User guide

Protein Structure Networks (PSNs)

Protein Structure Networks (or PSNs) are graph-theoretical representations of a single protein structure or of an ensemble of structures.

In the graph, nodes represent protein residues, while edges correspond to interactions between such residues. Interactions can have a direct physical meaning (i.e. salt bridges, hydrogen bonds) or incorporate other concepts of "contacts" between residues.

Within the scope of psntools, PSNs are intended to be:

- Weighted networks, namely networks where each edge has a weight associated to it, usually representing the strength of the interaction between the nodes connected by the edge itself.
- Undirected networks, meaning that the edges have no direction (i.e. an edge connecting node A to node B is the same as an edge connecting node B to node A).

Functionalities

Core objects and PSN analysis in psntools

The psntools.core module contains classes defining the core objects used by psntools.

PSN

The PSN class implements single PSNs. The PSN is implemented as a networkx. Graph object whose nodes are MDAnalysis.core.groups.Residue instances representing the protein residues. Please go here and here for more information about Graph and Residue objects, respectively.

The PSN class also defines some attributes that will be inherited by all PSN instances:

- The NODE_STR_FMT attribute, which determines the format of the string representation of the nodes of the PSN. The default format is {segid}-{resnum}{resname}, where each keyword represents a valid Residueattribute in MDAnalysis.
- The DEFAULT_SEGID attribute, which sets the segment ID to be assigned to protein chains not having an ID. The default is SYSTEM.

A PSN is built from:

• An adjacency $\mathtt{matrix}\ M$, namely a N*N matrix (with N number of nodes in the protein system represented by the PSN) where each cell $M_{i,j}$ contains the weight associated to the edge between nodes i and j.

• A universe U, namely a MDAnalysis Universe instance representing the protein system (please go here for more information about Universe objects in MDAnalysis).

Before initializing a new PSN, a Universe object must be created from a topology file (ideally a PDB file) describing the protein system of interest.

```
import MDAnalysis as mda
u = mda.Universe("topology.pdb")
```

Then, a new PSN instance can be initialized passing the universe to the constructor, together with either a numpy matrix or a string pointing to a file containing a matrix in a format readable by numpy:

```
import psntools.core as core
psn = core.PSN("matrix.dat", u)
```

The newly created PSN has two attributes, populated at initialization:

- The matrix attribute, containing the matrix from which the PSN was created.
- The graph attribute contains the graph representing the PSN as a NetworkX Graph object whose nodes are MDAnalysis.core.groups.Residue instances representing the protein residues.

Utility functions

get_nodes_residues2strings

Returns a dictionary mapping the MDAnalysis.core.groups.Residue instances to their string representation, formatted as per the NODE_STR_FMT attribute.

```
get nodes strings2residues
```

Returns a dictionary mapping the string representations of the nodes, formatted as per the NODE_STR_FMT attribute, to the nodes themselves.

Analyses

get_metric

Method to compute a given metric for the entire PSN, each node or each edge. Available metrics so far are:

- Node metrics:
 - o degree, computed calling the get degree method.
 - o betweenness_centrality, computed calling the get_betweenness_centrality method.
 - o closeness centrality, computed calling the get closeness centrality method.

- metric, name of the metric to be computed.
- kind, whether the metric is a node, edge, graph metric (some metrics have identical names even if they refer to different entities).
- metric_kws, dictionary of keyword arguments to be passed to the method calculating the metric of interest.

get_edges

Returns a dictionary mapping each edge of the PSN to its weight.

Parameters:

- min weight, minimum weight for an edge to be reported. The default is no minimum weight set (None).
- max weight, maximum weight for an edge to be reported. The default is no maximum weight set (None).
- mode, whether to report all edges ("all") or only intra-chain ("intrachain") or inter-chains ("interchain") edges. The default is "all".
- node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations ("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".

get_degree

Returns a dictionary mapping each node in the PSN to its degree. The degree of a node corresponds to the number of edges having the node as an extreme.

Parameters:

node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations
("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".

get hubs

Returns a dictionary mapping each node in the PSN to its degree, if the node is a hub. A hub is a node having a degree greater than or equal to a pre-defined value.

Parameters:

- min degree, minimum degree for a node to be considered a hub. The default is 1.
- max_degree, maximum degree for a node to be reported in the output dictionary. The default is no maximum degree set (None).
- node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations ("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".

get_betweenness_centrality

Returns a dictionary mapping each node of the PSN to its betweenness centrality value. The definition of betweenness centrality and how it is calculated can be found here. This method relies on the networkx.algorithms.centrality.betweenness centrality function.

- node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations ("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the networkx.algorithms.centrality.betweenness_centrality function. See here for a complete list of possible arguments.

get_closeness_centrality

Returns a dictionary mapping each node of the PSN to its closeness centrality value. The definition of betweenness centrality and how it is calculated can be found here. This method relies on the

networkx.algorithms.centrality.closeness_centrality function.

Parameters:

- node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations ("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the networkx.algorithms.centrality.betweenness_centrality function. See here for a complete list of possible arguments.

get_connected_components

Returns a list of sets representing the connected components of the PSN. A connected component is a subset of nodes of the PSN such as all nodes with the component are connected to each other through any number of edges, but disconnected from any node outside the component. This method relies on the

networkx.algorithms.components.connected components function.

Parameters:

- min_size, minimum size (expressed in number of nodes) for a connected component to be reported. The default is no minimum size set (None).
- max_size, maximum size (expressed in number of nodes) for a connected component to be reported. The default is no maximum set set (None).
- ascending, whether to report the connected components by increasing size (smallest first). The default is False.
- node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations ("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".

get_shortest_paths

Returns a dictionary mapping a tuple representing each pair of nodes between which shortest paths have been calculated to a dictionary mapping each path found for that pair to the path's weight. A path between two nodes is composed by the nodes (or edges) that need to be traversed in order to go from one node to the other. Shortest paths between two nodes are those paths featuring the minimum number of nodes (or edges) traversed. This method relies on the networks.algorithms.shortest_paths.generic.all_shortest_paths function.

Parameters:

- pairs, iterable of pairs of strings formatted as per NODE_STR_FMT representing nodes between which paths need
 to be computed.
- node_fmt, whether to represent nodes as Residue instances ("residues") or use their string representations
 ("strings") in the output dictionary. The default is "residues".

Selections

select nodes

Select a subset of nodes in the PSN. The matrix and graph attributes of the PSN will be modified in place.

Parameters:

• nodes, iterable of strings formatted as per NODE STR FMT representing the nodes to be selected.

select_edges

Select a subset of edges in the PSN. The matrix and graph attributes of the PSN will be modified in place.

Parameters:

- min weight, minimum weight for an edge to be reported. The default is no minimum weight set (None).
- max_weight, maximum weight for an edge to be reported. The default is no maximum weight set (None).
- mode, whether to report all edges (all) or only intra-chain (intrachain) or inter-chains (interchain) edges. The default is "all".

PSNGroup

The PSNGroup class implements groups of PSNs, each identified by a custom label. A PSNgroup is built from:

- psns, an iterable of psn instances representing the PSNs in the group.
- labels, an iterable of custom labels to be identify the single PSNs in the group (i.e. if the PSNs represent different protein systems, a wild-type protein and mutants, etc.). If no labels are passed, integer labels (starting from 0) will be used.
- mappings, a CSV file containing the one-to-one "mappings" of the nodes of the PSNs, where columns are labeled with the PSNs' labels and cells in each column contain the string representations of each PSN's nodes. This is needed to ensure that nodes across the different PSNs are handled they way you expect them to. For example, you may have a PSN representing your wild-type protein, and a series of PSNs representing single mutants of such protein at the same position. Normally, in a comparison between such PSNs in a PSNGroup the wild-type residue and mutant residues, despite being at the same position in the protein, would be treated as different nodes, since they are represented by different Residue instances. However, you may want this position treated as it were the same node across the PSN (for example to compare interactions made by the wild-type protein and the mutants at this position). This is when the mappings came handy, since you can put nodes that you want to be treated as they were the same on the same row of the CSV file.

Instead of passing the psns argument, you can also build the single PSN instances on the fly by passing:

- universes, an iterable of Universe instances representing the protein systems.
- matrices, an iterable of either numpy matrices or strings pointing to files containing matrices in a format readable by numpy.

The PSNGroup class also defines a set of attributes that all PSNGroup instances will have:

- psns, a dictionary mapping the PSN labels to the corresponding PSN instances.
- mappings, a dictionary containing the PSN-to-PSN mappings parsed from the mappings' CSV file.

Analyses

get_common_hubs

Compute the hubs common to each possible of PSNs in the PSNGroup. Returns a dictionary mapping each combination of PSNs (identified by their labels) to a dictionary having as keys the hubs common to all PSNs in the combination and as values dictionaries where the degree of these hubs in each of the PSNs is reported.

Parameters:

See PSN.get_hubs. However, node_fmt defaults to "strings".

get_common_edges

Compute the edges common to each possible of PSNs in the PSNGroup. Returns a dictionary mapping each combination of PSNs (identified by their labels) to a dictionary having as keys the edges common to all PSNs in the combination and as values dictionaries where the weight of these edges in each of the PSNs is reported.

Parameters:

See PSN.get edges. However, node fmt defaults to "strings".

Data frames in psntools

psntools has the capability to produce data frames containing data collected from the analyses of a PSN or of a PSNGroup. Utility functions to create such data frames are contained in psntools.dataframes.

get psn df

Returns a pandas. DataFrame representation of the PSN, where rows ans columns represent the nodes of the PSN, and cells store the weights of the edges connecting them.

Parameters:

• psn, PSN instance.

get_nodes_df

Computes selected metrics for all nodes of a PSN and reports the results in a pandas.DataFrame. The metrics will either be computed on the fly or their values taken from a dictionary of dictionaries keyed on the metrics' names (outer dictionary) and on the Residue instances representing the nodes (inner dictionaries) if calculated elsewhere. Rows of the data frame represent nodes, while columns represent the different metrics.

- psn, PSN instance.
- metrics, dictionary where keys are node metrics to be computed and values are dictionaries of keyword
 arguments to be passed to the methods calculating those metrics.

get_edges_df

Creates a pandas. DataFrame containing the edges found in the PSN.

Parameters:

- data, pre-computed dictionary of edges (as the one outputted by the psntools.core.PSN.get_edges method).
- psn, PSN instance. Should not be passed if datais passed.
- sort_by, whether to sort the edges by node name ("node") or edge weight ("weight"). The default is "node".
- ascending, whether the sorting procedure should be ascending. The default is False.
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSN.get_edges method, if edges need
 to be extracted from the PSN.

get_hubs_df

Creates a pandas. DataFrame containing the hubs found in the PSN.

Parameters:

- psn, PSN instance.
- sort by, whether to sort the hubs by node name ("node") or node degree ("degree"). The default is "degree".
- ascending, whether the sorting procedure should be ascending. The default is False.
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSN.get_hubs method, if hubs need to be computed from the PSN.

get_connected_components_df

Creates s a pandas. DataFrame containing the connected components found in a PSN.

Parameters:

- data, list of sets representing the connected components (as the one returned by the core.PSN.get connected components method).
- psn, PSN instance. It should not be passed if data is passed.
- cc prefix, string to add to the each connected component's default name (its number). The default is "cc ".
- node sep, separator for nodes in each connected component. The default is ".".

get_nodes_df_psngroup

Computes a selected metric for all nodes of all PSNs of a PSNGroup and reports the results in a pandas.DataFrame.

Rows of the data frame represent nodes, while each column represent a single PSN (and is named after the PSN's label).

Parameters:

- psngroup, PSNGroup instance.
- metric, label of a node metric to be computed, mapping to a dictionary with the keyword arguments to be passed to the function computing such metric.

get_largest_connected_components_df_psngroup

Computes the first n-th most populated connected components for each PSN in a PSNGroup and reports their sizes in a pandas.DataFrame. Rows of the data frame represent the connected component's names, while columns represent the single PSNs.

- psngroup, PSNGroup instance.
- n ccs, number of connected components to report. The default is 5.
- cc prefix, string to add to the each connected component's default name (its number). The default is "cc ".

get common hubs dfs

Returns a dictionary of pandas.DataFrame instances containing the common hubs for each possible combination of PSNs in a PSNGroup.

Parameters:

- data, pre-computed dictionary of common hubs as obtained with psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_hubs.
- psngroup, PSNGroup instance.
- psn sep, separator for PSNs in the combination. The default is " ".
- **kwargs, arguments to be passed to psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_hubs for the calculation of common hubs, if data has not been passed.

get_common_edges_dfs

Returns a dictionary of pandas. DataFrame instances containing the common edges for each possible combination of PSNs in a PSNGroup.

Parameters:

- data, pre-computed dictionary of common hubs as obtained with psntools.core.PSNGroup.get common hubs.
- psngroup, PSNGroup instance.
- psn sep, separator for PSNs in the combination. The default is " ".
- node_sep, separator for nodes in each edge. The default is "_".
- **kwargs, arguments to be passed to psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_hubs for the calculation of common hubs, if data has not been passed.

Writing tools in psntools

Several utility functions to write out various kinds of outputs containing data from the analysis of either a PSN or a PSNGroup are available in the psntools.writing module.

write_psn_csv

Writes a CSV file containing the pandas.DataFrame generated by the psntools.dataframes.get_psn_df function.

- psn, PSN instance.
- outfile, output CSV file.
- csv_sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ",".
- float fmt, format for floating point numbers in the output CSV file. The default is "%2.3f".

write nodes list

Writes a plain text file listing all nodes in the PSN (string representation).

Parameters:

- psn, PSN instance.
- outfile, output text file.

write_nodes_csv

Writes a CSV file containing the pandas. DataFrame generated by the dataframes.get nodes df function.

Parameters:

- outfile, output CSV file.
- df, pre-computed data frame of edges (as the one outputted by the dataframes.get nodes csv function).
- psn, PSN instance. It should not be passed if df is passed.
- metrics, dictionary where keys are node metrics to be computed and values are dictionaries of keyword arguments to be passed to the methods calculating those metrics. It should not be passed if df is passed.
- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ", ".
- float_fmt, format for floating point numbers in the output CSV file. The default is "%2.3f".

write edges csv

Writes a CSV file containing the pandas. DataFrame generated by the psntools.dataframes.get edges df function.

Parameters:

- outfile, output CSV file.
- df, pre-computed data frame of edges (as the one outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get_edges_csv function).
- data, pre-computed dictionary of edges (as the one outputted by the psntools.core.PSN.get_edges method).
 Should not be passed if df is passed.
- psn, PSN instance. Should not be passed if df or data are passed.
- sort by, whether to sort the edges by node name ("node") or edge weight ("weight"). The default is "node".
- ascending, whether the sorting procedure should be ascending. The default is False.
- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ",".
- float fmt, format for floating point numbers in the output CSV file. The default is "%2.3f".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSN.get_edges method, if edges need
 to be extracted from the PSN.

write_hubs_csv

Writes a CSV file containing the pandas.DataFrame generated by the psntools.dataframes.get_hubs_df function.

- outfile, output CSV file.
- df, pre-computed data frame of hubs (as the one outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get_hubs_df function).
- psn, PSN instance. Should not be passed if df is passed.
- sort by, whether to sort the hubs by node name ("node") or node degree ("degree"). The default is "node".
- ascending, whether the sorting procedure should be ascending. The default is False.
- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ", ".

• **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSN.get_hubs method, if hubs need to be calculated from the PSN.

write_connected_components_csv

Writes a CSV file containing the pandas.DataFrame generated by the psntools.dataframes.get_connected_components_df function.

Parameters:

- outfile, output CSV file.
- df, pre-computed data frame of connected components (as the one outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get_connected_components_df function).
- data, pre-computed dictionary of connected components (as the one outputted by psntools.core.PSN.get_connected_components).
- psn, PSN instance. Should not be passed if df or data are passed.
- cc prefix, string to add to the each connected component's default name (its number). The default is "cc ".
- node_sep, separator for nodes in each connected component. The default is ".".
- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ",".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSN.get_connected_components method, if connected components need to be calculated from the PSN.

write_shortest_paths_csvs

Writes as many CSV files as the data frames (pandas.DataFrame) generated by the psntools.dataframes.get_shortest_paths_dfs function.

Parameters:

- data, pre-computed dictionary of shortest paths (as the one outputted by psntools.core.PSN.get_shortest_paths).
- psn, PSN instance. Should not be passed if data is passed.
- outfiles prefix, prefix to be used for the output CSV files. The default is "path ".
- sort_by, whether to sort the hubs primarily by path length and secondarily by path weight (("length", "weight")) or viceversa (("weight", "length")). The default is ("length", "weight").
- ascending, whether the sorting procedures should be ascending. The default is (False, False).
- pair_node_sep, separator for nodes in each pair. The default is "_".
- path node sep, separator for nodes in each path. The default is ".".
- csv_sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ", ".
- float fmt, format for floating point numbers in the output CSV file. The default is "%2.3f".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSN.get_shortest_paths method, if shortest paths need to be caculated from the PSN.

write_nodes_csv_psngroup

Writes a CSV file containing the data frame generated by the psntools.dataframes.get nodes df psngroup function.

- df, pre-computed data frame of nodes (as the one outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get nodes df psngroup function).
- psngroup, PSNGroup instance. Should not be passed if df is passed.
- metric, label of a node metric to be computed, mapping to a dictionary with the keyword arguments to be passed

to the function computing such metric.

- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ",".
- float fmt, format for floating point numbers in the output CSV file. The default is "%2.3f".

write common hubs csvs

Writes as many CSV files as the possible combinations of PSNs in a PSNGroup having hubs in common, listing such common hubs and their degree in each PSN.

Parameters:

- dfs, pre-computed data frames of common hubs (as the ones outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get_common_hubs_dfs function).
- data, pre-computed dictionary of common hubs (as the one outputted by the psntools.core.PSNGroup.get common hubs function). Should not be passed if dfs is passed.
- psngroup, PSNGroup instance. Should not be passed if dfs or common hubs are passed.
- outfiles prefix, prefix to be used for the output CSV files. The default is "hubs ".
- psn_sep, separator for PSNs in the combination. The default is "_".
- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ",".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_hubs method, if common hubs need to be calculated from the PSN group.

write_common_edges_csvs

Writes as many CSV files as the possible combinations of PSNs in a PSNGroup having edges in common, listing such common edges and their degree in each PSN.

Parameters:

- dfs, pre-computed data frames of common edges (as the ones outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get_common_edges_dfs function).
- data, pre-computed dictionary of common edges (as the one outputted by the psntools.core.PSNGroup.get common edges function). Should not be passed if dfs is passed.
- psngroup, PSNGroup instance. Should not be passed if dfs or common hubs are passed.
- outfiles prefix, prefix to be used for the output CSV files. The default is "edges".
- psn_sep, separator for PSNs in the combination. The default is "_".
- node_sep, separator for nodes in each edge. The default is "_".
- csv sep, field separator to be used in the output CSV file. The default is ",".
- float_fmt, format for floating point numbers in the output CSV file. The default is "%2.3f".
- **kwargs, keyword arguments that will be passed to the psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_edges method,
 if common hubs need to be calculated from the PSN group.

Plotting in psntools

psntools provides plotting utilities to visualize the results of the PSN and PSNGroup analyses in the psntools.plotting module.

An additional module, upset.py, contains a class to generate UpSet plots [^1] to visualize the common hubs/edges found in every possible combination of PSNs in a PSNGroup. This class is not meant to be used directly, but through a wrapper function (described later) that lives in the psntools.plotting module.

The configuration file system

For tweaking the graphics of the plots (axes' titles, font type and size of the text elements, color palette, etc.) psntools relies on a set of plot-specific YAML configuration files that can be customized by the user.

An example of configuration file for each plot type is provided with the package, in the config_plot directory. This is also the default directory where psntools will look for configuration files, if only the name of the configuration file is provided (without the .yaml extension).

Functions

plot_heatmap_nodes

Generates a heatmap with a set of nodes represented on the x-axis and the value of a specific node metric calculated for each of these nodes in different PSNs on the y-axis. Outputs a PDF file containing the plot.

Parameters:

- df, data frame containing the node metric's values for the nodes of interest in different PSNs (as the one outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get nodes df psngroup function).
- outfile, output PDF file.
- configfile, YAML configuration file containing graphical parameters to be used in the plot.
- selected_nodes, list of nodes that should be selected from the data frame. Only values corresponding to these
 nodes will be plotted.
- nodes per page, how many nodes to be plotted on each page of the PDF file. The default is 20.
- psn_labels, list of custom labels to be used for the PSNs present in the data frame. Labels must be passed in the same order as the corresponding PSNs in the dataframe.
- node_labels, list of custom labels to be used for the nodes represented in the data frame. Labels must be passed in the same order as the corresponding nodes in the data frame.

plot_barplot_connected_components

Generates a bar plot with the distribution of nodes in the most populated connected components of a PSN.

Parameters:

- df, data frame containing data about the distribution of nodes in the most populated connected components of a PSN (as the one outputted by the psntools.dataframes.get_connected_components_df_psngroup function).
- outfile, output PDF file.
- configfile, YAML configuration file containing graphical parameters to be used in the plot.
- n ccs, number of most populated connected components to plot. The default is 5.
- cc_prefix, string to add to the each connected component's default name (its number). The default is "cc_".
- psn_labels, list of custom labels to be used for the PSNs present in the data frame. Labels must be passed in the same order as the corresponding PSNs in the dataframe.

plot_upsetplot

Generates an UpSet plot to visualize the intersections between the sets of hubs or edges found in the PSNs of a PSHGroup.

Parameters:

• psngroup, PSNGroup instance.

- item_type, whether the intersections calculated between the PSNs in the psngroup will be of "hubs" or "edges".

 The default is hubs.
- outfile, output PDF file.
- configfile, YAML configuration file containing graphical parameters to be used in the plot.
- **kwargs, keyword arguments to be passed to psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_hubs or to psntools.core.PSNGroup.get_common_edges (depending on the item_type) for the calculation of common hubs/edges in the PSNGroup.

Examples

To do.

References

[1]: Lex, Alexander, et al. "UpSet: visualization of intersecting sets." IEEE transactions on visualization and computer graphics 20.12 (2014): 1983-1992.