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Chapter 1

Background

R language (?) and its packages ecosystem are wonderful tools for data analysis. In the field of microbial community ecology, many packages can be used for the data analysis, such as vegan (?), ape (?) and picante (?). However, with the development of the high-throughput sequencing techniques, the increasing data amount and complexity make the data mining a challenge. There have been some R packages created for the statistics and visualization in microbial community ecology, such as microbiome (https://github.com/microbiome/microbiome), phyloseq (?), microbiomeSeq (http://www.github.com/umerijaz/microbiomeSeq), pvis2 (https://madsalbertsen.github.io/ampvis2/reference/index.html), MicrobiomeR(https://github.com/vallenderlab/MicrobiomeR), (?), rANOMALY (?), MicrobiomeExplorer (?), tidyMicro (?), microbial (https://github.com/guokai8/microbial), and so on. In addition, some web tools associated with R language are also useful for microbial community data analysis, such as Shiny-phyloseq (?), Mian (?) and animalcules (?). However, users still lack a flexible, comprehensive and modularized R package to analyze and manage the data easily. So we created the microeco R package for this goal (https://github.com/ChiLiubio/microeco). also develop the file2meco package (https://github.com/ChiLiubio/file2meco) for the data input from some famous tools easily and mecodev package (https://github.com/ChiLiubio/mecodev) for some extending approaches in this field.