

# Package ‘HEM’

May 9, 2026

**Version** 1.85.0

**Date** 2005-09-16

**Title** Heterogeneous error model for identification of differentially expressed genes under multiple conditions

**Author** HyungJun Cho <hcho@virginia.edu> and Jae K. Lee <jaeklee@virginia.edu>

**Maintainer** HyungJun Cho <hcho@virginia.edu>

**Depends** R (>= 2.1.0)

**Imports** Biobase, grDevices, stats, utils

**Description** This package fits heterogeneous error models for analysis of microarray data

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**URL** <http://www.healthsystem.virginia.edu/internet/hes/biostat/bioinformatics/>

**biocViews** Microarray, DifferentialExpression

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/HEM>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** db10475

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2026-04-28

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.24

**Date/Publication** 2026-05-08

## Contents

am.tran . . . . .	2
am.tran.half . . . . .	2
base.ASE.Olig . . . . .	3
base.error.Olig . . . . .	3
base.error.Olig.quanOnly . . . . .	3
base.PSE.Olig . . . . .	3
boot.base.ASE.Olig . . . . .	4
boot.base.error.Olig . . . . .	4
boot.base.PSE.Olig . . . . .	4
fixbound.predict.smooth.spline . . . . .	4
hem . . . . .	5

hem.eb.prior . . . . .	7
hem.fdr . . . . .	9
hem.null.no . . . . .	11
hem.null.one . . . . .	11
hem.null.two . . . . .	11
hem.preproc . . . . .	12
mubcp . . . . .	12
nonpar.error.Olig . . . . .	13
nonpar.no.error.Olig . . . . .	13
nonpar.rep.error.Olig . . . . .	13
par.error.Olig . . . . .	13
par.no.error.Olig . . . . .	14
par.rep.error.Olig . . . . .	14
pbrain . . . . .	14
permut . . . . .	15
quant.norm . . . . .	15
quant.normal . . . . .	15
quant.normal2 . . . . .	15
quant.normalize . . . . .	16
remove.sig.genes . . . . .	16

**Index** **17**

---

am.tran	<i>AM transformation for LPE</i>
---------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Computes AM for LPE

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

am.tran.half	<i>AM transformation for LPE</i>
--------------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Computes AM for LPE

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

base.ASE.Olig                      *Baseline ASE estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

base.error.Olig                      *Baseline error estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

base.error.Olig.quantOnly  
  *Baseline error estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

base.PSE.Olig                      *Baseline PSE estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

boot.base.ASE.Olig     *Baseline error bootstrap estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error using bootstrap samples for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

boot.base.error.Olig     *Baseline error bootstrap estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error using bootstrap samples for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

boot.base.PSE.Olig     *Baseline error bootstrap estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error using bootstrap samples for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

fixbound.predict.smooth.spline  
*Prediction using smoothing spine*

---

**Description**

Makes predictions using smoothing spine

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

hem	<i>Heterogeneous Error Model for Identification of Differential Expressed Genes Under Multiple Conditions</i>
-----	---

---

### Description

Fits an error model with heterogeneous experimental and biological variances.

### Usage

```
hem(dat, probe.ID=NULL, n.layer, design, burn.ins=1000, n.samples=3000,
    method.var.e="gam", method.var.b="gam", method.var.t="gam",
    var.e=NULL, var.b=NULL, var.t=NULL, var.g=1, var.c=1, var.r=1,
    alpha.e=3, beta.e=.1, alpha.b=3, beta.b=.1, alpha.t=3, beta.t=.2,
    n.digits=10, print.message.on.screen=TRUE)
```

### Arguments

dat	data
probe.ID	a vector of probe set IDs
n.layer	number of layers; 1=one-layer EM, 2=two-layer EM
design	design matrix
burn.ins	number of burn-ins for MCMC
n.samples	number of samples for MCMC
method.var.e	prior specification method for experimental variance; "gam"=Gamma(alpha,beta), "peb"=parametric EB prior specification, "neb"=nonparametric EB prior specification
method.var.b	prior specification method for biological variance; "gam"=Gamma(alpha,beta), "peb"=parametric EB prior specification
method.var.t	prior specification method for total variance; "gam"=Gamma(alpha,beta), "peb"=parametric EB prior specification, "neb"=nonparametric EB prior specification
var.e	prior estimate matrix for experimental variance
var.b	prior estimate matrix for biological variance
var.t	prior estimate matrix for total variance
var.g	$N(0, \text{var.g})$ ; prior parameter for gene effect
var.c	$N(0, \text{var.c})$ ; prior parameter for condition effect
var.r	$N(0, \text{var.r})$ ; prior parameter for interaction effect of gene and condition
alpha.e, beta.e	$\text{Gamma}(\text{alpha.e}, \text{alpha.e})$ ; prior parameters for inverse of experimental variance
alpha.b, beta.b	$\text{Gamma}(\text{alpha.b}, \text{alpha.b})$ ; prior parameters for inverse of biological variance
alpha.t, beta.t	$\text{Gamma}(\text{alpha.t}, \text{alpha.t})$ ; prior parameters for inverse of total variance
n.digits	number of digits
print.message.on.screen	if TRUE, process status is shown on screen.

**Value**

n.gene	numer of genes
n.chip	number of chips
n.cond	number of conditions
design	design matrix
burn.ins	number of burn-ins for MCMC
n.samples	number of samples for MCMC
priors	prior parameters
m.mu	estimated mean expression intensity for each gene under each condition
m.x	estimated unobserved expression intensity for each combination of genes, conditions, and individuals (n.layer=2)
m.var.b	estimated biological variances (n.layer=2)
m.var.e	estimated experiemental variances (n.layer=2)
m.var.t	estimated total variances (n.layer=1)
H	H-scores

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

**References**

Cho, H. and Lee, J.K. (2004) Bayesian Hierarchical Error Model for Analysis of Gene Expression Data, *Bioinformatics*, 20: 2016-2025.

**See Also**

[hem.eb.prior](#), [hem.fdr](#)

**Examples**

```
#Example 1: Two-layer HEM

data(pbrain)

##construct a design matrix
cond <- c(1,1,1,1,1,1,2,2,2,2,2,2) #condition
ind <- c(1,1,2,2,3,3,1,1,2,2,3,3) #biological replicate
rep <- c(1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2) #experimental replicate
design <- data.frame(cond,ind,rep)

##normalization
pbrain.nor <- hem.preproc(pbrain[,2:13])

##fit HEM with two layers of error
##using the small numbers of burn-ins and MCMC samples for a testing purpose;
##but increase the numbers for a practical purpose
#pbrain.hem <- hem(pbrain.nor, n.layer=2, design=design,
#                 burn.ins=10, n.samples=30)

##print H-scores
```

```

#pbrain.hem$H

#Example 2: One-layer HEM

data(mubcp)

##construct a design matrix
cond <- c(rep(1,6),rep(2,5),rep(3,5),rep(4,5),rep(5,5))
ind <- c(1:6,rep((1:5),4))
design <- data.frame(cond,ind)

##construct a design matrix
mubcp.nor <- hem.preproc(mubcp)

#fit HEM with one layers of error
#using the small numbers of burn-ins and MCMC samples for a testing purpose;
#but increase the numbers for a practical purpose
#mubcp.hem <- hem(mubcp.nor, n.layer=1,design=design, burn.ins=10, n.samples=30)

##print H-scores
#mubcp.hem$H

###NOTE: Use 'hem.fdr' for FDR evaluation
###NOTE: Use 'hem.eb.prior' for Empirical Bayes (EB) prior sepecification
###NOTE: Use EB-HEM ('hem' after 'hem.eb.prior') for small data sets

```

---

hem.eb.prior

*Empirical Bayes (EB) Prior Specification*


---

## Description

Estimates experimental and biological variances by LPE and resampling

## Usage

```

hem.eb.prior(dat, n.layer, design,
             method.var.e="neb", method.var.b="peb", method.var.t="neb",
             rep=TRUE, baseline.var="LPE", p.remove=0, max.chip=4,
             q=0.01, B=25, n.digits=10, print.message.on.screen=TRUE)

```

## Arguments

dat	data
n.layer	number of layers
design	design matrix
method.var.e	prior specification method for experimental variance; "peb"=parametric EB prior specification, "neb"=nonparametric EB prior specification
method.var.b	prior specification method for biological variance; "peb"=parametric EB prior specification

method.var.t prior specification method for total variance; "peb"=parametric EB prior specification, "neb"=nonparametric EB prior specification

rep no replication if FALSE

baseline.var baseline variance estimation method: LPE for replicated data and BLPE, PSE, or ASE for unreplicated data

p.remove percent of removed rank-variance genes for BLPE

max.chip maximum number of chips to estimate errors

q quantile for partitioning genes based on expression levels

B number of iterations for resampling

n.digits number of digits

print.message.on.screen  
if TRUE, process status is shown on screen.

**Value**

var.b prior estimate matrix for biological variances (n.layer=2)

var.e prior estimate matrix for experientnal variances (n.layer=2)

var.t prior estimate matrix for total variances (n.layer=1)

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

**See Also**

[hem](#), [hem.fdr](#)

**Examples**

```
#Example 1: Two-layer HEM with EB prior specification

data(pbrain)

##construct a design matrix
cond <- c(1,1,1,1,1,1,2,2,2,2,2,2)
ind <- c(1,1,2,2,3,3,3,1,1,2,2,3,3)
rep <- c(1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2)
design <- data.frame(cond,ind,rep)

##normalization
pbrain.nor <- hem.preproc(pbrain[,2:13])

##take a subset for a testing purpose;
##use all genes for a practical purpose
pbrain.nor <- pbrain.nor[1:1000,]

##estimate hyperparameters of variances by LPE
#pbrain.eb <- hem.eb.prior(pbrain.nor, n.layer=2, design=design,
#                          method.var.e="neb", method.var.b="peb")

#fit HEM with two layers of error
#using the small numbers of burn-ins and MCMC samples for a testing purpose;
```

```

#but increase the numbers for a practical purpose
#pbrain.hem <- hem(pbrain.nor, n.layer=2, design=design, burn.ins=10, n.samples=30,
#               method.var.e="neb", method.var.b="peb",
#               var.e=pbrain.eb$var.e, var.b=pbrain.eb$var.b)

#Example 2: One-layer HEM with EB prior specification

data(mubcp)

##construct a design matrix
cond <- c(rep(1,6),rep(2,5),rep(3,5),rep(4,5),rep(5,5))
ind <- c(1:6,rep((1:5),4))
design <- data.frame(cond,ind)

##normalization
mubcp.nor <- hem.preproc(mubcp)

##take a subset for a testing purpose;
##use all genes for a practical purpose
mubcp.nor <- mubcp.nor[1:1000,]

##estimate hyperparameters of variances by LPE
#mubcp.eb <- hem.eb.prior(mubcp.nor, n.layer=1, design=design,
#                       method.var.t="neb")

#fit HEM with two layers of error
#using the small numbers of burn-ins and MCMC samples for a testing purpose;
#but increase the numbers for a practical purpose
#mubcp.hem <- hem(mubcp.nor, n.layer=1, design=design, burn.ins=10, n.samples=30,
#               method.var.t="neb", var.t=mubcp.eb$var.t)

```

---

hem.fdr

*FDR Evaluation*


---

## Description

Computes resampling-based False Discovery Rate (FDR)

## Usage

```

hem.fdr(dat, n.layer, design, rep=TRUE, hem.out, eb.out=NULL, n.iter=5, q.trim=0.9,
        target.fdr=c(0.001, 0.005, 0.01, 0.05, 0.1, 0.15, 0.20, 0.30, 0.40, 0.50),
        n.digits=10, print.message.on.screen=TRUE)

```

## Arguments

dat	data
n.layer	number of layers: 1=one-layer EM; 2=two-layer EM
design	design matrix
rep	no replication if FALSE
hem.out	output from hem function

eb.out            output from hem.eb.prior function  
 n.iter            number of iterations  
 q.trim            quantile used for estimating the proportion of true negatives ( $\pi_0$ )  
 target.fdr        Target FDRs  
 n.digits          number of digits  
 print.message.on.screen  
                   if TRUE, process status is shown on screen.

**Value**

fdr                H-values and corresponding FDRs  
 $\pi_0$               estimated proportion of true negatives  
 H.null             H-scores from null data  
 targets            given target FDRs, corresponding critical values and numbers of significant genes are provided

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

**See Also**

[hem.eb.prior](#) [hem](#)

**Examples**

```

data(pbrain)

##construct a design matrix
cond <- c(1,1,1,1,1,1,2,2,2,2,2,2)
ind  <- c(1,1,2,2,3,3,1,1,2,2,3,3)
rep  <- c(1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2,1,2)
design <- data.frame(cond,ind,rep)

##normalization
pbrain.nor <- hem.preproc(pbrain[,2:13])

##take a subset for a testing purpose;
##use all genes for a practical purpose
pbrain.nor <- pbrain.nor[1:1000,]

##estimate hyperparameters of variances by LPE
#pbrain.eb <- hem.eb.prior(pbrain.nor, n.layer=2, design=design,
#                           method.var.e="neb", method.var.b="peb")

##fit HEM with two layers of error
##using the small numbers of burn-ins and MCMC samples for a testing purpose;
##but increase the numbers for a practical purpose
#pbrain.hem <- hem(pbrain.nor, n.layer=2, design=design, burn.ins=10, n.samples=30,
#                  method.var.e="neb", method.var.b="peb",
#                  var.e=pbrain.eb$var.e, var.b=pbrain.eb$var.b)

##Estimate FDR based on resampling

```

```
#pbrain.fdr <- hem.fdr(pbrain.nor, n.layer=2, design=design,  
# hem.out=pbrain.hem, eb.out=pbrain.eb)
```

---

hem.null.no                      *Generation of null data*

---

**Description**

Generates null data by resampling

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

hem.null.one                      *Generation of null data*

---

**Description**

Generates null data by resampling

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

hem.null.two                      *Generation of null data*

---

**Description**

Generates null data by resampling

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

`hem.preproc`*Preprocessing*

---

**Description**

Performs IQR normalization, thresholding, and log<sub>2</sub>-transformation

**Usage**

```
hem.preproc(x, data.type = "MAS5")
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	data
<code>data.type</code>	data type: MAS5 or MAS4

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

**See Also**

[hem](#), [hem.eb.prior](#), [hem.fdr](#)

**Examples**

```
data(pbrain)
pbrain.nor <- hem.preproc(pbrain[,2:13])
```

---

`mubcp`*Gene expression data for mouse B cell development*

---

**Description**

This data set consists of gene expression of the five consecutive stages (pre-B1, large pre-B2, small pre-B2, immature B, and mature B cells) of mouse B cell development. The data were obtained with high-density oligonucleotide arrays, Affymetrix Mu11k GeneChips, from flow-cytometrically purified cells.

**Usage**

```
data(mubcp)
```

**Format**

A matrix containing 13,207 probe sets and 26 chips; first 6 chips for pre-B1 cell and next 20 chips for other stages (5 chips for each)

**Source**

Hoffmann, R., Seidl, T., Neeb, M., Rolink, A. and Melchers, F. (2002). Changes in gene expression profiles in developing B cells of murine bone marrow, *Genome Research* 12:98-111.

---

nonpar.error.Olig      *Baseline error nonparametric estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

nonpar.no.error.Olig      *Baseline error nonparametric estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

nonpar.rep.error.Olig      *Baseline error nonparametric estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

par.error.Olig      *Baseline error parametric estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

par.no.error.Olig      *Baseline error parametric estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

par.rep.error.Olig      *Baseline error parametric estimation for oligonucleotide arrays*

---

**Description**

Estimates baseline error for oligonucleotide arrays

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

pbrain      *Gene expression data for primate brains*

---

**Description**

This data set consists of gene expression of primate brains (Affymetrix U95A GeneChip). The frozen brains of three humans (H1, H2, H3) and three chimpanzees (C1, C2, C3) were used to take the postmortem tissue samples, and two independent tissue samples for each individual were taken.

**Usage**

```
data(pbrain)
```

**Format**

A matrix containing 12,600 probe sets and 12 chips (H1,H1,H2,H2,H3,H3,C1,C1,C2,C2,C3,C3); the first column is probe set ID

**Source**

Enard, W., Khaitovich, P., Klose, J., Zollner, S., Heissig, F., Giavalisco, P., Nieselt-Struwe, K., Muchmore, E., Varki, A., Ravid, R., Doxiadis, G.M., Bontrop, R.R., and Paabo, S. (2002) Intra- and interspecific variation in primate gene expression patterns, *Science* 296:340-343

---

permut	<i>Permutation</i>
--------	--------------------

---

**Description**

Permute

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

quant . norm	<i>Quantile normalization</i>
--------------	-------------------------------

---

**Description**

Performs quantile normalization

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

quant . normal	<i>Normalization</i>
----------------	----------------------

---

**Description**

Normalization

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

quant . normal2	<i>Normalization</i>
-----------------	----------------------

---

**Description**

Normalization

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

quant.normalize      *Quantile normalization*

---

**Description**

Performs quantile normalization

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

---

remove.sig.genes      *Remove significant genes*

---

**Description**

Remove significant genes

**Author(s)**

HyungJun Cho and Jae K. Lee

# Index

## \* datasets

mubcp, 12  
pbrain, 14

## \* models

am.tran, 2  
am.tran.half, 2  
base.ASE.Olig, 3  
base.error.Olig, 3  
base.error.Olig.quanOnly, 3  
base.PSE.Olig, 3  
boot.base.ASE.Olig, 4  
boot.base.error.Olig, 4  
boot.base.PSE.Olig, 4  
fixbound.predict.smooth.spline, 4  
hem, 5  
hem.eb.prior, 7  
hem.fdr, 9  
hem.null.no, 11  
hem.null.one, 11  
hem.null.two, 11  
hem.preproc, 12  
nonpar.error.Olig, 13  
nonpar.no.error.Olig, 13  
nonpar.rep.error.Olig, 13  
par.error.Olig, 13  
par.no.error.Olig, 14  
par.rep.error.Olig, 14  
permut, 15  
quant.norm, 15  
quant.normal, 15  
quant.normal2, 15  
quant.normalize, 16  
remove.sig.genes, 16

am.tran, 2  
am.tran.half, 2

base.ASE.Olig, 3  
base.error.Olig, 3  
base.error.Olig.quanOnly, 3  
base.PSE.Olig, 3  
boot.base.ASE.Olig, 4  
boot.base.error.Olig, 4  
boot.base.PSE.Olig, 4

fixbound.predict.smooth.spline, 4

hem, 5, 8, 10, 12  
hem.eb.prior, 6, 7, 10, 12  
hem.fdr, 6, 8, 9, 12  
hem.null.no, 11  
hem.null.one, 11  
hem.null.two, 11  
hem.preproc, 12

mubcp, 12

nonpar.error.Olig, 13  
nonpar.no.error.Olig, 13  
nonpar.rep.error.Olig, 13

par.error.Olig, 13  
par.no.error.Olig, 14  
par.rep.error.Olig, 14  
pbrain, 14  
permut, 15

quant.norm, 15  
quant.normal, 15  
quant.normal2, 15  
quant.normalize, 16

remove.sig.genes, 16