

# Package ‘girafe’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Genome Intervals and Read Alignments for Functional Exploration

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**Imports** methods, Biobase, Biostrings (>= 2.47.6), graphics, grDevices, stats, utils, IRanges (>= 2.13.12)

**Suggests** MASS, org.Mm.eg.db, RColorBrewer

**Enhances** genomeIntervals

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**Description** The package 'girafe' deals with the genome-level representation of aligned reads from next-generation sequencing data. It contains an object class for enabling a detailed description of genome intervals with aligned reads and functions for comparing, visualising, exporting and working with such intervals and the aligned reads. As such, the package interacts with and provides a link between the packages ShortRead, IRanges and genomeIntervals.

**License** Artistic-2.0

**LazyLoad** yes

**biocViews** Sequencing

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addNBSignificance	<i>assess significance of sliding-window read counts</i>
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### Description

This function can be used to assess the significance of sliding-window read counts. The background distribution of read counts in windows is assumed to be a Negative-Binomial (NB) one. The two parameters of the NB distribution, mean ‘mu’ and dispersion ‘size’, are estimated using any of the methods described below (see details). The estimated NB distribution is used to assign a  $p$ -value to each window based on the number of aligned reads in the window. The  $p$ -values can be corrected for multiple testing using any of the correction methods implemented for `p.adjust`.

### Usage

```
addNBSignificance(x, estimate="NB.012", correct = "none", max.n=10L)
```

### Arguments

<code>x</code>	A data.frame of class <code>slidingWindowSummary</code> , as returned by the function <code>perWindow</code> .
<code>estimate</code>	string; which method to use to estimate the parameters of the NB background distribution; see below for details
<code>correct</code>	string; which method to use for $p$ -value adjustment; can be any method that is implemented for <code>p.adjust</code> including “none” if no correction is desired.
<code>max.n</code>	integer; only relevant if <code>estimate=="NB.ML"</code> ; in that case specifies that windows with up to this number of aligned reads should be considered for estimating the background distribution.

## Details

The two parameters of the Negative-Binomial (NB) distribution are: mean ‘ $\lambda$ ’ (or ‘mu’) and size ‘ $r$ ’ (or ‘size’).

The function knows a number of methods to estimate the parameters of the NB distribution.

**“NB.012”** Solely the windows with only 0, 1, or 2 aligned reads are used for estimating  $\lambda$  and ‘ $r$ ’.

From the probability mass function  $g(k) = P(X = k)$  of the NB distribution, it follows that the ratios

$$q_1 = \frac{g(1)}{g(0)} = \frac{\lambda \cdot r}{\lambda + r}$$

and

$$q_2 = \frac{g(2)}{g(1)} = \frac{\lambda \cdot (r + 1)}{2 \cdot (\lambda + r)}.$$

The observed numbers of windows with 0-2 aligned reads are used to estimate

$$\hat{q}_1 = \frac{n_1}{n_0}$$

and

$$\hat{q}_2 = \frac{n_2}{n_1}$$

and from these estimates, one can obtain estimates for  $\hat{\lambda}$  and  $\hat{r}$ .

**“NB.ML”** This estimation method uses the function `fitdistr` from package ‘MASS’. Windows with up to `n.max` aligned reads are considered for this estimate.

**“Poisson”** This estimate also uses the windows the 0-2 aligned reads, but uses these numbers to estimates the parameter  $\lambda$  of a Poisson distribution. The parameter ‘ $r$ ’ is set to a very large number, such that the estimated NB distribution actually is a Poisson distribution with mean and variance equal to  $\lambda$ .

## Value

A data.frame of class `slidingWindowSummary`, which is the the supplied argument `x` extended by an additional column `p.value` which holds the  $p$ -value for each window. The attribute `NBparams` of the result contains the list of the estimated parameters of the Negative-Binomial background distribution.

## Author(s)

Joern Toedling

## References

Such an estimation of the Negative-Binomial parameters has also been described in the paper:  
Ji et al.(2008) An integrated system CisGenome for analyzing CHIP-chip and CHIP-seq data. Nat Biotechnol. 26(11):1293-1300.

## See Also

[perWindow](#), [p.adjust](#)

## Examples

```
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
exA <- readAligned(dirPath=exDir, type="Bowtie",
  pattern="aravinSRNA_23_no_adapter_excerpt_mm9_unmasked.bwtmap")
exAI <- as(exA, "AlignedGenomeIntervals")
exPX <- perWindow(exAI, chr="chrX", winsize=1e5, step=0.5e5)
exPX <- addNBSignificance(exPX, correct="bonferroni")
str(exPX)
exPX[exPX$p.value <= 0.05,]
```

---

agiFromBam

*Create AlignedGenomeIntervals objects from BAM files.*

---

## Description

Function to create AlignedGenomeIntervals objects from BAM (binary alignment map format) files. Uses functions from package Rsamtools to parse BAM files.

## Usage

```
agiFromBam(bamfile, ...)
```

## Arguments

bamfile	File path of BAM file. BAM file should be sorted and have an index in the same directory (see Details below).
...	further arguments passed on to function scanBam

## Details

Note: the BAM files must be sorted and must also have an index file (\*.bai) in the same directory. These should be done when creating the BAM. However, the functions `sortBam` and `indexBam` can be used for the same purpose, as can the respective modules of the “samtools” library (‘samtools sort’ and ‘samtools index’).

The BAM files are parsed chromosome by chromosome to limit the memory footprint of the function. Thus, this function aims to be a less-memory-consuming alternative to first reading in the BAM file using the `readAligned` function and then converting the `AlignedRead` object into an `AlignedGenomeIntervals` object.

## Value

An object of class `AlignedGenomeIntervals`.

## Author(s)

J Toedling

**References**

<http://samtools.sourceforge.net>

**See Also**

[scanBam](#), [AlignedGenomeIntervals-class](#)

**Examples**

```
f1 <- system.file("extdata", "ex1.bam", package="Rsamtools")
ExGi <- agiFromBam(f1)
head(detail(ExGi))
```

---

AlignedGenomeIntervals-class

*Class 'AlignedGenomeIntervals'*

---

**Description**

A class for representing reads from next-generation sequencing experiments that have been aligned to genomic intervals.

**Objects from the Class**

Objects can be created either by:

1. calls of the form `new("AlignedGenomeIntervals", .Data, closed, ...)`.
2. using the auxiliary function `AlignedGenomeIntervals` and supplying separate vectors of same length which hold the required information:  
`AlignedGenomeIntervals(start, end, chromosome, strand, reads, matches, sequence)`  
 If arguments `reads` or `matches` are not specified, they are assumed to be '1' for all intervals.
3. or, probably the most common way, by coercing from objects of class `AlignedRead`.

**Slots**

`.Data`: two-column integer matrix, holding the start and end coordinates of the intervals on the chromosomes

`sequence`: character; sequence of the read aligned to the interval

`reads`: integer; total number of reads that were aligned to this interval

`matches`: integer; the total number of genomic intervals that reads which were aligned to this interval were aligned to. A value of '1' thus means that this read sequence matches uniquely to this one genome interval only

`organism`: string; an identifier for the genome of which organism the intervals are related to. Functions making use of this slot require a specific annotation package `org.<organism>.eg.db`. For example if `organism` is 'Hs', the annotation package 'org.Hs.eg.db' is utilised by these functions. The annotation packages can be obtained from the Bioconductor repositories.

**annotation:** data.frame; see class genome\_intervals for details  
**closed:** matrix; see class genome\_intervals for details  
**type:** character; see class genome\_intervals for details  
**score:** numeric; optional score for each aligned genome interval  
**id:** character; optional identifier for each aligned genome interval  
**chrlengths:** integer; optional named integer vector of chromosome lengths for the respective genome; if present it is used in place of the chromosome lengths retrieved from the annotation package (see slot organism)

### Extends

Class [Genome\\_intervals-class](#), directly. Class [Intervals\\_full](#), by class "Genome\_intervals", distance 2.

### Methods

**coerce** Coercion method from objects of class `AlignedRead`, which is defined in package `ShortRead`, to objects of class `AlignedGenomeIntervals`

**coverage** signature("AlignedGenomeIntervals"): computes the read coverage over all chromosomes. If the `organism` of the object is set correctly, the chromosome lengths are retrieved from the appropriate annotation package, otherwise the maximum interval end is taken to be the absolute length of that chromosome (strand).  
 The result of this method is a list and the individual list elements are of class `Rle`, a class for encoding long repetitive vectors that is defined in package `IRanges`.  
 The additional argument `byStrand` governs whether the coverage is computed separately for each strand. If `byStrand=FALSE` (default) only one result is returned per chromosome. If `byStrand=TRUE`, there result is two separate `Rle` objects per chromosome with the strand appended to the chromosome name.

**detail** signature("AlignedGenomeIntervals"): a more detailed output of all the intervals than provided by `show`; only advisable for objects containing few intervals

**extend** signature("AlignedGenomeIntervals") with additional arguments `fiveprime=0L` and `threeprime=0L`. These must be integer numbers and greater than or equal to 0. They specify how much is subtracted from the left border of the interval and added to the right side. Which end is 5' and which one is 3' are determined from the strand information of the object. Lastly, if the object has an `organism` annotation, it is checked that the right ends of the intervals do not exceed the respective chromosome lengths.

**export** export the aligned intervals as tab-delimited text files which can be uploaded to the UCSC genome browser as 'custom tracks'. Currently, there are methods for exporting the data into 'bed' format and 'bedGraph' format, either writing the intervals from both strands into one file or into two separate files (formats 'bedStrand' and 'bedGraphStrand', respectively). Details about these track formats can be found at the UCSC genome browser web pages.  
 The additional argument `writeHeader` can be set to `FALSE` to suppress writing of the track definition header line to the file.  
 For `Genome_intervals` objects, only 'bed' format is supported at the moment and does not need to be specified.

- hist** signature("AlignedGenomeIntervals"): creates a histogram of the lengths of the reads aligned to the intervals
- organism** Get or set the organism that the genome intervals in the object correspond to. Should be a predefined code, such as 'Mm' for mouse and 'Hs' for human. The reason for this code, that, if the organism is set, a corresponding annotation package that is called `org.<organism>.eg.db` is used, for example for obtaining the chromosome lengths to be used in methods such as coverage. These annotation packages can be obtained from the Bioconductor repository.
- plot** visualisation method; a second argument of class `Genome_intervals_stranded` can be provided for additional annotation to the plot. Please see below and in the vignette for examples. Refer to the documentation of [plotAligned](#) for more details on the plotting function.
- reduce** collapse/reduce aligned genome intervals by combining intervals which are completely included in each other, combining overlapping intervals AND combining immediately adjacent intervals (if `method="standard"`). Intervals are only combined if they are on the same chromosome, the same strand AND have the same match specificity of the aligned reads.  
 If you only want to combine intervals that have exactly the same start and stop position (but may have reads of slightly different sequence aligned to them), then use the argument `method="exact"`.  
 If you only want to combine intervals that have exactly the same 5' or 3' end (but may differ in the other end and in the aligned sequence), then use the argument `method="same5"` (same 5' end) or `method="same3"` (same 3' end).  
 Finally, it's possible to only collapse/reduce aligned genome intervals that overlap each other by at least a certain fraction using the argument `min.frac`. `min.frac` is a number between 0.0 and 1.0. For example, if you call `reduce` with argument `min.frac=0.4`, only intervals that overlap each other by at least 40 percent are collapsed/merged.
- sample** draw a random sample of `n` (Argument size) of the aligned reads (without or with replacement) and returns the `AlignedGenomeIntervals` object defined by these aligned reads.
- score** access or set a custom score for the object
- sort** sorts the intervals by chromosome name, start and end coordinate in increasing order (unless `decreasing=TRUE` is specified) and returns the sorted object
- subset** take a subset of reads, matrix-like subsetting via '[' can also be used

**Author(s)**

Joern Toedling

**See Also**

[Genome\\_intervals-class](#), [AlignedRead-class](#), [plotAligned](#)

**Examples**

```
##### toy example:
A <- new("AlignedGenomeIntervals",
        .Data=cbind(c(1,3,4,5,8,10), c(5,5,6,8,9,11)),
        annotation=data.frame(
          seq_name=factor(rep(c("chr1","chr2","chr3"), each=2)),
          strand=factor(c("-", "-", "+", "+", "+", "+") ,levels=c("-", "+")),
          inter_base=rep(FALSE, 6)),
```

```

reads=rep(3L, 6), matches=rep(1L,6),
sequence=c("ACATT", "ACA", "CGT", "GTAA", "AG", "CT"))

show(A)
detail(A)

## alternative initiation of this object:
A <- AlignedGenomeIntervals(
  start=c(1,3,4,5,8,10), end=c(5,5,6,8,9,11),
  chromosome=rep(c("chr2", "chrX", "chr1"), each=2),
  strand=c("-", "-", "+", "+", "+", "+"),
  sequence=c("ACATT", "ACA", "CGT", "GGAA", "AG", "CT"),
  reads=c(1L, 5L, 2L, 7L, 3L, 3L))
detail(A)

## custom identifiers can be assigned to the intervals
id(A) <- paste("gi", 1:6, sep="")

## subsetting and combining
detail(A[c(1:4)])
detail(c(A[1], A[4]))

## sorting: always useful
A <- sort(A)
detail(A)

## the 'reduce' method provides a cleaned-up, compact set
detail(reduce(A))
## with arguments specifying additional conditions for merging
detail(reduce(A, min.frac=0.8))

## 'sample' to draw a sample subset of reads and their intervals
detail(sample(A, 10))

## biological example
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
exA <- readAligned(dirPath=exDir, type="Bowtie",
  pattern="aravinsRNA_23_no_adapter_excerpt_mm9_unmasked.bwtmap")
exAI <- as(exA, "AlignedGenomeIntervals")
organism(exAI) <- "Mm"
show(exAI)
## which chromosomes are the intervals on?
table(chromosome(exAI))

## subset
exAI[is.element(chromosome(exAI), c("chr1", "chr2"))]

## compute coverage per chromosome:
coverage(exAI[is.element(chromosome(exAI), c("chr1", "chr2"))])

### plotting:
load(file.path(exDir, "mgi_gi.RData"))
if (interactive())

```



```

plot(exAI, mgi.gi, chr="chrX", start=50400000, end=50410000)

### overlap with annotated genome elements:
ex0v <- interval_overlap(exAI, mgi.gi)
## how many elements do read match positions generally overlap:
table(listLen(ex0v))
## what are the 13 elements overlapped by a single match position:
mgi.gi[ex0v[[which.max(listLen(ex0v))]]]
## what kinds of elements are overlapped
(tab0v <- table(as.character(mgi.gi$type)[unlist(ex0v)]))
### display those classes:
my.cols <- rainbow(length(tab0v))
if (interactive())
  pie(tab0v, col=my.cols, radius=0.85)

```

---

countReadsAnnotated    *Sum up aligned reads per category of genome feature*

---

## Description

A function to sum up aligned reads per category of genome feature (i.e. gene, ncRNA, etc.).

## Usage

```
countReadsAnnotated(GI, M, typeColumn="type", fractionGI=0.7,
  mem.friendly=FALSE, showAllTypes=FALSE)
```

## Arguments

GI	object of class AlignedGenomeIntervals
M	Annotation object of class Genome_intervals_stranded or Genome_intervals; describes the genomic coordinates of annotated genome features, such as genes, miRNAs, etc.
typeColumn	string; which column of the annotation object M describes the type of the genome feature
fractionGI	which fraction of the intervals in object GI are required to overlap with a feature in M in order to be considered to correspond to that feature.
mem.friendly	logical; should a version which requires less memory but takes a bit longer be used
showAllTypes	logical; should a table of genome feature types in M be displayed?

## Details

The read counts are summed up over each type of genome feature, and the read counts are normalised by their number of genomic matches. For example if a read has two matches in the genome, but only one inside a miRNA, it would count 0.5 for miRNAs.

**Value**

A named numeric vector which gives the summed read counts for each supplied type of genome feature.

**Author(s)**

J Toedling

**Examples**

```
A <- AlignedGenomeIntervals(
  start=c(1,8,14,20), end=c(5,15,19,25),
  chromosome=rep("chr1", each=4),
  strand=c("+", "+", "+", "+"),
  sequence=c("ACATT", "TATCGGAC", "TCGGACT", "GTAACG"),
  reads=c(7L, 2L, 4L, 5L) )
M2 <- new("Genome_intervals_stranded",
  rbind(c(2,6), c(1,15), c(20,30)),
  closed = matrix(TRUE, ncol=2, nrow=3),
  annotation = data.frame(
    seq_name= factor(rep("chr1", 3)),
    inter_base= logical(3),
    strand=factor(rep("+", 3), levels=c("+", "-")),
    alias=c("miRNA1", "gene1", "tRNA1"),
    type=c("miRNA", "gene", "tRNA")) )
if (interactive()){
  grid.newpage()
  plot(A, M2, chr="chr1", start=0, end=35,
    nameColumn="alias", show="plus")
}
countReadsAnnotated(A, M2, typeColumn="type")
```

---

fracOverlap

*Retrieve intervals overlapping by fraction of width*


---

**Description**

Function to retrieve overlapping intervals that overlap at least by a specified fraction of their widths.

**Usage**

```
fracOverlap(I1, I2, min.frac=0.0, both=TRUE, mem.friendly=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

I1                    object that inherits from class Genome\_intervals  
I2                    object that inherits from class Genome\_intervals

min.frac	numeric; minimum required fraction of each of the two interval widths by which two intervals should overlap in order to be marked as overlapping.
both	logical; shall both overlap partners meet the minimum fraction min.frac requirement? If FALSE, then overlaps with only partner involved to at least that fraction are also reported.
mem.friendly	logical; if set to TRUE an older but memory-friendlier version of interval_overlap is used inside this function. Note that mem.friendly is only evaluated if I1 or I2 is of class AlignedGenomeIntervals.

**Value**

An object of class `data.frame` with one row each for a pair of overlapping elements.

Index1	Index of interval in first interval list
Index2	Index of interval in second interval list
n	number of bases that the two intervals overlap
fraction1	fraction of interval 1's width by which the two intervals overlap
fraction2	fraction of interval 2's width by which the two intervals overlap

**Author(s)**

J. Toedling

**See Also**

[interval\\_overlap](#)

**Examples**

```
data("gen_ints", package="genomeIntervals")
i[4,2] <- 13L
fracOverlap(i, i, 0.5)
```

---

intPhred

*Extract integer Phred score values from FastQ data*

---

**Description**

Function to extract integer Phred score values from FastQ data.

**Usage**

```
intPhred(x, method="Sanger", returnType="list")
```

**Arguments**

x	object of class ShortReadQ; which contains read sequences and quality scores; usually read in from a Fastq files.
method	string; one of 'Sanger', 'Solexa' or 'previousSolexa'. See details below.
returnType	string; in which format should the result be returned, either as a 'list' or as a 'matrix'.

**Details**

There are different standards for encoding read qualities in Fastq files. The 'Sanger' format encodes a Phred quality score from 0 to 93 using ASCII 33 to 126. The current 'Solexa'/Illumina format (1.3 and higher) encodes a Phred quality score from 0 to 40 using ASCII 64 to 104. The 'previous Solexa'/Illumina format (1.0) encodes a custom Solexa/Illumina quality score from -5 to 40 using ASCII 59 to 104. This custom Solexa quality score is approximately equal to the Phred scores for high qualities, but differs in the low quality range.

**Value**

If returnType is equal to 'list': A list of integer Phred quality values of the same length as the number of reads in the object x.

If returnType is equal to 'matrix': A matrix of integer Phred quality values. The number of rows is the number of reads in the object x. The number of columns is the maximum length (width) over all reads in object x. The last entries for reads that are shorter than this maximum width are 'NA'.

**Author(s)**

Joern Toedling

**References**

<http://maq.sourceforge.net/fastq.shtml>

**See Also**

[ShortReadQ-class](#), [readFastq](#)

**Examples**

```
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
ra <- readFastq(dirPath=exDir, pattern=
  "aravinSRNA_23_plus_adapter_excerpt.fastq")
raquals <- intPhred(ra, method="Sanger",
  returnType="matrix")
raqmed <- apply(raquals, 2, median)
if (interactive())
  plot(raqmed, type="h", ylim=c(0,42), xlab="Base position",
    ylab="Median Phred Quality Score", lwd=2, col="steelblue")
```

---

medianByPosition	<i>Compute median quality for each nucleotide position</i>
------------------	--

---

**Description**

This function computes the median quality for each position in a read over all reads in a ShortReadQ object.

**Usage**

```
medianByPosition(x, method = "Sanger", batchSize = 100000L)
```

**Arguments**

x	object of class ShortReadQ, such as the result of function readFastq
method	string; passed on to function intPhred
batchSize	number of rows to process in each iteration; directly influences RAM usage of this function

**Details**

The quality values are computed for each batch of reads and stored as numeric Rle objects for each position. In each iteration, the Rle object of the current batch is merged with the previous one in order to keep the RAM usage low.

**Value**

A numeric vector of the median values per nucleotide position in the reads. The length of this vector corresponds to the length of the longest read in the data.

**Author(s)**

Joern Toedling

**See Also**

[intPhred](#)

**Examples**

```
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
ra <- readFastq(dirPath=exDir, pattern=
  "aravinSRNA_23_plus_adapter_excerpt.fastq")
medianByPosition(ra, batchSize=200)
```

---

perWindow *Investigate aligned reads in genome intervals with sliding windows*

---

### Description

Investigate aligned reads in genome intervals with sliding windows.

### Usage

```
perWindow(object, chr, winsize, step, normaliseByMatches = TRUE,
          mem.friendly = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

object	object of class <code>AlignedGenomeIntervals</code>
chr	string; which chromosome to investigate with sliding windows
winsize	integer; size of the sliding window in base-pairs
step	integer; offset between the start positions of two sliding windows
normaliseByMatches	logical; should the number of reads per <code>AlignedGenomeInterval</code> be normalised by the number of genomic matches of the read sequence before summing them up in each window? ( <i>i.e.</i> derivation a weighted sum of read counts)
mem.friendly	logical; argument passed on to function <code>interval_overlap</code> ; if TRUE the less RAM and, if the <code>parallel</code> package is attached, multiple processors are used for computing the overlap, on the expense of time

### Details

The windows are constructed from the first base position onto which a read has been mapped until the end of the chromosome.

### Value

a `data.frame` with the following information for each sliding window on the chromosome

chr	string; which chromosome the interval is on
start	integer; start coordinate of the windows on the chromosome
end	integer; end coordinate of the windows on the chromosome
n.overlap	integer; number of read match positions inside the window. Per match position there can be one or more reads mapped, so this number always is smaller than <code>n.reads</code>
n.reads	numeric; number of reads which match positions inside this window; can be floating-point numbers if argument <code>normaliseByMatches=TRUE</code>
n.unique	integer; number of reads which each only have one match position in the genome and for which this position is contained inside this window

max.reads        integer; the maximal number of reads at any single one match position contained inside this window

first            integer; coordinate of the first read alignment found inside the window

last             integer; coordinate of the last read alignment found inside the window

The result is of class `data.frame` and in addition of the (S3) class `slidingWindowSummary`, which may be utilized by follow-up functions.

### Author(s)

Joern Toedling

### See Also

[AlignedGenomeIntervals-class](#)

### Examples

```
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
exA   <- readAligned(dirPath=exDir, type="Bowtie",
  pattern="aravinSRNA_23_no_adapter_excerpt_mm9_unmasked.bwtmap")
exAI  <- as(exA, "AlignedGenomeIntervals")
exPX  <- perWindow(exAI, chr="chrX", winsize=1e5, step=0.5e5)
head(exPX[order(exPX$n.overlap, decreasing=TRUE),])
```

---

trimAdapter

*Remove 3' adapter contamination*

---

### Description

Function to remove 3' adapter contamination from reads

### Usage

```
trimAdapter(fq, adapter, match.score = 1, mismatch.score = -1,
  score.threshold = 2)
```

### Arguments

fq                Object of class `ShortReadQ`; the reads with possible adapter contamination.

adapter          object of class `DNAStr` or class `character`; the sequence of the 3' adapter which could give rise to the 3' contamination. If of class `character`, it is converted to a `DNAStr` inside the function.

match.score      numeric; alignment score for matching bases

mismatch.score   numeric; alignment score for mismatches

score.threshold   numeric; minimum total alignment score required for an overlap match between the 3' end of the read and the 5' end of the adapter sequence.

**Details**

Performs an overlap alignment between the ends of the reads and the start of the adapter sequence.

**Value**

An object of class `ShortReadQ` containing the reads without the 3' adapter contamination.

**Note**

The function `trimLRPatterns` from package `ShortRead` may be a faster alternative to this function.

**Author(s)**

J. Toedling

**See Also**

[pairwiseAlignment](#), [narrow](#), [readFastq](#), [writeFastq](#)

**Examples**

```
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
## load reads containing adapter fragments at the end
ra23.wa <- readFastq(dirPath=exDir, pattern=
  "aravinSRNA_23_plus_adapter_excerpt.fastq")
table(width(ra23.wa))
# adapter sequence obtained from GEO page
# accession number: GSE10364
#adapter <- DNASTring("CTGTAGGCACCATCAAT")
adapter <- "CTGTAGGCACCATCAAT"

# trim adapter
ra23.na <- trimAdapter(ra23.wa, adapter)
table(width(ra23.na))
```

---

which\_nearest-methods *Methods for function 'which\_nearest' and genome intervals*

---

**Description**

For each genome interval in one set, finds the nearest interval in a second set of genome intervals.



**Value**

a data.frame with a number of rows equal to the number of intervals in argument from. The elements of the data.frame are:

distance_to_nearest	numeric; distance to nearest interval from object to. Is 0 if the current interval in object from did overlap one or more intervals in object to
which_nearest	list; each list element are the indices or the intervals in object to that have the closest distance to the current interval in object from
which_overlap	list; each list element are the indices or the intervals in object to that do overlap with the current interval in object from

**Methods**

Currently, the package *girafe* contains method implementations for the first object (Argument: from) being of any of the classes “AlignedGenomeIntervals”, “Genome\_intervals” or “Genome\_intervals\_stranded”. The second object (Argument: to) has be of class “Genome\_intervals\_stranded” or “Genome\_intervals”.

**Note**

If the supplied objects are stranded, as it is the case with objects of classes ‘AlignedGenomeIntervals’ and ‘Genome\_intervals\_stranded’, then the overlap and distance is solely computed between intervals on the same strand.

For objects of class ‘Genome\_intervals’, overlap and distances are computed regardless of strand information.

**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

[which\\_nearest](#)

**Examples**

```
### process aligned reads
exDir <- system.file("extdata", package="girafe")
exA <- readAligned(dirPath=exDir, type="Bowtie",
  pattern="aravinSRNA_23_no_adapter_excerpt_mm9_unmasked.bwtmap")
exAI <- as(exA, "AlignedGenomeIntervals")

## load annotated genome features
load(file.path(exDir, "mgi_gi.RData"))

## subset for sake of speed:
A <- exAI[is.element(seqnames(exAI), c("chrX", "chrY"))]
G <- mgi.gi[is.element(seqnames(mgi.gi), c("chrX", "chrY"))]
```

```
## find nearest annotated feature for each AlignedGenomeInterval
WN <- which_nearest(A, G)
dim(WN); tail(WN)

## notice the difference to:
tail(which_nearest(as(A, "Genome_intervals"), G))
# the last interval in A is located antisense to a gene,
# but not overlapping anything on the same strand
```

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