

Package ‘preciseTAD’

December 20, 2025

Type Package

Title preciseTAD: A machine learning framework for precise TAD boundary prediction

Version 1.21.0

Description preciseTAD provides functions to predict the location of boundaries of topologically associated domains (TADs) and chromatin loops at base-level resolution. As an input, it takes BED-formatted genomic coordinates of domain boundaries detected from low-resolution Hi-C data, and coordinates of high-resolution genomic annotations from ENCODE or other consortia. preciseTAD employs several feature engineering strategies and resampling techniques to address class imbalance, and trains an optimized random forest model for predicting low-resolution domain boundaries. Translated on a base-level, preciseTAD predicts the probability for each base to be a boundary. Density-based clustering and scalable partitioning techniques are used to detect precise boundary regions and summit points. Compared with low-resolution boundaries, preciseTAD boundaries are highly enriched for CTCF, RAD21, SMC3, and ZNF143 signal and more conserved across cell lines. The pre-trained model can accurately predict boundaries in another cell line using CTCF, RAD21, SMC3, and ZNF143 annotation data for this cell line.

License MIT + file LICENSE

Depends R (>= 4.1)

Encoding UTF-8

LazyData true

RoxygenNote 7.1.1

Suggests knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, BiocCheck, BiocManager, BiocStyle

VignetteBuilder knitr

Imports S4Vectors, IRanges, GenomicRanges, randomForest, ModelMetrics, e1071, PRROC, pROC, caret, utils, cluster, dbscan, doSNOW, foreach, pbapply, stats, parallel, gtools, rCGH

biocViews Software, HiC, Sequencing, Clustering, Classification, FunctionalGenomics, FeatureExtraction

BugReports <https://github.com/dozmorovlab/preciseTAD/issues>

URL <https://github.com/dozmorovlab/preciseTAD>
git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/preciseTAD>
git_branch devel
git_last_commit 301ea2e
git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29
Repository Bioconductor 3.23
Date/Publication 2025-12-19
Author Spiro Stilianoudakis [aut],
Mikhail Dozmorov [aut, cre]
Maintainer Mikhail Dozmorov <mikhail.dozmorov@gmail.com>

Contents

arrowhead_gm12878_5kb	2
bedToGRangesList	3
binary_func	4
count_func	4
createTADdata	5
distance_func	7
extractBoundaries	7
juicer_func	8
percent_func	9
preciseTAD	9
signal_func	12
TADrandomForest	13
TADrfe	15
tfbsList	16
Index	18

arrowhead_gm12878_5kb *Domain data from ARROWHEAD TAD-caller for GM12878 at 5 kb*

Description

- A data frame with 3 columns and 8409 rows
- V1** The chromosome number
- V2** The start coordinate of the TAD
- V3** The end coordinate of the TAD

Usage

arrowhead_gm12878_5kb

Format

An object of class `data.frame` with 8409 rows and 3 columns.

Value

A `data.frame`

Source

Data from Rao SS, Huntley MH, Durand NC, Stamenova EK et al. A 3D map of the human genome at kilobase resolution reveals principles of chromatin looping. *Cell* 2014 Dec 18;159(7):1665-80. PMID: 25497547. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE63525>

bedToGRangesList	<i>Function to create a GRangesList object from functional genomic annotation data in the form of BED files</i>
------------------	---

Description

Function to create a `GRangesList` object from functional genomic annotation data in the form of BED files

Usage

```
bedToGRangesList(
  filepath,
  bedList = NULL,
  bedNames = NULL,
  pattern = "*.bed",
  signal = NULL
)
```

Arguments

filepath	Character describing the path to the folder containing the BED files of functional genomic annotations. This is ignored if <code>bedList</code> is specified.
bedList	A list object containing the bed data as data frames to be converted into a <code>GRangesList</code> . The data frames must include at least chromosome, start, and end coordinates as the first 3 columns. Default is <code>NULL</code> .
bedNames	A character vector to provide names to the <code>GRangesList</code> , should be in the order of <code>bedList</code> . Default is <code>NULL</code> .
pattern	Character describing the pattern of the files for the functional genomic annotations. Default is <code>"*.bed"</code> .
signal	The column number in the BED files that denotes coverage strength. Must be the same for all files. Default is <code>NULL</code> indicating to no coverage value is to be used.

Value

A GRangesList object where each entry is a GRanges object specific to each BED file in the path provided

Examples

```
#set path
path <- system.file("extdata", package = "preciseTAD")
#contains 2 BED files representing YY1 and NFYA
#transcription factor binding sites for GM12878
tfbsList <- bedToGRangesList(filepath = path, bedList=NULL, bedNames=NULL,
pattern = "*.bed", signal=NULL)
```

binary_func

Helper function used to create binary overlap type feature space

Description

Helper function used to create binary overlap type feature space

Usage

```
binary_func(binned_data_gr, annot_data_gr)
```

Arguments

binned_data_gr A GRanges object

annot_data_gr A Granges object

Value

An indicator vector for whether or not an overlap occurred

count_func

Helper function used to create count overlap type feature space

Description

Helper function used to create count overlap type feature space

Usage

```
count_func(binned_data_gr, annot_data_gr)
```

Arguments

binned_data_gr A GRanges object
 annot_data_gr A GRanges object

Value

A vector of counts enumerating the number of overlaps

createTADdata	<i>Function to create a data matrix used for building a predictive model to classify boundary regions from functional genomic elements</i>
---------------	--

Description

Function to create a data matrix used for building a predictive model to classify boundary regions from functional genomic elements

Usage

```

createTADdata(
  bounds.GR,
  resolution,
  genomicElements.GR,
  featureType = "distance",
  resampling,
  trainCHR,
  predictCHR = NULL,
  genome = "hg19"
)

```

Arguments

bounds.GR	a GRanges object with chromosomal coordinates of TAD boundaries used to identify positive cases (can be obtained using extractBoundaries). Required.
resolution	Numeric, the width to bin the genome at, should match the resolution that TADs were called at. Required.
genomicElements.GR	a GRangesList object containing GRanges objects for each ChIP-seq data to leverage in the random forest model (can be obtained using the bedToGRangesList). Required.
featureType	Character, controls how the feature space is constructed (one of either "binary" (overlap yes/no), "oc" (overlap counts, the number of overlaps), "op" (overlap percent, the percent of bin width covered by the genomic annotation), or "distance" (log2-transformed distance from the center of the nearest genomic annotation to the center of the bin); default is "distance"). Required.

resampling	Character, controls if and how the data should be resampled to create balanced classes of boundary vs. nonboundary regions (one of either "none" - no resampling, "ros" - Random Over-Sampling, "rus" - Random Under-Sampling. Required.
trainCHR	Character vector of chromosomes to use to build the binned data matrix for training. Required.
predictCHR	Character vector of chromosomes to use to build the binned data matrix for testing. Default in NULL, indicating no test data is created. If trainCHR=predictCHR then a 7:3 split is created.
genome	version of the human genome assembly. Used to filter out bases overlapping centromeric regions. Accepted values - hg19 (default) or hg38.

Value

A list object containing two data.frames: 1) the training data, 2) the test data (only if predictCHR is not NULL, otherwise it is NA). "y" is an indicator whether the corresponding bin is a TAD boundary, and the subsequent columns have the association measures between bins and the genomic annotations

Examples

```
# Create training data for CHR21 and testing data for CHR22 with
# 5 kb binning, oc-type predictors from 26 different transcription factor
# binding sites from the GM12878 cell line, and random under-sampling

# Read in ARROWHEAD-called TADs at 5kb
data(arrowhead_gm12878_5kb)

#Extract unique boundaries
bounds.GR <- extractBoundaries(domains.mat = arrowhead_gm12878_5kb,
                              filter = FALSE,
                              CHR = c("CHR21", "CHR22"),
                              resolution = 5000)

# Read in GRangesList of 26 TFBS
data(tfbsList)

tadData <- createTADdata(bounds.GR = bounds.GR,
                        resolution = 5000,
                        genomicElements.GR = tfbsList,
                        featureType = "oc",
                        resampling = "rus",
                        trainCHR = "CHR21",
                        predictCHR = "CHR22")
```

distance_func	<i>Helper function used to create (log2) distance type feature space</i>
---------------	--

Description

Helper function used to create (log2) distance type feature space

Usage

```
distance_func(binned_data_center_gr, annot_data_center_gr)
```

Arguments

binned_data_center_gr	A GRanges object of width 1
annot_data_center_gr	A GRanges object of width 1

Value

A vector of log2 distances to the nearest overlap

extractBoundaries	<i>Function to extract boundaries from domain data.</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Function to extract boundaries from domain data.

Usage

```
extractBoundaries(domains.mat, filter = FALSE, CHR, resolution)
```

Arguments

domains.mat	either a matrix or data.frame with at least 3 columns. First column is chromosome number/character (1, 2, 3, X) or ID (chr1, chr2). Non-autosomal/sex chromosomes will be filtered. The second and third columns are the start and end coordinates of the domains, respectively. Note these are coordinates of the domain anchor centers, not anchors. Only the first three columns are used. Required.
filter	logical, indicating whether or not domains exceeding 2mb in width or smaller than 2*(the specified resolution) should be filtered out (default is FALSE, all boundaries will be used). Required.

CHR	character vector, specifying which chromosome(s) to extract domain boundaries on (ex: "chr22", case ignored). Unused seqnames are dropped. Required.
resolution	numeric, the Hi-C data resolution that domains were called at. Ignored if filter is FALSE, required otherwise.

Value

A GRanges object

Examples

```
#Read in domain data from ARROWHEAD at 5 kb for GM12878
data("arrowhead_gm12878_5kb")
#Extract unique boundaries for CHRs 1-8 and 10-22
bounds.GR <- extractBoundaries(domains.mat=arrowhead_gm12878_5kb,
                                filter=FALSE,
                                CHR=paste0("CHR",c(1:8,10:22)),
                                resolution=5000)
```

juicer_func	<i>Helper function for transforming a GRanges object into matrix form to be saved as .txt or .BED file and imported into juicer</i>
-------------	---

Description

Helper function for transforming a GRanges object into matrix form to be saved as .txt or .BED file and imported into juicer

Usage

```
juicer_func(grdat)
```

Arguments

grdat	A GRanges object representing boundary coordinates
-------	--

Value

A dataframe that can be saved as a BED file to import into juicer

percent_func	<i>Helper function used to create percent overlap type feature space</i>
--------------	--

Description

Helper function used to create percent overlap type feature space

Usage

```
percent_func(binned_data_gr, annot_data_gr)
```

Arguments

binned_data_gr A GRanges object
 annot_data_gr A Granges object

Value

A vector of proportions indicating the percentage of overlap

preciseTAD	<i>Precise TAD boundary prediction at base-level resolution using density-based spatial clustering and partitioning techniques</i>
------------	--

Description

Precise TAD boundary prediction at base-level resolution using density-based spatial clustering and partitioning techniques

Usage

```
preciseTAD(
  genomicElements.GR,
  featureType = "distance",
  CHR,
  chromCoords = NULL,
  tadModel,
  threshold = 1,
  verbose = TRUE,
  parallel = NULL,
  DBSCAN_params = list(30000, 100),
  slope = 5000,
  genome = "hg19",
  BaseProbs = FALSE,
  savetobed = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

genomicElements.GR	GRangesList object containing GRanges from each ChIP-seq BED file that was used to train a predictive model (can be obtained using the bedToGRangesList). Required.
featureType	Controls how the feature space is constructed (one of either "binary", "oc", "op", "signal, or "distance" (log2- transformed). Default and recommended: "distance".
CHR	Controls which chromosome to predict boundaries on at base-level resolution, e.g., CHR22. Required.
chromCoords	List containing the starting bp coordinate and ending bp coordinate that defines the region of the linear genome to make predictions on. If chromCoords is not specified, then predictions will be made on the entire chromosome. Default is NULL.
tadModel	Model object used to obtain predicted probabilities at base-level resolution (examples include gbm, glmnet, svm, glm, etc). For a random forest model, can be obtained using <code>preciseTAD::randomForest</code>). Required.
threshold	Bases with predicted probabilities that are greater than or equal to this value are labeled as potential TAD boundaries. Values in the range of .95-1.0 are suggested. Default is 1. To explore how selection of the 'threshold' parameter affects the results, it is recommended to rerun the function with a different threshold, e.g., 0.99, and compare the results of Normalized Enrichment test (see 'DBSCAN_params' and the 'preciseTADparams' slot).
verbose	Option to print progress. Default is TRUE.
parallel	Option to parallelise the process for obtaining predicted probabilities. Must be number to indicate the number of cores to use in parallel. Default is NULL.
DBSCAN_params	Parameters passed to dbscan in list form containing 1) eps and 2) MinPts. If a vector of different values is passed to either or both eps and MinPts, then each combination of these parameters is evaluated to maximize normalized enrichment (NE) is the provided genomic annotations. Normalized Enrichment is calculated as the number of genomic annotations that overlap with flanked predicted boundary points (see the slope parameter) divided by the total number of predicted boundaries, averaged for all genomic annotations. Parameters yielding maximum NE score are automatically selected for the final prediction. It is advisable to explore results of the NE test, available in the 'preciseTADparams' slot of the returned object (NEmean - mean normalized enrichment, larger the better; k - number of PTBRs), to, potentially, find eps and MinPts parameters providing the number of PTBRs and the NE score better agreeing with the number of boundaries used for training. Default: <code>list(30000, 100)</code> . Required.
slope	Controls how much to flank the predicted TAD boundary points for calculating normalized enrichment. Default: 5000 bases. Required.
genome	version of the human genome assembly. Used to filter out bases overlapping centromeric regions. Accepted values - hg19 or hg38. Default: hg19
BaseProbs	Option to include the vector of probabilities for each base-level coordinate. Recommended to be used only when chromCoords is specified. Default: FALSE


```

        featureType = "distance",
        resampling = "rus",
        trainCHR = "CHR21",
        predictCHR = "CHR22")

# Perform random forest using TADrandomForest by tuning mtry over 10 values
# using 3-fold CV
set.seed(123)
tadModel <- TADrandomForest(trainData = tadData[[1]],
                           testData = tadData[[2]],
                           tuneParams = list(mtry = 2,
                                             ntree = 500,
                                             nodesize = 1),
                           cvFolds = 3,
                           cvMetric = "Accuracy",
                           verbose = TRUE,
                           model = TRUE,
                           importances = TRUE,
                           impMeasure = "MDA",
                           performances = TRUE)

# Apply preciseTAD on a specific 2mb section of CHR22:17000000-18000000
set.seed(123)
pt <- preciseTAD(genomicElements.GR = tfbsList_filt,
                 featureType = "distance",
                 CHR = "CHR22",
                 chromCoords = list(17000000, 18000000),
                 tadModel = tadModel[[1]],
                 threshold = 1.0,
                 verbose = TRUE,
                 parallel = NULL,
                 DBSCAN_params = list(c(1000, 10000, 30000), c(10, 100, 1000)),
                 slope = 5000,
                 genome = "hg19",
                 BaseProbs = FALSE,
                 savetobed = FALSE)

```

signal_func

Helper function used to create signal type feature space

Description

Helper function used to create signal type feature space

Usage

```
signal_func(binned_data_gr, annot_data_gr)
```

Arguments

binned_data_gr A GRanges object
 annot_data_gr A GRanges object

Value

A vector of intensities indicating the signal strength within each overlap

TADrandomForest	<i>A wrapper function passed to <code>caret::train</code> to apply a random forest classification algorithm built and tested on user-defined binned domain data from createTADdata.</i>
-----------------	---

Description

A wrapper function passed to `caret::train` to apply a random forest classification algorithm built and tested on user-defined binned domain data from [createTADdata](#).

Usage

```

TADrandomForest(
  trainData,
  testData = NULL,
  tuneParams = list(mtry = ceiling(sqrt(ncol(trainData) - 1)), ntree = 500, nodesize =
    1),
  cvFolds = 3,
  cvMetric = "Accuracy",
  verbose = FALSE,
  model = TRUE,
  importances = TRUE,
  impMeasure = "MDA",
  performances = FALSE
)

```

Arguments

trainData	Data frame, the binned data matrix to built a random forest classifiers (can be obtained using createTADdata). Required.
testData	Data frame, the binned data matrix to test random forest classifiers (can be obtained using createTADdata). The first column must be a factor with positive class "Yes". Default is NULL in which case no performances are evaluated.
tuneParams	List, providing mtry, ntree, and nodesize parameters to feed into randomForest . Default is <code>list(mtry = ceiling(sqrt(ncol(trainData) - 1)), ntree = 500, nodesize = 1)</code> . If multiple values are provided, then a grid search is performed to tune the model. Required.

cvFolds	Numeric, number of k-fold cross-validation to perform in order to tune the hyperparameters. Required.
cvMetric	Character, performance metric to use to choose optimal tuning parameters (one of either "Kappa", "Accuracy", "MCC", "ROC", "Sens", "Spec", "Pos Pred Value", "Neg Pred Value"). Default is "Accuracy".
verbose	Logical, controls whether or not details regarding modeling should be printed out. Default is TRUE.
model	Logical, whether to keep the model object. Default is TRUE.
importances	Logical, whether to extract variable importances. Default is TRUE.
impMeasure	Character, indicates the variable importance measure to use (one of either "MDA" (mean decrease in accuracy) or "MDG" (mean decrease in gini)). Ignored if importances = FALSE.
performances	Logical, indicates whether various performance metrics should be extracted when validating the model on the test data. Ignored if testData = NULL.

Value

A list containing: 1) a train object from caret with model information, 2) a data.frame of variable importance for each feature included in the model, and 3) a data.frame of various performance metrics

Examples

```
# Read in ARROWHEAD-called TADs at 5kb
data(arrowhead_gm12878_5kb)

# Extract unique boundaries
bounds.GR <- extractBoundaries(domains.mat = arrowhead_gm12878_5kb,
                               filter = FALSE,
                               CHR = c("CHR21", "CHR22"),
                               resolution = 5000)

# Read in GRangesList of 26 TFBS
data(tfbsList)

# Create the binned data matrix for CHR1 (training) and CHR22 (testing)
# using 5 kb binning, distance-type predictors from 26 different TFBS from
# the GM12878 cell line, and random under-sampling
tadData <- createTADdata(bounds.GR = bounds.GR,
                        resolution = 5000,
                        genomicElements.GR = tfbsList,
                        featureType = "distance",
                        resampling = "rus",
                        trainCHR = "CHR21",
                        predictCHR = "CHR22")

# Perform random forest using TADrandomForest by tuning mtry over 10 values
# using 3-fold CV
tadModel <- TADrandomForest(trainData = tadData[[1]],
```

```
testData = tadData[[2]],
tuneParams = list(mtry = c(2,5,8,10,13,16,18,21,24,26),
                  ntree = 500,
                  nodesize = 1),
cvFolds = 3,
cvMetric = "Accuracy",
verbose = TRUE,
model = TRUE,
importances = TRUE,
impMeasure = "MDA",
performances = TRUE)
```

TADrfe	<i>A wrapper function passed to <code>caret::rfe</code> to apply recursive feature elimination (RFE) on binned domain data as a feature reduction technique for random forests. Backward elimination is performed from p down to 2, by powers of 2, where p is the number of features in the data.</i>
--------	--

Description

A wrapper function passed to `caret::rfe` to apply recursive feature elimination (RFE) on binned domain data as a feature reduction technique for random forests. Backward elimination is performed from p down to 2, by powers of 2, where p is the number of features in the data.

Usage

```
TADrfe(
  trainData,
  tuneParams = list(ntree = 500, nodesize = 1),
  cvFolds = 5,
  cvMetric = "Accuracy",
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

trainData	Data frame, the binned data matrix to built a random forest classifiers (can be obtained using createTADdata). Required.
tuneParams	List, providing ntree and nodesize parameters to feed into randomForest . Required.
cvFolds	Numeric, number of k-fold cross-validation to perform. Required.
cvMetric	Character, performance metric to use to choose optimal tuning parameters (one of either "Kappa", "Accuracy", "MCC", "ROC", "Sens", "Spec", "Pos Pred Value", "Neg Pred Value"). Default is "Accuracy".
verbose	Logical, controls whether or not details regarding modeling should be printed out. Default is TRUE.

Value

A list containing: 1) the performances extracted at each of the k folds and, 2) Variable importances among the top features at each step of RFE. For 1) 'Variables' - the best subset of features to consider at each iteration, 'MCC' (Matthews Correlation Coefficient), 'ROC' (Area under the receiver operating characteristic curve), 'Sens' (Sensitivity), 'Spec' (Specificity), 'Pos Pred Value' (Positive predictive value), 'Neg Pred Value' (Negative predictive value), 'Accuracy', and the corresponding standard deviations across the cross-folds. For 2) 'Overall' - the variable importance, 'var' - the feature name, 'Variables' - the number of features that were considered at each cross-fold, and 'Resample' - the cross-fold

Examples

```
# Read in ARROWHEAD-called TADs at 5kb
data(arrowhead_gm12878_5kb)

#Extract unique boundaries
bounds.GR <- extractBoundaries(domains.mat = arrowhead_gm12878_5kb,
                               filter = FALSE,
                               CHR = "CHR22",
                               resolution = 5000)

# Read in GRangesList of 26 TFBS
data(tfbsList)

# Create the binned data matrix for CHR22 using:
# 5 kb binning,
# oc-type predictors from 26 different TFBS from the GM12878 cell line, and
# random under-sampling
tadData <- createTADdata(bounds.GR = bounds.GR,
                        resolution = 5000,
                        genomicElements.GR = tfbsList,
                        featureType = "oc",
                        resampling = "rus",
                        trainCHR = "CHR22",
                        predictCHR = NULL)

# Perform RFE for fully grown random forests with 100 trees using 5-fold CV
# Evaluate performances using accuracy
rfe_res <- TADrfe(trainData = tadData[[1]],
                 tuneParams = list(ntree = 100, nodesize = 1),
                 cvFolds = 5,
                 cvMetric = "Accuracy",
                 verbose = TRUE)
```

tfbsList

A list of the chromosomal coordinates for 26 transcription factor binding sites from the Gm12878 cell line

Description

A GRangesList containing 26 GRanges objects each with the following elements

seqnames The chromosome number

ranges IRanges object with start and end coordinates for each TFBS

strand empty column

coverage a metadata column with peak strength values at each site

Usage

```
tfbsList
```

Format

An object of class CompressedGRangesList of length 26.

Value

A GrangeList

Source

Data obtained from ENCODE. ENCODE integrative analysis (PMID: 22955616; PMCID: PMC3439153)
ENCODE portal (PMID: 29126249; PMCID: PMC5753278) Available at <https://www.encodeproject.org/>

Index

* **datasets**

- arrowhead_gm12878_5kb, [2](#)
- tfbsList, [16](#)

arrowhead_gm12878_5kb, [2](#)

bedToGRangesList, [3](#), [5](#), [10](#)

binary_func, [4](#)

count_func, [4](#)

createTADdata, [5](#), [13](#), [15](#)

dbscan, [10](#)

distance_func, [7](#)

extractBoundaries, [5](#), [7](#)

juicer_func, [8](#)

percent_func, [9](#)

preciseTAD, [9](#)

randomForest, [13](#), [15](#)

signal_func, [12](#)

TADrandomForest, [13](#)

TADrfe, [15](#)

tfbsList, [16](#)