# Package 'BRAIN'

July 25, 2025

Type Package	
<b>Title</b> Baffling Recursive Algorithm for Isotope distributioN calculations	
Version 1.55.0	
<b>Date</b> 2018-08-08	
<b>Author</b> Piotr Dittwald, with contributions of Dirk Valkenborg and Jurgen Claesen	
Maintainer Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl></piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>	
<b>Depends</b> R (>= 2.8.1), PolynomF, Biostrings, lattice	
<b>Description</b> Package for calculating aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses for chemical substances (in this version composed of C, H, N, O and S). This is an implementation of the BRAIN algorithm described in the paper by J. Claesen, P. Dittwald, T. Burzykowski and D. Valkenborg.	
License GPL-2	
biocViews ImmunoOncology, MassSpectrometry, Proteomics	
git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/BRAIN	
git_branch devel	
git_last_commit 663b707	
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15	
Repository Bioconductor 3.22	
Date/Publication 2025-07-25	
Contents	
calculateAverageMass calculateIsotopicProbabilities calculateMonoisotopicMass calculateNrPeaks getAtomsFromSeq useBRAIN	2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Index 1	1

2 BRAIN-package

BRAIN-package	Implementation of BRAIN (Baffling Recursive Algorithm for Isotope distribution calculations)
---------------	--

## **Description**

This package implements BRAIN (Baffling Recursive Algorithm for Isotope distribution calculations) is described in full details by Claesen et al. [Clae] (see also application note [Ditt]). The algorithm uses an algebraic approach (Viete's formulas, Newton identities [Macd]) which is especially useful for large molecules due to its advantageous scaling properties. This version of the package provides functions for calculating the aggregated isotopic distribution and center-masses masses for each aggregated isotopic variant for chemical components built from carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur (e.g. peptides). The natural abundances and molecular masses for stable isotopes of C, H, N, O, S are taken from IUPAC 1997 [Rosm]. Also, some heuristics to faster compute isotopic distribution are applied [Ditt2].

### **Details**

Package: BRAIN
Type: Package
Version: 1.5.0
Date: 2018-08-02
License: GPL-2
LazyLoad: yes

#### Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald with contribution of Dirk Valkenborg and Jurgen Claesen

Maintainer: Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

#### References

[Clae] Claesen J., Dittwald P., Burzykowski T. and Valkenborg D. An efficient method to calculate the aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses. JASMS, 2012, doi:10.1007/s13361-011-0326-2

[Ditt] Dittwald P., Claesen J., Burzykowski T., Valkenborg D., Gambin A. BRAIN: a universal tool for high-throughput calculations of the isotopic distribution for mass spectrometry. Anal Chem., 2013, doi: 10.1021/ac303439m

[Ditt2] Dittwald P., Valkenborg D. BRAIN 2.0: time and memory complexity improvements in the algorithm for calculating the isotope distribution. JASMS, 2014, doi: 10.1007/s13361-013-0796-5.

[Macd] Macdonald I.G., Symmetric functions and Hall polynomials / by I. G. Macdonald. Clarendon Press; Oxford University Press, Oxford: New York, 1979.

[Rosm] K.J.R. Rosman and P.D.P. Taylor. Isotopic compositions of the elements 1997. Pure and Applied Chemistry, 70(1):217-235, 1998.

calculateAverageMass 3

## **Examples**

```
nrPeaks = 1000
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain
res <- useBRAIN(aC = aC, nrPeaks = nrPeaks)
iso <- res$isoDistr
masses <- res$masses
mono <- res$monoisotopicMass
avgMass <- res$avgMass</pre>
```

calculateAverageMass Function computing theoretical average masses.

## **Description**

Function computing the theoretical average masses for chemical components composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur (e.g. peptides).

## Usage

```
calculateAverageMass(aC)
```

## **Arguments**

аC

List with fields C, H, N, O, S of integer non-negative values (if any field is ommited, then its value is set to 0).

## **Details**

Mass is calculated in Daltons.

#### Value

Average mass (numeric)

## Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

# References

[Clae] Claesen J., Dittwald P., Burzykowski T. and Valkenborg D. An efficient method to calculate the aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses. JASMS, 2012, doi:10.1007/s13361-011-0326-2

# See Also

useBRAIN

# **Examples**

```
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain res <- calculateAverageMass(aC = aC)
```

 ${\tt calculateIsotopicProbabilities}$ 

Function computing probabilities of aggregated isotopic variants using BRAIN algorithm.

# Description

Function computing probabilities of aggregated isotopic variants for chemical components built from carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur (e.g. peptides).

## Usage

```
calculateIsotopicProbabilities(aC, stopOption = "nrPeaks",
nrPeaks, coverage, abundantEstim)
```

### **Arguments**

aC	List with fields C, H, N, O, S of integer non-negative values (if any field is ommited, then its value is set to 0).
stopOption	one of the following strings: "nrPeaks" (default), "coverage", "abundantEstim"
nrPeaks	Integer indicating the number of consecutive isotopic variants to be calculated, starting from the monoisotopic one. This value can always be provided, even if <stopoption> is not a default setting. In the latter case it is a hard stopping criterion.</stopoption>
coverage	Scalar indicating the value of the cumulative aggregated distribution. The calculations will be stopped after reaching this value.
abundantEstim	Integer indicating the number of consecutive isotopic variants to be calculated, starting from one after the most abundant one. All consecutive isotopic variants before the most abundant peak are also returned.

## **Details**

Remember that the isotopic variants starts from the monoisotopic one. In case of large chemical molecules, first masses may have very low abundance values for the lower mass aggregated values. A sufficient number of peaks should be calculated to reach most abundant isotopic variant.

# Value

Probabilities of aggregated isotopic variants (numeric vector)

#### Note

If also masses associated with the aggregated isotopic variants are needed, then the function use-BRAIN should be used.

# Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

#### References

[Clae] Claesen J., Dittwald P., Burzykowski T. and Valkenborg D. An efficient method to calculate the aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses. JASMS, 2012, doi:10.1007/s13361-011-0326-2

#### See Also

useBRAIN

## **Examples**

```
nrPeaks = 1000
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain
res <- calculateIsotopicProbabilities(aC = aC, stopOption="nrPeaks",
nrPeaks = nrPeaks)</pre>
```

calculateMonoisotopicMass

Function computing theoretical monoisotopic masses.

## **Description**

Function computing the theoretical monoisotopic masses for chemical components composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur (e.g. peptides).

## Usage

calculateMonoisotopicMass(aC)

# **Arguments**

аC

List with fields C, H, N, O, S of integer non-negative values (if any field is ommited, then its value is set to 0).

#### **Details**

Mass is calculated in Daltons.

### Value

Monoisotopic mass (numeric)

# Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

# References

[Clae] Claesen J., Dittwald P., Burzykowski T. and Valkenborg D. An efficient method to calculate the aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses. JASMS, 2012, doi:10.1007/s13361-011-0326-2

6 calculateNrPeaks

#### See Also

useBRAIN

## **Examples**

```
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain res <- calculateMonoisotopicMass(aC = aC)
```

calculateNrPeaks

Function computing heuristically the required number of consecutive aggregated isotopic variants.

## **Description**

Function computing heuristically the required number of consecutive aggregated isotopic variants (starting from the monoisotopic mass).

#### **Usage**

calculateNrPeaks(aC)

### **Arguments**

аC

List with fields C, H, N, O, S of integer non-negative values (if any field is ommited, then its value is set to 0).

## **Details**

This function uses following rule of thumb: the difference between the theoretical monoisotopic mass and the theoretical average mass is computed and multiplied by two. Subsequently, the obtained number is rounded to the nearest integer greater than or equal to the multiplied difference. For small molecules, the minimal number of returned variants is five.

## Value

Integer number not lower than 5.

# Author(s)

Jurgen Claesen < jurgen.claesen@uhasselt.be>

#### References

[Clae] Claesen J., Dittwald P., Burzykowski T. and Valkenborg D. An efficient method to calculate the aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses. JASMS, 2012, doi:10.1007/s13361-011-0326-2

# See Also

useBRAIN

getAtomsFromSeq 7

## **Examples**

```
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain res <- calculateNrPeaks(aC = aC)
```

getAtomsFromSeq

Function computing an atomic composition from amono acid sequence.

## **Description**

Function computing an atomic composition from (naturally occuring) amino acid sequence.

## Usage

```
getAtomsFromSeq(seq)
```

# **Arguments**

seq

The character vector of AAString (see Biostrings package) with amino acid sequence. It should contain only letters "A", "R", "N", "D", "C", "E", "Q", "G", "H", "I", "L", "K", "M", "F", "P", "S", "T", "W", "Y", "V" (1-letter symbols of 20 naturally occuring amino acids).

### **Details**

The atomic composition is just a summaric atomic composition of all amino acids composing the sequence minus (n-1) times the water molecule, where n is a length of given amino acid sequence.

## Value

Named list with the following fields with number of correcponding atoms (integer non-negative values):

- C.
- H,
- N,
- O,
- S

### Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

### **Examples**

```
seq1 <- "AACD"
aC1 <- getAtomsFromSeq(seq = seq1)
seq2 <- AAString("ACCD")
aC2 <- getAtomsFromSeq(seq = seq2)</pre>
```

8 useBRAIN

useBRAIN	Function computing probabilities of aggregated isotopic variants and
	their center-masses using BRAIN algorithm.

# **Description**

Function computing probabilities of isotopic variants and their aggregated masses for chemical components composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur (e.g. peptides). Additionally the function returns also the monoisotopic mass and the average mass of given chemical component.

## Usage

```
useBRAIN(aC, stopOption = "nrPeaks", nrPeaks, coverage, abundantEstim)
```

### **Arguments**

_	
aC	List with fields C, H, N, O, S of integer non-negative values (if any field is ommited, then its value is set to 0).
stopOption	one of the following strings: "nrPeaks" (default), "coverage", "abundantEstim"
nrPeaks	Integer indicating the number of consecutive isotopic variants to be calculated, starting from the monoisotopic one. This value can always be provided, even if <stop.option> is not a default setting. In the latter case it is a hard stopping criterion.</stop.option>
coverage	Scalar indicating the value of the cumulative aggregated distribution. The calculations will be stopped after reaching this value.
abundantEstim	Integer indicating the number of consecutive isotopic variants to be calculated, starting from one after the most abundant one. All consecutive isotopic variants before the most abundant peak are also returned.

## **Details**

Function uses recursive formulae based on algebraic Newton-Girard identity (see [Clae]).

## Value

Named list with the following fields:

- isoDistrProbabilities of aggregated isotopic variants (numeric vector)
- massesAggregated masses for isotopic variants (numeric vector)
- monoisotopicMassMonoisotopic mass (numeric)
- avgMassAverage mass weighted average of the isotopic variants contributing to the most abundant aggregated variant (numeric)

## Note

Remember that the isotopic variants starts from monoisotopic one. For large chemical molecules, first masses may have very low abundances. So sufficient number of peaks should be calculated to reach most abundant isotopic variant.

If only isotopic probabilities are needed, then the function calculateIsotopicProbabilities should be used.

useBRAIN2 9

#### Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

#### References

[Clae] Claesen J., Dittwald P., Burzykowski T. and Valkenborg D. An efficient method to calculate the aggregated isotopic distribution and exact center-masses. JASMS, 2012, doi:10.1007/s13361-011-0326-2

### See Also

calculateIsotopicProbabilities

## **Examples**

```
nrPeaks = 1000
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain res <- useBRAIN(aC = aC, stopOption="nrPeaks", nrPeaks = nrPeaks)
```

useBRAIN2

Function computing probabilities of aggregated isotopic variants using heuristics.

### **Description**

Function computing probabilities of isotopic variants using heuristics, for chemical components composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen and sulfur (e.g. peptides). Additionally the function returns also the monoisotopic mass and the average mass of given chemical component.

## Usage

```
useBRAIN2(aC, stopOption = "nrPeaks", nrPeaks, approxStart = 1, approxParam = NULL))
```

## **Arguments**

aC List with fields C, H, N, O, S of integer non-negative values (if any field is

ommited, then its value is set to 0).

stopOption only option "nrPeaks" allowed

nrPeaks Integer indicating the number of consecutive isotopic variants to be calculated,

starting from the monoisotopic one. This value can always be provided, even if <stop.option> is not a default setting. In the latter case it is a hard stopping

criterion.

approxStart Integer indicating the number of first isotopic peak to be calculated approxParam Integer indicating the length of recurrence (see RCL in [Ditt2])

# **Details**

Function uses RCL and LSP heuristics from [Ditt2].

10 useBRAIN2

#### Value

Named list with the following fields:

• isoDistrProbabilities of aggregated isotopic variants (numeric vector)

#### Note

Remember that the isotopic variants starts from monoisotopic one. For large chemical molecules, first masses may have very low abundances. So sufficient number of peaks should be calculated to reach most abundant isotopic variant.

If only isotopic probabilities are needed, then the function calculateIsotopicProbabilities should be used.

## Author(s)

Piotr Dittwald <piotr.dittwald@mimuw.edu.pl>

#### References

[Ditt2] Dittwald P., Valkenborg D. BRAIN 2.0: time and memory complexity improvements in the algorithm for calculating the isotope distribution. JASMS, 2014, doi: 10.1007/s13361-013-0796-5.

#### See Also

calculateIsotopicProbabilities

## **Examples**

```
nrPeaks = 1000
aC <- list(C=23832, H=37816, N=6528, O=7031, S=170) # Human dynein heavy chain
res <- useBRAIN(aC = aC, stopOption="nrPeaks", nrPeaks = nrPeaks)
res2 <- useBRAIN2(aC = aC, stopOption="nrPeaks", nrPeaks = nrPeaks, approxStart = 10)
old = res$iso[10:109]/res$iso[11:110]
new = res2$iso[1:100]/res2$iso[2:101]
max(old - new)
max((old - new)/old)
res3 <- useBRAIN2(aC = aC, stopOption="nrPeaks", nrPeaks = nrPeaks, approx=TRUE, approxParam = 10)
max(res3$iso - res$iso)</pre>
```

# **Index**

```
* package
BRAIN-package, 2

BRAIN (BRAIN-package), 2
BRAIN-package, 2

calculateAverageMass, 3
calculateIsotopicProbabilities, 4, 9, 10
calculateMonoisotopicMass, 5
calculateNrPeaks, 6

getAtomsFromSeq, 7

useBRAIN, 3, 5, 6, 8
useBRAIN2, 9
```