

Visualizing genomic features with the Gviz package

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Gviz package: objectives

- High quality visualization of potentially large numeric data along genomic coordinates
 - different views, deal with multiple samples and sample groups
- Additional annotation features (transcripts, SNPs, conservation, sequence, reads, ...)
 - download from public sources (UCSC, ENSEMBL), own annotations
- Flexibility
 - accommodate emerging data sources and structures
- Integration into existing Bioconductor landscape and standard data sources
- Scalability
- Structured API



Gviz package: implementation

- Loosely based on the existing GenomeGraphs package by James Bullard and Steffen Durinck
- Layout similar to the UCSC browser (tracks)
- Different data types are represented by different track classes
- Use efficient Bioconductor data structures (run-length encoding, optimized string representations) and vectorized graphics rendering
- Smart data summarization: only show the amount of detail according to the available plotting space
- Multitude of possible data inputs from within Bioconductor as well as from external sources (Ensembl, UCSC, flat files)
- Flexible settings API to control the look and feel



Track layout





Track panel layout



5 Florian Hahne | PCS Informatics | 10 December 2012 | Visualizing genomic features with the Gviz package

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A typical Gviz session

- > library(Gviz)
- > data(cpgIslands)
- > atr <- AnnotationTrack(cpgIslands, name="CpG")</pre>
- > gtr <- GenomeAxisTrack()</pre>
- > itr <- IdeogramTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chr1")</pre>
- > data(geneModels)
- > grtr <- GeneRegionTrack(geneModels, name="Gene Model", showId=TRUE)</pre>
- > plotTracks(list(itr, gtr, atr, grtr))



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- > atr <- AnnotationTrack(cpgIslands, name="CpG")</pre>
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- > itr <- IdeogramTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chr1")</pre>
- > data(geneModels)
- > grtr <- GeneRegionTrack(geneModels, name="Gene Model", showId=TRUE)</pre>
- > plotTracks(list(itr, gtr, atr, grtr), from=26654641, to=26694641)



Display Parameters: controlling the look and feel

> displayPars(grtr) <- list(showId=FALSE, background.panel="#FFFFEB")</pre>





```
> plotTracks(list(itr, grtr), background.panel="#D6EBFF",
+ background.title="#40464C")
```





Display Parameters: documentation

- All available display parameters for a track class are documented in the "Display Parameters" section of the class documentation
- A list of available parameters along with their default settings can be shown using the availableDisplayPars function:

```
> head(availableDisplayPars("GeneRegionTrack"))
The following display parameters are available for 'GeneRegionTrack'
objects: (see ? GeneRegionTrack for details on their usage)
rotation (inherited from class 'AnnotationTrack'): 0
shape: smallArrow box
showAxis (inherited from class 'GdObject'): TRUE
showExonId: FALSE
showFeatureId (inherited from class 'AnnotationTrack'): FALSE
showId (inherited from class 'AnnotationTrack'): FALSE
showOverplotting (inherited from class 'GdObject'): TRUE
size (inherited from class 'GdObject'): 1
```



Display Parameters: documentation

 All available display parameters for a track class are documented in the "Display Parameters" section of the class documentation

	Display Parameters
	The following display parameters are set for objects of class GeneRegionTrack upon instantiation, unless one or more of them have already been set by one of the optional sub-class initializers, which always get precedence over these global defaults. See <u>settings</u> for details on setting graphical parameters for tracks.
	min.distance=0: Numeric scalar. The minimum pixel distance before collapsing range items, only if \codecollapse==TRUE. See \code\linkcollapsing for details. Note that a value larger than 0 may lead to UTR regions being merged to CDS regions, which in most cases is not particularly useful.
	col=NULL: Character or integer scalar. The border color for all items. Defaults to using the same color as in fill, also taking into account different track features.
	fill="orange": Character or integer scalar. The fill color for untyped items. This is also used to connect grouped items. See grouping for details.
	geneSymbols=TRUE: Logical scalar. Use human-readable gene symbols or gene IDs for the transcript annotation.
	shape=c("smallArrow", "box"): Character scalar. The shape in which to display the track items. Currently only box, arrow, ellipse, and smallArrow are implemented.
	showExonId=FALSE: Logical scalar. Control whether to plot the individual exon identifiers.
	collapseTranscripts=FALSE: Logical scalar. Merge all transcripts of the same gene into one single gene model. Essentially, this will only keep the start location of the first exon and the end location of the last exon from all transcripts of a gene.
>	thinBoxPeature=c("utr", "ncRNA", "utr3", "utr3", "miRNA", "lincRNA"): Character vector. A listing of feature types that should be drawn with thin boxes. Typically those are non-coding elements.
	Additional display parameters are being inherited from the respective parent classes. Note that not all of them may have an effect on the plotting of GeneRegionTrack objects.
.Т	AnnotationTrack:
0	cex=1: Numeric scalar. The font expansion factor for item identifiers.
	cex.group=0.6: Numeric scalar. The font expansion factor for the group-level annotation.
-	col="transparent": Character or integer scalar. The border color for all track items.
r	col.line="darkgray": Character scalar. The color used for connecting lines between grouped items. Defaults to a dark gray, but if set to NULL the same color as for the first item in the group is used.
S	fontcolor="white": Character or integer scalar. The font color for item identifiers.
S	fontcolor.group="#808080": Character or integer scalar. The font color for the group-level annotation.
~	fontface=1: Integer scalar. The font face for item identifiers.
D	fontface.group=2: Numeric scalar. The font face for the group-level annotation.
S	fontfamily="sans": Character scalar. The font family for item identifiers.
S	fontsize=12: Numeric scalar. The font size for item identifiers.
~	lex=1: Numeric scalar. The line expansion factor for all track items. This is also used to connect grouped items. See grouping for details.
D	lineheight=1: Numeric scalar. The font line height for item identifiers.
S	nowTitle (innerited from class 'GdObject'): TRUE
S	ize (inherited from class 'GdObject'): 1



Display Parameters: documentation

- All available display parameters for a track class are documented in the "Display Parameters" section of the class documentation
- A list of available parameters along with their default settings can be shown using the availableDisplayPars function:
- The currently set display parameters of a track object can be queried using the displayPars function:

```
> head(displayPars(grtr))
$fill
[1] "orange"
$min.distance
[1] 0
$col
NULL
$geneSymbols
[1] TRUE
$showExonId
[1] FALSE
$collapseTranscripts
[1] FALSE
```



Track types: overview

Track	Description
GenomeAxisTrack	Genomic axis or scale indicator with optional highlighted regions.
IdeogramTrack	View of the displayed region on a schematic model of a chromosome with chromosome band information from UCSC
SequenceTrack	Genomic sequence in letter or false color representation depending on the zoom level.
AnnotationTrack	Generic annotation features (with at least start, stop, strand and chromosome information), optional grouping.
GeneRegionTrack	Gene or transcript models with grouping on the level of exons and transcripts. Can be fetched dynamically from Ensembl as the BiomartGeneRegionTrack child class.
DataTrack	Numeric values (single or grouped) along with genomic coordinates. Can be plotted in a variety of different ways.
AlignedReadsTrack	Aligned NGS reads on the genome, either detailed view of individual reads or summarized coverage information.



Track types: virtual parent classes

- Each track class inherits from GdObject:
 - general purpose methods and display parameters
- All track classes using genomic locations inherit from RangeTrack:
 - range-related methods and display parameters, range collapsing
- All track classes with potentially multiple lines in the output inherit from StackedTrack:
 - optimize stacking of items
- All track classes that contain associated numeric values inherit from NumericTrack:
 - setting up of y-axis, data aggregation
- All track classes that implement streaming from a file inherit from ReferenceTrack:
 - file handles and expected data structure definitions, streaming



GenomeAxisTrack: overview

Purpose:

Indicate the currently displayed genomic range either as a x-axis with evenly spaced tick marks or as a scale reference.

Inputs:

NA

Details:

Ranges on the axis can be highlighted, e.g. to indicate stretches of N nucleotides



GenomeAxisTrack: examples

Default axis:

>	axisTrack	<-	GenomeAxisTrack()
---	-----------	----	-------------------

```
> plotTracks(axisTrack, from=1e06, to=9e6)
```

2 mb	4 mb	6 mb	8 mb
3 mb	5 ml) 7 mb	

Highlighting ranges on the axis:

```
> axisTrack <- GenomeAxisTrack(range=IRanges(start=c(2e6, 4e6),</pre>
```

```
+ end=c(3e6, 7e6), names=rep("N-stretch", 2)))
```

```
> plotTracks(axisTrack, from=1e6, to=9e6)
```

2 mb	4 mb		6 mb		8 mb	
3	3 mb	5 mb		7 mb		_





GenomeAxisTrack: examples

Direction indicators:

> plotTracks(axisTrack, from=1e6, to=9e6, add53=TRUE, add35=TRUE)

5'	2 mb	4 mb	6 mb		8 mb	<u> </u>
3'	3 mb	5	mb	7 mb		5'

Tick mark formatting:

<pre>> plotTracks(axisTrack, from=1e6, to=9e6, littleTicks=TRUE)</pre>								
1.6 2 mb 2.4 2.8 3.2 1.4 1.8 2.2 2.6 3 mb	3.6 4 mb 4. 3.4 3.8 4.2	4 4.8 5.2 4.6 5 mb	2 5.6 6 mb 6.4 5.4 5.8 6.2	6.8 7.2 6.6 7 mb	7.6 8 mb 8.2 7.4 7.8 8.2	4		
> plotTracks(axisTrack	, from=1e6,	to=9e6,	exponent=4)					
200 10 ⁴	400 10 ⁴		600_10 ⁴		800 10 ⁴			
300 10 ⁴		500 10 ⁴		700 10 ⁴				
> plotTracks(axisTrack	, from=1e6,	to=9e6,	labelPos="be	low")				
2 mb 3 mb	4 mb	5 mb	6 mb	7 mb	8 mb			



GenomeAxisTrack: examples

Scale reference (relative size):

> plotTracks(axisTrack, from=1e6, to=9e6, scale=0.5)

4 mb

Scale reference (absolute size):

> plotTracks(axisTrack, from=1e6, to=9e6, scale=1e6)

1 mb



IdeogramTrack: overview

Purpose:

Indicate the currently displayed genomic range in the context of the current chromosome.

Inputs:

- Fetch chromosome band information for the genome from UCSC
- data.frame

Details:

• After the first connection to UCSC the fetched results are being cached for the duration of the R session



IdeogramTrack: examples

Default ideogram:



Chromosome name:



Chromosome band identifiers:

> plotTracks(ideoTrack, from=8e7, to=12e7, showId=FALSE, showBandId=TRUE)

p22.2 p21.1	q21.1 q23 q24 q25 q28



SequenceTrack: overview

Purpose:

Show genomic sequence of the currently displayed region

Inputs:

- DNAStringSet
- BSgenome
- FASTA file (indexed or not indexed)
- 2bit file

Details:

 Depending on the zoom level, sequences will be shown as individual letters, as color-coded boxes or as a horizontal line



SequenceTrack: examples

Default sequence track:

> library(BSgenome.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg19)

- > sTrack <- SequenceTrack(Hsapiens)</pre>
- > plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome="chr1", from=20000, to=20050)

T C C T G G T G C T C C C A C A A A G G A G A A G G G C T G A T C A C T C A A A G T T G C G A A C A

Direction indicators:

> plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome=1, from=20000, to=20050, add53=TRUE)

5' C C T G G T G C T C C C A C A A A G G A G A A G G G C T G A T C A C T C A A A G T T G C G A A C 3'

Sequence complement:

```
> plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome=1, from=20000, to=20050, add53=TRUE,
```

+ complement=TRUE)

3' G G A C C A C G A G G G T G T T T C C T C T T C C C G A C T A G T G A G T T T C A A C G C T T G 5'



SequenceTrack: examples

False color coding of letters:

```
> fcol <- c(A="darkgray", C="darkgray", T="darkgray", G="darkgray")
> plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome=1, from=20000, to=20050, fontcolor=fcol)
```

T C C T G G T G C T C C C A C A A G G A G A A G G G C T G A T C A C T C A A A G T T G C G A A C A

Zoom level details:

> plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome=1, from=20000, to=20100)

> plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome=1, from=20000, to=20100, cex=0.5)

> plotTracks(sTrack, chromosome=1, from=20000, to=201000)



AnnotationTrack: overview

Purpose:

Simple annotation features with at least start, stop, strand and chromosome information. Items can be grouped and colored according to type.

Inputs:

- IRanges (+ chromosome and strand as separate arguments)
- GRanges
- GRangesList
- Various file types: e.g., BED, GFF, BAM

Details:

- Overlapping items are stacked for optimal utilization of available plotting space
- Depending on the available space and resolution some items may be merged
- Additional information for each annotation item can be added by means of the DetailsAnnotationTrack child class



AnnotationTrack: examples

Default annotation track:



Feature shapes:

<pre>> plotTracks(aTrack, shape="box", showFeatureId=TRUE)</pre>							
<u>ڳ</u> Huey	Dewey	Louie					
> plotTracks(aTrack,	<pre>shape="ellipse", showFeatureId=TRUE, fontcolor</pre>	="blue")					
ê Huey	Dewey	Louie					



AnnotationTrack: examples

Grouped features:

<pre>> aTrack.groups <- AnnotationTrack(start=c(50,180,260,460,860,1240), + width = c(15,20,40,100,200,20), chromosome="chrX", + strand=rep(c("+","*", "-"), c(1, 3, 2)), group = rep(c("Huey", + "Dewey","Louie"), c(1,3,2)), genome="hg19", name="foo") > plotTracks(aTrack.groups, showId=TRUE)</pre>				
Lou Dewey	ie Andrea Andrea			

Feature type color coding:





AnnotationTrack: examples

Feature stacking:

<pre>> aTrack.stacked <- AnnotationTrack(start=c(50,180,260,800,600,1240), + width=c(15,20,40,100,500,20), chromosome="chrX", strand="*",name="foo" + group=rep(c("Huey","Dewey","Louie"), c(1,3,2)), genome="hg19") > plotTracks(aTrack.stacked, showId=TRUE)</pre>						
Huey Dewey Louie						
<pre>> plotTracks(aTrack.stacked, stacking="dense")</pre>						

Overplotting density:



26 Florian Hahne | PCS Informatics | 10 December 2012 | Visualizing genomic features with the Gviz package

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AnnotationTrack: item collapsing details

All item collapsing and width expansion disabled:



The min.width setting:

<pre>plotTracks(ctrack, min.width=1)</pre>								
group 1 a		b c		d.	¢	g		
	group 3 j group 4 k l		group 2 n	I				



AnnotationTrack: item collapsing details

The min.width and min.distance settings and item collapsing:

<pre>plotTracks(ctrack, min.width=1, collapse=TRUE)</pre>					
group 1 a		b-c	d 2 merged features	g	
	group 3 j	group 2 h	1		
	group 4 2 merged features				
<pre>> plotTracks(ctrack, min.width=3, min.distance=5, collapse=TRUE)</pre>					
group 1 a		2 merged features	d 2 merged features	g	
	group 3 j	group 2 h	i		
	group 4 2 merged features				

The mergeGroups setting:

<pre>> plotTracks(ctrack, min.width=3, min.distance=5, collapse=TRUE, + mergeGroups=TRUE)</pre>			
group 1 a 2 merged d	2 merged g		
2 merged groups 3 merged features group 2 h i			
28 Florian Hahne PCS Informatics 10 December 2012 Visualizing genomic features with the Gviz package	U NOVARTIS		

AnnotationTrack: DetailsAnnotationTrack child class

```
> details <- function(identifier, ...) {</pre>
      d <- data.frame(signal=methylation[identifier,], group=sgroups)</pre>
+
      print(densityplot(~signal, group=group, data=d,
+
      main=list(label=identifier, cex=0.7), scales=list(draw=FALSE,
+
      x=list(draw=TRUE)), ylab="", xlab="", ), newpage=FALSE,
+
      prefix="plot")}
+
> deTrack <- AnnotationTrack(range = probes, genome = "hg19",</pre>
      chromosome=7, id=rownames(methylation), name="probe details",
+
      stacking="squish", fun=details)
+
> plotTracks(deTrack)
```





AnnotationTrack: DetailsAnnotationTrack child class

```
selFun <- function(identifier, start, end, track, GdObject, ...) {</pre>
      gcount <- table(group(GdObject))</pre>
+
      pxRange <- Gviz:::.pxResolution(min.width = 20, coord="x")</pre>
+
      return((end - start) < pxRange && gcount[identifier] == 1)}</pre>
+
detFun <- function(identifier, GdObject.original, ...) {</pre>
      plotTracks(list(GenomeAxisTrack(scale=0.3, size=0.2, cex=0.7),
+
      GdObject.original[group(GdObject.original) == identifier]),
+
      add=TRUE, showTitle=FALSE) }
+
deTrack2 <- AnnotationTrack(geneDetails, fun=detFun, selectFun=selFun,
      groupDetails=TRUE, details.size=0.5, detailsConnector.cex=0.5,
+
      detailsConnector.lty="dotted", shape=c("smallArrow", "arrow"),
+
      showId=TRUE)
+
plotTracks(deTrack2)
```





GeneRegionTrack: overview

Purpose:

Gene model annotations.

Inputs:

- IRanges (+ chromosome and strand as separate arguments)
- GRanges
- GRangesList
- TranscriptDb
- Various file types: e.g., GFF, GTF
- Direct import from Ensembl via the biomaRt interface

Details:

- Modeling of exon, transcript and gene relationships
- Support for human-readable gene symbols
- Support for coding and non-coding elements



GeneRegionTrack: gene symbols and gene ids





GeneRegionTrack: examples

Collapsing exons information:



Coding and non-coding regions





GeneRegionTrack: BiomartGeneRegionTrack







DataTrack: overview

Purpose:

Numeric data along genomic coordinates.

Inputs:

- IRanges (+ chromosome, strand and data matrix)
- GRanges
- Various file types: e.g., WIG, BedGraph, BigWig, BAM

Details:

- Flexible visualization options (e.g. line charts, scatter plots, box plots, bar charts)
- Sample grouping
- Data transformations



Default data track:

- > data(twoGroups)
- > dim(mcols(twoGroups))
- [1] 25 6
- > dTrack <- DataTrack(twoGroups, name="uniform")</pre>
- > plotTracks(dTrack)





DataTrack: plot types

Туре	Description	Example	
р	Dot plot	20 - 10 - 0 - -10 - -20 -	
I	Line charts		
b	Dot and line charts		
а	Line chart of average values	20 - 10 - v 0 - -10 - -20 -	
s/S	Horizontal first or vertical first stair steps		
h	Lines barchart	20 - 10 - - 0 - -10 - -20 -	
histogram	Bar chart, bar width equal to range width		

DataTrack: plot types

Туре	Description	Example	
boxplot	Box-and whiskers plot		
heatmap	False color image of individual values	heatmap	
gradient	False color image of summarized values	gradient	
mountain	Mountain-type plot relative to a baseline	20 - 10 - -10 - -20 -	
smooth	Loess curve	20 - 10 - - 0 - - 0 - - 0 - - 0 -	
r	Linear regression line	$ \begin{array}{cccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccccc$	
g	Grid lines	$ \begin{array}{c} 20 \\ 10 \\ -10 \\ -20 \\ $	

Combining plot types:

> plotTracks(dTrack, type = c("boxplot", "a", "g"))



Sample grouping:





Sample groups legend:



Within-group data aggregation:





Data aggregation method:





DataTrack: grouped plot types

Туре	Description	Example
а	Line chart of group average values	c c c c c c c c c c
s/S	Horizontal first or vertical first stair steps	20 - 10 - 0 0 - -10 - -20 -
histogram	Stacked bar chart	
horizontal histogram	Side by side bar chart	
boxplot	Box-and-whiskers plots stratified by group	20 - 10 - 10 - -10 -
heatmap	False color image of average group values	heatmap
smooth	Loess curves stratified by group	20 - 10 - -10 - -20 -



DataTrack: transformations

Fixed window operations:









Track types: DataTrack

Sliding window operations:

> plotTracks(dTrack.big, type="histogram", window=-1, windowSize=2500)



Transformation operations:



44 Florian Hahne | PCS Informatics | 10 December 2012 | Visualizing genomic features with the Gviz package

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Simple annotation tracks:

```
> from <- 65921878
> to <- 65980988
> cpgIslands <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",
+ track="cpgIslandExt", from=from, to=to,
+ trackType="AnnotationTrack", start="chromStart", end="chromEnd",
+ id="name", shape="box", fill="#006400", name="CpG Islands")</pre>
```

```
> snpLocations <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",
+ track="snp128", from=from, to=to, trackType="AnnotationTrack",
+ start="chromStart", end="chromEnd", id="name", feature="func",
+ strand="strand", shape="box", stacking="dense", fill="black",
+ name="SNPs")
```



Gene model type tracks:

- > knownGenes <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",</pre>
- + track="knownGene", from=from, to=to, trackType="GeneRegionTrack",
- + rstarts="exonStarts", rends="exonEnds", gene="name", symbol="name",
- + transcript="name", strand="strand", fill="#8282d2", name="UCSC Genes")

```
> refGenes <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",</pre>
```

- + track="xenoRefGene", from=from, to=to,
- + trackType="GeneRegionTrack", rstarts="exonStarts",
- + rends="exonEnds", gene="name", symbol="name2",

```
+ transcript="name", strand="strand", fill="#8282d2",
```

+ stacking="dense", name="Other RefSeq")

```
> ensGenes <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",
+ track="ensGene", from=from, to=to, trackType="GeneRegionTrack",
+ rstarts="exonStarts", rends="exonEnds", gene="name",
+ symbol="name2", transcript="name", strand="strand",
+ fill="#960000", name="Ensembl Genes")
```



Data tracks:

```
> conservation <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",</pre>
```

- + track="Conservation", table="phyloP30wayPlacental", from=from, to=to,
- + trackType="DataTrack", start="start", end="end", data="score",
- + type="hist", window="auto", col.histogram="darkblue",
- + fill.histogram="darkblue", ylim=c(-3.7, 4), name="Conservation")

```
> gcContent <- UcscTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX",</pre>
```

- + track="GC Percent", table="gc5Base", from=from, to=to,
- + trackType="DataTrack", start="start", end="end", data="score",
- + type="hist", window=-1, windowSize=1500, fill.histogram="black",
- + col.histogram="black", ylim=c(30, 70), name="GC Percent")

Other tracks and plotting:

```
> axTrack <- GenomeAxisTrack()
> idxTrack <- IdeogramTrack(genome="mm9", chromosome="chrX")
> plotTracks(list(idxTrack, axTrack, knownGenes, refGenes,
+ ensGenes, cpgIslands, gcContent, conservation,
+ snpLocations), from=from, to=to, showTitle=FALSE)
```

48 | TS Application Developers Workshop 2011 | Your Name | PCS Informatics | May 13th 2011 | Title





49 | TS Application Developers Workshop 2011 | Your Name | PCS Informatics | May 13th 2011 | Title





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