Package 'QuICSeedR'

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Title Analyze Data for Fluorophore-Assisted Seed Amplification Assays
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Description A toolkit for analysis and visualization of data from fluorophore-assisted seed amplification assays, such as Real-Time Quaking-Induced Conversion (RT-QuIC) and Fluorophore-Assisted Protein Misfolding Cyclic Amplification (PMCA). 'QuICSeedR' addresses limitations in existing software by automating data processing, supporting large-scale analysis, and enabling comparative studies of analysis methods. It incorporates methods described in Henderson et al. (2015) <doi:10.1099 vir.0.069906-0="">, Li et al. (2020) <doi:10.1038 s41598-021-96127-8="">, Rowden et al. (2023) <doi:10.3390 pathogens12020309="">, Haley et al. (2013) <doi:10.1371 journal.pone.0081488="">, and Mair and Wilcox (2020) <doi:10.3758 s13428-019-01246-w="">. Please refer to the original publications for details.</doi:10.3758></doi:10.1371></doi:10.3390></doi:10.1038></doi:10.1099>
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Description

This function processes multiple experiments in parallel, performing a series of operations including time conversion, metadata cleaning, raw data cleaning, calculations, analysis, and result summarization.

Usage

```
BulkProcessing(data, do_analysis = TRUE, params = list(), verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

data Compiled data of experiments.

do_analysis Logical. Whether statistic analysis is included. Default is TRUE.

A list of parameters for various processing steps. If a parameter is not provided, default values will be used. control used in GetAnalysis() is required. parameters can be provided for the following functions:

• ConvertTime

• CleanMeta

• CleanRaw

• GetCalculation

• SpreadCalculation

• GetAnalysis

• SummarizeResult

verbose

Logical; if TRUE, prints detailed processing information for troubleshooting. Default is FALSE.

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Value

A list containing three elements:

- combined_calculation: A data frame of combined calculations from all experiments
- combined_cleanraw: Cleaned raw data for each experiment
- combined_result: A data frame of combined results from all experiments

Examples

```
#Get path for example data
path = system.file("extdata", package = "QuICSeedR")
#Helper function
add_underscore <- function(text) {</pre>
 gsub("([a-zA-Z])(\d)", "\1_\2", text)
#Read in data
elkear = BulkReadMARS(path = path,
                      plate_subfix = 'plate',
                      raw_subfix = 'raw',
                      helper_func = add_underscore)
#Set up parameters for batch analysis
params = list(
 CleanMeta = list(split_content = TRUE, split_into = c('region', 'sample')),
 GetCalculation = list(cycle_background = 5, norm = TRUE, norm_ct = 'Pos',
                       sd_fold = 10, time_skip = 5),
 GetAnalysis = list(control = "Neg")
#Get results
results = BulkProcessing(data =elkear, params = params)
str(results)
```

BulkReadMARS

Bulk Read MARS data

Description

Bulk Read MARS data

Usage

```
BulkReadMARS(path, plate_subfix, raw_subfix, helper_func = NULL)
```

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Arguments

path	Character string specifying the path to the parent directory containing the data folders.
plate_subfix	Character string used to identify plate data files.
raw_subfix	Character string used to identify raw data files.
helper_func	Optional function to be applied to each column of the plate data (default: NULL).

Details

The example dataset, located in inst/extdata/, consists of folders representing individual experimental runs. This dataset is a subset of the data used in a publication led by Dr. Stuart Lichtenberg. For detailed information about the experiments, please contact Dr. Stuart Lichtenberg at licht213@umn.edu.

Each folder contains two Excel files:

- A file with the suffix plate: Contains the plate setup and experimental information.
- A file with the suffix raw: Contains fluorescence data exported from MARS software.

Value

A list containing data from each folder, including plate, raw, and replicate data.

Examples

CleanMeta Get Clean Metadata

Description

This function processes raw data (raw), plate layout (plate), and replicate information (replicate) to create a clean metadata dataframe. It can optionally split the content column into additional columns.

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Usage

```
CleanMeta(
  raw,
  plate,
  replicate,
  split_content = FALSE,
  split_by = "_",
  split_into = c(),
  del_na = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

raw A dataframe containing the raw data.

plate A dataframe containing the plate layout information.

replicate A dataframe containing the replicate information. Output of GetReplicate().

split_content Logical, whether to split the content. Default is FALSE.

split_by A character string to split the content by. Default is "_".

split_into A character vector specifying names for the split columns. Required if split_content is TRUE.

del_na Logical, whether to drop rows containing NA. Default is TRUE.

Value

A data frame containing the cleaned metadata.

```
# Define the path to the plate data file
plate_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                           file = '20240716_p3_plate.xlsx',
                           package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)
```

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head(meta)

CleanRaw

Generate Clean Raw Data

Description

This function takes metadata, raw data, and total cycle information to generate clean raw fluorescence data.

Usage

```
CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time, cycle_total)
```

Arguments

meta A data frame containing the metadata. Output from CleanMeta function.

raw Raw fluorescence readings from MARS software.

plate_time Output of ConvertTime().

cycle_total The total number of cycles (rows) to include in the output.

Value

A data frame containing the cleaned raw fluorescence data.

```
# Define the path to the plate data file
plate_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                           file = '20240716_p3_plate.xlsx',
                           package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)
```

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```
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)

#Clean data
cleaned_data <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)
cleaned_data[1:5, 1:5]</pre>
```

ConvertTime

Extract and Convert Time Data to Decimal Hours

Description

The function extracts and converts run time information from MARS output.

Usage

ConvertTime(raw)

Arguments

raw

Output from MARS.

Value

A data frame containing the time information in decimal hours.

```
# Example with "hours and minutes" format
raw_data <- data.frame(
   V1 = c("Header", "Row1", "Row2"),
   V2 = c("Time", "1 h 30 min", "2 h 45 min")
)
plate_time <- ConvertTime(raw_data)
print(plate_time)

# Example with decimal hours format
raw_data2 <- data.frame(
   V1 = c("Header", "Row1", "Row2"),
   V2 = c("Time", "1.5", "2.75")
)
plate_time2 <- ConvertTime(raw_data2)
print(plate_time2)</pre>
```

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GetAnalysis

Perform Statistical Analysis on Calculations

Description

This function performs statistical analysis on a list of calculation spreads, comparing each column to a control column using various statistical tests.

Usage

```
GetAnalysis(
  calculation_spread,
  control,
  test = "wilcox",
  alternative = "two.sided",
  adjust_p = FALSE,
  alpha = 0.05
)
```

Arguments

calculation_spread

A list of data frames, each representing a calculation spread.

Output of SpreadCaculation().

control

The name or pattern of the control column in each data frame.

test

The statistical test to use. Options are:

- "t-test": Student's t-test, suitable for normally distributed data. For more information, run: ?stats::t.test
- "wilcox": Wilcoxon rank-sum test (also known as Mann-Whitney U test), a non-parametric test. For more information, run: ?stats::wilcox.test
- "yuen": Yuen's test for trimmed means, robust against outliers and nonnormality. For more information, run: ?WRS2::yuen

Default is "wilcox".

alternative

Options are "two.sided", "less", or "greater". Default is "two.sided".

adjust_p

Logical. Whether to adjust p-values for multiple comparisons. Default is FALSE.

alpha

The significance level for determining significance stars. Default is 0.05.

Value

A list of data frames containing the results of the statistical analysis for selected metrics.

References

Mair, P., & Wilcox, R. (2020). WRS2: A Collection of Robust Statistical Methods. https://CRAN.R-project.org/package=WRS2

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Examples

```
# Define the path to the plate data file
plate_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                           file = '20240716_p3_plate.xlsx',
                           package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)
#Clean data
cleanraw <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)</pre>
#Get calculations using positive controls to normalize values.
calculation = GetCalculation(raw = cleanraw, meta, sd_fold = 10)
#Formatting calculations for analysis (also compatible with graphing
#softwares used in F-SAA research)
calculation_spread = SpreadCalculation(calculation)
analysis <- GetAnalysis(calculation_spread, control = "Neg", test = "wilcox",</pre>
                         alternative = 'greater')
head(analysis)
```

GetCalculation

Perform Calculations

Description

This function takes cleaned raw data and performs various analyses, including calculating the time to threshold, Rate of Amyloid Formation (RAF), Max Point Ratio (MPR), Max Slope (MS), and whether the reaction crosses the threshold (XTH).

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Usage

```
GetCalculation(
  raw,
  meta,
  norm = FALSE,
  norm_ct,
  threshold_method = "stdv",
  time_skip = 5,
  sd_fold = 3,
  bg_fold = 3,
  rfu = 5000,
  cycle_background = 4,
  binw = 6
)
```

Arguments

raw Cleaned raw data matrix. Output from CleanRaw().
meta Cleaned meta data. Output from CleanMeta().

norm Logical. If TRUE, normalization will be performed. Default is FALSE.

norm_ct Sample name used to normalize calculation.

threshold_method

Method for calculating threshold ('stdv', 'rfu_val', or 'bg_ratio').

time_skip Number of initial time points to skip when checking for threshold crossing. This

helps ignore early crossings that may be due to reasons unrelated to seeding

activity.

sd_fold Fold of standard deviation to calculate the threshold for RAF (for 'stdv' method).

bg_fold Background fold for threshold calculation (for 'bg_ratio' method).

rfu Relative fluorescence unit values used for threshold (for 'rfu_val' method).

cycle_background

The cycle number chosen as the background for RAF and MPR calculations.

binw Bin width for the MS calculation.

Value

A data frame containing the results of the calculation.

References

Henderson DM, Davenport KA, Haley NJ, Denkers ND, Mathiason CK, Hoover EA. Quantitative assessment of prion infectivity in tissues and body fluids by real-time quaking-induced conversion. J Gen Virol. 2015;96(Pt 1):210-219. doi:10.1099/vir.0.069906-0

Li M, Schwabenlander MD, Rowden GR, Schefers JM, Jennelle CS, Carstensen M, Seelig D, Larsen PA. RT-QuIC detection of CWD prion seeding activity in white-tailed deer muscle tissues. Sci Rep. 2021;11(1):16759. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-96127-8. PMID: 34408204; PMCID: PMC8373970.

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Rowden GR, Picasso-Risso C, Li M, Schwabenlander MD, Wolf TM, Larsen PA. Standardization of Data Analysis for RT-QuIC-Based Detection of Chronic Wasting Disease. Pathogens. 2023;12(2):309. doi:10.3390/pathogens12020309

Haley NJ, Van de Motter A, Carver S, et al. Prion-seeding activity in cerebrospinal fluid of deer with chronic wasting disease. PLoS One. 2013;8(11):e81488. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0081488

Examples

```
# Define the path to the plate data file
plate_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                           file = '20240716_p3_plate.xlsx',
                           package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)
#Clean data
cleanraw <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)</pre>
#Get calculations using positive controls to normalize values.
calculation = GetCalculation(raw = cleanraw, meta, norm = TRUE, norm_ct = 'Pos')
head(calculation)
```

GetReplicate

Generate Replicate Numbers for Plate Data

Description

This function takes a plate layout and generates a corresponding matrix of replicate numbers for each sample.

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Usage

```
GetReplicate(plate)
```

Arguments

plate

A matrix or data frame representing the plate layout, where each cell contains a sample identifier or NA for empty wells.

Value

A data frame with the same dimensions as the input plate, where each cell contains the replicate number for the corresponding sample in the input plate.

Note

- Sample identifiers are converted to character type before processing.
- The function assumes that the input plate is organized such that replicate samples are encountered sequentially.
- The output maintains the column names from the input plate.

Examples

```
plate <- matrix(
   c("A", "B", "C",
    "A", "B", NA,
   "A", "C", "D"),
   nrow = 3, byrow = TRUE
)

replicates <- GetReplicate(plate)
print(replicates)</pre>
```

PlotMetric

Create a customizable ggplot for metrics

Description

This is wrapper function to generate a ggplot object with default options for boxplot and jittered points. Additional ggplot2 functions can be applied to the plot.

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Usage

```
PlotMetric(
  calculation,
  x = "content",
  y = "RAF",
  fill_var = NULL,
  point = TRUE,
  box = TRUE,
  base_theme = theme_bw(),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

calculation	A data frame containing the data to be plotted. Output of GetCalculation
X	Character string specifying the column name for the x-axis. Default is "content".
у	Character string specifying the column name for the y-axis. Default is "RAF".
fill_var	The name of the column to be used for fill color, or a vector of colors. If NULL, no fill color is applied. Default is NULL.
point	Logical. If TRUE (default), adds jittered points to the plot.
box	Logical. If TRUE (default), adds a boxplot to the plot.
base_theme	A ggplot2 theme object. Default is theme_bw().
	Additional ggplot2 functions to be applied to the plot.

Value

A ggplot object.

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```
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)

#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)

#Clean data
cleanraw <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)

#Get calculations using positive controls to normalize values.
calculation = GetCalculation(raw = cleanraw, meta, norm = TRUE, norm_ct = 'Pos')

#Default plot
PlotMetric(calculation)</pre>
```

PlotPlate

Plot Time Series Data

Description

This function creates a faceted plot of time series data for each well in a plate layout.

Usage

```
PlotPlate(raw, plate_time, format = 96, f_size = 5, fill = FALSE)
```

Arguments

raw A data frame containing the raw plate data. The first row and first two columns

are assumed to be metadata and are removed.

plate_time Output from ConvertTime().

format Format of plates used in the experiment. 96 or 384.

f_size font size for subtitles.

fill Logical, whether to fill in missing wells with 0. Default is FALSE.

Value

A ggplot object representing the plate data.

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PlotRawMulti

Plot Multiple Samples from the Cleaned Raw Data

Description

The function visualizes the fluorescence over time for selected samples.

Usage

```
PlotRawMulti(
  raw,
  samples,
  legend_position = "topleft",
  xlim = NULL,
  ylim = NULL,
  custom_colors = NULL,
  xlab = "Time (h)",
  ylab = "Fluorescence",
  linetypes = NULL
)
```

Arguments

raw Cleaned raw data. Output from GetCleanRaw.

samples The names of the samples to plot.

legend_position

Position of legend. Default is "topleft". Choose from "bottomright", "bottom",
 "bottomleft", "left", "topleft", "top", "topright", "right" and "center".

xlim Numeric vector giving the x coordinate range (hours). If NULL (default), limits are computed from the data.

ylim Numeric vector giving the y coordinate range (relative fluorescence units). If

NIII I (1.6. 1) 1' - 'to an a second to 1.6 and to 1.4.

NULL (default), limits are computed from the data.

PlotRawSingle

custom_colors An optional vector of colors to be used for plotting. If NULL (default), the

function will use the original color scheme.

xlab Label for x-axis. ylab Label for y-axis.

linetypes Vector of line types to use for each line. Can be integer codes (1:6) or character

codes ("solid", "dashed", "dotted", "dotdash", "longdash", "twodash"). All lines

will be solid by default.

Value

A plot displaying the fluorescence of the selected samples over time.

```
# Define the path to the plate data file
plate_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                           file = '20240716_p3_plate.xlsx',
                           package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)
#Clean data
cleanraw <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)</pre>
#Plot fluorescence curves from negative and positive controls
PlotRawMulti(cleanraw, c("Neg", "Pos"))
```

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Description

The function plots fluorescence for selected sample over time.

Usage

```
PlotRawSingle(
  raw,
  sample,
  legend_position = "topleft",
  xlim = NULL,
  ylim = NULL,
  custom_colors = NULL,
  xlab = "Time (h)",
  ylab = "Fluorescence",
  linetypes = NULL
)
```

Arguments

raw Cleaned raw data. Output from GetCleanRaw

sample The name of the sample to plot.

legend_position

Position of legend. Default is "topleft".

xlim Numeric vector giving the x coordinate range (hours). If NULL (default), limits

are computed from the data. Choose from "bottomright", "bottom", "bottom-

left", "left", "topleft", "top", "topright", "right" and "center".

ylim Numeric vector giving the y coordinate range (relative fluorescence units). If

NULL (default), limits are computed from the data.

custom_colors An optional vector of colors to be used for plotting. If NULL (default), the

function will use the original color scheme.

xlab Label for x-axis. ylab Label for y-axis.

linetypes Vector of line types to use for each line. Can be integer codes (1:6) or character

codes ("solid", "dashed", "dotted", "dotdash", "longdash", "twodash"). All lines

will be solid by default.

Value

A plot displaying the fluorescence of the selected sample over time.

18 SpreadCalculation

```
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)
#Clean data
cleanraw <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)</pre>
#Plot fluorescence curves from positive controls
PlotRawSingle(cleanraw, "Pos")
```

SpreadCalculation

Spread Calculation Data

Description

This function takes a data frame containing metadata and calculation results, and spreads the results into a list of data frames for selected calculation term.

Usage

```
SpreadCalculation(
  calculation,
  id_col = "content",
  rep_col = "replicate",
  terms = c("RAF", "MPR", "MS")
)
```

Arguments

calculation A data frame containing the metadata and results of the calculation. Output from

GetCalculation().

id_col The name of the column in calculation that identifies the content. Default is

'content'.

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rep_col The name of the column in calculation that identifies the replicate. Default is

'replicate'.

terms A vector of column names to spread. Defaults to 'RAF', 'MPR', and 'MS'.

Value

A list of data frames containing the spread results of the calculation. Each data frame is compatible with various graphing software, particularly GraphPad Prism, which is the most commonly used graphing tool in F-SAA research.

Examples

```
calculation <- data.frame(
  content = rep(c("A", "B", "C"), each = 2),
  replicate = rep(1:2, 3),
  time_to_threshold = rnorm(6),
  RAF = rnorm(6),
  MPR = rnorm(6),
  MS = rnorm(6)
  )

calculation_spread = SpreadCalculation(calculation)
print(calculation_spread)</pre>
```

SummarizeResult

Summarize Analysis Results

Description

This function combines analysis results from multiple tests with metadata, and determines overall significance based on a specified method. By default, it evaluates sample-level result by calculating the percentage of technical replicates that exceed the pre-defined threshold.

Usage

```
SummarizeResult(
  analysis = NULL,
  calculation,
  sig_method = "xth_percent",
  method_threshold = 50
)
```

Arguments

```
analysis Output of GetAnalysis().
calculation Output of GetCalculation().
```

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sig_method

Specifies the approach for determining sample-level result. Available options include "xth_percent", "metric_count", "xth_count", or any metric name present in the analysis list. The default is "xth_percent".

method_threshold

Defines the threshold value for the "metric_count", "xth_count", and "xth_percent" methods. This parameter defaults to 50.

Value

A data frame summarizing results of the analysis and calculation, with columns:

- result: Overall result based on the chosen method
- position: Location of the sample replications based on plate layout
- method: Method chosen for determination of the result
- *_sig: Significance indicator for each metric
- *_p: P-value or adjusted p-value for each metric
- metric_count: Count of significant results across all analyses
- xth_count: The number of reactions crossing the fluorescent threshold
- total_rep: Total number of replicates
- xth_percent: Percentage of replicates crossing the fluorescent threshold

```
# Define the path to the plate data file
plate_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                           file = '20240716_p3_plate.xlsx',
                           package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the plate data
plate <- readxl::read_xlsx(plate_path)</pre>
# Define the path to the raw data file
raw_path <- system.file("extdata/20240716_p3",</pre>
                         file = '20240716_p3_raw.xlsx',
                         package = "QuICSeedR")
# Read the raw data
raw <- readxl::read_xlsx(raw_path)</pre>
# Get replicate data
replicate <- GetReplicate(plate)</pre>
# Ensure time displayed as decimal hours
plate_time = ConvertTime(raw)
#Get metadata and display the few rows
meta = CleanMeta(raw, plate, replicate)
#Clean data
cleanraw <- CleanRaw(meta, raw, plate_time)</pre>
```

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