

# Package ‘HGNCHELPER’

June 13, 2017

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**Depends** R (>= 2.10), methods, utils

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**Version** 0.3.5

**Date** 2017-06-13

**License** GPL (>=2.0)

**Title** Handy Functions for Working with HGNC Gene Symbols and  
Affymetrix Probeset Identifiers

**Description** Contains functions for  
identifying and correcting HGNC gene symbols which have been converted  
to date format by Excel, for reversibly converting between HGNC  
symbols and valid R names, identifying invalid HGNC symbols and  
correcting synonyms and outdated symbols which can be mapped to an  
official symbol.

**URL** <https://bitbucket.org/lwaldron/hgnchelper>

**BugReports** <https://bitbucket.org/lwaldron/hgnchelper/issues>

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HGNChelper-package      *Handy functions for working with HGNC gene symbols and Affymetrix probeset identifiers.*

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### Description

Contains functions for identifying and correcting HGNC gene symbols which have been converted to date format by Excel, for reversibly converting between HGNC symbols and valid R names, identifying invalid HGNC symbols and correcting synonyms and outdated symbols which can be mapped to an official symbol.

### Details

Package: HGNChelper  
Maintainer: Levi Waldron <lwaldron@hsph.harvard.edu>  
Depends: R (>= 2.10)  
Author: Levi Waldron and Markus Riester  
Version: 0.3.5  
Date: 2017-06-13  
License: GPL (>2.0)  
Title: Handy functions for working with HGNC gene symbols and Affymetrix probeset identifiers.  
URL: <https://bitbucket.org/lwaldron/hgnchelper>  
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### Author(s)

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

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affyToR      *function to convert Affymetrix probeset identifiers to valid R names*

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### Description

This function simply prepends "affy." to the probeset IDs to create valid R names. Reverse operation is done by the [rToAffy](#) function.

### Usage

affyToR(x)

**Arguments**

`x` vector of Affymetrix probeset identifiers, or any identifier which may with a digit.

**Value**

a character vector that is simply `x` with "affy." prepended to each value.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

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checkGeneSymbols      *function to identify outdated or Excel-mogrified gene symbols*

---

**Description**

This function identifies gene symbols which are outdated or may have been mogrified by Excel or other spreadsheet programs. If output is assigned to a variable, it returns a data.frame of the same number of rows as the input, with a second column indicating whether the symbols are valid and a third column with a corrected gene list.

**Usage**

```
checkGeneSymbols(x, unmapped.as.na=TRUE, hgnc.table=NULL)
```

**Arguments**

`x` Vector of gene symbols to check for mogrified or outdated values

`unmapped.as.na` If TRUE, unmapped symbols will appear as NA in the Suggested.Symbol column. If FALSE, the original unmapped symbol will be kept when no correction can be found.

`hgnc.table` If `hgnc.table` is a data.frame with `colnames(hgnc.table)` identical to `c("Symbol", "Approved.Symbol")`, it is used to correct gene symbols in `x`. Otherwise, the default table `data("hgnc.table", package="HGNChelper")` is used. The function used for creating this the `hgnc.table` dataframe can be found in the `inst/hgncLookup.R` file, in the source of this package. By default the `hgnc.table` dataframe shipped with this package is used (see `?hgnc.table`)

**Value**

The function will return a data.frame of the same number of rows as the input, with corrections possible from `hgnc.table`.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

**See Also**

hgnc.table

**Examples**

```
library(HGNChelper)

x = c("FN1", "TP53", "UNKNOWNGENE", "7-Sep", "9/7", "1-Mar", "Oct4", "4-Oct",
      "OCT4-PG4", "C19ORF71", "C19orf71")

res <- checkGeneSymbols(x)
res

if (interactive()){
  ##Run checkGeneSymbols with a brand-new map downloaded from HGNC:
  source(system.file("hgncLookup.R", package = "HGNChelper"))
  ##You should save this if you are going to use it multiple times,
  ##then load it from file rather than burdening HGNC's servers.
  ## save(hgnc.table, file="hgnc.table.rda", compress="bzip2")
  ## load("hgnc.table.rda")
  res <- checkGeneSymbols(x, hgnc.table=hgnc.table)
}
```

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findExcelGeneSymbols *function to identify Excel-mogrified gene symbols*

---

**Description**

This function identifies gene symbols which may have been mogrified by Excel or other spreadsheet programs. If output is assigned to a variable, it returns a vector of the same length where symbols which could be mapped have been mapped. Note that this function is superseded by checkGeneSymbols, which corrects Excel-mogrified gene symbols as well as aliases and outdated symbols.

**Usage**

```
findExcelGeneSymbols(x, mog.map = read.csv(system.file("extdata/mog_map.csv",
  package = "HGNChelper"), as.is = TRUE), regex =
"[0-9]\\-(JAN|FEB|MAR|APR|MAY|JUN|JUL|AUG|SEP|OCT|NOV|DEC)|[0-9]\\.[0-9]
[0-9]E\\+|[0-9][0-9]")
```

**Arguments**

x	Vector of gene symbols to check for mogrified values
mog.map	Map of known mogrifications. A default map is available with this package by data(mog.map), but any map may be used. This should be a dataframe with two columns: original and mogrified, containing the correct and incorrect symbols, respectively.

regex Regular expression, recognized by the `base::grep` function which is called with `ignore.case=TRUE`, to identify mogrified symbols. It is not necessary for all matches to have a corresponding entry in `mog.map$mogrified`; values in `x` which are matched by this regex but are not found in `mog.map$mogrified` simply will not be corrected. This regex is based that provided by Zeeberg et al., Mistaken Identifiers: Gene name errors can be introduced inadvertently when using Excel in bioinformatics. BMC Bioinformatics 2004, 5:80.

**Value**

if the return value of the function is assigned to a variable, the function will return a vector of the same length as the input, with corrections possible from `mog.map` made.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

**See Also**

`checkGeneSymbols`

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hgnc.table

*All current and withdrawn HGNC symbols.*

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**Description**

All current and withdrawn symbols from `genenames.org`.

**Format**

A dataframe with the first column providing a gene symbol or known alias (including withdrawn symbols), second column providing the approved HGNC symbol.

**Source**

Extracted from `genenames.org` prior to package build.

**Examples**

```
data("hgnc.table", package="HGNCHELPER", envir=environment())
head(hgnc.table)
```

rToAffy *function to convert the output of affyToR back to the original Affymetrix probeset identifiers.*

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**Description**

This function simply strips the "affy." added by the [affyToR](#) function.

**Usage**

```
rToAffy(x)
```

**Arguments**

x the character vector returned by the [affyToR](#) function.

**Value**

a character vector of Affymetrix probeset identifiers.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

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rToSymbol *function to reverse the conversion made by symbolToR*

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**Description**

This function reverses the actions of the [symbolToR](#) function.

**Usage**

```
rToSymbol(x)
```

**Arguments**

x the character vector returned by the [symbolToR](#) function.

**Value**

a character vector of HGNC gene symbols, which are not in general valid R names.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

**Examples**

```
library(HGNChelper)

data("hgnc.table", envir=environment())
hgnc.symbols <- as.character(na.omit(unique(hgnc.table[,2])))
if( !identical(all.equal(hgnc.symbols, rToSymbol(make.names(symbolToR(hgnc.symbols))), TRUE))
    stop("HGNC mapping was not reversible.")
```

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symbolToR	<i>function to *reversibly* convert HGNC gene symbols to valid R names.</i>
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**Description**

This function reversibly converts HGNC gene symbols to valid R names by prepending "symbol.", and making the following substitutions: "-" to "hyphen", "@" to "ampersand", and "/" to "forward-slash".

**Usage**

```
symbolToR(x)
```

**Arguments**

x                      vector of HGNC symbols

**Value**

a vector of valid R names, of the same length as x, which can be converted to the same HGNC symbols using the rToSymbol function.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron and Markus Riester

**Examples**

```
library(HGNChelper)

data("hgnc.table", envir=environment())

hgnc.symbols <- as.character(na.omit(unique(hgnc.table[,2])))
if( !identical(all.equal(hgnc.symbols, rToSymbol(make.names(symbolToR(hgnc.symbols))), TRUE))
    stop("HGNC mapping was not reversible.")
```

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