Package 'SpectralTAD'

October 24, 2025

Title SpectralTAD: Hierarchical TAD detection using spectral clustering

Version 1.25.0

Description SpectralTAD is an R package designed to identify Topologically Associated Domains (TADs) from Hi-C contact matrices. It uses a modified version of spectral clustering that uses a sliding window to quickly detect TADs. The function works on a range of different formats of contact matrices and returns a bed file of TAD coordinates. The method does not require users to adjust any parameters to work and gives them control over the number of hierarchical levels to be returned.

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Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

Imports dplyr, PRIMME, cluster, Matrix, parallel, BiocParallel, magrittr, HiCcompare, GenomicRanges, utils

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

Depends R (>= 3.6)

VignetteBuilder knitr

biocViews Software, HiC, Sequencing, FeatureExtraction, Clustering

BugReports https://github.com/dozmorovlab/SpectralTAD/issues

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rao_chr20_25_rep

```
Author Mikhail Dozmorov [aut, cre] (ORCID: <a href="https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0086-8358">https://orcid.org/0000-0002-0086-8358</a>), Kellen Cresswell [aut],
```

John Stansfield [aut]

Maintainer Mikhail Dozmorov <mikhail.dozmorov@gmail.com>

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Description

A sparse 3-column contact matrix

Usage

```
data(rao_chr20_25_rep)
```

Format

A data.frame with 3 columns and 2125980 rows:

- V1 The genomic loci corresponding to a given row of the contact matrix
- V2 The genomic loci corresponding to a given column of the contact matrix
- V3 Number of contacts between Loci1 and Loci2

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

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 ${\tt SpectralTAD}$

Hierarchical Spectral Clustering of TADs

Description

Hierarchical Spectral Clustering of TADs

Usage

```
SpectralTAD(
  cont_mat,
  chr,
  levels = 1,
  qual_filter = FALSE,
  z_clust = FALSE,
  eigenvalues = 2,
  min_size = 5,
  window_size = 25,
  resolution = "auto",
  gap_threshold = 1,
  grange = FALSE,
  out_format = "none",
  out_path = chr
)
```

Arguments

| cont_mat | Contact matrix in either sparse 3 column, $n \times n$ or $n \times (n+3)$ form where the first three columns are coordinates in BED format. If an x n matrix is used, the column names must correspond to the start point of the corresponding bin. If large mode is selected, then this matrix must be a tab-seperated $n \times n$ or $n \times (n+3)$ and it should be the path to a contact matrix. Required. |
|-------------|--|
| chr | The chromosome of the contact matrix being analyzed. Required. |
| levels | The number of levels of the TAD hierarchy to be calculated. The default setting is 1. |
| qual_filter | Option to turn on quality filtering which removes TADs with negative silhouette scores (poorly organized TADs). Default is FALSE. |
| z_clust | Option to filter sub-TADs based on the z-score of their eigenvector gaps. Default is TRUE. |
| eigenvalues | The number of eigenvectors to be calculated. The default and suggested setting is 2. |
| min_size | The minimum allowable TAD size measured in bins. Default is 5. |
| window_size | The size of the sliding window for calculating TADs. Smaller window sizes correspond to less noise from long-range contacts but limit the possible size of TADs |

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resolution The resolution of the contact matrix. If none selected, the resolution is estimated by taking the most common distance between bins. For $n \times (n+3)$ contact matrices, this value is automatically calculated from the first three columns.

gap_threshold Corresponds to the percentage of zeros allowed before a column/row is removed

from the analysis. 1=100%, .7=70%, etc. Default is 1.

grange Parameter to determine whether the result should be a GRangeList object. De-

faults to FALSE

out_format Specifies the format of the file which SpectralTAD outputs. If "none, no file

is output. "juicebox" or "bedpe" returns a bedpe file compatible with juicebox. "hicexplorer" or "bed" returns a bed file compatible with hicexplorer. Default is

none

out_path Path of output file. Default is the chromosome

Details

Given a sparse 3 column, an n x n contact matrix, or n x (n+3) contact matrix, SpectralTAD returns a list of TAD coordinates in BED format. SpectralTAD works by using a sliding window that moves along the diagonal of the contact matrix. By default, we use the biologically relevant maximum TAD size of 2Mb and minimum size of 5 bins to determine the size of this window. Within each window, we calculate a Laplacian matrix and determine the location of TAD boundaries based on gaps between eigenvectors calculated from this matrix. The number of TADs in a given window is calculated by finding the number that maximizes the silhouette score. A hierarchy of TADs is created by iteratively applying the function to sub-TADs. The number of levels in each hierarchy is determined by the user.

Value

A list where each entry is in BED format corresponding to the level of the hierarchy.

Examples

```
#Read in data
data("rao_chr20_25_rep")
#Find TADs
spec_table <- SpectralTAD(rao_chr20_25_rep, chr= 'chr20')</pre>
```

SpectralTAD_Par

Parallelized Hierarchical Spectral Clustering of TADs

Description

Parallelized Hierarchical Spectral Clustering of TADs

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Usage

```
SpectralTAD_Par(
  cont_list,
  chr,
  levels = 1,
 qual_filter = FALSE,
 z_clust = FALSE,
 eigenvalues = 2,
 min_size = 5,
 window_size = 25,
  resolution = "auto",
 grange = FALSE,
  gap_threshold = 1,
 cores = "auto",
  labels = NULL
)
```

Arguments

| cont_list | List of contact matrices where each is in either sparse 3 column, $n \times n$ or $n \times (n+3)$ form, where the first 3 columns are chromosome, start and end coordinates of the regions. If an $x \cdot n$ matrix is used, the column names must correspond to the start point of the corresponding bin. Required. |
|---------------|--|
| chr | Vector of chromosomes in the same order as their corresponding contact matrices. Must be same length as cont_list. Required. |
| levels | The number of levels of the TAD hierarchy to be calculated. The default setting is 1. |
| qual_filter | Option to turn on quality filtering which removes TADs with negative silhouette scores (poorly organized TADs). Default is FALSE. |
| z_clust | Option to filter sub-TADs based on the z-score of their eigenvector gaps. Default is TRUE. |
| eigenvalues | The number of eigenvectors to be calculated. The default and suggested setting is 2. |
| min_size | The minimum allowable TAD size measured in bins. Default is 5. |
| window_size | The size of the sliding window for calculating TADs. Smaller window sizes correspond to less noise from long-range contacts but limit the possible size of TADs |
| resolution | The resolution of the contact matrix. If none selected, the resolution is estimated by taking the most common distance between bins. For $n \times (n+3)$ contact matrices, this value is automatically calculated from the first 3 columns. |
| grange | Parameter to determine whether the result should be a GRangeList object. Defaults to FALSE |
| gap_threshold | Corresponds to the percentage of zeros allowed before a column/row is removed from analysis. $1=100\%$, $.7=70\%$, etc. Default is 1. |
| cores | Number of cores to use. Defaults to total available cores minus one. |
| | |

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labels

Vector of labels used to name each contact matrix. Must be same length as cont_list. Default is NULL.

Details

This is the parallelized version of the SpectralTAD() function. Given a sparse 3 column, an n x n contact matrix, or n x (n+3) contact matrix, SpectralTAD returns a list of TAD coordinates in BED format. SpectralTAD works by using a sliding window that moves along the diagonal of the contact matrix. By default we use the biologically relevant maximum TAD size of 2Mb and minimum size of 5 bins to determine the size of this window. Within each window, we calculate a Laplacian matrix and determine the location of TAD boundaries based on gaps between eigenvectors calculated from this matrix. The number of TADs in a given window is calculated by finding the number that maximize the silhouette score. A hierarchy of TADs is created by iteratively applying the function to sub-TADs. The number of levels in each hierarchy is determined by the user.

Value

List of lists where each entry is a list of data frames or GRanges in BED format corresponding to TADs seperated by hierarchies

Examples

```
#Read in data
data("rao_chr20_25_rep")
#Make a list of matrices
mat_list = list(rao_chr20_25_rep, rao_chr20_25_rep)
#Make a vector of chromosomes
chr = c("chr20", "chr20")
#Make a vector of labels
labels = c("run1", "run2")
spec_table <- SpectralTAD_Par(mat_list, chr= chr, labels = labels, cores = 2)</pre>
```

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