Package 'proActiv'

November 4, 2025

Title Estimate Promoter Activity from RNA-Seq data

Version 1.21.0

Description Most human genes have multiple promoters that control the expression of different isoforms. The use of these alternative promoters enables the regulation of isoform expression pre-transcriptionally. Alternative promoters have been found to be important in a wide number of cell types and diseases. proActiv is an R package that enables the analysis of promoters from RNA-seq data. proActiv uses aligned reads as input, and generates counts and normalized promoter activity estimates for each annotated promoter. In particular, proActiv accepts junction files from TopHat2 or STAR or BAM files as inputs. These estimates can then be used to identify which promoter is active, which promoter is inactive, and which promoters change their activity across conditions. proActiv also allows visualization of promoter activity across conditions.

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Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

Depends R (>= 4.0.0)

RoxygenNote 7.3.1

Imports AnnotationDbi, BiocParallel, data.table, dplyr, DESeq2, IRanges, GenomicRanges, GenomicFeatures, GenomicAlignments, GenomeInfoDb, ggplot2, gplots, graphics, methods, rlang, scales, S4Vectors, SummarizedExperiment, stats, tibble, txdbmaker

Suggests GenomeInfoDbData, testthat, rmarkdown, knitr, Rtsne, gridExtra

URL https://github.com/GoekeLab/proActiv

biocViews RNASeq, GeneExpression, Transcription, AlternativeSplicing, GeneRegulation, DifferentialSplicing, FunctionalGenomics, Epigenetics, Transcriptomics, Preprocessing

VignetteBuilder knitr

git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/proActiv

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boxplotPromoters

Visualizes promoter activity and gene expression with boxplots

Description

Visualizes promoter activity and gene expression with boxplots

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Usage

```
boxplotPromoters(
  result,
  geneId,
  geneName = NULL,
  filterInternal = TRUE,
  col = NULL
)
```

Arguments

result A SummarizedExperiment object return by proActiv, with assays giving pro-

moter counts and activity with gene expression stored as metadata. rowData contains promoter metadata and absolute promoter activity summarized across

conditions. Condition must be provided.

geneId A character vector. A single gene id. This identifier must correspond to the

identifier in the promoter annotation.

geneName A character vector. Common gene name to be displayed on plot. Optional.

Defaults to NULL.

filterInternal A boolean. Determines if internal promoters should be removed from the plot.

Defaults to TRUE.

col A character vector of colours to be used for plotting.

Value

A list of length 3. Each entry is a plot corresponding to absolute promoter activity, relative promoter activity and gene expression.

calculateJunctionReadCounts

Calculate the total number of junction reads overlapping with the introns of each promoter for the input junction file

Description

Calculate the total number of junction reads overlapping with the introns of each promoter for the input junction file

Usage

```
calculateJunctionReadCounts(
  promoterCoordinates,
  intronRanges,
  file = "",
  fileType = "",
  genome = ""
)
```

Arguments

promoterCoordinates

A GRanges object containing promoter coordinates and reduced exon coordi-

nates by gene

intronRanges A Granges object containing the annotated unique intron ranges. These ranges

will be used for counting the reads

file character path for the input junction bed or bam file

fileType character type of the junction bed file. Either 'tophat', 'star' or 'bam'

genome character genome version

Value

The total number of junction reads overlapping with each promoter for the input annotated intron ranges

calculate Promoter Read Counts

Calculate the promoter read counts using junction read counts approach for all the input junction files

Description

Calculate the promoter read counts using junction read counts approach for all the input junction files

Usage

```
calculatePromoterReadCounts(
  promoterAnnotation,
  files = NULL,
  fileLabels = NULL,
  fileType = NULL,
  genome = NULL,
  numberOfCores = 1
)
```

Arguments

promoterAnnotation

A PromoterAnnotation object containing the reduced exon ranges, annotated

intron ranges, promoter coordinates and the promoter id mapping

files A character vector. The list of junction or BAM files for which the junction read

counts will be calculated

fileLabels A character vector. The labels of junction or BAM files for which the junction

read counts will be calculated. These labels will be used as column names for

the output data.frame object

fileType A character. Type of the junction bed or bam file, either 'tophat', 'star' or 'bam

genome A character. Genome version used. Must be specified if input is a BAM file.

Defaults to NULL

numberOfCores A numeric value. The number of cores to be used for counting junction reads.

Defaults to 1 (no parallelization). This parameter will be used as an argument to

BiocParallel::bplapply

Value

A data.frame object. The number of junction reads per promoter (rows) for each sample (cols)

getAbsolutePromoterActivity

Prepare the absolute promoter activity table including the promoter and gene ids

Description

Prepare the absolute promoter activity table including the promoter and gene ids

Usage

```
getAbsolutePromoterActivity(
   junctionReadCounts,
   promoterAnnotation,
   log2 = TRUE,
   pseudocount = 1
)
```

Arguments

junctionReadCounts

Matrix of junction read counts (rows: promoters, cols: samples)

promoterAnnotation

A PromoterAnnotation object containing the intron ranges, promoter coordi-

nates and the promoter id mapping

log2 Logical indicating whether log2 read counts should be used (default: TRUE) or

not

pseudocount Number to be used for log2 as pseudocount if log2 is TRUE

Value

data.frame of absolute promoter activity with promoter and gene ids

```
getAlternativePromoters
```

Identifies alternative promoters.

Description

Identifies alternative promoters.

Usage

```
getAlternativePromoters(
  result,
  referenceCondition,
  minAbs = 0.25,
  minRel = 0.05,
  maxPval = 0.05,
  promoterFC = 2,
  geneFC = 1.5
)
```

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Arguments

result A SummarizedExperiment object with assays giving promoter counts, activity

and gene expression (output from proActiv). rowData contains promoter metadata and absolute promoter activity summarized across conditions. Condition

must be provided.

referenceCondition

A character vector. The reference condition to be compared. Samples corre-

sponding to all other conditions will be compared to this samples in this current

condition.

minAbs A numeric value. Minimum value for promoter to be active in absolute terms.

Defaults to 0.25.

minRel A numeric value. Minimum value for promoter to be active in relative terms.

Defaults to 0.05.

maxPval A numeric value. Adjusted p-value threshold for detecting alternative promot-

ers. Defaults to 0.05.

promoterFC A numeric value. Minimum fold change for a promoter in the current condition

compared to all other conditions. Promoters must have at least this magnitude

of fold change for alternative usage.

geneFC A numeric value. Maximum fold change for gene expression. To identify al-

ternative promoter usage independent of changes in gene expression, limit the

gene expression fold change.

Value

A list of length 2. Each entry is a dataframe summarizing up-regulated and down-regulated promoters and their corresponding genes, if any.

 ${\tt getGeneExpression}$

Prepare the gene expression table including the gene ids

Description

Prepare the gene expression table including the gene ids

Usage

```
getGeneExpression(absolutePromoterActivity)
```

Arguments

```
absolutePromoterActivity
```

data.frame of absolute promoter activity with promoter and gene ids

Value

data.frame of gene expression with gene ids#'

```
getRelativePromoterActivity
```

Prepare the relative promoter activity table including the promoter and gene ids

Description

Prepare the relative promoter activity table including the promoter and gene ids

Usage

```
getRelativePromoterActivity(absolutePromoterActivity, geneExpression)
```

Arguments

```
absolutePromoterActivity
```

data.frame of absolute promoter activity with promoter and gene ids geneExpression data.frame of gene expression with gene ids

Value

data.frame of relative promoter activity with promoter and gene ids

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integrateProactiv

Integrate multiple proActiv runs

Description

Integrate multiple proActiv runs

Usage

```
integrateProactiv(res1, res2, ..., promoterAnnotation, renormalize = TRUE)
```

Arguments

res1 A summarizedExperiment object returned by proActiv
res2 A summarizedExperiment object returned by proActiv
... Additional summarizedExperiment objects returned by proActiv
promoterAnnotation
Promoter annotation object used to create proActiv runs
renormalize Whether to renormalize counts after merging. Defaults to TRUE

Value

A SummarizedExperiment object with assays giving promoter counts and activity with gene expression. rowData contains promoter metadata and absolute promoter activity summarized across conditions (if condition is provided)

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normalizePromoterReadCounts

Normalize promoter read counts using DESeq2

Description

Normalize promoter read counts using DESeq2

Usage

normalizePromoterReadCounts(promoterReadCounts)

Arguments

promoterReadCounts

A data.frame object. The number of junction reads per promoter (rows) for each sample (cols)

Value

A data.frame object. The normalized number of junction reads per promoter (rows) for each sample (cols) using DESeq2 counts function. Requires 'DESeq2' package to be installed

plotHeatmap

Visualizes heatmap of features for samples

Description

Visualizes heatmap of features for samples

Usage

```
plotHeatmap(
  result,
  by = "absolutePromoterActivity",
  features = NULL,
  cex.legend = 0.75,
  cex.row = NULL,
  cex.col = NULL,
  row.margin = 5,
  col.margin = 12,
  col = NULL,
  breaks = NULL,
  palette = "bluered"
)
```

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Arguments

A SummarizedExperiment object return by proActiv, with assays giving proresult moter counts and activity with gene expression stored as metadata. rowData contains promoter metadata and absolute promoter activity summarized across conditions. Condition must be provided. by

A character vector. The assay to visualize the heatmap for. One of promoter-Counts, normalizedPromoterCounts, absolutePromoterActivity and geneExpression (unambiguous substrings can be supplied). Defaults to absolutePromoter-

Activity.

features Features to visualize. Either a list of promoterIds or geneIds. The features must

correspond to the assay is used, i.e., if promoter assays are used, features must be promoterIds, while if gene expression assay is used, features must be geneIds.

Defaults to NULL (visualizes all features of the assay).

cex.legend A numeric value. Legend size. cex.row A numeric value. Row label size. A numeric value. Column label size. cex.col row.margin A numeric value. Row margins. col.margin A numeric value. Column margins.

col A vector of colours. Length should correspond to number of experimental con-

ditions. Defaults to NULL.

breaks A numeric vector. Breaks for heatmap plotting.

palette A character vector. One of bluered, redblue, redgreen, greenred. Defaults to

bluered.

Value

Displays heatmap.

```
files <- list.files(system.file('extdata/vignette/junctions',</pre>
                        package = 'proActiv'),
                        full.names = TRUE, pattern = 'replicate5')
promoterAnnotation <- promoterAnnotation.gencode.v34.subset</pre>
result <- proActiv(files = files,
                        promoterAnnotation = promoterAnnotation,
                        condition = rep(c('A549', 'HepG2'), each=1),
                        fileLabels = NULL,
                        ncores = 1)
result <- result[complete.cases(assays(result)[[1]]),]</pre>
plotHeatmap(result)
```

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plotPCA

Performs principal component analysis

Description

Performs principal component analysis

Usage

```
plotPCA(
   result,
   by = "absolutePromoterActivity",
   main = NULL,
   col = NULL,
   alpha = 0.75,
   cex.size = 2
)
```

Arguments

result A SummarizedExperiment object return by proActiv, with assays giving pro-

moter counts and activity with gene expression stored as metadata. rowData contains promoter metadata and absolute promoter activity summarized across

conditions. Condition must be provided.

by A character vector. The assay to perform principal component analysis by. One

of promoterCounts, normalizedPromoterCounts, absolutePromoterActivity and geneExpression (unambiguous substrings can be supplied). Defaults to abso-

lutePromoterActivity.

main A character vector. Plot title (optional). Defaults to NULL.

col A vector of colours. If NULL, uses standard ggplot colours. Defaults to NULL.

alpha A numeric value in between 0 and 1. Determines point transparency.

cex.size A numeric value. Determines point size.

Value

PCA plot.

 ${\tt prepare Promoter Annotation}$

Prepares promoter annotation from a gtf or txdb

Description

Prepares promoter annotation from a gtf or txdb

Usage

```
preparePromoterAnnotation(txdb, file, species)
```

Arguments

txdb	A txdb object. The txdb of the annotation version for which promoters will be identified. Either 'txdb' or 'file' argument must be specified, but not both.
file	A character object. The file path to a gtf/gff or txdb of the annotation version for which promoters will be identified. Either 'txdb' or 'file' argument must be specified, but not both.
species	A character object. The genus and species of the organism to be used in keep-StandardChromosomes(). Supported species can be seen with names(genomeStyles()).

Value

A PromoterAnnotation object. The annotated intron ranges, promoter coordinates and the promoter id mapping are attributes of the promoter annotation data.

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Estimates promoter counts and activity in a single command

Description

Estimates promoter counts and activity in a single command

Usage

```
proActiv(
    files,
    promoterAnnotation,
    fileLabels = NULL,
    condition = NULL,
    genome = NULL,
    ncores = 1
)
```

Arguments

files A character vector. The list of input files for which the junction read counts will

be calculated

promoterAnnotation

A PromoterAnnotation object containing the intron ranges, promoter coordi-

nates and the promoter id mapping

fileLabels A character vector. The labels of input files for which the junction read counts

will be calculated. These labels will be used as column names for each output data.frame object. If not provided, filenames will be used as labels. Defaults to

NULL

condition A character vector. The condition to which each sample belong to. Must corre-

spond to the order of the files. If supplied, results are summarized by condition.

Defaults to NULL

genome A character. Genome version. Must be specified if input file type is a BAM file.

Defaults to NULL

ncores A numeric value. The number of cores to be used for counting junction reads.

Defaults to 1 (no parallelization). This parameter will be used as an argument to

BiocParallel::bplapply

Value

A SummarizedExperiment object with assays giving promoter counts and activity with gene expression. rowData contains promoter metadata and absolute promoter activity summarized across conditions (if condition is provided)

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Examples

PromoterAnnotation-class

S4 class for promoter annotation data for a specific annotation version

Description

S4 class for promoter annotation data for a specific annotation version

Usage

```
PromoterAnnotation(
  intronRanges = GenomicRanges::GRanges(),
  promoterIdMapping = data.frame(),
  promoterCoordinates = GenomicRanges::GRanges()
intronRanges(x)
## S4 method for signature 'PromoterAnnotation'
intronRanges(x)
promoterIdMapping(x)
## S4 method for signature 'PromoterAnnotation'
promoterIdMapping(x)
promoterCoordinates(x)
## S4 method for signature 'PromoterAnnotation'
promoterCoordinates(x)
intronRanges(x) <- value</pre>
## S4 replacement method for signature 'PromoterAnnotation'
intronRanges(x) <- value</pre>
```

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```
promoterIdMapping(x) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'PromoterAnnotation'
promoterIdMapping(x) <- value

promoterCoordinates(x) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'PromoterAnnotation'
promoterCoordinates(x) <- value</pre>
```

Arguments

intronRanges A GRanges object containing annotated intron ranges promoterIdMapping

A data frame containing mapping between transcript, TSS, promoter and gene ids

promoterCoordinates

A GRanges object containing promoter coordinates

x A PromoterAnnotation object

value intronRanges, promoterIdMapping or promoterCoordinates to be assigned

Value

A promoter annotation object with three slots: intronRanges, promoterIdMapping and promoter Coordinates

Functions

- intronRanges: Getter for intronRanges
- intronRanges, PromoterAnnotation-method: Getter for intronRanges
- promoterIdMapping: Getter for promoterIdMapping
- promoterIdMapping, PromoterAnnotation-method: Getter for promoterIdMapping
- promoterCoordinates: Getter for promoterCoordinates
- $\bullet \ promoter \texttt{Coordinates}, \texttt{PromoterAnnotation-method} : \ Getter \ for \ promoter \ Coordinates$
- intronRanges<-: Setter for intronRanges
- intronRanges<-, PromoterAnnotation-method: Setter for intronRanges
- promoterIdMapping<-: Setter for promoterIdMapping
- promoterIdMapping<-, PromoterAnnotation-method: Setter for promoterIdMapping
- promoterCoordinates<-: Setter for promoterCoordinates
- promoterCoordinates<-, PromoterAnnotation-method: Setter for promoterCoordinates

Slots

intronRanges A GRanges object. The intron ranges annotated with the promoter information.

promoterIdMapping A data.frame object. The id mapping between transcript ids, names, TSS ids, promoter ids and gene ids.

promoterCoordinates A GRanges object. Promoter coordinates (TSS) with gene id and internal promoter state

Examples

```
promoterAnnotation.gencode.v34.subset

Promoter annotation for Gencode.v34 (subset)
```

Description

Promoter annotation for Gencode.v34 (chr1:10,000,000 - 30,000,000)

Usage

```
promoterAnnotation.gencode.v34.subset
```

Format

A Promoter Annotation (S4 Class) object containing all promoter annotation objects for Gencode.v34 chr1:10,000,000-30,000,000. The object has 3 slots:

intronRanges A GRanges object of 4,523 ranges corresponding to introns, annotated with the associated transcript.

promoterIdMapping The id mapping between transcript names, promoter ids and gene ids for Gencode v34.

promoterCoordinates A GRanges object of 1,380 ranges showing the tss coordinate for each promoter of Gencode v34 chr1:10,000,000-30,000,000, annotated with the associated gene id, coordinate of the 3' end of the first reduced exon, and intron id.

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reexports

Objects exported from other packages

Description

These objects are imported from other packages. Follow the links below to see their documentation.

AnnotationDbi loadDb

 $\boldsymbol{dplyr} \text{ $\%$-\%, arrange, as_tibble, filter, group_by, mutate, n}$

 ${\bf Summarized Experiment} \ \ {\tt assays}, \ {\tt colData}, \ {\tt rowData}$

tibble rownames_to_column

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