Package 'HistoImagePlot'

November 12, 2026

Title Plotting functionality for Histopathology pipeline datasets

Version 1.0.0

Description Create side-by-side visualizations of tissue thumbnail image and HoverNet cell segmentation with colored cell type labels. Functionality automatically retrieves the thumbnail image associated with a HoverNet JSON file and overlays the segmentation data. This package is intended for researchers working with histopathological images, facilitating exploratory analysis, and integrates with the imageFeatureTCGA Bioconductor package.

biocViews Software, Visualization, Spatial

Depends R (>= 4.5.0)

Imports BiocBaseUtils, cowplot, ggplot2, grDevices, imageFeatureTCGA, methods, RColorBrewer, S4Vectors, SpatialExperiment, SummarizedExperiment

Suggests anndataR, BiocStyle, dplyr, knitr, magick, rmarkdown, tinytest

License Artistic-2.0

Encoding UTF-8

VignetteBuilder knitr

BugReports https://github.com/waldronlab/HistoImagePlot/issues

URL https://github.com/waldronlab/HistoImagePlot

Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)

RoxygenNote 7.3.3

git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/HistoImagePlot

git_branch RELEASE_3_23

git_last_commit af4dcb1

git_last_commit_date 2026-04-28

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2026-11-11

Author Ilaria Billato [aut, cre] (ORCID:
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3335-3254>, affiliation: Department of
Biology, University of Padova)

Maintainer Ilaria Billato <ilaria.billato@phd.unipd.it>

Contents

plotHoverNetH5ADOverlay 2
plotHoverNetOverlay 4

Index **6**

`plotHoverNetH5ADOverlay` *Plot HoverNet H5AD Segmentation Overlay with Thumbnail*

Description

Creates a side-by-side visualization of the original tissue thumbnail image and the HoverNet cell segmentation with colored cell type labels. This function works with HoverNet data stored in h5ad format and imported as a SpatialExperiment object.

Usage

```
plotHoverNetH5ADOverlay(
  hovernet,
  thumbnail_path,
  title = NULL,
  point_size = 0.01,
  legend_point_size = 2,
  color_palette = NULL,
  ncol = 2,
  rel_widths = c(1, 1.08),
  title_size = 25,
  flip_image = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

`hovernet`	A `SpatialExperiment` or `SpatialFeatureExperiment` object containing HoverNet segmentation data from h5ad format.
`thumbnail_path`	Path or URL to the thumbnail PNG image file.
`title`	Optional. Title for the combined plot. If `NULL`, uses "HoverNet Segmentation". Default is `NULL`.
`point_size`	Numeric value for the size of points in the segmentation plot. Default is `0.01`.

`legend_point_size`
: Numeric value for the size of points in the legend. Default is `2`.

`color_palette`
: Optional. A named vector of colors for cell types. If `NULL`, uses RColorBrewer palette. Default is `NULL`.

`ncol`
: Number of columns for the side-by-side plots. Default is `2`.

`rel_widths`
: Relative widths of the image and segmentation plots. Default is `c(1, 1.08)`.

`title_size`
: Font size for the main title. Default is `25`.

`flip_image`
: Logical. Whether to flip the image vertically to match coordinate system. Default is `TRUE`.

Details

The function performs the following steps:

1. Loads the thumbnail PNG image (from local path or URL with caching)
2. Creates a segmentation plot colored by cell type using the `type` column from `colData`
3. Combines the thumbnail and segmentation side-by-side
4. Adds an optional title

The function expects the `SpatialExperiment` to have:

- `spatialCoords` with columns `x_centroid` and `y_centroid`
- `colData` with a `type` column for cell type classification

Remote PNG files are automatically cached using `BiocFileCache` for efficient handling without manual downloads.

Value

A `ggplot` object combining the thumbnail image and segmentation overlay with an optional title.

Examples

```
# Load h5ad HoverNet data
h5ad_url <- paste0(
  "https://store.cancerdatasci.org/hovernet/h5ad/",
  "TCGA-VG-A8LO-01A-01-DX1.B39A4D64-82A1-4A04-8AB6-918F3058B83B.h5ad"
)
hn_spe <- HoverNet(h5ad_url, outClass = "SpatialExperiment") |> import()

thumb_url <- paste0(
  "https://store.cancerdatasci.org/hovernet/thumb/",
  "TCGA-VG-A8LO-01A-01-DX1.B39A4D64-82A1-4A04-8AB6-918F3058B83B.png"
)
plotHoverNetH5ADOverlay(hn_spe, thumbnail_path = thumb_url)
```

plotHoverNetOverlay *Plot HoverNet Segmentation Overlay with Thumbnail*

Description

Creates a side-by-side visualization of the original tissue thumbnail image and the HoverNet cell segmentation with colored cell type labels. The function automatically retrieves the thumbnail image associated with a HoverNet JSON file and overlays the segmentation data.

Usage

```
plotHoverNetOverlay(
  hovernet,
  json_path = NULL,
  title = NULL,
  point_size = 0.01,
  legend_point_size = 2,
  color_palette = NULL,
  ncol = 2,
  rel_widths = c(1, 1.08),
  title_size = 25,
  flip_image = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

hovernet	A SpatialExperiment or SpatialFeatureExperiment object created by importing a HoverNet JSON file, or a path/URL to a HoverNet JSON file.
json_path	Optional. Path or URL to the HoverNet JSON file. Only required if hovernet is a SpatialExperiment object and the original JSON path is not stored in metadata. Default is NULL.
title	Optional. Title for the combined plot. If NULL, uses the basename of the JSON file. Default is NULL.
point_size	Numeric value for the size of points in the segmentation plot. Default is 0.01.
legend_point_size	Numeric value for the size of points in the legend. Default is 2.
color_palette	Optional. A named vector of colors for cell types. If NULL, uses the colors from the HoverNet type map or RColorBrewer. Default is NULL.
ncol	Number of columns for the side-by-side plots. Default is 2.
rel_widths	Relative widths of the image and segmentation plots. Default is c(1, 1.08).
title_size	Font size for the main title. Default is 25.
flip_image	Logical. Whether to flip the image vertically to match coordinate system. Default is TRUE.

Details

The function performs the following steps:

1. If `hovernet` is a file path, imports it using `HoverNet()` and `import()`
2. Retrieves the associated thumbnail PNG
3. Creates a segmentation plot colored by cell type
4. Combines the thumbnail and segmentation side-by-side
5. Adds an optional title

The thumbnail is automatically downloaded and cached if a URL is provided. The segmentation uses the `type` column from the `colData` and colors are taken from the `type_map` metadata if available.

Value

A `ggplot` object combining the thumbnail image and segmentation overlay with an optional title.

Examples

```
json_url <- paste0(
  "https://store.cancerdatasci.org/hovernet/json/",
  "TCGA-VG-A8LO-01A-01-DX1.B39A4D64-82A1-4A04-8AB6-918F3058B83B.json.gz"
)
plotHoverNetOverlay(json_url, title = "TCGA-VG-A8LO Sample")
```

Index

plotHoverNetH5ADOverlay, 2
plotHoverNetOverlay, 4