

Package ‘rsemmed’

May 9, 2026

Version 1.23.0

Title An interface to the Semantic MEDLINE database

Description A programmatic interface to the Semantic MEDLINE database. It provides functions for searching the database for concepts and finding paths between concepts. Path searching can also be tailored to user specifications, such as placing restrictions on concept types and the type of link between concepts. It also provides functions for summarizing and visualizing those paths.

Depends R (>= 4.0), igraph

Suggests testthat, knitr, BiocStyle, rmarkdown

Imports methods, magrittr, stringr, dplyr

VignetteBuilder knitr

License Artistic-2.0

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

URL <https://github.com/lmyint/rsemmed>

BugReports <https://github.com/lmyint/rsemmed/issues>

biocViews Software, Annotation, Pathways, SystemsBiology

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

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 4377ba5

git_last_commit_date 2026-04-28

Repository Bioconductor 3.24

Date/Publication 2026-05-08

Author Leslie Myint [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2478-0331>>)

Maintainer Leslie Myint <leslie.myint@gmail.com>

Contents

find_nodes	2
find_paths	3
get_edge_features	4
get_middle_nodes	5
grow_nodes	5
g_mini	6
g_small	6
make_edge_weights	7
plot_path	8
summarize_predicates	9
summarize_semtypes	10
text_path	11

Index	13
--------------	-----------

find_nodes	<i>Search for nodes by name or semantic type</i>
------------	--

Description

Search for nodes by name (exact match or using regular expressions) or which match supplied semantic types. Perform anti-matching by setting `match = FALSE`. Capitalization is ignored.

Usage

```
find_nodes(obj, pattern = NULL, names = NULL, semtypes = NULL, match = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>obj</code>	Either the SemMed graph or a node set (<code>igraph.vs</code>)
<code>pattern</code>	Regular expression used to find matches in node names
<code>names</code>	Character vector of exact node names
<code>semtypes</code>	Character vector of semantic types
<code>match</code>	If TRUE, return nodes that DO match pattern (default). If FALSE, return nodes that DO NOT match.

Value

A vertex sequence of matching nodes

Examples

```
data(g_mini)
find_nodes(g_mini, pattern = "cortisol")
find_nodes(g_mini, pattern = "cortisol$")
find_nodes(g_mini, pattern = "stress")
find_nodes(g_mini, pattern = "stress") %>%
  find_nodes(pattern = "disorder", match = FALSE)

find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Serum cortisol")
```

```

find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Chronic Stress")

find_nodes(g_mini, semtypes = "dsyn")
find_nodes(g_mini, semtypes = c("dsyn", "fndg"))

## pattern and semtypes are combined via OR:
find_nodes(g_mini, pattern = "cortisol", semtypes = "horm")

## To make an AND query, chain find_nodes sequentially:
find_nodes(g_mini, pattern = "cortisol") %>%
  find_nodes(semtypes = "horm")

```

find_paths	<i>Shortest paths between node sets</i>
------------	---

Description

Find all shortest paths between sets of nodes

Usage

```
find_paths(graph, from, to, weights = NULL)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
from	A set of source nodes. from should be of class <code>igraph.vs</code> (a vertex sequence) or an integer vector.
to	A set of destination nodes. to should be of class <code>igraph.vs</code> (a vertex sequence) or an integer vector.
weights	A numeric vector of edge weights. If NULL (the default), all edges have the default weight of 1.

Details

find_paths relies on `igraph::all_shortest_paths` to find all shortest paths between the nodes in from and to. This function searches for undirected paths.

Because the Semantic MEDLINE graph is a multigraph, there may be multiple paths with the same sequence of nodes. This function collapses these into a single node sequence. The display functions (`text_path` and `plot_path`) take care of showing the multiple edges leading to repeated paths.

Value

A list of shortest paths. List items correspond to the node(s) given in from.

See Also

[make_edge_weights](#) to tailor the shortest path search

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Chronic Stress")
find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)
```

get_edge_features *Get information about edges*

Description

Search for nodes by name using regular expressions or which match given semantic types. Perform anti-matching by setting `match = FALSE`.

Usage

```
get_edge_features(
  graph,
  include_degree = FALSE,
  include_node_ids = FALSE,
  include_num_instances = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

`graph` The SemMed graph

`include_degree` If TRUE, include information on head/tail node degrees.

`include_node_ids` If TRUE, include the ID numbers of head/tail nodes.

`include_num_instances` If TRUE, include information on the number of times a predication was observed in the Semantic MEDLINE database.

Value

A `tbl` where each row corresponds to an edge in the Semantic MEDLINE graph. The ordering of the rows corresponds to `E(graph)`. Features (columns) always returned include the name and semantic type of the head (subject) and tail (object) nodes.

See Also

[make_edge_weights](#) for using this data to construct edge weights

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

e_feat <- get_edge_features(g_mini)
```

get_middle_nodes	<i>Obtain the middle nodes of a path</i>
------------------	--

Description

For each pair of source and target nodes in object, obtain the names of middle nodes on paths.

Usage

```
get_middle_nodes(graph, object, collapse = TRUE)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
object	A vertex sequence (igraph.vs), a list of vertex sequences, or a list of vertex sequence lists
collapse	If TRUE, middle node names for different source-target pairs are combined into one character vector.

Value

A tbl where each row corresponds to a source-target pair in object. The last column is a list-column containing character vectors of names of middle nodes.

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, "Chronic Stress")
paths <- find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)
middle <- get_middle_nodes(g_mini, paths)
```

grow_nodes	<i>Obtain immediate neighbors</i>
------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Grow a set of nodes into its first order neighborhood.

Usage

```
grow_nodes(graph, nodes)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
nodes	A vertex sequence (igraph.vs) of nodes to be grown

Details

grow_nodes obtains the set of immediate neighbors of the supplied nodes using `igraph::ego`. Unlike `ego`, `grow_nodes` flattens the result from a list to an ordinary vertex sequence and removes the original search nodes.

Value

A vertex sequence of nodes in the neighborhood (not including the original nodes)

See Also

[find_nodes](#) for filtering out irrelevant nodes from this set.

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, name = "hypercortisolemia")
nbrs <- grow_nodes(g_mini, node_cortisol)
```

g_mini

Example data for the rsemmed package

Description

A dataset containing a very small subset of the full Semantic MEDLINE graph.

Usage

```
data(g_mini)
```

Format

An igraph with 7 nodes and 15 edges

g_small

Example data for the rsemmed package

Description

A dataset containing a small subset of the full Semantic MEDLINE graph.

Usage

```
data(g_small)
```

Format

An igraph with 1038 nodes and 318,105 edges

make_edge_weights	<i>Create edge weights</i>
-------------------	----------------------------

Description

Create edge weights to modify the shortest path search (`find_paths`). Discourage and/or encourage certain types of paths by supplying `_out` and `_in` arguments, respectively. Node semantic types, node names, and edge predicates are the features that can influence the edge weights. Capitalization is ignored.

Usage

```
make_edge_weights(  
  graph,  
  e_feat,  
  node_semtypes_out = NULL,  
  node_names_out = NULL,  
  edge_preds_out = NULL,  
  node_semtypes_in = NULL,  
  node_names_in = NULL,  
  edge_preds_in = NULL  
)
```

Arguments

<code>graph</code>	The SemMed graph
<code>e_feat</code>	A <code>data.frame</code> of edge features from <code>get_edge_features</code> .
<code>node_semtypes_out</code>	A character vector of semantic types to exclude from shortest paths.
<code>node_names_out</code>	A character vector of exact node names to exclude.
<code>edge_preds_out</code>	A character vector of edge predicates to exclude.
<code>node_semtypes_in</code>	A character vector of semantic types to include/encourage in shortest paths.
<code>node_names_in</code>	A character vector of exact node names to include.
<code>edge_preds_in</code>	A character vector of edge predicates to include.

Value

A numeric vector of weights

See Also

[find_paths](#), [get_middle_nodes](#) for a way to obtain node names to remove

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Chronic Stress")
paths <- find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)

e_feat <- get_edge_features(g_mini)

w1 <- make_edge_weights(g_mini, e_feat, edge_preds_in = "COEXISTS_WITH")
paths1 <- find_paths(g_mini,
  from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress, weights = w1)

w2 <- make_edge_weights(g_mini, e_feat, edge_preds_in = "ISA",
  node_names_out = "Stress")
paths2 <- find_paths(g_mini,
  from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress, weights = w2)
```

plot_path	<i>Display path (plot form)</i>
-----------	---------------------------------

Description

Plot the graph form of a path

Usage

```
plot_path(graph, path)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
path	A vertex sequence (igraph.vs) (the path to display)

Details

All connections among nodes along the supplied path are plotted with nodes labeled with their name and edges labeled with their predicate.

Value

A plot is created on the current graphics device

See Also

[text_path](#) for textual display of paths

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Chronic Stress")
paths <- find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)
plot_path(g_mini, paths[[1]][[1]])
```

summarize_predicates *Summarize predicates*

Description

Summarize the predicates present in a collection of paths

Usage

```
summarize_predicates(graph, object, print = TRUE)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
object	A vertex sequence (<code>igraph.vs</code>), a list of vertex sequences, or a list of vertex sequence lists
print	If TRUE, information on predicates will be printed to the screen.

Details

Because predicates are edge features, it is assumed that by using `summarize_predicates` the nodes contained in `object` are ordered (paths). This is why `summarize_semtypes` has the `is_path` argument, but `summarize_predicates` does not. `summarize_predicates` tabulates edge predicates across paths corresponding to each from-to pair in `object`.

Value

A `tbl` where each row corresponds to a from-to pair in `object`. The last column is a list-column containing table's of predicate counts.

See Also

[summarize_semtypes](#) for tabulating semantic types of nodes in paths or other node collections

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, "Chronic Stress")
paths <- find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)
summarize_predicates(g_mini, paths)
```

summarize_semtypes	<i>Summarize semantic types</i>
--------------------	---------------------------------

Description

Summarize the semantic types present in a collection of nodes

Usage

```
summarize_semtypes(graph, object, print = TRUE, is_path = TRUE)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
object	A vertex sequence (<code>igraph.vs</code>), a list of vertex sequences, or a list of vertex sequence lists
print	If TRUE, information on semantic types will be printed to the screen.
is_path	If TRUE, object contains paths (ordered sequences of nodes).

Details

`summarize_semtypes` summarizes the semantic types present in supplied node collections and has different behavior depending on whether the node collection is ordered (paths) or unordered. Using `is_path = TRUE` indicates that the nodes are ordered. Using `is_path = FALSE` indicates that the nodes are an unordered collection, often from `find_nodes` or `grow_nodes`.

Using `is_path = TRUE`: When the node collection is ordered, the object is assumed to be the result of `find_paths` or a subset of such an object. Because `find_paths` returns a list of paths lists, `summarize_semtypes` takes a single path, a list of paths, or a list of path lists as input. In the case of a collection of ordered nodes, `summarize_semtypes` counts the semantic types present in object. If a node is associated with multiple semantic types, each type is counted once. The first and last nodes of each path are removed they correspond to the nodes in `from` and `to` from `find_paths`, and it is assumed that the middle nodes on the paths are more of interest. The tabulations are printed to screen (if `print = TRUE`) and returned as table's. These table's are bundled into a list-column of a `tbl` in the (invisibly returned) output. Each row of the `tbl` corresponds to a `from-to` pair present in object.

Using `is_path = FALSE`: This option is for summarizing results from `find_nodes` and `grow_nodes`, which return unordered node sets. (Note: paths and unordered node sets are both represented as `igraph` vertex sequences (class `igraph.vs`.) The printed output shows information for each semantic type present in object. It shows all nodes of that semantic type as well as their degree and degree percentile within the entire graph. The (invisibly returned) output combines all of the printed information in a `tbl`.

Value

Output is returned invisibly. If `is_path = TRUE`, a `tbl` where each row corresponds to a `from-to` pair in object. The last column is a list-column containing table's of semantic type counts. If `is_path = FALSE`, a `tbl` where each row corresponds to a name-semantic type combination. Columns give node name, semantic type, degree, and degree percentile.

See Also

[summarize_predicates](#) for summarizing predicates on edges
[find_paths](#) for searching for paths between node sets
[find_nodes](#) and [grow_nodes](#) for searching for and filtering nodes

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, "Chronic Stress")
paths <- find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)
summarize_semtypes(g_mini, paths)

nodes_mood <- find_nodes(g_mini, "mood")
summarize_semtypes(g_mini, nodes_mood, is_path = FALSE)
```

text_path	<i>Display path (text form)</i>
-----------	---------------------------------

Description

Show a text display of a path and obtain output that can be used to explore predications along the path. (A predication is a SUBJECT-LINKING VERB->OBJECT triple.)

Usage

```
text_path(graph, path, print = TRUE)
```

Arguments

graph	The SemMed graph
path	A vertex sequence (<code>igraph.vs</code>) (the path to display)
print	Print the path to screen?

Details

`text_path` invisibly returns a list of `tbl`'s containing information on the predications on the path. Each list element is a `tbl` that corresponds to a (sequential) pair of nodes along the path. The `tbl` contains information on the subject and object node's name and semantic type as well as all predicates linking the subject and object.

Value

Invisibly returns a list of predications for each pair of nodes along the path.

See Also

[plot_path](#) for plotting paths

Examples

```
data(g_mini)

node_cortisol <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Serum cortisol")
node_stress <- find_nodes(g_mini, names = "Chronic Stress")
paths <- find_paths(g_mini, from = node_cortisol, to = node_stress)
text_path(g_mini, paths[[1]][[1]])
result <- text_path(g_mini, paths[[1]][[1]], print = FALSE)
```

Index

* datasets

g_mini, 6
g_small, 6

find_nodes, 2, 6, 11
find_paths, 3, 7, 11

g_mini, 6
g_small, 6
get_edge_features, 4
get_middle_nodes, 5, 7
grow_nodes, 5, 11

make_edge_weights, 3, 4, 7

plot_path, 8, 11

summarize_predicates, 9, 11
summarize_semtypes, 9, 10

text_path, 8, 11