Package 'primirTSS'

November 7, 2025

```
Maintainer Pumin Li <ipumin@163.com>
Description A fast, convenient tool to identify the TSSs of miRNAs by
     integrating the data of H3K4me3 and Pol II as well as combining the
     conservation level and sequence feature, provided within both command-line
     and graphical interfaces, which achieves a better performance than the
     previous non-cell-specific methods on miRNA TSSs.
License GPL-2
Encoding UTF-8
LazyData true
RoxygenNote 7.1.0
Depends R (>= 3.5.0)
Imports GenomicRanges (>= 1.32.2), S4Vectors (>= 0.18.2), rtracklayer
     (>= 1.40.3), dplyr (>= 0.7.6), stringr (>= 1.3.1), tidyr (>=
     0.8.1), Biostrings (>= 2.48.0), purrr (>= 0.2.5),
     BSgenome.Hsapiens.UCSC.hg38 (>= 1.4.1),
     phastCons100way.UCSC.hg38 (>= 3.7.1), GenomicScores (>= 1.4.1),
     shiny (>= 1.0.5), Gviz (>= 1.24.0), BiocGenerics (>= 0.26.0),
     IRanges (>= 2.14.10), TFBSTools (>= 1.18.0), JASPAR2018 (>=
     1.1.1), tibble (>= 1.4.2), R.utils (>= 2.6.0), stats, utils
Suggests knitr, rmarkdown
VignetteBuilder knitr
biocViews ImmunoOncology, Sequencing, RNASeq, Genetics, Preprocessing,
     Transcription, GeneRegulation
URL https://github.com/ipumin/primirTSS
BugReports http://github.com/ipumin/primirTSS/issues
git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/primirTSS
```

Title Prediction of pri-miRNA Transcription Start Site

Author Pumin Li [aut, cre], Qi Xu [aut], Jie Li [aut], Jin Wang [aut]

Version 1.29.0

git_branch devel

2 find_tss

```
git_last_commit bbff91f
git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29
Repository Bioconductor 3.23
Date/Publication 2025-11-06
```

Contents

find_tss	. 2
peak_join	. 5
peak_merge	. 6
plot_primiRNA	. 7
primirTSS	. 9
run_primirTSSapp	. 9
trans_cor	. 10
	11

 $find_tss$

Index

Predict TSSs of miRNA

Description

Search for putative TSSs of miRNA, together with integrating available data such as H3K4me3 data, Pol II data, miRNA expression data, and protein-coding gene data, as well as provide the transcriptional regulation relationship between TF and miRNA.

Usage

```
find_tss(
  bed_merged,
  expressed_mir = "all",
  flanking_num = 1000,
  threshold = 0.7,
  ignore_DHS_check = TRUE,
  DHS,
  allmirdhs_byforce = TRUE,
  expressed_gene = "all",
  allmirgene_byforce = TRUE,
  seek_tf = FALSE,
  tf_n = 1000,
  min.score = 0.8
)
```

find_tss 3

Arguments

bed_merged Peaks from ChIP-seq data to be provided for analysis can be H3K4me3 peaks,

Pol II peaks or both. Notice that peaks are supposed to be merged(see also peak_merge) before find_TSS if using only one kind of peak data, while peaks should be firstly merged and then join together(see also peak_join) if both

H3K4me3 data and Pol II are input.

expressed_mir This parameter allows users to specify certain miRNAs, the TSSs of which they

want to search for by providing a list of miRNAs(e.g., expressed miRNAs in a certain cell-line). If expressed_mir is not specified, the default value of the parameter is "all" and the function will acquiescently employ all the miRNAs

currently listed on "miRbase" database.

flanking_num A parameter in Eponine model to detect TSSs. It is concluded that a peak sig-

nal with flanking regions of C-G enrichment are important to mark TSSs. The

default value is 1000.

threshold The threshold for candidate TSSs scored with Eponine method. The default

value is 0.7.

ignore_DHS_check

The process of DHS_check further assists to filter putative TSSs. When there is a DHS peak that locates within 1 kb upstream of a putative TSS, this predicted TSS will be retained for its character is consistent with that of an authentic TSS. Or the TSSs with no DHSs locating within 1 kb upstream of them would be

discarded.

DHS ChIP-seq data of DNase I hypersensitive sites(DHSs).

allmirdhs_byforce

When we use DHS data to check the validity of TSSs, there is a possibility where no DHSs locates within 1 kb upstream of all putative TSSs and all these putative TSSs might be filtered out by our method resulting no outputs. While "allmirdhs_byforce = TRUE", it ensures to output at least 1 most possible TSS even if the nearest DHS signal locates more than 1 kb upstream of this

TSS.

expressed_gene Users can specify genes expressed in certain cell-lines that are analyzed. Or the default value is "all", which means all the expressed genes annotated on

Ensemble will be employed.

allmirgene_byforce

While integrating expressed_gene data to improve prediction, there might be a circumstance where all the putative TSS are discarded. To prevent this condition, users are allowed to use "allmirgene_byforce = TRUE" to ensure at least

1 putative TSS for each miRNA will be output.

seek_tf With the result of predicted TSSs, seek_tf provides users with an option to pre-

dict related TFs for miRNA. The data of transcription factors refer to JASPAR2018

database.

tf_n TFBS locates on the upstream of the TSS of a certain TF, which is considered

as the promoter region. tf_n set the length of promoter region for predicting

transcription regulation between miRNAs and TFs.

min.score The threshold for scoring transcription factor binding sites. A single absolute

value between 0 and 1.

4 find_tss

Value

The first part of the result returns details of predicted TSSs, composed of seven columns: mir_name, chrom, stem_loop_p1, stem_loop_p2, strand mir_context, tss_type gene and predicted_tss:

mir_name: Name of miRNA.

chrom: Chromosome.

stem_loop_p1: The start site of a stem-loop.

stem_loop_p2: The end site of a stem-loop.

strand: Polynucleotide strands. (+/-)

mir_context: The relative positon relationship between stem-loop and protein-coding gene. (intra/inter)

tss_type: Four types of predicted TSSs. See the section below TSS types for details. (host_TSS/intra_TSS/overlap_int

gene: Ensembl gene ID

predicted_tss: Predicted transcription start sites(TSSs).

pri_tss_distance: The distance between a predicted TSS and the start site of the stem-loop.

TSS types

TSSs are catalogued into 4 types as below.

host_TSS The TSSs of miRNA that are close to the TSS of protein-coding gene implying they may share the same TSS, on the condition where mir_context is "intra". (See above: Value-mir_context)

intra_TSS The TSSs of miRNA that are NOT close to the TSS of the protein-coding gene, on the condition where mir_context is "intra".

overlap_inter_TSS The TSSs of miRNA are catalogued as "overlap_inter_TSS" when the primiRNA gene overlaps with Ensembl gene, on the condition where "mir_context" is "inter".

inter_inter_TSS The TSSs of miRNA are catalogued as "inter_inter_TSS" when the miRNA gene does NOT overlap with Ensembl gene, on the condition where "mir_context" is "inter".

(See Xu HUA et al 2016 for more details)

Log

The second part of the result returns logs during the process of prediction: find_nearest_peak_log If no peaks locate in the upstream of a stem-loop to help determine putative TSSs of miRNA, we will fail to find the nearest peak and this miRNA will be logged in find_nearest_peak_log.

eponine_score_log For a certain miRNA, if none of the candidate TSSs scored with Eponine method meet the threshold we set, we will fail to get an eponine score and this miRNA will be logged in eponine_score_log.

DHS_check_log For a certain miRNA, if no DHS signals locate within 1 kb upstream of each putative TSSs, these putative TSSs will be filtered out and this miRNA will be logged in DHS_check_log.

gene_filter_log For a certain miRNA, when integrating expressed_gene data to improve prediction, if no putative TSSs are confirmed after considering the relative position relationship among TSSs, stem-loops and expressed genes, this miRNA will be filtered out and logged in gene_filter_log.

peak_join 5

Reference

Xu Hua, Luxiao Chen, Jin Wang*, Jie Li* and Edgar Wingender*, Identifying cell-specific microRNA transcriptional start sites. Bioinformatics 2016, 32(16), 2403-10.

Examples

peak_join

Integrate H3K4me3 data and Pol II data.

Description

Integrate peaks from H3K4me3 and Pol II data. To conduct the overlappd ranges for the further analysis by imposing H3K4me3 peaks on Pol II peaks, if both of these two different kinds of ChIP-seq data are available.

Usage

```
peak_join(peak1, peak2)
```

Arguments

peak1	H3K4me3 peaks. Merged peak data as GRange object by fucntion peak_merge
peak2	Pol II peaks. Merged peak data as GRange object by fucntion peak_merge

Value

A GRanges object. The joined peaks for the following analysis to search for TSSs.

Detail

Peak1 and peak2 are signals seperately from the ChIP-seq data of H3K4me3 and Pol II data that to be integrated. The data is GRange object containing three columns Chrom, Ranges, Strand. And the order of these two kinds of data when input as peak1 and peak2 can be swapped.

6 peak_merge

Examples

peak_merge

Merge adjacent peaks within H3K4me3 or Pol II data.

Description

Merge the adjacent segments provided as GRange object from original data. This function will merge adjacent peaks the distance between which is less than n base pairs apart and then return the merged segments.

Usage

```
peak_merge(peak, n = 250)
```

Arguments

peak A GRange object. The peaks to be merged from one certain ChIP-seq data, such as H3K4me3 data or Pol II data.

n A number. n stipulates the distance(bp, base pair) between two seperate peaks within which they should be merged.

Value

A GRanges object. The merged peaks for the following analysis to search for TSSs.

Examples

plot_primiRNA 7

plot_primiRNA

Plot the result of prediction for miRNA

Description

For each miRNA, plot the position of TSS, pri-miRNA, related Ensemble gene, eponine socre and conservation score according to the result of prediction using primirTSS.

Usage

```
plot_primiRNA(
   expressed_mir,
   bed_merged,
   flanking_num = 1000,
   threshold = 0.7,
   ignore_DHS_check = TRUE,
   DHS,
   allmirdhs_byforce = TRUE,
   expressed_gene = "all",
   allmirgene_byforce = TRUE)
```

Arguments

expressed_mir

This parameter allows users to specify certain miRNAs, the TSSs of which they want to search for by providing a list of miRNAs(e.g. expressed miRNAs in a certain cell-line). If expressed_mir is not specified, the default value of the parameter is "all" and the function will acquiescently employ all the miRNAs currently listed on "miRbase" database.

bed_merged

Peaks from ChIP-seq data to be provided for analysis can be H3K4me3 peaks, Pol II peaks or both. Notice that peaks are supposed to be merged(see also peak_merge) before find_TSS if using only one kind of peak data, while peaks should be firstly merged and then join together(see also peak_join) if both H3K4me3 data and Pol II are input.

flanking_num

A parameter in Eponine model to detect TSSs. It is concluded that a peak signal with flanking regions of C-G enrichment are important to mark TSSs. The default value is 1000.

threshold

Threshold for candidate TSSs scored with Eponine method. The default value is 0.7.

ignore_DHS_check

The process of DHS_check further assist to filter putative TSSs. When there are a DHS peak that locates within 1 kb upstream of a putative TSS, this predicted TSS will be retain for it character is consistent with that of an authentic TSS. Or the TSSs with no DHSs locating within 1 kb upstream of them would be discard.

DHS

ChIP-seq data of DNase I hypersensitive sites(DHSs).

8 plot_primiRNA

allmirdhs_byforce

When we use DHS data to check the validity of TSSs, there is possibility where no DHSs locates within 1 kb upstream of all putative TSSs and all these putative TSSs might be filtered out by our method resulting no outputs. While "allmirdhs_byforce = TRUE", it ensures to output at least 1 most possible TSS even if the nearest DHS signal locates more than 1 kb upsteam of this TSS.

expressed_gene Users can speicify genes expressed in certain cell-lines that is analyzed. Or the default value is "all", which means all the expressed genes annotated on Ensemble will be employed.

allmirgene_byforce

While integrating expressed_gene data to improve prediction, there might be a circumstance where all the putative TSS are discarded. To prevent this condition, users are allowed to use "allmirgene_byforce = TRUE" to ensure at least 1 putative TSS for each miRNA will be output.

Details

NOTICE that this function is used for visualizing the predicted result of ONLY ONE specific miRNA every single time.

Value

There will be six tracks plotted as return:

Chrom: Position of miRNA on the chromosome.

hg38: Reference genome coordinate in hg38.

pri-miRNA: Position of pri-miRNA.

Ensemble genes: Position of related protein-coding gene.

eponine score: Score of best putative TSS conducted by eponine method.

conservation score: Conservation score should be integrated with eponine score to find out putative TSSs.

Examples

```
expressed_mir <- "hsa-mir-5697"
bed_merged <- data.frame(</pre>
  chrom = c("chr1", "chr1", "chr1", "chr1", "chr2"),
  start = c(9180799, 9201483, 9234339, 9942202, 9830615),
  end = c(9183889, 9202580, 9235853, 9944469, 9917994),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE
bed_merged <- as(bed_merged, "GRanges")</pre>
## Not run:
plot_primiRNA(expressed_mir, bed_merged)
## End(Not run)
```

primirTSS 9

primirTSS

primirTSS: Search for putative TSSs of miRNA

Description

A fast, convenient tool to identify the TSSs of miRNAs by integrating the data of H3K4me3 and Pol II as well as combining the conservation level and sequence feature, provided within both command-line and graphical interfaces, which achieves a better performance than the previous noncell-specific methods on miRNA TSSs.

Detail

See find_tss for deailted instruction to predict TSSs of miRNA; See run_primirTSSapp to predict TSSs of miRNA using graphical web interface.

Author(s)

Maintainer: Pumin Li <ipumin@163.com>

Other contributors: Qi Xu <xuqi@vip.qq.com>

See Also

Useful links: Xu HUA et al

run_primirTSSapp

Predict TSSs of miRNA using a graphical web interface.

Description

A graphical web interface is provided for users to achieve the functions of find_tss and plot_primiRNA to intuitively and conveniently predict putative TSSs of miRNA.

Usage

run_primirTSSapp()

Details

Users can refer documents of the two functions mentioned ABOVE for details.

Value

A graphical interface.

10 trans_cor

Examples

```
## Not run:
run_primirTSSapp()
## End(Not run)
```

trans_cor

transform one hg coordinates to another

Description

Convert coordinates between different genomes when necessary.

Usage

```
trans_cor(peak, hg_from, hg_to)
```

Arguments

peak A GRange object. The genome, the coordinates of which need to be coverted.

hg_from The genome are coverting from. This parameter can be "hg18", "hg19" or

"hg38", etc.

hg_to Which type the genome is converting to. This parameter can be "hg18", "hg19"

or "hg38", etc. NOTICE hg_from and hg_to should be different from each

other.

Value

A GRanges object.

Examples

Index

```
find_tss, 2, 9
peak_join, 3, 5, 7
peak_merge, 3, 6, 7
plot_primiRNA, 7, 9
primirTSS, 9
run_primirTSSapp, 9, 9
trans_cor, 10
```