

# Package ‘usedist’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Distance Matrix Utilities

**Version** 0.4.0

**Description** Functions to re-arrange, extract, and work with distances.

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**RoxygenNote** 6.1.1

**Suggests** testthat, dplyr, tibble, tidyr

**NeedsCompilation** no

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 dist\_between\_centroids

*Compute the distance between group centroids*


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### Description

Compute the distance between group centroids

### Usage

```
dist_between_centroids(d, idx1, idx2, squared = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

d	A distance matrix object of class <code>dist</code> .
idx1	A vector of items in group 1.
idx2	A vector of items in group 2.
squared	If TRUE, return the squared distance between centroids.

### Details

If you have a distance matrix, and the objects are partitioned into groups, you might like to know the distance between the group centroids. The centroid of each group is simply the center of mass for the group.

It is possible to infer the distance between group centroids directly from the distances between items in each group. The `adonis` test in the ecology package `vegan` takes advantage of this approach to carry out an ANOVA-like test on distances.

The approach rests on the assumption that the objects occupy some high-dimensional Euclidean space. However, we do not have to actually create the space to find the distance between centroids. Based on the assumption that such a space exists, we can use an algebraic formula to perform the computation.

The formulas for this were presented by Apostol and Mnatsakanian in 2003, though we need to re-arrange equation 28 in their paper to get the value we want:

$$|c_1 - c_2| = \sqrt{\frac{1}{n_1 n_2} \sum_{(1,2)} - \frac{1}{n_1^2} \sum_{(1)} - \frac{1}{n_2^2} \sum_{(2)}}$$

where  $n_1$  is the number of samples in group 1,  $\sum_{(1)}$  is the sum of squared distances between items in group 1, and  $\sum_{(1,2)}$  is the sum of squared distances between items in group 1 and those in group 2.

Sometimes, the distance between centroids is not a real number, because it is not possible to create a space where this distance exists. Mathematically, we get a negative number underneath the square root in the equation above. If this happens, the function returns `NaN`. If you'd like to have access to this value, you can set `squared = TRUE` to return the squared distance between centroids. In this case, you will never get `NaN`, but you might receive negative numbers in your result.

**Value**

The distance between group centroids (see details).

**References**

Apostol, T.M. and Mnatsakanian, M.A. Sums of squares of distances in m-space. Math. Assoc. Am. Monthly 110, 516 (2003).

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dist_get	<i>Retrieve distances from a dist object.</i>
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**Description**

Retrieve distances from a `dist` object.

**Usage**

```
dist_get(d, idx1, idx2)
```

**Arguments**

`d` A distance matrix object of class `dist`.  
`idx1, idx2` Indices specifying the distances to extract.

**Value**

A vector of distances.

**Examples**

```
m4 <- matrix(1:16, nrow=4, dimnames=list(LETTERS[1:4]))
dm4 <- dist(m4)
dist_get(dm4, "A", "C")
dist_get(dm4, "A", c("A", "B", "C", "D"))
dist_get(dm4, c("A", "B", "C"), c("B", "D", "B"))
```

---

dist\_groups                      *Create a data frame of distances between groups of items.*

---

### Description

Create a data frame of distances between groups of items.

### Usage

```
dist_groups(d, g)
```

### Arguments

**d**                      A distance matrix object of class `dist`.  
**g**                      A factor representing the groups of objects in `d`.

### Value

A data frame with 6 columns:

**Item1, Item2** The items being compared.

**Group1, Group2** The groups to which the items belong.

**Label** A convenient label for plotting or comparison.

**Distance** The distance between Item1 and Item2.

### Examples

```
m4 <- matrix(1:16, nrow=4, dimnames=list(LETTERS[1:4]))
dm4 <- dist(m4)
g4 <- rep(c("Control", "Treatment"), each=2)
dist_groups(dm4, g4)
```

---

dist\_make                      *Make a distance matrix using a custom distance function*

---

### Description

Make a distance matrix using a custom distance function

### Usage

```
dist_make(x, distance_fcn, ...)
```

**Arguments**

`x` A matrix of observations, one per row

`distance_fcn` A function used to compute the distance between two rows of the data matrix. The two rows will be passed as the first and second arguments to `distance_fcn`.

... Additional arguments passed to `distance_fcn`.

**Details**

We do not set the `call` or `method` attributes of the `dist` object.

**Value**

A `dist` object containing the distances between rows of the data matrix.

**Examples**

```
x <- matrix(sin(1:30), nrow=5)
rownames(x) <- LETTERS[1:5]
manhattan_distance <- function (v1, v2) sum(abs(v1 - v2))
dist_make(x, manhattan_distance)
```

---

`dist_multi_centroids` *Make a new distance matrix of centroid distances between multiple groups*

---

**Description**

Make a new distance matrix of centroid distances between multiple groups

**Usage**

```
dist_multi_centroids(d, g, squared = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

`d` A distance matrix object of class `dist`.

`g` A factor representing the groups of items in `d`.

`squared` If `TRUE`, return the squared distance between centroids.

**Value**

A distance matrix of distances between the group centroids.

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dist_setNames	<i>Set the names/labels of a dist object.</i>
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**Description**

Set the names/labels of a dist object.

**Usage**

```
dist_setNames(d, nm)
```

**Arguments**

d	A distance matrix object of class dist.
nm	New labels for the rows/columns.

**Value**

A distance matrix with new row/column labels.

**Examples**

```
m4 <- matrix(1:16, nrow=4, dimnames=list(LETTERS[1:4]))
dm4 <- dist(m4)
dist_setNames(dm4, LETTERS[9:12])
```

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dist_subset	<i>Extract parts of a dist object.</i>
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**Description**

Extract a subset of values from a distance matrix. This function also works to re-arrange the rows of a distance matrix, if they are provided in the desired order.

**Usage**

```
dist_subset(d, idx)
```

**Arguments**

d	A distance matrix object of class dist.
idx	Indices specifying the subset of distances to extract.

**Value**

A distance matrix.

**Examples**

```
m4 <- matrix(1:16, nrow=4, dimnames=list(LETTERS[1:4]))
dm4 <- dist(m4)
dist_subset(dm4, c("A", "B", "C"))
dist_subset(dm4, c("D", "C", "B", "A"))
```

---

dist\_to\_centroids      *Compute distances from each item to group centroids*

---

**Description**

Compute distances from each item to group centroids

**Usage**

```
dist_to_centroids(d, g, squared = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

d	A distance matrix object of class <code>dist</code> .
g	A factor representing the groups of items in d.
squared	If TRUE, return the squared distance to group centroids.

**Details**

This function computes the distance from each item to the centroid positions of groups defined in the argument `g`. This is accomplished without determining the centroid positions directly; see the documentation for [dist\\_between\\_centroids](#) for details on this procedure.

If the distance can't be represented in a Euclidean space, the `CentroidDistance` is set to `NaN`. See the documentation for [dist\\_between\\_centroids](#) for further details.

**Value**

A data frame with distances to the group centroids:

**Item** A character vector of item labels from the `dist` object, or an integer vector of item locations if labels are not present.

**CentroidGroup** The group for which the centroid distance is given. The column type should match that of the argument `g` (the `unique` function is used to generate this column).

**CentroidDistance** Inferred distance from the item to the centroid position of the indicated group.

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`pivot_to_numeric_matrix`

*Convert a data frame in long format to a numeric matrix*

---

### Description

Convert a data frame in long format to a numeric matrix

### Usage

```
pivot_to_numeric_matrix(data, obs_col, feature_col, value_col)
```

### Arguments

<code>data</code>	A data frame with numerical values in long format.
<code>obs_col</code>	The column listing the observation, or row of the matrix.
<code>feature_col</code>	The column listing the feature, or column of the matrix.
<code>value_col</code>	The column listing the value, to be placed inside the matrix.

The parameters `obs_col`, `feature_col`, and `value_col` should be provided as bare column names. If any combination of row and column does not appear in the data frame, a zero will be entered in the resultant matrix.

This function requires the packages `dplyr`, `tibble`, and `tidyr` to be installed. If they are not installed, the function will generate an error, with a message to install the appropriate packages.

### Examples

```
longdata <- data.frame(
  SampleID = paste0("Sample", c(1, 1, 1, 2, 2, 3, 3)),
  FeatureID = paste0("Feature", c(1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 2, 3)),
  Value = c(132, 41, 7, 56, 11, 929, 83))
longdata
pivot_to_numeric_matrix(longdata, SampleID, FeatureID, Value)
```

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`usedist`

*usedist: a package for working with distance matrices in R*

---

### Description

In `usedist`, we provide a number of functions to help with distance matrix objects, such as those produced by the `dist` function. Some functions are geared towards making or altering distance matrix objects. Others relate to groups of items in the distance matrix. They provide access to within- or between-group distances, or use these distances to infer the distance to group centroids.

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