

Package ‘mSigTools’

July 22, 2025

Type Package

Title Mutational Signature Analysis Tools

Version 1.0.7

Description Utility functions for mutational signature analysis as described in Alexandrov, L. B. (2020)

<[doi:10.1038/s41586-020-1943-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-020-1943-3)>.

This package provides two groups of functions. One is for dealing with mutational signature ``exposures" (i.e. the counts of mutations in a sample that are due to each mutational signature). The other group of functions is for matching or comparing sets of mutational signatures. 'mSigTools' stands for mutational Signature analysis Tools.

License GPL-3

URL <https://github.com/Rozen-Lab/mSigTools>

BugReports <https://github.com/Rozen-Lab/mSigTools/issues>

Encoding UTF-8

Language en-US

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Imports clue, philentropy, quadprog, sets

Suggests cosmicSig, ICAMS, spelling, testthat (>= 3.0.0),

Config/testthat/edition 3

NeedsCompilation no

Author Steven Rozen [aut, cre] (ORCID:

<<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4288-0056>>),

Nanhai Jiang [aut] (ORCID: <<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4974-2753>>)

Maintainer Steven Rozen <steverozen@pm.me>

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2023-01-13 13:30:05 UTC

Contents

find_best_reconstruction_QP	2
match_two_sig_sets	4
optimize_exposure_QP	5
plot_exposure	6
plot_exposure_to_pdf	7
read_exposure	9
sig_dist_matrix	10
sort_exposure	11
TP_FP_FN_avg_sim	12
write_exposure	13
Index	14

find_best_reconstruction_QP

Find "best" reconstruction of a target signature or spectrum from a set of signatures.

Description

Find "best" reconstruction of a target signature or spectrum from a set of signatures.

Usage

```
find_best_reconstruction_QP(
  target.sig,
  sig.universe,
  max.subset.size = NULL,
  method = "cosine",
  trim.less.than = 1e-10
)
```

Arguments

target.sig	The signature or spectrum to reconstruct; a non-negative numeric vector or 1-column matrix-like object.
sig.universe	The universe of signatures from which to reconstruct target.sig; a non-negative numeric matrix-like object with <code>nrow(sig.universe) == length(target.sig)</code> . The sums of each column must be 1. Must not contain duplicate columns or have other non-unique quadratic programming solutions (not checked, but will generate an error from <code>solve.QP</code> in package quadprog).
max.subset.size	Maximum number of signatures to use to reconstruct target.sig.

- method As in `dist_one_one` in package `philentropy`, and used only to find the final "best" reconstruction. The optimized exposures from which to select the "best" reconstruction are calculated using `optimize_exposure_QP`, which uses `solve.QP` in package `quadprog`.
- trim.less.than After optimizing exposures with `optimize_exposure_QP`, remove exposures less than `trim.less.than` and then re-optimize.

Details

This function should be fast if you do not specify `max.subset.size`, but it will be combinatorially slow if `max.subset.size` is large and `trim.less.than` is small or negative. So do not do that. If `max.subset.size` is `NULL`, then the function just uses `optimize_exposure_QP`, and then excludes exposures `< trim.less.than`, and then re-runs `optimize_exposure_QP`. Otherwise, after excluding exposures `< trim.less.than`, then the function runs `optimize_exposure_QP` on subsets of signatures of size `<= max.subset.size`, removes exposures `< trim.less.than`, reruns `optimize_exposure_QP`, calculates the reconstruction and similarity between the reconstruction and the `target.sig` and returns the information for the exposures that have the greatest similarity.

Value

A list with elements:

- `optimized.exposure` A numerical vector of the exposures that give the "best" reconstruction. This vector is empty if there is an error.
- `similarity` The similarity between the reconstruction (see below) and `target.sig` according to the distance or similarity provided by the `method` argument.
- `method` The value specified for the `method` argument, or an error message if `optimize.exposure` is empty.
- `reconstruction` The reconstruction of `target.sig` according to `optimized.exposure`.

Examples

```
set.seed(888)
sig.u <-
  do.call(
    cbind,
    lapply(1:6, function(x) {
      col <- runif(n = 96)
      col / sum(col)
    })
  )
rr <- find_best_reconstruction_QP(
  target.sig = sig.u[, 1, drop = FALSE],
  sig.universe = sig.u[, 2:6]
)
names(rr)
rr$optimized.exposure
rr$similarity
rr <- find_best_reconstruction_QP(
  target.sig = sig.u[, 1, drop = FALSE],
```

```

sig.universe = sig.u[, 2:6],
max.subset.size = 3
)
rr$optimized.exposure
rr$similarity

```

match_two_sig_sets	<i>Find an optimal matching between two sets of signatures subject to a maximum distance.</i>
--------------------	---

Description

Find an optimal matching between two sets of signatures subject to a maximum distance.

Usage

```

match_two_sig_sets(
  x1,
  x2,
  method = "cosine",
  convert.sim.to.dist = function(x) {
    return(1 - x)
  },
  cutoff = 0.9
)

```

Arguments

x1	A numerical-matrix-like object with columns as signatures.
x2	A numerical-matrix-like object with columns as signatures. Needs to have the same number of rows as x1.
method	As for the distance function in package <code>philenropy</code> .
convert.sim.to.dist	If method specifies a similarity rather than a distance, use this function to convert the similarity to a distance.
cutoff	A maximum distance or minimum similarity over which to pair signatures between x1 and x2.

Details

Match signatures between x1 and x2 using the function [solve_LSAP](#), which uses the "Hungarian" (a.k.a "Kuhn–Munkres") algorithm https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hungarian_algorithm, which optimizes the total cost associated with the links between nodes. This function generates a distance matrix between the two sets of signatures using `method` and, if necessary, `convert.sim.to.dist`. It then sets distances > cutoff to very large values and then applies [solve_LSAP](#) to the resulting matrix to compute a matching between x1 and x2 that minimizes the sum of the distances.

Value

A list with the elements

- `table` Table of extracted signatures that matched a reference signature. Each row contains the extracted signature name, the reference signature name, and the distance of the match.
- `orig.matrix` The matrix of numeric distances between `x1` and `x2`.
- `modified.matrix` The argument `orig.matrix` with distances $> \text{cutoff}$ changed to very large values.

Examples

```
ex.sigs <- matrix(c(0.2, 0.8, 0.3, 0.7, 0.6, 0.4), nrow = 2)
colnames(ex.sigs) <- c("ex1", "ex2", "ex3")
ref.sigs <- matrix(c(0.21, 0.79, 0.19, 0.81), nrow = 2)
colnames(ref.sigs) <- c("ref1", "ref2")
match_two_sig_sets(ex.sigs, ref.sigs, cutoff = .9)
```

optimize_exposure_QP *Quadratic programming optimization of signature activities*

Description

Quadratic programming optimization of signature activities

Usage

```
optimize_exposure_QP(spectrum, signatures)
```

Arguments

<code>spectrum</code>	Mutational signature or mutational spectrum as a numeric vector or single column data frame or matrix.
<code>signatures</code>	Matrix or data frame of signatures from which to reconstruct spectrum. Rows are mutation types and columns are signatures. Should have column names for interpretable results. Cannot be a vector because the column names are needed.

Details

Code adapted from `SignatureEstimation::decomposeQP` and uses [solve.QP](#) in package `quadprog`.

Value

A vector of exposures with names being the `colnames` from `signatures`.

Examples

```
usigs <- matrix(c(0.2, 0.7, 0.1,
                 0.3, 0.6, 0.1,
                 0.1, 0.1, 0.8), nrow = 3)
colnames(usigs) <- c("u1", "u2", "u3")
tsig <- matrix(c(0.25, 0.65, 0.1), nrow = 3)
optimize_exposure_QP(tsig, usigs)
```

plot_exposure	<i>Plot exposures in multiple plots, with each plot showing exposures for a manageable number of samples.</i>
---------------	---

Description

Plot exposures in multiple plots, with each plot showing exposures for a manageable number of samples.

Usage

```
plot_exposure(
  exposure,
  samples.per.line = 30,
  plot.proportion = FALSE,
  xlim = NULL,
  ylim = NULL,
  legend.x = NULL,
  legend.y = NULL,
  cex.legend = 0.9,
  cex.yaxis = 1,
  cex.xaxis = NULL,
  plot.sample.names = TRUE,
  yaxis.labels = NULL,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

exposure	Exposures as a numerical matrix (or data.frame) with signatures in rows and samples in columns. Rownames are taken as the signature names and column names are taken as the sample IDs. If you want exposure sorted from largest to smallest, use sort_exposure . Do not use column names that start with multiple underscores. The exposures will often be mutation counts, but could also be e.g. mutations per megabase.
samples.per.line	Number of samples to show in each plot.
plot.proportion	Plot exposure proportions rather than counts.

xlim, ylim	Limits for the x and y axis. If NULL(default), the function tries to do something reasonable.
legend.x, legend.y	The x and y co-ordinates to be used to position the legend.
cex.legend	A numerical value giving the amount by which legend plotting text and symbols should be magnified relative to the default.
cex.yaxis	A numerical value giving the amount by which y axis values should be magnified relative to the default.
cex.xaxis	A numerical value giving the amount by which x axis values should be magnified relative to the default. If NULL(default), the function tries to do something reasonable.
plot.sample.names	Whether to plot sample names below the x axis. Default is TRUE. Ignored if there are no column names on exposure.
yaxis.labels	User defined y axis labels to be plotted. If NULL(default), the function tries to do something reasonable.
...	Other arguments passed to barplot . If ylab is not included, it defaults to a value depending on plot.proportion. If col is not supplied the function tries to do something reasonable.

Value

An **invisible** list. The first element is a logical value indicating whether the plot is successful. The second element is a numeric vector giving the coordinates of the bar x-axis midpoints drawn, useful for adding to the graph.

Examples

```
file <- system.file("extdata",
  "Liver-HCC.exposure.csv",
  package = "mSigTools"
)
exposure <- read_exposure(file)
old.par <- par(mar = c(8, 5, 1, 1))
plot_exposure(exposure[, 1:30],
  main = "Liver-HCC exposure", cex.yaxis = 0.8,
  plot.proportion = TRUE
)
par(old.par)
```

plot_exposure_to_pdf	<i>Plot exposures in multiple plots to a single PDF file, with each plot showing exposures for a manageable number of samples.</i>
----------------------	--

Description

Plot exposures in multiple plots to a single PDF file, with each plot showing exposures for a manageable number of samples.

Usage

```
plot_exposure_to_pdf(
  exposure,
  file,
  mfrow = c(2, 1),
  mar = c(6, 4, 3, 2),
  oma = c(3, 2, 0, 2),
  samples.per.line = 30,
  plot.proportion = FALSE,
  xlim = NULL,
  ylim = NULL,
  legend.x = NULL,
  legend.y = NULL,
  cex.legend = 0.9,
  cex.yaxis = 1,
  cex.xaxis = NULL,
  plot.sample.names = TRUE,
  yaxis.labels = NULL,
  width = 8.2677,
  height = 11.6929,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

exposure	Exposures as a numerical matrix (or data.frame) with signatures in rows and samples in columns. Rownames are taken as the signature names and column names are taken as the sample IDs. If you want exposure sorted from largest to smallest, use sort_exposure . Do not use column names that start with multiple underscores. The exposures will often be mutation counts, but could also be e.g. mutations per megabase.
file	The name of the PDF file to be produced.
mfrow	A vector of the form c(nr, nc). Subsequent figures will be drawn in an nr-by-nc array on the device by rows.
mar	A numerical vector of the form c(bottom, left, top, right) which gives the number of lines of margin to be specified on the four sides of the plot.
oma	A vector of the form c(bottom, left, top, right) giving the size of the outer margins in lines of text.
samples.per.line	Number of samples to show in each plot.
plot.proportion	Plot exposure proportions rather than counts.
xlim, ylim	Limits for the x and y axis. If NULL(default), the function tries to do something reasonable.
legend.x, legend.y	The x and y co-ordinates to be used to position the legend.

<code>cex.legend</code>	A numerical value giving the amount by which legend plotting text and symbols should be magnified relative to the default.
<code>cex.yaxis</code>	A numerical value giving the amount by which y axis values should be magnified relative to the default.
<code>cex.xaxis</code>	A numerical value giving the amount by which x axis values should be magnified relative to the default. If <code>NULL</code> (default), the function tries to do something reasonable.
<code>plot.sample.names</code>	Whether to plot sample names below the x axis. Default is <code>TRUE</code> . Ignored if there are no column names on exposure.
<code>yaxis.labels</code>	User defined y axis labels to be plotted. If <code>NULL</code> (default), the function tries to do something reasonable.
<code>width, height</code>	The width and height of the graphics region in inches.
<code>...</code>	Other arguments passed to <code>barplot</code> . If <code>ylab</code> is not included, it defaults to a value depending on <code>plot.proportion</code> . If <code>col</code> is not supplied the function tries to do something reasonable.

Value

An **invisible** list. The first element is a logical value indicating whether the plot is successful. The second element is a numeric vector giving the coordinates of the bar x-axis midpoints drawn, useful for adding to the graph.

Examples

```
file <- system.file("extdata",
  "Liver-HCC.exposure.csv",
  package = "mSigTools"
)
exposure <- read_exposure(file)
plot_exposure_to_pdf(exposure,
  file = file.path(tempdir(), "Liver-HCC.exposure.pdf"),
  cex.yaxis = 0.8, plot.proportion = TRUE
)
```

<code>read_exposure</code>	<i>Read an exposure matrix from a file.</i>
----------------------------	---

Description

Read an exposure matrix from a file.

Usage

```
read_exposure(file, check.names = FALSE)
```

Arguments

file	File path to a CSV file containing an exposure matrix, i.e. the numbers of mutations due to each mutational signature. Each row corresponds to a mutational signature and each column corresponds to a tumor or other biological sample.
check.names	Passed to read.csv. IMPORTANT: If TRUE this will replace the double colon in identifiers of the form <tumor_type>:<sample_id> with two periods (i.e. <tumor_type>.<sample_id>). If check.names is true, generate a warning if double colons were present.

Value

Numerical matrix of exposures, with the same shape as the contents of file.

Examples

```
file <- system.file("extdata",
  "Liver-HCC.exposure.csv",
  package = "mSigTools"
)
exposure <- read_exposure(file)
```

sig_dist_matrix	<i>Compute a matrix of distances / similarities between two sets of signatures.</i>
-----------------	---

Description

Compute a matrix of distances / similarities between two sets of signatures.

Usage

```
sig_dist_matrix(x1, x2, method = "cosine")
```

Arguments

x1	The first set of signatures (a numerical matrix-like object in which each column is a signature).
x2	The second set of signatures, similar data type to x1, and must have the same number of rows as x1.
method	As for the distance function in package philenropy.

Value

A numeric matrix with dimensions $\text{ncol}(x1) \times \text{ncol}(x2)$. Each element represents the distance or similarity (depending on method) between a column in x1 and a column in x2.

Examples

```
ex.sigs <- matrix(c(0.2, 0.8, 0.3, 0.7, 0.4, 0.6), nrow = 2)
colnames(ex.sigs) <- c("ex1", "ex2", "ex3")
ref.sigs <- matrix(c(0.21, 0.79, 0.19, 0.81), nrow = 2)
colnames(ref.sigs) <- c("ref1", "ref2")
sig_dist_matrix(ex.sigs, ref.sigs)
```

sort_exposure	<i>Sort columns of an exposure matrix based on the number of mutations in each sample (column).</i>
---------------	---

Description

Sort columns of an exposure matrix based on the number of mutations in each sample (column).

Usage

```
sort_exposure(exposure, decreasing = TRUE)
```

Arguments

exposure	Exposures as a numerical matrix (or data.frame) with signatures in rows and samples in columns. Rownames are taken as the signature names and column names are taken as the sample IDs.
decreasing	If TRUE, sort from largest to smallest.

Value

The original exposure with columns sorted.

Examples

```
file <- system.file("extdata",
  "Liver-HCC.exposure.csv",
  package = "mSigTools"
)
exposure <- read_exposure(file)
exposure.sorted <- sort_exposure(exposure)
```

TP_FP_FN_avg_sim	<i>Find best matches (by cosine similarity) of a set of mutational signatures to a set of reference mutational signatures.</i>
------------------	--

Description

Find best matches (by cosine similarity) of a set of mutational signatures to a set of reference mutational signatures.

Usage

```
TP_FP_FN_avg_sim(extracted.sigs, reference.sigs, similarity.cutoff = 0.9)
```

Arguments

`extracted.sigs` Mutational signatures discovered by some analysis. A numerical-matrix-like object with columns as signatures.

`reference.sigs` A numerical-matrix-like object with columns as signatures. This matrix should contain the reference mutational signatures. For example, these might be from a synthetic data set or they could be from reference set of signatures, such as the signatures at the COSMIC mutational signatures web site. See CRAN package `cosmicsig`.

`similarity.cutoff`
A signature in `reference.sigs` must be matched by \geq `similarity.cutoff` by a signature in `extracted.sigs` to be considered detected.

Details

Match signatures in `extracted.sigs` to signatures in `reference.sigs` using [match_two_sig_sets](#) based on cosine similarity.

Value

A list with the elements

- `TP` The number of true positive extracted signatures.
- `FP` The number of false positive extracted signatures.
- `FN` The number of false negative reference signatures.
- `avg.cos.sim` The average cosine similarity of true positives to their matching reference signatures.
- `table` A data.frame of extracted signatures that matched a reference signature. Each row contains the extracted signature name, the reference signature name, and the cosine similarity of the match.
- `sim.matrix` The numeric distance or similarity matrix between `extracted.sigs` and `reference.sigs` as returned from [sig_dist_matrix](#).

- `unmatched.ex.sigs` The identifiers of the extracted signatures that did not match a reference signature.
- `unmatched.ref.sigs` The identifiers of the reference signatures that did not match an extracted signature.

Examples

```
ex.sigs <- matrix(c(0.2, 0.8, 0.3, 0.7, 0.6, 0.4), nrow = 2)
colnames(ex.sigs) <- c("ex1", "ex2", "ex3")
ref.sigs <- matrix(c(0.21, 0.79, 0.19, 0.81), nrow = 2)
colnames(ref.sigs) <- c("ref1", "ref2")
TP_FP_FN_avg_sim(
  extracted.sigs = ex.sigs,
  reference.sigs = ref.sigs,
  similarity.cutoff = .9
)
```

write_exposure	<i>Write an exposure matrix to a file.</i>
----------------	--

Description

Write an exposure matrix to a file.

Usage

```
write_exposure(exposure, file, row.names = TRUE)
```

Arguments

<code>exposure</code>	Exposures as a numerical matrix (or data.frame) with signatures in rows and samples in columns. Rownames are taken as the signature names and column names are taken as the sample IDs.
<code>file</code>	File to which to write the exposure matrix (as a CSV file).
<code>row.names</code>	Either a logical value indicating whether the row names of exposure are to be written along with exposure, or a character vector of row names to be written.

Value

No return value, called for side effects.

Examples

```
file <- system.file("extdata",
  "Liver-HCC.exposure.csv",
  package = "mSigTools"
)
exposure <- read_exposure(file)
write_exposure(exposure, file = file.path(tempdir(), "Liver-HCC.exposure.csv"))
```

Index

barplot, [7](#), [9](#)

dist_one_one, [3](#)

distance, [4](#), [10](#)

find_best_reconstruction_QP, [2](#)

match_two_sig_sets, [4](#), [12](#)

optimize_exposure_QP, [3](#), [5](#)

plot_exposure, [6](#)

plot_exposure_to_pdf, [7](#)

read_exposure, [9](#)

sig_dist_matrix, [10](#), [12](#)

solve.QP, [2](#), [3](#), [5](#)

solve_LSAP, [4](#)

sort_exposure, [6](#), [8](#), [11](#)

TP_FP_FN_avg_sim, [12](#)

write_exposure, [13](#)