

# Package ‘phylotypr’

October 22, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Classifying DNA Sequences to Taxonomic Groupings

**Version** 0.2.0

**Description** Classification based analysis of DNA sequences to taxonomic groupings. This package primarily implements Naive Bayesian Classifier from the Ribosomal Database Project. This approach has traditionally been used to classify 16S rRNA gene sequences to bacterial taxonomic outlines; however, it can be used for any type of gene sequence. The method was originally described by Wang, Garrity, Tiedje, and Cole in Applied and Environmental Microbiology 73(16):5261-7 <doi:10.1128/AEM.00062-07>. The package also provides functions to read in 'FASTA'-formatted sequence data.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**LazyDataCompression** xz

**URL** <https://github.com/mothur/phylotypr>, <https://mothur.org/phylotypr/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/mothur/phylotypr/issues>

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, purrr, dplyr, testthat (>= 3.0.0), strollur

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

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**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppThread

**Depends** R (>= 4.2)

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**Repository** CRAN

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|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| build_kmer_database | <i>Build kmer database</i> |
|---------------------|----------------------------|

---

Description

Build kmer database for classifying 16S rRNA and other gene sequences to a genus when a kmer size is provided.

Usage

```
build_kmer_database(classification_database, kmer_size = 8)
```

Arguments

- classification\_database  
A classification\_database object, which is a list containing the fields seq\_taxonomy\_data and reference\_data. These are both data.frame objects. The package includes rdp\_trainset9 and rdp\_trainset9\_pds. Other databases can be obtained from **phyloprprefdata** or by using create\_database()
- kmer\_size  
An integer indicating the length of the nucleotide word to base our classification on (default = 8)

Value

A list object containing the genus level conditional probability (conditional\_prob) of seeing each kmer in a given genus as well as the genus names (genera)

References

Wang Q, Garrity GM, Tiedje JM, Cole JR. Naive Bayesian classifier for rapid assignment of rRNA sequences into the new bacterial taxonomy. Appl Environ Microbiol. 2007 Aug;73(16):5261-7. doi:10.1128/AEM.0006207 PMID: 17586664; PMCID: PMC1950982.

**Examples**

```

kmer_size <- 8

## Not run:
# Function takes >5 s to run on this database
build_kmer_database(rdp_trainset9_pds, kmer_size)

## End(Not run)

```

---

|                   |                                                 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| classify_sequence | <i>Classify 16S rRNA gene sequence fragment</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

The `classify_sequence()` function implements the Wang et al. naive Bayesian classification algorithm for 16S rRNA gene sequences.

**Usage**

```
classify_sequence(sequence, database, kmer_size = 8, num_bootstraps = 100)
```

**Arguments**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| sequence       | A character object representing a DNA sequence that needs to be classified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| database       | A kmer database generated using <a href="#">build_kmer_database</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| kmer_size      | An integer value (default of 8) indicating the size of kmers to use for classifying sequences. Higher values use more RAM with potentially more specificity. Lower values use less RAM with potentially less specificity. Benchmarking has found that the default of 8 provides the best specificity with the lowest possible memory requirement and fastest execution time. |
| num_bootstraps | An integer value (default of 100). The value of num_bootstraps is the number of randomizations to perform where 1/kmer_size of all kmers are sampled (without replacement) from sequence. Higher values will provide greater precision on the confidence score.                                                                                                              |

**Value**

A list object of two vectors. One vector (taxonomy) is the taxonomic assignment for each level. The second vector (confidence) is the percentage of num\_bootstraps that the classifier gave the same classification at that level.

## Examples

```
kmer_size <- 3
reference_names <- c("seq_1", "seq_2", "seq_3")
reference_sequences <- c("ATGCGCTA", "ATGCGCTC", "ATGCGCTC")
reference_genera <- c("A", "B", "B")
reference <- create_database(reference_names, reference_sequences, reference_genera)

db <- build_kmer_database(reference, kmer_size)
unknown_sequence <- "ATGCGCTC"

classify_sequence(
  sequence = unknown_sequence,
  database = db,
  kmer_size = kmer_size
)
```

---

|                    |                                                              |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| classify_sequences | <i>Classify a vector of 16S rRNA gene sequence fragments</i> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

The `classify_sequences()` function implements the Wang et al. naive Bayesian classification algorithm for 16S rRNA gene sequence.

## Usage

```
classify_sequences(
  data = NULL,
  sequence,
  sequence_name = as.character(seq_along(sequence)),
  database,
  kmer_size = 8,
  num_bootstraps = 100,
  min_confidence = 80,
  seed = 1,
  num_processors = parallelly::availableCores()
)
```

## Arguments

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| data     | A data frame containing a column of <code>sequence_name</code> and <code>sequence</code> . If provided column names need to be provided to <code>sequence_name</code> and <code>sequence</code> .                                                                                         |
| sequence | A vector of character objects representing DNA sequence that need to be classified. If data is provided then only the name of the column containing sequence needs to be provided, quotation marks are optional. This argument can be ignored when using a <code>{strollur}</code> object |

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| sequence_name  | A vector of character objects containing the sequence name that need to be classified. Optional. Defaults to the position of the sequence in the vector of sequence. If data is provided then only the name of the column containing the sequence name needs to be provided, quotation marks are optional. This argument can be ignored when using a <code>{strollur}</code> object |
| database       | A kmer database generated using <code>build_kmer_database</code>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| kmer_size      | An integer value (default of 8) indicating the size of kmers to use for classifying sequence. Higher values use more RAM with potentially more specificity. Lower values use less RAM with potentially less specificity. Benchmarking has found that the default of 8 provides the best specificity with the lowest possible memory requirement and fastest execution time.         |
| num_bootstraps | An integer value (default of 100). The value of num_bootstraps is the number of randomizations to perform where 1/kmer_size of all kmers are sampled (without replacement) from unknown_sequence. Higher values will provide greater precision on the confidence score.                                                                                                             |
| min_confidence | An integer value (default of 80). The value of min_confidence represents the minimum number of bootstraps that must have a classification that agree with each other.                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| seed           | An integer value (default of 1). The value of seed sets the seed for the random number generator.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| num_processors | An integer value. The value of num_processors indicates the number of desired processors. Defaults to all available cores using <code>parallelly::availableCores()</code>                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

## Value

A data frame object with three columns: the sequence name (`sequence_name`), the taxonomic assignment for each level (`taxonomy`), and the confidence associated with that classification level (`confidence`). The value in confidence represents the percentage of num\_bootstraps that the classifier gave the same classification at that level.

## References

Wang Q, Garrity GM, Tiedje JM, Cole JR. Naive Bayesian classifier for rapid assignment of rRNA sequences into the new bacterial taxonomy. Appl Environ Microbiol. 2007 Aug;73(16):5261-7. doi:10.1128/AEM.0006207 PMID: 17586664; PMCID: PMC1950982.

## Examples

```
kmer_size <- 3
reference_names <- c("seq_1", "seq_2", "seq_3")
reference_sequences <- c("ATGCGCTA", "ATGCGCTC", "ATGCGCTC")
reference_genera <- c("A", "B", "B")
reference <- create_database(reference_names, reference_sequences, reference_genera)

db <- build_kmer_database(reference, kmer_size)

unknown_sequence <- c("ATGCGCTC", "ATGCGCTC", "ATGCGCTC")
unknown_id <- c("seq_1", "seq_2", "seq_3")
```

```

classify_sequences(
  sequence = unknown_sequence,
  database = db,
  kmer_size = kmer_size,
  seed = 1,
  num_processors = 1
)

classify_sequences(
  sequence = unknown_sequence,
  sequence_name = unknown_id,
  database = db,
  kmer_size = kmer_size
)

classify_sequences(
  sequence = "ATGATCGAGTC",
  database = db,
  kmer_size = kmer_size,
  min_confidence = 95
)

sequence_df <- data.frame(
  seq_names = unknown_id,
  seqs = unknown_sequence
)

classify_sequences(sequence_df,
  sequence_name = seq_names, sequence = seqs,
  database = db, kmer_size = 3
)

```

---

|                 |                                                           |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| create_database | <i>Build custom database object for use with phylotyr</i> |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

---

## Description

The `create_database()` function builds a `classification_database` object that can be used to generate the kmer database for downstream use in `classify_sequences()`. This function is only necessary if you are building your own database or modifying one of the existing databases provided in `{phylotyr}` or `{phylotyrrefdata}`.

## Usage

```
create_database(sequence_name, sequence, taxonomy, reference_data = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| sequence_name  | A character vector of identifiers for each sequence in the database. Should have the same number of values as found in the sequence and taxonomy vectors.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| sequence       | A character vector of the sequences that are included in the database. Should have the same number of values as found in the sequence_name and taxonomy vectors.                                                                                                                                                            |
| taxonomy       | A character vector of taxonomy data for each sequence in the database. Should have the same number of values as found in the sequence_name and sequence vectors. The format of each value should be with each taxonomic level separated by a semicolon. Ideally each value in taxonomy will have the same number of levels. |
| reference_data | single row data frame object that has columns vendor, name, version, usage, notes, method_url, documentation_url, and citation. This is supplied with databases obtained from <b>phylotyrp</b> data. This information is only used if user supplied sequences are supplied as a <b>strollur</b> object.                     |

**Value**

A classification\_database object, which is a list containing the fields seq\_taxonomy\_data and reference\_data. These are both data.frame objects.

**Examples**

```
sequence_name <- c("seq_a", "seq_b", "seq_c")
sequence <- c("AAAATCGAGTA", "ATGCGCTCCCC", "ATGCGCTCCCC")
genera <- c("A;b;C;d", "A;b;C;e", "A;b;C;e")

create_database(
  sequence_name = sequence_name,
  sequence = sequence,
  taxonomy = genera
)
```

---

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| filter_taxonomy | <i>Filter taxonomy</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|

---

**Description**

The filter\_taxonomy() function will filter a consensus taxonomy to remove any taxonomic levels where the confidence score is below a min\_confidence level

**Usage**

```
filter_taxonomy(consensus, min_confidence = 80)
```

**Arguments**

- consensus** A data frame that contains at least three columns: the `sequence_name` column that contains an identifier for the sequence, the `taxonomy` column contains the classification at each taxonomic level, and the `confidence` column contains the percentage of bootstraps that had the specified classification. The `level` column is optional and contains the numeric level of the level (e.g., Kingdom = 1, Genus = 6)
- min\_confidence** A double value between 0 and 100 (default = 80). The minimum percentage of bootstrap replicates that had the same classification. Any confidence score below this value will have the corresponding taxonomy removed

**Value**

A data frame object that is filtered to remove low confidence taxonomies. One column, `taxonomy`, contains the taxonomy at each taxonomic level and the other column, `confidence` contains the confidence score for that taxonomy. There will be no taxonomies or confidence scores below `min_confidence`

**Examples**

```
oscillospiraceae <- data.frame(
  sequence_name = c("seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1"),
  level = 1:6,
  taxonomy = c(
    "Bacteria", "Bacillota", "Clostridia",
    "Eubacteriales", "Oscillospiraceae",
    "Flintibacter"
  ),
  confidence = c(100, 100, 99, 99, 98, 58)
)

filter_taxonomy(oscillospiraceae, min_confidence = 80)
```

---

phylotypr\_example      *Get path to phylotypr example*

---

**Description**

phylotypr comes bundled with some example files in its `inst/extdata` directory. This function make them easy to access.

**Usage**

```
phylotypr_example(path = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

- path** Name of file. If `NULL`, the example files will be listed.

**Value**

A string indicating path to the file listed in path. If NULL is given then the return value is a vector of file names in the extdata/ directory

**Examples**

```
phylotyp_r_example()
phylotyp_r_example("miseq_sop.fasta.gz")
```

---

|                |                                               |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| print_taxonomy | <i>Print taxonomy for an unknown sequence</i> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

The print\_taxonomy() will output the consensus taxonomy for an unknown sequence with confidence scores for each taxonomic level and each taxonomic level separated by semi-colons

**Usage**

```
print_taxonomy(
  consensus,
  n_levels = 0,
  fill_levels = TRUE,
  show_confidence = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| consensus       | A data frame that contains at least three columns: the sequence_name column that contains an identifier for the sequence, the taxonomy column contains the classification at each taxonomic level, and the confidence column contains the percentage of bootstraps that had the specified classification. The level column is optional and contains the numeric level of the level (e.g., Kingdom = 1, Genus = 6)                                                                            |
| n_levels        | An integer indicating the number of taxonomic levels to expect. If the number of observed levels is less than this value, and fill_levels is TRUE then missing levels will have "_unclassified" appended to the end of the last named classification until the desired level is reached. If n_levels is less than the observed number of levels, then the string of the output will be truncated to n_levels. If 0 is given then we will report the longest possible taxonomy. Default is 0. |
| fill_levels     | A logical indicating whether or not to extend the classifications of sequences that don't meet n_levels. Default is TRUE.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| show_confidence | A logical indicating whether or not to include the confidence scores. Default is TRUE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**Value**

A vector of character strings indicating the classification at each taxonomic level with the corresponding confidence in parentheses (if `show_confidence` is `FALSE`). Each taxonomic level is separated by a semi-colon

**Examples**

```
oscillospiraceae <- data.frame(
  sequence_name = c("seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1", "seq_1"),
  level = 1:5,
  taxonomy = c(
    "Bacteria", "Bacillota", "Clostridia",
    "Eubacteriales", "Oscillospiraceae"
  ),
  confidence = c(100, 100, 99, 99, 98)
)

print_taxonomy(oscillospiraceae, n_levels = 6)
print_taxonomy(oscillospiraceae, n_levels = 4)
print_taxonomy(oscillospiraceae, n_levels = 6, show_confidence = FALSE)
print_taxonomy(oscillospiraceae, n_levels = 7, fill_levels = FALSE)
```

---

rdp\_trainset9

*RDP training set v9*


---

**Description**

The sequence and taxonomy data for the 10,049 sequences found in the Ribosomal Database Project's trainset9\_032012 training set for use with the naive Bayesian classifier as implemented in the {phylyotyr} R package. Originally released by the RDP in September 2012. The `rdp` version contains the same sequences as provided by the official RDP version (9,665 bacterial and 384 archaeal). The `pds` version contains extra eukaryotic sequences including 119 chloroplasts and mitochondria (10,168 total sequences). See the `mothur` reference file page in "Sources" for more information. Be sure to see the `mothur` GitHub project where you can find the `phylyotyrrefdata` package (<https://github.com/mothur/phylyotyrrefdata>) for access to other taxonomic reference data.

**Usage**

```
rdp_trainset9
```

```
rdp_trainset9_pds
```

**Format**

A `classification_database` object that holds two slots: `seq_taxonomy_data` and `reference_data`. The `seq_taxonomy_data` slot is a `data.frame` containing

**sequence\_name** Sequence accession identifier

**sequence** DNA sequence string

**taxonomy** Taxonomic string with each level separated with a ;

The reference\_data slot contains metadata about the database and includes fields:

**reference\_vendor** Entity that created original database (e.g., RDP)

**reference\_versions** The version of database provided by original entity

**reference\_usages** For classification or alignment

**reference\_notes** Any additional notes about the database. Currently the version of phylotypy that provided the database

**reference\_urls** URLs where database can be obtained

**reference\_citation** Citation for database in BibTeX format

An object of class `classification_database` of length 2.

## Source

- [mothur-formatted files](#)
- [RDP sourceforge page](#) # nolint: line\_length\_linter

---

read\_fasta

*Read in a FASTA-formatted file containing DNA sequences*

---

## Description

Given a [standard FASTA-formatted file](#), `read_fasta` will read in the contents of the file and create a three column data frame with columns for the sequence name, the sequence itself, and any comments found in the header line for each sequence.

## Usage

```
read_fasta(file, degap = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| file  | Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector) containing DNA sequences in the standard FASTA format. There are no checks to determine whether the data are DNA or amino acid sequences.<br>Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be autom downloaded and decompressed. |
| degap | Logical value (default = TRUE) Removes gap characters from sequences indicated by "." or "-"                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

**Value**

A data frame object with three columns. The `sequence_name` column will contain the non-space characters following the `>` in the header line of each sequence; the `sequence` column will contain the sequence; and the `comment` column will contain any text found after the first whitespace character on the header line.

**Note**

The sequences in the FASTA file can have line breaks within them and `read_fasta()` will put those separate lines into the same sequence

**Examples**

```
temp <- tempfile()
write(">seqA\nATGCATGC\n>seqB\nTACGTACG", file = temp)
write(">seqC\nTCCGATGC", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write(">seqD B.ceresus UW85\nTCCGATGC", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write(">seq4\tE. coli K12\tBacteria;Proteobacteria;\nTCCGATGC",
      file = temp,
      append = TRUE
)
write(">seq_4\tSalmonella LT2\tBacteria;Proteobacteria;\nTCCGATGC",
      file = temp, append = TRUE
)
write(">seqE B.ceresus UW123\nTCCGATGC\nTCCGATGC",
      file = temp,
      append = TRUE
)

sequence_df <- read_fasta(temp)
```

---

read\_taxonomy

*Read in taxonomy files*


---

**Description**

Read a **mothur-formatted taxonomy file** into R as a data frame

**Usage**

```
read_taxonomy(file)
```

**Arguments**

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>file</code> | Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector) containing the sequence name and the taxonomy information for each sequence. |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Files ending in .gz, .bz2, .xz, or .zip will be automatically uncompressed. Files starting with http://, https://, ftp://, or ftps:// will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be autom downloaded and decompressed.

### Value

A data frame with two columns. The sequence\_name column contains a name for each sequence and the taxonomy column, which contains the taxonomy for each sequence. The string in the taxonomy column is a series of taxonomic names separated by semi-colons. The string does not have a semi-colon at the end of the sequence

### Note

There are no checks to insure that each sequence has a unique name. It is also assumed that each sequence has the same number of taxonomic levels represented in the second column of the input file.

### Examples

```
temp <- tempfile()
write("seqA\tA;B;C;", file = temp)
write("seqB\tA;B; C;", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write("seqC\tA; B;C;", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write("seqD\tA;B;C", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write("seqE\tA;B; C", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write("seqF\tA; B;C", file = temp, append = TRUE)
write("seq G\tA;B;C;", file = temp, append = TRUE)

read_taxonomy(temp)
```

---

write\_fasta

*Write to a FASTA-formatted file*

---

### Description

Writes a data frame containing sequence\_name, sequence, and comment columns, write\_fasta will write the data frame out to a **standard FASTA-formatted file**. The header will have a tab character between the sequence name and any comments. There won't be a tab if there's no comment for the sequence. All sequence data will be on a single line

### Usage

```
write_fasta(data_frame, file = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>data_frame</code> | A data frame object with three columns. The <code>sequence_name</code> column will contain the non-space characters following the <code>&gt;</code> in the header line of each sequence; the <code>sequence</code> column will contain the sequence; and the <code>comment</code> column will contain any text found after the first whitespace character on the header line. The <code>comment</code> column is optional.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <code>file</code>       | Either a path to a file, a connection, or literal data (either a single string or a raw vector) to write to a standard FASTA formatted file. There are no checks to determine whether the data are DNA or amino acid sequences.<br><br>Files ending in <code>.gz</code> , <code>.bz2</code> , <code>.xz</code> , or <code>.zip</code> will be automatically compressed. Files starting with <code>http://</code> , <code>https://</code> , <code>ftp://</code> , or <code>ftps://</code> will be automatically downloaded. Remote gz files can also be autom downloaded and decompressed. If the value of <code>file</code> is <code>NULL</code> (default), the string will be written out to the screen |

**Value**

Sequence data is either written out to the screen (`file = NULL`) or to a file.

**Examples**

```
df_d <- data.frame(
  sequence_name = c("seqA", "seqB", "seqC"),
  sequence = c("ATGCATGC", "ATGCATGA", "ATGCATGT"),
  comment = c("comment 1", "", "comment 3")
)

string_d <- write_fasta(df_d)
```

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