

# Package ‘SynMut’

November 7, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** SynMut: Designing Synonymously Mutated Sequences with Different Genomic Signatures

**Version** 1.27.0

**Description** There are increasing demands on designing virus mutants with specific dinucleotide or codon composition.  
This tool can take both dinucleotide preference and/or codon usage bias into account while designing mutants.  
It is a powerful tool for in silico designs of DNA sequence mutants.

**License** GPL-2

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Suggests** BiocManager, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat, devtools, prettydoc, glue

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Imports** seqinr, methods, Biostrings, stringr, BiocGenerics

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.0

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'codon\_random.R' 'codon\_to.R' 'dinu\_to.R' 'distance\_analysis.R'  
'region\_related.R' 'seq\_random.R' 'zzz.R'

**biocViews** SequenceMatching, ExperimentalDesign, Preprocessing

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|            |                                                                 |
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| codon_dist | <i>Calculating the codon usage difference between sequences</i> |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

---

Description

We use a least squares approach to estimate the codon usage difference between DNA sequences.

Usage

```
codon_dist(seq, ref)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY'
codon_dist(seq, ref)
```

Arguments

- seq            the input DNA sequece of DNASTringSet or regioned\_dna class.
- ref           the reference DNA sequece of DNASTringSet or regioned\_dna class.

Details

idea inspired by "Daniel Macedo de Melo Jorge, Ryan E. Mills, Adam S. Lauring, CodonShuffle: a tool for generating and analyzing synonymously mutated sequences, Virus Evolution, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2015, vev012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ve/vev012>"

Value

vector

## Examples

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_cu(rgd.seq)

mut.seq <- codon_random(rgd.seq)
codon_dist(mut.seq, rgd.seq)
mut.seq2 <- codon_random(rgd.seq, keep = TRUE)
codon_dist(mut.seq2, rgd.seq)
```

---

|             |                                        |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|
| codon_mimic | <i>Mimic a target codon usage bias</i> |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|

---

## Description

Mutating the current DNA sequences in the `regioned_dna` object to mimic a target codon usage pattern.

## Usage

```
codon_mimic(object, alt, numcode = 1, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna,vector'
codon_mimic(object, alt, numcode)

## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna,DNAStringSet'
codon_mimic(object, alt, numcode)

## S4 method for signature 'DNAStringSet,DNAStringSet'
codon_mimic(object, alt, numcode)
```

## Arguments

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>object</code>  | regioned_dna object                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <code>alt</code>     | target codon usage vector or DNAStringSet object representing target codon usage                                                                                                                                                           |
| <code>numcode</code> | The ncbi genetic code number for translation. Default value: 1. Details please refer to <code>?seqinr::translate</code> (" <a href="https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html">https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html</a> "). |
| <code>...</code>     | ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Details

The ideas for `codon_mimic` is similar to [codon\\_to](#): first extract the mutable regions and then do the mutation. However the codons in the fixed (not mutable) regions will also alter the final codon usage, thus we have to adjust for the fixed codons when introducing synonymous codons. The ideal design for `codon_mimic` is not unique as the swap between positions of the synonymous codons will not change the codon usage bias.

Details please refer to: <https://koohoko.github.io/SynMut/algorithm.html>

**Value**

regioned\_dna

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [codon\\_to](#), [codon\\_random](#), [dinu\\_to](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
target <- get_cu(rgd.seq)[2,]
new <- codon_mimic(rgd.seq, alt = target)
get_cu(new) - get_cu(rgd.seq)

target <- Biostrings::DNAStringSet("TTGAAAA-CTC-N--AAG")
new <- codon_mimic(rgd.seq, alt = target)
get_cu(new) - get_cu(rgd.seq)
get_freq(new) - get_freq(rgd.seq)
get_rscu(new) - get_rscu(rgd.seq)
```

---

codon\_random

*Generate random synonymous mutations*

---

**Description**

Generating random synonymous mutations (in user-defined region), with optionally keeping/not keeping the original codon usage bias.

**Usage**

```
codon_random(object, n = 1, keep = FALSE, numcode = 1, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'
codon_random(object, n, keep, numcode)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'DNAStringSet'
codon_random(object, n, keep, numcode)
```

**Arguments**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object  | A regioned_dna object.                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| n       | Optional n parameter specifying what proportion of the codons to be mutated. Default value: 1.                                                                                                                                             |
| keep    | Logical parameter controlling whether keeping the codon usage bias                                                                                                                                                                         |
| numcode | The ncbi genetic code number for translation. Default value: 1. Details please refer to <code>?seqinr::translate</code> (" <a href="https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html">https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html</a> "). |
| ...     | ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

## Details

This method randomly sample synonymous codons for n propotion of every mutable codons in the sequences. This process will be likely to alter the codon usage bias of the original sequences. However the keep = TRUE argument help to preserve the codon usage bias. It is done via the synsequence function in seqinr package. The synsequence function essentially swaps the position of the synonymous codons without introducing new codons into the original sequences.

## Value

A regioned\_dna object containing the mutants; Or a DNASTringSet object if the input is a DNASTringSet object.

## See Also

[input\\_seq](#), [dinu\\_to](#), [codon\\_to](#), [codon\\_mimic](#)

## Examples

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
set.seed(2019)
get_cu(codon_random(rgd.seq, n = 0.5))
get_cu(codon_random(rgd.seq))
```

---

codon\_to

*Maximize or minimize the usage of certain codon.*

---

## Description

Input string of a codon to either the "max.codon = " or "min.codon = " parameter to maximize or minimize the usage of certain codon in the sequence.

## Usage

```
codon_to(object, max.codon = NA, min.codon = NA, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'
codon_to(object, max.codon, min.codon)
```

## Arguments

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| object    | A regioned_dna object. |
| max.codon | A string of a codon.   |
| min.codon | A string of a codon.   |
| ...       | ...                    |

## Details

The ideas for this function is simple. We first extract the mutable regions for every sequences, then mutated the synonymous codons of the input to the desired. There will be only one ideal design for the maximization problem, however there may be numerous comparable designs having the same minimal usage of certain codon, as we randomly sample synonymous codon for substitution when solving the minimization problem.

## Value

A regioned\_dna object.

## See Also

[input\\_seq](#), [dinu\\_to](#), [codon\\_random](#), [codon\\_mimic](#)

## Examples

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_cu(codon_to(rgd.seq, max.codon = "AAC")) - get_cu(rgd.seq)
get_cu(codon_to(rgd.seq, min.codon = "AAC")) - get_cu(rgd.seq)
```

---

dinu\_dist

*Calculating the dinucleotide usage difference between sequences*

---

## Description

We use a least squares approach to estimate the dinucleotide usage difference between DNA sequences

## Usage

```
dinu_dist(seq, ref)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY'
dinu_dist(seq, ref)
```

## Arguments

seq                    the input DNA sequence of DNASTringSet or regioned\_dna class.  
ref                    the reference DNA sequence of DNASTringSet or regioned\_dna class.

## Details

similar method that applied in "Daniel Macedo de Melo Jorge, Ryan E. Mills, Adam S. Luring, CodonShuffle: a tool for generating and analyzing synonymously mutated sequences, Virus Evolution, Volume 1, Issue 1, March 2015, vev012, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ve/vev012>"

**Value**

vector

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_cu(rgd.seq)

mut.seq <- codon_random(rgd.seq)
dinu_dist(mut.seq, rgd.seq)
```

---

|         |                                                                |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| dinu_to | <i>Maximize or minimize the usage of certain dinucleotide.</i> |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Input string of a dinucleotide to either the "max.dinu = " or "min.codon = " parameter to maximize or minimize the usage of certain codon in the sequence. Using a greedy algorithm with priority given to dinucleotide12 or dinucleotide23.

**Usage**

```
dinu_to(object, max.dinu = NA, min.dinu = NA, keep = FALSE, numcode = 1, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'
dinu_to(object, max.dinu, min.dinu, keep, numcode)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object   | A regioned_dna object.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| max.dinu | A string of a dinucleotide.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| min.dinu | A string of a dinucleotide.                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| keep     | A logical varibale stating if the codon usage of the original sequences should be keep. Default: False.                                                                                                                       |
| numcode  | The ncbi genetic code number for translation. Default value: 1. Details please refer to ?seqinr::translate (" <a href="https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html">https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html</a> "). |
| ...      | ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**Details**

The detail strategy for this function please refer to: <https://koohoko.github.io/SynMut/algorithm.html>

**Value**

regioned\_dna

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [codon\\_to](#), [codon\\_random](#), [codon\\_mimic](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_du(dinu_to(rgd.seq, max.dinu = "cg")) - get_du(rgd.seq)
get_du(dinu_to(rgd.seq, min.dinu = "AA")) - get_du(rgd.seq)
get_du(dinu_to(rgd.seq, max.dinu = "cg", keep = TRUE)) - get_du(rgd.seq)
get_cu(dinu_to(rgd.seq, max.dinu = "CG", keep = TRUE)) - get_cu(rgd.seq)
```

---

get\_cu

*Get codon usage matrix*

---

**Description**

Access the codon usage matrix

**Usage**

```
get_cu(object, ...)
```

## S4 method for signature 'regioned\_dna'

```
get_cu(object)
```

## S4 method for signature 'DNAStrngSet'

```
get_cu(object)
```

**Arguments**

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| object | regioned_dna / DNAStrngSet |
| ...    | ...                        |

**Value**

matrix

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_region](#), [get\\_nu](#), [get\\_du](#), [get\\_freq](#), [get\\_rscu](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_cu(rgd.seq)
```

---

|         |                                  |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| get_dna | <i>Get the DNASTringSet data</i> |
|---------|----------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Access the DNA sequence data in DNASTringSet.

**Usage**

```
get_dna(object, ...)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'  
get_dna(object)
```

**Arguments**

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
| object | A regioned_dna object. |
| ...    | ...                    |

**Value**

DNASTringSet

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")  
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)  
get_dna(rgd.seq)
```

---

|        |                                      |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| get_du | <i>Get dinucleotide usage matrix</i> |
|--------|--------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Access the dinucleotide usage matrix

**Usage**

```
get_du(object, ...)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'  
get_du(object)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'DNASTringSet'  
get_du(object)
```

Arguments

object                    regioned\_dna / DNASTringSet  
...                        ...

Value

matrix

See Also

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_region](#), [get\\_nu](#), [get\\_cu](#), [get\\_freq](#), [get\\_rscu](#)

Examples

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")  
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)  
get_du(rgd.seq)
```

---

|          |                                                       |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| get_freq | <i>Get codon usage frequency of synonymous codons</i> |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------|

---

Description

Access the synonymous codon usage frequency

Usage

```
get_freq(object, numcode = 1, ...)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'  
get_freq(object, numcode)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'DNASTringSet'  
get_freq(object, numcode)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'matrix'  
get_freq(object, numcode)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'vector'  
get_freq(object, numcode)
```

Arguments

object                    regioned\_dna / DNASTringSet / codon usage matrix (vector)  
numcode                   The ncbi genetic code number for translation. Default value: 1. Details please refer to `?seqinr::translate` ("<https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html>").  
...                        ...

**Value**

matrix

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_region](#), [get\\_cu](#), [get\\_du](#), [get\\_rscu](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_freq(rgd.seq)
```

---

get\_nu

*Get nucleotide usage matrix*

---

**Description**

Access the nucleotide usage matrix

**Usage**

```
get_nu(object, ...)
```

## S4 method for signature 'regioned\_dna'

```
get_nu(object)
```

## S4 method for signature 'DNAStrngSet'

```
get_nu(object)
```

**Arguments**

|        |                            |
|--------|----------------------------|
| object | regioned_dna / DNAStrngSet |
| ...    | ...                        |

**Value**

matrix

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_region](#), [get\\_cu](#), [get\\_du](#), [get\\_rscu](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_nu(rgd.seq)
```

---

|            |                                |
|------------|--------------------------------|
| get_region | <i>Get the variable region</i> |
|------------|--------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Access the variable regions

**Usage**

```
get_region(object, ...)  
  
## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'  
get_region(object)
```

**Arguments**

|        |              |
|--------|--------------|
| object | regioned_dna |
| ...    | ...          |

**Value**

list

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_cu](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")  
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)  
get_region(rgd.seq)
```

---

|          |                                                                        |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| get_rscu | <i>Get Relative Synonymous Codon Usage (rscu) of synonymous codons</i> |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Access the Relative Synonymous Codon Usage rscu

**Usage**

```
get_rscu(object, numcode = 1, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'regioned_dna'
get_rscu(object, numcode)

## S4 method for signature 'DNASet'
get_rscu(object, numcode)
```

**Arguments**

|         |                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object  | regioned_dna / DNASet / codon usage matrix (vector)                                                                                                            |
| numcode | The ncbi genetic code number for translation. Default value: 1. Details please refer to ?seqinr::translate ("https://rdrr.io/cran/seqinr/man/translate.html"). |
| ...     | ...                                                                                                                                                            |

**Value**

matrix

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_region](#), [get\\_cu](#), [get\\_du](#), [get\\_freq](#)

**Examples**

```
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)
get_rscu(rgd.seq)
```

---

|           |                                                         |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| input_seq | <i>Import region / constructing regioned_dna object</i> |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Constructing regioned\_dna from DNASet. Optionally input a region data.frame to define restricted amino-acid region for mutation.

**Usage**

```
input_seq(object, region = NA, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'character'
input_seq(object, region)

## S4 method for signature 'DNASet'
input_seq(object, region)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'DNAString'
input_seq(object, region)
```

Arguments

|        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| object | Filepath or DNAStringSet. The input sequences is suggested to be in open reading frame(ORF).                                                                                                                              |
| region | NA. A data.frame specifying paticular regions (positions in amino acid sequence) that is allowed to be mutated in the sequences. Both 1 / 0 or TRUE / FALSE encoding is OK. Please refer to Examples below for reference. |
| ...    | ...                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

Value

A regioned\_dna-class object

See Also

[get\\_cu](#), [get\\_du](#), [get\\_region](#), [get\\_dna](#)

Examples

```
# Creating a input_seq class directly from system file
filepath <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath)

# Optionally input with region dataframe
filepath.fasta <- system.file("extdata", "example.fasta", package = "SynMut")
fp.csv <- system.file("extdata", "target_regions.csv", package = "SynMut")
region <- read.csv(fp.csv)
rgd.seq <- input_seq(filepath.fasta, region)

# Creating from exsisting DNAStringSet object
seq <- Biostrings::DNAStringSet("ATCGATCGA")
rgd.seq <- input_seq(seq)
```

---

|                    |                                                                               |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| regioned_dna-class | <i>An S4 class to record DNA sequences and variable regions for mutations</i> |
|--------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

Description

Recording codon DNA sequences and region.

**Slots**

dnaseq a DNASTingSet object recording the sequence(s)

region a list specifying particular regions in the sequences allowed to be mutated

**Author(s)**

Haogao Gu

**See Also**

[input\\_seq](#), [get\\_cu](#), [get\\_region](#)

---

|            |                                                    |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| seq_random | <i>Generate n random DNA sequences of length m</i> |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Generate n random DNA sequences of length m, optional exclude stop codons.

**Usage**

```
seq_random(n = 1, m, no.stop.codon = FALSE, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'numeric,numeric'
seq_random(n, m, no.stop.codon)
```

**Arguments**

|               |                                                                                                      |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| n             | the number of the output sequence(s).                                                                |
| m             | the length of the output sequence(s). Either a fixed number or a vector of different numbers.        |
| no.stop.codon | Default FALSE. If TRUE, the stop codons in the frame 1 would be substituted to another random codon. |
| ...           | ...                                                                                                  |

**Value**

a DNASTringSet object

**Examples**

```
seq_random(n = 1, m = 99)
seq_random(n = 10, m = 30)
seq_random(n = 10, m = 1:10)
seq.nsc <- seq_random(n = 10, m = 100, no.stop.codon = TRUE)
get_cu(seq.nsc)
```

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