

Package ‘SomaticCancerAlterations’

August 28, 2025

Type Package
Title Somatic Cancer Alterations
Version 1.44.0
Author Julian Gehring
Maintainer Julian Gehring <jg-bioc@gmx.com>
Imports GenomicRanges, IRanges, S4Vectors
Depends R (>= 3.0.0)
Suggests testthat, ggbio, ggplot2, knitr
VignetteBuilder knitr
Description Collection of somatic cancer alteration datasets
License GPL-3
LazyLoad yes
biocViews ExperimentData, Genome, CancerData, Project1000genomes, NCI
Encoding UTF-8
git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/SomaticCancerAlterations>
git_branch RELEASE_3_21
git_last_commit 4c474da
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.21
Date/Publication 2025-08-28

Contents

SomaticCancerAlterations-package	2
SomaticCancerAlterations-data	2
SomaticCancerAlterations-functions	4
SomaticCancerAlterations-helper-functions	5
Index	6

SomaticCancerAlterations-package
Somatic Cancer Alterations

Description

A collection of studies with somatic cancer alterations.

Details

The 'SomaticCancerAlterations' package provides a collection of the mutational calls for different cancer studies, aiming for a tight integration with R and Bioconductor. At the moment, this covers somatic single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and indels for several TCGA studies. Over time, this collection will be updated to include additional studies.

The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) is a consortium effort to analyze a variety of tumor types at multiple levels, including gene expression, methylation, copy number alterations and somatic mutations [<http://cancergenome.nih.gov>]. Most of this data is publically available, and offers a rich resource in understanding cancer-related data sets and experiments [<https://wiki.nci.nih.gov/display/TCGA/TCGA+Home>].

Author(s)

Julian Gehring, with suggestions and contributions from Bernd Fischer

Maintainer: Julian Gehring

References

<https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/tcga/>

<https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/docs/publications/>

See Also

[SomaticCancerAlterations-functions](#)

[SomaticCancerAlterations-data](#)

SomaticCancerAlterations-data
Somatic Cancer Alterations Data Sets

Description

Data sets with studies of somatic cancer alterations.

Details

Currently, the data sets include somatic mutations (SNVs and indels) of the publically available TCGA studies. Further studies will be included in the future.

For details on the TCGA mutation calls, please see the TCGA documentation <https://wiki.nci.nih.gov/display/TCGA/TCGA+Data+Primer>. Please note that the mutational calling was performed by different centers. The original '*.maf' files can be obtained from the TCGA data portal https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/tcgafiles/ftp_auth/distro_ftpusers/anonymous/tumor/.

After importing, the data is automatically processed to improve consistency across studies and remove common artifacts in the annotation. The most obvious changes are:

- Only studies cleared for unrestricted usage are included (see <http://cancergenome.nih.gov/publications/publicationguidelines>).
- Only studies processed by the Broad Institute are considered at the moment.
- All variants located on the mitochondrium are mapped to the sequence identifier 'MT' (note that the original files contain both 'MT' and 'M' mixed).
- All locations are now consistent with the 1000genomes reference sequence (NCBI37 coordinates).

About the TCGA data:

“All data generated by The Cancer Genome Atlas (TCGA) Research Network are made open to the public through the Data Coordinating Center and the TCGA Data Portal.” For details on the usage of the data, please have a look at <http://cancergenome.nih.gov/abouttcga/policies/publicationguidelines>.

Value

A 'GRanges' object for each study. Each row corresponds to a somatic variant reported in the respective study, with the coordinates referring to the location on the reference genome.

References

<https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/tcga/>

See Also

[SomaticCancerAlterations-functions](#)

[SomaticCancerAlterations-package](#)

Examples

```
all_datasets = scaListDatasets()
gr1 = scaLoadDatasets(all_datasets[1])
```

SomaticCancerAlterations-functions

SomaticCancerAlterations functions

Description

Functions to interact with the 'SomaticCancerAlterations' datasets.

Usage

```
scaMetadata()  
  
scaListDatasets()  
  
scaLoadDatasets(names, merge = FALSE)
```

Arguments

names	Character vector with data set name(s) to load. The names are the same as returned from 'scaListDatasets()'.
merge	Logical. Should the results be a merged 'GRanges' object with data of all studies (TRUE), or a 'GRangesList' with one list element per dataset (FALSE [default]).

Details

The 'sca_load_dataset' function makes it easy to load the data of a study directly into a variable.

Value

scaMetadata	A data frame summarizing the available data sets, with rows corresponding to data sets.
scaListDatasets	A character vector with all available study names.
sca_load_dataset	A GRangesList or GRanges objects, depending on the 'merge' argument.

References

<https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/tcga/>
<https://wiki.nci.nih.gov/display/TCGA/TCGA+Data+Primer>
https://tcga-data.nci.nih.gov/tcgafiles/ftp_auth/distro_ftpusers/anonymous/tumor/

See Also

[SomaticCancerAlterations-data](#)

Examples

```
meta_data = scaMetadata()
head(meta_data)

all_datasets = scaListDatasets()
head(all_datasets)

gr1 = scaLoadDatasets(all_datasets[1], merge = FALSE)

gr = scaLoadDatasets(all_datasets[1], merge = TRUE)
```

SomaticCancerAlterations-helper-functions

SomaticCancerAlterations helper functions

Description

Functions to help with common analysis tasks.

Usage

```
ncbi2hg(x)

hg2ncbi(x)

seqchr(x)
```

Arguments

x	A GRanges object
---	------------------

Details

These functions provide useful wrappers for converting between genomic coordinate systems and classes.

Value

ncbi2hg, hg2ncbi	A GRanges object.
seqchr	A character vector with the 'seqnames'.

Index

- * **datasets**
 - SomaticCancerAlterations-data, [2](#)
 - SomaticCancerAlterations-package,
[2](#)
- * **package**
 - SomaticCancerAlterations-package,
[2](#)
- blca_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- cesc_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- gbm_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- hg2ncbi
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-helper-functions),
[5](#)
- hnsc_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- kirc_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- lgg_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- luad_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- lusc_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- meta (SomaticCancerAlterations-data), [2](#)
- ncbi2hg
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-helper-functions),
[5](#)
- ov_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- paad_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- prad_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- scaListDatasets
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-functions),
[4](#)
- scaLoadDatasets
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-functions),
[4](#)
- scaMetadata
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-functions),
[4](#)
- seqchr
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-helper-functions),
[5](#)
- skcm_tcga
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
[2](#)
- SomaticCancerAlterations
 - (SomaticCancerAlterations-package),
[2](#)
- SomaticCancerAlterations-data, [2](#)
- SomaticCancerAlterations-functions, [4](#)
- SomaticCancerAlterations-helper-functions,
[5](#)
- SomaticCancerAlterations-package, [2](#)

stad_tcga
 (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
 [2](#)

thca_tcga
 (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
 [2](#)

ucec_tcga
 (SomaticCancerAlterations-data),
 [2](#)