

# Package ‘vwr’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Useful functions for visual word recognition research

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**Description** Functions and data for use in visual word recognition research: Computation of neighbors (Hamming and Levenshtein distances), average distances to neighbors (e.g., OLD20), and Coltheart's N. Also includes the LDINN algorithm to detect bias in the composition of a lexical decision task. Most of the functions support parallel execution. Supplies wordlists for several languages. Uses the string distance functions from the stringdist package by Mark van der Loo.

**Depends** R(>= 3.0.1), stringdist, lattice, latticeExtra

**Suggests** parallel

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**LazyData** yes

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**NeedsCompilation** no

**LazyDataCompression** xz

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vwr-package

*Useful functions for visual word recognition research*

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### Description

Functions and data for use in visual word recognition research: Supports computation of neighbors using Hamming, Levenshtein, and Restricted Levenshtein-Damerau distances, average distances to neighbors (e.g., OLD20), and Coltheart's N. Supplies the LDkNN algorithm to detect bias in the composition of a lexical decision task. Most of the functions support parallel execution. Supplies wordlists for several languages.

### Details

Package: vwr  
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 License: GPL-3

### Author(s)

Emmanuel Keuleers

Maintainer: emmanuel.keuleers@ugent.be

---

ald *Compute average Levenshtein distances*

---

### Description

Compute the average Levenshtein distances between a word and its n nearest neighbors in a lexicon.

### Usage

```
ald(sources, targets, n, method="levenshtein", parallel = FALSE)
old20(sources, targets, method="levenshtein", parallel = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

sources	a list of words for which the average Levenshtein distance should be computed. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with <code>as.character</code> .
targets	a list of words containing possible neighbors. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with <code>as.character</code> .
method	specifies the distance function. With "levenshtein", <code>levenshtein.distance</code> is used, with "levenshtein.damerau" <code>levenshtein.damerau</code> is used.
n	specifies the number of nearest neighbors on which the average should be based. The variant <code>old20</code> does not take the n argument (it is fixed to 20).
parallel	with <code>parallel=TRUE</code> , <code>ald</code> will run in parallel on multiple cores. The number of parallel processes is specified by <code>detectCores(logical = FALSE)</code> .

### Details

The OLD20 measure was originally proposed by Yarkoni et al. (2008). This implementation is orders of magnitude faster than Tal Yarkoni's LDcalc program (see <http://talyarkoni.com/materials.php>). Do not use `multicore=TRUE` in a GUI environment, as it will most likely crash your R session.

### Value

A vector of average Levenshtein distances with names corresponding to sources.

### Author(s)

Emmanuel Keuleers

### References

Yarkoni, T., Balota, D., & Yap, M. (2008). Moving beyond Coltheart's N: A new measure of orthographic similarity. *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*, 15(5), 971–979.

**See Also**

[levenshtein.distance](#), [levenshtein.neighbors](#)

**Examples**

```
data(basque.words)
ald(basque.words[1:10], basque.words, 20)
old20(basque.words[1:10], basque.words)
```

---

basque.words	<i>A list of Basque Words</i>
--------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

A list of 18,483 Basque words without spaces or dashes, from E-HITZ.

**Usage**

```
data(basque.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

Perea, M., Urkia, M., Davis, C. J., Agirre, A., Laseka, E., & Carreiras, M. (2006). E-Hitz: A word frequency list and a program for deriving psycholinguistic statistics in an agglutinative language (Basque). *Behavior Research Methods*, 38, 610-615.

**Examples**

```
data(basque.words)
```

---

coltheart.N	<i>Compute Coltheart's N</i>
-------------	------------------------------

---

**Description**

Compute Coltheart's N measure (the number of neighbors at distance 1).

**Usage**

```
coltheart.N(sources, targets, distance = 1, method = "hamming", parallel = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

sources	a list of words for which Coltheart's N should be computed. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with <code>as.character</code> .
targets	a list of words containing possible neighbors. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with <code>as.character</code> .
parallel	with <code>parallel=TRUE</code> , <code>coltheart.N</code> will run in parallel on multiple cores. The number of parallel processes is specified by <code>detectCores(logical = FALSE)</code> .
distance	specifies the distance on which N should be based. This should be left to 1 to compute the original measure.
method	with <code>method="hamming"</code> , compute N based on the <a href="#">hamming.distance</a> , with <code>method="levenshtein"</code> , compute N based on the <a href="#">levenshtein.distance</a> with <code>method="levenshtein-damerau"</code> , compute N based on the <a href="#">levenshtein.damerau.distance</a>

**Value**

An integer vector with names corresponding to sources.

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**References**

Coltheart, M., Davelaar, E., Jonasson, J. T., & Besner, D. (1977). Access to the internal lexicon. *Attention and performance VI*, 535–555.

**See Also**

[hamming.distance](#), [levenshtein.distance](#)

**Examples**

```
data(spanish.words)
sample.words<-sample(spanish.words,20)
coltheart.N(sample.words,spanish.words)
coltheart.N(sample.words,spanish.words, method='levenshtein')
```

---

dutch.words

*A list of Dutch Words*

---

**Description**

A list of 293,749 Dutch words without spaces or dashes from the CELEX lexical database.

**Usage**

```
data(dutch.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

Baayen, R. H., Piepenbrock, R., & Gulikers, L. (1995). The CELEX lexical database (release 2) [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Linguistic Data Consortium, University of Pennsylvania.

**Examples**

```
data(dutch.words)
```

---

```
english.words
```

*A list of English Words*

---

**Description**

A list of 66,330 English words without spaces or dashes from the CELEX lexical database.

**Usage**

```
data(english.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

Baayen, R. H., Piepenbrock, R., & Gulikers, L. (1995). The CELEX lexical database (release 2) [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Linguistic Data Consortium, University of Pennsylvania.

**Examples**

```
data(english.words)
```

---

french.words	<i>A list of French Words</i>
--------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

A list of 116,194 French words without spaces or dashes from the Lexique 3 database

**Usage**

```
data(french.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

<http://www.lexique.org/>

New, B., Pallier, C., Brysbaert, M., & Ferrand, L. (2004). Lexique 2: A new French lexical database. *Behavior Research Methods, Instruments, & Computers*, 36, 516-524.

**Examples**

```
data(french.words)
```

---

german.words	<i>A list of German Words</i>
--------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

A list of 315,391 German words without spaces or dashes from the CELEX lexical database.

**Usage**

```
data(german.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

Baayen, R. H., Piepenbrock, R., & Gulikers, L. (1995). The CELEX lexical database (release 2) [CD-ROM]. Philadelphia: Linguistic Data Consortium, University of Pennsylvania.

**Examples**

```
data(german.words)
```

---

hamming.distance      *Compute Hamming distances*

---

### Description

Compute the Hamming distance (the number of non-overlapping characters) between words of the same length.

### Usage

```
hamming.distance(xsource, targets)
```

### Arguments

xsource	A character string to compute the Hamming distance from.
targets	Words to which the Hamming distance must be computed. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with <code>as.character</code> .

### Details

The actual distance computation is performed by [stringdist](#) with "method='h'".

### Value

An integer vector containing Hamming distances, with names corresponding to targets. Since the Hamming distance is only defined between words of the same length, the output of `hamming.distance` is only guaranteed to have the same length as `targets` if all `targets` have the same length as `source`.

### Author(s)

Emmanuel Keuleers

### References

Hamming, R. W. (1950). Error detecting and error correcting codes. *Bell System technical journal*, 29(2), 147-160.

### See Also

[stringdist](#), [hamming.neighbors](#), [coltheart.N](#)

### Examples

```
data(english.words)
targets<-english.words[which(nchar(english.words)==5)]
hamming.distance('electroencephalogram',english.words)
```



---

hamming.neighbors      *Compute Hamming neighbors*

---

**Description**

List the neighbors of a character string by Hamming distance.

**Usage**

```
hamming.neighbors(source, targets)
```

**Arguments**

source	A character string.
targets	Potential Hamming neighbors.

**Value**

A list of neighbors at each distance.

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**See Also**

[hamming.distance](#), [stringdist](#)

**Examples**

```
data(english.words)
hamming.neighbors('electroencephalogram', english.words)
hamming.neighbors('hello', english.words)
```

---

ldknn      *Run the ldknn algorithm*

---

**Description**

The ldknn algorithm is used to detect bias in the composition of a lexical decision task, using k-nearest neighbor classification and the Levenshtein distance metric.

**Usage**

```
ldknn(stimuli, types, reference, k = 1, method='levenshtein', parallel = FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

stimuli	character strings corresponding to the stimuli in the experiment.
types	factor corresponding to the type of each stimulus in the experiment.
reference	a character string giving the reference level. Must be a level of the factor in types
k	a value for the k parameter. Set to 1 by default.
method	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "levenshtein": uses <code>levenshtein.distance</code> to calculate distances</li> <li>• "levenshtein.damerau": uses <code>levenshtein.damerau.distance</code> to calculate distances</li> </ul>
parallel	with <code>parallel=TRUE</code> , ldknn will run in parallel on multiple cores. The number of parallel processes is specified by <code>detectCores(logical = FALSE)</code> .

**Details**

Combining k nearest neighbor classification with the Levenshtein distance produces an algorithm which can be described as follows. For an experiment containing a number of stimuli, which can be words or nonwords:

1. Compute the Levenshtein distances between the currently presented stimulus and all previously presented stimuli.
2. Identify the previously presented stimuli that are at the k nearest distances from the current stimulus.
3. Compute the probability of a word response for the given stimulus based on the relative frequency of words among the nearest neighbors.

**Value**

A list with class `ldknn.run`.

`data` A data frame containing the results of the run. `stimulus` gives the stimulus values, `type` gives the types of the stimuli, `p` gives the probability for a reference level response for that stimulus.

`reference level` The reference level used for the simulation.

`Odds` The odds, z value, and p value for a reference level response, resulting from a logistic regression in which the probabilities generated by the ldknn algorithm are used to predict stimulus types.

`plot` and `print` methods are available for objects of class `ld1nn.run`

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**References**

Keuleers, E., & Brysbaert, M. (2011). Detecting inherent bias in lexical decision experiments with the LD1NN algorithm. *The Mental Lexicon*, 6(1), 34–52.

**See Also**

[levenshtein.distance](#), [levenshtein.damerau.distance](#)

**Examples**

```
data(english.words)
data(basque.words)
# set up a mock experiment: English stimuli are words, Basque stimuli are nonwords
experiment<-data.frame(stimulus=c(sample(english.words,500),
  sample(basque.words,500)),
  type=factor(rep(c('Word', 'Nonword'),each=500),levels=c('Word', 'Nonword')))
# randomize the trials
experiment<-experiment[sample(1:1000,1000),]
# run the ldknn algorithm
results<-ldknn(experiment$stimulus,experiment$type, 'Word')
print(results)
plot(results)
```

---

ldknn.odds

*Compute the odds of correctly predicting a response*

---

**Description**

Perform a logistic regression to compute the odds of correctly predicting a particular response. Used internally by ldknn.run. Not intended for separate use

**Usage**

```
ldknn.odds(type, probability, reference)
```

**Arguments**

type	A factor corresponding to the true class for each response.
probability	Probability of the reference level response.
reference	A character string corresponding to the reference level.

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**See Also**

[ldknn](#)

---

`levenshtein.damerau.distance`*Compute Levenshtein-Damerau distances*

---

### Description

Compute the Levenshtein-Damerau distance between two character strings (the minimal number of insertions, deletions replacements, or transpositions required to transform one string into the other)

### Usage

```
levenshtein.damerau.distance(xsource, targets)
```

### Arguments

<code>xsource</code>	A character string to compute the Levenshtein-Damerau distance from.
<code>targets</code>	A list of words to compute the Levenshtein-Damerau distance to. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with <code>as.character</code> .

### Details

The distance computation is performed by [stringdist](#) with `method="osa"`. Note that this function computes the restricted Levenshtein-Damerau distance instead of the unrestricted version.

### Value

An integer vector containing Restricted Levenshtein-Damerau distances, with names corresponding to targets.

### Author(s)

Emmanuel Keuleers

### References

Damerau, F. J. (1964). A technique for computer detection and correction of spelling errors. *Communications of the ACM*, 7(3), 171—176.

### See Also

[levenshtein.neighbors](#), [levenshtein.distance](#), [stringdist](#), [ald](#)

### Examples

```
data(french.words)
levenshtein.damerau.distance('pourquoi', sample(french.words, 20))
```

---

levenshtein.damerau.neighbors  
*Compute Levenshtein-Damerau neighbors*

---

**Description**

List the neighbors of a character string by Levenshtein-Damerau distance.

**Usage**

```
levenshtein.damerau.neighbors(xsource, targets)
```

**Arguments**

xsource	A character string.
targets	Potential neighbors. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with as.character.

**Value**

A list of neighbors at each distance.

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**See Also**

[levenshtein.damerau.distance](#)

**Examples**

```
data(serbian_latin.words)  
levenshtein.neighbors('pola', serbian_latin.words)[1:2]
```

---

levenshtein.distance *Compute Levenshtein distances*

---

**Description**

Compute the Levenshtein distance between two character strings (the minimal number of insertions, deletions or replacements required to transform one string into the other)

**Usage**

```
levenshtein.distance(xsource, targets)
```

**Arguments**

xsource	A character string to compute the Levenshtein distance from.
targets	A list of words to compute the Levenshtein distance to. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with as.character.

**Details**

The distance computation is performed by [stringdist](#) with method="lv".

**Value**

An integer vector containing Levenshtein distances, with names corresponding to targets.

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**References**

Levenshtein, V. I. (1966, February). Binary codes capable of correcting deletions, insertions and reversals. In Soviet physics doklady (Vol. 10, p. 707).

**See Also**

[levenshtein.neighbors](#), [stringdist](#), [ald](#), [levenshtein.damerau.distance](#)

**Examples**

```
data(french.words)
levenshtein.distance('pourquoi', sample(french.words, 20))
```

---

levenshtein.neighbors *Compute Levenshtein neighbors*

---

**Description**

List the neighbors of a character string by Levenshtein distance.

**Usage**

```
levenshtein.neighbors(xsource, targets)
```

**Arguments**

xsource	A character string.
targets	Potential Levenshtein neighbors. Must be of type character, or convertible to type character with as.character.

**Value**

A list of neighbors at each distance.

**Author(s)**

Emmanuel Keuleers

**See Also**

[levenshtein.distance](#)

**Examples**

```
data(serbian_latin.words)
levenshtein.neighbors('pola', serbian_latin.words)[1:2]
```

---

old20

*Average Levenshtein distance of the 20 nearest neighbors*

---

**Description**

See [ald](#)

---

plot.ldknn.run

*Plot the results of an ldknn run*

---

**Description**

see [ldknn](#)

---

print.ldknn.run

*Print the results of an ldknn run*

---

**Description**

see [ldknn](#)

---

serbian\_cyrillic.words

*A list of Serbian Words in Cyrillic alphabet*

---

**Description**

A list of 144,105 words without spaces or dashes from the frequency dictionary of contemporary Serbian language, in Cyrillic alphabet.

**Usage**

```
data(serbian_cyrillic.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

Kostić, Đ. (1999). Frekvencijski rečnik savremenog srpskog jezika [Frequency dictionary of contemporary Serbian language]. Yugoslavia: University of Belgrade, Institute for Experimental Phonetics and Speech Pathology and Laboratory for Experimental Psychology.

**Examples**

```
data(serbian_cyrillic.words)
```

---

serbian\_latin.words    *A list of Serbian Words in Latin alphabet*

---

**Description**

A list of 144,105 words without spaces or dashes from the frequency dictionary of contemporary Serbian language, in Latin alphabet.

**Usage**

```
data(serbian_latin.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.



**Source**

Kostić, Đ. (1999). Frekvencijski rečnik savremenog srpskog jezika [Frequency dictionary of contemporary Serbian language]. Yugoslavia: University of Belgrade, Institute for Experimental Phonetics and Speech Pathology and Laboratory for Experimental Psychology.

**Examples**

```
data(serbian_latin.words)
```

---

spanish.words	<i>A list of Spanish Words</i>
---------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

A list of 31,490 Spanish words without spaces or dashes, from the base-lexicon of BuscaPalabras.

**Usage**

```
data(spanish.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Source**

Davis, C. J., & Perea, M. (2005). BuscaPalabras: A program for deriving orthographic and phonological neighborhood statistics and other psycholinguistic indices in Spanish. *Behavior Research Methods, 37*, 665-671.

**Examples**

```
data(spanish.words)
```

---

vietnamese.words	<i>A list of Vietnamese Words</i>
------------------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

A list of 47,966 Vietnamese words without spaces or dashes.

**Usage**

```
data(vietnamese.words)
```

**Format**

A character vector.

**Examples**

```
data(vietnamese.words)
```

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