

# *keggorthology*: the KEGG orthology as graph

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

The upper component of the hierarchy is:

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

$KO.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")

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

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

$`KO.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`$length_detail
$`KO.Feb10root:PPAR signaling pathway`$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 4.6.0 (2026-04-24)
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
Running under: Ubuntu 24.04.4 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=en_US.UTF-8
[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_1.54.0      RBGL_1.88.0      keggorthology_2.64.0
[4] graph_1.90.0    hgu95av2.db_3.13.0  org.Hs.eg.db_3.23.1
[7] AnnotationDbi_1.74.0 IRanges_2.46.0    S4Vectors_0.50.1
[10] Biobase_2.72.0   BiocGenerics_0.58.1 generics_0.1.4
```

loaded via a namespace (and not attached):

```
[1] crayon_1.5.3      vctrs_0.7.3      httr_1.4.8        cli_3.6.6
[5] knitr_1.51        rlang_1.2.0      xfun_0.57         DBI_1.3.0
[9] png_0.1-9         bit_4.6.0        buildtools_1.0.0  Biostings_2.80.1
[13] maketools_1.3.2  sys_3.4.3        KEGGREST_1.52.0  Seqinfo_1.2.0
[17] evaluate_1.0.5   fastmap_1.2.0    memoise_2.0.1     compiler_4.6.0
[21] RSQLite_3.53.1   blob_1.3.0       pkgconfig_2.0.3   XVector_0.52.0
[25] R6_2.6.1         tools_4.6.0      bit64_4.8.2       cachem_1.1.0
```