metaboGSE - integrating RNA-seq data and metabolic networks

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1 Introduction

The *metaboGSE* package is designed for the integration of transcriptomic data and metabolic networks by constructing condition-specific series metabolic sub-networks by means of RNA-seq data and providing a downstream analysis of RNA-seq data with the aid of such sub-network series (Tran et al., 2018).

2 Installation

metaboGSE depends on the sybil package and was evaluated with COIN-OR Clp and GLPK solvers via the clpAPI and glpkAPI packages, respectively, available in CRAN¹. The solvers and their R interface API package are not automatically installed along with metaboGSE. clpAPI with inibarrier method seems to be the most consistent in our tests. Other solvers implemented for sybil should also work, however have not been tested.

3 Usage

3.1 Sybil settings

```
library(metaboGSE)
SYBIL_SETTINGS("SOLVER", "glpkAPI")
SYBIL_SETTINGS("METHOD", "simplex")
SYBIL_SETTINGS("OPT_DIRECTION", "max")
```

3.2 Data preparation

3.2.1 Metabolic networks

A metabolic network can be imported from tabular or SBML inputs (see *sybil*'s manual for more details). Two *Yarrowia lipolytica* models in normoxic and hypoxic environments are provided in the iMK735 dataset (Kavšček et al., 2015) and presented in the MetaNetX/MNXref namespace (Moretti et al., 2016). They are identical apart from the bounds of exchange oxygen flux.

data(iMK735) iMK735[1]

```
## $hypoxia
## $hypoxia$model
## model name: No description
## number of compartments 8
## Golgi apparatus
## cytoplasm
```

¹https://cran.r-project.org

```
##
                            endoplasmic reticulum
##
                            extracellular region
                            mitochondrion
##
##
                            nucleus
##
                            peroxisome
##
                            vacuole
## number of reactions:
                            1329
## number of metabolites:
                            1112
## number of unique genes: 709
## objective function:
                            +1 R1835AC86
##
## $hypoxia$obj
## [1] 4.113629
##
## $hypoxia$comp
## model name:
                            No description
  number of compartments
##
                            Golgi apparatus
##
                            cytoplasm
##
                            endoplasmic reticulum
##
                            extracellular region
##
                            mitochondrion
##
                            nucleus
##
                            peroxisome
##
                            vacuole
                            RECO_PUSH_MNXC3
##
## number of reactions:
                            818
## number of metabolites:
## number of unique genes: 469
## objective function:
                            +1 R1835AC86
```

3.2.2 RNA-seq data

Normalized (or raw) RNA-seq counts should be provided as a matrix with gene per row and library per column. The exprMaguire (Maguire et al., 2014) dataset contains two matrices representing log2 voom-normalized count (expr) and RPKM (pkmExpr) per library.

3.2.3 Gene set annotation

Here we apply metaboGSE for Gene Ontology enrichment analysis. A mapping between genes and GO terms should be provided. The yarli2GO dataset contains such a mapping in a list format. The pre-built topGOdata object yarliGOdata is also provided.

```
data(yarli2G0)
length(yarli2G0)
```

[1] 4747

str(head(yarli2G0))

```
## List of 6

## $ euk:3HAO_YARLI : chr [1:7] "G0:0000334" "G0:0005737" "G0:0006569" "G0:0008198" ...

## $ euk:ACEA_YARLI : chr [1:6] "G0:0004451" "G0:0006097" "G0:0006099" "G0:0009514" ...

## $ euk:ACEB_YARLI : chr [1:4] "G0:0004451" "G0:0005759" "G0:0019629" "G0:0046421"

## $ euk:ACH1_YARLI : chr [1:6] "G0:0003986" "G0:0005739" "G0:0005829" "G0:0006083" ...

## $ euk:ACOX1_YARLI: chr [1:5] "G0:0003995" "G0:0003997" "G0:0005777" "G0:0033540" ...
```

3.2.4 Pre-built data

The tutorial below shows a simple example to be executed in a reasonable computing time. The datasets of pre-built series of metabolic sub-networks and gene set enrichment (Tran et al., 2018) are also provided.

```
data(yarliSubmnets)
names(yarliSubmnets)

## [1] "DN" "SH" "SN" "UH" "WH" "WN"

data(yarliGSE)
length(yarliGSE)
```

3.3 Analysis

[1] 135

3.3.1 Model rescuing

Both models of iMK735 grow, nevertheless we should still apply the rescue procedure to produce the rescue reactions for all metabolites in growth and maintenance (if any) reactions (see (Tran et al., 2018)). For instance, we here perform the rescue process while targeting growths of 20% of the initial objective values for the hypoxic model.

```
## SYBIL_SETTINGS(TOLERANCE) has been set to 1e-12
## SYBIL_SETTINGS(OPT_DIRECTION) has been set to min
```

In the hmodel.rescue object, the rescued field represents the rescued model \mathcal{M}'' , which is the same as the initial model \mathcal{M} since the latter grows, as presented in Fig 1. The rescue field presents the rescue model \mathcal{M}' , which contains rescue reactions on every metabolite in growth and maintenance reactions, and the coef field indicates the coefficients of those rescue reactions used for optimization in the rescue process. RECO_PUSH_MNXC3 denotes the compartment of artificial metabolites, e.g. X'. The rescue procedure can also be performed on maintenance reactions, which are restricted to non-empty fixed fluxes.

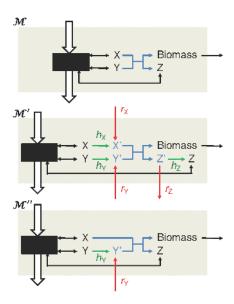


Figure 1: Schema of GSMN rescue process. \mathcal{M} , original GSMN with growth reaction X + Y —> Z + Biomass. \mathcal{M}' , expanded GSMN with the full set of rescue (r_x) and help (h_x) reactions for every metabolite x in the biomass reaction. \mathcal{M}'' , example of a minimal rescued GSMN in the particular case where only metabolite Y needs to be rescued. (Tran et al., 2018)

hmodel.rescue\$rescue

```
## model name:
                            No description
## number of compartments
##
                            Golgi apparatus
##
                            cytoplasm
##
                            endoplasmic reticulum
                            extracellular region
##
##
                            mitochondrion
##
                            nucleus
##
                            peroxisome
##
                            vacuole
##
                            RECO_PUSH_MNXC3
## number of reactions:
                            1419
  number of metabolites:
                            1157
   number of unique genes: 709
## objective function:
                            +1 R1835AC86
```

head(hmodel.rescue\$coef)

```
## RECO_PUSH_MNXM32_MNXC3 3.47947112
## RECO_PUSH_MNXM3_MNXC3 0.06531679
## RECO_PUSH_MNXM1_MNXC3 0.06531679
## RECO_PUSH_MNXM7_MNXC3 0.06531679
## RECO_PUSH_MNXM9_MNXC3 0.06531679
## RECO_PUSH_MNXM89557_MNXC3 5.28960592
```

3.3.2 Model cleaning

We set the TOLERANCE to 1e-8, which indicates that values less than 1e-8 are considered as 0, to deal with numerical imprecision.

```
SYBIL_SETTINGS("TOLERANCE", 1e-08)
```

The blocked reactions from the rescue models are determined by a flux variability analysis via the fluxVar function from *sybil*. Those reactions as well as related genes and metabolites are then removed from the models. mc.cores can be set appropriately to perform parallel computation of fluxVar. A high mc.cores is recommended as fluxVar is time consuming.

hmodel.clean, considered as the comprehensive model for hypoxic conditions, can be loaded from the iMK735
dataset

```
hmodel.clean <- iMK735$hypoxia$comp
hmodel.clean
```

```
## model name:
                            No description
## number of compartments
##
                            Golgi apparatus
                            cytoplasm
##
##
                            endoplasmic reticulum
                            extracellular region
##
##
                            mitochondrion
##
                            nucleus
##
                            peroxisome
##
                            vacuole
                            RECO_PUSH_MNXC3
##
## number of reactions:
                            818
## number of metabolites:
                            605
## number of unique genes: 469
## objective function:
                            +1 R1835AC86
```

Now we convert the growth objective of the comprehensive model to a weighted objective function on rescue reactions with the determined coefficients. Hereafter, the goal is to minimize this function.

```
SYBIL_SETTINGS("OPT_DIRECTION", "min")
hmodel.weight <- changeObjFunc(hmodel.clean, react=rownames(hmodel.rescue$coef), obj_coef=hmodel.rescue
hmodel.weight
```

```
## model name: No description
## number of compartments 9
## Golgi apparatus
cytoplasm
## endoplasmic reticulum
## extracellular region
## mitochondrion
```

```
## vacuole
## number of reactions: 818
## number of metabolites: 605
## number of unique genes: 469
## objective function: +0.0653167864141084 RECO_PUSH_MNXM3_MNXC3 +0.0653167864141084 RECO_PUSH_MNXM

optimizeProb(hmodel.weight)
## solver: glpkAPI
```

```
## solver:
## method:
                                              simplex
## algorithm:
                                              fba
## number of variables:
                                              818
                                              605
## number of constraints:
## return value of solver:
                                              solution process was successful
## solution status:
                                              solution is optimal
## value of objective function (fba):
                                              0.00000
                                              0.00000
## value of objective function (model):
```

nucleus

peroxisome

The obtained objective of 0 above indicates that there is no need to rescue the hmodel.clean since it grows.

3.3.4 Weighting scheme

##

##

We now compute weights for rescue reactions to account for the importance and dependency of metabolites to rescue (see Weighting scheme for model fitness in Tran et al. (2018))

```
mc.cores <- 1
rescue.weight <- (weightReacts(hmodel.weight, mc.cores=mc.cores, gene.num=1))$weight
str(rescue.weight, vec.len=2)

## Named num [1:45] 0.03951 0.00152 ...
## - attr(*, "names")= chr [1:45] "RECO_PUSH_MNXM3_MNXC3" "RECO_PUSH_MNXM1_MNXC3" ...</pre>
```

3.3.4 GO annotation

We compute the set of preliminary GO terms in biological process category using topGO with fisher statistic and weight01 algorithm. The whole GO annotation and gene universe are used. The aim of the following R script is to preliminarily filter the set of GO terms of interest. The resulting 135 GO terms are filtered by p-value < 0.1 and contain at least 3 genes and at most 50 genes from the model.

```
GO2geneID <- inverseList(yarli2GO)
length(GO2geneID)
```

[1] 4629

```
str(head(GO2geneID), vec.len=3)
```

```
## List of 6
## $ G0:0000001: chr [1:13] "euk:GEM1_YARLI" "euk:MDM12_YARLI" "euk:Q6C1G8_YARLI" ...
## $ G0:0000002: chr [1:27] "euk:B5FVH9_YARLI" "euk:CCM1_YARLI" "euk:DML1_YARLI" ...
## $ G0:0000007: chr "euk:Q6C0U6_YARLI"
## $ G0:0000009: chr [1:7] "euk:F2Z612_YARLI" "euk:F2Z6C7_YARLI" "euk:Q6C1C8_YARLI" ...
## $ G0:0000010: chr "euk:COQ1_YARLI"
## $ G0:0000011: chr [1:9] "euk:ACT_YARLI" "euk:Q6C134_YARLI" "euk:Q6C1E5_YARLI" ...
```

```
gene.name <- names(yarli2G0)</pre>
gene.list <- factor(as.integer(gene.name %in% sybil::allGenes(hmodel.clean)))</pre>
names(gene.list) <- gene.name</pre>
GOdata <- new("topGOdata",</pre>
               ontology = "BP",
               nodeSize = 5,
               allGenes = gene.list,
               annot = annFUN.gene2GO,
               gene2GO = yarli2GO
result <- runTest(GOdata, statistic="fisher", algorithm="weight01")</pre>
table <- GenTable(GOdata,
                    weight
                             = result,
                    orderBy = "weight",
                    numChar = 10000,
                    topNodes = result@geneData[4]
table$weight <- as.numeric(sub("<", "", table$weight))</pre>
table <- table[!is.na(table$weight), ]</pre>
MINSIG <- 3
MAXSIG <- 50
WCUTOFF <- 0.1
GO.interest <- table[table$Significant >= MINSIG & table$Significant <= MAXSIG &
                          table$weight < WCUTOFF, ]$GO.ID
GO2geneID.interest.proteome <- genesInTerm(GOdata, GO.interest)</pre>
GO2geneID.interest <- lapply(GO2geneID.interest.proteome, function(git) {
    intersect(sybil::allGenes(hmodel.clean), git)
})
length(GO.interest)
```

[1] 135

str(head(GO2geneID.interest), vec.len=3)

```
## List of 6

## $ GO:0035428: chr [1:23] "euk:F2Z653_YARLI" "euk:Q6C0E0_YARLI" "euk:Q6C0K5_YARLI" ...

## $ GO:0046323: chr [1:23] "euk:F2Z653_YARLI" "euk:Q6C0E0_YARLI" "euk:Q6C0K5_YARLI" ...

## $ GO:0015986: chr [1:17] "euk:ATP6_YARLI" "euk:ATP8_YARLI" "euk:ATP9_YARLI" ...

## $ GO:0015991: chr [1:15] "euk:ATP9_YARLI" "euk:Q6CHD8_YARLI" "euk:Q6CH91_YARLI" ...

## $ GO:0006696: chr [1:19] "euk:Q6C8C2_YARLI" "euk:ERG6_YARLI" "euk:Q6C231_YARLI" ...

## $ GO:0006099: chr [1:16] "euk:PRPC_YARLI" "euk:Q6C450_YARLI" "euk:Q6C823_YARLI" ...
```

GO.interest contains other GO terms than those in GO2geneID, as topGO allows propagating in the gene ontology.

3.3.5 Expression-based gene removal

step indicates the difference of gene numbers to remove between consecutive sub-model constructions, then determines numbers of genes to remove in the simulation. Here we set step = 50 and draw.num = 4 to reduce the computing time in this tutorial, i.e. the 0, 50, 100, etc. first genes in certain ranking will be successively removed from the comprehensive model, and 4 random removals will be performed. The series of metabolic sub-networks is constructed for the hypoxic $upc2\Delta$ (UH) condition with various gene rankings as below.

```
cond <- "UH"
step <- 50
draw.num <- 4
reps.i <- grep(cond, colnames(exprMaguire$expr), value=T)</pre>
ranks <- mclapply(reps.i, mc.cores=mc.cores, function(ri) {</pre>
    data.frame(
        # ranks1. voom-normalized expression
        expr = exprMaguire$expr[, ri, drop=T],
        pkmExpr = exprMaguire$pkmExpr[, ri, drop=T],
        relExpr1 = relativeExpr(exprMaguire$expr, power=1)[, ri, drop=T],
        relExpr2 = relativeExpr(exprMaguire$expr, power=2)[, ri, drop=T],
        relExpr3 = relativeExpr(exprMaguire$expr, power=3)[, ri, drop=T],
        revExpr = 1/(1 + exprMaguire$expr[, ri, drop=T]),
        zExpr = zscoreExpr(exprMaguire$expr)[, ri, drop=T]
names(ranks) <- reps.i</pre>
fitnessUH <- fitness(model</pre>
                                   = hmodel.weight,
                     ranks
                                    = ranks,
                     rescue.weight = rescue.weight,
                                  = step,
                     draw.num
                                  = draw.num,
                                  = mc.cores)
                     mc.cores
submnetsUH <- submnet(model</pre>
                                   = hmodel.weight,
                                   = fitnessUH,
                      rank.best = "expr",
                                   = GO2geneID.interest,
                      gene.sets
                                   = mc.cores)
                      mc.cores
```

```
## Warning: 'cBind' is deprecated.
```

Since R version 3.2.0, base's cbind() should work fine with S4 objects

Warning: 'rBind' is deprecated.

Since R version 3.2.0, base's rbind() should work fine with S4 objects

Note that, in a specific application, the evaluation for different rankings is unnecessary. It is sufficient to set expr to the expression you want to use, then set ranks = NULL and draw.num = 0.

submnetsUH\$condition

[1] "UH"

knitr::kable(submnetsUH\$gene.del)

	0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450
gene.del	0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450

knitr::kable(submnetsUH\$fitness.random, digits=3)

	0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450
F.random.1	1	0.339	0.314	0.035	0.021	0.007	0.026	0.004	0.007	0.00
F.random.2	1	0.231	0.384	0.044	0.042	0.040	0.001	0.031	0.000	0.01
F.random.3	1	0.457	0.143	0.066	0.028	0.003	0.009	0.004	0.000	0.00
F.random.4	1	0.158	0.287	0.075	0.015	0.026	0.033	0.000	0.010	0.00

knitr::kable(submnetsUH\$fitness.ranks\$UH1, digits=3)

	0	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450
expr	1	0.928	0.405	0.405	0.271	0.112	0.029	0.000	0.000	0.000
pkmExpr	1	0.941	0.405	0.404	0.238	0.147	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
relExpr1	1	0.536	0.444	0.378	0.128	0.113	0.027	0.027	0.027	0.000
relExpr2	1	0.477	0.405	0.274	0.248	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.003	0.000
relExpr3	1	0.477	0.405	0.274	0.248	0.043	0.034	0.003	0.000	0.000
revExpr	1	0.158	0.084	0.027	0.013	0.013	0.009	0.007	0.006	0.004
zExpr	1	0.549	0.405	0.307	0.127	0.088	0.027	0.027	0.000	0.000

The yarliSubmnets dataset contains the series of sub-networks built with step = 1 and draw.num = 50, indicating the gene-by-gene removal.

```
data(yarliSubmnets)
str(yarliSubmnets$UH$gene.del)
```

```
## num [1, 1:470] 0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ...
## - attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
## ..$ : chr "gene.del"
## ..$ : chr [1:470] "0" "1" "2" "3" ...
```

dim(yarliSubmnets\$UH\$fitness.random)

[1] 50 470

str(yarliSubmnets\$UH\$fitness.ranks)

```
## List of 3
## $ UH1: num [1:7, 1:470] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
     ..- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
##
     ....$ : chr [1:7] "expr" "pkmExpr" "relExpr1" "relExpr2" ...
    ....$ : chr [1:470] "0" "1" "2" "3" ...
##
   $ UH2: num [1:7, 1:470] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
    ..- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
##
    ....$ : chr [1:7] "expr" "pkmExpr" "relExpr1" "relExpr2" ...
##
    ....$ : chr [1:470] "0" "1" "2" "3" ...
##
   $ UH3: num [1:7, 1:470] 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 ...
     ..- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
##
     ....$ : chr [1:7] "expr" "pkmExpr" "relExpr1" "relExpr2" ...
##
     ....$ : chr [1:470] "0" "1" "2" "3" ...
```

The sub-network construction can be visualized via simulateSubmnet function, which produces a plot *smooth.pdf for each condition.

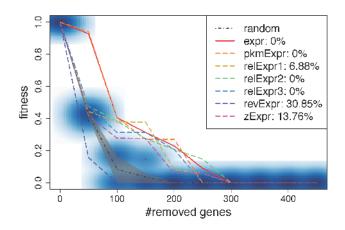


Figure 2: submnetsUH with step = 50 and draw.num = 4

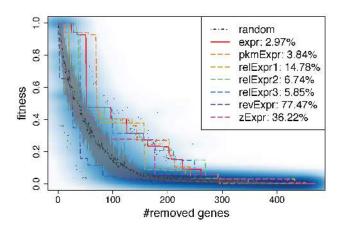


Figure 3: yarliSubmnets with step = 1 and draw.num = 50

The plots below show the fitness of submodels obtained by removing genes following different rankings for the hypoxic $upc2\Delta$ condition.

3.3.6 GO term enrichment

We evaluate the significance of given gene sets with the function metaboGSE and randomization tests. nrand = 1000 is used in the test for the significance of the gene sets against random sets in each individual condition. nperm = 1000 is used in the test for the significance of difference between conditions.

This step is time consuming. The yarliGSE dataset can be loaded instead. Note that yarliGOdata should be also loaded, since the constructed GOdata may not match the pre-built GOdata due to GO.db and topGO version difference.

```
data(yarliGSE)
data(yarliGOdata)
GSE <- yarliGSE
GOdata <- yarliGOdata
str(GSE[["GO:0006696"]], vec.len=2)
## List of 2
## $ res :List of 8
     ..$ GS.ID
                : chr "GO:0006696"
##
     ..$ Description: chr "ergosterol biosynthetic process"
##
     ..$ statistic : num 0.184
##
##
     ..$ p.Cond
                  : Named num [1:7] 0.000104 0.002104 ...
     ... - attr(*, "names")= chr [1:7] "DN" "SH" ...
     ..$ p.Val
                    : num 0.014
##
                    : Named num [1:22] 0.287 0.267 ...
##
     ..$ auc
     ....- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:22] "DN2" "DN3" ...
##
##
     ..$ pw.posthoc :'data.frame': 21 obs. of 4 variables:
##
     .. ..$ cond1
                   : chr [1:21] "DN" "DN" ...
##
     .. ..$ cond2
                   : chr [1:21] "SH" "SN" ...
     ....$ statistic: chr [1:21] "0.17" "0.065" ...
##
     ....$ p.Val : chr [1:21] "0.174825174825175" "0.0689310689310689" ...
##
     ..$ contrast : Named chr [1:3] "((SH,WH),((UH,WN),(DN,(SN,UN))))" "DN,SN,UH,UN,WN" ...
##
     ....- attr(*, "names")= chr [1:3] "newick" "group1" ...
##
##
    $ plot:List of 3
                          : num [1:470, 1:22] 1 1 1 1 1 ...
##
     ..$ gs.fracs
     ...- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
##
     .. .. ..$ : NULL
##
##
     ....$ : chr [1:22] "DN2" "DN3" ...
##
     ..$ xout
                          : num [1:44] 0 0.334 ...
     ..$ gs.fracs.itp.mean: num [1:44, 1:7] 0 0 0 0 0 ...
##
     ...- attr(*, "dimnames")=List of 2
##
     .. .. ..$ : NULL
     ....$ : chr [1:7] "DN" "SH" ...
GSE[["GO:0006696"]]$res$p.Val
```

[1] 0.01398601

[1] 135 7

The single p-values for each condition and FDR of discrepancy between condition are cut off at 0.01 and 0.05, respectively.

```
GS.sig <- GS.sig.all[as.numeric(GS.sig.all$FDR) < 0.05, , drop=F]
GS.sig <- GS.sig[as.numeric(GS.sig$p.Cond) < 0.01, , drop=F]
dim(GS.sig)
```

[1] 46 7

REFERENCES

Kavšček, M., Bhutada, G., Madl, T., Natter, K., 2015. Optimization of lipid production with a genome-scale model of Yarrowia lipolytica. BMC Systems Biology 9, 72.

Maguire, S.L., Wang, C., Holland, L.M., Brunel, F., Neuvéglise, C., Nicaud, J.-M., Zavrel, M., White, T.C., Wolfe, K.H., Butler, G., 2014. Zinc finger transcription factors displaced SREBP proteins as the major Sterol regulators during Saccharomycotina evolution. PLoS genetics 10, e1004076.

Moretti, S., Martin, O., Van Du Tran, T., Bridge, A., Morgat, A., Pagni, M., 2016. MetaNetX/MNXref-reconciliation of metabolites and biochemical reactions to bring together genome-scale metabolic networks. Nucleic Acids Res. 44, D523–526.

Tran, V.D.T., Moretti, S., Coste, A.T., Amorim-Vaz, S., Sanglard, D., Pagni, M., 2018. Condition-specific series of metabolic sub-networks and its application for gene set enrichment analysis. bioRxiv 200964.