

# Package ‘jaccard’

May 8, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** Testing Similarity Between Binary Datasets using  
Jaccard/Tanimoto Coefficients

**Version** 0.1.2

**Date** 2026-02-02

**Maintainer** Neo Christopher Chung <nchchung@gmail.com>

**Description** Calculate statistical significance of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity  
coefficients.

**License** GPL-2

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Imports** Rcpp (>= 0.12.6), qvalue, shiny

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**NeedsCompilation** yes

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.3

**Author** Neo Christopher Chung [aut, cre],  
Błażej Miasojedow [aut],  
Michał Startek [aut],  
Anna Gambin [aut]

**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2026-02-03 10:00:11 UTC

## Contents

jaccard . . . . .	2
jaccard.ev . . . . .	2
jaccard.rahman . . . . .	3
jaccard.test . . . . .	4
jaccard.test.asymptotic . . . . .	5
jaccard.test.bootstrap . . . . .	6
jaccard.test.exact . . . . .	7
jaccard.test.mca . . . . .	8
jaccard.test.pairwise . . . . .	9
runJaccardApp . . . . .	10

**Index****11**


---

jaccard	<i>Compute a Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient</i>
---------	--

---

**Description**

Compute a Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient

**Usage**

```
jaccard(x, y, center = FALSE, px = NULL, py = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
y	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
center	whether to center the Jaccard/Tanimoto coefficient by its expectation
px	probability of successes in x (optional)
py	probability of successes in y (optional)

**Value**

`jaccard.test.bootstrap` returns an expected value.

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)
jaccard(x,y)
```

---

jaccard.ev	<i>Compute an expected Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient under independence</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

Compute an expected Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient under independence

**Usage**

```
jaccard.ev(x, y, px = NULL, py = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

x	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
y	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
px	probability of successes in x (optional)
py	probability of successes in y (optional)

**Value**

jaccard.test.bootstrap returns an expected value.

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)
jaccard.ev(x,y)
```

---

jaccard.rahman      *Compute p-value using the EC-BLAST method*

---

**Description**

In the EC-BLAST paper, Rahman et al. (2014) provide the following description: The mean ( $\mu$ ) and s.d. ( $\sigma$ ) of the similarity scores are used to define the z score,  $z = (Tw - \mu)/\sigma$ . For the purpose of calculating the P value, only hits with  $T > 0$  are considered. The P value  $w$  is derived from the z score using an extreme value distribution  $P = 1 - \exp\left(-e^{-z\pi/\sqrt{6}} - \Gamma'(1)\right)$ , where the Euler-Mascheroni constant  $\Gamma'(1) \approx 0.577215665$ .

**Usage**

```
jaccard.rahman(j)
```

**Arguments**

j                    a numeric vector of observed Jaccard coefficients (uncentered)

**Value**

jaccard.rahman returns a numeric vector of p-values

**References**

Rahman, Cuesta, Furnham, Holliday, and Thornton (2014) EC-BLAST: a tool to automatically search and compare enzyme reactions. Nature Methods, 11(2) <https://www.nature.com/articles/nmeth.2803>

---

jaccard.test

*Test for Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients*


---

### Description

Compute statistical significance of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients between binary vectors, using four different methods.

### Usage

```
jaccard.test(x, y, method = "mca", px = NULL, py = NULL, verbose = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
y	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
method	a method to compute a p-value ("mca", "bootstrap", "asymptotic", or "exact")
px	probability of successes in x (optional)
py	probability of successes in y (optional)
verbose	whether to print progress messages
...	optional arguments for specific computational methods

### Details

There exist four methods to compute p-values of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients: `mca`, `bootstrap`, `asymptotic`, and `exact`. This is simply a wrapper function for corresponding four functions in this package: [jaccard.test.mca](#), [jaccard.test.bootstrap](#), [jaccard.test.asymptotic](#), and [jaccard.test.exact](#).

We recommend using either `mca` or `bootstrap` methods, since the `exact` solution is slow for a moderately large vector and `asymptotic` approximation may be inaccurate depending on the input vector size. The `bootstrap` method uses resampling with replacement binary vectors to compute a p-value (see optional arguments). The `mca` method uses the measure concentration algorithm that estimates the multinomial distribution with a known error bound (specified by an optional argument `accuracy`).

### Value

`jaccard.test` returns a list mainly consisting of

statistics	centered Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient
pvalue	p-value
expectation	expectation

**Optional arguments for method="bootstrap"**

- fix** whether to fix (i.e., not resample) x and/or y
- B** a total bootstrap iteration
- seed** a seed for a random number generator

**Optional arguments for method="mca"**

- accuracy** an error bound on approximating a multinomial distribution
- error.type** an error type on approximating a multinomial distribution ("average", "upper", "lower")
- seed** a seed for the random number generator.

**See Also**

[jaccard.test.bootstrap](#) [jaccard.test.mca](#) [jaccard.test.exact](#) [jaccard.test.asymptotic](#)

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)
jaccard.test(x,y,method="bootstrap")
jaccard.test(x,y,method="mca")
jaccard.test(x,y,method="exact")
jaccard.test(x,y,method="asymptotic")
```

---

```
jaccard.test.asymptotic
```

*Compute p-value using an asymptotic approximation*

---

**Description**

Compute statistical significance of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients.

**Usage**

```
jaccard.test.asymptotic(x, y, px = NULL, py = NULL, verbose = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

- x** a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
- y** a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
- px** probability of successes in x (optional)
- py** probability of successes in y (optional)
- verbose** whether to print progress messages

**Value**

jaccard.test.asymptotic returns a list consisting of

statistics	centered Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient
pvalue	p-value
expectation	expectation

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)
jaccard.test.asymptotic(x,y)
```

---

```
jaccard.test.bootstrap
```

*Compute p-value using the bootstrap procedure*

---

**Description**

Compute statistical significance of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients.

**Usage**

```
jaccard.test.bootstrap(
  x,
  y,
  px = NULL,
  py = NULL,
  verbose = TRUE,
  fix = "x",
  B = 1000,
  seed = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

x	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
y	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
px	probability of successes in x (optional)
py	probability of successes in y (optional)
verbose	whether to print progress messages
fix	whether to fix (i.e., not resample) x and/or y
B	a total bootstrap iteration
seed	a seed for a random number generator

**Value**

jaccard.test.bootstrap returns a list consisting of

statistics	centered Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient
pvalue	p-value
expectation	expectation

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)
jaccard.test.bootstrap(x,y,B=500)
```

---

jaccard.test.exact      *Compute p-value using the exact solution*

---

**Description**

Compute statistical significance of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients.

**Usage**

```
jaccard.test.exact(x, y, px = NULL, py = NULL, verbose = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

x	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
y	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
px	probability of successes in x (optional)
py	probability of successes in y (optional)
verbose	whether to print progress messages

**Value**

jaccard.test.exact returns a list consisting of

statistics	centered Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient
pvalue	p-value
expectation	expectation

**Examples**

```
set.seed(1234)
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)
jaccard.test.exact(x,y)
```

---

jaccard.test.mca      *Compute p-value using the Measure Concentration Algorithm*

---

### Description

Compute statistical significance of Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients.

### Usage

```
jaccard.test.mca(  
  x,  
  y,  
  px = NULL,  
  py = NULL,  
  accuracy = 1e-05,  
  error.type = "average",  
  verbose = TRUE  
)
```

### Arguments

x	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
y	a binary vector (e.g., fingerprint)
px	probability of successes in x (optional)
py	probability of successes in y (optional)
accuracy	an error bound on approximating a multinomial distribution
error.type	an error type on approximating a multinomial distribution ("average", "upper", "lower")
verbose	whether to print progress messages

### Value

jaccard.test.mca returns a list consisting of

statistics	centered Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficient
pvalue	p-value
expectation	expectation

### Examples

```
set.seed(1234)  
x = rbinom(100,1,.5)  
y = rbinom(100,1,.5)  
jaccard.test.mca(x,y,accuracy = 1e-05)
```

---

jaccard.test.pairwise *Pair-wise tests for Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients*

---

### Description

Given a data matrix, it computes pair-wise Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients and p-values among rows (variables). Only for testing due to its use of a for-loop.

### Usage

```
jaccard.test.pairwise(  
  dat,  
  method = "mca",  
  verbose = TRUE,  
  compute.qvalue = TRUE,  
  ...  
)
```

### Arguments

dat	a data matrix
method	a method to compute a p-value ("mca", "bootstrap", "asymptotic", or "exact")
verbose	whether to print progress messages
compute.qvalue	whether to compute q-values
...	optional arguments for specific computational methods

### Value

jaccard.test.pairwise returns a list of matrices

statistics	Jaccard/Tanimoto similarity coefficients
pvalues	p-values
qvalues	q-values

### See Also

[jaccard.test](#)

---

`runJaccardApp`*Launch an interactive Shiny app on a local network*

---

**Description**

Launch an interactive Shiny app on a local network

**Usage**

```
runJaccardApp()
```

# Index

jaccard, [2](#)  
jaccard.ev, [2](#)  
jaccard.rahman, [3](#)  
jaccard.test, [4](#), [9](#)  
jaccard.test.asymptotic, [4](#), [5](#), [5](#)  
jaccard.test.bootstrap, [4](#), [5](#), [6](#)  
jaccard.test.exact, [4](#), [5](#), [7](#)  
jaccard.test.mca, [4](#), [5](#), [8](#)  
jaccard.test.pairwise, [9](#)  
  
runJaccardApp, [10](#)