

# Package ‘RBioinf’

June 30, 2025

**Version** 1.68.0

**Author** Robert Gentleman

**Maintainer** Robert Gentleman <rgentlem@gmail.com>

**Description** Functions and datasets and examples to accompany the monograph  
R For Bioinformatics.

**Title** RBioinf

**Depends** graph, methods

**Suggests** Rgraphviz

**License** Artistic-2.0

**biocViews** GeneExpression, Microarray, Preprocessing, QualityControl,  
Classification, Clustering, MultipleComparison, Annotation

**PackageStatus** Deprecated

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/RBioinf>

**git\_branch** RELEASE\_3\_21

**git\_last\_commit** 4812408

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-04-15

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.21

**Date/Publication** 2025-06-29

## Contents

asSimpleVector . . . . .	2
classList2Graph . . . . .	3
computeClassLinearization . . . . .	4
printWithNumbers . . . . .	5
randDNA . . . . .	6
Rcal . . . . .	6
S4Help . . . . .	7
simplePVect . . . . .	8
simpleRand . . . . .	9
simpleSort . . . . .	10

subClassNames . . . . . 11

superClasses . . . . . 12

traceMethods . . . . . 12

**Index** 14

---

asSimpleVector	<i>Example functions for the Chapter on Debugging</i>
----------------	---

---

**Description**

These functions are used to demonstrate some of the debugging facilities in R.

**Usage**

```
asSimpleVector(x, mode = "logical")
convertMode(from, to)
setVNames(x, nm)
subsetAsCharacter(x, i, j)
```

**Arguments**

x	input
mode	the mode of x
from	a parameter
to	another parameter
nm	names for x
i	an index
j	another index

**Details**

A set of functions that can be used to demonstrate debugging principles and practices.

asSimpleVector converts the argument x to a simple R vector of the given mode preserving names, dimension and dimnames.

subsetAsCharacter calculates either a vector or a matrix subset of the argument x and returns the subset after converting it to be of mode character. It uses asSimpleVector to do the conversion to character and thus also preserves any names, dimension or dimnames in the subset.

setVNames sets the names of the given vector x to the argument nm and then converts x to numeric using asSimpleVector.

convertMode converts its first argument to the mode of the second argument.

**Value**

Various values are returned.

**Author(s)**

S. DebRoy

**See Also**[browser](#)**Examples**

```
asSimpleVector(list(a = 1, b = 2), "character")
```

---

classList2Graph

*Functions to produce graphs from S4 class definitions*


---

**Description**

Given either a list of classes, or a single class, these functions produce a graph, with the classes as nodes and edges representing subclass/superclass relationships.

**Usage**

```
classList2Graph(class, fullNames=TRUE)
class2Graph(class, fullNames=TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

class	Either the name of a single class, class2Graph, or the names of classes, classList2Graph
fullNames	Indicates whether to use fully qualified (by package) names for the class.

**Details**

Edges are directed, and go from superclasses to subclasses (more specialized to less specialized).

**Value**

A graph, typically an instance of the graphNEL class.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**Examples**

```
graphClasses = getClasses("package:graph")
classList2Graph(graphClasses)
```

---

`computeClassLinearization`*Compute the Class Linearization*

---

## Description

There are a number of different methods for computing the class linearization. The methods described here are discussed in more detail in the vignette for this package. LPO and `computeClassLinearization` are aliases, the former being easier to type, the latter more descriptive.

## Usage

```
computeClassLinearization(inClass, C3 = FALSE)
LPO(inClass, C3 = FALSE)
```

## Arguments

<code>inClass</code>	The class for which a linearization of its is wanted.
<code>C3</code>	Whether or not to use the C3 method in computing the linearization.

## Details

For many different computations, especially method dispatch, an algorithm for specifying a linear order of the class inheritance tree is needed. All object oriented programming languages support the computation of a linearization. Local precedence order (LPO) uses the order of the direct superclasses, given in the class definition, in computing the linearization, with earlier superclasses considered more specific than later ones. If there are no duplicate class labels in the hierarchy then this is then simply a bread-first search of the superclass definitions. But when one or more classes are inherited from different superclasses this definition becomes more complicated, and can in fact not be satisfied.

## Value

A vector with the class linearization, the.

## Author(s)

R. Gentleman

## References

Monotonic Superclass Linearization for Dylan, K. Barrett and others, 1996, OOPSLA

**Examples**

```
setClass("object")
setClass("grid-layout", contains="object")
setClass("horizontal-grid", contains="grid-layout")
setClass("vertical-grid", contains="grid-layout")
setClass("hv-grid", contains=c("horizontal-grid", "vertical-grid"))
LP0("hv-grid")
```

---

printWithNumbers	<i>Print a function with line numbers</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

A function to print a function together with relevant line numbers. These can be used to decide where to set trace functions etc.

**Usage**

```
printWithNumbers(f)
```

**Arguments**

f	Any R function.
---	-----------------

**Details**

The function is printed, all lines that correspond to potential break points in the code are numbered.

**Value**

The function is invoked primarily for its side effect; the printing of the function with line numbers. However, the character vector is returned and could be used as input for other tools.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[trace](#), [capture.output](#)

**Examples**

```
printWithNumbers(convertMode)
```

`randDNA`*A function to generate random DNA sequences.*

---

**Description**

This function generates random DNA sequences, nucleotides are sampled with frequency 0.25 each.

**Usage**`randDNA(n)`**Arguments**

`n`                      The length of the sequence desired.

**Details**

This function generates random sequences of A, C, T and G. Real DNA is quite different, so one should not use these sequences for much other than pedagogical purposes.

**Value**

A length one character vector, with `n` characters randomly chosen from A, C, T and G.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**Examples**`randDNA(100)`

---

`Rcal`*A function to print a calendar.*

---

**Description**

A function that prints the requested monthly calendar. The function relies on pipe and the Unix routine `cal`.

**Usage**`Rcal(month, year)`

**Arguments**

month	An optional argument, if supplied a number between 1 and 12.
year	An optional argument, if supplied a year.

**Details**

By default this prints the calendar for the current month and year. Otherwise if a month and year are given and then the calendar for that month and year is printed.

**Value**

No value is returned.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[pipe](#)

**Examples**

```
if (.Platform$OS.type != "windows") {  
  Rcal()  
  Rcal(6, 1970)  
}
```

---

S4Help

*A function to find help for S4 classes and generics*

---

**Description**

This function takes the name of either a class or a generic function and finds a set of related manual pages. The user then selects which manual page they want.

**Usage**

```
S4Help(name, signature)
```

**Arguments**

name	The name of the S4 class or generic function.
signature	Currently not used.

**Details**

For S4 classes, the class and any superclasses are found and the user can select which manual page they want. If the supplied name corresponds to a generic function, then that function, or any of its methods can be selected.

**Value**

NULL is returned, invisibly. The function is called purely for side effect.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[help](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
  S4Help("classRepresentation")
  S4Help("coerce")

## End(Not run)
```

---

simplePVect

*A function to print a vector at the C level.*

---

**Description**

This function takes as input any vector, matrix or array of numeric values and passes that array out to C, where it is printed, in order from the first value stored to the last, regardless of the dimensioning information. And information about the location is printed as well.

**Usage**

```
simplePVect(iV)
```

**Arguments**

iV                      The input vector.

**Details**

As above.

**Value**

NULL is returned. The function is called only for its side effects.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**Examples**

```
simplePVect(1:3)
```

---

simpleRand

*A simple interface to C level random number generation.*

---

**Description**

A simple interface function to R's C level rng code. Primarily a pedagogical tool to accompany the monograph R for Bioinformatics.

**Usage**

```
simpleRand(x, y = "notused")
```

**Arguments**

x	The number of random numbers to generate.
y	Not used in the base implementation, but various exercises involve making use of this.

**Details**

An interface, via [.Call](#) to R's underlying RNG cod.

**Value**

The random numbers generated, plus information about the RNG used.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[simpleSort](#), [.Call](#)

**Examples**

```
simpleRand(4)
```

---

`simpleSort`*A simple interface to sorting routines in R*

---

**Description**

The function demonstrates how to access R's internal sorting routines via the [.Call](#) interface.

**Usage**

```
simpleSort(x)
```

**Arguments**

`x`                      The vector to be sorted.

**Details**

A simple interface to sorting routines in R. It is intended to be modified following exercises in the accompanying monograph.

**Value**

The sorted vector.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[simpleRand](#), [.Call](#)

**Examples**

```
simpleSort(c(4,2,6))
```

---

subClassNames	<i>Functions to return the names of either subclasses or superclasses.</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Given the name of a S4 class, or a S4 classRepresentation object, these functions return either the names of the direct subclasses or of the direct superclasses.

**Usage**

```
subClassNames(x)  
superClassNames(x)
```

**Arguments**

x	Either the name of a class, or an instance of classRepresentation.
---	--

**Details**

If a name is given then getClass is used to get the class representation object.

**Value**

A character vector, listing either the direct subclasses or the direct superclasses, depending on which function was called.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[getClass](#)

**Examples**

```
subClassNames("matrix")  
superClassNames("matrix")
```

---

superClasses	<i>Return a list of super classes.</i>
--------------	--

---

**Description**

This function computes and returns a list of all super classes given a classRepresentation.

**Usage**

```
superClasses(x)
```

**Arguments**

x	A classRepresentation object
---	------------------------------

**Details**

This function needs to be rationalized with superClassNames.

**Value**

A list of the super classes.

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[superClassNames](#)

**Examples**

```
superClassNames(getClass("graphNEL"))
```

---

traceMethods	<i>A function to turn on tracing for all methods of a S4 generic function.</i>
--------------	--

---

**Description**

This function can turn on tracing for all methods (or a subset of the methods) of a generic function. It is useful when debugging, as it can help see how the methods are being traversed.

**Usage**

```
traceMethods(generic, traceStrings, tracer)
untraceMethods(generic, methodSigs)
```

**Arguments**

generic	The name of the generic function, quoted or not.
traceStrings	A string to print when each method is entered.
tracer	A function to insert as the tracer, if missing a function that prints the methods signature is used.
methodSigs	A set of method signatures, as a character vector, that tracing will be turned off for.

**Details**

traceMethods uses showMethods to figure out what methods exist, and what the signatures are. It then uses trace to set a trace on all methods.

untraceMethods uses the returned value of traceMethods, or any other similar construct to untrace methods for a generic.

**Value**

A vector of method signatures is returned. This could be then used to untrace the methods (something else to automate).

**Author(s)**

R. Gentleman

**See Also**

[showMethods](#), [trace](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
  traceMethods{slice}
  untraceMethods{slice}

## End(Not run)
```

# Index

## \* manip

- asSimpleVector, [2](#)
- printWithNumbers, [5](#)
- Rcal, [6](#)
- simpleRand, [9](#)
- simpleSort, [10](#)
- subClassNames, [11](#)
- .Call, [9](#), [10](#)
- asSimpleVector, [2](#)
- browser, [3](#)
- capture.output, [5](#)
- class2Graph (classList2Graph), [3](#)
- classList2Graph, [3](#)
- computeClassLinearization, [4](#)
- convertMode (asSimpleVector), [2](#)
- getClass, [11](#)
- help, [8](#)
- LPO (computeClassLinearization), [4](#)
- pipe, [7](#)
- printWithNumbers, [5](#)
- randDNA, [6](#)
- Rcal, [6](#)
- S4Help, [7](#)
- setVNames (asSimpleVector), [2](#)
- showMethods, [13](#)
- simplePVect, [8](#)
- simpleRand, [9](#), [10](#)
- simpleSort, [9](#), [10](#)
- subClassNames, [11](#)
- subsetAsCharacter (asSimpleVector), [2](#)
- superClasses, [12](#)
- superClassNames, [12](#)

superClassNames (subClassNames), [11](#)

trace, [5](#), [13](#)

traceMethods, [12](#)

untraceMethods (traceMethods), [12](#)