

Package ‘tesseract’

September 12, 2026

Type Package

Title Open Source OCR Engine

Version 5.3.1

Description Bindings to 'Tesseract':

a powerful optical character recognition (OCR) engine that supports over 100 languages.
The engine is highly configurable in order to tune the detection algorithms and
obtain the best possible results.

License Apache License 2.0

URL <https://docs.ropensci.org/tesseract/>

<https://ropensci.r-universe.dev/tesseract>

BugReports <https://github.com/ropensci/tesseract/issues>

SystemRequirements Tesseract >= 3.03 (libtesseract-dev /
tesseract-devel) and Leptonica (libleptonica-dev /
leptonica-devel). On Debian you need to install the English
training data separately (tesseract-ocr-eng)

Imports Rcpp (>= 0.12.12), pdftools (>= 1.5), curl, rappdirs, digest

LinkingTo Rcpp

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

Suggests magick (>= 1.7), spelling, knitr, tibble, rmarkdown

Encoding UTF-8

VignetteBuilder knitr

Language en-US

NeedsCompilation yes

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Repository CRAN

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ocr	<i>Tesseract OCR</i>
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Description

Extract text from an image. Requires that you have training data for the language you are reading. Works best for images with high contrast, little noise and horizontal text. See [tesseract wiki](#) and our package vignette for image preprocessing tips.

Usage

```
ocr(image, engine = tesseract("eng"), HOCR = FALSE)
```

```
ocr_data(image, engine = tesseract("eng"))
```

Arguments

image	file path, url, or raw vector to image (png, tiff, jpeg, etc)
engine	a tesseract engine created with tesseract() . Alternatively a language string which will be passed to tesseract() .
HOCR	if TRUE return results as HOCR xml instead of plain text

Details

The `ocr()` function returns plain text by default, or hOCR text if hOCR is set to TRUE. The `ocr_data()` function returns a data frame with a confidence rate and bounding box for each word in the text.

References

[Tesseract: Improving Quality](#)

See Also

Other tesseract: [tesseract\(\)](#), [tesseract_download\(\)](#)

Examples

```
text <- ocr("https://jeroen.github.io/images/testocr.png")
cat(text)

xml <- ocr("https://jeroen.github.io/images/testocr.png", HOOCR = TRUE)
cat(xml)

df <- ocr_data("https://jeroen.github.io/images/testocr.png")
print(df)

# Full roundtrip test: render PDF to image and OCR it back to text
curl::curl_download("https://cran.r-project.org/doc/manuals/r-release/R-intro.pdf", "R-intro.pdf")
orig <- pdftools::pdf_text("R-intro.pdf")[1]

# Render pdf to png image
img_file <- pdftools::pdf_convert("R-intro.pdf", format = 'tiff', pages = 1, dpi = 400)
unlink("R-intro.pdf")

# Extract text from png image
text <- ocr(img_file)
unlink(img_file)
cat(text)

engine <- tesseract(options = list(tessedit_char_whitelist = "0123456789"))
```

tesseract

Tesseract Engine

Description

Create an OCR engine for a given language and control parameters. This can be used by the [ocr](#) and [ocr_data](#) functions to recognize text.

Usage

```
tesseract(
  language = "eng",
  datapath = NULL,
  configs = NULL,
  options = NULL,
  cache = TRUE
)

tesseract_params(filter = "")

tesseract_info()
```

Arguments

language	string with language for training data. Usually defaults to eng
datapath	path with the training data for this language. Default uses the system library.
configs	character vector with files, each containing one or more parameter values. These config files can exist in the current directory or one of the standard tesseract config files that live in the tessdata directory. See details.
options	a named list with tesseract parameters. See details.
cache	speed things up by caching engines
filter	only list parameters containing a particular string

Details

Tesseract control parameters can be set either via a named list in the options parameter, or in a config file text file which contains the parameter name followed by a space and then the value, one per line. Use [tesseract_params\(\)](#) to list or find parameters. Note that that some parameters are only supported in certain versions of libtesseract, and that invalid parameters can sometimes cause libtesseract to crash.

See Also

Other tesseract: [ocr\(\)](#), [tesseract_download\(\)](#)

Examples

```
tesseract_params('debug')
```

tesseract_download	<i>Tesseract Training Data</i>
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Description

Helper function to download training data from the official [tessdata](#) repository. On Linux, the fast training data can be installed directly with [yum](#) or [apt-get](#).

Usage

```
tesseract_download(
  lang,
  datapath = NULL,
  model = c("fast", "best"),
  progress = interactive()
)
```

Arguments

lang	three letter code for language, see tessdata repository.
datapath	destination directory where to download store the file
model	either fast or best is currently supported. The latter downloads more accurate (but slower) trained models for Tesseract 4.0 or higher
progress	print progress while downloading

Details

Tesseract uses training data to perform OCR. Most systems default to English training data. To improve OCR performance for other languages you can to install the training data from your distribution. For example to install the spanish training data:

- [tesseract-ocr-spa](#) (Debian, Ubuntu)
- [tesseract-langpack-spa](#) (Fedora, EPEL)

On Windows and MacOS you can install languages using the [tesseract_download](#) function which downloads training data directly from [github](#) and stores it in a the path on disk given by the TESSDATA_PREFIX variable.

References

[tesseract wiki: training data](#)

See Also

Other tesseract: [ocr\(\)](#), [tesseract\(\)](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
if(is.na(match("fra", tesseract_info()$available)))
  tesseract_download("fra", model = 'best')
french <- tesseract("fra")
text <- ocr("https://jeroen.github.io/images/french_text.png", engine = french)
cat(text)

## End(Not run)
```

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