-30

Depends R (>= 4.0.0), grid, IRanges, GenomicRanges

Imports circlize (>= 0.4.8), GetoptLong, grDevices, utils

Suggests testthat (>= 1.0.0), knitr, RColorBrewer, markdown, rmarkdown, ComplexHeatmap (>= 1.99.0), Cairo, png, jpeg, tiff

VignetteBuilder knitr

Description Genome level Trellis graph visualizes genomic data conditioned by genomic categories (e.g. chromosomes). For each genomic category, multiple dimensional data which are represented as tracks describe different features from different aspects. This package provides high flexibility to arrange genomic categories and to add self-defined graphics in the plot.

biocViews Software, Visualization, Sequencing

URL <https://github.com/jokergoo/gtrellis>

License MIT + file LICENSE

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

git_branch devel

git_last_commit ddebf6d

git_last_commit_date 2026-04-28

Repository Bioconductor 3.24

Date/Publication 2026-06-04

Author Zuguang Gu [aut, cre] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7395-8709>>)

Maintainer Zuguang Gu <guzuguang@suat-sz.edu.cn>

Contents

add_heatmap_track	2
add_ideogram_track	3
add_lines_track	4
add_points_track	4
add_rect_track	5

add_segments_track	6
add_track	7
current_track	9
get_cell_meta_data	9
gtrellis_layout	10
gtrellis_show_index	13

Index 14

add_heatmap_track	<i>add heatmap to a new track</i>
-------------------	-----------------------------------

Description

add heatmap to a new track

Usage

```
add_heatmap_track(gr, mat, fill, border = NA, track = current_track() + 1, ...)
```

Arguments

gr	genomic regions, it can be a data frame or a GRanges object
mat	matrix in which rows correspond to intervals in gr
fill	a color mapping function which maps values to colors. Users can consider colorRamp2 to generate a color mapping function.
border	border of the grids in heatmap
track	which track the graphics will be added to. By default it is the next track. The value should only be a scalar.
...	other arguments passed to add_track

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

See Also

[add_rect_track](#), [add_track](#)

Examples

```
require(circlize)
bed = generateRandomBed(200)
col_fun = colorRamp2(c(-1, 0, 1), c("green", "black", "red"))
gtrellis_layout(nrow = 3, byrow = FALSE, track_axis = FALSE)
mat = matrix(rnorm(nrow(bed)*4), ncol = 4)
add_heatmap_track(bed, mat, fill = col_fun)
```

add_ideogram_track *Add ideogram track*

Description

Add ideogram track

Usage

```
add_ideogram_track(cytoband = system.file("extdata", "cytoBand.txt",
      package = "circlize"), species = NULL, track = current_track() + 1)
```

Arguments

cytoband	Path of the cytoband file or a data frame that already contains cytoband data. Pass to read.cytoband .
species	Abbreviations of species. e.g. hg19 for human, mm10 for mouse. If this value is specified, the function will download cytoBand.txt.gz from UCSC ftp automatically. Pass to read.cytoband .
track	which track the ideogram is added in. By default it is the next track in the layout.

Details

A track which contains ideograms will be added to the plot.

The function tries to download cytoband file from UCSC ftp. If there is no cytoband file available for the species, there will be an error.

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
# There is no example
NULL
```

add_lines_track *add lines to a new or exsited track*

Description

add lines to a new or exsited track

Usage

```
add_lines_track(gr, value, area = FALSE, baseline = "bottom", gp = gpar(), ...)
```

Arguments

gr	genomic regions, it can be a data frame or a GRanges object
value	numeric values associated with gr
area	whether draw polygon for the area under the line
baseline	baseline for drawing polygon
gp	graphic settings, should be specified by gpar .
...	other arguments passed to add_track

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
require(circlize)
bed = generateRandomBed(200)
gtrellis_layout(n_track = 2, track_ylim = rep(range(bed[[4]]), 2), nrow = 3, byrow = FALSE)
add_lines_track(bed, bed[[4]])
add_lines_track(bed, bed[[4]], area = TRUE, gp = gpar(fill = "grey", col = NA))
```

add_points_track *add points to a new or exsited track*

Description

add points to a new or exsited track

Usage

```
add_points_track(gr, value, pch = 16, size = unit(1, "mm"), gp = gpar(), ...)
```

Arguments

gr	genomic regions, it can be a data frame or a GRanges object
value	numeric values associated with gr
pch	shape of points
size	size of points, should be a unit object
gp	graphic settings, should be specified by gpar .
...	other arguments passed to add_track

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
require(circlize)
bed = generateRandomBed()
gtrellis_layout(track_ylim = range(bed[[4]]), nrow = 3, byrow = FALSE)
add_points_track(bed, bed[[4]], gp = gpar(col = ifelse(bed[[4]] > 0, "red", "green")))
```

add_rect_track	<i>add rectangles to a new or exsited track</i>
----------------	---

Description

add rectangles to a new or exsited track

Usage

```
add_rect_track(gr, h1, h2, gp = gpar(), ...)
```

Arguments

gr	genomic regions, it can be a data frame or a GRanges object
h1	top/bottom positions for rectangles
h2	top/bottom positions for rectangles
gp	graphic settings, should be specified by gpar .
...	other arguments passed to add_track

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

See Also

[add_heatmap_track](#), [add_track](#)

Examples

```
require(circlize)
bed = generateRandomBed(200)
col_fun = colorRamp2(c(-1, 0, 1), c("green", "black", "red"))
gtrellis_layout(track_ylim = range(bed[[4]]), nrow = 3, byrow = FALSE)
add_rect_track(bed, h1 = bed[[4]], h2 = 0,
  gp = gpar(col = NA, fill = col_fun(bed[[4]])))
```

add_segments_track	<i>add segments to a new or exsited track</i>
--------------------	---

Description

add segments to a new or exsited track

Usage

```
add_segments_track(gr, value, gp = gpar(), ...)
```

Arguments

gr	genomic regions, it can be a data frame or a GRanges object
value	numeric values associated with gr
gp	graphic settings, should be specified by gpar .
...	other arguments passed to add_track

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
require(circlize)
bed = generateRandomBed(nr = 100)
gtrellis_layout(track_ylim = range(bed[[4]]), nrow = 3, byrow = FALSE)
add_segments_track(bed, bed[[4]], gp = gpar(col = ifelse(bed[[4]] > 0, "red", "green"), lwd = 4))
```

add_track	<i>Add self-defined graphics track by track</i>
-----------	---

Description

Add self-defined graphics track by track

Usage

```
add_track(gr = NULL, category = NULL, track = current_track() + 1,
          clip = TRUE, panel_fun = function(gr) NULL, panel.fun = NULL,
          use_raster = FALSE,
          raster_device = c("png", "jpeg", "tiff", "CairoPNG", "CairoJPEG", "CairoTIFF"),
          raster_quality = 1,
          raster_device_param = list())
```

Arguments

gr	genomic regions. It should be a data frame in BED format or a GRanges object.
category	subset of categories (e.g. chromosomes) that users want to add graphics. The value can be a vector which contains more than one category. By default it is all available categories.
track	which track the graphics will be added to. By default it is the next track. The value should only be a scalar.
clip	whether graphics are restricted inside the cell.
panel_fun	self-defined panel function to add graphics in each 'cell'. The argument gr in panel_fun only contains data for the current category which is a subset of the main gr. The function can also contains no argument if nothing needs to be passed in.
panel.fun	deprecated
use_raster	whether render the each panel as a raster image. It helps to reduce file size when the file size is huge.
raster_device	graphic device which is used to generate the raster image
raster_quality	a value set to larger than 1 will improve the quality of the raster image. A temporary image with raster_quality*raster_quality times the original size of panel is generated first and then fit into the panel by grid.raster .
raster_device_param	a list of further parameters for the selected graphic device

Details

Initialization of the Trellis layout and adding graphics are two independent steps. Once the layout initialization finished, each cell will be an independent plotting region. As same as panel_fun in [circlize-package](#), the self-defined function panel_fun will be applied on every cell in the specified track (by default it is the 'current' track).

When adding graphics in each cell, [get_cell_meta_data](#) can return several meta data for the current cell.

Since this package is implemented by the grid graphic system, grid-family functions (such as [grid.points](#), [grid.rect](#), ...) should be used to add graphics. The usage of grid functions is quite similar as the traditional graphic functions. Followings are several examples:

```
grid.points(x, y)
grid.lines(x, y)
grid.rect(x, y, width, height)
```

Graphical parameters are usually passed by [gpar](#):

```
grid.points(x, y, gp = gpar(col = "red"))
grid.rect(x, y, width, height, gp = gpar(fill = "black", col = "red"))
```

grid system also support a large number of coordinate measurement systems by defining proper [unit](#) object which provides high flexibility to place graphics on the plotting regions.

```
grid.points(x, y, default.units = "npc")
grid.rect(x, y, width = unit(1, "cm"))
```

You can refer to the documentations and vignettes of [grid-package](#) to get a overview.

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

See Also

There are several functions which draw specific graphics and are implemented by [add_track](#):

- [add_points_track](#)
- [add_segments_track](#)
- [add_lines_track](#)
- [add_rect_track](#)
- [add_heatmap_track](#)

Examples

```
# There is no example
NULL
```

current_track	<i>The index of current track</i>
---------------	-----------------------------------

Description

The index of current track

Usage

```
current_track()
```

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
# There is no example  
NULL
```

get_cell_meta_data	<i>Get meta data in a cell</i>
--------------------	--------------------------------

Description

Get meta data in a cell

Usage

```
get_cell_meta_data(name, category, track)
```

Arguments

name	name of the supported meta data, see 'details' section.
category	which category. By default it is the current category.
track	which track. By default it is the current track.

Details

Following meta data can be retrieved:

name name of the category.
 xlim xlim without including padding. Cells in the same column share the same xlim.
 ylim ylim without including padding.
 extended_xlim xlim with padding.
 extended_ylim ylim with padding.
 original_xlim xlim in original data.
 original_ylim ylim in original data.
 column which column in the layout.
 row which row in the layout.
 track which track in the layout.

The vignette has a graphical explanation of all these meta data.

Value

Corresponding meta data that user queried.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
# There is no example
NULL
```

<code>gtrellis_layout</code>	<i>Initialize genome-level Trellis layout</i>
------------------------------	---

Description

Initialize genome-level Trellis layout

Usage

```
gtrellis_layout(data = NULL, category = NULL,
  species = NULL, nrow = NULL, ncol = NULL,
  n_track = 1, track_height = 1, track_ylim = c(0, 1),
  track_axis = TRUE, track_ylab = "", ylab_rot = 90, title = NULL,
  xlab = "Genomic positions", xaxis = TRUE, xaxis_bin = NULL,
  equal_width = FALSE, compact = FALSE, border = TRUE, asist_ticks = TRUE,
  xpadding = c(0, 0), ypadding = c(0, 0), gap = unit(1, "mm"),
  byrow = TRUE, newpage = TRUE, add_name_track = FALSE,
  name_fontsize = 10, name_track_fill = "#EEEEEE",
  add_ideogram_track = FALSE, ideogram_track_height = unit(2, "mm"),
  axis_label_fontsize = 6, lab_fontsize = 10, title_fontsize = 16,
  legend = list(), legend_side = c("right", "bottom"),
  padding = unit(c(2, 2, 2, 2), "mm"), remove_chr_prefix = FALSE)
```

Arguments

data	a data frame with at least three columns. The first three columns should be genomic categories (e.g. chromosomes), start positions and end positions. This data frame is used to extract ranges for each genomic category (minimal and maximal positions are taken as the range in the corresponding category).
category	subset of categories. It is also used for ordering.
species	Abbreviations of species. e.g. hg19 for human, mm10 for mouse. If this value is specified, the function will download chromInfo.txt.gz from UCSC ftp automatically. Short scaffolds will be removed if they have obvious different length as others. Non-normal chromosomes will also be detected and removed. Sometimes this detection is not always correct and if you find chromosomes shown on the plot is not what you expect, set category manually. The argument is passed to read.chromInfo .
nrow	Number of rows in the layout.
ncol	Number of columns in the layout.
n_track	Number of tracks in each genomic category.
track_height	height of tracks. It should be numeric which means the value is relative and will be scaled into percent, or a unit object.
track_ylim	ranges on y axes of tracks. The value can be a vector of length two which means all tracks share same y ranges, or a matrix with two columns, or a vector of length 2*n_track which will be coerced into the two-column matrix by rows.
track_axis	whether show y axes for tracks. The value is logical that can be either length one or number of tracks.
track_ylab	labels for tracks on y axes. The value can be either length one or number of tracks.
ylab_rot	value can only be 0 or 90.
title	title of the plot.
xlab	labels on x axes.
xaxis	whether show x axes.
xaxis_bin	bin size for x axes.
equal_width	whether all columns in the layout have the same width. If TRUE, short categories will be extended according to the longest category.
compact	For the categories which are put in a same row, will they be put compactly without being aligned by columns.
border	whether show borders.
asist_ticks	if axes ticks are added on one side in rows or columns, whether add ticks on the other sides.
xpadding	padding on x axes in each cell. Numeric value means relative ratio corresponding to the cell width. Use I to set it as absolute value which is measured in the data viewport (the coordinate system corresponding to the real data). Currently you cannot set it as a unit object.
ypadding	padding on y axes in each cell. Only numeric value is allowed currently.
gap	0 or a unit object. If it is length two, the first element corresponds to the gaps between rows and the second corresponds to the gaps between columns.
byrow	arrange categories (e.g. chromosomes) by rows or by columns in the layout.

newpage	whether call <code>grid.newpage</code> to create a new page.
add_name_track	whether add a pre-defined name track (insert before the first track). The name track is simply a track which only contains text. The default style of the name track is simple, but users can self define their own by <code>add_track</code> .
name_fontsize	font size for text in the name track. Note the font size also affects the height of name track.
name_track_fill	filled color for name track.
add_ideogram_track	whether to add a pre-defined ideogram track (insert after the last track). If the cytoband data for specified species is not available, this argument is ignored. The ideogram track simply contains rectangles with different colors, implemented by <code>add_track</code> .
ideogram_track_height	Height of ideogram track. The value should be a <code>unit</code> object.
axis_label_fontsize	font size for axis labels.
lab_fontsize	font size for x-labels and y-labels.
title_fontsize	font size for title.
legend	a <code>grob</code> or <code>Legends-class</code> object, or a list of them.
legend_side	side of the legend
padding	padding of the plot. Elements correspond to bottom, left, top, right paddings.
remove_chr_prefix	if chromosome names start with 'chr', whether to remove it.

Details

Genome-level Trellis graph visualizes genomic data conditioned by genomic categories (e.g. chromosomes). For each genomic category, multiple dimensional data which are represented as tracks describe different features from different aspects. The `gtrellis_layout` function arranges genomic categories on the plot in a quite flexible way. Then users apply `add_track` to add self-defined graphics to the plot track by track.

For more detailed demonstration of the function, please refer to the vignette.

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

See Also

`add_track`, `add_ideogram_track`

Examples

```
# There is no example
NULL
```

gtrellis_show_index *Show index on each cell*

Description

Show index on each cell

Usage

```
gtrellis_show_index()
```

Details

The function adds name and index of track for each cell. It is only for demonstration purpose.

Value

No value is returned.

Author(s)

Zuguang Gu <z.gu@dkfz.de>

Examples

```
# There is no example  
NULL
```

Index

`add_heatmap_track`, 2, 6, 8
`add_ideogram_track`, 3, 12
`add_lines_track`, 4, 8
`add_points_track`, 4, 8
`add_rect_track`, 2, 5, 8
`add_segments_track`, 6, 8
`add_track`, 2, 4–6, 7, 8, 12

`colorRamp2`, 2
`current_track`, 9

`get_cell_meta_data`, 7, 9
`gpar`, 4–6, 8
`GRanges`, 2, 4–6
`grid.newpage`, 12
`grid.points`, 8
`grid.raster`, 7
`grid.rect`, 8
`grob`, 12
`gtrellis_layout`, 10, 12
`gtrellis_show_index`, 13

I, 11

`read.chromInfo`, 11
`read.cytoband`, 3

`unit`, 5, 8, 11, 12