# Package 'methylCC'

November 7, 2025

**Title** Estimate the cell composition of whole blood in DNA methylation

```
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```

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	i acc_i aw_aaca — <i>Danaci iaw aaa</i> a	

# Description

Extract the methylation values and GRanges objects

# Usage

```
.extract_raw_data(object)
```

# Arguments

object an object can be a RGChannelSet, GenomicMethylSet or BSseq object

# Value

A list preprocessed objects from the RGChannelSet, GenomicMethylSet or BSseq objects to be used in .preprocess\_estimatecc().

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.find\_dmrs

Finding differentially methylated regions

#### **Description**

This function uses the FlowSorted.Blood.450k whole blood reference methylomes with six cell types to identify differentially methylated regions.

#### Usage

```
.find_dmrs(verbose = TRUE, gr_target = NULL, include_cpgs = FALSE,
 include_dmrs = TRUE, num_cpgs = 50, num_regions = 50,
 bumphunter_beta_cutoff = 0.2, dmr_up_cutoff = 0.5,
 dmr_down_cutoff = 0.4, dmr_pval_cutoff = 1e-11,
 cpg_pval_cutoff = 1e-08, cpg_up_dm_cutoff = 0,
 cpg_down_dm_cutoff = 0, pairwise_comparison = FALSE,
 mset_train_flow_sort = NULL)
```

#### **Arguments**

٤	guments	
	verbose	TRUE/FALSE argument specifying if verbose messages should be returned or not. Default is TRUE.
	gr_target	Default is NULL. However, the user can provide a GRanges object from the object in estimatecc. Before starting the procedure to find differentially methylated regions, the intersection of the gr_target and GRanges object from the reference methylomes (FlowSorted.Blood.450k).
	include_cpgs	TRUE/FALSE. Should individual CpGs be returned. Default is FALSE.
	include_dmrs	TRUE/FALSE. Should differentially methylated regions be returned. Default is TRUE. User can turn this to FALSE and search for only CpGs.
	num_cpgs	The max number of CpGs to return for each cell type. Default is 50.
	<pre>num_regions bumphunter_beta</pre>	The max number of DMRs to return for each cell type. Default is 50. a_cutoff
		The cutoff threshold in bumphunter() in the bumphunter package.
	dmr_up_cutoff	A cutoff threshold for identifying DMRs that are methylated in one cell type, but not in the other cell types.
	dmr_down_cutoff	
		A cutoff threshold for identifying DMRs that are not methylated in one cell type

A cutoff threshold for identifying DMRs that are not methylated in one cell type, but methylated in the other cell types.

dmr\_pval\_cutoff

A cutoff threshold for the p-values when identifying DMRs that are methylated in one cell type, but not in the other cell types (or vice versa).

cpg\_pval\_cutoff

A cutoff threshold for the p-values when identifying differentially methylated CpGs that are methylated in one cell type, but not in the other cell types (or vice versa).

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cpg\_up\_dm\_cutoff

A cutoff threshold for identifying differentially methylated CpGs that are methylated in one cell type, but not in the other cell types.

cpg\_down\_dm\_cutoff

A cutoff threshold for identifying differentially methylated CpGs that are not methylated in one cell type, but are methylated in the other cell types.

pairwise\_comparison

TRUE/FAISE of whether all pairwise comparisons (e.g. methylated in Granulocytes and Monocytes, but not methylated in other cell types). Default if FALSE.

mset\_train\_flow\_sort

Default is NULL. However, a user can provide a MethylSet object after processing the FlowSorted.Blood.450k dataset. The default normalization is preprocessIllumina().

#### Value

A list of data frames and GRanges objects.

.initializeMLEs

.initializeMLEs

#### **Description**

Helper functions to initialize MLEs in estimatecc().

#### Usage

```
.initializeMLEs(init_param_method, n, K, Ys, Zs, a0init, a1init, sig0init,
    sig1init, tauinit)
```

## **Arguments**

init\_param\_method

method to initialize parameter estimates. Choose between "random" (randomly sample) or "known\_regions" (uses unmethyalted and methylated regions that were identified based on Reinus et al. (2012) cell sorted data.). Defaults to """

	"random".
n	Number of samples
K	Number of cell types
Ys	observed methylation levels in samples provided by user of dimension R x n
Zs	Cell type specific regions of dimension R x K
a0init	Default NULL. Initial mean methylation level in unmethylated regions
a1init	Default NULL. Initial mean methylation level in methylated regions
sig0init	Default NULL. Initial var methylation level in unmethylated regions
sig1init	Default NULL. Initial var methylation level in methylated regions
tauinit	Default NULL. Initial var for measurement error

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#### Value

A list of MLE estimates to be used in estimatecc().

```
.initialize_theta .initialize_theta
```

# Description

Creates a container with initial theta parameter estimates

# Usage

```
.initialize_theta(n, K, alpha0 = NULL, alpha1 = NULL, sig0 = NULL,
    sig1 = NULL, tau = NULL)
```

# Arguments

n	Number of samples
K	Number of cell types
alpha0	Default NULL. Initial mean methylation level in unmethylated regions
alpha1	Default NULL. Initial mean methylation level in methylated regions
sig0	Default NULL. Initial var methylation level in unmethylated regions
sig1	Default NULL. Initial var methylation level in methylated regions
tau	Default NULL. Initial var for measurement error

#### Value

A data frame with initial parameter estimates to be used in .initializeMLEs().

```
.methylcc_engine .methylcc_engine
```

# Description

Helper function for estimatecc

# Usage

```
.methylcc_engine(Ys, Zs, current_pi_mle, current_theta, epsilon, max_iter)
```

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#### **Arguments**

Ys observed methylation levels in samples provided by user of dimension R x n

Zs Cell type specific regions of dimension R x K

current\_pi\_mle cell composition MLE estimates of dimension K x n

current\_theta other parameter estimates in EM algorithm

epsilon Add here.
max\_iter Add here.

#### Value

A list of MLE estimates that is used in estimatecc().

#### **Description**

Expectation step in EM algorithm for methylCC

#### Usage

```
.methylcc_estep(Ys, Zs, current_pi_mle, current_theta, meth_status = 0)
```

#### Arguments

Ys observed methylation levels in samples provided by user of dimension R x n

Zs Cell type specific regions of dimension R x K

current\_pi\_mle cell composition MLE estimates of dimension K x n

current\_theta other parameter estimates in EM algorithm

or methylated (meth\_status=1)

#### Value

List of expected value of the first two moments of the random effects (or the E-Step in the EM algorithm) used in .methylcc\_engine()

.methylcc\_mstep 7

#### **Description**

Maximization step in EM Algorithm for methylCC

## Usage

```
.methylcc_mstep(Ys, Zs, current_pi_mle, current_theta, estep0, estep1)
```

# Arguments

Ys	observed methylation levels in samples provided by user of dimension R x $\boldsymbol{n}$
Zs	Cell type specific regions of dimension R x K
current_pi_mle	cell composition MLE estimates of dimension K x n
current_theta	other parameter estimates in EM algorithm

estep0 Results from expectation step for unmethylated regions estep1 Results from expectation step for methylated regions

#### Value

A list of the updated MLEs (or the M-Step in the EM algorithm) used in .methylcc\_engine()

```
.pick_target_positions

Pick target positions
```

#### **Description**

Pick probes from target data using the indices in dmp\_regions

## Usage

```
.pick_target_positions(target_granges, target_object = NULL,
    target_cvg = NULL, dmp_regions)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
target_granges add more here.
```

target\_object an optional argument which contains the meta-data for target\_granges. If

target\_granges already contains the meta-data, do not need to supply target\_object.

target\_cvg coverage reads for the target object dmp\_regions differentially methylated regions

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#### Value

A list of GRanges objects to be used in .preprocess\_estimatecc()

```
. preprocess\_estimatecc \\ . preprocess\_estimatecc
```

#### **Description**

This function preprocesses the data before the estimatecc() function

#### Usage

```
.preprocess_estimatecc(object, verbose = TRUE,
   init_param_method = "random",
   celltype_specific_dmrs = celltype_specific_dmrs)
```

#### Arguments

object an object can be a RGChannelSet, GenomicMethylSet or BSseq object

verbose TRUE/FALSE argument specifying if verbose messages should be returned or

not. Default is TRUE.

init\_param\_method

method to initialize parameter estimates. Choose between "random" (randomly sample) or "known\_regions" (uses unmethyalted and methylated regions that were identified based on Reinus et al. (2012) cell sorted data.). Defaults to

"random".

 ${\tt celltype\_specific\_dmrs}$ 

cell type specific differentially methylated regions (DMRs).

#### Value

A list of object to be used in estimatecc

.splitit .splitit

#### **Description**

helper function to split along a variable

#### Usage

```
.splitit(x)
```

.WFun

### **Arguments**

x a vector

#### Value

A list to be used in find\_dmrs()

.WFun

Helper function to take the product of Z and cell composition estimates

#### **Description**

Helper function which is the product of Z and pi\_mle

#### Usage

```
.WFun(Zs, pi_mle)
```

#### **Arguments**

Zs Cell type specific regions of dimension R x K

pi\_mle cell composition MLE estimates

#### Value

A list of output after taking the product of Z and cell composition mle estimates to be used in .methylcc\_estep().

cell\_counts

Generic function that returns the cell composition estimates

# Description

Given a estimatece object, this function returns the cell composition estimates Accessors for the 'cell\_counts' slot of a estimatece object.

#### Usage

```
cell_counts(object)
## S4 method for signature 'estimatecc'
cell_counts(object)
```

#### **Arguments**

object an object of class estimatecc.

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#### Value

Returns the cell composition estimates

#### **Examples**

```
# This is a reduced version of the FlowSorted.Blood.450k
# dataset available by using BiocManager::install("FlowSorted.Blood.450k),
# but for purposes of the example, we use the smaller version
# and we set \code{demo=TRUE}. For any case outside of this example for
# the package, you should set \code{demo=FALSE} (the default).

dir <- system.file("data", package="methylCC")
files <- file.path(dir, "FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub.RData")
if(file.exists(files)){
    load(file = files)

    set.seed(12345)
    est <- estimatecc(object = FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub, demo = TRUE)
    cell_counts(est)
}</pre>
```

estimatecc

Estimate cell composition from DNAm data

#### **Description**

Estimate cell composition from DNAm data

#### Usage

```
estimatecc(object, find_dmrs_object = NULL, verbose = TRUE,
  epsilon = 0.01, max_iter = 100, take_intersection = FALSE,
  include_cpgs = FALSE, include_dmrs = TRUE,
  init_param_method = "random", a0init = NULL, a1init = NULL,
  sig0init = NULL, sig1init = NULL, tauinit = NULL, demo = FALSE)
```

#### **Arguments**

object an object can be a RGChannelSet, GenomicMethylSet or BSseq object  $\label{eq:genomicMethylSet} find\_dmrs\_object$ 

If the user would like to supply different differentially methylated regions, they can use the output from the find\_dmrs function to supply different regions to estimatecc.

verbose TRUE/FALSE argument specifying if verbose messages should be returned or not. Default is TRUE.

Threshold for EM algorithm to check for convergence. Default is 0.01.

epsilon

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max_iter	Maximum number of iterations for EM algorithm. Default is 100 iterations.		
take_intersection			
	TRUE/FALSE asking if only the CpGs included in object should be used to find DMRs. Default is FALSE.		
include_cpgs	TRUE/FALSE. Should individual CpGs be returned. Default is FALSE.		
include_dmrs	TRUE/FALSE. Should differentially methylated regions be returned. Default is TRUE.		
init_param_method			
	method to initialize parameter estimates. Choose between "random" (randomly sample) or "known_regions" (uses unmethyalted and methylated regions that were identified based on Reinus et al. (2012) cell sorted data.). Defaults to "random".		
a0init	Default NULL. Initial mean methylation level in unmethylated regions		
a1init	Default NULL. Initial mean methylation level in methylated regions		
sig0init	Default NULL. Initial var methylation level in unmethylated regions		
sig1init	Default NULL. Initial var methylation level in methylated regions		
tauinit	Default NULL. Initial var for measurement error		
demo	TRUE/FALSE. Should the function be used in demo mode to shorten examples in package. Defaults to FALSE.		

#### Value

A object of the class estimatece that contains information about the cell composition estimation (in the summary slot) and the cell composition estimates themselves (in the cell\_counts slot).

#### **Examples**

```
# This is a reduced version of the FlowSorted.Blood.450k
# dataset available by using BiocManager::install("FlowSorted.Blood.450k),
# but for purposes of the example, we use the smaller version
# and we set \code{demo=TRUE}. For any case outside of this example for
# the package, you should set \code{demo=FALSE} (the default).

dir <- system.file("data", package="methylCC")
files <- file.path(dir, "FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub.RData")
if(file.exists(files)){
    load(file = files)

    set.seed(12345)
    est <- estimatecc(object = FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub, demo = TRUE)
    cell_counts(est)
}</pre>
```

estimatecc-class

the estimatecc class

#### Description

Objects of this class store all the values needed information to work with a estimatecc object

#### Value

summary returns the summary information about the cell composition estimate procedure and cell\_counts returns the cell composition estimates

#### **Slots**

summary information about the samples and regions used to estimate cell composition cell\_counts cell composition estimates

#### **Examples**

```
# This is a reduced version of the FlowSorted.Blood.450k
# dataset available by using BiocManager::install("FlowSorted.Blood.450k),
# but for purposes of the example, we use the smaller version
# and we set \code{demo=TRUE}. For any case outside of this example for
# the package, you should set \code{demo=FALSE} (the default).

dir <- system.file("data", package="methylCC")
files <- file.path(dir, "FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub.RData")
if(file.exists(files)){
    load(file = files)

    set.seed(12345)
    est <- estimatecc(object = FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub, demo = TRUE)
    cell_counts(est)
}</pre>
```

FlowSorted.Blood.450k.sub

A reduced size of the FlowSorted.Blood.450k dataset

#### **Description**

A reduced size of the FlowSorted.Blood.450k dataset

The object was created using the script in /inst and located in the /data folder.

#### **Format**

A RGset object with 2e5 rows (probes) and 6 columns (whole blood samples).

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offMethRegions Unmethylated regions for all celltypes		
	offMethRegions	Unmethylated regions for all celltypes

# Description

This is the script used to create the offMethRegions data set. The purpose is use in the estimate\_cc() function

The object was created using the script in /inst and located in the /data folder.

#### **Format**

add more here.

onMethRegions	Methylated regions for all celltypes	
---------------	--------------------------------------	--

# Description

This is the script used to create the onMethRegions data set. The purpose is use in the estimate\_cc() function.

The object was created using the script in /inst and located in the /data folder.

#### **Format**

add more here.

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