

Package ‘Modstrings’

February 28, 2026

Type Package

Title Working with modified nucleotide sequences

Version 1.26.0

Date 2022-08-13

Description Representing nucleotide modifications in a nucleotide sequence is usually done via special characters from a number of sources. This represents a challenge to work with in R and the Biostrings package. The Modstrings package implements this functionality for RNA and DNA sequences containing modified nucleotides by translating the character internally in order to work with the infrastructure of the Biostrings package. For this the ModRNAString and ModDNAString classes and derivatives and functions to construct and modify these objects despite the encoding issues are implemented. In addition the conversion from sequences to list like location information (and the reverse operation) is implemented as well.

License Artistic-2.0

Encoding UTF-8

biocViews DataImport, DataRepresentation, Infrastructure, Sequencing, Software

Depends R (>= 3.6), Biostrings (>= 2.51.5)

Imports methods, BiocGenerics, GenomicRanges, S4Vectors, IRanges, XVector, stringi, stringr, crayon, grDevices

Suggests BiocStyle, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, usethis

Collate 'Modstrings.R' 'AllGenerics.R'
'Modstrings-external-functions.R'
'Modstrings-external-C-calls.R' 'Modstrings-ModStringCodec.R'
'Modstrings-ModString.R' 'Modstrings-ModStringSet.R'
'Modstrings-ModStringViews.R' 'Modstrings-MaskedModString.R'
'Modstrings-ModStringCodec-data.R'
'Modstrings-ModStringSet-io.R' 'Modstrings-ModStringSetList.R'
'Modstrings-QualityScaledModStringSet.R'
'Modstrings-letterFrequency.R' 'Modstrings-modifyNucleotide.R'
'Modstrings-replaceLetterAt.R' 'Modstrings-sanitize.R'
'Modstrings-separate.R' 'Modstrings-seqtype.R' 'datasets.R'
'utils.R' 'zzz.R'

VignetteBuilder knitr

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

BugReports <https://github.com/FelixErnst/Modstrings/issues>

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

git_branch RELEASE_3_22

git_last_commit a4e48ba

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.22

Date/Publication 2026-02-27

Author Felix G.M. Ernst [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<<https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5064-0928>>),
Denis L.J. Lafontaine [ctb, fnd]

Maintainer Felix G.M. Ernst <felix.gm.ernst@outlook.com>

Contents

Modstrings-package	2
letterFrequency	3
MaskedModString	4
ModDNAString	5
modifyNucleotides	6
ModRNAString	9
ModString	10
Modstrings	10
Modstrings-internals	11
ModStringSet	12
ModStringSet-io	13
ModStringSetList	14
ModStringViews	15
QualityScaledModStringSet	16
replaceLetterAt	17
sanitizeInput	19
separate	20
shortName	23
Index	25

Modstrings-package	<i>Modstrings: Working with modified nucleotide sequences</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Representing nucleotide modifications in a nucleotide sequence is usually done via special characters from a number of sources. This represents a challenge to work with in R and the Biostrings package. The Modstrings package implements this functionality for RNA and DNA sequences containing modified nucleotides by translating the character internally in order to work with the infrastructure of the Biostrings package. For this the ModRNAString and ModDNAString classes and derivatives and functions to construct and modify these objects despite the encoding issues are implemented. In addition the conversion from sequences to list like location information (and the reverse operation) is implemented as well.

Author(s)

Maintainer: Felix G.M. Ernst <felix.gm.ernst@outlook.com> ([ORCID](#))

Other contributors:

- Denis L.J. Lafontaine <denis.lafontaine@ulb.ac.be> [contributor, funder]

See Also

Useful links:

- Report bugs at <https://github.com/FelixErnst/Modstrings/issues>

letterFrequency	<i>Calculate the frequency of letters in nucleotide sequence with modifications, or the consensus matrix of a set of sequences</i>
-----------------	--

Description

These functions follow the same principle as the [Biostrings](#) functions. Please be aware, that the matrices can become quite large, since the alphabet of ModString objects contains more letters.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ModDNAString'
hasOnlyBaseLetters(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModRNAString'
hasOnlyBaseLetters(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModDNAString'
alphabetFrequency(x, as.prob = FALSE, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModRNAString'
alphabetFrequency(x, as.prob = FALSE, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModDNAStringSet'
alphabetFrequency(x, as.prob = FALSE, collapse = FALSE, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModRNAStringSet'
alphabetFrequency(x, as.prob = FALSE, collapse = FALSE, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'MaskedModString'
alphabetFrequency(x, as.prob = FALSE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringViews'
letterFrequency(x, letters, OR = "|", as.prob = FALSE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MaskedModString'
letterFrequency(x, letters, OR = "|", as.prob = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'
```

```

consensusMatrix(x, as.prob = FALSE, shift = 0L, width = NULL, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModDNAStringSet'
consensusString(x, threshold = 0.25, shift = 0L, width = NULL)

## S4 method for signature 'ModRNAStringSet'
consensusString(x, threshold = 0.25, shift = 0L, width = NULL)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringViews'
consensusString(x, threshold, shift = 0L, width = NULL)

```

Arguments

x	a ModString , a ModStringSet , a ModStringViews or a MaskedModString object.
as.prob	TRUE or FALSE (default): Should the result be returned as probabilities instead of counts? (sum per column = 1)
baseOnly	TRUE or FALSE (default): Should the result omit occurrences of the letters N. -+?
collapse	TRUE or FALSE (default): Should the results summed up all elements for ModStringSet or ModStringViews objects or reported per element.
...	See letterFrequency .
letters	See letterFrequency .
OR	See letterFrequency .
shift	See letterFrequency .
width	See letterFrequency .
threshold	Since the <code>amiguityMap</code> is fixed to "?" for ModString objects, only the threshold can be set (default threshold = 0.25)

Value

a matrix with the results (letter x pos).

Examples

```

mod <- ModDNAString(paste(alphabet(ModDNAString()), collapse = ""))
mod
hasOnlyBaseLetters(mod)
alphabetFrequency(mod)

```

MaskedModString

MaskedModString objects

Description

The functions are implemented as defined in the [Biostrings](#) package. Have a look the [MaskedXString](#) class.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'MaskedModString'  
seqtype(x)
```

Arguments

x a ModString object.

Value

a MaskedModString object.

Examples

```
# Mask positions  
mask <- Mask(mask.width=5, start=c(2), width=c(3))  
mr <- ModRNAString("ACGU7")  
mr  
  
masks(mr) <- mask  
mr  
  
# Invert masks  
mr <- gaps(mr)  
mr  
  
# Drop the mask  
masks(mr) <- NULL  
mr
```

ModDNAStrng

ModDNAStrng class

Description

A ModDNAStrng object allows DNA sequences with modified nucleotides to be stored and manipulated.

Usage

```
ModDNAStrng(x = "", start = 1, nchar = NA)
```

Arguments

x the input as a character.
start the position in the character vector to use as start position in the ModDNAStrng object (default start = 1).
nchar the width of the character vector to use in the ModDNAStrng object (default nchar = NA). The end position is calculated as start + nchar - 1.

Details

The ModDNAStrng class contains the virtual `ModString` class, which is itself based on the `XString` class. Therefore, functions for working with `XString` classes are inherited.

The `alphabet` of the ModDNAStrng class consist of the non-extended IUPAC codes "A,G,C,T,N", the gap letter "-", the hard masking letter "+", the not available letter "." and letters for individual modifications: `alphabet(ModDNAStrng())`.

Since the special characters are encoded differently depending on the OS and encoding settings of the R session, it is not always possible to enter a DNA sequence containing modified nucleotides via the R console. The most convinient solution for this problem is to use the function `modifyNucleotides` and modify an existing DNAStrng or ModDNAStrng object.

A ModDNAStrng object can be converted into a DNAStrng object using the `DNAStrng()` constructor. Modified nucleotides are automatically converted into their base nucleotides.

If a modified DNA nucleotide you want to work with is not part of the alphabet, please let us know.

Value

a ModDNAStrng object

Examples

```
# Constructing ModDNAStrng containing an m6A
md1 <- ModDNAStrng("AGCT`")
md1

# the alphabet of the ModDNAStrng class
alphabet(md1)
# due to encoding issues the shortNames can also be used
shortName(md1)
# due to encoding issues the nomenclature can also be used
nomenclature(md1)

# convert to DNAStrng
d1 <- DNAStrng(md1)
d1
```

modifyNucleotides	<i>Modifying nucleotides in a nucleotide sequence (or set of sequences) at specified locations</i>
-------------------	--

Description

`modifyNucleotides` modifies a nucleotide in a sequence (or set of sequences) based on the type of modification provided. It checks for the identity of the base nucleotide to be

Usage

```
modifyNucleotides(
  x,
  at,
  mod,
  nc.type = "short",
```

```
    stop.on.error = TRUE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )  
  
  ## S4 method for signature 'ModString'  
  modifyNucleotides(  
    x,  
    at,  
    mod,  
    nc.type = c("short", "nc"),  
    stop.on.error = TRUE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )  
  
  ## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'  
  modifyNucleotides(  
    x,  
    at,  
    mod,  
    nc.type = c("short", "nc"),  
    stop.on.error = TRUE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )  
  
  ## S4 method for signature 'DNAString'  
  modifyNucleotides(  
    x,  
    at,  
    mod,  
    nc.type = c("short", "nc"),  
    stop.on.error = TRUE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )  
  
  ## S4 method for signature 'RNAString'  
  modifyNucleotides(  
    x,  
    at,  
    mod,  
    nc.type = c("short", "nc"),  
    stop.on.error = TRUE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )  
  
  ## S4 method for signature 'DNAStringSet'  
  modifyNucleotides(  
    x,  
    at,  
    mod,  
    nc.type = c("short", "nc"),  
    stop.on.error = TRUE,  
    verbose = FALSE  
  )
```

```

)

## S4 method for signature 'RNAStringSet'
modifyNucleotides(
  x,
  at,
  mod,
  nc.type = c("short", "nc"),
  stop.on.error = TRUE,
  verbose = FALSE
)

```

Arguments

x	a ModString or ModStringSet object
at	the location where the modification should be made. The same input as in the original replaceLetterAt are expected: If x is a ModString object, then at is typically an integer vector with no NAs but a logical vector or Rle object is valid too. Locations can be repeated and in this case the last replacement to occur at a given location prevails. If x is a rectangular ModStringSet object, then at must be a matrix of logicals with the same dimensions as x. If the ModStringSet is not rectangular, at must be a list of logical vectors.
mod	The modification short name or nomenclature If x is a ModString object, then letter must be a ModString object or a character vector (with no NA) with a total number of letters (sum(nchar(letter))) equal to the number of locations specified in at. If x is a rectangular ModStringSet object, then letter must be a ModStringSet object, a list of character vectors or a CharacterList of the same length as x. In addition, the number of letters in each element of letter must match the number of locations specified in the corresponding row of at (all(width(letter) == rowSums(at))).
nc.type	the type of nomenclature to be used. Either "short" or "nc". "Short" for m3C would be "m3C", "nc" for m3C would be "3C". (default = "short")
stop.on.error	For combineIntoModstrings: TRUE(default) or FALSE: Should an error be raised upon encounter of incompatible positions?
verbose	See replaceLetterAt .

Value

the input [ModString](#) or [ModStringSet](#) object with the changes applied

Examples

```

# modify nucleotides in a ModDNAString
seq <- ModDNAString("AGTC")
seq

mseq1 <- modifyNucleotides(seq,c(1,2,4),c("1mA", "7mG", "3mC"))
mseq1

# This fails since m7G requires a G at the selected position in the sequence

```

```

## Not run:
mseq <- modifyNucleotides(seq,c(3),c("7mG"))

## End(Not run)

# modify nucleotides in a ModRNAString
seq <- ModRNAString("AGUC")
seq

mseq1 <- modifyNucleotides(seq,c(1,2,4),c("m1A", "m7G", "m3C"))
mseq1

# This fails since m7G requires a G at the selected position in the sequence
## Not run:
mseq <- modifyNucleotides(seq,c(3),c("m7G"))

## End(Not run)

```

ModRNAString

ModDNAString class

Description

A ModRNAString object allows RNA sequences with modified nucleotides to be stored and manipulated.

Usage

```
ModRNAString(x = "", start = 1, nchar = NA)
```

Arguments

x	the input as a character.
start	the position in the character vector to use as start position in the ModRNAString object (default start = 1).
nchar	the width of the character vector to use in the ModRNAString object (default nchar = NA). The end position is calculated as start + nchar - 1.

Details

The ModRNAString class contains the virtual [ModString](#) class, which is itself based on the [XString](#) class. Therefore, functions for working with XString classes are inherited.

The alphabet of the ModRNAString class consist of the non-extended IUPAC codes "A,G,C,U", the gap letter "-", the hard masking letter "+", the not available letter "." and letters for individual modifications: `alphabet(ModRNAString())`.

Since the special characters are encoded differently depending on the OS and encoding settings of the R session, it is not always possible to enter a RNA sequence containing modified nucleotides via the R console. The most convenient solution for this problem is to use the function [modifyNucleotides](#) and modify an existing RNAString or ModRNAString object.

A ModRNAString object can be converted into a RNAString object using the `RNAString()` constructor. Modified nucleotides are automatically converted into their base nucleotides.

If a modified RNA nucleotide you want to work with is not part of the alphabet, please let us know.

Value

a ModRNAString object

Examples

```
# Constructing ModDNAString containing an m6A and a dihydrouridine
mr1 <- ModRNAString("AGCU`D")
mr1

# the alphabet of the ModRNAString class
alphabet(mr1)
# due to encoding issues the shortNames can also be used
shortName(mr1)
# due to encoding issues the nomenclature can also be used
nomenclature(mr1)

# convert to RNAString
r1 <- RNAString(mr1)
r1
```

ModString

ModString objects

Description

The virtual ModString class derives from the XString virtual class. Like its parent and its children, it is used for storing sequences of characters. However, the XString/BString class requires single byte characters as the letters of the input sequences. The ModString extends the capability for multi-byte characters by encoding these characters into a single byte characters using a dictionary for internal conversion. It also takes care of different encoding behavior of operating systems.

The [ModDNAString](#) and [ModRNAString](#) classes derive from the ModString class and use the functionality to store nucleotide sequences containing modified nucleotides. To describe modified RNA and DNA nucleotides with a single letter, special characters are commonly used, eg. from the greek alphabet, which are multi-byte characters.

The ModString class is virtual and it cannot be directly used to create an object. Please have a look at [ModDNAString](#) and [ModRNAString](#) for the specific alphabets of the individual classes.

Modstrings

Modstrings: implementation of Biostrings to work with nucleotide sequences containing modified nucleotides.

Description

Representing nucleotide modifications in a nucleotide sequence is usually done via special characters from a number of sources. This represents a challenge to work with in R and the Biostrings package. The Modstrings package implements this functionality for RNA and DNA sequences containing modified nucleotides by translating the character internally in order to work with the infrastructure of the Biostrings package. For this the ModRNAString and ModDNAString classes and derivatives and functions to construct and modify these objects despite the encoding issues are

implemented. In addition the conversion from sequences to list like location information (and the reverse operation) is implemented as well.

A good place to start would be the vignette and the man page for the `ModStringSet` objects.

The alphabets for the modifications used in this package are based on the compilation of RNA modifications by <http://modomics.genesilico.pl> by the Bujnicki lab and DNA modifications <https://dnamod.hoffmanlab.org> by the Hoffman lab. Both alphabets were modified to remove some incompatible characters.

Author(s)

Felix G M Ernst [aut,cre] and Denis L.J. Lafontaine [ctb]

Modstrings-internals *Modstrings internals*

Description

Analog to Biostrings there are a few functions, which should only be used internally. Otherwise take care.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ModDNAString'  
seqtype(x)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'ModRNAString'  
seqtype(x)  
  
## S4 replacement method for signature 'ModString'  
seqtype(x) <- value  
  
## S4 method for signature 'ModString'  
XString(seqtype, x, start = NA, end = NA, width = NA)  
  
## S4 replacement method for signature 'ModStringSet'  
seqtype(x) <- value  
  
## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'  
XStringSet(seqtype, x, start = NA, end = NA, width = NA, use.names = TRUE)  
  
data(modsRNA)  
  
data(modsDNA)  
  
data(MOD_RNA_DICT_MODOMICS)  
  
data(MOD_RNA_DICT_TRNADB)
```

Arguments

seqtype, x, start, end, width, use.names, value
used internally

Format

An object of class DFrame with 162 rows and 9 columns.

An object of class DFrame with 47 rows and 5 columns.

An object of class DFrame with 170 rows and 3 columns.

An object of class DFrame with 60 rows and 3 columns.

Value

a XString* object

ModStringSet	<i>ModStringSet objects</i>
--------------	-----------------------------

Description

The ModStringSet class is a container for storing a set of [ModString](#) objects. It follows the same principles as the other [XStringSet](#) objects.

As usual the ModStringSet containers derive directly from the [XStringSet](#) virtual class.

The ModStringSet class is in itself a virtual class with two types of derivatives:

- ModDNAStringSet
- ModRNAStringSet

Each class can only be converted to its parent DNAStringSet or RNAStringSet. The modified nucleotides will be converted to their original nucleotides.

Please note, that due to encoding issues not all modifications can be instantiated directly from the console. The vignette contains a comprehensive explanation and examples for working around the problem.

Usage

```
ModDNAStringSet(  
  x = character(),  
  start = NA,  
  end = NA,  
  width = NA,  
  use.names = TRUE  
)
```

```
ModRNAStringSet(  
  x = character(),  
  start = NA,  
  end = NA,  
  width = NA,  
  use.names = TRUE  
)
```

Arguments

x	Either a character vector (with no NAs), or an ModString, ModStringSet or ModStringViews object.
start, end, width	Either NA, a single integer, or an integer vector of the same length as x specifying how x should be "narrowed" (see ?narrow for the details).
use.names	TRUE or FALSE. Should names be preserved?

Value

a ModStringSet object.

Examples

```
# Constructing ModDNAStringSet containing an m6A
m1 <- ModDNAStringSet(c("AGCT", "AGCT"))
m1

# converting to DNAStringSet

# Constructing ModRNAStringSet containing an m6A
m2 <- ModRNAStringSet(c("AGCU", "AGCU"))
m2
```

ModStringSet-io

Read/write an ModStringSet object from/to a file

Description

Functions to read/write an ModStringSet object from/to a file.

Usage

```
readModDNAStringSet(
  filepath,
  format = "fasta",
  nrec = -1L,
  skip = 0L,
  seek.first.rec = FALSE,
  use.names = TRUE,
  with.qualities = FALSE
)

readModRNAStringSet(
  filepath,
  format = "fasta",
  nrec = -1L,
  skip = 0L,
  seek.first.rec = FALSE,
  use.names = TRUE,
  with.qualities = FALSE
)
```

```

)

writeModStringSet(
  x,
  filepath,
  append = FALSE,
  compress = FALSE,
  compression_level = NA,
  format = "fasta",
  ...
)

```

Arguments

filepath, format, nrec, skip, seek.first.rec, use.names, with.qualities, append, compress, compression_level, ...

See [XStringSet-io](#) for more details.

x A ModStringSet object.

Value

A [ModStringSet](#) of the defined type.

Examples

```

seqs <- paste0(paste(alphabet(ModDNAStrng()), collapse = ""),
              c("A", "G", "T"))
seqs

set <- ModDNAStrngSet(seqs)
set

file <- tempfile()
writeModStringSet(set, file)
read <- readModDNAStrngSet(file)
read

```

ModStringSetList	<i>ModStringSetList</i>
------------------	-------------------------

Description

title

Usage

```
ModDNAStrngSetList(..., use.names = TRUE)
```

```
ModRNAStrngSetList(..., use.names = TRUE)
```

Arguments

... [ModStringSet](#) objects of one type.

use.names TRUE(default) or FALSE: Whether names of the input [ModStringSet](#) objects should be stored and used as the element names in the [ModStringSetList](#).

Value

a [ModStringSetList](#) object.

Examples

```
mrseq <- c("ACGU7","ACGU7","ACGU7","ACGU7")
mrseq

# Example: construction of ModStringSetlist from ModString objects
mr <- ModRNAString("ACGU7")
mr

mrs <- ModRNAStringSet(list(mr,mr,mr,mr))
mrs

mrs1 <- ModRNAStringSetList(mrs,mrs)
mrs1

# Example: construction of ModStringSetlist from mixed sources
mrs12 <- ModRNAStringSetList(mrs,mrseq)
mrs12
```

ModStringViews

The ModStringViews class extending the XStringViews class

Description

As the [XStringViews](#) the [ModStringViews](#) is the basic container for storing a set of views on the same sequence (this time a [ModString](#) object).

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
Views(subject, start = NULL, end = NULL, width = NULL, names = NULL)
```

Arguments

subject, start, end, width, names
See [XStringViews](#).

Details

For the details have a look at the [XStringViews](#) class.

Value

a [ModStringViews](#) object.

Examples

```
seq <- ModDNAString("AGC6AGC6")
seq

v <- Views(seq, start = 3:1, end = 6:8)
v
```

QualityScaledModStringSet

QualityScaledModDNAStringSet and *QualityScaledModRNAStringSet* objects

Description

title

Usage

```
QualityScaledModDNAStringSet(x, quality)

QualityScaledModRNAStringSet(x, quality)

readQualityScaledModDNAStringSet(
  filepath,
  quality.scoring = c("phred", "solexa", "illumina"),
  nrec = -1L,
  skip = 0L,
  seek.first.rec = FALSE,
  use.names = TRUE
)

readQualityScaledModRNAStringSet(
  filepath,
  quality.scoring = c("phred", "solexa", "illumina"),
  nrec = -1L,
  skip = 0L,
  seek.first.rec = FALSE,
  use.names = TRUE
)

writeQualityScaledModStringSet(
  x,
  filepath,
  append = FALSE,
  compress = FALSE,
  compression_level = NA
)
```

Arguments

- `x` For the `QualityScaled*StringSet` constructors: Either a character vector, or an `ModString`, `ModStringSet` or `ModStringViews` object.
For `writeQualityScaledXStringSet`: A [QualityScaledModDNAStringSet](#) or [QualityScaledModRNAStringSet](#) object.
- `quality` A `XStringQuality` object.
- `filepath`, `nrec`, `skip`, `seek.first.rec`, `use.names`, `append`, `compress`, `compression_level`
See [QualityScaledXStringSet-class](#).
- `quality.scoring` Specify the quality scoring used in the FASTQ file. Must be one of "phred" (the default), "solexa", or "illumina". If set to " phred" (or "solexa" or "illumina"), the qualities will be stored in a `PhredQuality` (or `SolexaQuality` or `IlluminaQuality`, respectively) object.

Value

a `QualityScaledModDNAStringSet` or `QualityScaledModRNAStringSet` object

Examples

```
seq <- ModRNAString("AGCU7")
seq

qseq <- PhredQuality(paste0(rep("!", length(seq)), collapse = ""))
qseq

qset <- QualityScaledModRNAStringSet(seq, qseq)
qset
```

replaceLetterAt	<i>Replacing letters in a nucleotide sequence (or set of nucleotide sequences) at some specified locations containing nucleotide modifications</i>
-----------------	--

Description

`replaceLetterAt` replaces a letter in a `ModString` objects with a new letter. In contrast to [modifyNucleotides](#) it does not check the letter to be replaced for its identity, it just replaces it and behaves exactly like the

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
replaceLetterAt(x, at, letter, verbose = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'
replaceLetterAt(x, at, letter, verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

x	a ModString or ModStringSet object
at	the location where the replacement should be made. The same input as in replaceLetterAt are expected: If x is a ModString object, then at is typically an integer vector with no NAs but a logical vector or Rle object is valid too. Locations can be repeated and in this case the last replacement to occur at a given location prevails. If x is a rectangular ModStringSet object, then at must be a matrix of logicals with the same dimensions as x. If the ModStringSet is not rectangular, at must be a list of logical vectors.
letter	The new letters. The same input as in replaceLetterAt are expected: If x is a ModString object, then letter must be a ModString object or a character vector (with no NAs) with a total number of letters (sum(nchar(letter))) equal to the number of locations specified in at. If x is a rectangular ModStringSet object, then letter must be a ModStringSet object or a character vector of the same length as x. In addition, the number of letters in each element of letter must match the number of locations specified in the corresponding row of at (all(width(letter) == rowSums(at))).
verbose	See replaceLetterAt .

Value

the input [ModString](#) or [ModStringSet](#) object with the changes applied

Examples

```
# Replacing the last two letters in a ModDNAString
seq1 <- ModDNAString("AGTC")
seq
seq2 <- replaceLetterAt(seq1,c(3,4),"CT")
seq2

# Now containg and m3C
seq2 <- replaceLetterAt(seq1,c(3,4),ModDNAString("/T"))
seq2

# Replacing the last two letters in a set of sequences
set1 <- ModDNAStringSet(c("AGTC","AGTC"))
set1

set2 <- replaceLetterAt(set1,
                        matrix(rep(c(FALSE,FALSE,TRUE,TRUE),2),
                                nrow = 2,
                                byrow = TRUE),
                        c("CT","CT"))

set2
```

sanitizeInput	<i>Sanitize input strings for use with ModString classes</i>
---------------	--

Description

Since the one letter nomenclature for RNA and DNA modification differs depending on the source, a translation to a common alphabet is necessary.

sanitizeInput exchanges based on a dictionary. The dictionary is expected to be a DataFrame with two columns, mods_abbrev and short_name. Based on the short_name the characters from in the input are converted from values of mods_abbrev into the the ones from alphabet.

Only different values will be searched for and exchanged.

sanitizeFromModomics and sanitizeFromtRNadb use a predefined dictionary, which is builtin.

Usage

```
sanitizeInput(input, dictionary)
```

```
sanitizeFromModomics(input)
```

```
sanitizeFromtRNadb(input)
```

Arguments

input	a character vector, which should be converted
dictionary	a DataFrame containing at least two columns mods_abbrev and short_name. From this a dictionary table is constructed for exchanging old to new letters.

Value

the modified character vector compatible for constructing a ModString object.

Examples

```
# Modomics
chr <- "AGC@"
# Error since the @ is not in the alphabet
## Not run:
seq <- ModRNAString(chr)

## End(Not run)
seq <- ModRNAString(sanitizeFromModomics(chr))
seq

# tRNadb
chr <- "AGC+"
# No error but the + has a different meaning in the alphabet
## Not run:
seq <- ModRNAString(chr)

## End(Not run)
seq <- ModRNAString(sanitizeFromtRNadb(chr))
seq
```

separate	<i>Separating and combining a modification information into/from a XString and a GRanges object</i>
----------	---

Description

With `combineIntoModstrings` and `separate` the construction and deconstruction of `ModString` Objects from an interactive session avoiding problematic encoding issues. In addition, modification information can be transferred from/to tabular data with these functions.

`combineIntoModstrings` expects `seqnames(gr)` or `names(gr)` to match the available `names(x)`. Only information with strand information `*` and `+` are used.

`separate` when used with a `GRanges/GRangesList` object will return an object of the same type, but with modifications separated. For example an element with `mod = "m1Am"` will be returned as two elements with `mod = c("Am", "m1A")`. The reverse operation is available via `combineModifications()`.

`removeIncompatibleModifications` filters incompatible modification from a `GRanges` or `GRangesList`. `incompatibleModifications()` returns the logical vector used for this operation.

Usage

```
separate(x, nc.type = "short")

combineIntoModstrings(
  x,
  gr,
  with.qualities = FALSE,
  quality.type = "Phred",
  stop.on.error = TRUE,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)

combineModifications(gr, ...)

incompatibleModifications(gr, x, ...)

removeIncompatibleModifications(gr, x, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
separate(x, nc.type = c("short", "nc"))

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'
separate(x, nc.type = c("short", "nc"))

## S4 method for signature 'GRanges'
separate(x)

## S4 method for signature 'GRangesList'
separate(x)

## S4 method for signature 'XString,GRanges'
```

```
combineIntoModstrings(  
  x,  
  gr,  
  with.qualities = FALSE,  
  quality.type = "Phred",  
  stop.on.error = TRUE,  
  verbose = FALSE,  
  ...  
)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'XStringSet,GRangesList'  
combineIntoModstrings(  
  x,  
  gr,  
  with.qualities = FALSE,  
  quality.type = "Phred",  
  stop.on.error = TRUE,  
  verbose = FALSE,  
  ...  
)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'XStringSet,GRanges'  
combineIntoModstrings(  
  x,  
  gr,  
  with.qualities = FALSE,  
  quality.type = "Phred",  
  stop.on.error = TRUE,  
  verbose = FALSE,  
  ...  
)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRanges'  
combineModifications(gr)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRangesList'  
combineModifications(gr)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRanges,XString'  
incompatibleModifications(gr, x)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRanges,XStringSet'  
incompatibleModifications(gr, x)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRangesList,XStringSet'  
incompatibleModifications(gr, x)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRanges,XString'  
removeIncompatibleModifications(gr, x)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'GRanges,XStringSet'  
removeIncompatibleModifications(gr, x)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'GRangesList,XStringSet'
removeIncompatibleModifications(gr, x)
```

Arguments

x	For separate: a ModString/ModStringSet or GRanges/GRangesList object For combineIntoModstrings: a XString and a XStringSet object.
nc.type	the type of nomenclature to be used. Either "short" or "nc". "Short" for m3C would be "m3C", "nc" for m3C would be "3C". (default = "short")
gr	a GRanges object
with.qualities	TRUE or FALSE (default): Should the values from a score column of the GRanges object stored? If set with.qualities = TRUE, combineIntoModstrings will try to construct a QualityScaledModStringSet object.
quality.type	the type of QualityXStringSet used, if with.qualities = TRUE. Must be one of the following values: "Phred", "Solexa", "Illumina".
stop.on.error	For combineIntoModstrings: TRUE(default) or FALSE: Should an error be raised upon encounter of incompatible positions?
verbose	For combineIntoModstrings: TRUE or FALSE (default): Should verbose information reported on the positions filled with modifications? This settings is passed onto modifyNucleotides .
...	default.quality: for combineIntoModstrings: the default.quality default value for non-modified positions. (default: default.quality = 0L)

Value

for separate a GRanges object and for combineIntoModstrings a ModString* object or a QualityScaledModStringSet if with.qualities = TRUE.

Examples

```
library(GenomicRanges)
# ModDNAString
seq <- ModDNAString(paste(alphabet(ModDNAString()), collapse = ""))
seq

gr <- separate(seq)
gr

seq2 <- combineIntoModstrings(as(seq, "DNAString"), gr)
seq2

seq == seq2
# ModRNAString
seq <- ModRNAString(paste(alphabet(ModRNAString()), collapse = ""))
seq

gr <- separate(seq)
gr

# Separating RNA modifications
gr <- gr[1]
separate(gr)
```

```

# ... and combine them again (both operations work only on a subset of
# modifications)
combineModifications(separate(gr))

# handling incompatible modifications
seq <- RNAString("AGCU")
gr <- GRanges(c("chr1:1:+", "chr1:2:+"), mod="m1A")
incompatibleModifications(gr, seq)

#
removeIncompatibleModifications(gr, seq)

```

shortName	<i>Base information for sequence characters of nucleotide strings containing modifications</i>
-----------	--

Description

The `alphabet()`, `shortName()`, `fullName()` and `nomenclature()` functions return the letters, names and associated abbreviations for the type of `ModString`. `alphabet()` returns the normal letters and modification letters, whereas `shortName()`, `fullName()` and `nomenclature()` return results for modifications only.

Usage

```

shortName(x)

fullName(x)

nomenclature(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
alphabet(x, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'
alphabet(x, baseOnly = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
shortName(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'
shortName(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
fullName(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'
fullName(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ModString'
nomenclature(x)

```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ModStringSet'  
nomenclature(x)
```

Arguments

x a ModString or ModStringSet object
baseOnly TRUE or FALSE (default): Should the result omit occurrences of the letters N. -+?

Value

a character vector.

Examples

```
alphabet(ModDNAString())  
shortName(ModDNAString())  
nomenclature(ModDNAString())
```

Index

- * **datasets**
 - Modstrings-internals, [11](#)
- * **internal**
 - Modstrings-package, [2](#)
- ==, ModString, ModString-method (ModString), [10](#)
- ==, ModString, XString-method (ModString), [10](#)
- ==, ModStringSet, ModStringSet-method (ModStringSet), [12](#)
- ==, ModStringSet, XStringSet-method (ModStringSet), [12](#)
- ==, ModStringViews, ModStringViews-method (ModStringViews), [15](#)
- ==, ModStringViews, XString-method (ModStringViews), [15](#)
- ==, XString, ModString-method (ModString), [10](#)
- ==, XStringSet, ModStringSet-method (ModStringSet), [12](#)
- ==, XStringViews, ModString-method (ModStringViews), [15](#)

- alphabet, [6](#)
- alphabet (shortName), [23](#)
- alphabet, ModString-method (shortName), [23](#)
- alphabet, ModStringSet-method (shortName), [23](#)
- alphabetFrequency (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- alphabetFrequency, MaskedModString-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- alphabetFrequency, ModDNAString-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- alphabetFrequency, ModDNAStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- alphabetFrequency, ModRNAString-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- alphabetFrequency, ModRNAStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- as.character, ModString-method (ModString), [10](#)
- as.character, ModStringSet-method (ModStringSet), [12](#)

- as.vector, ModString-method (ModString), [10](#)

- Biostrings, [3](#)

- CharacterList, [8](#)
- combineIntoModstrings (separate), [20](#)
- combineIntoModstrings, XString, GRanges-method (separate), [20](#)
- combineIntoModstrings, XStringSet, GRanges-method (separate), [20](#)
- combineIntoModstrings, XStringSet, GRangesList-method (separate), [20](#)
- combineModifications (separate), [20](#)
- combineModifications, GRanges-method (separate), [20](#)
- combineModifications, GRangesList-method (separate), [20](#)
- consensusMatrix, ModStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- consensusString (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- consensusString, ModDNAStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- consensusString, ModRNAStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- consensusString, ModStringViews-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)

- fullName (shortName), [23](#)
- fullName, ModString-method (shortName), [23](#)
- fullName, ModStringSet-method (shortName), [23](#)

- hasOnlyBaseLetters (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- hasOnlyBaseLetters, ModDNAString-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- hasOnlyBaseLetters, ModDNAStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- hasOnlyBaseLetters, ModRNAString-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)
- hasOnlyBaseLetters, ModRNAStringSet-method (letterFrequency), [3](#)

- incompatibleModifications (separate), [20](#)

- incompatibleModifications, GRanges, XString-method (separate), 20
- incompatibleModifications, GRanges, XStringSet-method (separate), 20
- incompatibleModifications, GRangesList, XStringSet-method (separate), 20
- letterFrequency, 3, 4
- letterFrequency, MaskedModString-method (letterFrequency), 3
- letterFrequency, ModStringViews-method (letterFrequency), 3
- letterFrequencyInSlidingView (letterFrequency), 3
- MaskedModString, 4, 4
- MaskedXString, 4
- MOD_RNA_DICT_MODOMICS (Modstrings-internals), 11
- MOD_RNA_DICT_TRNADB (Modstrings-internals), 11
- ModDNAString, 5, 10
- ModDNAString-class (ModString), 10
- ModDNAStringSet (ModStringSet), 12
- ModDNAStringSet-class (ModStringSet), 12
- ModDNAStringSetList (ModStringSetList), 14
- ModDNAStringSetList-class (ModStringSetList), 14
- modifyNucleotides, 6, 6, 9, 17, 22
- modifyNucleotides, DNAString-method (modifyNucleotides), 6
- modifyNucleotides, DNAStringSet-method (modifyNucleotides), 6
- modifyNucleotides, ModString-method (modifyNucleotides), 6
- modifyNucleotides, ModStringSet-method (modifyNucleotides), 6
- modifyNucleotides, RNAString-method (modifyNucleotides), 6
- modifyNucleotides, RNAStringSet-method (modifyNucleotides), 6
- ModRNAString, 9, 10
- ModRNAString-class (ModString), 10
- ModRNAStringSet (ModStringSet), 12
- ModRNAStringSet-class (ModStringSet), 12
- ModRNAStringSetList (ModStringSetList), 14
- ModRNAStringSetList-class (ModStringSetList), 14
- modsDNA (Modstrings-internals), 11
- modsRNA (Modstrings-internals), 11
- ModString, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 17, 18
- ModString, AsIs-method (ModString), 10
- ModString, character-method (ModString), 10
- ModString, factor-method (ModString), 10
- ModString, MaskedModString-method (ModString), 10
- ModString, ModString-method (ModString), 10
- ModString, XString-method (ModString), 10
- Modstrings, 10
- Modstrings-internals, 11
- Modstrings-package, 2
- ModStringSet, 4, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18
- ModStringSet, ANY-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, AsIs-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, character-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, factor-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, list-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, missing-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, ModString-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, ModStringSet-method (ModStringSet), 12
- ModStringSet, ModStringViews-method (ModStringViews), 15
- ModStringSet-io, 13
- ModStringSetList, 14
- ModStringViews, 4, 15
- nomenclature (shortName), 23
- nomenclature, ModString-method (shortName), 23
- nomenclature, ModStringSet-method (shortName), 23
- QualityScaledModDNAStringSet, 17
- QualityScaledModDNAStringSet (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- QualityScaledModDNAStringSet-class (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- QualityScaledModRNAStringSet, 17
- QualityScaledModRNAStringSet (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- QualityScaledModRNAStringSet-class (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- QualityScaledModStringSet, 16, 22

- readModDNAStringSet (ModStringSet-io), 13
- readModRNAStringSet (ModStringSet-io), 13
- readQualityScaledModDNAStringSet (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- readQualityScaledModRNAStringSet (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- removeIncompatibleModifications (separate), 20
- removeIncompatibleModifications, GRanges, XString-method (separate), 20
- removeIncompatibleModifications, GRanges, XStringSet-method (separate), 20
- removeIncompatibleModifications, GRangesList, XStringSet-method (separate), 20
- replaceLetterAt, 8, 17, 18
- replaceLetterAt, ModString-method (replaceLetterAt), 17
- replaceLetterAt, ModStringSet-method (replaceLetterAt), 17

- sanitizeFromModomics (sanitizeInput), 19
- sanitizeFromRNADB (sanitizeInput), 19
- sanitizeInput, 19
- separate, 20
- separate, GRanges-method (separate), 20
- separate, GRangesList-method (separate), 20
- separate, ModString-method (separate), 20
- separate, ModStringSet-method (separate), 20
- seqtype, MaskedModString-method (MaskedModString), 4
- seqtype, ModDNAString-method (Modstrings-internals), 11
- seqtype, ModRNAString-method (Modstrings-internals), 11
- seqtype<-, ModString-method (Modstrings-internals), 11
- seqtype<-, ModStringSet-method (Modstrings-internals), 11
- shortName, 23
- shortName, ModString-method (shortName), 23
- shortName, ModStringSet-method (shortName), 23
- show, ModStringSet-method (ModStringSet), 12
- show, ModStringViews-method (ModStringViews), 15
- show, QualityScaledModStringSet-method (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- Views, ModString-method (ModStringViews), 15
- writeModStringSet (ModStringSet-io), 13
- writeQualityScaledModStringSet (QualityScaledModStringSet), 16
- XString, 6, 9
- XString, ModString-method (Modstrings-internals), 11
- XStringQuality, 17
- XStringSet, 12
- XStringSet, ModStringSet-method (Modstrings-internals), 11
- XStringViews, 15