

Package ‘BCRANK’

November 2, 2025

Title Predicting binding site consensus from ranked DNA sequences

Version 1.73.0

Date 2010-08-25

Depends methods

Author Adam Ameer <Adam.Ameer@genpat.uu.se>

Description Functions and classes for de novo prediction of transcription factor binding consensus by heuristic search

Maintainer Adam Ameer <Adam.Ameer@genpat.uu.se>

License GPL-2

LazyLoad true

Collate AllClasses.R AllGenerics.R methods-BCRANKmatch.R
methods-BCRANKsearch.R methods-BCRANKresult.R BCRANK.R

Imports Biostrings

Suggests seqLogo

biocViews MotifDiscovery, GeneRegulation

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/BCRANK>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 9b14843

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2025-11-02

Contents

bcrank	2
BCRANK-internal	3
BCRANKmatch-class	4
BCRANKout	4
BCRANKresult-class	5
BCRANKsearch-class	6
matchingSites	7

Index**8**

bcrank	<i>BCRANK: predicting binding site consensus from ranked DNA sequences</i>
--------	--

Description

This function implements an algorithm for detection of short DNA sequences that are overrepresented in some part of the list. Starting from some initial consensus DNA sequence coded in IUPAC symbols, the method uses a heuristic search to improve the consensus until a local optimum is found. Individual predicted binding sites can be reported by the function [matchingSites](#).

Usage

```
bcrank(fafile, startguesses=c(), restarts=10, length=10,  
       reorderings=500, silent=FALSE, plot.progress=FALSE,  
       do.search=TRUE, use.P1=FALSE, use.P2=TRUE, strip.desc=TRUE)
```

Arguments

fafile	a ranked fasta file containing DNA sequences.
startguesses	a character vector with consensus sequences in IUPAC coding to be used as starting sequences in the search. If empty, random start guesses will be generated.
restarts	number restarts of the algorithm when using random start guesses.
length	length of random start guess.
reorderings	number of random reorderings of the DNA sequences performed when calculating score.
silent	reports progress status if FALSE.
plot.progress	if TRUE, the progress is displayed in a plot.
do.search	if FALSE, no search is performed. In that case the start guesses are assigned with scores and reported as results.
use.P1	Use penalty for bases other than A,C,G,T.
use.P2	Use penalty for motifs matching repetitive sequences.
strip.desc	Ignored (always treated as TRUE).

Value

The method returns an object of class [BCRANKresult-class](#).

Author(s)

Adam Ameer, <adam.ameur@genpat.uu.se>

References

Ameur, A., Rada-Iglesias, A., Komorowski, J., Wadelius, C. Identification of candidate regulatory SNPs by combination of transcription factor binding site prediction, SNP genotyping and haploChIP. Nucleic Acids Res, 2009, 37(12):e85.

See Also

[matchingSites](#), [BCRANKresult-class](#)

Examples

```
## Load example fasta file
fastaFile <- system.file("Exfiles/USF1_small.fa", package = "BCRANK")
## Run BCRANK
## Not run: BCRANKout <- bcrank(fastaFile, restarts=20)

## Show BCRANK results
toptable(BCRANKout)
## The top scoring result
topMotif <- toptable(BCRANKout,1)
## Plot BCRANK search path
plot(topMotif)
## Position Weight Matrix
pwm(topMotif, normalize=FALSE)
```

BCRANK-internal

BCRANK-internal

Description

Internal methods for the **BCRANK** package.

Author(s)

Adam Ameur, <adam.ameur@genpat.uu.se>

See Also

[bcrank](#)

BCRANKmatch-class	Class "BCRANKmatch"
-------------------	---------------------

Description

Holds the [bcrank](#) score for one IUPAC consensus sequence. Several objects of this class are collected in a [BCRANKsearch-class](#) object

Objects from the Class

Objects are not intended to be created directly but as a result from running [bcrank](#).

Slots

consensus: consensus sequence in IUPAC coding

bcrankScore: bcrank score for the consensus

matchVec: vector with 0's (no match) and 1's (match) of same length as the ranked DNA sequences

Methods

consensus signature(object = "BCRANKmatch"): Returns the consensus sequence.

bcrankScore signature(object = "BCRANKmatch"): Returns the bcrank score.

matchVector signature(object = "BCRANKmatch"): Returns a vector with 0's (no match) and 1's (match) of same length and order as the ranked DNA sequences.

Author(s)

Adam Ameur, <adam.ameur@genpat.uu.se>

See Also

[bcrank](#), [BCRANKsearch-class](#)

BCRANKout	BCRANK results for USF1 ChIP-chip data
-----------	--

Description

Results from running bcrank on USF1 whole genome ChIP-chip data for the human liver cell line HepG2.

Usage

data(BCRANKout)

Source

Data from whole genome ChIP-chip experiments on human liver cell line HepG2. (Rada-Iglesias, A., et al. 2007)

References

Rada-Iglesias, A., et al. (2007) Whole-genome maps of USF1 and USF2 binding and histone H3 acetylation reveal new aspects of promoter structure and candidate genes for common human disorders. *Genome Research*, Accepted

See Also

[bcrank](#)

BCRANKresult-class	Class "BCRANKresult"
--------------------	----------------------

Description

Holds the results from running [bcrank](#). Contains a number of [BCRANKsearch-class](#) object, one for each restart of the bcrank search.

Slots

fname: the name of the fasta file used for running bcrank.
toplist: a list of BCRANKsearch-class objects, ranked by their scores.
funCall: the function call that was made to bcrank.
nrSeqs: number of sequences in the fasta input file.
restarts: number of restarts used in the bcrank search.

Methods

fname signature(object = "BCRANKmatch"): Returns the fasta file name.
toplist signature(object = "BCRANKmatch", i=NULL): If i is NULL, returns a data frame containing consensus and score for the results for each restart of the bcrank search. Otherwise, the i'th BCRANKsearch-class object in the toplist is returned.

Author(s)

Adam Ameer, <adam.ameur@genpat.uu.se>

See Also

[bcrank](#), [BCRANKsearch-class](#),

BCRANKsearch-class	Class "BCRANKsearch"
--------------------	----------------------

Description

Holds the whole search path from a single [bcrank](#) run. Each individual search step is stored in a [BCRANKmatch-class](#) object. Several objects of this class are collected in a [BCRANKresult-class](#) object

Objects from the Class

Objects are not intended to be created directly but as a result from running [bcrank](#).

Slots

searchPath: a collection of [BCRANKmatch-class](#) objects, containing all bcrank search steps from a start guess to a locally optimal solution.

final: a [BCRANKmatch-class](#) object for the highest scoring consensus sequence (locally optimal solution) in this bcrank run.

finalPWM: position weight matrix for the highest scoring consensus sequence.

finalNrMatch: number of occurrences of the final consensus sequence in the fasta input file.

nrIterations: number of iterations required to move from the start guess to the final solution in this bcrank run.

Methods

searchPath signature(object = "BCRANKsearch", i=NULL): If i is NULL, returns a data frame containing consensus and score for the whole search path. Otherwise, the i'th [BCRANKmatch-class](#) object in the search path is returned.

pwm signature(object = "BCRANKsearch", normalize=TRUE): Returns the position weight matrix (pwm) for the highest scoring consensus in this bcrank run. Matrix positions are between 0 and 1 when normalize is TRUE. When FALSE, the number of matching sequences is reported.

plot signature(x = "BCRANKsearch", y = "missing"): A plot method for the searchPath.

Author(s)

Adam Ameer, <adam.ameur@genpat.uu.se>

See Also

[bcrank](#), [BCRANKmatch-class](#), [BCRANKresult-class](#)

matchingSites	<i>Report IUPAC consensus occurrences in a fasta file</i>
---------------	---

Description

This function reports all occurrences of a consensus sequence in a fasta file. It can be used to extract transcription factor binding sites predicted by BCRANK or other motif search methods.

Usage

```
matchingSites(fafile, motifSequence, revComp=TRUE, strip.desc=TRUE)
```

Arguments

fafile	a ranked fasta file containing DNA sequences.
motifSequence	a character vector in IUPAC coding representing a DNA sequence.
revComp	set to TRUE if the reverse complement also be matched.
strip.desc	Ignored (always treated as TRUE).

Value

Returns a data frame with positions, strand and DNA sequence for the matching sites.

Author(s)

Adam Ameer, <adam.ameur@genpat.uu.se>

References

Ameer, A., Rada-Iglesias, A., Komorowski, J., Wadelius, C. Identification of candidate regulatory SNPs by combination of transcription factor binding site prediction, SNP genotyping and haploChIP. Nucleic Acids Res, 2009, 37(12):e85.

See Also

[bcrank](#)

Index

* classes

- BCRANKmatch-class, 4
- BCRANKresult-class, 5
- BCRANKsearch-class, 6

* datasets

- BCRANKout, 4

* internal

- BCRANK-internal, 3

* methods

- bcrank, 2
- BCRANK-internal, 3
- matchingSites, 7

bcrank, 2, 3–7

BCRANK-internal, 3

BCRANKmatch (BCRANKmatch-class), 4

BCRANKmatch-class, 4

BCRANKout, 4

BCRANKresult (BCRANKresult-class), 5

BCRANKresult-class, 5

bcrankScore (BCRANKmatch-class), 4

bcrankScore, BCRANKmatch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

BCRANKsearch (BCRANKsearch-class), 6

BCRANKsearch-class, 6

consensus (BCRANKmatch-class), 4

consensus, BCRANKmatch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

fname (BCRANKresult-class), 5

fname, BCRANKresult-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

matchingSites, 2, 3, 7

matchVector (BCRANKmatch-class), 4

matchVector, BCRANKmatch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

plot, BCRANKsearch, missing-method
(BCRANKsearch-class), 6

pwm (BCRANKsearch-class), 6

pwm, BCRANKsearch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

searchPath (BCRANKsearch-class), 6

searchPath, BCRANKsearch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

show, BCRANKmatch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

show, BCRANKresult-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

show, BCRANKsearch-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3

toptable (BCRANKresult-class), 5

toptable, BCRANKresult-method
(BCRANK-internal), 3