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#### **Package**

Rtpca 0.0.99

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## 1 Introduction

Thermal proteome profiling (TPP) (Mateus et al., 2020; Savitski et al., 2014) is a mass spectrometry-based, proteome-wide implemention of the cellular thermal shift assay (Molina et al., 2013). It was originally developed to study drug-(off-)target engagement. However, it was realized that profiles of interacting protein pairs appeared more similar than by chance (Tan et al., 2018, Becher et al. (2018)) which was coined as 'thermal proximity co-aggregation' (TPCA) (Tan et al., 2018). The R package Rtpca enables analysis of TPP datasets using the TPCA concept for studying protein-protein interactions and protein complexes and also allows to test for differential protein-protein interactions (PPIs) across different conditions.

Here, we exemplify the analysis based on a dataset by Becher et al. (2018) which provides temperature range TPP (TPP-TR) experiments for synchronized HeLa cells in G1/S cell cycle stage versus M phase.

**Note:** The paper by Becher et al. (2018) also includes 2D-TPP (Becher et al., 2016) data which is in general more sensitive to changes in protein abundance or stability. This data can also be informative on dynamics of protein-protein interactions based on correlations analysis of 2D-TPP profiles of annotated interactors. However, the advantage of TPP-TR data is that one can test for coaggregation which, if significant, is directly indicative of protein-protein interaction or complex assembly.

# 2 Step-by-step walk through the data analysis

First, we need to load the required libraries (these need to be installed as specified in the comments):

```
library(dplyr) # install.packages("dplyr")
library(readxl) # install.packages("readxl")
library(Rtpca) # require(devtools); devtools::install_github("nkurzaw/Rtpca")
library(ggplot2) # install.packages("ggplot2")
```

Then, we download the supplementary data from Becher et al. (2018) which contains the TPP data which we'll be using:

```
if(!file.exists("1-s2.0-S0092867418303854-mmc4.xlsx")){
    download.file(
        url = "https://ars.els-cdn.com/content/image/1-s2.0-S0092867418303854-mmc4.xlsx",
        destfile = "1-s2.0-S0092867418303854-mmc4.xlsx")
}
```

Next, we read in the annotation information of the supplementary table as a data frame

We then extract the data for G1/S:

```
gls_df <- supp_tab_becher_s4 %>%
    filter(cell.cycle == "G1_S") %>%
    dplyr::select(
        gene_name,
        replicates = found.in.reps,
        max_qupm = max.qupm,
        min_qupm = min.qupm,
        matches("mean\\.fc")) %>%
    filter(min_qupm > 3,
        replicates == 3)
```

```
gls_mat <- as.matrix(
    gls_df %>% dplyr::select(dplyr::matches("mean\\.fc"))
    )
    rownames(gls_mat) <- gls_df$gene_name
    attributes(gls_mat)$temperature <- temperature_anno</pre>
```

#### And for M phase:

```
m_df <- supp_tab_becher_s4 %>%
    filter(cell.cycle == "M") %>%
    dplyr::select(
        gene_name,
        replicates = found.in.reps,
        max_qupm = max.qupm,
        min_qupm = min.qupm,
        matches("mean\\.fc")) %>%
    filter(min_qupm > 3,
        replicates == 3)
```

```
m_mat <- as.matrix(
    m_df %>% dplyr::select(dplyr::matches("mean\\.fc"))
    )
    rownames(m_mat) <- m_df$gene_name
    attributes(m_mat)$temperature <- temperature_anno</pre>
```

# 2.1 Multiple testing burden in testing for differential PPIs

In principle we could now go ahead and test all PPIs we can possibly think of for differential coaggregation in the datasets acquired in the two different cell cycle phases, however in practise this is not feasible. The reason behind this is that the larger the annotation of PPIs is, the higher will be our multiple testing burden and the less likely we are to identify true positive PPI changes.

Thus, below we suggest two possible strategies that lead to a significant reduction in tests in comparison to e.g. testing all StringDb (Szklarczyk et al., 2019) annotated PPIs above a certain threshold (even though using a very high threshold (990 or even higher) might also be a viable strategy).

The first approach ('complex-centric approach') first tests for coaggregation of protein com-

plexes separately in the different conditions. All PPIs in significantly coaggregating complexes in any of the conditions are then used in a secound step to test for differential coaggregation across the conditions.

The secound approach ('PPI-centric approach') uses a similar strategy, but tests for significant PPI coaggregation separately in the different conditions and then chooses significant interactions across both conditions for further testing for differential behavior.

# 2.2 Complex-centric analysis

We start by loading an annotation of mammalian complexes by Ori et al. (2016), which comes with the Rtpca package:

```
data("ori_et_al_complexes_df")
```

Then, we perform a TPCA analysis based on complexes only in the G1/S condition:

```
G1S_TPCA <- runTPCA(
      objList = list(g1s_mat),
      complexAnno = ori_et_al_complexes_df)

## Checking input arguments.

##

## Creating distance matrices.

##

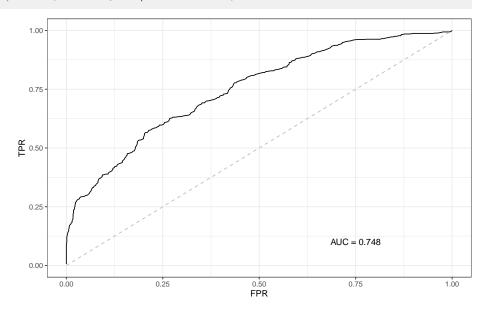
## Testing for complex co-aggregation.

##

## Performning Complex ROC analysis.</pre>
```

We can plot a ROC curve to see how predictive our data is on recovering protein complexes by evoking:

```
plotComplexRoc(G1S_TPCA, computeAUC = TRUE)
```



And we can inspect significantly co-melting protein complexes, like this:

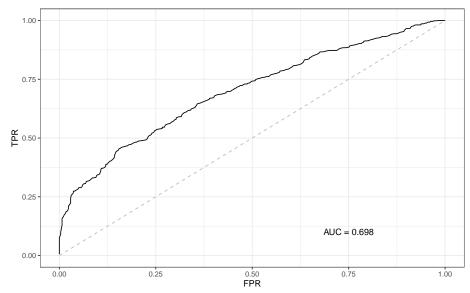
```
G1S_TPCA@tpcaResultTable %>% filter(p_adj < 0.1)</pre>
## # A tibble: 45 x 5
       complex_name
                                               count mean_dist p_value
                                                                                   p_adj
##
       <chr>
                                               <int> <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
## 1 26S Proteasome
                                                  33 0.441 1.74e- 2 7.18e- 2
                                                24 0.341 2.22e-16 3.25e-15
## 2 Nuclear pore complex (NPC)
## 3 BAF complex
                                                  7 0.214 8.00e- 4 8.05e- 3
## 4 Spliceosome-U2
                                                   9 0.333 1.36e- 2 6.48e- 2
## 5 Anaphase promoting complex (APC) 4 0.0948 2.22e-16 3.25e-15
## 6 multi-tRNAsynthase complex 10 0.123 2.22e-16 3.25e-15  
## 7 RNA polymerase III core complex 3 0.189 2.68e- 2 9.81e- 2  
## 8 RNA polymerase II core complex 4 0.190 7.20e- 3 4.29e- 2  
## 9 COP9 signalosome 8 0.236 4.00e- 4 4.29e- 3  
## 10 MCM approximately complex 4 0.236 4.00e- 4 4.29e- 3
## 10 MCM complex
                                                     7 0.190 2.22e-16 3.25e-15
## # ... with 35 more rows
gls_significant_complex_comelting <-</pre>
     filter(G1S_TPCA@tpcaResultTable,p_adj < 0.1)$complex_name</pre>
```

Next, we perform the same analysis for only the M phase condition:

```
M_TPCA <- runTPCA(
    objList = list(m_mat),
    complexAnno = ori_et_al_complexes_df)
## Checking input arguments.
##
## Creating distance matrices.
##
## Testing for complex co-aggregation.
##
## Performning Complex ROC analysis.</pre>
```

We can see that the predictive performance of this dataset for protein complexes is not quite as good as for the G1/S one, but still pretty decent:

```
plotComplexRoc(M_TPCA, computeAUC = TRUE)
```



```
M_TPCA@tpcaResultTable %>% filter(p_adj < 0.1)
## # A tibble: 56 x 5
##
     complex_name
                                         count mean_dist p_value
                                                                    p_adj
##
     <chr>
                                                  <dbl>
                                                           <dbl>
                                                                    <dbl>
                                         <int>
## 1 Nuclear pore complex (NPC)
                                            25
                                                 0.332 5.00e- 4 6.58e- 3
## 2 BAF complex
                                                 0.140 2.22e-16 4.75e-15
## 3 Integrator
                                             7
                                                 0.254 1.29e- 2 5.56e- 2
## 4 NuRD complex
                                             9
                                                 0.254 4.20e- 3 2.48e- 2
## 5 Anaphase promoting complex (APC)
                                                 0.166 1.44e- 2 5.67e- 2
                                             4
## 6 Cohesin complex
                                             7
                                                 0.245 1.00e- 2 5.08e- 2
## 7 Transcription-export (TREX) complex
                                            8 0.312 2.63e- 2 8.49e- 2
## 8 multi-tRNAsynthase complex
                                            10
                                                 0.0811 2.22e-16 4.75e-15
## 9 RANBP9-containing complex
                                            3
                                                 0.0898 3.40e- 3 2.33e- 2
## 10 RNA polymerase II core complex
                                            4
                                                 0.174 1.71e- 2 6.09e- 2
## # ... with 46 more rows
```

Based on the protein complexes which we find significantly assembled in either condition, we will select the protein-protein interactions to test for in a differential TPCA:

We load the annotation of protein-protein interactions within complexes that is composed of PPIs from StringDb (Szklarczyk et al., 2019) and the complex annotation by Ori et al. (2016) and filter it for protein complexes that we have seen to coaggregate in the analysis above.

```
data("ori_et_al_complex_ppis")

filtered_complex_ppis <- ori_et_al_complex_ppis %>%
    filter(complex_name %in% all_significant_complex_comelting)
```

We now run the differential TPCA by evoking:

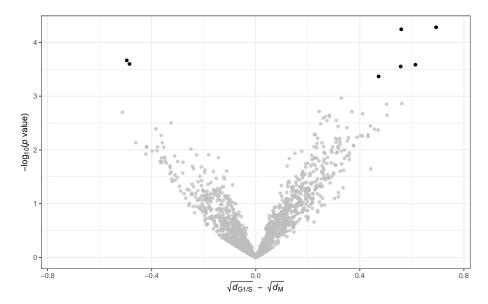
```
set.seed(123)
M_vs_G1S_diff_TPCA <- runDiffTPCA(
    objList = list(g1s_mat),
    contrastList = list(m_mat),
    ctrlCondName = "G1/S",
    contrastCondName = "M",
    ppiAnno = filtered_complex_ppis,
    n = 10^6
)

## Checking input arguments.
## Creating distance matrices.
## Comparing annotated protein-pairs across conditions.
## Comparing random protein-pairs across conditions.
## Generating result table.</pre>
```

This analysis gives us a tpcaResult object:

```
M_vs_G1S_diff_TPCA
## class: tpcaResult
## Slot "ObjList": of class list and length 1
## Slot "ContrastList": of class list and length 1
## Slot "DistMat" with dimension: 2658 2658
## Slot "ContrastDistMat" with dimension: 3086 3086
## Slot "ComplexAnnotation" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "ComplexBackgroundDistributionList" of class: list with length: 0
## Slot "PPiAnnotation" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 4466 5
## Slot "PPiRocTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "PPiRocTableAnno" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "ComplexRocTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "summaryMethod": median
## Slot "distMethod": euclidean
## Slot "tpcaResultTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "diffTpcaResultTable" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 1549 10
```

We can now plot the result in form of a volcano plot:



As a result, we obtain an tpcaResult object which looks like this:

```
M_vs_G1S_diff_TPCA
## class: tpcaResult
## Slot "ObjList": of class list and length 1
## Slot "ContrastList": of class list and length 1
## Slot "DistMat" with dimension: 2658 2658
## Slot "ContrastDistMat" with dimension: 3086 3086
## Slot "ComplexAnnotation" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "ComplexBackgroundDistributionList" of class: list with length: 0
## Slot "PPiAnnotation" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 4466 5
## Slot "PPiRocTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "PPiRocTableAnno" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "ComplexRocTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "summaryMethod": median
## Slot "distMethod": euclidean
## Slot "tpcaResultTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "diffTpcaResultTable" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 1549 10
```

#### We can now inspect the significant results:

```
M_vs_G1S_diff_TPCA@diffTpcaResultTable %>%
   dplyr::select(pair, rssC1_rssC2, p_value, p_adj) %>%
   arrange(p_value)
## # A tibble: 1,549 x 4
##
            rssC1_rssC2
     pair
                              p_value p_adj
                      <dbl> <dbl> <dbl>
##
     <chr>
## 1 NUP205:RANBP2
                     0.834 0.0000523 0.0442
                     0.357 0.0000570 0.0442
## 2 NUP88:RANBP2
## 3 RPS6:RPSA
                     -0.279 0.000216 0.0724
## 4 RPS23:RPSA
                     -0.263 0.000252 0.0724
## 5 NUP93:RANBP2
                     0.679 0.000260 0.0724
## 6 NUP188:RANBP2
                    0.470 0.000280 0.0724
## 7 AAAS:TPR
                    0.260 0.000429 0.0949
```

```
## 8 PSMB1:PSMB4 0.0786 0.00109 0.207

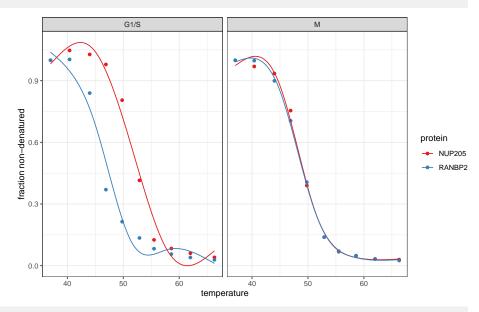
## 9 NUP54:RANBP2 0.710 0.00137 0.207

## 10 NUP107:RANBP2 0.461 0.00141 0.207

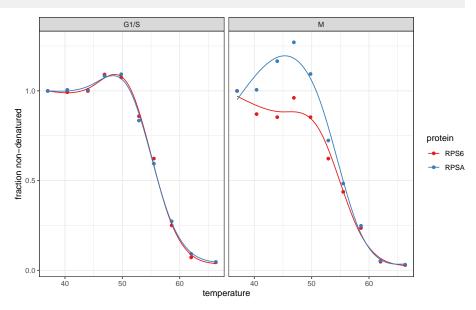
## # ... with 1,539 more rows
```

To validate significant PPIs we can inspect their melting curves:

```
plotPPiProfiles(M_vs_G1S_diff_TPCA, pair = c("NUP205", "RANBP2"))
```



plotPPiProfiles(M\_vs\_G1S\_diff\_TPCA, pair = c("RPS6", "RPSA"))



# 2.3 PPI-centric analysis

For the PPI-centric analysis, we first load PPIs annotated by StringDb (Szklarczyk et al., 2019):

```
data("string_ppi_df")
string_ppi_975_df <- string_ppi_df %>%
    filter(combined_score >= 975)
```

Then we start our analysis based on PPIs:

```
G1S_PPI_TPCA <- runTPCA(
    objList = list(g1s_mat),
    ppiAnno = string_ppi_975_df,
    nSamp = 10^6)

## Checking input arguments.

##

## Creating distance matrices.

##

## Testing for complex co-aggregation.

##

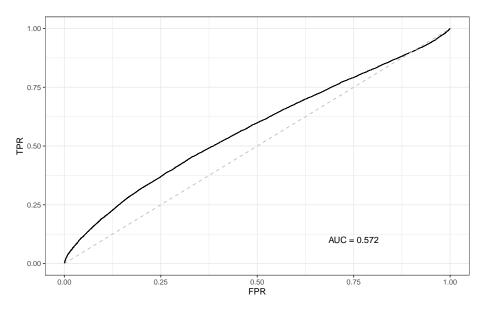
## Performing PPi ROC analysis.</pre>
```

As for the complex-centric analysis we get back a tpcaResult object:

```
G1S_PPI_TPCA
## class: tpcaResult
## Slot "ObjList": of class list and length 1
## Slot "ContrastList": of class list and length 0
## Slot "DistMat" with dimension: 2658 2658
## Slot "ContrastDistMat" with dimension: 0 0
## Slot "ComplexAnnotation" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 16460 3
## Slot "ComplexBackgroundDistributionList" of class: list with length: 1
## Slot "PPiAnnotation" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 39176 4
## Slot "PPiRocTable" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 3531153 3
## Slot "PPiRocTableAnno" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 3531153 2
## Slot "ComplexRocTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
## Slot "summaryMethod": median
## Slot "distMethod": euclidean
## Slot "tpcaResultTable" of class: tbl_df tbl data.frame with dim: 8230 5
## Slot "diffTpcaResultTable" of class: data.frame with dim: 0 0
```

And we can also inspect a ROC curve for this analysis:

```
plotPPiRoc(G1S_PPI_TPCA, computeAUC = TRUE)
```



To inspect which PPIs coaggregated significantly, we can evoke:

```
G1S_PPI_TPCA@tpcaResultTable %>% filter(p_adj < 0.1) %>% arrange(p_value)
## # A tibble: 25 x 5
     complex_name count mean_dist p_value
                                            p_adj
                                            <dbl>
##
     <chr>
                  <int>
                          <dbl>
                                   <dbl>
## 1 EIF3D:EIF3E
                   2
                          0.0165 2.22e-16 3.05e-13
                     2 0
## 2 HSPA1A:HSPA1B
                                 2.22e-16 3.05e-13
## 3 IARS:LARS
                      2
                          0.0266 2.22e-16 3.05e-13
## 4 IARS:RARS
                      2
                          0.0227 2.22e-16 3.05e-13
## 5 LAMA5:LAMC1
                     2 0.0262 2.22e-16 3.05e-13
## 6 MCM2:MCM4
                     2 0.0220 2.22e-16 3.05e-13
## 7 CANX:GANAB
                     2 0.0298 1.00e- 4 5.88e- 2
## 8 CCT2:CCT3
                      2
                          0.0331 1.00e- 4 5.88e- 2
                     2
## 9 ERLIN1:ERLIN2
                          0.0301 1.00e- 4 5.88e- 2
## 10 EX0C2:EX0C8
                     2
                          0.0328 1.00e- 4 5.88e- 2
## # ... with 15 more rows
```

And we can run the same analysis for the M-phase dataset:

```
M_PPI_TPCA <- runTPCA(
    objList = list(m_mat),
    ppiAnno = string_ppi_975_df,
    nSamp = 10^6)

## Checking input arguments.

##

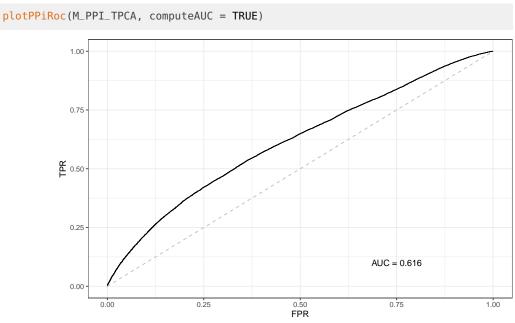
## Creating distance matrices.

##

## Testing for complex co-aggregation.

##

## Performing PPi ROC analysis.</pre>
```



```
M_PPI_TPCA@tpcaResultTable %>% filter(p_adj < 0.1) %>% arrange(p_value)
## # A tibble: 5 x 5
    complex_name count mean_dist p_value
                                             p_adj
##
    <chr>
                  <int>
                            <dbl>
                                  <dbl>
                                             <dbl>
## 1 AP2A1:AP2M1
                           0.0198 2.22e-16 4.52e-13
                    2
## 2 CYFIP1:NCKAP1
                      2
                           0.0188 2.22e-16 4.52e-13
## 3 HADHA:HADHB
                      2
                           0.0198 2.22e-16 4.52e-13
## 4 HSPA1A:HSPA1B
                      2
                           0
                                  2.22e-16 4.52e-13
## 5 NAE1:UBA3
                      2
                           0.0127 2.22e-16 4.52e-13
```

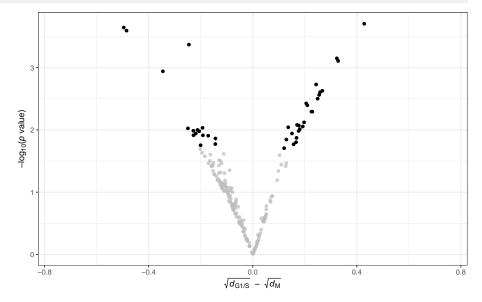
By now combining the significantly found coaggregating PPIs (we are a bit less stringent on the adjusted p-value filter here to not reduce the space of possible differential PPIs too strongly), we can define a list of PPIs which we can use to test for differential PPIs across the two cell cycle phases:

```
ppis_to_test_diff <- unique(
    c(filter(G1S_PPI_TPCA@tpcaResultTable, p_adj < 0.2)$complex_name,
        filter(M_PPI_TPCA@tpcaResultTable, p_adj < 0.2)$complex_name)
)

filtered_string_ppis <- string_ppi_975_df %>%
    filter(pair %in% ppis_to_test_diff)
```

Based on these PPIs we can now again run a differential TPCA:

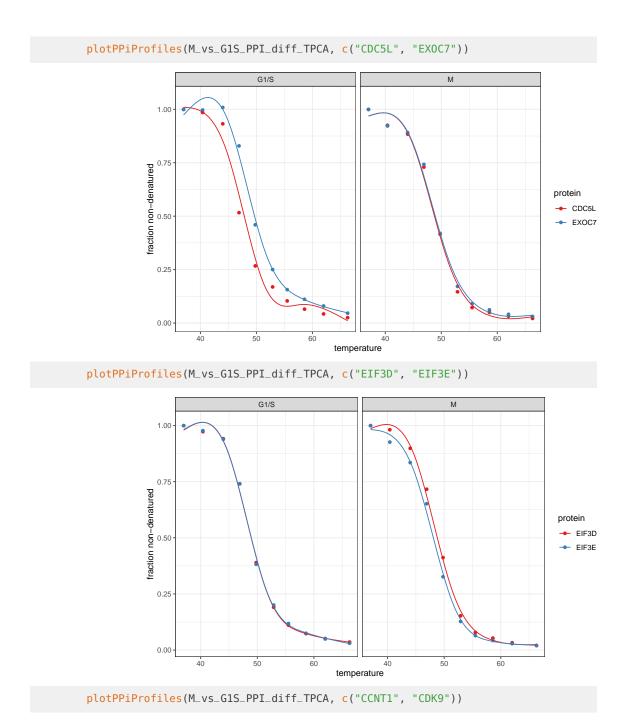
```
M_vs_G1S_PPI_diff_TPCA <- runDiffTPCA(
    objList = list(g1s_mat),
    contrastList = list(m_mat),
    ctrlCondName = "G1/S",
    contrastCondName = "M",
    ppiAnno = filtered_string_ppis,</pre>
```

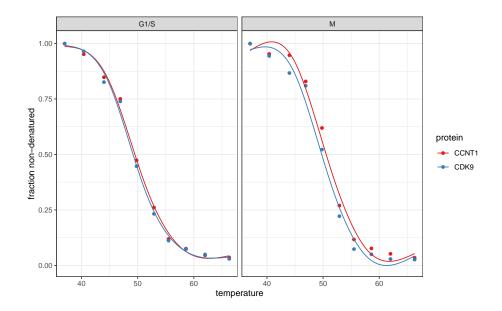


Again, we can now inspect the significant results:

```
M_vs_G1S_PPI_diff_TPCA@diffTpcaResultTable %>%
   dplyr::select(pair, rssC1_rssC2, p_value, p_adj) %>%
   arrange(p_value)
## # A tibble: 207 x 4
##
    <chr>
             ##
0.0666 0.000708 0.0269
## 5 RPL10A:RPS16
## 6 CDC73:RNF20
                0.0727 0.000779 0.0269
## 7 PPID:PTGES3
                -0.0991 0.00114 0.0338
## 8 AIMP1:RARS
                 0.0279 0.00186 0.0482
## 9 RPS23:RPS4X
                 0.0443 0.00235 0.0512
## 10 PSMA6:PSMA7
                 0.0395 0.00247 0.0512
## # ... with 197 more rows
```

And again we plot some of the significantly differentially coaggregating protein pairs:





# 3 Conclusion

Rtpca offers user-friendly exploration of TPP datasets for PPIs and allows to assess significantly changing PPIs across different conditions. We exemplify here, how this can be done using the TPP dataset of different phases of the human cell cycle (Becher et al., 2018) from which we recover several differentially coaggregating protein pairs which are known to change during these phases.

A challenge in the analysis remains the high numbers of hypothesis tests that have to be performed which require multiple testing adjustment and are limited in sensitivity. In the future methods such as *independent hypothesis weighting* (IHW) (Ignatiadis et al., 2016), exploiting covariates such as unique peptides used for quantification, could be used to combat this problem and further improve sensitivity of the approach.

```
sessionInfo()
## R version 3.6.1 (2019-07-05)
## Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin15.6.0 (64-bit)
## Running under: macOS Mojave 10.14.6
## Matrix products: default
         /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.6/Resources/lib/libRblas.0.dylib
## LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.6/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib
##
## locale:
## [1] en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8/en_US.UTF-8
## attached base packages:
## [1] parallel stats
                          graphics grDevices utils
                                                       datasets methods
## [8] base
## other attached packages:
## [1] ggplot2_3.2.1
                          Rtpca_0.0.99
                                             tidyr_1.0.0
```

```
## [4] Biobase_2.44.0
                                        BiocGenerics_0.30.0 readxl_1.3.1
## [7] dplyr_0.8.3
                                        BiocStyle_2.12.0
## loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
## [1] Rcpp_1.0.2 RColorBrewer_1.1-2 plyr_1.8.4
## [4] cellranger_1.1.0 pillar_1.4.2 compiler_3.6.1
## [7] BiocManager_1.30.9 tools_3.6.1 zeallot_0.1.0
## [10] digest_0.6.22 evaluate_0.14 tibble_2.1.3
## [13] lifecycle_0.1.0 gtable_0.3.0 pkgconfig_2.0.3
## [16] rlang_0.4.1 cli_1.1.0 yaml_2.2.0
## [19] xfun_0.10 withr_2.1.2 stringr_1.4.0
## [22] knitr_1.25 pROC_1.15.3 vctrs_0.2.0
## [25] grid_3.6.1
## [28] R6 2.4.0
                                       tidyselect_0.2.5 glue_1.3.1
## [28] R6_2.4.0
                                       fansi_0.4.0 fdrtool_1.2.15
## [31] rmarkdown_1.16 bookdown_0.14 farver_2.0.3
## [34] purrr_0.3.3 magrittr_1.5 ellipsis_0.3.0
## [34] purrr_0.3.3 magrittr_1.5 ellipsis_0.3 
## [37] splines_3.6.1 backports_1.1.5 scales_1.1.0
## [40] htmltools_0.4.0 assertthat_0.2.1 colorspace_1.4-1
## [43] labeling_0.3
                                        utf8_{-}1.1.4
                                                                    stringi_1.4.3
## [46] lazyeval_0.2.2
                                        munsell_0.5.0
                                                                    crayon_1.3.4
```

## References

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