

# Package ‘QUALIFIER’

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**Type** Package

**Title** Quality Control of Gated Flow Cytometry Experiments

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**Depends** R (>= 2.14.0), reshape, flowWorkspace, flowViz, flowCore, RColorBrewer

## Imports

MASS, hwriter, RSVGTipsDevice, lattice, stats4, flowCore, flowViz, methods, flowWorkspace, reshape

**Enhances** ncdfFlow

**Collate** AllGenerics.R AllClasses.R AllFunctions.R outlier.R  
qaPanelFunction.R trellisPlot.R qaCheck.R qaPlot.R  
qaTask-accessor-Methods.R getQAStats.R addStats.R qaReport.R utils.R zzz.R

**Description** Provides quality control and quality assessment tools for gated flow cytometry data.

**License** Artistic-2.0

**biocViews** Infrastructure, Flowcytometry, CellBasedAssays

## R topics documented:

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QUALIFIER-package      *QUALIFIER: A package that provides automated flow data quality assessment based on gated cell populations*

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### Description

The package provide two important methods:qaCheck and plot, which allows users to use formula as a general and flexible way to specify the tubes,channels,statistics and gated populations to perform differnt QA tasks.

### Details

Package:    QUALIFIER  
 Version:    0.99.1  
 Date:        2011-12-02  
 Depends:    R (>= 2.14), flowCore  
 License:    Artistic-2.0

### Author(s)

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### References

<http://www.rglab.org/>

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getQAStats                      *Some preprocessing steps before the QA check and plot.*

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### Description

initDBinitializes and prepares the data environment for storing the QA data. saveToDB save the gating set and annotation data into the data environment. getQAStats calculates and extract statistics of each gated cell population in the gating hierarchies generated by flowWorkspace package. qaPreprocess is a convenient wrapper that does saveToDB,getQAStats in one call

### Usage

```
initDB(db=.db)
saveToDB(db=.db,gs,gs.name="default gatingSet",metaFile,fcs.colname="name",date.colname=NULL)
getQAStats(obj,...)
qaPreprocess(db=.db,gs,gs.name,metaFile,fcs.colname,date.colname,...)
```

**Arguments**

db	An environment storing all the QA data. By default it is an hidden global environment .db.
gs	A <a href="#">GatingSet</a> containing multiple gating hierarchies
gs.name	A character scalar giving the name of the GatingSet.
metaFile	A character scalar giving the file path of the sample annotation data, which is a csv spreadsheet contains the meta information. Each row corresponds to one FCS file and The QUALIFIER package looks for the FCS filename from "name" column of the spreadsheet.
fcs.colname	A character scalar indicating column name that specify FCS file names in annotation data.
date.colname	A character scalar indicating column names that contains date information which are automatically formatted to "%m/%d/%y".
obj	A <a href="#">gating hierarchy</a> that stores the gated cell populations for one FCS file; or a <a href="#">GatingSet</a> containing multiple gating hierarchies or an environment that stores the GatingSet and all other information.
...	isFlowCore: A logical scalar indicating whether the statistics are the original ones in flowJo xml workspace or the re-calculated version by flowCore in R. nslaves: An integer scalar indicating the number of nodes used for parallel computing when obj is GatingHierarchy or GatingSet. When the parallel package is loaded and nslaves is NULL, its value is automatically decided by available number of nodes. When it is set to 1, then forced to run in serial mode.

**Details**

This is the second preprocessing step followed by parsing gating template from flowJo workspace with [parseWorkspace](#). Different QA checks can be performed after this step is done. when obj is an environment the results are stored as a dataframe with the name of "statsOfGS" in the environment.

**Value**

saveToDB returns an automatically generated gating set id. getQAStats a data frame when obj is a GatingHierarchy or GatingSet, qaPreprocess returns the list of elements within the data environment.

**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

[qaCheck](#), [qaTask](#), [qaReport](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
##prepare the data environment
db<-new.env()
initDB(db)
```

```

metaFile=~ /rglab/workspace/QUALIFIER/misc/ITN029ST/FCS_File_mapping.csv"
##append the annotation and Gating set to db
metaFile<-"FCS_File_mapping.csv"
saveToDB(db=db,gs=G
,metaFile=metaFile
,fcs.colname="FCS_Files"
,date.colname=c("RecdDt","AnalysisDt")
)
getQAStats(G[[1]])#extract stats from a gating hierarchy
getQAStats(G)#from a gating set
getQAStats(db)#from an environment that contains a gating set

##or use the wrapper qaPreprocess that does saveToDB and getQAStats together in one call
qaPreprocess(db=db,gs=G
,metaFile=metaFile
,fcs.colname="FCS_Files"
,date.colname=c("RecdDt","AnalysisDt")
)
#load QA check list
checkListFile<-file.path(system.file("data",package="QUALIFIER"),"qaCheckList.csv.gz")
qaTask.list<-read.qaTask(db,checkListFile)

### End(Not run)

```

---

outlierFunctions

*outliers detection functions*


---

## Description

Distribution based outlier detection functions.

## Usage

```

proportion.outliers.robust(x, alpha = 0.01,isUpper=TRUE,isLower=TRUE)
proportion.outliers.mle(x, alpha = 0.01,isUpper=TRUE,isLower=TRUE)
qoutlier(x, alpha = 1.5,isUpper=TRUE,isLower=TRUE,plot=FALSE,...)
outlier.norm(x,alpha = 0.01,z.cutoff=NULL,isUpper=TRUE,isLower=TRUE,plot=FALSE)
outlier.t(x,alpha = 0.01,z.cutoff=NULL,isUpper=TRUE,isLower=TRUE,plot=FALSE)
outlier.cutoff(x,lBound=NULL,uBound=NULL)

```

## Arguments

x	An integer/numeric vector used as the input
alpha,z.cutoff	alpha is the percentage of the standard deviation from the center of the data. z.cutoff is the standardized z-score value. They are used as the distribution based thresholds.
lBound,uBound	Numeric scalars used as cutoff threshold for either lower limit or upper limit
isUpper,isLower	logical scalars indicating whether the outliers are checked at upper or lower side of the distribution.
plot	logical scalar indicating whether to visualize the outlier detection results.
...	other arguments to be passed to qoutlier function,currently it is ignored.

**Details**

qoutlier is IQR based outlier detection. outlier.norm is based on normal distribution using Huber M-estimator of location with MAD scale outlier.t is based on t-distribution. outlier.cutoff is a simple cutoff-based outlier detection. These different outlier detection functions are used together with qaCheck method to perform outlier checks.

**Value**

a logical vector with the same length of input vector, indicating whether each entry of the input is a outlier.

**Author(s)**

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**See Also**

[qaCheck](#), [qaReport](#)

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plot-methods

*plot the statistics for a particular cell population of a group of samples*

---

**Description**

plot the statistics for a particular cell population of a group of samples, this method is usually called after qaCheck to visualize the QA results.

**Usage**

```
plot(x,y,...)
```

**Arguments**

x	a qaTask object
y	a formula describing the variables to be used for plotting. see <a href="#">qaCheck</a> for more details.
...	arguments to control the output.
pop	a character scalar indicating the population name. If provided, it overwrites the pop slot in qaTask object.
isTerminal	a logical scalar indicating whether the pop is at the terminal node of the gating path.
fixed	a logical scalar indicating whether the pop name is matched as it is. By default it is FALSE, which matches the gating path as the regular expression
subset	a logical expression as a filter. see <a href="#">qaCheck</a> for more details.
width,height	size specification for the svg output.
dest	a character specifying the output path. It is NULL by default, which indicates using the regular R device as the output. Otherwise it outputs to a svg file.

`plotAll`: a logical/character scalar indicating whether to plot the 1D/2D density plot for all the individual FCS files together with the summary plot (either `xyplot` or `bwplot`). It is only valid when `dest` is specified as non-null path. It is `FALSE` by default, indicating that only the FCS files that are marked as outliers by `qaCheck` are plotted. If `TRUE`, all FCS files are plotted, which should be used cautiously since it could be time consuming for a large dataset. When it is `"none"`, no scatter plot will be generated.

`scatterPlot`: a logical scalar. When `TRUE`, the density (scatter) plot is plotted instead of the summary plot (`xyplot/bwplot`)

`par`: A list storing all the lattice arguments. If provided, it overwrites the `par` slot of `qaTask` object.

## Details

The method does the same thing as `qaCheck` in terms of parsing the formula and selecting the gated population, statistics and subsetting the samples. The difference is that it reads the outliers detection results saved in database and highlight them in the summary plots. Two kinds of lattice plots are currently supported: `xyplot` and `bwplot` (boxplot), depends on the `plotType` in `qaTask` object. When the output path is provided by `dest`, the `svg` plot is generated. In `svg` plot, each dot or box (or only the one marked as outliers) is annotated by the tooltip or hyperlink, which further points to the individual density plot of the gated population.

with `scatterPlot` and `subset` arguments, scatter plots can be generated for the selected FCS files or sample groups, which allows users to investigate the individual outlier groups or files.

## Author(s)

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## See Also

[qaCheck](#), [qaReport](#)

## Examples

```
## Not run:

data("ITNQASTUDY")
checkListFile<-file.path(system.file("data",package="QUALIFIER"),"qaCheckList.csv.gz")
qaTask.list<-read.qaTask(db,checkListFile)

#using formula to summing up the percentage of boundary events of each channel
#using the cutoff function to detect the FCS files that has the higher percentage of boundary events
#than the upper threshold provided by uBound
#Note that the percentages of all channels for each fcs file ("name" here indicates the fcs file name)
#are summed up through the formula
qaCheck(qaTask.list[["BoundaryEvents"]]
,sum(proportion) ~ RecdDt | name
,outlierfunc=outlier.cutoff
,uBound=0.0003
)

plot(qaTask.list[["BoundaryEvents"]],proportion ~ RecdDt | channel)
```

```

#using Interquartile Range based outlier detection function
#to find the outliers that has significant variance of MNC cell population among aliquots
#here the formula is implicitly provided by qaTask object

qaCheck(qaTask.list[["MNC"]],outlierfunc=qoutlier,alpha=1.5)

plot(qaTask.list[["MNC"]])

## End(Not run)

```

---

qaCheck-methods

*Perform the quality assessment for the qaTask object*


---

## Description

Perform the quality assessment for a particular QA Task based on the information provided by [qaTask](#) object.

## Usage

```

qaCheck(obj,...)
clearCheck(obj,gsid)

```

## Arguments

obj	a qaTask object
gsid	an integer that uniquely identifies a gating set object. if missing, the latest added gating set is selected.
...	<p>formula: a formula describing the variables to be used for QA. When it is omitted or NULL, the formula stored in qaTask is used. It is generally of the form <math>y \sim x   g1 * g2 * \dots</math>, y is the statistics to be checked in this QA, It must be one of the four types:</p> <p>"MFI": Median Fluorescence Intensity of the cell population specified by <a href="#">qaTask</a>,</p> <p>"proportion": the percentage of the cell population specified by qaTask in the parent population,</p> <p>"count": the number of events of the cell population specified by qaTask,</p> <p>"spike": the variance of intensity over time of each channel ,which indicating the stability of the fluorescence intensity.</p> <p>x is normally used to specify the variable plotted on x-axis in <a href="#">plot</a> method. when plotType of the qaTask is "bwplot", it is also taken as the conditioning variable that divides the samples into subgroups within which the outlierfunc is applied. g1,g2,... are the conditioning variables, which are used to divide the samples into subgroups and perform QA check within each individual groups.They may also be omitted,in which case the outliers detection is performed in the entire sample set.</p> <p>subset: a logical expression used as a filter.It follows the same syntax as the "subset" expression in <a href="#">subset</a>.</p>

*Usage:*

```
subset=channel%in%c('FITC-A')
```

```
subset=Tube==`CD8/CD25/CD4/CD3/CD62L` & channel%in%c('FITC-A')
```

outlierfunc: a function to be used for outlier detection. see [outlierFunctions](#) for more details.

gOutlierfunc: a function to be used for group outlier detection. see [outlierFunctions](#) for more details.

rFunc: a function for fitting regression model within each individual subgroup.

isTerminal: a logical scalar indicating whether the pop is at terminal node of the gating path.

fixed: a logical scalar indicating whether the pop name is matched as it is. By default it is FALSE, which matches the gating path as the regular expression

**Details**

qaCheck method parses the formula stored in qaTask or explicitly provided by the argument and select the appropriate gated population, extract the statistics that is pre-calculated by [getQAStats](#) and perform the outlier detection within a certain sample groups specified by the conditioning variables or x term in formula. Then the outliers detection results are save in database and ready for query or plotting.

clearCheck function removes the outlier results detected by the previous qaCheck call on a particular gating set.

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**See Also**

[plot](#), [getQAStats](#)

**Examples**

```
## Not run:
```

```
data("ITNQASTUDY")
checkListFile<-file.path(system.file("data",package="QUALIFIER"),"qaCheckList.csv.gz")
qaTask.list<-read.qaTask(db,checkListFile)

#using t-distribution based outlier detection function
#applied the linear regression on each group to detect the significant MFI change over time
qaCheck(qaTask.list[["MFIOverTime"]],
,outlierfunc=outlier.t
,rFunc=rlm
,alpha=0.05
)
plot(qaTask.list[["MFIOverTime"]],y=MFI~RecdDt|stain
,subset="channel%in%c('FITC-A')")
,rFunc=rlm
)
```



```

#detect the outliers that has lower percentage of RBC Lysis than the threshold provided by lBound
qaCheck(qaTask.list[["RBCLysis"]]
,formula=proportion ~ RecdDt | Tube
,outlierfunc=outlier.cutoff
,lBound=0.8
)

plot(qaTask.list[["RBCLysis"]])

## End(Not run)

```

---

qaReport

*create quality assessment report*


---

## Description

create quality assessment report in HTML format, which contains the annotated svg summary plot for each QA task.

## Usage

```
qaReport(obj,...)
```

## Arguments

obj	A qaTask or a list of qaTask objects
...	outDir: A character scalar giving the output path of QA report. plotAll: A logical scalar passed down to the <a href="#">plot</a> method. subset: A logical expression as a filter that is passed to <a href="#">plot</a> . see <a href="#">qaCheck</a> for more details. splash: A logical scalar indicating whether the QUALIFIER package splash tag 'generated by ...' should be written right after the report title. title: A character scalar indicating the title of the report subTitle: A character scalar indicating the subtitle of the report

## Details

QA results need to be calculated by calling [qaCheck](#) method before using this function to generate meaningful report. It also reads the meta information of each QA task and generate the summary tables and svg plots. Svg plots provide tooltips containing the detail information about each sample and hyperlinks of densityplot for each individual FCS file.

## Author(s)

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**See Also**[qaCheck,plot](#)**Examples**

```
## Not run:
data("ITNQASTUDY")#load stats from disk
checkListFile<-file.path(system.file("data",package="QUALIFIER"),"qaCheckList.csv.gz")
qaTask.list<-read.qaTask(db,checkListFile)
qaReport(qaTask.list[[1]],outDir="~/output")
qaReport(qaTask.list[2:3],outDir="~/output")

## End(Not run)
```

---

qaTask-class	<i>'qaTask': a class for storing important information of flow cytometry data quality assessment task</i>
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---

**Description**

This class stores the meta information, the name of gated cell population associated with the QA task and the formula describing how the QA task is performed.

**Arguments**

`checkListFile` A character scalar giving the file path, which is a csv spreadsheet contains the detailed information of each QA task. It should have the columns: `qaID`, `qaName`, `description`, `qaLevel`, `pop`. See the slots of [qaTask](#) for more details.

**Value**

`read.qaTask` returns a list of `qaTask` objects by reading external csv spreadsheet containing descriptions of each QA task.

**Objects from the Class**

Objects can be created by using constructor: `makeQaTask(db=.db,qaName,description,qaLevel,pop,formula,plotType)` or `read.qaTask(db=.db,checkListFile)`

**Slots**

`qaID`: A integer for the id of `qaTask` object

`qaName`: A character containing the QA task name

`description`: OA character containing the description of QA task.

`qaLevel`: A character vector containing QA task level, which is displayed in the html report.

`pop`: A character containing the name of the cell population ,which is also equivalent to the name of the node in the gating hierarchy tree. The gating hierarchy is generated by `flowWorkspace` when the gating template is parsed from `flowJo` workspace into R. It basically tells `qaCheck` or `plot` methods the particular gated cell population from which statistics are extracted.

`formula`: a formula describing how the QA task is performed. see [qaCheck](#) for more details.

- plotType:** A character indicating how the QA result is plotted. Currently only "xyplot" and "bw-plot" are supported.
- width:** A numeric scalar indicating the width of svg figure .
- height:** A numeric scalar indicating the height of svg figure .
- par:** A list storing all the lattice arguments to control the appearance of the plot. See [xyplot](#) for details.
- scatterPar:** A list storing the arguments to control the appearance of the individual plot. Example scatterPar value: `list(type="densityplot",scales=list(x=list(log=TRUE)))` this will set the log scale for x axis of the 1D-densityplot
- htmlReport:** A logical scalar indicating whether to plot the task when [qaReport](#) is called. By default, when there are no outliers detected for the qaTask,it is not plotted in the report. But sometime it is helpful to still look at the plot with the trend of the data like MFI stability over time. So by setting this flag to TRUE, we force this task to be plotted anyway.
- highlight:** A character scalar indicating the level on which the dots in svg output should be highlighted when they are hovered over by mouse. It is one of the visualization feature provided by svg format that helps to identify a couple of dots that share the same information (like FCS name,or sample ID). It should be a valid column name in the metaFile (see [getQAStats](#) for more details about the meta file.
- rFunc:** A regression function passed to some qa tasks to monitor the long term trend.
- db:** An environment containing the database connection, which stores the gating hierarchy,QA task list,sample information and outliers detection results. .

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**See Also**

[qaCheck](#),[plot](#),[qaReport](#)

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