

Package ‘dynamicTreeCut’

July 22, 2025

Version 1.63-1

Date 2016-03-10

Title Methods for Detection of Clusters in Hierarchical Clustering
Dendrograms

Author

Peter Langfelder <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com> and Bin Zhang <binzhang.ucla@gmail.com>,
with contributions from Steve Horvath <SHorvath@mednet.ucla.edu>

Maintainer Peter Langfelder <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>

Depends R (>= 2.3.0), stats

ZipData no

License GPL (>= 2)

Description Contains methods for detection of clusters in hierarchical clustering dendrograms.

URL <http://www.genetics.ucla.edu/labs/horvath/CoexpressionNetwork/BranchCutting/>

NeedsCompilation no

Repository CRAN

Date/Publication 2016-03-11 00:39:02

Contents

dynamicTreeCut-package	2
cutreeDynamic	3
cutreeDynamicTree	6
cutreeHybrid	7
indentSpaces	11
merge2Clusters	12
printFlush	13

Index	14
--------------	-----------

dynamicTreeCut-package

Methods for Detection of Clusters in Hierarchical Clustering Dendrograms

Description

Contains methods for detection of clusters in hierarchical clustering dendrograms.

Details

Package: dynamicTreeCut
 Version: 1.63-1
 Date: 2016-03-10
 Depends: R, stats
 ZipData: no
 License: GPL version 2 or newer
 URL: <http://www.genetics.ucla.edu/labs/horvath/CoexpressionNetwork/BranchCutting/>

Index:

cutreeDynamic	Adaptive branch pruning of hierarchical clustering dendrograms.
cutreeDynamicTree	Dynamic dendrogram pruning based on dendrogram only
cutreeHybrid	Hybrid adaptive tree cut for hierarchical clustering dendrograms.
indentSpaces	Spaces for indented output.
merge2Clusters	Merge two clusters
printFlush	Print arguments and flush the console.
treecut-package	Methods for detection of clusters in hierarchical clustering dendrograms.

Author(s)

Peter Langfelder <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com> and Bin Zhang <binzhang.ucla@gmail.com>, with contributions from Steve Horvath <SHorvath@mednet.ucla.edu>

Maintainer: Peter Langfelder <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>

cutreeDynamic	<i>Adaptive Branch Pruning of Hierarchical Clustering Dendrograms</i>
---------------	---

Description

This wrapper provides a common access point for two methods of adaptive branch pruning of hierarchical clustering dendrograms.

Usage

```
cutreeDynamic(
  dendro, cutHeight = NULL, minClusterSize = 20,

  # Basic tree cut options
  method = "hybrid", distM = NULL,
  deepSplit = (ifelse(method=="hybrid", 1, FALSE)),

  # Advanced options
  maxCoreScatter = NULL, minGap = NULL,
  maxAbsCoreScatter = NULL, minAbsGap = NULL,

  minSplitHeight = NULL, minAbsSplitHeight = NULL,

  # External (user-supplied) measure of branch split
  externalBranchSplitFnc = NULL, minExternalSplit = NULL,
  externalSplitOptions = list(),
  externalSplitFncNeedsDistance = NULL,
  assumeSimpleExternalSpecification = TRUE,

  # PAM stage options
  pamStage = TRUE, pamRespectsDendro = TRUE,
  useMedoids = FALSE, maxDistToLabel = NULL,
  maxPamDist = cutHeight,
  respectSmallClusters = TRUE,

  # Various options
  verbose = 2, indent = 0)
```

Arguments

dendro	A hierarchical clustering dendrogram such as one returned by <code>hclust</code> .
cutHeight	Maximum joining heights that will be considered. For <code>method=="tree"</code> it defaults to 0.99. For <code>method=="hybrid"</code> it defaults to 99% of the range between the 5th percentile and the maximum of the joining heights on the dendrogram.
minClusterSize	Minimum cluster size.

method	Chooses the method to use. Recognized values are "hybrid" and "tree".
distM	Only used for method "hybrid". The distance matrix used as input to hclust. If not given and method == "hybrid", the function will issue a warning and default to method = "tree".
deepSplit	For method "hybrid", can be either logical or integer in the range 0 to 4. For method "tree", must be logical. In both cases, provides a rough control over sensitivity to cluster splitting. The higher the value (or if TRUE), the more and smaller clusters will be produced. For the "hybrid" method, a finer control can be achieved via maxCoreScatter and minGap below.
maxCoreScatter	Only used for method "hybrid". Maximum scatter of the core for a branch to be a cluster, given as the fraction of cutHeight relative to the 5th percentile of joining heights. See Details.
minGap	Only used for method "hybrid". Minimum cluster gap given as the fraction of the difference between cutHeight and the 5th percentile of joining heights.
maxAbsCoreScatter	Only used for method "hybrid". Maximum scatter of the core for a branch to be a cluster given as absolute heights. If given, overrides maxCoreScatter.
minAbsGap	Only used for method "hybrid". Minimum cluster gap given as absolute height difference. If given, overrides minGap.
minSplitHeight	Minimum split height given as the fraction of the difference between cutHeight and the 5th percentile of joining heights. Branches merging below this height will automatically be merged. Defaults to zero but is used only if minAbsSplitHeight below is NULL.
minAbsSplitHeight	Minimum split height given as an absolute height. Branches merging below this height will automatically be merged. If not given (default), will be determined from minSplitHeight above.
externalBranchSplitFnc	Optional function to evaluate split (dissimilarity) between two branches. Either a single function or a list in which each component is a function (see assumeSimpleExternalSpecification below for how to specify a single function). Each function can be specified by name (a character string) or the actual function object. Each given function must take arguments branch1 and branch2 that specify the indices of objects in the two branches whose dissimilarity is to be evaluated, and possibly other arguments. It must return a number that quantifies the dissimilarity of the two branches. The returned value will be compared to minExternalSplit (see below). This argument is only used for method "hybrid".
minExternalSplit	Thresholds to decide whether two branches should be merged. It should be a numeric vector of the same length as the number of functions in externalBranchSplitFnc above. Only used for method "hybrid".
externalSplitOptions	Further arguments to function externalBranchSplitFnc. If only one external function is specified in externalBranchSplitFnc above, externalSplitOptions can be a named list of arguments or a list with one component that is in turn the

named list of further arguments for `externalBranchSplitFnc[[1]]`. The argument `assumeSimpleExternalSpecification` controls which of the two possibilities should be assumed. If multiple functions are specified in `externalBranchSplitFnc`, `externalSplitOptions` must be a list in which each component is a named list giving the further arguments for the corresponding function in `externalBranchSplitFnc`. Only used for method "hybrid".

`externalSplitFncNeedsDistance`

Optional specification of whether the external branch split functions need the distance matrix as one of their arguments. Either `NULL` or a logical vector with one element per branch split function that specifies whether the corresponding branch split function expects the distance matrix as one of its arguments. The default `NULL` is interpreted as a vector of `TRUE`. When dealing with a large number of objects, setting this argument to `FALSE` whenever possible can prevent unnecessary memory utilization.

`assumeSimpleExternalSpecification`

Logical: when `minExternalSplit` above is a scalar (has length 1), should the function assume a simple specification of `externalBranchSplitFnc` and `externalSplitOptions`? If `TRUE`, `externalBranchSplitFnc` is taken as the function specification and `externalSplitOptions` the named list of options. This is suitable for simple direct calls of this function. If `FALSE`, `externalBranchSplitFnc` is assumed to be a list with a single component which specifies the function, and `externalSplitOptions` is a list with one component that is in turn the named list of further arguments for `externalBranchSplitFnc[[1]]`.

`pamStage`

Only used for method "hybrid". If `TRUE`, the second (PAM-like) stage will be performed.

`pamRespectsDendro`

Logical, only used for method "hybrid". If `TRUE`, the PAM stage will respect the dendrogram in the sense that objects and small clusters will only be assigned to clusters that belong to the same branch that the objects or small clusters being assigned belong to.

`useMedoids`

Only used for method "hybrid" and only if `labelUnlabeled==TRUE`. If `TRUE`, the second stage will be use object to medoid distance; if `FALSE`, it will use average object to cluster distance. The default (`FALSE`) is recommended.

`maxDistToLabel`

Deprecated, use `maxPamDist` instead. Only used for method "hybrid" and only if `labelUnlabeled==TRUE`. Maximum object distance to closest cluster that will result in the object assigned to that cluster.

`maxPamDist`

Only used for method "hybrid" and only if `labelUnlabeled==TRUE`. Maximum object distance to closest cluster that will result in the object assigned to that cluster. Defaults to `cutHeight`.

`respectSmallClusters`

Only used for method "hybrid" and only if `labelUnlabeled==TRUE`. If `TRUE`, branches that failed to be clusters in stage 1 only because of insufficient size will be assigned together in stage 2. If `FALSE`, all objects will be assigned individually.

`verbose`

Controls the verbosity of the output. 0 will make the function completely quiet, values up to 4 gradually increase verbosity.

`indent` Controls indentation of printed messages (see `verbose` above). Each unit adds two spaces before printed messages; useful when several functions' output is to be nested.

Details

This is a wrapper for two related but different methods for cluster detection in hierarchical clustering dendrograms.

In order to make the shape parameters `maxCoreScatter` and `minGap` more universal, their values are interpreted relative to `cutHeight` and the 5th percetile of the merging heights (we arbitrarily chose the 5th percetile rather than the minimum for reasons of stability). Thus, the absolute maximum allowable core scatter is calculated as $\text{maxCoreScatter} * (\text{cutHeight} - \text{refHeight}) + \text{refHeight}$ and the absolute minimum allowable gap as $\text{minGap} * (\text{cutHeight} - \text{refHeight})$, where `refHeight` is the 5th percentile of the merging heights.

Value

A vector of numerical labels giving assignment of objects to modules. Unassigned objects are labeled 0, the largest module has label 1, next largest 2 etc.

Author(s)

Peter Langfelder, <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>

References

Langfelder P, Zhang B, Horvath S, 2007. <http://www.genetics.ucla.edu/labs/horvath/CoexpressionNetwork/BranchCutting>

See Also

[hclust](#), [cutreeHybrid](#), [cutreeDynamicTree](#).

`cutreeDynamicTree` *Dynamic Dendrogram Pruning Based on Dendrogram Only*

Description

Detect clusters in a hierarchical dendrogram using a variable cut height approach. Uses only the information in the dendrogram itself is used (which may give incorrect assignment for outlying objects).

Usage

```
cutreeDynamicTree(dendro, maxTreeHeight = 1, deepSplit = TRUE, minModuleSize = 50)
```

Arguments

dendro	Hierarchical clustering dendrogram such produced by hclust .
maxTreeHeight	Maximum joining height of objects to be considered part of clusters.
deepSplit	If TRUE, method will favor sensitivity and produce more smaller clusters. When FALSE, there will be fewer bigger clusters.
minModuleSize	Minimum module size. Branches containing fewer than minModuleSize objects will be left unlabeled.

Details

A variable height branch pruning technique for dendrograms produced by hierarchical clustering. Initially, branches are cut off at the height `maxTreeHeight`; the resulting clusters are then examined for substructure and if subclusters are detected, they are assigned separate labels. Subclusters are detected by structure and are required to have a minimum of `minModuleSize` objects on them to be assigned a separate label. A rough degree of control over what it means to be a subcluster is implemented by the parameter `deepSplit`.

Value

A vector of numerical labels giving assignment of objects to modules. Unassigned objects are labeled 0, the largest module has label 1, next largest 2 etc.

Author(s)

Bin Zhang, <binzhang.ucla@gmail.com>, with contributions by Peter Langfelder, <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>.

References

<http://www.genetics.ucla.edu/labs/horvath/CoexpressionNetwork/BranchCutting>

See Also

[hclust](#), [cutreeHybrid](#)

cutreeHybrid

Hybrid Adaptive Tree Cut for Hierarchical Clustering Dendrograms

Description

Detect clusters in a dendrogram produced by the function `hclust`.

Usage

```
cutreeHybrid(
  # Input data: basic tree cutting
  dendro, distM,

  # Branch cut criteria and options
  cutHeight = NULL, minClusterSize = 20, deepSplit = 1,

  # Advanced options
  maxCoreScatter = NULL, minGap = NULL,
  maxAbsCoreScatter = NULL, minAbsGap = NULL,

  minSplitHeight = NULL, minAbsSplitHeight = NULL,

  # External (user-supplied) measure of branch split
  externalBranchSplitFnc = NULL, minExternalSplit = NULL,
  externalSplitOptions = list(),
  externalSplitFncNeedsDistance = NULL,
  assumeSimpleExternalSpecification = TRUE,

  # PAM stage options
  pamStage = TRUE, pamRespectsDendro = TRUE,
  useMedoids = FALSE,
  maxPamDist = cutHeight,
  respectSmallClusters = TRUE,

  # Various options
  verbose = 2, indent = 0)
```

Arguments

dendro	a hierarchical clustering dendrogram such as one returned by hclust.
distM	Distance matrix that was used as input to hclust.
cutHeight	Maximum joining heights that will be considered. It defaults to 99 of the range between the 5th percentile and the maximum of the joining heights on the dendrogram.
minClusterSize	Minimum cluster size.
deepSplit	Either logical or integer in the range 0 to 4. Provides a rough control over sensitivity to cluster splitting. The higher the value, the more and smaller clusters will be produced. A finer control can be achieved via maxBranchCor, minBranchSplit, maxCoreScatter and minGap below.
maxCoreScatter	Maximum scatter of the core for a branch to be a cluster, given as the fraction of cutHeight relative to the 5th percentile of joining heights. See Details.
minGap	Minimum cluster gap given as the fraction of the difference between cutHeight and the 5th percentile of joining heights.

- `maxAbsCoreScatter` Maximum scatter of the core for a branch to be a cluster given as absolute heights. If given, overrides `maxCoreScatter`.
- `minAbsGap` Minimum cluster gap given as absolute height difference. If given, overrides `minGap`.
- `minSplitHeight` Minimum split height given as the fraction of the difference between `cutHeight` and the 5th percentile of joining heights. Branches merging below this height will automatically be merged. Defaults to zero but is used only if `minAbsSplitHeight` below is NULL.
- `minAbsSplitHeight` Minimum split height given as an absolute height. Branches merging below this height will automatically be merged. If not given (default), will be determined from `minSplitHeight` above.
- `externalBranchSplitFnc` Optional function to evaluate split (dissimilarity) between two branches. Either a single function or a list in which each component is a function (see `assumeSimpleExternalSpecification` below for how to specify a single function). Each function can be specified by name (a character string) or the actual function object. Each given function must take arguments `branch1` and `branch2` that specify the indices of objects in the two branches whose dissimilarity is to be evaluated, and possibly other arguments. It must return a number that quantifies the dissimilarity of the two branches. The returned value will be compared to `minExternalSplit` (see below). This argument is only used for method "hybrid".
- `minExternalSplit` Thresholds to decide whether two branches should be merged. It should be a numeric vector of the same length as the number of functions in `externalBranchSplitFnc` above. Only used for method "hybrid".
- `externalSplitOptions` Further arguments to function `externalBranchSplitFnc`. If only one external function is specified in `externalBranchSplitFnc` above, `externalSplitOptions` can be a named list of arguments or a list with one component that is in turn the named list of further arguments for `externalBranchSplitFnc[[1]]`. The argument `assumeSimpleExternalSpecification` controls which of the two possibilities should be assumed. If multiple functions are specified in `externalBranchSplitFnc`, `externalSplitOptions` must be a list in which each component is a named list giving the further arguments for the corresponding function in `externalBranchSplitFnc`. Only used for method "hybrid".
- `externalSplitFncNeedsDistance` Optional specification of whether the external branch split functions need the distance matrix as one of their arguments. Either NULL or a logical vector with one element per branch split function that specifies whether the corresponding branch split function expects the distance matrix as one of its arguments. The default NULL is interpreted as a vector of TRUE. When dealing with a large number of objects, setting this argument to FALSE whenever possible can prevent unnecessary memory utilization.
- `assumeSimpleExternalSpecification` Logical: when `minExternalSplit` above is a scalar (has length 1), should

the function assume a simple specification of externalBranchSplitFnc and externalSplitOptions? If TRUE, externalBranchSplitFnc is taken as the function specification and externalSplitOptions the named list of options. This is suitable for simple direct calls of this function. If FALSE, externalBranchSplitFnc is assumed to be a list with a single component which specifies the function, and externalSplitOptions is a list with one component that is in turn the named list of further arguments for externalBranchSplitFnc[[1]].

pamStage	Logical, only used for method "hybrid". If TRUE, the second (PAM-like) stage will be performed.
pamRespectsDendro	Logical, only used for method "hybrid". If TRUE, the PAM stage will respect the dendrogram in the sense an object can be PAM-assigned only to clusters that lie below it on the branch that the object is merged into. See cutreeDynamic for more details.
useMedoids	if TRUE, the second stage will be use object to medoid distance; if FALSE, it will use average object to cluster distance. The default (FALSE) is recommended.
maxPamDist	Maximum object distance to closest cluster that will result in the object assigned to that cluster. Defaults to cutHeight.
respectSmallClusters	If TRUE, branches that failed to be clusters in stage 1 only because of insufficient size will be assigned together in stage 2. If FALSE, all objects will be assigned individually.
verbose	Controls the verbosity of the output. 0 will make the function completely quiet, values up to 4 gradually increase verbosity.
indent	Controls indentation of printed messages (see verbose above). Each unit adds two spaces before printed messages; useful when several functions' output is to be nested.

Details

The function detects clusters in a hierarchical dendrogram based on the shape of branches on the dendrogram. For details on the method, see <http://www.genetics.ucla.edu/labs/horvath/CoexpressionNetwork/BranchCutting>.

In order to make the shape parameters maxCoreScatter and minGap more universal, their values are interpreted relative to cutHeight and the 5th percentile of the merging heights (we arbitrarily chose the 5th percentile rather than the minimum for reasons of stability). Thus, the absolute maximum allowable core scatter is calculated as $\text{maxCoreScatter} * (\text{cutHeight} - \text{refHeight}) + \text{refHeight}$ and the absolute minimum allowable gap as $\text{minGap} * (\text{cutHeight} - \text{refHeight})$, where refHeight is the 5th percentile of the merging heights.

Value

A list containing the following elements:

labels	Numerical labels of clusters, with 0 meaning unassigned, label 1 labeling the largest cluster etc.
--------	--

cores	Numerical labels indicating cores of found clusters.
smallLabels	Numerical labels for branches that failed to be recognized clusters only because of insufficient number of objects.
mergeDiagnostics	A data.frame with one row per merge in the input dendrogram. The columns give the values of the various merging criteria used by the algorithm. Missing data indicate that at least one of the "branches" merged was actually a singleton (single node) and hence the branch merging was automatic.
mergeCriteria	Values of the merging thresholds. Either a copy of the corresponding input thresholds or values determined by deepSplit.
branches	A list detailing the detected branch structure.

Author(s)

Peter Langfelder, <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>

References

Langfelder P, Zhang B, Horvath S, 2007. <http://www.genetics.ucla.edu/labs/horvath/CoexpressionNetwork/BranchCutting>

See Also

[hclust](#), [as.dist](#)

indentSpaces	<i>Spaces for Indented Output</i>
--------------	-----------------------------------

Description

Returns a character string containing two times indent spaces.

Usage

```
indentSpaces(indent = 0)
```

Arguments

indent	Desired level of indentation. The number of returned spaces will be twice this argument.
--------	--

Value

A character string containing spaces, of length twice indent.

Author(s)

Peter Langfelder, <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>

Examples

```
spaces = indentSpaces(0);
print(paste(spaces, "This output is not indented..."));
spaces = indentSpaces(1);
print(paste(spaces, "...while this one is."))
```

merge2Clusters

Merge Two Clusters

Description

Merge 2 clusters into 1.

Usage

```
merge2Clusters(labels, mainClusterLabel, minorClusterLabel)
```

Arguments

labels a vector or factor giving the cluster labels
mainClusterLabel label of the first merged cluster. The merged cluster will have this label.
minorClusterLabel label of the second merged cluster.

Value

A vector or factor of the merged labels.

Author(s)

Bin Zhang and Peter Langfelder

Examples

```
options(stringsAsFactors = FALSE);

# Works with character labels:
labels = c(rep("grey", 5), rep("blue", 2), rep("red", 3))
merge2Clusters(labels, "blue", "red")

# Works with factor labels:
labelsF = factor(labels)
merge2Clusters(labelsF, "blue", "red")

# Works also with numeric labels:

labelsN = as.numeric(factor(labels))
```

```
labelsN  
merge2Clusters(labelsF, 1, 3)
```

`printFlush` *Print Arguments and Flush the Console*

Description

Passes all its arguments unchanged to the standard `print` function; after the execution of `print` it flushes the console, if possible.

Usage

```
printFlush(...)
```

Arguments

... Arguments to be passed to the standard `print` function.

Details

Passes all its arguments unchanged to the standard `print` function; after the execution of `print` it flushes the console, if possible.

Value

Returns the value of the `print` function.

Author(s)

Peter Langfelder, <Peter.Langfelder@gmail.com>

See Also

[print](#)

Index

- * **cluster**

- cutreeDynamic, 3

- cutreeHybrid, 7

- * **misc**

- cutreeDynamicTree, 6

- merge2Clusters, 12

- * **package**

- dynamicTreeCut-package, 2

- * **print**

- indentSpaces, 11

- printFlush, 13

as.dist, 11

cutreeDynamic, 3, 10

cutreeDynamicTree, 6, 6

cutreeHybrid, 6, 7, 7

dynamicTreeCut

(dynamicTreeCut-package), 2

dynamicTreeCut-package, 2

hclust, 6, 7, 11

indentSpaces, 11

merge2Clusters, 12

print, 13

printFlush, 13