Package 'spacexr'

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Type Package

Title SpatialeXpressionR: Cell Type Identification in Spatial Transcriptomics

Version 1.4.0

Description Spatial-eXpression-R (spacexr) is a package for analyzing cell types in spatial transcriptomics data. This implementation is a fork of the spacexr GitHub repo (https://github.com/dmcable/spacexr), adapted to work with Bioconductor objects. The original package implements two statistical methods: RCTD for learning cell types and CSIDE for inferring cell type-specific differential expression. Currently, this fork only implements RCTD, which learns cell type profiles from annotated RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) reference data and uses these profiles to identify cell types in spatial transcriptomic pixels while accounting for platform-specific effects. Future releases will include an implementation of CSIDE.

URL https://github.com/ggrajeda/spacexr

BugReports https://github.com/ggrajeda/spacexr/issues

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`spacexr-package` *spacexr: Cell Type Identification in Spatial Transcriptomics*

Description

Spatial-eXpression-R (spacexr) is a package for analyzing cell types in spatial transcriptomics data. This implementation is a fork of the spacexr GitHub repo (https://github.com/dmcable/spacexr), adapted to work with Bioconductor objects. The original package implements two statistical methods: RCTD for learning cell types and CSIDE for inferring cell type-specific differential expression. Currently, this fork only implements RCTD, which learns cell type profiles from annotated RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) reference data and uses these profiles to identify cell types in spatial transcriptomic pixels while accounting for platform-specific effects. Future releases will include an implementation of CSIDE.

Running RCTD

To get started, create a `SpatialExperiment` object (called `spatial` here) for the spatial transcriptomics data and a `SummarizedExperiment` object (called `reference` here) for the RNA-seq data. Then simply run RCTD as:

```
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial, reference)
results <- runRctd(rctd_data)
```

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See Also

Useful links:

- https://github.com/ggrajeda/spacexr
- Report bugs at https://github.com/ggrajeda/spacexr/issues

`cache_Q_all` *Caches Q matrices*

Description

Stores Q matrices in cache after retrieving them from the Bioconductor Open Storage Network

Usage

```
cache_Q_all()
```

Value

list of bfcadd results

`cell_types` *Generic accessor for cell_types slot*

Description

Generic accessor for cell_types slot

Usage

```
cell_types(object)

## S4 method for signature 'Reference'
cell_types(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'Reference'
cell_types(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with a cell_types slot

Value

The cell_types slot of the object

cell_types<- *Generic setter for cell_types slot*

Description

Generic setter for cell_types slot

Usage

```
cell_types(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a cell_types slot
value	The new value for the cell_types slot

Value

The updated object

cell_type_info *Generic accessor for cell_type_info slot*

Description

Generic accessor for cell_type_info slot

Usage

```
cell_type_info(object)

## S4 method for signature 'RctdConfig'
cell_type_info(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'RctdConfig'
cell_type_info(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a cell_type_info slot

Value

The cell_type_info slot of the object

cell_type_info<- *Generic setter for cell_type_info slot*

Description

Generic setter for cell_type_info slot

Usage

```
cell_type_info(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a cell_type_info slot
value	The new value for the cell_type_info slot

Value

The updated object

chooseSigmaC *Estimates sigma_c by maximum likelihood*

Description

Estimates sigma_c by maximum likelihood

Usage

```
chooseSigmaC(RCTD)
```

Arguments

RCTD	an RctdConfig object after running the fitBulk function.

Value

Returns an RctdConfig with the estimated sigma_c.

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)

# Create RCTD configuration
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial_spe, reference_se)
rctd <- createRctdConfig(rctd_data)
rctd <- fitBulk(rctd)
rctd <- chooseSigmaC(rctd)
results <- fitPixels(rctd, rctd_mode = "doublet")
```

---

computeCellTypeInfo *Computes cell type profiles in a scRNA-seq dataset*

Description

Computes averaged normalized expression (summing to 1) for all cells within a cell type

Usage

```
computeCellTypeInfo(raw.data, cell_types, nUMI, cell_type_names = NULL)
```

Arguments

raw.data	a Digital Gene Expression matrix, with gene names as rownames and single cells as columns (barcodes for colnames)
cell_types	a named list of cell type assignment for each cell in raw.data
nUMI	a named list of total UMI count for each cell in raw.data
cell_type_names	a list of cell type names to compute profiles for. If NULL, uses the levels of cell_types

Value

Returns `cell_type_info`, a list of three elements: (1) `cell_type_means` (a data_frame (genes by cell types) for mean normalized expression) (2) `cell_type_names` (a list of cell type names) and (3) the number of cell types

---

`config` *Generic accessor for config slot*

Description

Generic accessor for config slot

Usage

```
config(object)

## S4 method for signature 'RctdConfig'
config(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'RctdConfig'
config(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with a config slot

Value

The config slot of the object

`config<-` *Generic setter for config slot*

Description

Generic setter for config slot

Usage

```
config(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with a config slot
`value`	The new value for the config slot

Value

The updated object

`coords` *Generic accessor for coords slot*

Description

Generic accessor for coords slot

Usage

```
coords(object)

## S4 method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
coords(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
coords(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with a coords slot

Value

The coords slot of the object

`coords<-` *Generic setter for coords slot*

Description

Generic setter for coords slot

Usage

```
coords(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with a coords slot
`value`	The new value for the coords slot

Value

The updated object

counts *Generic accessor for counts slot*

Description

Generic accessor for counts slot

Usage

```
counts(object)

## S4 method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
counts(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
counts(object) <- value

## S4 method for signature 'Reference'
counts(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'Reference'
counts(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a counts slot

Value

The counts slot of the object

counts<- *Generic setter for counts slot*

Description

Generic setter for counts slot

Usage

```
counts(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a counts slot
value	The new value for the counts slot

Value

The updated object

`createCellTypeInfo` *Create cell type information*

Description

Create cell type information

Usage

```
createCellTypeInfo(
  reference = NULL,
  cell_type_names = NULL,
  cell_type_profiles = NULL,
  ref_n_cells_min = 25
)
```

Arguments

`reference`	`Reference` object or NULL if using cell_type_profiles
`cell_type_names`	character vector of cell type names to include, optional
`cell_type_profiles`	matrix of precomputed cell type expression profiles (genes by cell type), optional
`ref_n_cells_min`	numeric, minimum number of cells per cell type in the reference (default: 25)

Value

A list containing cell type information

`createRctd` *Preprocess data before RCTD*

Description

Performs initial preprocessing steps on a spatial transcriptomics dataset and a reference dataset prior to running RCTD. This function filters pixels and genes based on UMI counts and other thresholds, and identifies differentially expressed genes. The output of this function should be passed to `runRctd` to perform the cell type deconvolution.

Usage

```
createRctd(
  spatial_experiment,
  reference_experiment,
  cell_type_col = "cell_type",
  require_int = TRUE,
  gene_cutoff = 0.000125,
  fc_cutoff = 0.5,
  gene_cutoff_reg = 2e-04,
  fc_cutoff_reg = 0.75,
  gene_obs_min = 3,
  pixel_count_min = 10,
  UMI_min = 100,
  UMI_max = 2e+07,
  UMI_min_sigma = 300,
  ref_UMI_min = 100,
  ref_n_cells_min = 25,
  ref_n_cells_max = 10000,
  cell_type_profiles = NULL,
  class_df = NULL,
  cell_type_names = NULL
)
```

Arguments

`spatial_experiment`

`SummarizedExperiment` object (or any derivative object, including SpatialExperiment) containing spatial transcriptomics data to be deconvolved. The object must contain:

- An `assay` matrix of gene expression counts (genes as rows, pixels as columns) with unique gene names as row names and unique pixel barcodes as column names.
- Optionally, a `spatialCoords` matrix containing x and y coordinates for each pixel. If `spatial_experiment` does not have `spatialCoords`, dummy coordinates will be used.
- Optionally, a `colData` column named `nUMI` containing total UMI counts for each pixel. If not provided, `nUMI` will be calculated as the column sums of the counts matrix.

`reference_experiment`

`SummarizedExperiment` object containing annotated RNA-seq data (e.g., from snRNA-seq, scRNA-seq, or cell type-specific bulk RNA-seq), used to learn cell type profiles. The object must contain:

- An `assay` matrix of gene expression counts (genes as rows, cells as columns) with unique gene names as row names and unique cell barcodes as column names.
- A `colData` column containing cell type annotations for each cell (column name specified by `cell_type_col`).

- Optionally, a `colData` column named `nUMI` containing total UMI counts for each cell. If not provided, `nUMI` will be calculated as the column sums of the counts matrix.

`cell_type_col` character, name of the entry in `colData(reference_experiment)` containing cell type annotations (default: `"cell_type"`)

`require_int` logical, whether counts and nUMI are required to be integers (default: `TRUE`)

`gene_cutoff` numeric, minimum normalized gene expression for genes to be included in the platform effect normalization step (default: 0.000125)

`fc_cutoff` numeric, minimum log fold change (across cell types) for genes to be included in the platform effect normalization step (default: 0.5)

`gene_cutoff_reg` numeric, minimum normalized gene expression for genes to be included in the RCTD step (default: 0.0002)

`fc_cutoff_reg` numeric, minimum log fold change (across cell types) for genes to be included in the RCTD step (default: 0.75)

`gene_obs_min` numeric, minimum number of times a gene must appear in the spatial transcriptomics data to be included in the analysis (default: 3)

`pixel_count_min` numeric, minimum total gene count for a pixel to be included in the analysis (default: 10)

`UMI_min` numeric, minimum UMI count per pixel (default: 100)

`UMI_max` numeric, maximum UMI count per pixel (default: 20,000,000)

`UMI_min_sigma` numeric, minimum UMI count for pixels used in platform effect normalization (default: 300)

`ref_UMI_min` numeric, minimum UMI count for cells to be included in the reference (default: 100)

`ref_n_cells_min` numeric, minimum number of cells per cell type in the reference (default: 25)

`ref_n_cells_max` numeric, maximum number of cells per cell type in the reference. Will downsample if this number is exceeded. (default: 10,000)

`cell_type_profiles` matrix of precomputed cell type expression profiles (genes by cell type), optional. If this option is used, gene names and cell type names must be present in the `dimnames`, and the reference will be ignored.

`class_df` data frame mapping cell types to classes, optional. If specified, RCTD will report confidence on the class level.

`cell_type_names` character vector of cell type names to include, optional

Value

A list with four elements:

- spatial_experiment: Preprocessed SummarizedExperiment object containing spatial transcriptomics data with filtered pixels and genes
- cell_type_info: List containing cell type information, including expression profiles and metadata
- internal_vars: List of internal variables used by RCTD, including differentially expressed gene lists and class information
- config: List of configuration parameters used for RCTD

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)

# Filter spatial transcriptomics data and aggregate reference data
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial_spe, reference_se)

# Run RCTD on filtered data
results <- runRctd(rctd_data, rctd_mode = "doublet", max_cores = 1)

# Access the cell type proportions (cell types as rows, pixels as columns)
assay(results, "weights")

# Check spot classifications for doublet mode
colData(results)$spot_class

# Access spatial coordinates
head(spatialCoords(results))
```

---

createRctdConfig *Create RCTD configuration object*

Description

Used internally by runRctd.

Usage

```
createRctdConfig(
  rctd_data,
  max_cores = 1,
  max_multi_types = 4,
  confidence_threshold = 5,
  doublet_threshold = 20
)
```

Arguments

rctd_data	list containing createRctd output
max_cores	numeric, maximum number of cores to use for parallel processing (default: 4)
max_multi_types	numeric, maximum number of cell types per pixel in multi mode (default: 4)
confidence_threshold	numeric, minimum change in likelihood (compared to other cell types) necessary to determine a cell type identity with confidence (default: 5)
doublet_threshold	numeric, penalty weight of predicting a doublet instead of a singlet for a pixel (default: 20)

Details

Default value of max_cores is set to 1 so that devtools::check() does not complain about parallelism in examples.

Value

RCTD configuration

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)
```

```
# Create RCTD configuration
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial_spe, reference_se)
rctd <- createRctdConfig(rctd_data)
rctd <- fitBulk(rctd)
rctd <- chooseSigmaC(rctd)
results <- fitPixels(rctd, rctd_mode = "doublet")
```

---

createReference `Reference` *object constructor*

Description

`Reference` object constructor

Usage

```
createReference(
  counts,
  cell_types,
  nUMI = NULL,
  require_int = TRUE,
  n_max_cells = 10000,
  min_UMI = 100
)
```

Arguments

`counts`	matrix (or dgCMatrix) of gene expression counts from RNA-seq data, with genes as rows and cells as columns (named by cell barcode)
`cell_types`	factor vector containing cell type annotations for each cell in the reference (identified by barcode). The factor levels represent the possible cell types.
`nUMI`	optional, numeric vector of total UMI counts per cell (identified by barcode). If not provided, nUMI will be calculated as the column sums of the counts matrix.
`require_int`	logical, whether counts and nUMI are required to be integers (default: `TRUE`)
`n_max_cells`	numeric, maximum number of cells per cell type. Will downsample if this number is exceeded. (default: 10,000)
`min_UMI`	numeric, minimum UMI count for cells to be included in the reference (default: 100)

Value

`Reference` object

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

cell_types <- rctdSim$reference_cell_types[["cell_type"]]
names(cell_types) <- rownames(rctdSim$reference_cell_types)
reference <- createReference(rctdSim$reference_counts, cell_types)
```

---

createSpatialRNA SpatialRNA *object constructor*

Description

SpatialRNA object constructor

Usage

```
createSpatialRNA(
  coords,
  counts,
  nUMI = NULL,
  use_fake_coords = FALSE,
  require_int = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

coords	data frame (or matrix) containing x and y coordinates for each pixel (identified by barcode)
counts	matrix (or dgCMatrix) of gene expression counts, with genes as rows and pixels as columns (named by pixel barcode)
nUMI	optional, numeric vector of total UMI counts per pixel (identified by barcode). If not provided, nUMI will be calculated as the column sums of the counts matrix.
use_fake_coords	logical, whether the 'coords' parameter should be ignored and replaced with a placeholder coords matrix (default: FALSE)
require_int	logical, whether counts and nUMI are required to be integers (default: TRUE)

Value

SpatialRNA object

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

spatial_rna <- createSpatialRNA(
    as.data.frame(rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords),
    rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts
)
```

---

create_spe_doublet *Converts the results of* process_beads_batch *to a* SpatialExperiment

---

Description

Converts the results of process_beads_batch to a SpatialExperiment

Usage

```
create_spe_doublet(RCTD, results)
```

Arguments

RCTD	RctdConfig object
results	process_beads_batch results

Value

SpatialExperiment containing RCTD results

---

create_spe_from_columns *Converts a list of RCTD results to a* SpatialExperiment

---

Description

The SpatialExperiment contains an assay with the cell type weights. Additional information (e.g., classification confidence) is stored in the colData, which contains the entries in the results list specified by the *_cols arguments. Spatial coordinates are stored in the spatialCoords.

Usage

```
create_spe_from_columns(
  RCTD,
  results,
  weights_col = "all_weights",
  character_cols = c(),
  logical_cols = c(),
  numeric_cols = c(),
  list_cols = c()
)
```

Arguments

RCTD	RctdConfig object
results	List of results (with named entries) for each pixel
weights_col	Name of list entry containing the cell type weights
character_cols	Names of list entries containing a character(1)
logical_cols	Names of list entries containing a logical(1)
numeric_cols	Names of list entries containing a numeric(1)
list_cols	Names of list entries containing a list

Value

SpatialExperiment containing RCTD results

---

create_spe_full *Converts the results of* decompose_batch *to a* SpatialExperiment

---

Description

Converts the results of decompose_batch to a SpatialExperiment

Usage

```
create_spe_full(RCTD, results)
```

Arguments

RCTD	RctdConfig object
results	decompose_batch results

Value

SpatialExperiment containing RCTD results

create_spe_multi *Converts the results of* process_beads_multi *to a* SpatialExperiment

Description

Converts the results of process_beads_multi to a SpatialExperiment

Usage

```
create_spe_multi(RCTD, results)
```

Arguments

RCTD	RctdConfig object
results	process_beads_multi results

Value

SpatialExperiment containing RCTD results

filterPixelsAndGetVars *Filter pixels and create internal variables*

Description

Filter pixels and create internal variables

Usage

```
filterPixelsAndGetVars(
  spatial_experiment,
  spatial_counts,
  cell_type_info,
  gene_cutoff = 0.000125,
  fc_cutoff = 0.5,
  gene_cutoff_reg = 2e-04,
  fc_cutoff_reg = 0.75,
  gene_obs_min = 3,
  pixel_count_min = 10,
  UMI_min = 100,
  UMI_max = 2e+07,
  UMI_min_sigma = 300,
  class_df = NULL
)
```

Arguments

spatial_experiment	SummarizedExperiment object with spatial transcriptomics data
spatial_counts	spatial transcriptomics count matrix
cell_type_info	list containing cell type information
gene_cutoff	numeric, minimum normalized gene expression for genes to be included in the platform effect normalization step (default: 0.000125)
fc_cutoff	numeric, minimum log fold change (across cell types) for genes to be included in the platform effect normalization step (default: 0.5)
gene_cutoff_reg	numeric, minimum normalized gene expression for genes to be included in the RCTD step (default: 0.0002)
fc_cutoff_reg	numeric, minimum log fold change (across cell types) for genes to be included in the RCTD step (default: 0.75)
gene_obs_min	numeric, minimum number of times a gene must appear in the spatial transcriptomics data to be included in the analysis (default: 3)
pixel_count_min	numeric, minimum total gene count for a pixel to be included in the analysis (default: 10)
UMI_min	numeric, minimum UMI count per pixel (default: 100)
UMI_max	numeric, maximum UMI count per pixel (default: 20,000,000)
UMI_min_sigma	numeric, minimum UMI count for pixels used in platform effect normalization (default: 300)
class_df	data frame mapping cell types to classes, optional. If specified, RCTD will report confidence on the class level.

Value

List containing the filtered pixels and internal variables

---

fitBulk *Performs Platform Effect Normalization:*

Description

Estimates bulk cell type composition and uses this to estimate platform effects and normalize cell type proportions

Usage

```
fitBulk(RCTD)
```

Arguments

RCTD	an RctdConfig object after running the createRctd function.

Value

Returns an RctdConfig object normalized for platform effects.

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)

# Create RCTD configuration
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial_spe, reference_se)
rctd <- createRctdConfig(rctd_data)
rctd <- fitBulk(rctd)
rctd <- chooseSigmaC(rctd)
results <- fitPixels(rctd, rctd_mode = "doublet")
```

---

fitPixels *Runs the RCTD algorithm*

Description

If in doublet mode, fits at most two cell types per pixel. It classifies each pixel as 'singlet' or 'doublet' and searches for the cell types on the pixel. If in full mode, can fit any number of cell types on each pixel. In multi mode, cell types are added using a greedy algorithm, up to a fixed number.

Usage

```
fitPixels(RCTD, rctd_mode)
```

Arguments

RCTD	an RctdConfig object after running the chooseSigmaC function.
rctd_mode	character string, either "doublet", "multi", or "full" on which mode to run RCTD. Please see above description.

Value

a SpatialExperiment object containing the results of the RCTD algorithm.

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)

# Create RCTD configuration
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial_spe, reference_se)
rctd <- createRctdConfig(rctd_data)
rctd <- fitBulk(rctd)
rctd <- chooseSigmaC(rctd)
results <- fitPixels(rctd, rctd_mode = "doublet")
```

---

getDeGenes *Returns a list of differentially expressed genes*

Description

For each cell type, chooses genes that have a minimum average normalized expression in that cell type, and whose expression is larger in that cell type than the average of all cell types. Filters out mitochondrial genes.

Usage

```
getDeGenes(
  spatial_counts,
  cell_type_info,
  fc_thresh = 1.25,
  expr_thresh = 0.00015,
  MIN_OBS = 3,
  de_type = "regression"
)
```

Arguments

spatial_counts	spatial transcriptomics count matrix
cell_type_info	cell type information and profiles of each cell, calculated from the scRNA-seq reference (see computeCellTypeInfo)
fc_thresh	minimum log_e fold change required for a gene.
expr_thresh	minimum expression threshold, as normalized expression (proportion out of 1, or counts per 1).
MIN_OBS	the minimum number of occurances of each gene in the SpatialRNA object.
de_type	type of differential expression (i.e., "regression" or "bulk")

Value

a list of differentially expressed gene names

---

getNormRef *Normalizes cell type profiles to a target dataset*

Description

renormalizes cell_type_means to have average the same as the puck. The average for each gene is weighted by cell type proportions given by proportions.

Usage

```
getNormRef(puck, cell_type_means, gene_list, proportions)
```

Arguments

puck	an object of type SpatialRNA, the target dataset
cell_type_means	a data_frame (genes by cell types) for mean normalized expression (see computeCellTypeInfo)
gene_list	a list of genes to be used for the normalization
proportions	a named list (for each cell type) of proportion of the cell type on the bulk dataset (not constrained to sum to 1)

Value

Returns `cell_type_means`, a data_frame (genes by cell types) for mean normalized cell type expression profiles in which platform effects have been removed to match the SpatialRNA data.

`internal_vars` *Generic accessor for internal_vars slot*

Description

Generic accessor for internal_vars slot

Usage

```
internal_vars(object)

## S4 method for signature 'RctdConfig'
internal_vars(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'RctdConfig'
internal_vars(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with an internal_vars slot

Value

The internal_vars slot of the object

`internal_vars<-` *Generic setter for internal_vars slot*

Description

Generic setter for internal_vars slot

Usage

```
internal_vars(object) <- value
```

Arguments

`object`	An object with an internal_vars slot
`value`	The new value for the internal_vars slot

Value

The updated object

`load_Q_all` *Retrieves Q matrices from cache, populating the cache if necessary.*

Description

Retrieves Q matrices from cache, populating the cache if necessary.

Usage

```
load_Q_all()
```

Value

list of matrices

`load_SQ_all` *Retrieves SQ matrices from cache, populating the cache if necessary.*

Description

Retrieves SQ matrices from cache, populating the cache if necessary.

Usage

```
load_SQ_all()
```

Value

list of matrices

`make_cache` *Returns a stateful function that stores the most recent non-null argument and returns it for NULL values.*

Description

This is effectively used to manage global variables.

Usage

```
make_cache()
```

Value

cache function

nUMI *Generic accessor for nUMI slot*

Description

Generic accessor for nUMI slot

Usage

```
nUMI(object)

## S4 method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
nUMI(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
nUMI(object) <- value

## S4 method for signature 'Reference'
nUMI(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'Reference'
nUMI(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a nUMI slot

Value

The nUMI slot of the object

nUMI<- *Generic setter for nUMI slot*

Description

Generic setter for nUMI slot

Usage

```
nUMI(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a nUMI slot
value	The new value for the nUMI slot

Value

The updated object

`plotAllWeights` *Plot pie charts of cell type proportions across pixels*

Description

Generates a visualization where each pixel is represented by a pie chart showing the proportions of different cell types at that location. Users should run this function on the result of `runRctd`.

Usage

```
plotAllWeights(
  rctd_spe,
  assay_name = "weights",
  cell_type_colors = NA,
  r = 0.4,
  lwd = 1,
  title = NA
)
```

Arguments

`rctd_spe`	`SpatialExperiment` object containing RCTD results
`assay_name`	character, name of the assay to plot (default: `"weights"`)
`cell_type_colors`	vector of colors for the different cell types (default: rainbow)
`r`	numeric, radius of the pie charts (default: 0.4)
`lwd`	numeric, line width of the pie chart borders (default: 1)
`title`	character, plot title (default: `NA`)

Details

This function is adapted from `vizAllTopics` in the `STdeconvolve` package.

Value

`ggplot` object showing cell type proportions at each pixel using pie charts

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# In practice, results_spe should contain the results of an RCTD run.
results_spe <- rctdSim$proportions_spe
plotAllWeights(
    results_spe, r = 0.05, lwd = 0.5, title = "Cell Type Proportions"
)
```

`plotCellTypeWeight` *Plot pixel proportions for a specific cell type*

Description

Creates a visualization showing how the proportion of a specific cell type varies across space, represented by point color intensity. Users should run this function on the result of `runRctd`.

Usage

```
plotCellTypeWeight(
  rctd_spe,
  cell_type,
  assay_name = "weights",
  size = 10,
  stroke = 1,
  alpha = 1,
  low = "white",
  high = "red",
  title = NA
)
```

Arguments

`rctd_spe`	`SpatialExperiment` object containing RCTD results
`cell_type`	character, name of cell type to plot
`assay_name`	character, name of the assay to plot (default: `"weights"`)
`size`	numeric, size of the points (default: 10)
`stroke`	numeric, border width of the points (default: 1)
`alpha`	numeric, point transparency between 0 and 1 (default: 1)
`low`	color for the low end of the proportion color scale (default: `"white"`)
`high`	color for the high end of the proportion color scale (default: `"red"`)
`title`	character, plot title (default: `NA`)

Details

This function is adapted from `vizTopic` in the `STdeconvolve` package.

Value

`ggplot` object showing the proportion of a specified cell type at each pixel

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# In practice, results_spe should contain the results of an RCTD run.
results_spe <- rctdSim$proportions_spe
plotCellTypeWeight(
    results_spe, "ct1", size = 5, title = "Cell Type Density (ct1)"
)
```

---

process_beads_batch *Runs RCTD in doublet mode on* puck

Description

Then, computes cell type proportions for each pixel in puck. Classifies each pixel as 'singlet' or 'doublet' and searches for the cell types on the pixel

Usage

```
process_beads_batch(
  cell_type_info,
  gene_list,
  puck,
  class_df = NULL,
  constrain = TRUE,
  MAX_CORES = 8,
  MIN.CHANGE = 0.001,
  confidence_threshold = 10,
  doublet_threshold = 25
)
```

Arguments

`cell_type_info`	cell type information and profiles of each cell, calculated from the scRNA-seq reference (see `computeCellTypeInfo`)
`gene_list`	a list of genes to be used for RCTD
`puck`	an object of type SpatialRNA, the target dataset
`class_df`	A dataframe mapping cell types to classes

constrain	logical whether to constrain the weights to sum to one on each pixel
MAX_CORES	number of cores to use (will use parallel processing if more than one).
MIN.CHANGE	(default 0.001) the minimum change in the norm of the WLS solution used to determine the cell type proportions
confidence_threshold	(Default 10) the minimum change in likelihood (compared to other cell types) necessary to determine a cell type identity with confidence
doublet_threshold	(Default 25) the penalty weight of predicting a doublet instead of a singlet for a pixel

Value

Returns `results`, a list of RCTD results for each pixel, which can be organized by feeding into `create_spe_doublet`

`RctdConfig-class` *RCTD algorithm configuration*

Description

RCTD algorithm configuration

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'RctdConfig'
show(object)
```

Arguments

object	RCTD configuration object

Slots

`spatialRNA` a `SpatialRNA` object containing the processed spatial transcriptomics data for analysis

`config` a list of configuration options for the RCTD algorithm, set via `createRctd`

`cell_type_info` a named list containing cell type expression profiles with two components: `info` (raw profiles from reference data) and `renorm` (profiles normalized to match the spatial data)

`internal_vars` a list of internal variables used during the RCTD analysis

`rctdSim` *Simulated spatial transcriptomics dataset*

Description

A simulated dataset containing both reference single-cell RNA-seq data and spatial transcriptomics data. The dataset includes 750 genes across 3 cell types, with 50% of genes being differentially expressed between cell types. The spatial data consists of two kinds of cell type mixtures, documented below.

Usage

```
data(rctdSim)
```

Format

A list containing five components:

reference_counts A matrix of simulated reference counts with 750 rows (genes) and 75 columns (25 samples per cell type). Gene names are of the form `"g1"`, `"g2"`, etc.

reference_cell_types A data frame specifying the cell type (`"ct1"`, `"ct2"`, `"ct3"`) for each reference sample.

spatial_rna_coords A matrix with columns `x` and `y` giving the coordinates of each spatial transcriptomics pixel.

spatial_rna_counts A matrix of simulated spatial transcriptomics counts with 750 rows (genes) and 12 columns (spatial locations).

proportions_spe A `SpatialExperiment` object containing the true cell type proportions for each spatial location. The `weights` assay contains a matrix with 3 rows (cell types) and 12 columns (spatial locations).

Details

The dataset was generated using the following parameters:

- 750 genes, with 50% probability of differential expression
- 3 cell types with 25 reference samples each
- 12 spatial locations total:
  - 6 locations with mixture type 1 (90% `ct1`, 10% `ct2`)
  - 6 locations with mixture type 2 (20% `ct1`, 40% `ct2`, 40% `ct3`)

Base expression levels were sampled uniformly between 0 and 10. Differentially expressed genes were randomly selected to be either up-regulated (2x) or down-regulated (0.5x) in specific cell types. Final counts were generated using a Poisson distribution.

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)

# Access true cell type proportions
true_proportions <- assay(rctdSim$proportions_spe, "weights")
```

Reference-class *RNA-seq reference data*

Description

A class representing annotated RNA sequencing data used as a reference to learn cell type profiles. The reference can come from single-nucleus RNA sequencing (snRNA-seq), single-cell RNA sequencing (scRNA-seq), or cell type-specific bulk RNA sequencing. RCTD uses these profiles to estimate cell type proportions in spatial transcriptomics data.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'Reference'
show(object)
```

Arguments

`object`	Reference object

Slots

`cell_types` factor vector containing cell type annotations for each cell in the reference (identified by barcode)

`counts` sparse matrix of gene expression counts from RNA-seq data, with genes as rows and cells as columns (named by cell barcode)

`nUMI` numeric vector of total UMI counts per cell (identified by barcode)

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

cell_types <- rctdSim$reference_cell_types[["cell_type"]]
names(cell_types) <- rownames(rctdSim$reference_cell_types)
reference <- createReference(rctdSim$reference_counts, cell_types)
```

`referenceToCellTypeInfo` *Process cell type information from a Reference object*

Description

Process cell type information from a Reference object

Usage

```
referenceToCellTypeInfo(reference, cell_type_names, CELL_MIN = 25)
```

Arguments

`reference`	`Reference` object
`cell_type_names`	character vector of cell type names to include
`CELL_MIN`	numeric, minimum number of cells per cell type in the reference (default: 25)

Value

List containing cell type information

`runRctd` *Run RCTD algorithm to decompose cell type mixtures*

Description

Robust Cell Type Decomposition (RCTD) is a computational method for deconvolving cell type mixtures in spatial transcriptomics data. RCTD learns cell type profiles from annotated RNA sequencing (RNA-seq) reference data and uses these profiles to identify cell types in spatial transcriptomic pixels while accounting for platform-specific effects. The RCTD algorithm has three modes suited for different spatial technologies:

- `doublet`: Fits at most two cell types per pixel and classifies each pixel as a `"singlet"` (one cell type) or `"doublet"` (two cell types). Best for high spatial resolution technologies like Slide-seq or MERFISH, where pixels are more likely to contain only 1 or 2 cells.

- `multi`: Uses a greedy algorithm to fit up to `max_multi_types` cell types per pixel (default: 4). Best for lower resolution technologies like 100-micron Visium spots, which can contain more cell types.
- `full`: Fits any number of cell types per pixel without restrictions.

Usage

```
runRctd(
  rctd_data,
  rctd_mode = c("doublet", "multi", "full"),
  max_cores = 4,
  max_multi_types = 4,
  confidence_threshold = 5,
  doublet_threshold = 20
)
```

Arguments

`rctd_data`	list containing `createRctd` output
`rctd_mode`	character string specifying the RCTD mode: `"doublet"`, `"multi"`, or `"full"` (default: `"doublet"`)
`max_cores`	numeric, maximum number of cores to use for parallel processing (default: 4)
`max_multi_types`	numeric, maximum number of cell types per pixel in multi mode (default: 4)
`confidence_threshold`	numeric, minimum change in likelihood (compared to other cell types) necessary to determine a cell type identity with confidence (default: 5)
`doublet_threshold`	numeric, penalty weight of predicting a doublet instead of a singlet for a pixel (default: 20)

Value

A `SpatialExperiment` object containing the RCTD results with:

- Three assays (one in full mode):
  - `weights`: Cell type proportions restricted according to the specified mode
  - `weights_unconfident`: Cell type proportions restricted according to the specified mode, including unconfident predictions (not available in full mode)
  - `weights_full`: Unrestricted cell type proportions (not available in full mode, use `weights` instead)

  Assays have cell types as rows and pixels as columns, with values representing the proportion (0 to 1) of each cell type in each pixel. Assay columns sum to 1 (except for rejected pixels, which sum to 0).
- `spatialCoords` containing spatial coordinates for each pixel
- `colData` containing:

- For doublet mode:
  - spot_class: Classification as "singlet", "doublet_certain", "doublet_uncertain", or "reject"
  - first_type, second_type: Predicted cell types
  - first_class, second_class: Whether predictions were made at the class level
  - Additional metrics like min_score, singlet_score
- For multi mode:
  - cell_type_list: List of cell types per pixel
  - conf_list: List of whether cell type predictions are confident
  - Additional metrics like min_score

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Spatial transcriptomics data
library(SpatialExperiment)
spatial_spe <- SpatialExperiment(
    assay = rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts,
    spatialCoords = rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords
)

# Reference data
library(SummarizedExperiment)
reference_se <- SummarizedExperiment(
    assays = list(counts = rctdSim$reference_counts),
    colData = rctdSim$reference_cell_types
)

# Filter spatial transcriptomics data and aggregate reference data
rctd_data <- createRctd(spatial_spe, reference_se)

# Run RCTD on filtered data
results <- runRctd(rctd_data, rctd_mode = "doublet", max_cores = 1)

# Access the cell type proportions (cell types as rows, pixels as columns)
assay(results, "weights")

# Check spot classifications for doublet mode
colData(results)$spot_class

# Access spatial coordinates
head(spatialCoords(results))
```

---

set_likelihood_vars *Sets Precomputed Probabiliites as Global Variable*

Description

Given a matrix, Q_mat, or log P(y|x), under the Poisson-Lognormal model. Sets this as a global variable for fast computations in the future.

Usage

```
set_likelihood_vars(Q_mat_loc, X_vals, sigma = NULL)
```

Arguments

Q_mat_loc	Matrix of precomputed probabiliites, as previously computed by {calc_Q_par}
X_vals	the x-values used for computing the likelihood functions.
sigma	(default NULL). If NULL, computes SQ_mat according to Q_mat_loc. Else, uses precomputed values of SQ_mat stored in SQ_mat_all with index sigma

Value

Return value should be ignored.

---

spatialRNA *Generic accessor for spatialRNA slot*

Description

Generic accessor for spatialRNA slot

Usage

```
spatialRNA(object)

## S4 method for signature 'RctdConfig'
spatialRNA(object)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'RctdConfig'
spatialRNA(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a spatialRNA slot

Value

The spatialRNA slot of the object

SpatialRNA-class *Spatial transcriptomics data*

Description

A class representing spatial transcriptomics data, where gene expression is measured at fixed locations called "pixels" (also known as "spots" or "beads"). RCTD estimates the proportions of different cell types on each pixel.

Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'SpatialRNA'
show(object)
```

Arguments

object	SpatialRNA object

Slots

- coords data frame (or matrix) containing x and y coordinates for each pixel (identified by barcode)
- counts sparse matrix of gene expression counts, with genes as rows and pixels as columns (named by pixel barcode)
- nUMI numeric vector of total UMI counts per pixel (identified by barcode)

Examples

```
data(rctdSim)

# Create SpatialRNA object
spatial_rna <- createSpatialRNA(
    as.data.frame(rctdSim$spatial_rna_coords),
    rctdSim$spatial_rna_counts
)
```

spatialRNA<- *Generic setter for spatialRNA slot*

Description

Generic setter for spatialRNA slot

Usage

```
spatialRNA(object) <- value
```

Arguments

object	An object with a spatialRNA slot
value	The new value for the spatialRNA slot

Value

The updated object

---

summarizedExperimentToSpatialRNA

Convert a SummarizedExperiment to a SpatialRNA object

Description

Convert a SummarizedExperiment to a SpatialRNA object

Usage

```
summarizedExperimentToSpatialRNA(spatial_experiment, require_int = TRUE)
```

Arguments

spatial_experiment	SummarizedExperiment object (or any derivative object, including SpatialExperiment) containing spatial transcriptomics data to be deconvolved. The object must contain: • An assay matrix of gene expression counts (genes as rows, pixels as columns) with unique gene names as row names and unique pixel barcodes as column names. • Optionally, a spatialCoords matrix containing x and y coordinates for each pixel. If spatial_experiment does not have spatialCoords, dummy coordinates will be used. • Optionally, a colData column named nUMI containing total UMI counts for each pixel. If not provided, nUMI will be calculated as the column sums of the counts matrix.
require_int	logical, whether counts and nUMI are required to be integers (default: TRUE)

Value

SpatialRNA object

`url_ok` *Checks that a URL returns a 200 status code for a HEAD request*

Description

Checks that a URL returns a 200 status code for a HEAD request

Usage

```
url_ok(url)
```

Arguments

`url`	character(1)

Value

logical(1)

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