# Package 'alpine'

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alpine-package

alpine: bias corrected transcript abundance estimation

#### **Description**

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alpine is a package for estimating and visualizing many forms of sample-specific biases that can arise in RNA-seq, including fragment length distribution, positional bias on the transcript, read start bias (random hexamer priming), and fragment GC content (amplification). It also offers biascorrected estimates of transcript abundance (FPKM). It is currently designed for un-stranded pairedend RNA-seq data.

#### **Details**

See the package vignette for a detailed workflow.

The main functions in this package are:

- 1. buildFragtypes build out features for fragment types from exons of a single gene (GRanges)
- 2. fitBiasModels fit parameters for one or more bias models over a set of ~100 medium to highly expressed single isoform genes (GRangesList)
- 3. estimateAbundance given a set of genome alignments (BAM files) and a set of isoforms of a gene (GRangesList), estimate the transcript abundances for these isoforms (FPKM) for various bias models
- 4. extractAlpine given a list of output from estimateAbundance, compile an FPKM matrix across transcripts and samples
- 5. predictCoverage given the exons of a single gene (GRanges) predict the coverage for a set of samples given fitted bias parameters and compute the observed coverage

Some helper functions for preparing gene objects:

1. splitGenesAcrossChroms - split apart "genes" where isoforms are on different chromosomes

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- 2. splitLongGenes split apart "genes" which cover a suspiciously large range, e.g. 1 Mb
- 3. mergeGenes merge overlapping isoforms into new "genes"

Some other assorted helper functions:

- 1. normalizeDESeq an across-sample normalization for FPKM matrices
- 2. getFragmentWidths return a vector estimated fragment lengths given a set of exons for a single gene (GRanges) and a BAM file
- 3. getReadLength return the read length of the first read across BAM files

The plotting functions are:

- 1. plotGC plot the fragment GC bias curves
- 2. plotFragLen plot the framgent length distributions
- 3. plotRelPos plot the positional bias (5' to 3')
- 4. plotOrder0, plotOrder1, plotOrder2 plot the read start bias terms
- 5. plotGRL a simple function for visualizing GRangesList objects

#### Author(s)

Michael Love

#### References

Love, M.I., Hogenesch, J.B., and Irizarry, R.A., Modeling of RNA-seq fragment sequence bias reduces systematic errors in transcript abundance estimation. Nature Biotechnologyh (2016) doi: 10.1038/nbt.3682

buildFragtypes

Build fragment types from exons

#### **Description**

This function constructs a DataFrame of fragment features used for bias modeling, with one row for every potential fragment type that could arise from a transcript. The output of this function is used by fitBiasModels, and this function is used inside estimateAbundance in order to model the bias affecting different fragments across isoforms of a gene.

# Usage

```
buildFragtypes(exons, genome, readlength, minsize, maxsize, gc = TRUE,
    gc.str = TRUE, vlmm = TRUE)
```

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#### **Arguments**

exons a GRanges object with the exons for a single transcript
genome a BSgenome object
readlength the length of the reads. This doesn't necessarily have to be exact (+/- 1 bp is acceptable)
minsize the minimum fragment length to model. The interval between minsize and maxsize should contain the at least the central 95 percent of the fragment length distribution across samples

maxsize the maximum fragment length to model
gc logical, whether to calculate the fragment GC content

gc.str logical, whether to look for presence of stretches of very high GC within frag-

ments

v1mm logical, whether to calculate the Cufflinks Variable Length Markov Model (VLMM)

for read start bias

#### Value

a DataFrame with bias features (columns) for all potential fragments (rows)

#### **Examples**

estimateAbundance

Estimate bias-corrected transcript abundances (FPKM)

# **Description**

This function takes the fitted bias parameters from fitBiasModels and uses this information to derive bias corrected estimates of transcript abundance for a gene (with one or more isoforms) across multiple samples.

# Usage

```
estimateAbundance(transcripts, bam.files, fitpar, genome, model.names,
  subset = TRUE, niter = 100, lib.sizes = NULL, optim = FALSE,
  custom.features = NULL)
```

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#### Arguments

transcripts a GRangesList of the exons for multiple isoforms of a gene. For a single-isoform

gene, just wrap the exons in GRangesList()

bam. files a named vector pointing to the indexed BAM files

fitpar the output of fitBiasModels

genome a BSGenome object

model.names a character vector of the bias models to use. These should have already been

specified when calling fitBiasModels. Four exceptions are models that use none, one or both of the offsets, and these are called with: "null", "fraglen", "vlmm",

or "fraglen.vlmm".

subset logical, whether to downsample the non-observed fragments. Default is TRUE

niter the number of EM iterations. Default is 100.

lib.sizes a named vector of library sizes to use in calculating the FPKM. If NULL (the

default) a value of 1e6 is used for all samples.

optim logical, whether to use numerical optimization instead of the EM. Default is

FALSE.

custom.features

an optional function to add custom features to the fragment types DataFrame. This function takes in a DataFrame returned by buildFragtypes and returns a DataFrame with additional columns added. Default is NULL, adding no custom

features.

#### Value

a list of lists. For each sample, a list with elements: theta, lambda and count.

- theta gives the FPKM estimates for the isoforms in transcripts
- lambda gives the average bias term for the isoforms
- **count** gives the number of fragments which are compatible with any of the isoforms in transcripts

#### References

The model describing how bias estimates are used to estimate bias-corrected abundances is described in the Supplemental Note of the following publication:

Love, M.I., Hogenesch, J.B., and Irizarry, R.A., Modeling of RNA-seq fragment sequence bias reduces systematic errors in transcript abundance estimation. Nature Biotechnologyh (2016) doi: 10.1038/nbt.3682

The likelihood formulation and EM algorithm for finding the maximum likelihood estimate for abundances follows this publication:

Salzman, J., Jiang, H., and Wong, W.H., Statistical Modeling of RNA-Seq Data. Statistical Science (2011) doi: 10.1214/10-STS343

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#### **Examples**

```
# see vignette for a more realistic example
# these next lines just write out a BAM file from R
# typically you would already have a BAM file
library(alpineData)
library(GenomicAlignments)
library(rtracklayer)
gap <- ERR188088()
dir <- system.file(package="alpineData", "extdata")</pre>
bam.file <- c("ERR188088" = file.path(dir, "ERR188088.bam"))</pre>
export(gap, con=bam.file)
data(preprocessedData)
library(GenomicRanges)
library(BSgenome.Hsapiens.NCBI.GRCh38)
model.names <- c("fraglen","GC")</pre>
txs <- txdf.theta$tx_id[txdf.theta$gene_id == "ENSG00000198918"]</pre>
res <- estimateAbundance(transcripts=ebt.theta[txs],</pre>
                          bam.files=bam.file,
                          fitpar=fitpar.small,
                          genome=Hsapiens,
                          model.names=model.names)
```

extractAlpine

Extract results from estimateAbundance run across genes

# Description

This function extracts estimates for a given model from a list over many genes, returning a matrix with dimensions: number of transcript x number of samples. Here, the count of compatible fragments aligning to the genes is used to estimate the FPKM, dividing out the previously used estimate lib.sizes.

# Usage

```
extractAlpine(res, model, lib.sizes = 1e+06, divide.out = TRUE,
    transcripts = NULL)
```

# **Arguments**

res a list where each element is the output of estimateAbundance

model the name of a model, corresponds to names of models used in fitBiasModels

lib.sizes the vector of library sizes passed to estimate Abundance. not needed if divide.out=FALSE

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divide.out logical, whether to divide out the initial estimate of library size and to instead use

the count of compatible fragments for genes calculated by estimateAbundance.

Default is TRUE

transcripts an optional GRangesList of the exons for each transcript. If this is provided,

the output will be a SummarizedExperiment. The transcripts do not need to be provided in the correct order, extractAlpine will find the correct transcript by the

names in res and put them in the correct order.

#### Value

a matrix of FPKM values across transcripts and samples, or a SummarizedExperiment if transcripts is provided

#### **Examples**

```
data(preprocessedData)
extractAlpine(res, "GC")
```

fitBiasModels

Fit bias models over single-isoform genes

# **Description**

This function estimates parameters for one or more bias models for a single sample over a set of single-isoform genes. ~100 medium to highly expressed genes should be sufficient to estimate the parameters robustly.

#### Usage

```
fitBiasModels(genes, bam.file, fragtypes, genome, models, readlength, minsize,
  maxsize, speedglm = TRUE, gc.knots = seq(from = 0.4, to = 0.6, length =
  3), gc.bk = c(0, 1), relpos.knots = seq(from = 0.25, to = 0.75, length =
  3), relpos.bk = c(0, 1))
```

# **Arguments**

genes a GRangesList with the exons of different single-isoform genes

bam. file a character string pointing to an indexed BAM file

fragtypes the output of buildFragtypes. must contain the potential fragment types for the

genes named in genes

genome a BSgenome object

models a list of lists: the outer list describes multiple models, each element of the in-

ner list has two elements: formula and offset. formula should be a character strings of an R formula describing the bias models, e.g. "count  $\sim$  ns(gc) + gene". The end of the string is required to be "+ gene". offset should be a

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character vector listing possible bias offsets to be used ("fraglen" or "vlmm"). Either offset or formula can be NULL for a model. See vignette for recommendations and details.

readlength the read length

minsize the minimum fragment length to model
maxsize the maximum fragment length to model

speedglm logical, whether to use speedglm to estimate the coefficients. Default is TRUE.

gc.knots knots for the GC splines

gc.bk boundary knots for the GC splines relpos.knots knots for the relative position splines

relpos.bk boundary knots for the relative position splines

#### Value

a list with elements: coefs, summary, models, model.params, and optional offets: fraglen.density, vlmm.fivep, and vlmm.threep.

- coefs gives the estimated coefficients for the different models that specified formula.
- summary gives the tables with coefficients, standard errors and p-values,
- models stores the incoming models list,
- model.params stores parameters for the models, such as knot locations
- fraglen.density is a estimated density object for the fragment length distribution,
- **vlmm.fivep** and **vlmm.threep** store the observed and expected tabulations for the different orders of the VLMM for read start bias.

# References

The complete bias model including fragment sequence bias is described in detail in the Supplemental Note of the following publication:

Love, M.I., Hogenesch, J.B., and Irizarry, R.A., Modeling of RNA-seq fragment sequence bias reduces systematic errors in transcript abundance estimation. Nature Biotechnologyh (2016) doi: 10.1038/nbt.3682

The read start variable length Markov model (VLMM) for addressing bias introduced by random hexamer priming was introduced in the following publication (the sequence bias model used in Cufflinks):

Roberts, A., Trapnell, C., Donaghey, J., Rinn, J.L., and Pachter, L., Improving RNA-Seq expression estimates by correcting for fragment bias. Genome Biology (2011) doi: 10.1186/gb-2011-12-3-r22

# **Examples**

```
# see vignette for a more realistic example
```

# these next lines just write out a BAM file from R
# typically you would already have a BAM file
library(alpineData)

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```
library(GenomicAlignments)
library(rtracklayer)
gap <- ERR188088()
dir <- system.file(package="alpineData", "extdata")</pre>
bam.file <- c("ERR188088" = file.path(dir, "ERR188088.bam"))</pre>
export(gap, con=bam.file)
library(GenomicRanges)
library(BSgenome.Hsapiens.NCBI.GRCh38)
data(preprocessedData)
readlength <- 75
minsize <- 125 # see vignette how to choose
maxsize <- 175 # see vignette how to choose
# here a very small subset, should be ~100 genes
gene.names <- names(ebt.fit)[6:8]</pre>
names(gene.names) <- gene.names</pre>
fragtypes <- lapply(gene.names, function(gene.name) {</pre>
                       buildFragtypes(ebt.fit[[gene.name]],
                                       Hsapiens, readlength,
                                       minsize, maxsize)
})
models <- list(</pre>
  "GC" = list(formula = "count ~ ns(gc,knots=gc.knots, Boundary.knots=gc.bk) + gene",
               offset=c("fraglen","vlmm"))
fitpar <- fitBiasModels(genes=ebt.fit[gene.names],</pre>
                         bam.file=bam.file,
                         fragtypes=fragtypes,
                         genome=Hsapiens,
                         models=models,
                         readlength=readlength,
                         minsize=minsize,
                         maxsize=maxsize)
```

getFragmentWidths

Get fragment widths

# Description

From a BAM file and a particular transcript (recommend to be the single isoform of a gene), this function returns estimates of the fragment widths, by mapping the fragment alignments to the transcript coordinates.

#### Usage

```
getFragmentWidths(bam.file, tx)
```

10 getReadLength

# **Arguments**

bam.file a character string pointing to a BAM file
tx a GRanges object of the exons of a single isoform gene

#### Value

a numeric vector of estimated fragment widths

# **Examples**

```
# these next lines just write out a BAM file from R
# typically you would already have a BAM file
library(alpineData)
library(GenomicAlignments)
library(rtracklayer)
gap <- ERR188088()
dir <- system.file(package="alpineData", "extdata")
bam.file <- c("ERR188088" = file.path(dir, "ERR188088.bam"))
export(gap, con=bam.file)

data(preprocessedData)
w <- getFragmentWidths(bam.file, ebt.fit[[2]])
quantile(w, c(.025, .975))</pre>
```

getReadLength

Get read length

#### **Description**

Gets the length of the first read in a BAM file

# Usage

```
getReadLength(bam.files)
```

#### **Arguments**

bam. files a character vector pointing to BAM files

#### Value

a numeric vector, one number per BAM file, the length of the first read in the file

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#### **Examples**

```
# these next lines just write out a BAM file from R
# typically you would already have a BAM file
library(alpineData)
library(GenomicAlignments)
library(rtracklayer)
gap <- ERR188088()
dir <- system.file(package="alpineData", "extdata")
bam.file <- c("ERR188088" = file.path(dir, "ERR188088.bam"))
export(gap, con=bam.file)
getReadLength(bam.file)</pre>
```

mergeGenes

Merge overlapping "genes" into gene clusters

# **Description**

This function looks for overlapping exons in ebg. The overlapping "genes" are used to form a graph. Any connected components in the graph (sets of "genes" which can be reached from each other through overlap relations) are connected into a new gene cluster, which is given the suffix "\_mrg" and using one of the original gene names.

#### Usage

```
mergeGenes(ebg, txdf, ignore.strand = TRUE)
```

#### **Arguments**

ebg an exons-by-genes GRangesList, created with exonsBy

txdf a data.frame created by running select on a TxDb object. Must have a column

GENEID.

ignore.strand Default is TRUE.

#### Value

a manipulated txdf.

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norma	Ίi	76	)FSea

DESeq median ratio normalization for matrix

# **Description**

Simple implementation of DESeq median ratio normalization

# Usage

```
normalizeDESeq(mat, cutoff)
```

# Arguments

mat a matrix of numeric values

cutoff a numeric value to be used as the cutoff for the row means of mat. Only rows

with row mean larger than cutoff are used for calculating the size factors

#### Value

a matrix with the median ratio size factors divided out

# References

Anders, S. and Huber, W., Differential expression analysis for sequence count data. Genome Biology (2010) doi: 10.1186/gb-2010-11-10-r106

#### **Examples**

```
x <- runif(50,1,100)
mat <- cbind(x, 2*x, 3*x)
norm.mat <- normalizeDESeq(mat, 5)</pre>
```

plotFragLen

Plot fragment length distribution over samples

# **Description**

Plots the fragment length distribution.

# Usage

```
plotFragLen(fitpar, col, lty)
```

plotGC 13

# Arguments

fitpar a list of the output of fitBiasModels over samples

col a vector of colors

1ty a vector of line types

#### Value

plot

#### **Examples**

```
# fitpar was fit using identical code
# as found in the vignette, except with
# 25 genes, and with fragment size in 80-350 bp
data(preprocessedData)
perf <- rep(1:2, each=2)
plotFragLen(fitpar, col=perf)</pre>
```

plotGC

Plot the fragment GC bias over samples

# **Description**

Plots smooth curves of the log fragment rate over fragment GC content.

# Usage

```
plotGC(fitpar, model, col, lty, ylim, gc.range = NULL, return.type = 0)
```

# **Arguments**

fitpar a list of the output of fitBiasModels over samples

model the name of one of the models

col a vector of colors

lty a vector of line types

ylim the y limits for the plot

gc.range a numeric of length two, the range of the fragment GC content. By default,

[.2,.8] for plotting and [0,1] for returning a matrix

return.type a numeric, either 0: make a plot, 1: skip the plot and return a matrix of log

fragment rate, 2: skip the plot and return a matrix of probabilities

# Value

Either plot, or if return. type is 1 or 2, a matrix

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#### **Examples**

```
# fitpar was fit using identical code
# as found in the vignette, except with
# 25 genes, and with fragment size in 80-350 bp
data(preprocessedData)
perf <- rep(1:2, each=2)
plotGC(fitpar, "all", col=perf)</pre>
```

plotGRL

Simple segments plot for GRangesList

# Description

Simple segments plot for GRangesList

# Usage

```
plotGRL(grl, ...)
```

# **Arguments**

```
grl GRangesList object
... passed to plot
```

#### Value

plot

plotOrder0 15

plotOrder0 Plot parameters of the variable length Markov model (VLMM) for read starts	plotOrder0
---	------------

#### **Description**

This function plots portions of the Cufflinks VLMM for read start bias. The natural log of observed over expected is shown, such that 0 indicates no contribution of a position to the read start bias. As the variable lenght Markov model has different dependencies for different positions (see Roberts et al, 2011), it is difficult to show all the 744 parameters simultaneously. Instead this function offers to show the 0-order terms for all positions, or the 1st and 2nd order terms for selected positions within the read start sequence. For the 1- and 2-order terms, the log bias is shown for each nucleotide (A,C,T,G) given the previous nucleotide (1-order) or di-nucleotide (2-order).

# Usage

```
plotOrder0(order0, ...)
plotOrder1(order1, pos1)
plotOrder2(order2, pos2)
```

#### **Arguments**

order0	the "order0" element of the list named "vlmm.fivep" or "vlmm.threep" within the list that is the output of fitBiasModels
	parameters passed to plot
order1	as for "order0" but "order1"
pos1	the position of the 1st order VLMM to plot
order2	as for "order0" but "order2"
pos2	the position of the 2nd order VLMM to plot

#### Value

plot

#### **Functions**

- plot0rder1: Plot first order parameters for a position
- plot0rder2: Plot second order parameters for a position

#### References

Roberts et al, "Improving RNA-Seq expression estimates by correcting for fragment bias" Genome Biology (2011) doi:101186/gb-2011-12-3-r22

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#### **Examples**

```
# fitpar was fit using identical code
# as found in the vignette, except with
# 25 genes, and with fragment size in 80-350 bp
data(preprocessedData)
plotOrder0(fitpar[[1]][["vlmm.fivep"]][["order0"]])
plotOrder1(fitpar[[1]][["vlmm.fivep"]][["order1"]], pos1=5:19)
plotOrder2(fitpar[[1]][["vlmm.fivep"]][["order2"]], pos2=8:17)
```

plotRelPos

Plot relative position bias over samples

# **Description**

Plots the smooth curves of log fragment rate over relative position.

#### Usage

```
plotRelPos(fitpar, model, col, lty, ylim)
```

#### **Arguments**

fitpar a list of the output of fitBiasModels over samples model the name of one of the models

col a vector of colors

lty a vector of line types

ylim the y limits for the plot

#### Value

plot

```
# fitpar was fit using identical code
# as found in the vignette, except with
# 25 genes, and with fragment size in 80-350 bp
data(preprocessedData)
perf <- rep(1:2, each=2)
plotRelPos(fitpar, "all", col=perf)</pre>
```

predictCoverage 17

predictCoverage Predict coverage for a single-isoform gene	
--	--

#### **Description**

Predict coverage for a single-isoform gene given fitted bias parameters in a set of models, and compare to the observed fragment coverage.

#### Usage

```
predictCoverage(gene, bam.files, fitpar, genome, model.names)
```

#### **Arguments**

gene a GRangesList with the exons of different genes bam. files a character string pointing to indexed BAM files

fitpar the output of running fitBiasModels

genome a BSgenome object

model.names a character vector listing the models, see same argument in estimateAbundance

#### **Details**

Note that if the range between minsize and maxsize does not cover most of the fragment length distribution, the predicted coverage will underestimate the observed coverage.

#### Value

a list with elements frag.cov, the observed fragment coverage from the bam. files and pred.cov, a list with the predicted fragment coverage for each of the models.

```
# these next lines just write out a BAM file from R
# typically you would already have a BAM file
library(alpineData)
library(GenomicAlignments)
library(rtracklayer)
gap <- ERR188088()
dir <- system.file(package="alpineData", "extdata")
bam.file <- c("ERR188088" = file.path(dir, "ERR188088.bam"))
export(gap, con=bam.file)

data(preprocessedData)
library(BSgenome.Hsapiens.NCBI.GRCh38)

model.names <- c("fraglen", "fraglen.vlmm", "GC", "all")

pred.cov <- predictCoverage(gene=ebt.fit[["ENST00000379660"]],</pre>
```

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```
bam.files=bam.file,
                             fitpar=fitpar.small,
                             genome=Hsapiens,
                             model.names=model.names)
# plot the coverage:
# note that, because [125,175] bp range specified in fitpar.small
# does not cover the fragment width distribution, the predicted curves
# will underestimate the observed. we correct here post-hoc
frag.cov <- pred.cov[["ERR188088"]][["frag.cov"]]</pre>
plot(frag.cov, type="l", lwd=3, ylim=c(0,max(frag.cov)*1.5))
for (i in seq_along(model.names)) {
 m <- model.names[i]</pre>
 pred <- pred.cov[["ERR188088"]][["pred.cov"]][[m]]</pre>
 lines(pred/mean(pred)*mean(frag.cov), col=i+1, lwd=3)
}
legend("topright", legend=c("observed", model.names),
       col=seq_len(length(model.names)+1), lwd=3)
```

preprocessedData

Preprocessed data for vignettes and examples

# Description

The following data objects are prepared for use in the alpine vignette and examples pages, as the preparation of these objects requires either long running time or a large amount of disk space.

# Format

ebt.fit and ebt.theta are GRangesList. fitpar, fitpar.small, res are lists created by alpine functions, genes.theta is a character vector. txdf.theta is a DataFrame.

#### **Details**

- ebt.fit the GRangesList prepared in the vignette for fitting the bias models
- fitpar the fitted parameters, similar to those made in the vignette, but using minsize=80 and maxsize=350
- fitpar.small the fitted parameters from the vignette, returned by fitBiasModels
- res the results object from the vignette, returned by estimateAbundance
- ebt.theta the GRangesList prepared in the vignette for running estimateAbundance
- genes.theta the names of genes used in the vignette for running estimateAbundance
- txdf.theta the DataFrame of gene and transcript information used in the vignette for running estimateAbundance

#### Source

See vignette for details of object construction. The alignments come from alpineData (4 samples from GEUVADIS project), the Ensembl gene annotations come from Homo\_sapiens.GRCh38.84.gtf, and the genome is BSgenome.Hsapiens.NCBI.GRCh38.

splitGenesAcrossChroms

Split genes that have isoforms across chromosomes

# **Description**

This function simply splits apart genes which have isoforms across multiple chromosomes. New "genes" are created with the suffix "\_cs" and a number.

#### Usage

```
splitGenesAcrossChroms(ebg, txdf)
```

# **Arguments**

ebg an exons-by-genes GRangesList, created with exonsBy

txdf a data.frame created by running select on a TxDb object. Must have columns

TXCHROM and GENEID

#### Value

a list of manipulated ebg and txdf

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|--|

# **Description**

This function splits genes which have a very long range (e.g. 1 Mb), and new "genes" are formed where each isoform is its own "gene", with the suffix "\_ls" and a number. It makes sense to turn each isoform into its own gene only if this function is followed by mergeGenes.

# Usage

```
splitLongGenes(ebg, ebt, txdf, long = 1e+06)
```

# **Arguments**

ebg	an exons-by-genes GRangesList, created with exonsBy
ebt	an exons-by-tx GRangesList, created with exonsBy
txdf	a data.frame created by running select on a TxDb object. Must have columns GENEID and TXID, where TXID corresponds to the names of ebt.
long	a numeric value such that ranges longer than this are "long"

#### Value

a list of manipulated ebg and txdf

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