# Package 'ceRNAnetsim'

July 6, 2025

Type Package

**Title** Regulation Simulator of Interaction between miRNA and Competing RNAs (ceRNA)

**Version** 1.20.0

**Description** This package simulates regulations of ceRNA

(Competing Endogenous) expression levels after a expression level change in one or more miRNA/mRNAs. The methodolgy adopted by the package has potential to incorparate any ceRNA (circRNA, lincRNA, etc.) into miRNA:target interaction network. The package basically distributes miRNA expression over available ceRNAs where each ceRNA attracks miRNAs proportional to its amount. But, the package can utilize multiple parameters that modify miRNA effect on its target (seed type, binding energy, binding location, etc.). The functions handle the given dataset as graph object and the processes progress via edge and node variables.

**License** GPL (>= 3.0)

URL https://github.com/selcenari/ceRNAnetsim

BugReports https://github.com/selcenari/ceRNAnetsim/issues

**Depends** R (>= 4.0.0), dplyr, tidygraph

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2 Contents

# Contents

Index

| calc_perturbation        | 3  |
|--------------------------|----|
| find_affected_nodes      | 4  |
| find_iteration           | 5  |
| find_node_perturbation   | 6  |
| find_targeting_nodes     | 7  |
| gene_knockdown           | 8  |
| huge_example             | 9  |
| midsamp                  | 9  |
| midsamp_new_counts       | 0  |
| minsamp                  | 0  |
| mirtarbasegene           | 1  |
| new_counts               | 1  |
| normalize                | 2  |
| prepare_rhs              | 2  |
| prepare_rhs_once         | 3  |
| priming_graph            | 3  |
| simulate                 | 4  |
| simulate_vis             | 5  |
| TCGA_E9_A1N5_mirnanormal | 7  |
| TCGA_E9_A1N5_mirnatumor  | 7  |
| TCGA_E9_A1N5_normal      | 8  |
| TCGA_E9_A1N5_tumor       | 9  |
| update_how               | 9  |
| update_nodes             | :0 |
| update_variables         | 1  |
| vis_graph                | 2  |
|                          |    |

**24** 

calc\_perturbation 3

| calc_perturbation | Calculates average expression changes of all nodes except trigger and |
|-------------------|---|
|                   | finds the perturbed node count for a given node.                      |
|                   | • • •   |

## **Description**

Calculates average expression changes of all nodes except trigger and finds the perturbed node count for a given node.

### Usage

```
calc_perturbation(input_graph, node_name, how = 1, cycle = 1, limit = 0)
```

## **Arguments**

input\_graph the graph object that was processed with priming graph in previous step.

node\_name The node that is trigger for simulation.

how The change of count of the given node in terms of fold change.

cycle The iteration of simulation.

limit The minimum fold change which can be taken into account for perturbation

calculation on all nodes in terms of percentage.

#### **Details**

calc\_perturbation calculates mean expression changes of elements except trigger after the change in the network in terms of percentage. It also calculates the number of nodes that have expression changes after the change occur in the network. The function determines the perturbation efficiency and number of perturbed nodes after given change with how, cycle and limit parameter.

### Value

a tibble with two columns, the perturbation efficiency and number of perturbed nodes.

```
data('minsamp')
minsamp%>%
    priming_graph(competing_count = Competing_expression,
        miRNA_count = miRNA_expression)%>%
    calc_perturbation('Gene6', how= 3, cycle = 4)

minsamp%>%
    priming_graph(competing_count = Competing_expression, miRNA_count = miRNA_expression,
        aff_factor = c(energy,seed_type), deg_factor = region)%>%
    calc_perturbation('Gene6',3, cycle = 4)
```

4 find\_affected\_nodes

find\_affected\_nodes

Finds top affected nodes for perturbation from a particular node

## **Description**

Finds top affected nodes for perturbation from a particular node

## Usage

```
find_affected_nodes(
  input_graph,
  node_name,
  how = 1,
  cycle = 1,
  limit = 0,
  top = 5
)
```

## **Arguments**

input\_graph The graph object that was processed with priming\_graph function.

node\_name The node to trigger perturbations.

how The change of count (expression) of the given node in terms of fold change.

cycle The iteration of simulation.

limit The minimum fold change which can be taken into account for perturbation

calculation on all nodes in terms of percentage.

top Determines how many nodes most affected will be listed.

#### **Details**

Lists the most affected nodes after perturbation initiated from a particular node. In the background, it compares the calculated values after the simulation with their initial values.

## Value

It gives a tibble form dataset that includes perturbation node, affected nodes and changes of them.

find\_iteration 5

top = 2)

find\_iteration

Finds the iteration which provides maximum affected node number

# Description

searches the iteration that provides maximum affected node number. The user defines a symbolic iteration with .iter. The function calculates the number of affected nodes for each iteration and then selects the iteration that has maximum affected nodes' number.

## Usage

```
find_iteration(df, limit = 0.1, plot = FALSE)
```

## **Arguments**

| df | A tbl graph that includes the miRNA and competing targets triggered and simu- |
|----|---|
|    | lated for number of cycles.   |

limit The minimum amount of change of any node.

plot If TRUE, returns a plot.

## Value

It gives an iteration number to use in simulate() function.

```
data('midsamp')
midsamp %>%
    priming_graph(Gene_expression, miRNA_expression) %>%
    update_how('Gene2',2) %>%
    simulate(10) %>%
    find_iteration(limit=0)
```

find\_node\_perturbation

Calculates average expression changes of all (or specified) nodes except trigger and finds the perturbed node count for all (or specified) nodes in system.

## **Description**

Calculates average expression changes of all (or specified) nodes except trigger and finds the perturbed node count for all (or specified) nodes in system.

## Usage

```
find_node_perturbation(input_graph, how = 2, cycle = 1, limit = 0, fast = 0)
```

### **Arguments**

| input_graph | The graph object that was processed with priming_graph function.  |
|-------------|---|
| how         | The change of count (expression) of the given node in terms of fold change.   |
| cycle       | The iteration of simulation.  |
| limit       | The minimum fold change which can be taken into account for perturbation calculation on all nodes in terms of percentage.   |
| fast        | specifies percentage of affected target in target expression. For example, if fast = 1, the nodes that are affected from miRNA repression activity more than one percent of their expression is determined as subgraph. |

### **Details**

find\_node\_perturbation calculates mean expression changes of elements after the change in the network in terms of percentage. It also calculates the number of nodes that have expression changes after the change occur in the network. The outputs of the function are the perturbation efficiency and perturbed count of nodes for each nodes.

#### Value

It gives a tibble form dataset that includes node names, perturbation efficiency and perturbed count of nodes.

```
data('minsamp')
data('midsamp')

minsamp%>%
priming_graph(competing_count = Competing_expression, miRNA_count = miRNA_expression)%>%
find_node_perturbation()%>%
select(name, perturbation_efficiency, perturbed_count)
```

find\_targeting\_nodes 7

```
minsamp%>%
priming_graph(competing_count = Competing_expression, miRNA_count = miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(energy,seed_type), deg_factor = region)%>%
find_node_perturbation(how = 3, cycle = 4)%>%
    select(name, perturbation_efficiency, perturbed_count)

midsamp%>%
priming_graph(competing_count = Gene_expression, miRNA_count = miRNA_expression)%>%
find_node_perturbation(how = 2, cycle= 3, limit=1, fast = 5)%>%
    select(name, perturbation_efficiency, perturbed_count)
```

find\_targeting\_nodes Finds potential affecting node for given particular target.

## **Description**

Finds potential affecting node for given particular target.

## Usage

```
find_targeting_nodes(
  input_graph,
  how = 2,
  cycle = 1,
  limit = 0,
  fast = 0,
  top = 5,
  target = NULL
)
```

## **Arguments**

| input_graph | The graph object that was processed with priming_graph function.  |
|-------------|---|
| how         | The change of count (expression) of the given node in terms of fold change.   |
| cycle       | The iteration of simulation.  |
| limit       | The minimum fold change which can be taken into account for perturbation calculation on all nodes in terms of percentage.   |
| fast        | specifies percentage of affected target in target expression. For example, if fast = 1, the nodes that are affected from miRNA repression activity more than one percent of their expression is determined as subgraph. |
| top         | Determines how many nodes most affected will be evaluated.  |
| target      | The target node in which is being investigated.   |

8 gene\_knockdown

## **Details**

Lists potential targeting nodes by running find\_affected\_nodes function for all nodes in network.

### Value

It gives a tibble form dataset that includes parturbation node (source) and change in count of targeting node

## **Examples**

gene\_knockdown

Knocks down given node.

## **Description**

Knocks down given node.

# Usage

```
gene_knockdown(input_graph, node_name)
```

# Arguments

input\_graph The graph object that processed in previous step/s.

node\_name The name of the node whose count is to be knocked down.

#### **Details**

knocks down a given gene target.

## Value

the graph object.

huge\_example 9

huge\_example huge example

## **Description**

A sample dataset which is utilised through integration of TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_normal, TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_mirnanormal and high-throughput experimental miRNA:gene dataset.

#### **Format**

A data frame with 7 variables and 26176 observation:

competing name of gene

miRNA name of miRNA

competing\_counts Expression values of competing element (gene)

mirnaexpression\_normal Expression value of miRNA elements in normal tissue

Energy Energy of miRNA:target binding

region\_effect Coefficient for efficiency of location on target

seed\_type\_effect Coefficient for efficiency of seed sequence of miRNA:target interaction

#### Source

Dataset was integrated by us.

midsamp

midsamp

#### **Description**

middle sized sample dataset

## Format

A data frame with 7 variables and 26 observation of them:

Genes symbol of gene

miRNAs symol of miRNA

Gene\_expression Expression values of competing gene

miRNA\_expression Expression value of miRNA

seeds Coefficient for efficiency of seed type of miRNA:target interaction

targeting\_region Coefficient for efficiency of location on target

**Energy** Energy of miRNA:target binding

#### Source

Dataset was created by us.

10 minsamp

midsamp\_new\_counts

midsamp\_new\_counts

# **Description**

includes new expression values for middle sized sample dataset

#### **Format**

A data frame with 4 variables and 26 observation of them:

Competing symbol of gene

miRNA symol of miRNA

Competing\_count Expression values of competing gene

miRNA\_count Expression value of miRNA

#### **Source**

Dataset was created by us.

minsamp

minsamp

### **Description**

minimal sample dataset

## **Format**

A data frame with 7 variables and 7 observation of them:

competing symbol of gene

miRNA symol of miRNA

Competing\_expression Expression values of competing gene

miRNA\_expression Expression value of miRNA

seed\_type Coefficient for efficiency of seed sequence of miRNA:target interaction

region Coefficient for efficiency of location on target

energy Energy of miRNA:target binding

#### Source

Dataset was created by us.

mirtarbasegene 11

mirtarbasegene

mirtarbasegene

# Description

the dataset that includes miRNA:target gene interactions downloaded from mirtarbase

### **Format**

Classes tbl\_df, tbl and data.frame with 380627 observation of 2 variables:

miRNA miRNA symbol

Target target gene symbol

## **Source**

http://mirtarbase.mbc.nctu.edu.tw/php/index.php

new\_counts

new\_counts

## **Description**

includes new expression values for minimal sample dataset

## **Format**

A data frame with 7 variables and 7 observation of them:

Competing symbol of gene

miRNA symol of miRNA

Competing\_count Expression values of competing gene

miRNA\_count Expression value of miRNA

## **Source**

Dataset was created by us.

12 prepare\_rhs

normalize

normalize

# Description

normalizes the values according to maximum values inside a group. The helper function of priming\_graph.

## Usage

```
normalize(x)
```

## **Arguments**

Х

The variable name that is normalized.

## Value

normalized values

prepare\_rhs

Carries the variables from edge to node

## **Description**

Carries the variables from edge to node.

# Usage

```
prepare_rhs(input_graph)
```

## **Arguments**

input\_graph

Processed graph object in previous step.

## **Details**

The function is a helper function for processing of graph object with update\_nodes function.

## Value

tibble object

prepare\_rhs\_once 13

prepare\_rhs\_once

Carries the variables from edge to node.

## **Description**

Carries the variables from edge to node.

# Usage

```
prepare_rhs_once(input_graph)
```

#### **Arguments**

input\_graph Processed graph object in previous step.

### **Details**

The function is a helper function for processing of graph object with update\_nodes function.

### Value

tibble object

priming\_graph

Converts the given dataframe using first variable as competing and the second as miRNA. The function converts the given dataframe using first variable as competing and the second as miRNA. If user defines interaction factors as affinity or degradation, the factors are taken into account.

## **Description**

Converts the given dataframe using first variable as competing and the second as miRNA. The function converts the given dataframe using first variable as competing and the second as miRNA. If user defines interaction factors as affinity or degradation, the factors are taken into account.

## Usage

```
priming_graph(
   df,
   competing_count,
   miRNA_count,
   aff_factor = dummy,
   deg_factor = dummy)
```

14 simulate

## **Arguments**

df A data frame that includes the miRNA and competing targets.

competing\_count

The counts (or expression) of competing elements of the dataset.

miRNA\_count The counts (or expression) of repressive element (miRNA) of the dataset.

aff\_factor The parameter/s of binding between miRNA and targets.

deg\_factor The parameter/s for degradation of bound miRNA:target complex.

#### **Details**

priming\_graph provides grouping of competing targets and evaluation of targets within the groups taking into account miRNA:target, target:total target, interaction and degradation parameters. The target groups are determined according to miRNAs. If the factors that are important in target interactions are specified as arguments, the factors also are evaluated separately within each group. priming\_graph also calculates the miRNA efficiency in steady-state conditions. It is assumed that quantity of competing targets and miRNAs are shown in the steady-state system after the miRNAs exhibit repressive efficiency. Note that the data must not include missing values such as NA or '-'.

#### Value

the graph object.

## **Examples**

```
data('minsamp')
priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression)
priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = region)
```

simulate

Utilizes the change in expression value/s as triggering.

#### **Description**

simulate function uses the change in expression value/s as triggering.

## Usage

```
simulate(input_graph, cycle = 1, threshold = 0, knockdown = TRUE)
```

simulate\_vis 15

## Arguments

input\_graph The graph object that processed in previous steps.

cycle Optimal iteration number for gaining steady-state.

threshold absolute minimum amount of change required to be considered as up/down reg-

ulated element

knockdown specifies gene knockdown with default TRUE

#### **Details**

The steady-state conditions of the system are disturbed after the change in the graph (with update\_how or update\_variables). In this case, the system tend to be steady state again. The arrangement of competetive profiles of the targets continue until all nodes are updated and steady-state nearly. Note that, If 'how' argument is specified as '0', \*simulate()\* and \*update\_how()\* functions process the variables to knockdown of specified gene with default 'knockdown = TRUE' and knocked down competing RNA is kept at zero. However, if 'knockdown= FALSE' argument is applied, competing RNA which has initial expression level of zero is allowed to increase or fluctuate during calculations.

#### Value

The graph.

## **Examples**

simulate\_vis

*Provides visualisation of the graph in addition to simulate function.* 

## Description

simulate\_vis provides visualisation of the graph in addition to simulate function.

16 simulate\_vis

### Usage

```
simulate_vis(
  input_graph,
  cycle = 1,
  threshold = 0,
  save = FALSE,
  Competing_color = "green",
  mirna_color = "orange",
  Upregulation = "red",
  Downregulation = "blue",
  title = "GRAPH",
  layout = "kk"
)
```

#### **Arguments**

input\_graph The graph object that processed in previous steps. cycle Optimal iteration number for gaining steady-state.

threshold absolute minimum amount of change required to be considered as up/down reg-

ulated element

save provides to save graph output

Competing\_color

The color of competing elements on the graph with "green" default.

mirna\_color The color of miRNAs on the graph with "orange" default.

Upregulation The color of Upregulated elements on the graph with "red" default.

Downregulation The color of Downregulated elements on the graph with "blue" default.

title Title of the given graph.

layout The layout that will be used for visualisation of the graph.

#### **Details**

simulate\_vis gives the last graph object and each iterations' image.

## Value

It gives a graph and the images of states in each iteration until the end of the simulation.

```
# When does the system gain steady-state conditions again?
## new_counts, the dataset that includes the current counts of nodes.
data("minsamp")
data("new_counts")
priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression)%>%
```

```
update_variables(new_counts)%>%
  simulate_vis()

priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = c(region))%>%
  update_variables(new_counts)%>%
  simulate_vis(cycle = 12)
```

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_mirnanormal

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_mirnanormal

## **Description**

The dataset contains mirna expression values for normal tissue sample of TCGA-E9-A1N5 barcoded patient

#### **Format**

Classes tbl\_df, tbl and data.frame with 750 observation of 6 variables:

barcode Sample, normal tissue, barcode of patient based on TCGA

mirbase\_ID mirbase id of miRNA

miRNA miRNA name

**Precusor** Precusor id of miRNA which is given in miRNA variable

total\_read total reading count of miRNA which is produced from different gene locations

total\_RPM total RPM (reading per million) of miRNA

## Source

```
https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/
```

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_mirnatumor

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_mirnatumor

# **Description**

The dataset contains mirna expression values for tumor tissue sample of TCGA-E9-A1N5 barcoded patient

## **Format**

```
Classes tbl_df, tbl and data.frame with 648 observation of 6 variables:
```

barcode Sample, tumor tissue, barcode of patient based on TCGA

mirbase\_ID mirbase id of miRNA

miRNA miRNA name

Precusor Precusor id of miRNA which is given in miRNA variable

total\_read total reading count of miRNA which is produced from different gene locations

total\_RPM total RPM (reading per million) of miRNA

### **Source**

```
https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/
```

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_normal

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_normal

## **Description**

The dataset contains gene expression values for normal tissue sample of TCGA-E9-A1N5 barcoded patient

## Format

Classes tbl\_df, tbl and data.frame with 56830 observation of 7 variables:

patient Barcode of patient based on TCGA

sample Tissue sample barcode of the patient

barcode Sample barcode of the patient

**definition** Tissue type of sample (Solid Tissue Normal)

ensembl\_gene\_id Gene id

external\_gene\_name Gene symbol

gene\_expression Gene expression value

#### **Source**

```
https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/
```

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_tumor

TCGA\_E9\_A1N5\_tumor

# Description

The dataset contains gene expression values for cancer tissue sample of TCGA-E9-A1N5 barcoded patient

### **Format**

Classes tbl\_df, tbl and data.frame with 56830 observtion of 7 variables:

patient Barcode of patient based on TCGAsample Tissue sample barcode of the patient

barcode Sample barcode of the patient

definition Tissue type of sample (Primary solid Tumor)

ensembl\_gene\_id Gene id

external\_gene\_name Gene symbol

gene\_expression Gene expression value

#### **Source**

```
https://portal.gdc.cancer.gov/
```

update\_how

Converts the count value of the given node.

## **Description**

this function converts the count value of the given node.

# Usage

```
update_how(input_graph, node_name, how, knockdown = TRUE)
```

# Arguments

input\_graph The graph object that processed in previous step/s.

node\_name The name of the node whose count is to be changed.

how The change in terms of fold change.

knockdown specifies gene knockdown with default TRUE

20 update\_nodes

### **Details**

update\_how function calculates the current value of given mirna or gene node on the graph object. User must specify current value as fold change.

#### Value

the graph object.

### **Examples**

```
data('minsamp')
priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression)%>%
    update_how('Gene1',3)

priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = region)%>%
    update_how('Gene1', 3)

priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = region)%>%
    update_how('Gene1', how=0, knockdown= TRUE)
```

update\_nodes

Carries variables from edge to node.

# Description

This function carries variables from edge to node and should be used after 'update\_how' or 'update\_variables' functions

## Usage

```
update_nodes(input_graph, once = FALSE, limit = 0)
```

# Arguments

input\_graph Processed graph object in previous step.

once The argument is about when the carrying process runs (internal use only)

limit absolute minimum amount of change required to be considered as up/down reg-

ulated element

update\_variables 21

### **Details**

If the carrying process performs after priming\_graph function, the argument must be TRUE. The function helps to visualisation of processed graph object, especially that includes too many nodes. This step makes it easily to follow the processes.

### Value

the graph object.

# **Examples**

```
data('minsamp')
minsamp %>%
    priming_graph(Competing_expression, miRNA_expression) %>%
    update_how('Gene2',2)
```

update\_variables

Replaces new values with previous values of competing or miRNA counts.

# **Description**

This function replaces new values with previous values of competing or miRNA counts.

#### Usage

```
update_variables(input_graph, current_counts)
```

## **Arguments**

#### **Details**

update\_variables function provides updating edge variables to current values. If the microRNA or competing expression (or both) change (decreasing or increasing), this function switches the values that are found in a new dataset provided by user. But the current value dataset must be equal with initial dataset in terms of node name.

#### Value

the graph object.

vis\_graph

### **Examples**

```
data('minsamp')
data('new_counts')

minsamp%>%
priming_graph(Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = region)%>%
    update_variables(new_counts)
    #new_counts includes the current counts of nodes.
```

vis\_graph

Provides visualisation of the graph.

# **Description**

'vis\_graph' Provides visualisation of the graph.

## Usage

```
vis_graph(
  input_graph,
  Competing_color = "green",
  mirna_color = "orange",
  Upregulation = "red",
  Downregulation = "blue",
  title = "GRAPH",
  layout = "kk"
)
```

# Arguments

input\_graph The graph object.

Competing\_color

The color of competing elements on the graph with 'green' default.

mirna\_color The color of miRNAs on the graph with 'orange' default.

 $\label{thm:color} \mbox{Upregulated elements on the graph with 'red' default.}$ 

Downregulation The color of Downregulated elements on the graph with 'blue' default.

title Title of the given graph.

layout The layout that will be used for visualisation of the graph.

## **Details**

vis\_graph ensures the process to be followed.

vis\_graph 23

# Value

The graph object.

```
data('minsamp')
data('new_counts')

# Visualisation of graph in steady-state.

priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = region)%>%
    vis_graph()

# Visualisation of graph after the change.

priming_graph(minsamp, Competing_expression, miRNA_expression,
    aff_factor = c(seed_type,energy), deg_factor = region)%>%
    update_variables(new_counts)%>%
    vis_graph()
```

# **Index**

```
* internal
    gene_knockdown, 8
    normalize, 12
    prepare_rhs, 12
    prepare_rhs_once, 13
calc_perturbation, 3
find_affected_nodes, 4
find\_iteration, 5
find_node_perturbation, 6
find_targeting_nodes, 7
gene_knockdown, 8
huge_example, 9
midsamp, 9
midsamp_new_counts, 10
minsamp, 10
mirtarbasegene, 11
new_counts, 11
normalize, 12
prepare_rhs, 12
prepare_rhs_once, 13
priming_graph, 13
simulate, 14
simulate_vis, 15
TCGA_E9_A1N5_mirnanormal, 17
TCGA_E9_A1N5_mirnatumor, 17
TCGA_E9_A1N5_normal, 18
TCGA_E9_A1N5_tumor, 19
update_how, 19
update_nodes, 20
update_variables, 21
vis_graph, 22
```