# Package 'COCOA'

October 12, 2025

Version 2.22.0

Date 2021-11-18

**Title** Coordinate Covariation Analysis

**Description** COCOA is a method for understanding epigenetic variation among samples.

COCOA can be used with epigenetic data that includes genomic coordinates and an epigenetic signal, such as DNA methylation and chromatin accessibility data. To describe the method on a high level, COCOA quantifies inter-sample variation with either a supervised or unsupervised technique then uses a database of ``region sets" to annotate the variation among samples. A region set is a set of genomic regions that share a biological annotation, for instance transcription factor (TF) binding regions, histone modification regions, or open chromatin regions. COCOA can identify region sets that are associated with epigenetic variation between samples and increase understanding of variation in your data.

**Depends** R (>= 3.5), GenomicRanges

**Imports** BiocGenerics, S4Vectors, IRanges, data.table, ggplot2, Biobase, stats, methods, ComplexHeatmap, MIRA, tidyr, grid, grDevices, simpleCache, fitdistrplus

**Suggests** knitr, parallel, testthat, BiocStyle, rmarkdown, AnnotationHub, LOLA

VignetteBuilder knitr

License GPL-3

biocViews Epigenetics, DNAMethylation, ATACSeq, DNaseSeq, MethylSeq, MethylationArray, PrincipalComponent, GenomicVariation, GeneRegulation, GenomeAnnotation, SystemsBiology, FunctionalGenomics, ChIPSeq, Sequencing, ImmunoOncology

URL http://code.databio.org/COCOA/

BugReports https://github.com/databio/COCOA

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

2 Contents

git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/COCOA
git_branch RELEASE_3_21
git_last_commit 15583ed
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.21
Date/Publication 2025-10-12
Author John Lawson [aut, cre], Nathan Sheffield [aut] (http://www.databio.org), Jason Smith [ctb]
Maintainer John Lawson <jtl2hk@virginia.edu></jtl2hk@virginia.edu>

# **Contents**

Index

aggregateSignal	
aggregateSignalGRList	. 5
atf3_chr1	. 8
brcaATACCoord1	. 9
brcaATACData1	. 9
brcaMCoord1	. 10
brcaMetadata	. 10
brcaMethylData1	. 11
brcaPCScores	
brcaPCScores657	. 12
COCOA	
convertToFromNullDist	
esrl_chrl	
gata3_chr1	
getGammaPVal	
getMetaRegionProfile	
getPermStat	
getTopRegions	
nrfl_chr1	
plotAnnoScoreDist	
regionQuantileByTargetVar	
rsRankingIndex	
rsScoreHeatmap	
rsScores	
runCOCOA	
runCOCOAPerm	
signalAlongAxis	. 36

**39** 

aggregateSignal 3

aggregateSignal

Score a region set using feature contribution scores

## **Description**

First, this function identifies which epigenetic features overlap the region set. Then the region set is scored using the feature contribution scores ('signal' input) according to the 'scoringMetric' parameter.

## Usage

```
aggregateSignal(
  signal,
  signalCoord,
  regionSet,
  signalCol = c("PC1", "PC2"),
  signalCoordType = "default",
  scoringMetric = "default",
  verbose = FALSE,
  absVal = TRUE,
  rsOL = NULL,
  pOlap = NULL,
  returnCovInfo = TRUE,
  .checkInput = TRUE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

Matrix of feature contribution scores (the contribution of each epigenetic feature to each target variable). One named column for each target variable. One row for each original epigenetic feature (should be same order as original data/signalCoord). For (an unsupervised) example, if PCA was done on epigenetic data and the goal was to find region sets associated with the principal components, you could use the x\$rotation output of prcomp(epigenetic data) as the feature contribution scores/'signal' parameter.

signalCoord

A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

regionSet

A genomic ranges (GRanges) object with regions corresponding to the same biological annotation. Must be from the same reference genome as the coordinates for the actual data/samples (signalCoord).

signalCol

A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target variables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

4 aggregateSignal

signalCoordType

Character. Can be "default", "singleBase", or "multiBase". This describes whether the coordinates for 'signal' ('signalCoord') are each a single base (e.g. as for DNA methylation) or a region/multiple bases (e.g. as for chromatin accessibility). Different scoring options are available for each type of data. If "default" is given, the type of coordinates will be detected automatically. For "default", if each coordinate start value equals the coordinate end value (all(start(signalCoord)) == end(signalCoord))), "singleBase" will be used. Otherwise, "multiBase" will be used.

scoringMetric

A character object with the scoring metric. There are different methods available for signalCoordType="singleBase" vs signalCoordType="multiBase". For "singleBase", the available methods are "regionMean", "regionMedian", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default method is "regionMean". For "multiBase", the methods are "proportionWeightedMean", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default is "proportionWeightedMean". "regionMean" is a weighted average of the signal, weighted by region (absolute value of signal if absVal=TRUE). First the signal is averaged within each regionSet region, then all the regions are averaged. With "regionMean" method, be cautious in interpretation for region sets with low number of regions that overlap signalCoord. The "regionMedian" method is the same as "regionMean" but the median is taken at each step instead of the mean. The "simpleMean" method is just the unweighted average of all (absolute) signal values that overlap the given region set. For multiBase data, this includes signal regions that overlap a regionSet region at all (1 base overlap or more) and the signal for each overlapping region is given the same weight for the average regardless of how much it overlaps. The "simpleMedian" method is the same as "simpleMean" but takes the median instead of the mean. "proportionWeightedMean" is a weighted average of all signalCoord regions that overlap with regionSet regions. For each signalCoord region that overlaps with a regionSet region, we calculate what proportion of the regionSet region is covered. Then this proportion is used to weight the signal value when calculating the mean. The denominator of the mean is the sum of all the proportion overlaps.

verbose

A "logical" object. Whether progress of the function should be shown. One bar indicates the region set is completed.

absVal

Logical. If TRUE, take the absolute value of values in signal. Choose TRUE if you think there may be some genomic loci in a region set that will increase and others will decrease (if there may be anticorrelation between regions in a region set). Choose FALSE if you expect regions in a given region set to all change in the same direction (all be positively correlated with each other).

rs0L

a "SortedByQueryHits" object (output of findOverlaps function). Should have the overlap information between signalCoord and one item of GRList (one unique region set). The region set must be the "subject" in findOverlaps and signalCoord must be the "query". E.g. findOverlaps(subject=regionSet, query=signalCoord). Providing this information can greatly improve permutation speed since the overlaps will not have to be calculated for each permutation. When using this parameter, signalCoord, genomicSignal, and the region set must be in the same order as they were when olList was created. Otherwise, the wrong genomic loci

will be referenced (e.g. if epigenetic features were filtered out of genomicSignal

after rsOL was created.)

pOlap Numeric vector. Only used if rsOL is given and scoringMetric is "proportion-

WeightedMean". This vector should contain the proportion of each regionSet region that is overlapped by a signalCoord region. The order of pOlap should be

the same as the overlaps in rsOL.

returnCovInfo logical. If TRUE, the following coverage and region set info will be calculated

and included in function output: regionSetCoverage, signalCoverage, totalRegionNumber, and meanRegionSize. For the proportionWeightedMean scoring

method, sumProportionOverlap will also be calculated.

.checkInput A "logical" object. For programmatic use only. Whether inputs to the func-

tion should be checked for correctness/appropriateness. This parameter may be used by some COCOA functions to prevent unnecessary checks of objects after

arguments have already been checked once.

#### Value

A data.frame with one row and the following columns: one column for each item of signalCol with names given by signalCol. These columns have scores for the region set for each signalCol. Other columns: signalCoverage (formerly cytosine\_coverage) which has number of epigenetic features that overlapped at all with regionSet, regionSetCoverage which has number of regions from regionSet that overlapped any of the epigenetic features, totalRegionNumber that has number of regions in regionSet, meanRegionSize that has average size in base pairs of regions in regionSet, the average is based on all regions in regionSet and not just ones that overlap. For "multiBase" data, if the "proportionWeightedMean" scoring metric is used, then the output will also have a "sumProportionOverlap" column. During this scoring method, the proportion overlap between each signalCoord region and overlapping regionSet region is calculated. This column is the sum of all those proportion overlaps and is another way to quantify coverage of regionSet in addition to regionSetCoverage.

#### **Examples**

## **Description**

This function will give each region set a score for each target variable given by 'signalCol' based on the 'scoringMetric' parameter. Based on these scores, you can determine which region sets out of a region set database (given by 'GRList') are most associated with the target variables. See the vignette "Introduction to Coordinate Covariation Analysis" for help interpreting your results.

## Usage

```
aggregateSignalGRList(
  signal,
  signalCoord,
  GRList,
  signalCol = c("PC1", "PC2"),
  signalCoordType = "default",
  scoringMetric = "default",
  verbose = TRUE,
  absVal = TRUE,
  olList = NULL,
  pOlapList = NULL,
  returnCovInfo = TRUE
)
```

## **Arguments**

signal

Matrix of feature contribution scores (the contribution of each epigenetic feature to each target variable). One named column for each target variable. One row for each original epigenetic feature (should be same order as original data/signalCoord). For (an unsupervised) example, if PCA was done on epigenetic data and the goal was to find region sets associated with the principal components, you could use the x\$rotation output of prcomp(epigenetic data) as the feature contribution scores/'signal' parameter.

signalCoord

A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

GRList

GRangesList object. Each list item is a distinct region set to test (region set: regions that correspond to the same biological annotation). The region set database must be from the same reference genome as the coordinates for the actual data/samples (signalCoord).

signalCol

A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target variables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

signalCoordType

Character. Can be "default", "singleBase", or "multiBase". This describes whether the coordinates for 'signal' ('signalCoord') are each a single base (e.g. as for DNA methylation) or a region/multiple bases (e.g. as for chromatin accessibility). Different scoring options are available for each type of data.

If "default" is given, the type of coordinates will be detected automatically. For "default", if each coordinate start value equals the coordinate end value (all(start(signalCoord) == end(signalCoord))), "singleBase" will be used. Otherwise, "multiBase" will be used.

scoringMetric

A character object with the scoring metric. There are different methods available for signalCoordType="singleBase" vs signalCoordType="multiBase". For "singleBase", the available methods are "regionMean", "regionMedian", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default method is "regionMean". For "multiBase", the methods are "proportionWeightedMean", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default is "proportionWeightedMean". "regionMean" is a weighted average of the signal, weighted by region (absolute value of signal if absVal=TRUE). First the signal is averaged within each regionSet region, then all the regions are averaged. With "regionMean" method, be cautious in interpretation for region sets with low number of regions that overlap signalCoord. The "regionMedian" method is the same as "regionMean" but the median is taken at each step instead of the mean. The "simpleMean" method is just the unweighted average of all (absolute) signal values that overlap the given region set. For multiBase data, this includes signal regions that overlap a regionSet region at all (1 base overlap or more) and the signal for each overlapping region is given the same weight for the average regardless of how much it overlaps. The "simpleMedian" method is the same as "simpleMean" but takes the median instead of the mean. "proportionWeightedMean" is a weighted average of all signalCoord regions that overlap with regionSet regions. For each signalCoord region that overlaps with a regionSet region, we calculate what proportion of the regionSet region is covered. Then this proportion is used to weight the signal value when calculating the mean. The denominator of the mean is the sum of all the proportion overlaps.

verbose

A "logical" object. Whether progress of the function should be shown. One bar indicates the region set is completed.

absVal

Logical. If TRUE, take the absolute value of values in signal. Choose TRUE if you think there may be some genomic loci in a region set that will increase and others will decrease (if there may be anticorrelation between regions in a region set). Choose FALSE if you expect regions in a given region set to all change in the same direction (all be positively correlated with each other).

olList

list. Each list item should be a "SortedByQueryHits" object (output of findOverlaps function). Each hits object should have the overlap information between signalCoord and one item of GRList (one unique region set). The region sets from GRList must be the "subject" in findOverlaps and signalCoord must be the "query". E.g. findOverlaps(subject=regionSet, query=signalCoord). Providing this information can greatly improve permutation speed since the overlaps will not have to be calculated for each permutation. The "runCOCOAPerm" function calculates this information only once, internally, so this does not have to be provided when using that function. When using this parameter, signalCoord, genomicSignal, and each region set must be in the same order as they were when olList was created. Otherwise, the wrong genomic loci will be referenced (e.g. if epigenetic features were filtered out of genomicSignal after olList was created.)

8 atf3\_chr1

p0lapList

list. This parameter is only used if the scoring metric is "proportionWeighted-Mean" and olList is also provided as an argument. Each item of the list should be a vector that contains the proportion overlap between signalCoord and regions from one region set (one item of GRList). Specifically, each value should be the proportion of the region set region that is overlapped by a signalCoord region. The proportion overlap values should be in the same order as the overlaps given by olList for the corresponding region set.

returnCovInfo

logical. If TRUE, the following coverage and region set info will be calculated and included in function output: regionSetCoverage, signalCoverage, totalRegionNumber, and meanRegionSize. For the proportionWeightedMean scoring method, sumProportionOverlap will also be calculated.

#### Value

Data.frame of results, one row for each region set. It has the following columns: one column for each item of signalCol with names given by signalCol. These columns have scores for the region set for each signalCol. Other columns: signalCoverage (formerly cytosine\_coverage) which has number of epigenetic features that overlapped at all with regionSet, regionSetCoverage which has number of regions from regionSet that overlapped any of the epigenetic features, totalRegionNumber that has number of regions in regionSet, meanRegionSize that has average size in base pairs of regions in regionSet, the average is based on all regions in regionSet and not just ones that overlap. For "multiBase" data, if the "proportionWeightedMean" scoring metric is used, then the output will also have a "sumProportionOverlap" column. During this scoring method, the proportion overlap between each signalCoord region and overlapping regionSet region is calculated. This column is the sum of all those proportion overlaps and is another way to quantify coverage of regionSet in addition to regionSetCoverage.

## **Examples**

atf3 chr1

Atf3 binding regions.

#### **Description**

Binding regions for Atf3. hg38 genome version. Only includes regions in chr1 to keep the example data small.

brcaATACCoord1 9

## Usage

data(atf3\_chr1)

#### **Format**

A GRanges object

brcaATACCoord1

A GRanges object with coordinates for select BRCA ATAC-seq peak regions from chr1.

## **Description**

Corresponds to the rows of brcaATACData1. The ATAC-seq data is from breast cancer patients from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA-BRCA, Corces et. al, 2018, doi: 10.1126/science.aav1898, https://atacseq.xenahubs.net/download/brca/brca\_peak\_Log2Counts\_dedup). Coordinates correspond to the hg38 genome version. Only select regions on chr1 are included to keep the example data small.

## Usage

data(brcaATACCoord1)

#### **Format**

A GRanges object

brcaATACData1

A matrix with ATAC-seq counts in select peak regions from chromosome 1 for 37 patients.

## **Description**

Each row corresponds to one region and the coordinates for these regions are in the object br-caATACCoord1, (data("brcaATACCoord1"), hg38 genome). Only select regions on chr1 are included to keep the example data small. Columns are patients, with TCGA patient identifiers as column names. 4053 regions are included. ATAC-seq data is from breast cancer patients from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA-BRCA, Corces et. al, 2018, doi: 10.1126/science.aav1898, https://atacseq.xenahubs.net/download/brca/brca\_peak\_Log2Counts\_dedup).

## Usage

data(brcaATACData1)

## **Format**

A matrix object

10 brcaMetadata

brcaMCoord1	A GRanges object with genomic coordinates for cytosines from chr1 for the package's built-in DNA methylation data

## **Description**

Corresponds to the rows of brcaMethylData1. DNA methlyation data is Illumina 450k microarray data from breast cancer patients from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA-BRCA, https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/). Coordinates correspond to the hg38 genome version. Only selected cytosines on chr1 are included to keep the example data small.

## Usage

data(brcaMCoord1)

#### **Format**

A GRanges object

 $\label{eq:Adata_frame} \textit{A data.frame with patient metadata for breast cancer patients}.$ 

## **Description**

Has metadata for patients for which DNA methylation or chromatin accessibility data was included as package data (329 patients). Rows are patients, with TCGA patient identifiers as row names and the column "subject\_ID". Also includes columns: ER\_status, ER\_percent, age\_diagnosis, days\_to\_death, and days\_to\_last\_follow\_up. Metadata is from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA-BRCA, https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/).

# Usage

data(brcaMetadata)

## **Format**

A data.frame object

brcaMethylData1 11

brcaMethylData1	A matrix with DNA methylation levels from some CpGs on chromo-
	some 1

## **Description**

This object contains methylation levels (0 to 1) for select cytosines in chromosome 1 for TCGA breast cancer patients from a DNA methylation microarray (Illumina 450k microarray). Each row corresponds to one cytosine and the coordinates for these cytosines are in the object brcaMCoord1, (data("brcaMCoord1"), hg38 genome). Only select cytosines on chr1 are included to keep the example data small. Columns are patients, with TCGA patient identifiers as column names. 6004 CpGs and 300 patients are included. DNA methlyation data is Illumina 450k microarray data from breast cancer patients from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA-BRCA, https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/).

## Usage

data(brcaMethylData1)

#### **Format**

A matrix object

brcaPCScores	A matrix with principal component scores for PCs 1-4 for four breast cancer patients.

## **Description**

This object contains PC scores for four patients for PCs 1-4. Columns are PCs. Rows are patients, with TCGA patient identifiers as row names. DNA methlyation data is Illumina 450k microarray data from breast cancer patients from The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA-BRCA, https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/), hg38 genome.

## Usage

data(brcaPCScores)

## **Format**

A matrix object

12 COCOA

brcaPCScores657	A data frame with principal component scores for PCs 1-4 for 657 breast cancer patients as well as a column with estrogen receptor sta-
	tus.

## **Description**

This object contains PC scores for 657 patients for PCs 1-4. Columns are PCs as well as a column with estrogen receptor status. Rows are patients, with TCGA patient identifiers as row names. Patients were selected from all BRCA patients in TCGA based on having complete metadata information for estrogen receptor status and progesterone receptor status as well as having 450k microarray data. PCA was done on the Illumina 450k DNA methlyation microarray data (TCGA-BRCA, https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/), hg38 genome.

## Usage

data(brcaPCScores657)

#### **Format**

A data.frame object

COCOA

Coordinate Covariation Analysis (COCOA)

## **Description**

COCOA is a method for understanding epigenetic variation among samples. COCOA can be used with epigenetic data that includes genomic coordinates and an epigenetic signal, such as DNA methylation and chromatin accessibility data. To describe the method on a high level, COCOA quantifies inter-sample variation with either a supervised or unsupervised technique then uses a database of "region sets" to annotate the variation among samples. A region set is a set of genomic regions that share a biological annotation, for instance transcription factor (TF) binding regions, histone modification regions, or open chromatin regions. COCOA can identify region sets that are associated with epigenetic variation between samples and increase understanding of variation in your data.

## Author(s)

John Lawson Nathan Sheffield

#### References

http://github.com/databio

convertToFromNullDist 13

convertToFromNullDist Converts COCOA permutation results to null distributions and vice versa

## Description

This function will take a list of results of permutation tests that included many region sets and return a list of data.frames where each data.frame contains the null distribution for a single region set. The function can also convert in the reverse order from a list of null distributions to a list of COCOA results.

## Usage

```
convertToFromNullDist(rsScoresList)
```

#### **Arguments**

rsScoresList

each item in the list is a data.frame, one item for each permutation with the results of that permutation. Each row in the data.frame is a region set. All data.frames should be the same size and each data.frame's rows should be in the same order

#### Value

a list of data.frames. If given a list where each item is a data.frame with results from one COCOA permutation, this function will return a list of data.frames where each data.frame contains the null distributions for a single region set. The output data.frames will have the same columns as the input data.frames. If given a list where each item is a data.frame with the null distribution/s for a single region set, this function will return a list where each item is a data.frame with one row for each region set (e.g. a data.frame with results for a single COCOA permutation).

## **Examples**

```
# six region sets (rows), 2 signals (columns)
fakePermScores <- data.frame(abs(rnorm(6)), abs(rnorm(6)))
fakePermScores2 <- data.frame(abs(rnorm(6)), abs(rnorm(6)))
# 2 fake COCOA results (i.e. nPerm=2)
permRSScores <- list(fakePermScores, fakePermScores2)
convertToFromNullDist(permRSScores)</pre>
```

14 gata3\_chr1

esr1\_chr1

Estrogen receptor alpha binding regions.

# Description

Binding regions for estrogen receptor alpha (ESR1). hg 38 genome version. Only includes regions in chr1 to keep the example data small.

# Usage

```
data(esr1_chr1)
```

## **Format**

A GRanges object

gata3\_chr1

Gata3 binding regions.

# Description

Binding regions for gata3. hg38 genome version. Only includes regions in chr1 to keep the example data small.

# Usage

```
data(gata3_chr1)
```

## **Format**

A GRanges object

getGammaPVal 15

getGammaPVal

Get a p-value for region set scores based on a gamma distribution.

#### **Description**

First fit a gamma distribution to each region set's null distribution/s (nullDistList). Then use this gamma distribution to convert scores in rsScores to p-values.

# Usage

```
getGammaPVal(
  rsScores,
  nullDistList,
  signalCol,
  method = "mme",
  realScoreInDist = TRUE,
  force = FALSE
)
```

## **Arguments**

rsScores

data.frame. A data.frame with region set scores. The output of the 'aggregateS-ignalGRList' function. Each row is a region set. One column for each sample variable of interest (e.g. PC or sample phenotype). Also can have columns with info on the overlap between the region set and the epigenetic data. Rows should be in the same order as the region sets in GRList (the list of region sets used to create rsScores.)

nullDistList

list of data.frames. Each list item has null distributions for a single region set (list items should be in the same order as rows of rsScores). Has same score columns as rsScores. Each column corresponds to a null distribution for that region set for a given sample variable of interest/target variable (e.g. PC or sample phenotype).

signalCol

A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target variables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes). Must be column names of rsScores.

method

Character. Has the method to use to fit the gamma distribution to the null distribution. Options are "mme" (moment matching estimation), "mle" (maximum likelihood estimation), "qme" (quantile matching estimation), and "mge" (maximum goodness-of-fit estimation). See ?fitdistrplus::fitdist() for available options and meaning.

realScoreInDist

logical. Should the actual score (from test with no permutations) be included in the null distribution when fitting the gamma distribution. realScoreInDist=TRUE is recommended.

force

logical. If force=TRUE, when fitting the gamma distribution returns an error (as may happen when a method other than "mme" is used) then allow the error. If

force=FALSE, when fitting the gamma distribution returns an error then don't return an error but instead use the "mme" method for fitting that specific gamma distribution.

#### Value

Returns a data.frame with p values, one column for each signalCol in rsScores

```
getMetaRegionProfile Create a "meta-region" profile
```

#### **Description**

This profile can show enrichment of genomic signals with high feature contribution scores in the region set but not in the surrounding genome, suggesting that variation is linked specifically to that region set.

## Usage

```
getMetaRegionProfile(
    signal,
    signalCoord,
    regionSet,
    signalCol = c("PC1", "PC2"),
    signalCoordType = "default",
    binNum = 21,
    verbose = TRUE,
    aggrMethod = "default",
    absVal = TRUE
)
```

## **Arguments**

signal Matrix of feature

Matrix of feature contribution scores (the contribution of each epigenetic feature to each target variable). One named column for each target variable. One row for each original epigenetic feature (should be same order as original data/signalCoord). For (an unsupervised) example, if PCA was done on epigenetic data and the goal was to find region sets associated with the principal components, you could use the x\$rotation output of prcomp(epigenetic data) as the feature contribution

scores/'signal' parameter.

signalCoord A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original

epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can

have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

regionSet A genomic ranges (GRanges) object with regions corresponding to the same

biological annotation.

getMetaRegionProfile 17

signalCol

A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target variables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

signalCoordType

Character. Can be "default", "singleBase", or "multiBase". This describes whether the coordinates for 'signal' ('signalCoord') are each a single base (e.g. as for DNA methylation) or a region/multiple bases (e.g. as for chromatin accessibility). Different scoring options are available for each type of data. If "default" is given, the type of coordinates will be detected automatically. For "default", if each coordinate start value equals the coordinate end value (all(start(signalCoord)) == end(signalCoord))), "singleBase" will be used. Otherwise, "multiBase" will be used.

binNum

Number of bins to split each region into when making the aggregate profile. More bins will give a higher resolution but perhaps more noisy profile.

verbose

A "logical" object. Whether progress of the function should be shown. One bar indicates the region set is completed.

aggrMethod

character. A character object with the aggregation method. Similar to aggregateSignalGRList 'scoringMetric' parameter. There are different methods available for signalCoordType="singleBase" vs signalCoordType="multiBase". For "singleBase", the available methods are "regionMean", "regionMedian", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default method is "regionMean". For "multiBase", the methods are "proportionWeightedMean", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default is "proportionWeightedMean". "regionMean" is a weighted average of the signal, weighted by region (absolute value of signal if absVal=TRUE). First the signal is averaged within each regionSet region, then all the regions are averaged. With "regionMean" method, be cautious in interpretation for region sets with low number of regions that overlap signalCoord. The "regionMedian" method is the same as "regionMean" but the median is taken at each step instead of the mean. The "simpleMean" method is just the unweighted average of all (absolute) signal values that overlap the given region set. For multiBase data, this includes signal regions that overlap a regionSet region at all (1 base overlap or more) and the signal for each overlapping region is given the same weight for the average regardless of how much it overlaps. The "simpleMedian" method is the same as "simpleMean" but takes the median instead of the mean. "proportionWeightedMean" is a weighted average of all signalCoord regions that overlap with regionSet regions. For each signalCoord region that overlaps with a regionSet region, we calculate what proportion of the regionSet region is covered. Then this proportion is used to weight the signal value when calculating the mean. The denominator of the mean is the sum of all the proportion overlaps.

absVal

Logical. If TRUE, take the absolute value of values in signal. Choose TRUE if you think there may be some genomic loci in a region set that will increase and others will decrease (if there may be anticorrelation between regions in a region set). Choose FALSE if you expect regions in a given region set to all change in the same direction (all be positively correlated with each other).

18 getPermStat

#### **Details**

All regions in a given region set are combined into a single aggregate profile. Regions in 'regionSet' should be expanded on each side to include a wider area of the genome around the regions of interest (see example and vignettes). To make the profile, first we optionally take the absolute value of 'signal' ('absVal' parameter). Then each expanded regionSet region is split into 'binNum' bins. The corresponding bins from each region (e.g. all bin1's, all bin2's, etc.) are grouped. All overlapping values from 'signal' are aggregated in each bin group according to the 'aggrMethod' parameter to get a meta-region profile. Since DNA strand information is not considered, the profile is averaged symmetrically around the center. A peak in the middle of this profile suggests that variability is specific to the region set of interest and is not a product of the surrounding genome. A region set can still be significant even if it does not have a peak. For example, some histone modification region sets may be in large genomic blocks and not show a peak, despite having variation across samples.

#### Value

A data.frame with the binned meta-region profile, one row per bin. columns: binID and one column for each target variable in signalCol. The function will return NULL if there is no overlap between signalCoord and any of the bin groups that come from regionSet (e.g. none of the bin1's overlapped signalCoord, NULL returned).

## **Examples**

getPermStat

Get p-value or z-score based on permutation results

## **Description**

This function starts with real COCOA scores for each region set and null distributions for each region set that come from running COCOA on permuted data. Then this function uses the null distributions to get an empirical p-value or z-score for each region set. See vignettes for the workflow that leads to this function. The calculation of the p-value/z-score does not include the real region set score in the null distribution.

getPermStat 19

## Usage

```
getPermStat(
  rsScores,
  nullDistList,
  signalCol,
  testType = "greater",
  whichMetric = "pval"
)
```

## Arguments

rsScores data.frame. A data.frame with region set scores. The output of the 'aggregateSignalGRList' function. Each row is a region set. One column for each sample variable of interest (e.g. PC or sample phenotype). Also can have columns with info on the overlap between the region set and the epigenetic data. Rows should be in the same order as the region sets in GRList (the list of region sets used to create rsScores.) nullDistList List. one item per region set. Each item is a data.frame with the null distribution/s for a single region set. Each column in the data.frame is for a target variable (e.g. PC or phenotype), which is given by the 'signalCol' parameter (each target variable has a different null distribution for a given region set). signalCol A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target variables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes). Must be column names of rsScores. Character. "greater", "lesser", "two-sided" Whether to create p values based on testType one sided test or not. Only applies when whichMetric="pval".

## Value

whichMetric

A data.table/data.frame. If whichMetric="pval", returns the empirical p-value for each region set in 'rsScores'. If the region set score is more extreme than all scores in the null distribution, a p-value of 0 is returned but this simply means the p-value is the minimum detectable p-value with the given number of permutations used to make the null distributions. If whichMetric="zscore", the function returns a z-score for each region set score: ((region set score) - mean(null distribution)) / sd(null distribution)

## **Examples**

Character. Can be "pval" or "zscore"

20 getTopRegions

getTopRegions	Get regions that are most associated with target variable

## Description

Get a GRanges with top regions from the region set based on average feature contribution scores for the regions or the quantile of the region's average feature contribution score based on the distribution of all feature contribution scores for the target variable. Returns average feature contribution score or quantile as GRanges metadata.

# Usage

```
getTopRegions(
   signal,
   signalCoord,
   regionSet,
   signalCol = c("PC1", "PC2"),
   cutoff = 0.8,
   returnQuantile = TRUE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

to each target variable). One named column for each target variable. One row for each original epigenetic feature (should be same order as original data/signalCoord). For (an unsupervised) example, if PCA was done on epigenetic data and the goal was to find region sets associated with the principal components, you could use the x\$rotation output of prcomp(epigenetic data) as the feature contribution

scores/'signal' parameter.

signalCoord A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original

epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can

have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

regionSet A genomic ranges (GRanges) object with regions corresponding to the same

biological annotation.

signalCol A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target vari-

ables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

cutoff Numeric. Only regions with at least this value will be returned (either above this

average 'signal' value or above this quantile if returnQuantile=TRUE).

returnQuantile Logical. If FALSE, return region averages. If TRUE, for each region, return

the quantile of that region's average value based on the distribution of individual

feature values in 'signal' for that 'signalCol'.

nrf1\_chr1 21

## Value

A GRanges object with region coordinates for regions with scores/quantiles above "cutoff" for any target variable in signalCol. The scores/quantiles for signalCol are given as metadata in the GRanges.

## **Examples**

nrf1\_chr1

Nrf1 binding regions.

# Description

Binding regions for Nrf1. hg38 genome version. Only includes regions in chr1 to keep the example data small.

# Usage

```
data(nrf1_chr1)
```

## **Format**

A GRanges object

plotAnnoScoreDist

Plot ranked region set scores, annotating groups of interest

# Description

Visualize the distribution of region set scores for region set groups of interest.

22 plotAnnoScoreDist

## Usage

```
plotAnnoScoreDist(
  rsScores,
  colToPlot,
  pattern,
  patternName = pattern,
  rsNameCol = "rsName",
  alpha = 0.5,
  shape = 3
)
```

## **Arguments**

rsScores data.frame. Each row should be a region set. Columns should include score

columns and a column that contains the name of each region set.

colToPlot character. Name of the column with region set scores to plot.

pattern character. Region sets that match each pattern will be given the same color.

Multiple patterns can be given as character objects in a vector (each will have a different color). Regular expressions can be used (ignore.case=TRUE though). For example, to search for ER or GATA3 and color with a single color, this

pattern can be given "ERIGATA3".

patternName character. A name for each string in "pattern" that will be used for the legend.

rsNameCol character. Column name of "rsScores" column that contains the name or de-

scription of each region set. This column will be searched for the pattern given

by the "pattern" parameter.

alpha numeric. Transparency of points. See ggplot documentation for further details.

shape integer. Shape of the points. See ggplot documentation for options.

#### Details

If the same region set matches two patterns, the later group will be assigned to that region set.

#### Value

ggplot object that can be modified using ggplot syntax. E.g. plot + ggplot\_function

## **Examples**

```
data(rsScores)
rsScores$rsName <- c("ER", "GATA3", "ER", "GATA3", "AP1")
plotAnnoScoreDist(rsScores, colToPlot="PC1", pattern="ER", alpha=1)
plotAnnoScoreDist(rsScores, colToPlot="PC2", pattern=c("ER", "GATA3"))</pre>
```

regionQuantileByTargetVar

Visualize how individual regions are associated with target variable

## Description

Visualize how much each region in a region set is associated with each target variable. For each target variable ('signalCol'), the average (absolute) signal value is calculated for each region in the region set. Then for a given target variable, the average signal is converted to a percentile/quantile based on the distribution of all signal values for that target variable. These values are plotted in a heatmap.

# Usage

```
regionQuantileByTargetVar(
  signal,
  signalCoord,
  regionSet,
  rsName = ""
  signalCol = paste0("PC", 1:5),
 maxRegionsToPlot = 8000,
  cluster_rows = TRUE,
  row_title = "Region",
  column_title = rsName,
  column_title_side = "top",
  cluster_columns = FALSE,
  name = "Percentile of Loading Scores in PC",
  col = c("skyblue", "yellow"),
  absVal = TRUE,
)
```

## **Arguments**

signal

Matrix of feature contribution scores (the contribution of each epigenetic feature to each target variable). One named column for each target variable. One row for each original epigenetic feature (should be same order as original data/signalCoord). For (an unsupervised) example, if PCA was done on epigenetic data and the goal was to find region sets associated with the principal components, you could use the x\$rotation output of prcomp(epigenetic data) as the feature contribution scores/'signal' parameter.

signalCoord

A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

regionSet A genomic ranges (GRanges) object with regions corresponding to the same bi-

ological annotation. Must be from the same reference genome as the coordinates for the actual data/samples (signalCoord). The regions that will be visualized.

rsName Character. Name of the region set. For use as a title for the heatmap.

signalCol A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target vari-

ables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

maxRegionsToPlot

How many top regions from region set to include in heatmap. Including too many may slow down computation and increase memory use. If regionSet has more regions than maxRegionsToPlot, a number of regions equal to maxRegionsToPlot will be randomly sampled from the region set and these regions will be plotted. Clustering rows is a major limiting factor on how long it takes to plot the regions so if you want to plot many regions, you can also set cluster\_rows to Take CD.

FALSE.

cluster\_rows Logical object, whether to cluster rows or not (may increase computation time

significantly for large number of rows)

row\_title Character object, row title

column\_title Character object, column title

column\_title\_side

Character object, where to put the column title: "top" or "bottom"

cluster\_columns

Logical object, whether to cluster columns. It is recommended to keep this as FALSE so it will be easier to compare target variables that have a certain order such as PCs (with cluster\_columns = FALSE, they will be in the same specified

order in different heatmaps)

name Character object, legend title

col A vector of colors or a color mapping function which will be passed to the

ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap() function. See ?Heatmap (the "col" parameter)

for more details.

absVal Logical. If TRUE, take the absolute value of values in signal. Choose TRUE if

you think there may be some genomic loci in a region set that will increase and others will decrease (if there may be anticorrelation between regions in a region set). Choose FALSE if you expect regions in a given region set to all change in

the same direction (all be positively correlated with each other).

... Optional parameters for ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap()

#### Value

A heatmap. Columns are signalCol's, rows are regions. This heatmap allows you to see if some regions are associated with certain target variables but not others. Also, you can see if a subset of regions in the region set are associated with target variables while another subset are not associated with any target variables To color each region, first the (absolute) signal values within that region are averaged. Then this average is compared to the distribution of all (absolute) individual signal values for the given target variable to get a quantile/percentile for that region. Colors are based on this quantile/percentile. The output is a Heatmap object (ComplexHeatmap package).

rsRankingIndex 25

## **Examples**

rsRankingIndex

Get indices for top scored region sets

#### **Description**

For each target variable, get index of original region sets but ordered by rsScores ranking for each target variable. The original index refers to that region set's position in the 'GRList' param given to 'aggregateSignalGRList' which is also that region set's row index in the COCOA output. The first number in a given column of this function's output will be the original index of the region set ranked first for that target variable. The second row for a column will be the original index of the region set that ranked second for that target variable, etc. You can use this function to make it easier when you want to select the top region sets for further analysis or just for sorting the results. Region set scores are sorted in decreasing or increasing order according to the 'decreasing' parameter.

## Usage

```
rsRankingIndex(rsScores, signalCol, decreasing = TRUE, newColName = signalCol)
```

#### **Arguments**

rsScores

data.frame. A data.frame with region set scores. The output of the 'aggregateS-ignalGRList' function. Each row is a region set. One column for each sample variable of interest (e.g. PC or sample phenotype). Also can have columns with info on the overlap between the region set and the epigenetic data. Rows should be in the same order as the region sets in GRList (the list of region sets used to create rsScores.)

signalCol

A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target variables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

The columns in rsScores for which you want the indices of the original region sets.

26 rsScoreHeatmap

decreasing Logical. Whether to sort rsScores in decreasing or increasing order.

newColName Character. The names of the columns of the output data.frame. The order should

correspond to the order of the input columns given by signalCol.

## Value

A data.frame with one column for each 'signalCol'. Column names are given by 'signalCol' or 'newColName' (if used). Each column has been sorted by score for region sets for that target variable (order given by 'decreasing' param). Original indices for region sets that were used to create rsScores are given. Region sets with a score of NA are counted as having the lowest scores and indices for these region sets will be at the bottom of the returned data.frame (na.last=TRUE in sorting)

## **Examples**

rsScoreHeatmap

Heatmap of region set scores

## **Description**

Heatmap of the ranking of region set scores across target variables. A visualization of the rank of region sets in each target variable, allowing the user to see if a region set is ranked highly for all target variables or only a subset. Region sets will be ranked from highest scoring to lowest based on their score for 'orderByCol'. The ComplexHeatmap package is used and additional parameters for the ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap function may be passed to this function to modify the heatmap.

# Usage

```
rsScoreHeatmap(
  rsScores,
  signalCol = paste0("PC", 1:5),
  orderByCol = "PC1",
  rsNameCol = "rsName",
  topX = 20,
  col = c("red", "#EEEEEE", "blue"),
  row_title = "Region Set",
  column_title = "Principal Component",
  column_title_side = "bottom",
  cluster_rows = FALSE,
```

rsScoreHeatmap 27

```
cluster_columns = FALSE,
show_row_names = TRUE,
row_names_max_width = unit(10000, "mm"),
name = "Rank within PC",
...
)
```

#### **Arguments**

rsScores data.frame. A data.frame with region set scores. The output of the 'aggregateS-

ignalGRList' function. Each row is a region set. One column for each sample variable of interest (e.g. PC or sample phenotype). Also can have columns with info on the overlap between the region set and the epigenetic data. Rows should be in the same order as the region sets in GRList (the list of region sets used to

create rsScores.)

signalCol A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target vari-

ables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes). Must be column names of rsScores.

orderByCol A character object. Target variable to order by in heatmap (arranged in decreas-

ing order for scores so p values should be -log transformed). Must be the name

of a column in rsScores.

rsNameCol Character. Name of the column in rsScores that has the names/identifiers for the

region sets so these can be included in the plot as row names.

topX Number of top region sets to include in the heatmap

A vector of colors or a color mapping function which will be passed to the

ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap() function. See ?Heatmap (the "col" parameter)

for more details. "#EEEEEE" is the code for a color similar to white.

row\_title Character object, row title

column\_title Character object, column title

column title side

Character object, where to put the column title: "top" or "bottom"

cluster\_rows Logical object, whether rows should be clustered. This should be kept as FALSE

to keep the correct ranking of region sets.

cluster\_columns

Logical object, whether to cluster columns. It is recommended to keep this as FALSE so it will be easier to compare target variables that are ordered (such as principal components). With cluster\_columns = FALSE, they will be in the

same specified order in different heatmaps.

show\_row\_names Logical object, display row names (ie region set names)

row\_names\_max\_width

"unit" object. The amount of room to allocate for row names. See ?grid::unit for

object type.

name Character object, legend title

. . . Optional parameters for ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap().

#### Value

A heatmap of region set scores across. Each row is a region set, each column is a target variable. The color corresponds to the relative rank of a region set's score for a given target variable out of all tested region sets.

#### **Examples**

rsScores

Example COCOA Results (made up)

## **Description**

A data.frame with example COCOA results. 5 region sets with names given by rsScores\$rsName. Each region set has a score for each PC. Scores for real region sets would normally be orders of magnitude smaller.

#### Usage

data(rsScores)

#### **Format**

A data.frame object

runCOCOA

Run COCOA: quantify inter-sample variation, score region sets

## Description

This is a convenience function that does the two steps of COCOA: quantifying the epigenetic variation and scoring the region sets. This function will return the real COCOA scores if using the default 'sampleOrder' parameter values. This function also makes it easy to generate null distributions in order to evaluate the statistical significance of the real COCOA results. You can use the sampleOrder parameter to shuffle the samples, then run COCOA to get fake scores for each region set. By doing this many times, you can build a null distribution for each region set composed of the region set's random scores from each permutation. There are multiple options for quantifying the epigenetic variation, specified by the 'variationMetric' parameter. Quantifying the variation for the real/non-permuted COCOA scores should be done with the same variation metric as is used for the random permutations. For an unsupervised analysis using dimensionality reduction, first, the dimensionality reduction is done outside 'runCOCOA', then the latent factors/principal components are input to 'runCOCOA' as the sample labels (targetVar parameter) when calculating both the real and also the permutated region set scores. For a supervised analysis, the target variables/phenotypes are the targetVar. See the vignettes for examples.

#### Usage

```
runCOCOA(
  genomicSignal,
  signalCoord,
 GRList,
  signalCol,
  targetVar,
  sampleOrder = 1:nrow(targetVar),
  variationMetric = "cor",
  scoringMetric = "default",
  verbose = TRUE,
  absVal = TRUE,
 ollist = NULL,
 pOlapList = NULL,
  centerGenomicSignal = TRUE,
  centerTargetVar = TRUE,
  returnCovInfo = TRUE
)
```

#### **Arguments**

genomicSignal Matrix/data.frame. The genomic signal (e.g. DNA methylation levels) Columns

of genomicSignal should be samples/patients. Rows should be individual sig-

nal/features (each row corresponds to one genomic coordinate/range)

signalCoord A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original

epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can

have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

GRList GRangesList object. Each list item is a distinct region set to test (region set: re-

gions that correspond to the same biological annotation). The region set database must be from the same reference genome as the coordinates for the actual data/samples

(signalCoord).

signalCol A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target vari-

ables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

The columns in 'sampleLabels' for which to calculate the variation related to

the epigenetic data (e.g. correlation) and then to run COCOA on.

targetVar Matrix or data.frame. Rows should be samples. Columns should be the target

variables (whatever variable you want to test for association with the epigenetic

signal: e.g. PC scores),

sampleOrder numeric. A vector of length (number of samples). If sampleOrder is 1:(num-

ber of samples) then this function will return the real COCOA scores. To generate random COCOA scores in order to make null distributions, shuffle the samples in a random order. E.g. sampleOrder = sample(1:ncol(genomicSignal), ncol(genomicSignal)) where ncol(genomicSignal) is the number of samples. Set

the seed with set.seed() before making sample Order to ensure reproducibility.

variationMetric

Character. The metric to use to quantify the association between each feature in genomicSignal and each target variable in sampleLabels. Either "cor" (Pearson correlation), "cov" (covariation), or "spearmanCor" (Spearman correlation).

scoringMetric

A character object with the scoring metric. There are different methods available for signalCoordType="singleBase" vs signalCoordType="multiBase". For "singleBase", the available methods are "regionMean", "regionMedian", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default method is "regionMean". For "multiBase", the methods are "proportionWeightedMean", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default is "proportionWeightedMean". "regionMean" is a weighted average of the signal, weighted by region (absolute value of signal if absVal=TRUE). First the signal is averaged within each regionSet region, then all the regions are averaged. With "regionMean" method, be cautious in interpretation for region sets with low number of regions that overlap signalCoord. The "regionMedian" method is the same as "regionMean" but the median is taken at each step instead of the mean. The "simpleMean" method is just the unweighted average of all (absolute) signal values that overlap the given region set. For multiBase data, this includes signal regions that overlap a regionSet region at all (1 base overlap or more) and the signal for each overlapping region is given the same weight for the average regardless of how much it overlaps. The "simpleMedian" method is the same as "simpleMean" but takes the median instead of the mean. "proportionWeightedMean" is a weighted average of all signalCoord regions that overlap with regionSet regions. For each signalCoord region that overlaps with a regionSet region, we calculate what proportion of the regionSet region is covered. Then this proportion is used to weight the signal value when calculating the mean. The denominator of the mean is the sum of all the proportion overlaps.

verbose

A "logical" object. Whether progress of the function should be shown. One bar indicates the region set is completed.

absVal

Logical. If TRUE, take the absolute value of values in signal. Choose TRUE if you think there may be some genomic loci in a region set that will increase and others will decrease (if there may be anticorrelation between regions in a region set). Choose FALSE if you expect regions in a given region set to all change in the same direction (all be positively correlated with each other).

olList

list. Each list item should be a "SortedByQueryHits" object (output of findOverlaps function). Each hits object should have the overlap information between signalCoord and one item of GRList (one unique region set). The region sets from GRList must be the "subject" in findOverlaps and signalCoord must be the "query". E.g. findOverlaps(subject=regionSet, query=signalCoord). Providing this information can greatly improve permutation speed since the overlaps will not have to be calculated for each permutation. The "runCOCOAPerm" function calculates this information only once, internally, so this does not have to be provided when using that function. When using this parameter, signalCoord, genomicSignal, and each region set must be in the same order as they were when olList was created. Otherwise, the wrong genomic loci will be referenced (e.g. if epigenetic features were filtered out of genomicSignal after olList was created.)

p0lapList

list. This parameter is only used if the scoring metric is "proportionWeighted-Mean" and olList is also provided as an argument. Each item of the list should be a vector that contains the proportion overlap between signalCoord and regions from one region set (one item of GRList). Specifically, each value should be the proportion of the region set region that is overlapped by a signalCoord region. The proportion overlap values should be in the same order as the overlaps given by olList for the corresponding region set.

centerGenomicSignal

Logical. Should rows in genomicSignal be centered based on their means? (subtracting row mean from each row)

centerTargetVar

Logical. Should columns in targetVar be centered based on their means? (subtract column mean from each column)

returnCovInfo

logical. If TRUE, the following coverage and region set info will be calculated and included in function output: regionSetCoverage, signalCoverage, totalRegionNumber, and meanRegionSize. For the proportionWeightedMean scoring method, sumProportionOverlap will also be calculated.

#### Value

data.frame. The output of aggregateSignalGRList for one permutation.

## **Examples**

```
data("esr1_chr1")
data("nrf1_chr1")
data("brcaMethylData1")
data("brcaMCoord1")
pcScores <- prcomp(t(brcaMethylData1))$x</pre>
targetVarCols <- c("PC1", "PC2")</pre>
targetVar <- pcScores[, targetVarCols]</pre>
# give the actual order of samples to `runCOCOA` to get the real scores
correctSampleOrder=1:nrow(targetVar)
realRSScores <- runCOCOA(genomicSignal=brcaMethylData1,
                         signalCoord=brcaMCoord1,
                         GRList=GRangesList(esr1_chr1, nrf1_chr1),
                         signalCol=c("PC1", "PC2"),
                         targetVar=targetVar,
                         sampleOrder=correctSampleOrder,
                         variationMetric="cor")
realRSScores
# give random order of samples to get random COCOA scores
# so you start building a null distribution for each region set
# (see vignette for example of building a null distribution with `runCOCOA`)
randomOrder <- sample(1:nrow(targetVar),</pre>
                       size=nrow(targetVar),
                       replace=FALSE)
randomRSScores <- runCOCOA(genomicSignal=brcaMethylData1,</pre>
                           signalCoord=brcaMCoord1,
```

```
GRList=GRangesList(esr1_chr1, nrf1_chr1),
signalCol=c("PC1", "PC2"),
targetVar=targetVar,
sampleOrder=randomOrder,
variationMetric="cor")
```

randomRSScores

runCOCOAPerm

Run COCOA permutations to get p-values

## **Description**

This is a convenience function that runs multiple steps of the permutation process together: it runs COCOA permutations, converts these to null distributions, gets the empirical p value (which is limited by the number of permutations), gets z scores, and fits a gamma distribution to each null distribution to estimate p values (not limited by the number of permutations), Requires that the user has previously calculated the real COCOA scores. See these individual functions for more info on each step: runCOCOA, convertToFromNullDist, getPermStat, and getGammaPVal.

## Usage

```
runCOCOAPerm(
  genomicSignal,
  signalCoord,
  GRList,
  rsScores,
  targetVar,
  signalCol = c("PC1", "PC2"),
  scoringMetric = "default",
  absVal = TRUE,
 ollist = NULL,
  centerGenomicSignal = TRUE,
  centerTargetVar = TRUE,
  variationMetric = "cor",
  nPerm = 300,
  useSimpleCache = TRUE,
  cacheDir = getwd(),
  dataID = "",
  testType = "greater",
  gammaFitMethod = "mme"
  realScoreInDist = TRUE,
  force = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE,
  returnCovInfo = FALSE,
)
```

#### **Arguments**

Matrix/data.frame. The genomic signal (e.g. DNA methylation levels) Columns genomicSignal

of genomicSignal should be samples/patients. Rows should be individual sig-

nal/features (each row corresponds to one genomic coordinate/range)

signalCoord A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original

> epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can

have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

GRList GRangesList object. Each list item is a distinct region set to test (region set: re-

> gions that correspond to the same biological annotation). The region set database must be from the same reference genome as the coordinates for the actual data/samples

(signalCoord).

data.frame. A data.frame with region set scores. The output of the 'aggregateSrsScores

> ignalGRList' function. Each row is a region set. One column for each sample variable of interest (e.g. PC or sample phenotype). Also can have columns with info on the overlap between the region set and the epigenetic data. Rows should be in the same order as the region sets in GRList (the list of region sets used to

create rsScores.)

targetVar Matrix or data.frame. Rows should be samples. Columns should be the target

variables (whatever variable you want to test for association with the epigenetic

signal: e.g. PC scores),

signalCol A character vector with the names of the sample variables of interest/target vari-

ables (e.g. PCs or sample phenotypes).

The columns in 'sampleLabels' for which to calculate the variation related to

the epigenetic data (e.g. correlation) and then to run COCOA on.

A character object with the scoring metric. There are different methods availscoringMetric

able for signalCoordType="singleBase" vs signalCoordType="multiBase". For "singleBase", the available methods are "regionMean", "regionMedian", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default method is "regionMean". For

"multiBase", the methods are "proportionWeightedMean", "simpleMean", and "simpleMedian". The default is "proportionWeightedMean". "regionMean" is a weighted average of the signal, weighted by region (absolute value of signal if absVal=TRUE). First the signal is averaged within each regionSet region, then all the regions are averaged. With "regionMean" method, be cautious in

interpretation for region sets with low number of regions that overlap signalCoord. The "regionMedian" method is the same as "regionMean" but the median is taken at each step instead of the mean. The "simpleMean" method is just the unweighted average of all (absolute) signal values that overlap the given region

region at all (1 base overlap or more) and the signal for each overlapping region is given the same weight for the average regardless of how much it overlaps. The "simpleMedian" method is the same as "simpleMean" but takes the median

set. For multiBase data, this includes signal regions that overlap a regionSet

instead of the mean. "proportionWeightedMean" is a weighted average of all signalCoord regions that overlap with regionSet regions. For each signalCoord

region that overlaps with a regionSet region, we calculate what proportion of the

> regionSet region is covered. Then this proportion is used to weight the signal value when calculating the mean. The denominator of the mean is the sum of all the proportion overlaps.

absVal

Logical. If TRUE, take the absolute value of values in signal. Choose TRUE if you think there may be some genomic loci in a region set that will increase and others will decrease (if there may be anticorrelation between regions in a region set). Choose FALSE if you expect regions in a given region set to all change in the same direction (all be positively correlated with each other).

olList

list. Each list item should be a "SortedByQueryHits" object (output of findOverlaps function). Each hits object should have the overlap information between signalCoord and one item of GRList (one unique region set). The region sets from GRList must be the "subject" in findOverlaps and signalCoord must be the "query". E.g. findOverlaps(subject=regionSet, query=signalCoord). Providing this information can greatly improve permutation speed since the overlaps will not have to be calculated for each permutation. The "runCOCOAPerm" function calculates this information only once, internally, so this does not have to be provided when using that function. When using this parameter, signalCoord, genomicSignal, and each region set must be in the same order as they were when olList was created. Otherwise, the wrong genomic loci will be referenced (e.g. if epigenetic features were filtered out of genomicSignal after olList was created.)

#### centerGenomicSignal

Logical. Should rows in genomicSignal be centered based on their means? (subtracting row mean from each row)

centerTargetVar

Logical. Should columns in targetVar be centered based on their means? (subtract column mean from each column)

variationMetric

Character. The metric to use to quantify the association between each feature in genomicSignal and each target variable in sampleLabels. Either "cor" (Pearson correlation), "cov" (covariation), or "spearmanCor" (Spearman correlation).

nPerm Numeric. The number of permutations to do.

useSimpleCache Logical. Whether to use save caches. Caches will be created for each permutation so that if the function is disrupted it can restart where it left off. The final results are also saved as a cache. See simpleCache package for more details.

cacheDir Character. The path for the directory in which the caches should be saved.

dataID Character. A unique identifier for this dataset (for saving results with simple-

Cache)

Character. Parameter for 'getPermStat'. Whether to create p values based on one a two sided test or a lesser/greater one sided test. Options are: "greater",

"lesser", "two-sided"

Character. method to use for fitting the gamma distribution to null distribugammaFitMethod tion. Options are "mme" (moment matching estimation), "mle" (maximum likelihood estimation), "qme" (quantile matching estimation), and "mge" (maximum goodness-of-fit estimation). See ?COCOA::getGammaPVal and ?fitdis-

trplus::fitdist() for more info.

testType

realScoreInDist

Logical. Should the actual score (from test with no permutations) be included in the null distribution when fitting the gamma distribution. realScoreInDist=TRUE

is recommended.

force Logical. If force=TRUE, when fitting the gamma distribution returns an error

(as may happen when a method other than "mme" is used) then allow the error. If force=FALSE, when fitting the gamma distribution returns an error then don't return an error but instead use the "mme" method for fitting that specific gamma

distribution.

verbose A "logical" object. Whether progress of the function should be shown. One bar

indicates the region set is completed.

returnCovInfo logical. If TRUE, the following coverage and region set info will be calculated

and included in function output: regionSetCoverage, signalCoverage, totalRegionNumber, and meanRegionSize. For the proportionWeightedMean scoring

method, sumProportionOverlap will also be calculated.

. . . Character. Optional additional arguments for simpleCache.

#### **Details**

For reproducibility, set seed with 'set.seed()' function before running.

#### Value

Returns a list with the following 4 items: 1. a list of length nPerm where each item is a data.frame of the COCOA scores from a single permutation. Each data.frame is the output of 'runCOCOA()' 2. a data.table/data.frame of empirical p-values (the output of 'getPermStat') 3. a data.table/data.frame of z-scores (the output of 'getPermStat'. 4. a data.frame of p-values based on the gamma approximation (the output of getGammaPVal().

# Examples

```
data("esr1_chr1")
data("nrf1_chr1")
data("brcaMethylData1")
data("brcaMCoord1")
pcScores <- prcomp(t(brcaMethylData1))$x</pre>
targetVarCols <- c("PC1", "PC2")</pre>
targetVar <- pcScores[, targetVarCols]</pre>
# give the actual order of samples to `runCOCOA` to get the real scores
correctSampleOrder=1:nrow(targetVar)
realRSScores <- runCOCOA(genomicSignal=brcaMethylData1,</pre>
                         signalCoord=brcaMCoord1,
                         GRList=GRangesList(esr1_chr1, nrf1_chr1),
                         signalCol=c("PC1", "PC2"),
                         targetVar=targetVar,
                         sampleOrder=correctSampleOrder,
                         variationMetric="cor")
```

# give random order of samples to get random COCOA scores

36 signalAlongAxis

```
# so you start building a null distribution for each region set
# (see vignette for example of building a null distribution with `runCOCOA`)
randomOrder <- sample(1:nrow(targetVar),</pre>
                      size=nrow(targetVar),
                       replace=FALSE)
randomRSScores <- runCOCOA(genomicSignal=brcaMethylData1,</pre>
                           signalCoord=brcaMCoord1,
                           GRList=GRangesList(esr1_chr1, nrf1_chr1),
                           signalCol=c("PC1", "PC2"),
                           targetVar=targetVar,
                           sampleOrder=randomOrder,
                           variationMetric="cor")
# runCOCOAPerm
permResults <- runCOCOAPerm(genomicSignal=brcaMethylData1,</pre>
                            signalCoord=brcaMCoord1,
                            GRList=GRangesList(esr1_chr1, nrf1_chr1),
                            rsScores=realRSScores,
                            targetVar=targetVar,
                            signalCol=c("PC1", "PC2"),
                            variationMetric="cor",
                            nPerm = 10,
                            useSimpleCache=FALSE)
permResults
```

signalAlongAxis

Visualize how genomic signal in a region set changes along a given axis

#### **Description**

Look at genomic signal (e.g., DNA methylation values) in regions of interest across samples, with samples ordered according to a variable of interest (e.g. PC score). The ComplexHeatmap package is used and additional parameters for the ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap function may be passed to this function to modify the heatmap.

## Usage

```
signalAlongAxis(
  genomicSignal,
  signalCoord,
  regionSet,
  sampleScores,
  orderByCol = "PC1",
  topXVariables = NULL,
  variableScores = NULL,
  decreasing = TRUE,
```

37 signalAlongAxis

```
cluster_columns = FALSE,
  cluster_rows = FALSE,
  row_title = "Sample",
  column_title = "Genomic Signal",
  column_title_side = "bottom",
  name = "Genomic Signal Value",
  col = c("blue", "#EEEEEE", "red"),
)
```

#### **Arguments**

genomicSignal

Matrix/data.frame. The genomic signal (e.g. DNA methylation levels) Columns of genomicSignal should be samples/patients. Rows should be individual signal/features (each row corresponds to one genomic coordinate/range) Must have sample names/IDs as column names, These same sample names must be row names of sampleScores.

signalCoord

A GRanges object or data frame with coordinates for the genomic signal/original epigenetic data. Coordinates should be in the same order as the original data and the feature contribution scores (each item/row in signalCoord corresponds to a row in signal). If a data.frame, must have chr and start columns (optionally can have end column, depending on the epigenetic data type).

regionSet

A genomic ranges (GRanges) object with regions corresponding to the same biological annotation. Must be from the same reference genome as the coordinates for the actual data/samples (signalCoord). The regions that will be visualized.

sampleScores

A matrix. Must contain a column for the variable of interest/target variable. E.g. The variable of interest could be the principal component scores for the samples. 'sampleScores' must have sample names/IDs as row names, These same sample names must be column names of genomicSignal.

orderByCol

A character object. A variable to order samples by (order rows of heatmap by variable, from high to low value). Must be the name of a column in sample-Scores. For instance, if doing unsupervised COCOA with PCA, orderByCol might be the name of one of the PCs (e.g. "PC1"). If doing supervised COCOA, orderByCol might be the name of the target variable of the supervised analysis.

topXVariables

Numeric. The number of variables from genomicSignal to plot. The variables with the highest scores according to variableScores will be plotted. Can help to reduce the size of the plot.

variableScores Numeric. A vector that has a numeric score for each variable in genomicSignal (length(variableScores) should equal nrow(genomicSignal)). Only used if topXVariables is given. The highest 'topXVariables' will be plotted.

decreasing

Logical. Whether samples should be sorted in decreasing order of 'orderByCol' or not (FALSE is increasing order).

cluster\_columns

Logical. Whether to cluster columns (the genomic signal, e.g. DNA methylation values for each CpG).

38 signalAlongAxis

cluster\_rows Logical. Whether rows should be clustered. This should be kept as FALSE

to keep the correct ranking of samples/observations according to their target

variable score.

row\_title Character object, row title column\_title Character object, column title

column\_title\_side

Character object, where to put the column title: "top" or "bottom"

name Character object, legend title

A vector of colors or a color mapping function which will be passed to the

ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap() function. See ?Heatmap (the "col" parameter)

for more details. "#EEEEEE" is the code for a color similar to white.

... Optional parameters for ComplexHeatmap::Heatmap()

## Value

A heatmap of genomic signal values (eg DNA methylation levels) in regions of interest (region-Set), with rows ordered by the column of sampleScores given with 'orderByCol'. Each row is a patient/sample and each column is an individual genomic signal value.

## **Examples**

# **Index**

```
* datasets
                                                 regionQuantileByTargetVar, 23
    atf3_chr1,8
                                                 rsRankingIndex, 25
    brcaATACCoord1,9
                                                 {\tt rsScoreHeatmap}, {\tt 26}
    brcaATACData1,9
                                                 rsScores, 28
                                                 runCOCOA, 28
    brcaMCoord1, 10
    brcaMetadata, 10
                                                 runCOCOAPerm, 32
    brcaMethylData1, 11
                                                 signalAlongAxis, 36
    brcaPCScores, 11
    brcaPCScores657, 12
    esr1_chr1, 14
    gata3_chr1, 14
    nrf1_chr1, 21
    rsScores, 28
aggregateSignal, 3
aggregateSignalGRList, 5
atf3_chr1,8
brcaATACCoord1, 9
brcaATACData1,9
brcaMCoord1, 10
brcaMetadata, 10
brcaMethylData1, 11
brcaPCScores, 11
brcaPCScores657, 12
COCOA, 12
convertToFromNullDist, 13
esr1_chr1, 14
gata3_chr1, 14
getGammaPVal, 15
getMetaRegionProfile, 16
getPermStat, 18
getTopRegions, 20
nrf1_chr1, 21
plotAnnoScoreDist, 21
```