

Package ‘AgiMicroRna’

July 25, 2025

Version 2.59.0

Title Processing and Differential Expression Analysis of Agilent
microRNA chips

Author Pedro Lopez-Romero <plopez@cnic.es>

Maintainer Pedro Lopez-Romero <plopez@cnic.es>

Imports Biobase

Depends R (>= 2.10), methods, Biobase, limma, affy (>= 1.22), preprocessCore, affycoretools

Suggests geneplotter, marray, gplots, gtools, gdata, codelink

LazyLoad yes

Description Processing and Analysis of Agilent microRNA data

License GPL-3

biocViews Microarray, AgilentChip, OneChannel, Preprocessing,
DifferentialExpression

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/AgiMicroRna>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 733144f

git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15

Repository Bioconductor 3.22

Date/Publication 2025-07-25

Contents

basicLimma	2
boxplotMicroRna	4
cvArray	5
dd.micro	6
ddPROC	7
dim.uRNAList	7
dimnames.uRNAList	8
esetMicroRna	9
filterMicroRna	9
getDecideTests	11
HeatMapMicroRna	12

hierclusMicroRna	13
mvaBASIC	14
mvaMicroRna	14
PCApIotMicroRna	15
plotDensityMicroRna	16
pvalHistogram	16
qcPlots	17
readMicroRnaAFE	18
readTargets	20
RleMicroRna	21
rmaMicroRna	22
significantMicroRna	23
summary.uRNAList	25
targets.micro	26
tgsMicroRna	27
tgsNormalization	28
uRNAList-class	29
writeEset	30

Index	31
--------------	-----------

basicLimma	<i>Linear models Using limma</i>
------------	----------------------------------

Description

Differential expression analysis using the linear model features implemented in the limma package. A linear model is fitted to each miRNA gene so that the fold change between different experimental conditions and their standard errors can be estimated. Empirical Bayes methods are applied to obtain moderated statistics

Usage

```
basicLimma(eset, design, CM, verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

eset	ExpressionSet containing the processed log-expression values
design	design matrix
CM	contrast matrix
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

In our data example (see the target file in Table 1 in vignette), we have used a paired design (by subject) to assess the differential expression between two treatments B and C vs a control treatment A. That is, we want to obtain the microRNAs that are differentially expressed between conditions A vs B and A vs C. The linear model that we are going to fit to every miRNA is defined by equation: $y = \text{Treatment} + \text{Subject} + \text{error term}$. This model is going to estimate the treatment effect and then, the comparison between the different treatments are done in terms of contrasts between the estimates of the treatment effects. To fit the model, we need first to define a design matrix. The design matrix

is an incidence matrix that relates each array/sample/file to its given experimental conditions, in our case, relates each file to one of the three treatments and with its particular subject. If treatment is a factor variable, we can define the design matrix using `model.matrix(~ -1 + treatment + subject)`. Then the linear model can be fitted using `fit=lmFit(eset,design)`. This will get the treatment estimates for each microRNA in the `eset` object:

```
treatmentA treatmentB treatmentC subject2 hsa-miR-152 7.5721 7.656 7.566 -0.1157 hsa-miR-15a* 0.9265 1.066 1.211 -0.2242 hsa-miR-337-5p 6.2448 7.298 7.084 -0.4489
```

We can define the contrasts of interest using a contrast matrix as in `CM=cbind(MSC\_AvsMSC\_B=c(1,-1,0), MSC\_AvsMSC\_C=c(1,0,-1))`

And then, we can estimate those contrasts using `fit2=contrasts.fit(fit,CM)`. Finally, we can obtain moderated statistics using `fit2=eBayes(fit2)`.

The function 'basicLimma' implemented in AgiMicroRna produces the last `fit2` object, that has in `fit2$coeff` the M values, in `fit2$t` the moderated-t statistic of the contrasts, and in `fit2$p.value` the corresponding p value of each particular contrasts. Be aware that these p values must be corrected by multiple testing.

```
MSC\_AvsMSC\_B MSC\_AvsMSC\_C hsa-miR-152 0.67567761 0.977326746 hsa-miR-15a* 0.68019442 0.413657270 hsa-miR-337-5p 0.03737814 0.075248741
```

See `limmaUsersGuide()` for a complete description of the limma package.

Value

An `MArrayLM` object of the package `limma`

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Smyth, G. K. (2005). Limma: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397–420.

Smyth, G. K. (2004). Linear models and empirical Bayes methods for assessing differential expression in microarray experiments. *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology*, Vol. 3, No. 1, Article 3. <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol3/iss1/art3>

See Also

An 'RGList' example containing processed data is in `ddPROC` and an overview of how the processed data is produced is given in `filterMicroRna`. The `ExpressionSet` object can be generated using `esetMicroRna`

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(targets.micro)
data(ddPROC)
esetPROC=esetMicroRna(ddPROC,targets.micro,makePLOT=FALSE,verbose=FALSE)

levels.treatment=levels(factor(targets.micro$Treatment))
treatment=factor(as.character(targets.micro$Treatment),
  levels=levels.treatment)
```

```

levels.subject=levels(factor(targets.micro$Subject))
subject=factor(as.character(targets.micro$Subject),
               levels=levels.subject)

design=model.matrix(~ -1 + treatment + subject )

CM=cbind(MSC_AvsMSC_B=c(1,-1,0,0),
         MSC_AvsMSC_C=c(1,0,-1,0))

fit2=basicLimma(esetPROC,design,CM,verbose=TRUE)

names(fit2)
head(fit2$coeff)
head(fit2$p.value)
plot(fit2$Amean,fit2$coeff[,1],xlab="A",ylab="M")
abline(h=0)
abline(h=c(-1,1),col="red")
plot(fit2$coeff[,1],fit2$p.value[,1], xlab="M",ylab="p value")

## End(Not run)

```

boxplotMicroRna

Boxplot

Description

It creates a Boxplot using the matrix columns as input

Usage

```
boxplotMicroRna(object, maintitle, colorfill, xlab, ylab)
```

Arguments

object	A matrix containing by columns the expression arrays in log2 scale
maintitle	character to indicate the title of the graph
colorfill	color to fill the boxplot
xlab	title for the x axe
ylab	title for the y axe

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
MMM=log2(dd.micro$meanS)
      boxplotMicroRna(MMM,
      maintitle="log2 Mean Signal",
      colorfill="green",
      xlab="Samples",
      ylab="expression")
```

cvArray	<i>Coefficient of variation of replicated probes within array</i>
---------	---

Description

Identifies replicated features at probe and at gene level and computes the coefficient of variation of the array

Usage

```
cvArray(ddDUP, foreground = c("MeanSignal", "ProcessedSignal"), targets, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

ddDUP	uRNAList, containing the output from readMicroRnaAFE
foreground	Specifies the signal used, only "MeanSignal" or "ProcessedSignal" can be used
targets	data.frame with the target structure
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

In the Agilent microRNA platforms the features are replicated at a probe level and normally, a single microRNA is interrogated by either two or four sets of replicated probes. The replication of the probes allows computing the coefficient of variation (CV) for each array as a measure of the reproducibility of the array. The CV is computed for every set of replicated probes and the CV median is reported as the array CV. A lower array CV indicates a better array reproducibility.

Value

It prints out the results of the replication for the NON CONTROL FEATURES at a probe and gene level.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(dd.micro)
data(targets.micro)

cvArray(dd.micro, "MeanSignal", targets.micro, verbose=TRUE)

graphics.off()

## End(Not run)
```

dd.micro	<i>data example (uRNAList)</i>
----------	--------------------------------

Description

Data, extracted from scanned images using Agilent Feature Extraction Software, are stored in a `uRNAList` object.

Usage

```
data(dd.micro)
```

Details

A data example is provided. The data example includes 3 experimental conditions with two replicates.

For these data, chips were scanned using the Agilent G2567AA Microarray Scanner System (Agilent Technologies) Image analysis and data collection were carried out using the Agilent Feature Extraction 9.1.3.1. (AFE).

Data, collected with the Agilent Feature Extraction Software, are stored in a `uRNAList` object with the following components:

```
uRNAList.$TGS matrix, 'gTotalGeneSignal'
uRNAList.$TPS matrix, 'gTotalProbeSignal'
uRNAList.$meanS matrix, 'gMeanSignal'
uRNAList.$procS matrix, 'gProcessedSignal'
uRNAList.$targets data.frame, 'FileName'
uRNAList.$genes.$ProbeName vector of characters, 'AGilent Probe Name'
uRNAList.$genes.$GeneName vector of characters, 'microRNA Name'
uRNAList.$genes.$ControlType vector of integers, '0' = Feature, '1' = Positive control, '-1' =
Negative control
uRNAList.$other.$gIsGeneDetected matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsGeneDetected=1' or
'not=0'
uRNAList.$other.$gIsSaturated matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsSaturated = 1' or 'not=0'
uRNAList.$other.$gIsFeatPopnOL matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsFeatPopnOL = 0' or
'not=1'
```

uRNAList\$other\$gIsFeatNonUnifOL matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'gIsFeatNonUnifOL = 0' or 'not=1'

uRNAList\$other\$gBGMedianSignal matrix, gBGMedianSignal

uRNAList\$other\$gBGUsed matrix, gBGUsed

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

readMicroRnaAFE.Rd

ddPROC

Processed miRNA data (uRNAList)

Description

Filtered and Normalized miRNA data stored in a uRNAList object.

Usage

```
data(ddPROC)
```

Details

ddPROC is originated after the processing of the dd.micro raw data.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

An overview of how ddPROC is obtained is given in filterMicroRna

dim.uRNAList

Retrieve the Dimensions of an uRNAList Object

Description

Retrieve the number of rows (genes) and columns (arrays) for an uRNAList object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'uRNAList'
dim(x)
## S3 method for class 'uRNAList'
length(x)
```

Arguments

x an object of class uRNAList

Details

This function and this file, has been borrowed from the files created by Gordon Smyth for the limma package.

Value

Numeric vector of length 2. The first element is the number of rows (genes) and the second is the number of columns (arrays).

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

dimnames.uRNAList	<i>Retrieve the Dimension Names of an uRNAList Object</i>
-------------------	---

Description

Retrieve the dimension names of a microarray data object.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'uRNAList'
dimnames(x)
## S3 replacement method for class 'uRNAList'
dimnames(x) <- value
```

Arguments

x an object of class uRNAList
value a possible value for dimnames(x)

Details

The dimension names of a microarray object are the same as those of the most important matrix component of that object. A consequence is that rownames and colnames will work as expected. This function and this file, has been borrowed from the files created by Gordon Smyth for the limma package.

Value

Either NULL or a list of length 2.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

esetMicroRna	<i>ExpressionSet object from a uRNAList</i>
--------------	---

Description

It creates an 'ExpressionSet' object from a 'uRNAList' with unique probe names. Typically, the 'uRNAList' object contains the Total Gene Processed data.

Usage

```
esetMicroRna(uRNAList, targets, makePLOT=FALSE, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

uRNAList	An uRNAList containing normally the processed data
targets	data.frame with the targets structure
makePLOT	logical, if TRUE it makes a 'heatmap' with the 100 greater variance genes, a 'hierarchical cluster' with all the genes and a pca plot
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

It creates an ExpressionSet object from a uRNAList. Usually this function is applied to an uRNAList object containing the Total Gene Processed data.

Value

An ExpressionSet object

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

An 'uRNAList' example containing processed data is in ddPROC and an overview of how the processed data is produced is given in filterMicroRna

filterMicroRna	<i>Filtering Genes</i>
----------------	------------------------

Description

Filter genes out according to their Quality Flag

Usage

```
filterMicroRna(ddNORM,
  dd,
  control,
  IsGeneDetected,
  wellaboveNEG,
  limIsGeneDetected,
  limNEG,
  makePLOT,
  targets,
  verbose,
  writeout)
```

Arguments

ddNORM	uRNAList with the Total Gene Signal in log2 scale to be FILTERED out according to a Quality FLAG
dd	uRNAList, containing the output from readMicroRnaAFE
control	logical, if TRUE it removes controls
IsGeneDetected	logical, if TRUE it filters genes according to gIsGeneDetected Flag. Flag = 1, then gene is detected
wellaboveNEG	logical, if TRUE it filter genes whose expression is not above a limit value defined by the expression of negative controls. Limit= Mean(negative) + 1.5 x sd(negative)
limIsGeneDetected	for a given feature xi accros samples, is the minimum in at least one experimental condition with a IsGeneDetected-FLAG = 1 (Is Detected)
limNEG	for a given feature xi accros samples, is the minimum in at least one experimental condition with intensity > Limit established for negative controls (Mean + 1.5 x SD)
makePLOT	logical, if TRUE makes QC plots with the remaining signals
targets	data.frame with the targets structure
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output
writeout	logical, if TRUE writes out output files

Details

Agilent Feature Extraction software provides a flag for each spot that identifies different quantification errors of the signal. Quantification flags were used to filter out signals that did not reach a minimum established criterion of quality.

Value

The function returns a uRNAList containing the FILTERED data. In order to allow the tracking of those microRNAs that may have been filtered out from the original raw data, the following files are given:

NOCtrl_exprs.txt: Log2 Normalized Total Gene Signals for the Non Control Genes
 NOCtrl_FlagIsGeneDetected.txt: IsGeneDetected Flag for the Non Control Genes, 1 = detected
 IsNOTGeneDetected.txt: Genes that not are not detected according to IsGeneDetected Flag

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

ReferencesAgilent Feature Extraction Reference Guide <http://www.Agilent.com>**Examples**

```

data(dd.micro,verbose=FALSE)
data(targets.micro,verbose=FALSE)
ddTGS=tgsMicroRna(dd.micro,half=TRUE,makePLOT=FALSE,verbose=FALSE)
ddNORM=tgsNormalization(ddTGS,'quantile',
                        makePLOTpre=FALSE,makePLOTpost=TRUE,targets.micro,verbose=FALSE)
ddPROC=filterMicroRna(ddNORM,
                      dd.micro,
                      control=TRUE,
                      IsGeneDetected=TRUE,
                      wellaboveNEG=FALSE,
                      limIsGeneDetected=50,
                      limNEG=25,
                      makePLOT=FALSE,
                      targets.micro,
                      verbose=FALSE,
                      writeout=FALSE)

```

getDecideTests

*Differential expression analysis an multiplicity of the tests***Description**

It Uses the decideTests function of the 'limma' package to classify the list of genes as up, down or not significant after correcting by the multiplicity of the tests.

Usage

```
getDecideTests(fit2, DEmethod, MTestmethod, PVcut,verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

fit2	MArrayLM object
DEmethod	method for decideTests, only 'separate' or 'nestedF' are implemented. see decideTests in limma package.
MTestmethod	method for multiple test, choices are 'none','BH', 'BY', ... see p.adjust
PVcut	p value threshold to declare significant features
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Value

A 'TestResults' object of the 'limma' package It prints out the number of UP and DOWN genes for every contrasts according to the p value limit specified

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Smyth, G. K. (2005). Limma: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397–420.

See Also

An overview of miRNA differential expression analysis is given in `basicLimma`

Examples

```
## Not run:
DE=getDecideTests(fit2,
  DEmethod="separate",
  MTestmethod="BH",
  PVcut=0.10,
  verbose=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

HeatMapMicroRna

HeatMap

Description

Creates a HeatMap graph using the 'heatmap.2' function

Usage

```
HeatMapMicroRna(object, size, maintitle)
```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	A expression Matrix
<code>size</code>	number of highest variance genes to be considered in the plot
<code>maintitle</code>	title of the plot

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

`heatmap.2`

Examples

```
data(ddPROC)
  HeatMapMicroRna(ddPROC$TGS,
    size=100,
    maintitle="100 High Var genes")
```

hierclusMicroRna	<i>Hierarchical clustering</i>
------------------	--------------------------------

Description

Hierarchical cluster of samples using the 'hclust' function

Usage

```
hierclusMicroRna(object, GErep, methdis, methclu, sel, size)
```

Arguments

object	An expression Matrix
GErep	Numerical vector that relates each sample with its experimental condition
methdis	the distance measure to be used. Options are 'euclidean' and 'pearson'. see 'dist' function
methclu	the agglomeration method to be used by the 'hclust' function
sel	logical, if TRUE selects the 'size' highest variance genes for the plot
size	selects the 'size' highest variance genes for the plot if 'sel=TRUE'

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

hclust, dist

Examples

```
data(targets.micro)
data(ddPROC)

hierclusMicroRna(ddPROC$TGS, GErep,
  methdis="euclidean",
    methclu="complete",
  sel=FALSE, 100)
```

mvaBASIC

*MVA plot***Description**

For each array, the M value is computed for every spot as the difference between the spot intensity in the array and the averaged intensity for that feature over the whole set of arrays. It does not make a distinction between the different kind of features in the array as the mvaMicroRna() does.

Usage

```
mvaBASIC(object, colorfill, maintitle)
```

Arguments

object	An expression matrix in log2 scale
colorfill	color of the plot
maintitle	title of the plot

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
op=par(mfrow=c(1,1),ask=TRUE)
mvaBASIC(log2(dd.micro$meanS),
colorfill="red",
          maintitle=" log2 Mean Signal")
par(op)
```

mvaMicroRna

*MA plot***Description**

For each array, the M value is computed for every spot as the difference between the spot intensity in the array and the median intensity for that feature over the whole set of arrays. Every kind of feature is identified with different color (microRNA genes, positive controls, etc ...) The input must be an uRNAList object created by the user, in such a way that the uRNAList\$meanS field contains the expression matrix that we want to use in log2 scale (see example below) The gProcessedSignal computed by the Agilent Feature Extraction software normally contains negative values, so a small constant has to be added to the signals before log transformation.

Usage

```
mvaMicroRna(uRNAList, maintitle, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

uRNAList	A uRNAList object. It uses the expression matrix stored in the uRNAList\$meanS slot. Input expression matrix should be in log2 scale
maintitle	character to indicate the title of the graph
verbose	logical, if TRUE it prints details

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
op=par(mfrow=c(1,1),ask=TRUE)

MMM=dd.micro$procS      ## gProcessedSignal

min=min(MMM)           ## transforming gProcessedSignal to positive values
for(i in 1:dim(MMM)[2]){ ## before log2 transformation
  MMM[,i]=MMM[,i]+(abs(min)+ 5)
}

ddaux=dd.micro
ddaux$meanS=log2(MMM)
mvaMicroRna(ddaux,maintitle="ProcessedSignal",verbose=FALSE)
rm(ddaux)
par(op)
```

PCAplotMicroRna	<i>PCA plot</i>
-----------------	-----------------

Description

It is a wrapper for the 'plotPCA' of the 'affycoretools' package

Usage

```
PCAplotMicroRna(eset, targets)
```

Arguments

eset	An Expression Set object
targets	data.frame with the target structure

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
data(targets.micro)
data(ddPROC)
esetPROC=esetMicroRna(ddPROC,targets.micro,makePLOT=FALSE,verbose=FALSE)

PCAplotMicroRna(esetPROC,targets.micro)
```

`plotDensityMicroRna` *Density Plots of Intensity Signals*

Description

Creates a density plot with the arrays intensities

Usage

```
plotDensityMicroRna(object, maintitle)
```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	An expression matrix, in log2 scale
<code>maintitle</code>	title of the plot

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
plotDensity(log2(dd.micro$meanS),maintitle="log2 Mean Signal")
```

`pvalHistogram` *Histogram of the p values*

Description

Creates an histogram of the pvalues. For multiple contrasts, creates an histogram for every t.test pvalue (separate) or a single histogram for the F.test pvalue (nestedF). A uniform histogram will indicate no differential expression in the data set, whereas a right skewed histogram, will indicate some significant differential expression

Usage

```
pvalHistogram(fit2, DE, PVcut, DEmethod, MTestmethod, CM,verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>fit2</code>	MArrayLM object
<code>DE</code>	TestResults object
<code>PVcut</code>	limit p value to declare significant features
<code>DEmethod</code>	method for decideTests, only 'separate' or 'nestedF' are implemented
<code>MTestmethod</code>	method for multiple test
<code>CM</code>	contrast matrix
<code>verbose</code>	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

An overview of miRNA differential expression analysis is given in `basicLimma`. An example of how to get the 'TestResults' object is in `getDecideTests`.

Examples

```
## Not run:
pvalHistogram(fit2, DE, PVcut=0.10,
              DEmethod="separate", MTestmethod="BH", CM)

## End(Not run)
```

qcPlots

Plots for Quality Assessment

Description

It creates BoxPlots, Density Plots, MA plots, RLE plots and hierarchical clustering plots with the sample data set.

Usage

```
qcPlots(dd,
        offset,
        MeanSignal=TRUE,
        ProcessedSignal=FALSE,
        TotalProbeSignal=FALSE,
        TotalGeneSignal=FALSE,
        BGMedianSignal=FALSE,
        BGUsed=FALSE,
        targets)
```

Arguments

dd	A uRNAList object containing the output from readMicroRnaAFE
offset	numeric value to add to the intensities before log transforming
MeanSignal	logical, if TRUE "gMeanSignal" is used
ProcessedSignal	logical, if TRUE "gProcessedSignal" is used
TotalProbeSignal	logical, if TRUE "gTotalProbeSignal" is used
TotalGeneSignal	logical, if TRUE "gTotalGeneSignal" is used
BGMedianSignal	logical, if TRUE "gBGMedianSignal" is used
BGUsed	logical, if TRUE "gBGUsed" is used
targets	data.frame with the target structure

Details

The signals loaded from the AFE data files can be used for the quality assesment using the graphical utilities included in the `qcPlots` function. For the `gMeanSignal`, the `BoxPlots`, `Density Plots`, `MA plots`, `RLE plots` and `hierachical clustering plots` are done. For the `gProcessedSignal` the same plots are done, except the `hierachical clustering`. For the `gTotalProbeSignal` and the `gTotalGeneSignal` only the `BoxPlots` and `Density Plots` are done, and finally, for the `Background` signals only the `Boxplots` are done.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Boldstad B.M., Collin F., Brettschneider J., Simpson, K., Cope L., Irizarry R. A., Speed T. P. Quality Assesment of Affymetrix GeneChip Data. In *Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions Using R and Bioconductor*. (eds.) Gentleman R., Carey V. J., Huber W., Irizarry R. A., Dudoit S. (2005). Springer.

See Also

`boxplotMicroRna`, `plotDensityMicroRna`, `RleMicroRna`, `mvaMicroRna` and `hierclusMicroRna`

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(dd.micro)
qcPlots(dd.micro,offset=5,
        MeanSignal=TRUE,
        ProcessedSignal=TRUE,
        TotalProbeSignal=TRUE,
        TotalGeneSignal=TRUE,
        BGMedianSignal=TRUE,
        BGUsed=TRUE,
        targets.micro)
graphics.off()

## End(Not run)
```

readMicroRnaAFE

Read Agilent Feature Extraction txt data files

Description

Read the data files generated by the Agilent Feature Extraction image analysis software

Usage

```
readMicroRnaAFE(targets,verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

targets	A data frame that specifies experimental conditions under which each sample has been obtained.
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

The function reads the *.txt files generated by the AFE Software using the 'read.maimages' function of 'limma' package.

Data, collected with the Agilent Feature Extraction Software, are stored in a uRNAList object with the following components:

```
- dd.micro\TGS 'gTotalGeneSignal' - dd.micro\TPS 'gTotalProbeSignal' - dd.micro\meanS 'gMeanSignal'
- dd.micro\procS 'gProcessedSignal' - dd.micro\targets 'targets' - dd.micro\genes\ProbeName
'Probe Name' - dd.micro\genes\GeneName 'microRNA Name' - dd.micro\genes\ControlType
'FLAG to specify the sort of feature' - dd.micro\other\IsGeneDetected 'FLAG IsGeneDetected'
- dd.micro\other\IsSaturated 'FLAG IsSaturated' - dd.micro\other\IsFeatNonUnifOL 'FLAG
IsFeatNonUnifOL' - dd.micro\other\IsFeatPopnOL 'FLAG IsFeatPopnOL' - dd.micro\other\gBGMedianSignal
'gBGMedianSignal' - dd.micro\other\gBGUsed 'gBGUsed'
```

Value

A uRNAList containing the following elements:

```
uRNAList\TGS    matrix, 'gTotalGeneSignal'
uRNAList\TPS    matrix, 'gTotalProbeSignal'
uRNAList\meanS
                matrix, 'gMeanSignal'
uRNAList\procS
                matrix, 'gProcessedSignal'
uRNAList\targets
                data.frame, 'FileName'
uRNAList\genes\ProbeName
                character, 'AGilent Probe Name'
uRNAList\genes\GeneName
                character, 'microRNA Name'
uRNAList\genes\ControlType
                integer, '0' = Feature, '1' = Positive control, '-1' = Negative control
uRNAList\other\IsGeneDetected
                matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsGeneDetected=1' or 'not=0'
uRNAList\other\IsSaturated
                matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsSaturated = 1' or 'not=0'
uRNAList\other\IsFeatPopnOL
                matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsFeatPopnOL = 0' or 'not=1'
uRNAList\other\IsFeatNonUnifOL
                matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsFeatNonUnifOL = 0' or 'not=1'
uRNAList\other\gBGMedianSignal
                matrix, gBGMedianSignal
uRNAList\other\gBGUsed
                matrix, gBGUsed
```

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Agilent Feature Extraction Reference Guide <http://www.Agilent.com>

Smyth, G. K. (2005). Limma: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397–420.

See Also

A data example can be found in `dd.micro` See also `readTargets` to see how to build the target file and the example given in `targets.micro`

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(targets.micro)
dd.micro = readMicroRnaAFE(targets.micro)

## End(Not run)
```

`readTargets`

read the target file

Description

The target file is a txt file created by the user where every input file (array, sample) is attached to a experimental condition

Usage

```
readTargets(infile, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>infile</code>	name of the target file, for instance 'targets.micro.txt'
<code>verbose</code>	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

In the 'target' file (see Table 1 in vignette) we specify the experimental conditions under which the data have been generated. The target file **MUST** contain the following mandatory columns: -FileName : Name of the array data file -Treatment : Treatment effect -Gerep : Treatment effect in numeric code, from '1' to 'n', being 'n' the number of the levels of the treatment effect

Other explanatory variables specifying the experimental conditions might be also included.

Value

A 'data.frame' containing by the columns specified in the input file targets.txt. This 'targets.txt' file must be created by the user.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Smyth, G. K. (2005). Limma: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397–420.

See Also

An example of a target file can be found in `targets.micro`

RleMicroRna	<i>Relative Log Expression</i>
-------------	--------------------------------

Description

RLE: Relative Log Expression

Usage

```
RleMicroRna(object, maintitle, colorfill)
```

Arguments

<code>object</code>	An expression matrix
<code>maintitle</code>	title of the plot
<code>colorfill</code>	color of the plot

Details

Each Boxplot corresponds to a sample and displays the Relative Log Expression computed for every spot in the array as the difference between the spot intensity and the median intensity for the same feature accros all the arrays. Since majority of the spots are expected not to be differentially expressed, the plot should show boxplots centered around zero and all of them having the approximately the same dispersion. An array showing greater dispersion than the other, or being not centered at zero could have quality problems.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Boldstad B.M., Collin F., Brettschneider J., Simpson, K., Cope L., Irizarry R. A., Speed T. P. Quality Assesement of Affymetrix GeneChip Data. In Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions Using R and Bioconductor. (eds.) Gentleman R., Carey V. J., Huber W., Irizarry R. A., Dudoit S. (2005). Springer.

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
      RleMicroRna(log2(dd.micro$meanS),
maintitle="log2 Mean Signal RLE",
colorfill="orange")
```

rmaMicroRna

Getting the Total Gene Signal by RMA algorithm

Description

The function creates an `uRNAList` containing the `TotalGeneSignal` computed by the RMA algorithm. This signal can be used for the statistical analysis.

Usage

```
rmaMicroRna(dd, normalize, background)
```

Arguments

<code>dd</code>	<code>uRNAList</code> , containing the output from <code>readMicroRnaAFE</code>
<code>normalize</code>	logical, if TRUE the signal is normalized between arrays using the 'quantile' method
<code>background</code>	logical, if TRUE the signal is background corrected by fitting a normal + exponential convolution model to a vector of observed intensities

Details

The function creates an `uRNAList` output that contains in the `uRNAList$TGS`, `uRNAList$TPS`, `uRNAList$meanS` & `uRNAList$procS` slots the Total Gene Signal (TGS) computed by the RMA algorithm. The function uses the robust multiarray average (RMA) method from the 'affy' package. RMA obtains an estimate of the expression measure for each gene using all the replicated probes for that gene. First, RMA obtains a background corrected intensity by fitting a normal + exponential convolution model to a vector of observed intensities. The normal part represents the background and the exponential part represents the signal intensities. Then the arrays are normalized using 'quantile' normalization. Finally, for each probe set that interrogates the same microRNA, RMA fits a linear model to the background-corrected, normalized and log2 transformed probe intensities. This model produces an estimate of the gene signal taking into account the probe effect. The model parameters estimates are obtained by median polish. The estimates of the gene expression signals are referred as RMA estimates. Normally, each microRNA is interrogated by 16 probes either using 2 different probes, each of them replicated 8 times, or using 4 different probes replicated 4 times. First, function 'rmaMicroRna' obtains a background corrected signal using the 'rma.background.correct' function of the package 'preprocessCore', then the signal is normalized between arrays using the 'limma' function 'normalizeBetweenArrays' with the 'quantile' method. Then, the median of the replicated probes is obtained, leading to either 2 or 4 different measures for each gene. These measures correspond to different probes for the same genes that are summarized into a single RMA linear model described above.

Value

`uRNAList` containing the Total Gene Signal computed by the RMA algorithm in log 2 scale.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

- Irizarry, R., Hobbs, B., Collin, F., Beazer-Barclay, Y., Antonellis, K., Scherf, U., Speed, T. (2003) Exploration, normalization, and summaries of high density oligonucleotide array probe level data. *Biostatistics*. 4, 249-264
- Gautier, L., Cope, L., Bolstad, B. M., and Irizarry, R. A. (2004). *affy*—analysis of Affymetrix GeneChip data at the probe level. *Bioinformatics* 20, 3, 307-315.
- Bolstad B. M. (). *preprocessCore*: A collection of pre-processing functions. R package version 1.4.0
- Smyth, G. K. (2005). *Limma*: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397 - 420

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
ddTGS.rma=rmaMicroRna(dd.micro, normalize=TRUE, background=TRUE)
dim(ddTGS.rma)
RleMicroRna(ddTGS.rma$TGS, "RLE TGS.rma", "blue")
```

significantMicroRna *Summarize Differential Expression Results*

Description

The function summarizes the results from the differential expression analysis using the different objects that are obtained after 'limma' has been used, such as the 'MArrayLM' object with the statistics and the 'TestResults' object highlighting the significant features.

Usage

```
significantMicroRna(eset, ddset, targets, fit2,
CM, DE, DEmethod, MTestmethod, PVcut, Mcut, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

eset	ExpressionSet containing the Total Gene processed data
ddset	An uRNAList object containing the Total Gene processed data
targets	data.frame with the target structure
fit2	MArrayLM object from eBayes 'limma' function
CM	Contrast matrix
DE	TestResults object
DEmethod	method used in decideTests, only 'separate' or 'nestedF' are implemented
MTestmethod	method for multiple test
PVcut	p value threshold to declare significant features
Mcut	M value threshold to select within significant features
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

A list containing the genes with their statistics is generated. The significant genes above the PVcut p values are also given in a html file that links the selected miRNAs to the miRBase <http://microrna.sanger.ac.uk/>. A MA plots indicating the differentially expressed genes are also displayed.

When multiple contrasts are done, the method for the selection of the significant genes can be either 'separated' or 'nestedF'. See decideTests in package limma *limma* for a detailed description on these two methods. When 'separated' is used a list with all the genes that have been analyzed in limma is given. The list includes the following columns:

PROBE - Probe name (one of the probes interrogating the gene) GENE - miRNA name PROBE chr_coord - Agilent chromosomal location M - Fold change A - Mean of the intensity for that miRNA t - moderated t-statistic pval - p value of the t-statistic adj.pval - p value adjusted by 'MTest-method' fdr.pval - p value adjusted by fdr

Some times, the user can be set 'MTestmethod = none', in this case, it might be interesting to still see the fdr value, despite of the fact that the user has decided not apply any multiple testing correction.

If the 'nestedF' is used, then two lists are provided for each contrasts. A first containing the selected significant genes, and a second list containing the rest of the genes that have been analyzed. The columns given in this case is:

PROBE - Probe name (one of the probes interrogating the gene) GENE - miRNA name PROBE chr_coord - Agilent chromosomal location M - Fold change A - Mean of the intensity for that miRNA t - moderated t-statistic t pval - p value of the t-statistic F - F statistic (null hypothesis: $C_i = C_j$, for all contrasts i, j) adj.F.pval - F p value adjusted by 'MTestmethod' fdr.F.pval - F p value adjusted by fdr

The html files, both for the 'separated' and 'nestedF' method, includes only the selected as significant genes.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Smyth, G. K. (2005). Limma: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397–420.

miRBase: the home of microRNA data <http://microrna.sanger.ac.uk/>

See Also

A 'uRNAList' example containing processed data is in ddPROC and an overview of how the processed data is produced is given in filterMicroRna. The ExpressionSet object can be generated using esetMicroRna An overview of miRNA differential expression analysis is given in basicLimma An example of how to get the 'TestResults' object is in getDecideTests

Examples

```
data(targets.micro)
data(ddPROC)
esetPROC=esetMicroRna(ddPROC, targets.micro, makePLOT=FALSE)
```

```

levels.treatment=levels(factor(targets.micro$Treatment))
treatment=factor(as.character(targets.micro$Treatment),
  levels=levels.treatment)

levels.subject=levels(factor(targets.micro$Subject))
subject=factor(as.character(targets.micro$Subject),
  levels=levels.subject)

design=model.matrix(~ -1 + treatment + subject )

CM=cbind(MSC_AvsMSC_B=c(1,-1,0,0),
  MSC_AvsMSC_C=c(1,0,-1,0))

fit2=basicLimma(esetPROC,design,CM,verbose=TRUE)

DE=getDecideTests(fit2,
  DEmethod="separate",
  MTestmethod="BH",
  PVcut=0.10)

significantMicroRna(esetPROC,
  ddPROC,
  targets.micro,
  fit2,
  CM,
  DE,
  DEmethod="separate",
  MTestmethod="BH",
  PVcut=0.10,
  Mcut=0,
  verbose=TRUE)

```

summary.uRNAList

*Summaries of Microarray Data Objects***Description**

Briefly summarize microarray data objects.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'uRNAList'
summary(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	an object of class uRNAList
...	other arguments are not used

Details

The data objects are summarized as if they were lists, i.e., brief information about the length and type of the components is given. This function and this file, has been borrowed from the files created by Gordon Smyth for the limma package.

Value

A table.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

targets.micro	<i>Example of target file</i>
---------------	-------------------------------

Description

Example of target file

Usage

```
data(targets.micro)
```

Format

A data frame with 4 observations on the following 5 variables.

FileName names of the Files Ast.txt Bst.txt Aunst.txt Bunst.txt

Treatment Assigns level for Treatment Effect to each File (mandatory)

GErep a numeric vector tha numerates the FACTOR of the Treatment Effect (mandatory)

Subject Assigns level for Subject Effect to each File

Details

It is a tab-delimited text format file. The target file is created by the user with the intention of carrying out a differential expression analysis in future steps using 'limma'. Here is where the factors that are going to be included in the linear model that is fitted to each gen are specified. The targets file assigns each data file to a particular experimental conditions. First column 'FileName' is mandatory and includes the image data files names. Second column 'Treatment' is also mandatory and includes the treament effect. Third column 'GErep' is also mandatory, and includes the treatment effect in a numeric code, from 1 to n, being n the number of Treatment effect levels.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Gordon K. Smyth, M. Ritchie, N. Thorne, J. Wettenhall (2007). limma: Linear Models for Microarray Data User's Guide.

See Also

readTargets

Description

The function creates an `uRNAList` containing the `TotalGeneSignal` computed by the Agilent Feature Extraction software. This signal can be used for the statistical analysis after a possible normalization step.

Usage

```
tgsMicroRna(dd, offset, half, makePLOT=FALSE, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

<code>dd</code>	<code>uRNAList</code> , containing the output from <code>readMicroRnaAFE</code>
<code>offset</code>	integer. To use this option set <code>half = FALSE</code>
<code>half</code>	logical, if <code>TRUE</code> half option is used
<code>makePLOT</code>	logical, if <code>TRUE</code> QC plots with the Total Gene Signal are displayed
<code>verbose</code>	logical, if <code>TRUE</code> prints out some summary results

Details

The function creates a `uRNAList` object that contains in the `uRNAList$TGS`, `uRNAList$TPS`, `uRNAList$meanS` & `uRNAList$procS` the Total Gene Signal (TGS) as computed by the Agilent Feature Extraction algorithms. This TGS is not in $\log_2$ scale. All the replicated genes have the same estimated TGS, and the function simply picks one gene from each set of replicated genes. To maintain the format of the `uRNAList`, every selected gene retains a probe name attached to them. This probe name is not meaningful any more, since the signal corresponds to the total gene signal and not to the probe signal. The TGS processed by AFE contains some negative values. To get signals with positive values we can either add a positive small constant to all the signals (`offset`) or we can select the 'half' option, which set to 0.5 all the values that are smaller than 0.5. To use the `offset` option we have to set `half=FALSE`, otherwise the half method is used by default. The `offset` option, adds to each signal the quantity $(\text{abs}(\min(\text{ddTGS\$TGS})) + \text{offset})$, where `ddTGS$TGS` is the matrix that contains the `TotalGeneSignal`.

Value

`uRNAList` containing the `TotalGeneSignal` computed by the Agilent Feature Extraction software. Optionally, it can generate a boxplot, a density plot and a MA plot with the Total Gene Signal.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Agilent Feature Extraction Reference Guide <http://www.Agilent.com>

Examples

```
data(dd.micro)
data(targets.micro)
ddTGS=tgsMicroRna(dd.micro,half=TRUE,makePLOT=FALSE,verbose=FALSE)
```

tgsNormalization

*Normalization Between Arrays***Description**

Normalization between arrays of the Total Gene Signal. The function is a wrapper of the 'limma' 'normalizeBetweenArrays' with ('none','quantile','scale') methods

Usage

```
tgsNormalization(ddTGS, NORMmethod = "quantile", makePLOTpre = FALSE, makePLOTpost = FALSE, targets
```

Arguments

ddTGS	uRNAList, containing the output from tgsMicroRna
NORMmethod	character specifying the normalization method, 'none','quantile','scale'. The default is quantile
makePLOTpre	logical, if TRUE QC plots with the Raw Total Gene Signal are displayed
makePLOTpost	logical, if TRUE QC plots with the Normalized Total Gene Signal are displayed
targets	data.frame with the target structure
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Value

A uRNAList object containing the Normalized Total Gene Signal in log 2 scale

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

References

Smyth, G. K. (2005). Limma: linear models for microarray data. In: 'Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Solutions Using R and Bioconductor'. R. Gentleman, V. Carey, S. Dudoit, R. Irizarry, W. Huber (eds), Springer, New York, pages 397 - 420

Smyth, G. K., and Speed, T. P. (2003). Normalization of cDNA microarray data. Methods 31, 265-273.

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(dd.micro)
data(targets.micro)
ddTGS=tgsMicroRna(dd.micro, half=TRUE, makePLOT=FALSE, verbose=FALSE)

ddNORM=tgsNormalization(ddTGS, 'quantile',
                        makePLOTpre=FALSE, makePLOTpost=TRUE, targets.micro, verbose=TRUE)
graphics.off()

## End(Not run)
```

uRNAList-class

uRNAList - class

Description

A list-based class (similar to the RGList class in limma package) for the storing of Agilent chips microRNA data uRNAList objects are created by read.agiMicroRna

uRNAList Components

uRNAList objects are created by new("uRNAList", Newagi) where Newagi is a list. with the following components:

uRNAList matrix, 'gTotalGeneSignal'

uRNAList matrix, 'gTotalProbeSignal'

uRNAList matrix, 'gMeanSignal'

uRNAList matrix, 'gProcessedSignal'

uRNAList data.frame, 'FileName'

uRNAList vector of characters, 'AGilent Probe Name'

uRNAList vector of characters, 'microRNA Name'

uRNAList vector of integers, '0' = Feature, '1' = Positive control, '-1' = Negative control

uRNAList matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsGeneDetected=1' or 'not=0'

uRNAList matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsSaturated = 1' or 'not=0'

uRNAList matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsFeatPopnOL = 0' or 'not=1'

uRNAList matrix, FLAG to classify signal if 'IsFeatNonUnifOL = 0' or 'not=1'

uRNAList matrix, gBGMedianSignal

uRNAList matrix, gBGUsed

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

Examples

```
## Not run:
  data(dd.micro)

## End(Not run)
```

writeEset	<i>Writes the expression data matrix of an ExpressionSet object in a txt file</i>
-----------	---

Description

Writes the expression data matrix of an ExpressionSet object in a file.

Usage

```
writeEset(eset, ddPROC, targets, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

eset	An Expression object, normally containing the processed data
ddPROC	An RGList object, normally containing the processed data
targets	data.frame with the targets structure
verbose	logical, if TRUE prints out output

Details

Writes the expression data matrix of an ExpressionSet object in a file.

Author(s)

Pedro Lopez-Romero

See Also

An 'RGList' example containing processed data is in ddPROC and an overview of how the processed data is produced is given in filterMicroRna. The ExpressionSet object can be generated using esetMicroRna

Examples

```
## Not run:
data(ddPROC)
data(targets.micro)
esetPROC=esetMicroRna(ddPROC, targets.micro, makePLOT=TRUE, verbose=FALSE)
writeEset(esetPROC, ddPROC, targets.micro, verbose=TRUE)

## End(Not run)
```

Index

- * **array**
 - dim.uRNAList, 7
 - dimnames.uRNAList, 8
- * **classes**
 - uRNAList-class, 29
- * **datasets**
 - dd.micro, 6
 - ddPROC, 7
 - targets.micro, 26
- * **documentation**
 - basicLimma, 2
 - boxplotMicroRna, 4
 - cvArray, 5
 - esetMicroRna, 9
 - filterMicroRna, 9
 - getDecideTests, 11
 - HeatMapMicroRna, 12
 - hierclusMicroRna, 13
 - mvaBASIC, 14
 - mvaMicroRna, 14
 - PCApplotMicroRna, 15
 - plotDensityMicroRna, 16
 - pvalHistogram, 16
 - qcPlots, 17
 - readMicroRnaAFE, 18
 - readTargets, 20
 - RleMicroRna, 21
 - rmaMicroRna, 22
 - significantMicroRna, 23
 - tgsMicroRna, 27
 - tgsNormalization, 28
 - writeEset, 30
- * **methods**
 - summary.uRNAList, 25
- * **utilities**
 - basicLimma, 2
 - boxplotMicroRna, 4
 - cvArray, 5
 - esetMicroRna, 9
 - filterMicroRna, 9
 - getDecideTests, 11
 - HeatMapMicroRna, 12
 - hierclusMicroRna, 13
 - mvaBASIC, 14
 - mvaMicroRna, 14
 - PCApplotMicroRna, 15
 - plotDensityMicroRna, 16
 - pvalHistogram, 16
 - qcPlots, 17
 - readMicroRnaAFE, 18
 - readTargets, 20
 - RleMicroRna, 21
 - rmaMicroRna, 22
 - significantMicroRna, 23
 - tgsMicroRna, 27
 - tgsNormalization, 28
 - writeEset, 30

readMicroRnaAFE, [18](#)
readTargets, [20](#)
RleMicroRna, [21](#)
rmaMicroRna, [22](#)

show, uRNAList-method (uRNAList-class),
 [29](#)
significantMicroRna, [23](#)
summary.uRNAList, [25](#)

targets.micro, [26](#)
tgsMicroRna, [27](#)
tgsNormalization, [28](#)

uRNAList-class, [29](#)

writeEset, [30](#)