

Project Overview

This repository contains code for the filtering of data surrounding the motion of Colloids, given that the data has been extracted via ImageJ and TrackMate. These files aim to provide accurate filtering, as well as reasonable automation.

This document outlines each of the included files, how to use them, and what they do. All code herein uses Python type hinting, which may be unfamiliar. If code modification is needed and this is unfamiliar, refer here (or contact me at jedehmel@mavs.coloradoesa.edu).

These filters should be stable and Windows-compatible, but they have been testing on a machine running Arch Linux. If a bug is found, report it to jedehmel@mavs.coloradoesa.edu.

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simple.py

This is a simple file doing only the bare minimum. This has no error handling, so over-filtering is likely in some circumstances. Additionally, you must manually enter all filepaths by hand. If these are deal-breakers, you should instead use `filterer.py`.

Options

You can change the following items in this file.

- **to_capture** This is the variable to extract. This should be set to `MEAN_STRAIGHT_LINE_SPEED`, but can be changed if need be.
- **filepaths** This is a list containing the filepaths which will be operated upon. For `simple.py`, you must manually enter each filepath.
- **frequencies** This is a list of the frequencies in Hertz which were applied. The first entry should correspond to the first filepath in `filepaths`, and so on.

If these variables are properly set, the protocol listed at the head of `simple.py` will be executed. However, overfiltering is likely to be an issue, and this program does not have the capability to recover from that.

filterer.py

This is the more complicated version of `simple.py`. This program has many more options, and many more advanced features. The options of this program are listed below.

Options

- **folder** This is a string containing the **folder to be filtered**. All files in this folder will be filtered and saved according to the Regular Expressions listed later in the program. These expressions should not need to be modified, but if you are having trouble with name matching they may need to be.
- **do_std_filter_flags** This is a list of boolean values. If the first value in this list is **True**, then the data will be internally filtered by excluding any outliers on the first value of **col_names**- in this case, **'TRACK_DISPLACEMENT'**. An outlier will be deemed **any value which is more than two standard deviations below the mean** for a given statistic. This holds true for the remaining values in the list- The **nth** value applies an internal filter to the **nth** item in **col_names**. A copy of **col_names** can be found for reference just above this option in **filterer.py**. If this value is **None**, none of these internal-standard-deviation filters will be applied.
- **do_iqr_filter_flags** This is identical to **do_std_filter_flags**, but designates an outlier slightly differently. With these flags, an outlier is any value which is more than 1.5 inner-quartile-ranges below the mean. This is marginally better at identifying outliers. As above, if this is **None**, no internal-IQR filters are applied.
- **do_quality_percentile_filter** If this is set to **True**, any particles below the **quality_percentile_filter**-th percentile in track quality (as determined by ImageJ) will be dropped.
- **quality_percentile_filter** If **do_quality_percentile_filter** is **True**, this is the minimal percentile that tracks must possess in order to remain.
- **conversion** This is the coefficient which, when applied, turns a measurement from pixels per frame to micrometer per second.
- **do_speed_thresh** This is a boolean value denoting whether or not to do the Brownian mean-straight-line filtering. If **True**, any value below **brownian_mean + (brownian_standard_deviation * brownian_multiplier)** will be filtered out.
- **brownian_multiplier** This is the number of standard deviations above the Brownian mean straight line speed a track must be in order to survive the filter activated by **do_speed_thresh**.
- **do_displacement_thresh** If **True**, filters out any tracks below the Brownian mean displacement. This should probably be left **False**, since straight line speed is a better measure of mobility.
- **do_linearity_thresh** If **True**, filters out any tracks below the Brownian mean linearity. This should probably be left **False**, since straight line speed is a better measure of mobility.
- **do_duration_thresh** If **True**, filters any tracks with durations (in frames) less than **duration_threshold**. **This should be left True, since shorter tracks introduce more error.**

- **duration_threshold** If **do_duration_thresh** is **True**, this is the minimal number of frames a track must have in order to survive filtering.
- **secondary_save_path** If not **None**, this is a string representing a secondary save location. All files produced by this program will be saved in this location.
- **silent** If **False**, this option causes the program to produce much more detailed output. This is useful to turn off for debugging purposes, but otherwise should be left **True**.
- **do_speed_thresh_fallback** This option controls whether or not to use the **brownian_speed_threshold_fallback** as the Brownian straight line speed for later filtering if no Brownian file can be detected. This should not be necessary (so long as the Regular Expressions are working properly), and should be left **False**.
- **brownian_speed_threshold_fallback** If **do_speed_thresh_fallback** is **True**, this is the Brownian straight line speed which will be used if no Brownian file can be found. This allows the program to keep filtering if no control value is found, but must be fine-tuned to your sample.
- **do_filter_scatter_plots** If this option is **True**, scatter plots detailing which particles were kept and which particles were dropped will be produced and saved. This should be left on.
- **do_extra_filter_scatter_plots** If this option is **True**, extra plots will be produced detailing the filtering process. These plots are less useful.

If there are issues with the automatic detection of files, it is likely that the naming scheme used does not match the existing Regular Expressions. If it is only a few files, you can change the naming scheme. However, if it is many files, the expressions should be modified, and you should contact jedehmel@mavs.coloradomesa.edu or someone else who knows RegEx.

name_fixer.py

This file contains only utilities for automatic name detection via Regular Expressions. This is what allows the other programs to work. You should not need to do anything with this file.

reverser.py

This file contains only utilities for plotting straight line speeds with respect to their crossover frequencies. You should not need to do anything with this file.

The legacy folder

This folder contains old code which is no longer relevant. It can be ignored.

The scripts folder

This folder contains Linux scripts for multi-folder automation. These cannot be run on Windows (except through WSL), and must be specially written for a given dataset. These can most likely be ignored.

Resources

- [TrackMate Manual](#)
- [Regular Expressions in Python](#)
- [Typing in Python](#)
- [Python Style Guide](#)