

Package ‘ggmuller’

January 15, 2026

Title Create Muller Plots of Evolutionary Dynamics

Version 0.7.0

Description Create plots that combine a phylogeny and frequency dynamics.

Phylogenetic input can be a generic adjacency matrix or a tree of class ``phylo".

Inspired by similar plots in publications of the labs of RE Lenski and JE

Barrick. Named for HJ Muller (who popularised such plots) and H Wickham (whose code this package exploits).

Depends R (>= 3.2.0)

Imports dplyr (>= 0.7.0), ggplot2, ape, rlang

Suggests RColorBrewer, knitr, rmarkdown

VignetteBuilder knitr

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URL <https://github.com/robjohnnoble/ggmuller>

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Contents

add_empty_pop	2
add_root_row	3
add_start_points	4
adj_matrix_to_tree	5
branch_singles	5

example_df	6
example_edges	6
example_pop_df	7
find_start_node	7
get_Adj	8
get_edges	8
get_Muller_df	9
get_population_df	11
move_down	12
move_right	13
move_up	14
Muller_plot	14
Muller_pop_plot	16
path_vector	17
path_vector_new	18
reorder_by_vector	19

Index	20
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add_empty_pop	<i>Modify a dataframe to enable plotting of populations instead of frequencies</i>
---------------	--

Description

The function adds rows at each time point recording the difference between the total population and its maximum value. Generally there is no need to use this function as Muller_pop_plot calls it automatically.

Usage

```
add_empty_pop(Muller_df)
```

Arguments

Muller_df Dataframe created by get_Muller_df

Value

A dataframe that can be used as input in Muller_plot.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[get_Muller_df](#) [Muller_pop_plot](#)

add_start_points	<i>Add rows to a population dataframe to ensure genotype starting points are plotted correctly</i>
------------------	--

Description

The function 1) identifies when genotypes first have non-zero populations; 2) copies all the rows of data for these time points; 3) modifies the copied rows by decreasing Generation and setting Population of the emerging genotypes to be close to zero; and then 4) adds the modified rows to the dataframe. This ensures that ggplot plots genotypes arising at the correct time points.

Usage

```
add_start_points(pop_df, start_positions = 0.5)
```

Arguments

pop_df	Dataframe with column names "Identity", "Population", and either "Generation" or "Time"
start_positions	Numeric value between 0 and 1 that determines the times at which genotypes are assumed to have arisen (see examples)

Details

By default, the function assumes that each genotype arose half way between the latest time at which its population is zero and the earliest time at which its population is greater than zero. You can override this assumption using the start_positions parameter. If start_positions = 0 (respectively 1) then each genotype is assumed to have arisen at the earliest (respectively latest) time compatible with the data. Intermediate values are also permitted.

Value

The input Dataframe with additional rows.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
pop1 <- data.frame(Generation = rep(1:5, each = 4), Identity = rep(1:4, 5),
  Population = c(1,0,0,0,1,1,0,0,1,1,1,0,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1))
add_start_points(pop1)

# to see the effect of changing start_positions, compare the Generation columns:
add_start_points(pop1, 0)
add_start_points(pop1, 1)
```

adj_matrix_to_tree	Create a tree object of class "phylo" from an adjacency matrix
--------------------	--

Description

Create a tree object of class "phylo" from an adjacency matrix

Usage

```
adj_matrix_to_tree(edges)
```

Arguments

edges	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, in which the first column is the parent and the second is the daughter.
-------	---

Value

A phylo object.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
tree <- adj_matrix_to_tree(edges1)
class(tree)
```

branch_singles	Add branches of length zero to get rid of single nodes in an adjacency matrix
----------------	---

Description

Single nodes are those with exactly one daughter. This function is required by adj_matrix_to_tree, since valid "phylo" objects cannot contain single nodes. If pre-existing branches lack lengths then these are set to 1.

Usage

```
branch_singles(edges)
```

Arguments

edges Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"

Value

A dataframe comprising the augmented adjacency matrix.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3), Identity = 2:5)
branch_singles(edges1)
```

example_df	<i>Example dataframe</i>
------------	--------------------------

Description

Example dataframe containing both phylogenetic information and population dynamics.

Usage

```
data(example_df)
```

Format

A dataframe with column names "Generation", "Identity", "Parent", "Population" and "RelativeFitness"

example_edges	<i>Example adjacency matrix</i>
---------------	---------------------------------

Description

Example dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix.

Usage

```
data(example_edges)
```

Format

A dataframe with column names "Parent" and "Identity"

example_pop_df	<i>Example population dataframe</i>
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Description

Example dataframe containing population dynamics.

Usage

```
data(example_pop_df)
```

Format

A dataframe with column names "Generation", "Identity" and "Population"

find_start_node	<i>Move to top of adjacency matrix</i>
-----------------	--

Description

Returns the Parent value of the common ancestor.

Usage

```
find_start_node(edges)
```

Arguments

edges	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
-------	---

Value

The Parent that is the common ancestor.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
find_start_node(edges1)
```

get_Adj	<i>Get adjacency list of a tree.</i>
---------	--------------------------------------

Description

Get adjacency list of a tree.

Usage

```
get_Adj(tree)
```

Arguments

tree	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
------	---

Value

The adjacency list.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
tree1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,1,2,3,4),  
                    Identity = 1:7,  
                    Population = c(1, rep(5, 6)))  
get_Adj(tree1)
```

get_edges	<i>Extract an adjacency matrix from a larger data frame</i>
-----------	---

Description

Extract an adjacency matrix from a larger data frame

Usage

```
get_edges(df, generation = NA)
```

Arguments

df	Dataframe including column names "Identity", "Parent", and either "Generation" or "Time"
generation	Numeric value of Generation (or Time) at which to determine the adjacency matrix (defaults to final time point)

Value

A dataframe comprising the adjacency matrix.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[get_population_df](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
edges <- get_edges(example_df)

# extract the adjacency matrix from the data frame:
pop_df <- get_population_df(example_df)

# create data frame for plot:
Muller_df <- get_Muller_df(edges, pop_df)

require(RColorBrewer) # for the palette

# draw plot:
num_cols <- length(unique(Muller_df$RelativeFitness)) + 1
Muller_df$RelativeFitness <- as.factor(Muller_df$RelativeFitness)
Muller_plot(Muller_df, colour_by = "RelativeFitness",
            palette = rev(colorRampPalette(brewer.pal(9, "YlOrRd"))(num_cols)),
            add_legend = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

get_Muller_df

Create a data frame from which to create a Muller plot

Description

Create a data frame from which to create a Muller plot

Usage

```
get_Muller_df(
  edges,
  pop_df,
  cutoff = 0,
  start_positions = 0.5,
  threshold = NA,
  add_zeroes = NA,
  smooth_start_points = NA
)
```

Arguments

edges	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, or tree of class "phylo"
pop_df	Dataframe with column names "Identity", "Population", and either "Generation" or "Time"
cutoff	Numeric cutoff; genotypes that never become more abundant than this value are omitted
start_positions	Numeric value between 0 and 1 that determines the times at which genotypes are assumed to have arisen (see examples)
threshold	Deprecated (use cutoff instead, but note that "threshold" omitted genotypes that never become more abundant than <i>*twice*</i> its value)
add_zeroes	Deprecated (now always TRUE)
smooth_start_points	Deprecated (now always TRUE)

Value

A dataframe that can be used as input in Muller_plot and Muller_pop_plot.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[Muller_plot](#) [Muller_pop_plot](#)

Examples

```
# by default, all genotypes are included,
# but one can choose to omit genotypes with max frequency < cutoff:
Muller_df <- get_Muller_df(example_edges, example_pop_df, cutoff = 0.01)

# the genotype names can be arbitrary character strings instead of numbers:
example_edges_char <- example_edges
example_edges_char$Identity <- paste0("foo", example_edges_char$Identity, "bar")
```

```

example_edges_char$Parent <- paste0("foo", example_edges_char$Parent, "bar")
example_pop_df_char <- example_pop_df
example_pop_df_char$Identity <- paste0("foo", example_pop_df_char$Identity, "bar")
Muller_df <- get_Muller_df(example_edges_char, example_pop_df_char, cutoff = 0.01)

# the genotype names can also be factors (which is the default for strings in imported data):
example_edges_char$Identity <- as.factor(example_edges_char$Identity)
example_edges_char$Parent <- as.factor(example_edges_char$Parent)
example_pop_df_char$Identity <- as.factor(example_pop_df_char$Identity)
Muller_df <- get_Muller_df(example_edges_char, example_pop_df_char, cutoff = 0.01)

# to see the effect of changing start_positions, compare these two plots:
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,2,1), Identity = 2:4)
pop1 <- data.frame(Time = rep(1:4, each = 4),
                  Identity = rep(1:4, times = 4),
                  Population = c(1, 0, 0, 0,
                                2, 2, 0, 0,
                                4, 8, 4, 0,
                                8, 32, 32, 16))
df0 <- get_Muller_df(edges1, pop1, start_positions = 0)
df1 <- get_Muller_df(edges1, pop1, start_positions = 1)
Muller_plot(df0)
Muller_plot(df1)

```

get_population_df	<i>Extract population data from a larger data frame</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Extract population data from a larger data frame

Usage

```
get_population_df(df)
```

Arguments

df	Dataframe including column names "Identity", "Parent", and either "Generation" or "Time"
----	--

Value

A dataframe comprising the population dynamics.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[get_edges](#)

Examples

```
## Not run:
# extract the adjacency matrix from the data frame:
edges <- get_edges(example_df)

# extract the populations (and any other attributes) from the data frame:
pop_df <- get_population_df(example_df)

# create data frame for plot:
Muller_df <- get_Muller_df(edges, pop_df)

require(RColorBrewer) # for the palette

# draw plot:
num_cols <- length(unique(Muller_df$RelativeFitness)) + 1
Muller_df$RelativeFitness <- as.factor(Muller_df$RelativeFitness)
Muller_plot(Muller_df, colour_by = "RelativeFitness",
            palette = rev(colorRampPalette(brewer.pal(9, "YlOrRd"))(num_cols)),
            add_legend = TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

move_down	<i>Move to daughter in adjacency matrix</i>
-----------	---

Description

Returns the first Identity value in the sorted set of daughters. When parent has no daughters, returns the input Identity.

Usage

```
move_down(edges, parent)
```

Arguments

- edges Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
- parent number or character string specifying whose daughter is to be found

Value

The daughter's Identity.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[move_up](#) [move_right](#)

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
move_down(edges1, 3)
```

move_right

Move to sibling in adjacency matrix

Description

Returns the next Identity value among the sorted set of siblings. When there is no such sibling, returns the input Identity.

Usage

```
move_right(edges, identity)
```

Arguments

edges	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
identity	number or character string specifying whose sibling is to be found

Value

The sibling's Identity.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[move_up](#) [move_down](#)

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
move_right(edges1, 3)
```

move_up

Move to parent in adjacency matrix

Description

Returns the corresponding Parent value. When there is no parent (i.e. at the top of the tree), returns the input Identity.

Usage

```
move_up(edges, identity)
```

Arguments

edges	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
identity	number or character string specifying daughter whose parent is to be found

Value

The Parent value.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[move_down](#) [move_right](#)

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
move_up(edges1, 3)
```

Muller_plot

Draw a Muller plot of frequencies using ggplot2

Description

Draw a Muller plot of frequencies using ggplot2

Usage

```
Muller_plot(
  Muller_df,
  colour_by = "Identity",
  palette = NA,
  add_legend = FALSE,
  xlab = NA,
  ylab = "Frequency",
  pop_plot = FALSE,
  conceal_edges = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

Muller_df	Dataframe created by get_Muller_df
colour_by	Character containing name of column by which to colour the plot
palette	Either a brewer palette or a vector of colours (if colour_by is categorical)
add_legend	Logical whether to show legend
xlab	Label of x axis
ylab	Label of y axis
pop_plot	Logical for whether this function is being called from Muller_pop_plot (otherwise should be FALSE)
conceal_edges	Whether try to conceal the edges between polygons (usually unnecessary or undesirable)

Value

None

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[get_Muller_df](#) [Muller_pop_plot](#)

Examples

```
# include all genotypes:
Muller_df1 <- get_Muller_df(example_edges, example_pop_df)
Muller_plot(Muller_df1)
# omit genotypes with max frequency < 0.1:
Muller_df2 <- get_Muller_df(example_edges, example_pop_df, cutoff = 0.2)
Muller_plot(Muller_df2)
# colour by a continuous variable:
Muller_df1 <- get_Muller_df(example_edges, example_pop_df)
Muller_df1$Val <- as.numeric(Muller_df1$Identity)
```

```
Muller_plot(Muller_df1, colour_by = "Val", add_legend = TRUE)
```

Muller_pop_plot

Draw a Muller plot of population sizes using ggplot2

Description

This variation on the Muller plot, which shows variation in population size as well as frequency, is also known as a fish plot.

Usage

```
Muller_pop_plot(
  Muller_df,
  colour_by = "Identity",
  palette = NA,
  add_legend = FALSE,
  xlab = NA,
  ylab = "Population",
  conceal_edges = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

Muller_df	Dataframe created by get_Muller_df
colour_by	Character containing name of column by which to colour the plot
palette	Either a brewer palette or a vector of colours (if colour_by is categorical)
add_legend	Logical whether to show legend
xlab	Label of x axis
ylab	Label of y axis
conceal_edges	Whether try to conceal the edges between polygons (usually unnecessary or undesirable)

Value

None

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[get_Muller_df](#) [Muller_plot](#)

Examples

```
Muller_df <- get_Muller_df(example_edges, example_pop_df)
Muller_pop_plot(Muller_df)
```

path_vector

Record a path through all nodes of an adjacency matrix

Description

Nodes are traversed in the order that they should be stacked in a Muller plot. Each node appears exactly twice.

Usage

```
path_vector(edges)
```

Arguments

edges	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
-------	---

Value

A vector specifying the path.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
path_vector(edges1)
```

path_vector_new	<i>Faster way to record a path through all nodes of an adjacency matrix</i>
-----------------	---

Description

Nodes are traversed in the order that they should be stacked in a Muller plot. Each node appears exactly twice.

Usage

```
path_vector_new(
  tree,
  i = NULL,
  Adj = NULL,
  Col = NULL,
  is_leaf = NULL,
  path = NULL
)
```

Arguments

tree	Dataframe comprising an adjacency matrix, with column names "Parent" and "Identity"
i	Current node
Adj	Adjacency matrix
Col	Node label
is_leaf	Label whether node is a leaf
path	The path vector so far

Value

A list, including a vector specifying the path.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

Examples

```
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6)
path_vector_new(edges1)$path
```

reorder_by_vector	<i>Reorder a Muller plot dataframe by a vector</i>
-------------------	--

Description

Reorder a Muller plot dataframe by a vector

Usage

```
reorder_by_vector(df, vector)
```

Arguments

df	Dataframe with column names "Identity", "Parent", and either "Generation" or "Time", in which each Identity appears exactly twice
vector	Vector of Identity values

Value

The reordered dataframe.

Author(s)

Rob Noble, <robjohnnoble@gmail.com>

See Also

[path_vector_new](#)

Examples

```
df <- data.frame(Generation = c(rep(0, 6), rep(1, 6)),
  Identity = rep(1:6,2), Population = c(1, rep(0, 5), 10, rep(1, 5)))
df <- rbind(df, df) # duplicate rows
require(dplyr)
df <- arrange(df, Generation) # put in chronological order
edges1 <- data.frame(Parent = c(1,1,1,3,3), Identity = 2:6) # adjacency matrix
path <- path_vector_new(edges1)$path # path through the adjacency matrix
reorder_by_vector(df, path)
```

Index

* datasets

- example_df, [6](#)
- example_edges, [6](#)
- example_pop_df, [7](#)

- add_empty_pop, [2](#)
- add_root_row, [3](#)
- add_start_points, [4](#)
- adj_matrix_to_tree, [5](#)

- branch_singles, [5](#)

- example_df, [6](#)
- example_edges, [6](#)
- example_pop_df, [7](#)

- find_start_node, [7](#)

- get_Adj, [8](#)
- get_edges, [8](#), [12](#)
- get_Muller_df, [2](#), [9](#), [15](#), [16](#)
- get_population_df, [9](#), [11](#)

- move_down, [12](#), [13](#), [14](#)
- move_right, [13](#), [13](#), [14](#)
- move_up, [13](#), [14](#)
- Muller_plot, [10](#), [14](#), [16](#)
- Muller_pop_plot, [2](#), [10](#), [15](#), [16](#)

- path_vector, [17](#)
- path_vector_new, [18](#), [19](#)

- reorder_by_vector, [19](#)