# DASE user's guide

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## Introduction

Super enhancers (SEs) were proposed as broad regulatory domains on genome, usually spanning a minimum of thousands of base pairs and consisting of multiple constitute enhancers. The constitute enhancers work together as a unit, instead of separately, to facilitate high enhancer activity. Aberrant SE activities, which are critical to understand disease mechanisms, could be raised by the alterations of one or more of their

constitute enhancers. However, the state-of-art binary strategy in calling differential SEs only relies on overall activity changes, neglecting the local dynamics of constitute enhancers within SEs. DASE uses a weighted spline model to identify differential SEs from two conditions by accounting for the combinatorial effects of constitute enhancers weighted with their activities and locations (internal dynamics). In addition to overall changes, our medthod finds four novel types (Shortened/lengthened, shifted, hollowed and other complex scenarios) of differential SEs pointing to the structural differences within SEs.

## **Getting Started**

Load the package in R

```
library(DASE)
```

## **Preparing Inputs**

DASE requires the following input files:

- 1. enhancer bed file: a merged enhancer bed file includes the enhancer peaks of all samples.
- 2. SE bed file: a merged SE bed file includes the SE regions of all samples.
- 3. Coverage files: can either be the path of bam/bw files for each condition and replicate, or just an enhancer count table of all conditions and replicates.

Following are the examples of enhancer and SE bed files

#### Enhancer bed file

The enhancer file can be any format of bed files, just make sure the first 6 columns contains the information of "chr", "start", "end", "name", "score", and "strand". Here is an example of bed files with only 6 columns.

#### SE bed file

The SE file can be any format of bed files, just make sure the first 6 columns contains the information of "chr", "start", "end", "name", "score", and "strand". Here is an example of bed files with only 6 columns.

### Basic usage of DASE

In this section, we use DASE to find differential SEs with internal dynamics by comparing human chromosome 21 of two cancer cell lines (K562 and MCF7). Here, we focus on the basic usage of running DASE with different coverage input files (BAM, BigWig, and enhancer raw count table). This default setting will not include enhancer blacklist which indicates regions that don't have enhancers. In addition, under default setting, DASE will run permutation 10 times to get a significant threshold to identify SE categories. More additional features can be found later in the "Additional options" section.

#### Run DASE with BAM or BigWig coverage files

This section shows you how to use DASE with BAM or BigWig coverage files. The BAM or BigWig files are for the reads count of enhancers in different samples. DASE uses *featureCounts* to get the enhancer abundance of each sample with BAM file and *rtracklayer* with BigWig file. The first step is to get the path of BAM or BigWig file for each samples. Then with the imported enhancer and SE region files, we can run DASE as follow.

```
# path of BAM file for each condition
s1_r1_bam <- system.file("extdata","K562_1_chr21.bam",package="DASE")</pre>
s1_r2_bam <- system.file("extdata","K562_2_chr21.bam",package="DASE")
s2_r1_bam <- system.file("extdata", "MCF7_1_chr21.bam", package="DASE")
s2_r2_bam <- system.file("extdata", "MCF7_2_chr21.bam", package="DASE")
# running DASE with BAM files
se region$V2
#> [1] 21145883 43767083 39347640 14737140 29634547 43880647 37356716 29298197
#> [9] 44011688 33540092 46313423 35190255 45402658 38784287 26106273 32339254
#> [17] 36112381 40301259 41750932 42359892 43709697 15191816 34863697 36186546
#> [25] 40366721 38129413 38903295 37256034 43331067 42513154 39311788 41677251
#> [33] 21145608 39347063 14735763 29634779 37356756 29298879 44011626 38111785
#> [41] 29017628 33539902 35198100 38784730 43710703 40312662 32338971 34863760
#> [49] 40366752 38129873 41677601
test_1 <- SEfilter(se_in = se_region)</pre>
DASE_out <- DASE(se_region,enhancer_region,</pre>
                 s1_r1_bam=s1_r1_bam,s1_r2_bam=s1_r2_bam,
                 s2_r1_bam=s2_r1_bam,s2_r2_bam=s2_r2_bam)
#> [1] "Step 1: merge and filter SE"
#> [1] "Step 2: calculate log2FC of constituent enhancer using Deseq2"
```

```
#>
               #>
#>
               /___/\__//__//_/
#>
       _____
      Rsubread 2.4.3
#> ||
                                                    11
#> //
                                                    11
           Input files : 1 BAM file
#> ||
                                                    11
#> ||
                    K562_1_chr21.bam
                                                    11
#> ||
                                                    11
#> ||
                                                    11
            Paired-end : no
#> ||
       Count read pairs : no
                                                    11
#> ||
            Annotation : R data.frame
                                                    11
#> ||
       Dir for temp files : .
                                                    11
#> ||
              Threads : 1
                                                    11
#> //
               Level : meta-feature level
                                                    11
#> ||
      Multimapping reads : counted
                                                    11
#> // Multi-overlapping reads : not counted
                                                    11
#> ||
     Min overlapping bases : 1
                                                    11
                                                    11
#> ||
#> ||
                                                    11
                                                    11
#> // Load annotation file .Rsubread_UserProvidedAnnotation_pid27913 ...
#> ||
     Features : 1353
                                                    11
#> ||
                                                    11
    Meta-features : 1353
#> ||
                                                    11
     Chromosomes/contigs : 1
#> ||
                                                    11
#> || Process BAM file K562_1_chr21.bam...
                                                    11
#> // Single-end reads are included.
                                                    11
#> ||
     Total alignments : 138349
                                                    11
#> ||
     Successfully assigned alignments: 59009 (42.7%)
                                                    11
#> ||
     Running time : 0.00 minutes
                                                    11
#> ||
                                                    11
#> // Write the final count table.
                                                    11
                                                    11
#> // Write the read assignment summary.
#> ||
                                                    11
#>
#>
#>
                /___/ / ___/ / ___/ / ___/ / / / ___/
#>
               #>
#>
               #>
       -----/ \__//__//_ \__/_/
#>
#>
      Rsubread 2.4.3
#>
```

```
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
            Input files : 1 BAM file
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
                      K562_2_chr21.bam
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
             Paired-end : no
                                                         11
       Count read pairs : no
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
            Annotation: R data.frame
#> ||
    Dir for temp files : .
                                                         11
#> ||
               Threads : 1
                                                         11
#> ||
                Level : meta-feature level
                                                         11
#> // Multimapping reads : counted
                                                         11
                                                         11
#> // Multi-overlapping reads : not counted
#> // Min overlapping bases : 1
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
#> //==============================||
#> ||
                                                         11
#> // Load annotation file .Rsubread_UserProvidedAnnotation_pid27913 ...
                                                         11
                                                         11
#> || Features : 1353
#> || Meta-features : 1353
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
    Chromosomes/contigs : 1
#> ||
                                                         11
#> // Process BAM file K562_2_chr21.bam...
                                                         11
#> // Single-end reads are included.
                                                         11
#> || Total alignments : 64594
                                                         11
#> ||
    Successfully assigned alignments: 30193 (46.7%)
                                                         11
#> // Running time : 0.00 minutes
                                                         11
                                                         11
#> ||
#> // Write the final count table.
                                                         11
#> // Write the read assignment summary.
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
#>
#>
#>
       #>
#>
#>
#>
#>
       Rsubread 2.4.3
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
            Input files : 1 BAM file
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
                      MCF7\_1\_chr21.bam
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
                                                         11
#> ||
            Paired-end: no
                                                         11
#> ||
        Count read pairs : no
                                                         11
```

```
#> ||
        Annotation: R data.frame
#> ||
                                                        11
    Dir for temp files : .
#> ||
               Threads : 1
                                                        11
#> ||
                Level : meta-feature level
                                                        11
#> // Multimapping reads : counted
                                                        11
#> // Multi-overlapping reads : not counted
                                                        11
#> // Min overlapping bases : 1
                                                        11
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
                                                        11
#> // Load annotation file .Rsubread UserProvidedAnnotation pid27913 ...
                                                        11
#> ||
     Features : 1353
#> ||
                                                        11
    Meta-features : 1353
#> ||
    Chromosomes/contigs : 1
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
#> // Process BAM file MCF7_1_chr21.bam...
                                                        11
#> // Single-end reads are included.
                                                        11
#> ||
    Total alignments: 891326
                                                        11
#> ||
    Successfully assigned alignments: 415772 (46.6%)
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
    Running time : 0.01 minutes
#> ||
                                                        11
                                                        11
#> // Write the final count table.
#> // Write the read assignment summary.
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
#> \|-----//
#>
#>
#>
                #>
#>
                #>
       #>
      Rsubread 2.4.3
#>
#>
#> ||
                                                        11
#> ||
           Input files : 1 BAM file
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
#> ||
                      MCF7_2_chr21.bam
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
#> ||
            Paired-end : no
#> ||
       Count read pairs : no
                                                        11
#> ||
            Annotation: R data.frame
                                                        11
#> ||
      Dir for temp files : .
                                                        11
#> ||
               Threads : 1
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
                Level : meta-feature level
                                                        11
#> ||
      Multimapping reads : counted
                                                        11
#> // Multi-overlapping reads : not counted
#> ||
     Min overlapping bases : 1
                                                        11
#> ||
                                                        11
```

```
#> ||
                                                                          11
#> // Load annotation file .Rsubread_UserProvidedAnnotation_pid27913 ...
                                                                          11
#> ||
      Features : 1353
                                                                          11
                                                                          11
#> ||
      Meta-features : 1353
#> || Chromosomes/contigs : 1
                                                                          11
#> ||
                                                                          11
#> // Process BAM file MCF7_2_chr21.bam...
                                                                          11
#> // Single-end reads are included.
                                                                          11
#> || Total alignments : 273346
                                                                          11
#> ||
      Successfully assigned alignments: 105155 (38.5%)
                                                                          11
#> ||
      Running time : 0.00 minutes
                                                                          11
#> ||
                                                                          11
#> // Write the final count table.
                                                                          11
                                                                          11
#> // Write the read assignment summary.
                                                                          11
#> ||
#> \\=========
#>
#> [1] "Step 3: bs-spline fit log2FC"
#> [1] "Processing total of 34 SEs"
#> [1] "Step 4: permutation to get log2FC cutoff"
#> [1] "Permutation: 1"
#> [1] "Permutation: 2"
#> [1] "Permutation: 3"
#> [1] "Permutation: 4"
#> [1] "Permutation: 5"
#> [1] "Permutation: 6"
#> [1] "Permutation: 7"
#> [1] "Permutation: 8"
#> [1] "Permutation: 9"
#> [1] "Permutation: 10"
#> [1] "Step 5: pattern segments process"
#> [1] "Step 6: final category estimate"
```

Run DASE with BigWig files.

```
#> [1] "Permutation: 1"

#> [1] "Permutation: 2"

#> [1] "Permutation: 3"

#> [1] "Permutation: 4"

#> [1] "Permutation: 5"

#> [1] "Permutation: 6"

#> [1] "Permutation: 6"

#> [1] "Permutation: 7"

#> [1] "Permutation: 8"

#> [1] "Permutation: 9"

#> [1] "Permutation: 10"

#> [1] "Step 5: pattern segments process"

#> [1] "Step 6: final category estimate"
```

#### Run DASE with enhancer raw count table

This section shows you how to use DASE with enhancer raw count table. The format of count table is shown bellow. Here we don't need BAM or BigWig files, because we already have the enhancer counts for each sample. We can run DASE as follow. This step will skip featureCount.

```
# read enhancer count table
enhancer_count_path <- system.file("extdata","chr21_enhancer_count.txt",package="DASE")</pre>
enhancer_count <- read.table(enhancer_count_path,sep="\t",header=T)</pre>
head(enhancer_count)
                  enhancer S1_r1 S1_r2 S2_r1 S2_r2
#> 1 chr21_5128185_5128529
                            12
                                    2
                                          21
#> 2 chr21_5240507_5241144
                              29
                                    20
                                          15
                                                 1
#> 3 chr21_5241953_5242568
                            33
                                    29
                                         11
                                                 2
#> 4 chr21_5242733_5243984 160 68 12
                                                 7
#> 5 chr21_5244027_5244554
                            52
                                    29
                                          13
                                                 4
#> 6 chr21_5244634_5245418
                             59
                                    19
                                          13
                                                 1
# run DASE
DASE out count <- DASE(se in=se region, e in=enhancer region,
                 enhancer_count_table=enhancer_count)
#> [1] "Step 1: merge and filter SE"
#> [1] "Step 2: calculate log2FC of constituent enhancer using Deseq2"
#> [1] "Step 3: bs-spline fit log2FC"
#> [1] "Processing total of 34 SEs"
#> [1] "Step 4: permutation to get log2FC cutoff"
#> [1] "Permutation: 1"
#> [1] "Permutation: 2"
#> [1] "Permutation: 3"
#> [1] "Permutation: 4"
#> [1] "Permutation: 5"
#> [1] "Permutation: 6"
#> [1] "Permutation: 7"
#> [1] "Permutation: 8"
#> [1] "Permutation: 9"
#> [1] "Permutation: 10"
#> [1] "Step 5: pattern segments process"
#> [1] "Step 6: final category estimate"
```

## Interpretation of DASE output files

The output of DASE is a list with multiple data types including:

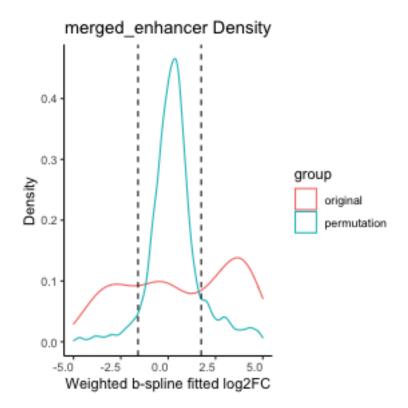
- 1. lfc\_shrink: a shrinking lfc object from DESeq2, it can be used to get a MA plot
- 2. cutoff: significant threshold of fitted log2 fold change.
- 3. density\_plot: a density plot of permutation and original fitted  $\log 2$  fold change, if permut=T.
- 4. boxplot: a boxplot of final SE categories
- 5. se category: a data frame contains final SE categories
- 6. pattern list: a list contains figures of each SE's pattern
- 7. se\_fit: a data frame contains DESeq2 output and spline-fitted log2 fold change of all constitute enhancers

#### Significant threshold

We use permutation of spline fitted  $\log 2$  fold change to decide the significant threshold. Under default settings, DASE will run permutation 10 times with SEpermut function. If don't use permutation, the default significant threshold is -1 and 1. You can use your own threshold with  $cutoff\_v$  parameter. Please refer to function manual or Additional options section.

```
# Significant threshold
DASE_out_count$cutoff
#> [1] -1.592023 1.743180

# Permutation density plot
DASE_out_count$density_plot
```



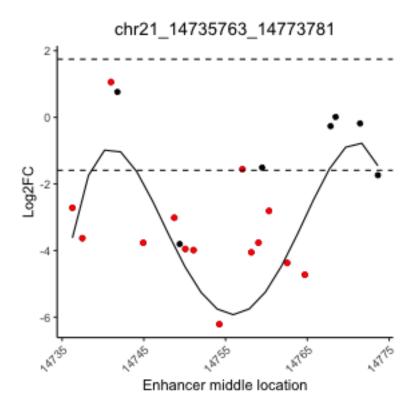
Black lines indicates the threshold which is obtained by the inflection point.

#### Super-enhancer internal dynamic categories

SE\_category, pattern\_list, se\_fit are the output related to SE internal dynamics.

```
# se_categories
head(DASE_out_count$se_category)
                se merge name total width number enhancer category direction
#> 1 chr21_14735763_14773781
                                 2415.972
                                                             Other
                                                       21
                                                                         none
#> 59 chr21_45402658_45478681
                                 1756.618
                                                       18
                                                             Other
                                                                         none
#> 32 chr21_38784287_38854382
                                                       21
                                 2417.733
                                                             Other
                                                                        none
#> 52 chr21_43767083_43811262
                                  816.333
                                                       13
                                                             Other
                                                                         none
#> 42 chr21_40366721_40390218
                                 6696.416
                                                        5 Overall
                                 4321.917
#> 12 chr21_29634547_29660543
                                                       11 Overall
      non_mid_percent
                         mean FC rank
#> 1
                0.958 -2.5822940
#> 59
                0.712 0.9187119
                                    2
#> 32
                0.510 1.1477844
                                    3
#> 52
                0.347 0.2621700
                                    4
#> 42
                1.000 5.1182229
                                    1
                1.000 -4.8675004
#> 12
```

```
# an example of one sample
DASE_out_count$pattern_list[[1]]
```



This figure shows the constitute enhancer patterns within SE "chr21\_34863697\_34890719" which identified as *Shortened*. Black line is the fitted log2 fold change curve, dots indicate constitute enhancers. Red dots indicate the constitute enhancers with large weights.

```
# example of se_fit
head(DASE_out_count$se_fit)
                                                  end width S1 r1 S1 r2 S2 r1
                 e merge name
                                chr
                                       start
#> 1: chr21 14751738 14756723 chr21 14751738 14756723
                                                       4986
                                                              463
                                                                    471
                                                                           48
#> 2: chr21_14760734_14764325 chr21 14760734 14764325
                                                       3592
                                                              254
                                                                    303
                                                                           91
#> 3: chr21_14750604_14751557 chr21 14750604 14751557
                                                        954
                                                               61
                                                                     49
                                                                           14
#> 4: chr21_14749603_14750540 chr21 14749603 14750540
                                                        938
                                                               52
                                                                     46
                                                                           14
#> 5: chr21_14757516_14758773 chr21 14757516 14758773
                                                       1258
                                                               63
                                                                     33
                                                                           11
#> 6: chr21 14737131 14737833 chr21 14737131 14737833
                                                        703
                                                               35
                                                                           13
                                                                     31
      S2_r2 S1_r1_norm S1_r2_norm S2_r1_norm S2_r2_norm baseMean log2FoldChange
#> 1:
         13 600.60927 1445.38402 11.401371 14.391655 517.94658
                                                                       -6.333719
#> 2:
         30 329.49191 929.83303 21.615100 33.211512 328.53789
                                                                       -4.540646
#> 3:
              79.12995 150.36904
                                    3.325400
                                               9.963453 60.69696
         9
                                                                        -4.262678
#> 4:
          8
              67.45504 141.16277
                                    3.325400
                                               8.856403
                                                         55.19990
                                                                        -4.238023
#> 5:
          7
              81.72437
                       101.26894
                                    2.612814
                                               7.749353
                                                         48.33887
                                                                       -4.337614
#> 6:
              45.40243
                         95.13143
                                    3.087871
                                               6.642302 37.56601
                                                                        -3.965940
          lfcSE
                                                padj baseMean.1 log2FoldChange.1
                      stat
                                 pvalue
#> 1: 0.6199495 -10.216508 1.672580e-24 2.263000e-22 517.94658
                                                                       -6.211757
#> 2: 0.6328657 -7.174738 7.244567e-13 1.849415e-11
                                                      328.53789
                                                                       -4.370066
#> 3: 0.7638403 -5.580588 2.397068e-08 2.206281e-07
                                                                       -3.986558
                                                       60.69696
#> 4: 0.7751509 -5.467353 4.568069e-08 4.039606e-07
                                                       55.19990
                                                                       -3.952824
#> 5: 0.7788941
                -5.568940 2.562936e-08 2.327284e-07
                                                       48.33887
                                                                        -4.053649
#> 6: 0.8182816 -4.846669 1.255515e-06 8.368035e-06
                                                       37.56601
                                                                        -3.630087
        lfcSE.1
                   pvalue.1
                                   padj.1
                                                    se_merge_name
                                                                     s1_mean
#> 1: 0.6280041 1.672580e-24 2.263000e-22 chr21_14735763_14773781 1022.99665
#> 2: 0.6463209 7.244567e-13 1.849415e-11 chr21 14735763 14773781
                                                                   629.66247
#> 3: 0.8052662 2.397068e-08 2.206281e-07 chr21_14735763_14773781
                                                                   114.74949
#> 4: 0.8168441 4.568069e-08 4.039606e-07 chr21_14735763_14773781
                                                                   104.30890
#> 5: 0.8223654 2.562936e-08 2.327284e-07 chr21_14735763_14773781
                                                                    91.49666
#> 6: 0.8652202 1.255515e-06 8.368035e-06 chr21_14735763_14773781
                                                                    70.26693
                max\_mean\ width\_mid
                                      percent
                                                cumsum spline_bs
#> 1: 12.896513 1022.99665 14754.23 42.343075 42.34308 -5.795081
#> 2: 27.413306 629.66247 14762.53 26.062496 68.40557 -4.140977
#> 3: 6.644427 114.74949 14751.08 4.749621 73.15519 -4.923321
#> 4: 6.090902 104.30890 14750.07 4.317472 77.47266 -4.501228
                 91.49666 14758.15 3.787158 81.25982 -5.704292
#> 5: 5.181083
#> 6: 4.865087
                  70.26693 14737.48 2.908434 84.16826 -2.311289
```

## Additional options

In addition of default parameters, DASE can take an blacklist file which contains the regions cannot be identified as enhancers. DASE also can take a customized blacklist region with *custom\_range* parameter. We have included a blacklist file from ENCODE (accession ID: ENCFF356LFX) in our package.

```
#> 4 chr1 9574580 9574997
#> 5 chr1 32043823 32044203
#> 6 chr1 33818964 33819344
```

There is also an option whether to choice permutation or not. The default setting of DASE will run permutation 10 times. You can turn it off with permut=F. When there is no permutation, the default threshold is -1 and 1. You can chose any threshold you like with  $cutoff_v$  parameter. However, defining customized threshold is only available under permut=F.

#### DASE with enhancer blacklist region

Example of using blacklist options. Here, we focus on using DASE with enhancer count table.

```
# run DASE with blacklist file and customized region
DASE_out_bl <- DASE(se_in=se_region,e_in=enhancer_region,bl_file = blacklist_region,
                 custom_range = c("chr21:14735763-29634779","chr21:33539902-43710703"),
                 enhancer_count_table=enhancer_count)
#> [1] "Step 1: merge and filter SE"
#> [1] "Step 2: calculate log2FC of constituent enhancer using Deseg2"
#> [1] "Step 3: bs-spline fit log2FC"
#> [1] "Processing total of 8 SEs"
#> [1] "Step 4: permutation to get log2FC cutoff"
#> [1] "Permutation: 1"
#> [1] "Permutation: 2"
#> [1] "Permutation: 3"
#> [1] "Permutation: 4"
#> [1] "Permutation: 5"
#> [1] "Permutation: 6"
#> [1] "Permutation: 7"
#> [1] "Permutation: 8"
#> [1] "Permutation: 9"
#> [1] "Permutation: 10"
#> [1] "Step 5: pattern segments process"
#> [1] "Step 6: final category estimate"
```

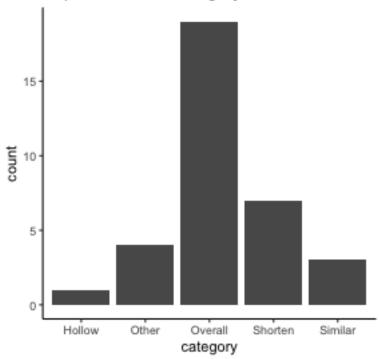
You can find that the number of SEs (8) in "DASE\_out\_bl" is less than "DASE\_out\_count" which is without blacklist region (34).

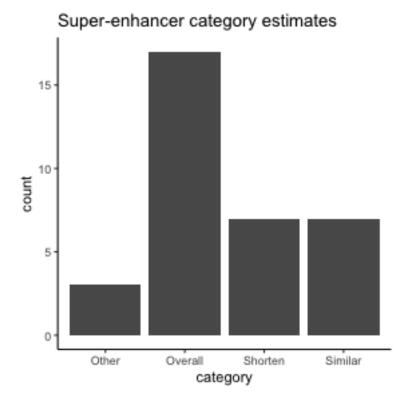
#### DASE with no permutation

Some examples of using permutation options. Here, we focus on using DASE with enhancer count table.

```
#> [1] "Permutation: 2"
#> [1] "Permutation: 3"
#> [1] "Step 5: pattern segments process"
#> [1] "Step 6: final category estimate"
# run DASE with no permutation and customized threshold
DASE_out_p <- DASE(se_in=se_region,e_in=enhancer_region,permut = F,</pre>
                 cutoff_v = c(-3,3),enhancer_count_table=enhancer_count)
#> [1] "Step 1: merge and filter SE"
#> [1] "Step 2: calculate log2FC of constituent enhancer using Deseq2"
#> [1] "Step 3: bs-spline fit log2FC"
#> [1] "Processing total of 34 SEs"
#> [1] "Step 4: permutation to get log2FC cutoff"
#> [1] "Step 5: pattern segments process"
#> [1] "Step 6: final category estimate"
# boxplots of different threshold
DASE_out_count$boxplot
DASE_out_p$boxplot
```

## Super-enhancer category estimates





Because we have a larger threshold (bottom plot), more SEs are identified as similar category than before (top plot).

## Citation

If you used DASE, please cite our paper: [https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.09.25.461810v1]