

# Package ‘vsn’

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**Version** 3.26.0

**Title** Variance stabilization and calibration for microarray data

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**Imports** methods, affy (>= 1.23.4), limma, lattice

**Suggests** affydata, hgu95av2cdf

**Description** The package implements a method for normalising microarray intensities, both between colours within array, and between arrays. The method uses a robust variant of the maximum-likelihood estimator for the stochastic model of microarray data described in the references (see vignette). The model incorporates data calibration (a.k.a. normalization), a model for the dependence of the variance on the mean intensity, and a variance stabilizing data transformation. Differences between transformed intensities are analogous to “normalized log-ratios”. However, in contrast to the latter, their variance is independent of the mean, and they are usually more sensitive and specific in detecting differential transcription.

**Reference** [1] Variance stabilization applied to microarray data calibration and to the quantification of differential expression, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, Martin Vingron; *Bioinformatics* (2002) 18 Suppl1 S96-S104. [2] Parameter estimation for the calibration and variance stabilization of microarray data, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, and Martin Vingron; *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology* (2003) Vol. 2 No. 1, Article 3; <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol2/iss1/art3>.

**License** Artistic-2.0

**URL** <http://www.r-project.org>, <http://www.ebi.ac.uk/huber>

**biocViews** Microarray, OneChannel, TwoChannel, Preprocessing

**Collate** AllClasses.R AllGenerics.R vsn2.R vsnLogLik.R justvsn.R  
 methods-vsnInput.R methods-vsn.R methods-vsn2.R  
 methods-predict.R RGList\_to\_NChannelSet.R meanSdPlot-methods.R  
 plotLikelihood.R vsnPlotPar.R vsn.R vsnh.R getIntensityMatrix.R  
 normalize.AffyBatch.vsn.R sagmbSimulateData.R zzz.R

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---

vsn-package

*vsn*

---

### Description

vsn

### Details

The main function of the package is [vsn2](#). Interesting for its applications are also [predict](#) and the wrapper function [justvsn](#).

[vsn2](#) can be applied to objects of class [ExpressionSet](#), [NChannelSet](#), [AffyBatch](#) (from the [affy](#) package) and [RGList](#) (from the [limma](#) package), matrix and vector. It returns an object of class [vsn](#), which contains the results of fitting the vsn model to the data.

The most common use case is that you will want to construct a new data object with the vsn-normalized data whose class is the same as that of the input data and which preserves the metadata. This can be achieved by

```
fit = vsn2(x, ...)
nx = predict(fit, newdata=x)
```

To simplify this, there exists also a simple wrapper [justvsn](#).

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

---

`justvsn`*Wrapper functions for vsn*

---

**Description**

`justvsn` is equivalent to calling

```
fit = vsn2(x, ...)  
nx = predict(fit, newdata=x, useDataInFit = TRUE)
```

`vsnrma` is a wrapper around [vsn2](#) and [rma](#).

**Usage**

```
justvsn(x, ...)  
vsnrma(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

<code>x</code>	For <code>justvsn</code> , any kind of object for which <a href="#">vsn2</a> methods exist. For <code>vsnrma</code> , an <a href="#">AffyBatch</a> .
<code>...</code>	Further arguments that get passed on to <a href="#">vsn2</a> .

**Details**

`vsnrma` does probe-wise background correction and between-array normalization by calling [vsn2](#) on the perfect match (PM) values only. Probeset summaries are calculated with the medianpolish algorithm of [rma](#).

**Value**

`justvsn` returns the vsn-normalised intensities in an object generally of the same class as its first argument (see the man page of [predict](#) for details). It preserves the metadata.

`vsnrma` returns an [ExpressionSet](#).

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**See Also**[vsn2](#)

**Examples**

```
##-----
## use "vsn2" to produce a "vsn" object
##-----
data("kidney")
fit = vsn2(kidney)
nkid = predict(fit, newdata=kidney)

##-----
## justvsn on ExpressionSet
##-----
nkid2 = justvsn(kidney)
stopifnot(identical(exprs(nkid), exprs(nkid2)))

##-----
## justvsn on RGList
##-----
rg = new("RGList", list(R=exprs(kidney)[,1,drop=FALSE], G=exprs(kidney)[,2,drop=FALSE]))
erge = justvsn(rg)
```

---

kidney

*Intensity data for 1 cDNA slide with two adjacent tissue samples from a nephrectomy (kidney)*


---

**Description**

Intensity data for 1 cDNA slide with two adjacent tissue samples from a nephrectomy (kidney)

**Usage**

```
data(kidney)
```

**Format**

kidney is an [ExpressionSet](#) containing the data from one cDNA chip. The 8704x2 matrix `exprs(kidney)` contains the spot intensities for the red (635 nm) and green color channels (532 nm) respectively. For each spot, a background estimate from a surrounding region was subtracted.

**Details**

The chip was produced in 2001 by Holger Sueltmann at the Division of Molecular Genome Analysis at the German Cancer Research Center in Heidelberg.

**References**

Huber W, Boer JM, von Heydebreck A, Gunawan B, Vingron M, Fuzesi L, Poustka A, Sueltmann H. Transcription profiling of renal cell carcinoma. *Verh Dtsch Ges Pathol.* 2002;86:153-64. PMID: 12647365

**See Also**

[vsn](#)

**Examples**

```
data(kidney)
plot(exprs(kidney), pch=".", log="xy")
abline(a=0,b=1,col="blue")
```

---

logLik-methods

---

*Calculate the log likelihood and its gradient for the vsn model*


---

**Description**

logLik calculates the log likelihood and its gradient for the vsn model. plotVsnLogLik makes a false color plot for a 2D section of the likelihood landscape.

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'vsnInput'
logLik(object, p, mu = numeric(0), sigsq=as.numeric(NA), calib="affine")

plotVsnLogLik(object,
              p,
              whichp = 1:2,
              expand = 1,
              ngrid = 31L,
              fun = logLik,
              main = "log likelihood",
              ...)
```

**Arguments**

object	A <a href="#">vsnInput</a> object.
p	For plotVsnLogLik, a vector or a 3D array with the point in parameter space around which to plot the likelihood. For logLik, a matrix whose columns are the set of parameters at which the likelihoods are to be evaluated.
mu	Numeric vector of length 0 or nrow(object). If the length is 0, there is no reference and sigsq must be NA (the default value). See <a href="#">vsn2</a> .
sigsq	Numeric scalar.
calib	as in <a href="#">vsn2</a> .
whichp	Numeric vector of length 2, with the indices of those two parameters in p along which the section is to be taken.
expand	Numeric vector of length 1 or 2 with expansion factors for the plot range. The range is auto-calculated using a heuristic, but manual adjustment can be useful; see example.
ngrid	Integer scalar, the grid size.
fun	Function to use for log-likelihood calculation. This parameter is exposed only for testing purposes.
main	This parameter is passed on levelplot.
...	Arguments that get passed on to fun, use this for mu, sigsq, calib.

**Details**

logLik is an R interface to the likelihood computations in vsn (which are done in C).

**Value**

For logLik, a numeric matrix of size  $nrow(p)+1$  by  $ncol(p)$ . Its columns correspond to the columns of  $p$ . Its first row are the likelihood values, its rows  $2\dots nrow(p)+1$  contain the gradients. If  $\mu$  and  $\text{sigsq}$  are specified, the ordinary negative log likelihood is calculated using these parameters as given. If they are not specified, the profile negative log likelihood is calculated.

For plotVsnLogLik, a dataframe with the 2D grid coordinates and log likelihood values.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**See Also**

[vsn2](#)

**Examples**

```
data("kidney")

v = new("vsnInput", x=exprs(kidney),
  pstart=array(as.numeric(NA), dim=c(1, ncol(kidney), 2)))

fit = vsn2(kidney)
print(coef(fit))

p = sapply(seq(-1, 1, length=31), function(f) coef(fit)+c(0,0,f,0))

ll = logLik(v, p)

plot(p[3, ], ll[1, ], type="l", xlab=expression(b[1]), ylab=expression(-log(L)))
abline(v=coef(fit)[3], col="red")

plotVsnLogLik(v, coef(fit), whichp=c(1,3), expand=0.2)
```

---

lymphoma

*Intensity data for 8 cDNA slides with CLL and DLBL samples from the Alizadeh et al. paper in Nature 2000*

---

**Description**

8 cDNA chips from Alizadeh lymphoma paper

**Usage**

```
data(lymphoma)
```

## Format

lymphoma is an [ExpressionSet](#) containing the data from 8 chips from the lymphoma data set by Alizadeh et al. (see references). Each chip represents two samples: on color channel 1 (CH1, Cy3, green) the common reference sample, and on color channel 2 (CH2, Cy5, red) the various disease samples. See `pData(lymphoma)`. The 9216x16 matrix `exprs(lymphoma)` contains the background-subtracted spot intensities (CH1I-CH1B and CH2I-CH2B, respectively).

## Details

The chip intensity files were downloaded from the Stanford microarray database. Starting from the link below, this was done by following the links *Published Data* -> *Alizadeh AA, et al. (2000) Nature 403(6769):503-11* -> *Data in SMD* -> *Display Data*, and selecting the following 8 slides:

lc7b019  
lc7b047  
lc7b048  
lc7b056  
lc7b057  
lc7b058  
lc7b069  
lc7b070

Then, the script `makedata.R` from the `scripts` subdirectory of this package was run to generate the R data object.

## Source

<http://genome-www5.stanford.edu/MicroArray/SMD>

## References

A. Alizadeh et al., Distinct types of diffuse large B-cell lymphoma identified by gene expression profiling. *Nature* 403(6769):503-11, Feb 3, 2000.

## See Also

[vsn](#)

## Examples

```
data(lymphoma)
lymphoma
pData(lymphoma)
```

---

meanSdPlot

*Plot row standard deviations versus row means*

---

## Description

Methods for objects of classes [matrix](#), [ExpressionSet](#), [vsn](#) and [MAList](#) to plot row standard deviations versus row means.

**Usage**

```
meanSdPlot(x,
           ranks = TRUE,
           xlab = ifelse(ranks, "rank(mean)", "mean"),
           ylab = "sd",
           pch = ".",
           plot = TRUE,
           ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	An object of class <a href="#">matrix</a> , <a href="#">ExpressionSet</a> , <a href="#">vsu</a> or <a href="#">MAList</a> .
ranks	Logical, indicating whether the x-axis (means) should be plotted on the original scale (FALSE) or on the rank scale (TRUE). The latter distributes the data more evenly along the x-axis and allows a better visual assessment of the standard deviation as a function of the mean.
xlab	Character, label for the x-axis.
ylab	Character, label for the y-axis.
pch	Plot symbol.
plot	Logical. If TRUE (default), a plot is produced. Calling the function with plot=FALSE can be useful if only its return value is of interest.
...	Further arguments that get passed to plot.default.

**Details**

Standard deviation and mean are calculated row-wise from the expression matrix (in) x. The scatterplot of these versus each other allows to visually verify whether there is a dependence of the standard deviation (or variance) on the mean. The red dots depict the running median estimator (window-width 10%). If there is no variance-mean dependence, then the line formed by the red dots should be approximately horizontal.

**Value**

A named list with four components: its elements px and py are the x- and y-coordinates of the individual data points in the plot; its first and second element are the x-coordinates and values of the running median estimator (the red dots in the plot). Depending on the value of plot, the method can also have a side effect, which is to create a plot on the active graphics device.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**See Also**

[vsu](#)

**Examples**

```
data(kidney)
log.na = function(x) log(ifelse(x>0, x, NA))

exprs(kidney) = log.na(exprs(kidney))
```



```
meanSdPlot(kidney)
```

```
## ...try this out with non-logged data, the lymphoma data, your data...
```

---

normalize.AffyBatch.vsn *Wrapper for vsn to be used as a normalization method with expresso*

---

## Description

Wrapper for [vsn2](#) to be used as a normalization method with the `expresso` function of the package `affy`. The `expresso` function is deprecated, consider using [justvsn](#) instead. The `normalize.AffyBatch.vsn` can still be useful on its own, as it provides some additional control of the normalization process (fitting on subsets, alternate transform parameters).

## Usage

```
normalize.AffyBatch.vsn(
  abatch,
  reference,
  strata = NULL,
  subsample = if (nrow(exprs(abatch)) > 30000L) 30000L else 0L,
  subset,
  log2scale = TRUE,
  log2asympt = FALSE,
  ...)
```

## Arguments

<code>abatch</code>	An object of type <a href="#">AffyBatch</a> .
<code>reference</code>	Optional, a 'vsn' object from a previous fit. If this argument is specified, the data in 'x' are normalized "towards" an existing set of reference arrays whose parameters are stored in the object 'reference'. If this argument is not specified, then the data in 'x' are normalized "among themselves". See <a href="#">vsn2</a> for details.
<code>strata</code>	The 'strata' functionality is not supported, the parameter is ignored.
<code>subsample</code>	Is passed on to <a href="#">vsn2</a> .
<code>subset</code>	This allows the specification of a subset of expression measurements to be used for the vsn fit. The transformation with the parameters of this fit is then, however, applied to the whole dataset. This is useful for excluding expression measurements that are known to be differentially expressed or control probes that may not match the vsn model, thus avoiding that they influence the normalization process. This operates at the level of probesets, not probes. Both 'subset' and 'subsample' can be used together.
<code>log2scale</code>	If TRUE, this will perform a global affine transform on the data to put them on a similar scale as the original non-transformed data. Many users prefer this. Fold-change estimates are not affected by this transform. In some situations, however, it may be helpful to turn this off, e.g., when comparing independently normalized subsets of the data.
<code>log2asympt</code>	If TRUE, this will perform a global affine transform on the data to make the generalized log (asinh) transform be asymptotically identical to a log base 2 transform. Some people find this helpful. Only <b>one</b> of 'log2scale' or 'log2asympt' can be set to TRUE. Fold-change estimates are not affected by this transform.

... Further parameters for [vsn2](#).

### Details

Please refer to the *Details* and *References* sections of the man page for [vsn2](#) for more details about this method.

**Important note:** after calling [vsn2](#), the function `normalize.AffyBatch.vsn` **exponentiates** the data (base 2). This is done in order to make the behavior of this function similar to the other normalization methods in `affy`. That packages uses the convention of taking the logarithm to base in subsequent analysis steps (e.g. in [medpolish](#)).

### Value

An object of class [AffyBatch](#). The `vsn` object returned, which can be used as reference for subsequent fits, is provided by `description(abatch)@preprocessing$vsReference`.

### Author(s)

D. P. Kreil <http://bioinf.boku.ac.at/>, Wolfgang Huber

### See Also

[vsn2](#)

### Examples

## Please see vignette.

---

sagmbSimulateData      *Simulate data and assess vsn's parameter estimation*

---

### Description

Functions to validate and assess the performance of `vsn` through simulation of data.

### Usage

```
sagmbSimulateData(n=8064, d=2, de=0, up=0.5, nrstrata=1, miss=0, log2scale=FALSE)
sagmbAssess(h1, sim)
```

### Arguments

<code>n</code>	Numeric. Number of probes (rows).
<code>d</code>	Numeric. Number of arrays (columns).
<code>de</code>	Numeric. Fraction of differentially expressed genes.
<code>up</code>	Numeric. Fraction of up-regulated genes among the differentially expressed genes.
<code>nrstrata</code>	Numeric. Number of probe strata.
<code>miss</code>	Numeric. Fraction of data points that is randomly sampled and set to NA.
<code>log2scale</code>	Logical. If TRUE, <code>glog</code> on base 2 is used, if FALSE, (the default), then base <code>e</code> .
<code>h1</code>	Matrix. Calibrated and transformed data, according, e.g., to <code>vsn</code>
<code>sim</code>	List. The output of a previous call to <code>sagmbSimulateData</code> , see <code>Value</code>

**Details**

Please see the vignette.

**Value**

For `sagmbSimulateData`, a list with four components: `hy`, an  $n \times d$  matrix with the true (=simulated) calibrated, transformed data; `y`, an  $n \times d$  matrix with the simulated uncalibrated raw data - this is intended to be fed into `vsn`; `is.de`, a logical vector of length  $n$ , specifying which probes are simulated to be differentially expressed. `strata`, a factor of length  $n$ .

For `sagmbSimulateData`, a number: the root mean squared difference between true and estimated transformed data.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**References**

Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, and Martin Vingron (2003) "Parameter estimation for the calibration and variance stabilization of microarray data", *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology*: Vol. 2: No. 1, Article 3. <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol2/iss1/art3>

**See Also**

[vsn](#)

**Examples**

```
sim <- sagmbSimulateData(nrstrata=4)
ny <- vsn(sim$y, strata=sim$strata)
res <- sagmbAssess(exprs(ny), sim)
res
```

---

scalingFactorTransformation

*The transformation that is applied to the scaling parameter of the vsn model*

---

**Description**

The transformation that is applied to the scaling parameter of the vsn model

**Usage**

```
scalingFactorTransformation(b)
```

**Arguments**

`b` Real vector.

**Value**

A real vector of same length as `b`, with transformation `f` applied (see vignette *Likelihood Calculations for vsn*).

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**Examples**

```
b = seq(-3, 2, length=20)
fb = scalingFactorTransformation(b)
if(interactive())
  plot(b, fb, type="b", pch=16)
```

---

vsn

---

*Class to contain result of a vsn fit*


---

**Description**

Class to contain result of a vsn fit

**Creating Objects**

`new("vsn") vsn2(x)` with `x` being an [ExpressionSet](#).

**Slots**

**coefficients:** A 3D array of size (number of strata) x (number of columns of the data matrix) x 2. It contains the fitted normalization parameters (see vignette).

**strata:** A factor of length 0 or `n`. If its length is `n`, then its levels correspond to different normalization strata (see vignette).

**mu:** A numeric vector of length `n` with the fitted parameters  $\hat{\mu}_k$ , for  $k = 1, \dots, n$ .

**sigsq:** A numeric scalar,  $\hat{\sigma}^2$ .

**hx:** A numeric matrix with 0 or `n` rows. If the number of rows is `n`, then `hx` contains the transformed data matrix.

**lbfgsb:** An integer scalar containing the return code from the L-BFGS-B optimizer.

**hoffset:** Numeric scalar, the overall offset  $c$ - see manual page of [vsn2](#).

**calib:** Character of length 1, see manual page of [vsn2](#).

**Methods**

[ Subset

`dim` Get dimensions of data matrix.

`nrow` Get number of rows of data matrix.

`ncol` Get number of columns of data matrix.

`show` Print a summary of the object

`exprs` Accessor to slot `hx`.

`coef, coefficients` Accessors to slot coefficients.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**See Also**[vsn2](#)**Examples**

```
data("kidney")
v = vsn2(kidney)
show(v)
dim(v)
v[1:10, ]
```

---

`vsn.old`*Variance stabilization and calibration for microarray data.*

---

**Description**

Robust estimation of variance-stabilizing and calibrating transformations for microarray data. This function has been superseded by [vsn2](#). The function [vsn](#) remains in the package for backward compatibility, but for new projects, please use [vsn2](#).

**Usage**

```
vsn(intensities,
    lts.quantile = 0.5,
    verbose      = interactive(),
    niter        = 10,
    cvg.check    = NULL,
    describe.preprocessing = TRUE,
    subsample,
    pstart,
    strata)
```

**Arguments**

<code>intensities</code>	An object that contains intensity values from a microarray experiment. The intensities are assumed to be the raw scanner data, summarized over the spots by an image analysis program, and possibly "background subtracted". The intensities must not be logarithmically or otherwise transformed, and not thresholded or "floored". NAs are not accepted. See details.
<code>lts.quantile</code>	Numeric. The quantile that is used for the resistant least trimmed sum of squares regression. Allowed values are between 0.5 and 1. A value of 1 corresponds to ordinary least sum of squares regression.
<code>verbose</code>	Logical. If TRUE, some messages are printed.
<code>niter</code>	Integer. The number of iterations to be used in the least trimmed sum of squares regression.

cvg.check	List. If non-NULL, this allows finer control of the iterative least trimmed sum of squares regression. See details.
pstart	Array. If not missing, user can specify start values for the iterative parameter estimation algorithm. See <a href="#">vsnh</a> for details.
describe.preprocessing	Logical. If TRUE, calibration and transformation parameters, plus some other information are stored in the preprocessing slot of the returned object. See details.
subsample	Integer. If specified, the model parameters are estimated from a subsample of the data only, the transformation is then applied to all data. This can be useful for performance reasons.
strata	Integer vector. Its length must be the same as <code>nrow(intensities)</code> . This parameter allows for the calibration and error model parameters to be stratified within each array, e.g. to take into account probe sequence properties, print-tip or plate effects. If <code>strata</code> is not specified, one pair of parameters is fitted for every sample (i.e. for every column of intensities). If <code>strata</code> is specified, a pair of parameters is fitted for every stratum within every sample. The strata are coded for by the different integer values. The integer vector <code>strata</code> can be obtained from a factor <code>fac</code> through <code>as.integer(fac)</code> , from a character vector <code>str</code> through <code>as.integer(factor(fac))</code> .

## Details

**Overview:** The function calibrates for sample-to-sample variations through shifting and scaling, and transforms the intensities to a scale where the variance is approximately independent of the mean intensity. The variance stabilizing transformation is equivalent to the natural logarithm in the high-intensity range, and to a linear transformation in the low-intensity range. In an intermediate range, the *arsinh* function interpolates smoothly between the two. For details on the transformation, please see the help page for [vsnh](#). The parameters are estimated through a robust variant of maximum likelihood. This assumes that for the majority of genes the expression levels are not much different across the samples, i.e., that only a minority of genes (less than a fraction 1-lts.quantile) is differentially expressed.

Even if most genes on an array are differentially expressed, it may still be possible to use the estimator: if a set of non-differentially expressed genes is known, e.g. because they are external controls or reliable 'house-keeping genes', the transformation parameters can be fitted with `vsn` from the data of these genes, then the transformation can be applied to all data with [vsnh](#).

**Format:** The format of the matrix of intensities is as follows: for the **two-color printed array technology**, each row corresponds to one spot, and the columns to the different arrays and wavelengths (usually red and green, but could be any number). For example, if there are 10 arrays, the matrix would have 20 columns, columns 1...10 containing the green intensities, and 11...20 the red ones. In fact, the ordering of the columns does not matter to `vsn`, but it is your responsibility to keep track of it for subsequent analyses. For **one-color arrays**, each row corresponds to a probe, and each column to an array.

**Performance:** This function is slow. That is due to the nested iteration loops of the numerical optimization of the likelihood function and the heuristic that identifies the non-outlying data points in the least trimmed squares regression. For large arrays with many tens of thousands of probes, you may want to consider random subsetting: that is, only use a subset of the e.g. 10-20,000 rows of the data matrix intensities to fit the parameters, then apply the transformation to all the data, using [vsnh](#). An example for this can be seen in the function [normalize.AffyBatch.vsn](#), whose code you can inspect by typing `normalize.AffyBatch.vsn` on the R command line.

**Iteration control:** By default, if `cvg.check` is `NULL`, the function will run the fixed number `niter` of iterations in the least trimmed sum of squares regression. More fine-grained control can be obtained by passing a list with elements `eps` and `n`. If the maximum change between transformed data values is smaller than `eps` for `n` subsequent iterations, then the iteration terminates.

**Estimated transformation parameters:** If `describe.preprocessing` is `TRUE`, the transformation parameters are returned in the `preprocessing` slot of the `experimentData` slot of the resulting `ExpressionSet` object, in the form of a list with three elements

- `vsnParams`: the parameter array (see `vsnh` for details)
- `vsnParamsIter`: an array with dimensions `c(dim(vsnParams), niter)` that contains the parameter trajectory during the iterative fit process (see also `vsnPlotPar`).
- `vsnTrimSelection`: a logical vector that for each row of the intensities matrix reports whether it was below (`TRUE`) or above (`FALSE`) the trimming threshold.

If `intensities` has class `ExpressionSet`, and its `experimentData` slot has class `MIAME`, then this list is appended to any existing entries in the `preprocessing` slot. Otherwise, the `experimentData` object and its `preprocessing` slot are created.

## Value

An object of class `ExpressionSet`. Differences between the columns of the transformed intensities are "generalized log-ratios", which are shrinkage estimators of the natural logarithm of the fold change. For the transformation parameters, please see the Details.

## Author(s)

Wolfgang Huber

## References

Variance stabilization applied to microarray data calibration and to the quantification of differential expression, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, Martin Vingron; *Bioinformatics* (2002) 18 Suppl.1 S96-S104.

Parameter estimation for the calibration and variance stabilization of microarray data, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, and Martin Vingron; *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology* (2003) Vol. 2 No. 1, Article 3. <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol2/iss1>

## See Also

[vsnh](#), [vsnPlotPar](#), [ExpressionSet-class](#), [MIAME-class](#), [normalize.AffyBatch.vsn](#)

## Examples

```
data(kidney)
log.na = function(x) log(ifelse(x>0, x, NA))

plot(log.na(exprs(kidney)), pch=".", main="log-log")

vsnkid = vsn(kidney) ## transform and calibrate
plot(exprs(vsnkid), pch=".", main="h-h")
meanSdPlot(vsnkid)

## this should always hold true
params = preproc(description(vsnkid))$vsnParams
stopifnot(all(vsnh(exprs(kidney), params) == exprs(vsnkid)))
```

## Description

vsn2 fits the vsn model to the data in `x` and returns a `vsn` object with the fit parameters and the transformed data matrix. The data are, typically, feature intensity readings from a microarray, but this function may also be useful for other kinds of intensity data that obey an additive-multiplicative error model. To obtain an object of the same class as `x`, containing the normalised data and the same metadata as `x`, use

```
fit = vsn2(x, ...)
nx = predict(fit, newdata=x)
```

or the wrapper [justvsn](#). Please see the vignette *Introduction to vsn*.

## Usage

```
vsnMatrix(x,
  reference,
  strata,
  lts.quantile = 0.9,
  subsample    = 0L,
  verbose      = interactive(),
  returnData   = TRUE,
  calib        = "affine",
  pstart,
  minDataPointsPerStratum = 42L,
  optimpar     = list(),
  defaultpar   = list(factr=5e7, pgtol=2e-4, maxit=60000L,
    trace=0L, cvg.niter=7L, cvg.eps=0))
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ExpressionSet'
vsn2(x, reference, strata, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'AffyBatch'
vsn2(x, reference, strata, subsample, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'NChannelSet'
vsn2(x, reference, strata, backgroundsubtract=FALSE,
  foreground=c("R","G"), background=c("Rb", "Gb"), ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'RGList'
vsn2(x, reference, strata, ...)
```

## Arguments

`x` An object containing the data to which the model is fitted.



reference	Optional, a <a href="#">vsn</a> object from a previous fit. If this argument is specified, the data in <code>x</code> are normalized "towards" an existing set of reference arrays whose parameters are stored in the object reference. If this argument is not specified, then the data in <code>x</code> are normalized "among themselves". See Details for a more precise explanation.
strata	Optional, a factor or integer whose length is <code>nrow(x)</code> . It can be used for stratified normalization (i.e. separate offsets $a$ and factors $b$ for each level of strata). If missing, all rows of <code>x</code> are assumed to come from one stratum. If strata is an integer, its values must cover the range $1, \dots, n$ , where $n$ is the number of strata.
lts.quantile	Numeric of length 1. The quantile that is used for the resistant least trimmed sum of squares regression. Allowed values are between 0.5 and 1. A value of 1 corresponds to ordinary least sum of squares regression.
subsample	Integer of length 1. If its value is greater than 0, the model parameters are estimated from a subsample of the data of size <code>subsample</code> only, yet the fitted transformation is then applied to all data. For large datasets, this can substantially reduce the CPU time and memory consumption at a negligible loss of precision. Note that the <code>AffyBatch</code> method of <code>vsn2</code> sets a value of 30000 for this parameter if it is missing from the function call - which is different from the behaviour of the other methods.
backgroundsubtract	Logical of length 1: should local background estimates be subtracted before fitting <code>vsn</code> ?
foreground, background	Aligned character vectors of the same length, naming the channels of <code>x</code> that should be used as foreground and background values.
verbose	Logical. If TRUE, some messages are printed.
returnData	Logical. If TRUE, the transformed data are returned in a slot of the resulting <a href="#">vsn</a> object. Setting this option to FALSE allows saving memory if the data are not needed.
calib	Character of length 1. Allowed values are <code>affine</code> and <code>none</code> . The default, <code>affine</code> , corresponds to the behaviour in package versions $\leq 3.9$ , and to what is described in references [1] and [2]. The option <code>none</code> is an experimental new feature, in which no affine calibration is performed and only two global variance stabilisation transformation parameters $a$ and $b$ are fitted. This functionality might be useful in conjunction with other calibration methods, such as quantile normalisation - see the vignette <i>Introduction to vsn</i> .
pstart	Optional, a three-dimensional numeric array that specifies start values for the iterative parameter estimation algorithm. If not specified, the function tries to guess useful start values. The first dimension corresponds to the levels of strata, the second dimension to the columns of <code>x</code> and the third dimension must be 2, corresponding to offsets and factors.
minDataPointsPerStratum	The minimum number of data points per stratum. Normally there is no need for the user to change this; refer to the vignette for further documentation.
optimpar	Optional, a list with parameters for the likelihood optimisation algorithm. Default parameters are taken from <code>defaultpar</code> . See details.
defaultpar	The default parameters for the likelihood optimisation algorithm. Values in <code>optimpar</code> take precedence over those in <code>defaultpar</code> . The purpose of this argument is to expose the default values in this manual page - it is not intended to be changed, please use <code>optimpar</code> for that.

... Arguments that get passed on to vsnMatrix.

### Value

An object of class vsn.

### Note on overall scale and location of the glog transformation

The data are returned on a *glog* scale to base 2. More precisely, the transformed data are subject to the transformation  $glog_2(f(b) * x + a) + c$ , where the function  $glog_2(u) = log_2(u + \sqrt{u * u + 1}) = asinh(u) / log(2)$  is called the generalised logarithm, the offset  $a$  and the scaling parameter  $b$  are the fitted model parameters (see references), and  $f(x) = exp(x)$  is a parameter transformation that allows ensuring positivity of the factor in front of  $x$  while using an unconstrained optimisation over  $b$  [4]. The overall offset  $c$  is computed from the  $b$ 's such that for large  $x$  the transformation approximately corresponds to the  $log_2$  function. This is done separately for each stratum, but with the same value across arrays. More precisely, if the element  $b[s,i]$  of the array  $b$  is the scaling parameter for the  $s$ -th stratum and the  $i$ -th array, then  $c[s]$  is computed as  $log_2(2 * f(mean(b[,i])))$ . The offset  $c$  is inconsequential for all differential expression calculations, but many users like to see the data in a range that they are familiar with.

### Specific behaviour of the different methods

vs<sub>n</sub>2 methods exist for [ExpressionSet](#), [NChannelSet](#), [AffyBatch](#) (from the *affy* package), [RGList](#) (from the *limma* package), matrix and numeric. If  $x$  is an [NChannelSet](#), then vs<sub>n</sub>2 is applied to the matrix that is obtained by horizontally concatenating the color channels. Optionally, available background estimates can be subtracted before. If  $x$  is an [RGList](#), it is converted into an [NChannelSet](#) using a copy of Martin Morgan's code for [RGList](#) to [NChannelSet](#) coercion, then the [NChannelSet](#) method is called.

### Standalone versus reference normalisation

If the reference argument is *not* specified, then the model parameters  $\mu_k$  and  $\sigma$  are fit from the data in  $x$ . This is the mode of operation described in [1] and that was the only option in versions 1.X of this package. If reference is specified, the model parameters  $\mu_k$  and  $\sigma$  are taken from it. This allows for 'incremental' normalization [4].

### Convergence of the iterative likelihood optimisation

L-BFGS-B uses three termination criteria:

1.  $(f_k - f_{k+1}) / \max(|f_k|, |f_{k+1}|, 1) \leq \text{factr} * \text{epsmch}$  where *epsmch* is the machine precision.
2.  $|\text{gradient}| < \text{pgtol}$
3.  $\text{iterations} > \text{maxit}$

These are set by the elements *factr*, *pgtol* and *maxit* of *optimpar*. The remaining elements are

*trace* An integer between 0 and 6, indicating the verbosity level of L-BFGS-B, higher values create more output.

*cvg.niter* The number of iterations to be used in the least trimmed sum of squares regression.

*cvg.eps* Numeric. A convergence threshold for the least trimmed sum of squares regression.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**References**

[1] Variance stabilization applied to microarray data calibration and to the quantification of differential expression, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, Martin Vingron; *Bioinformatics* (2002) 18 Suppl.1 S96-S104.

[2] Parameter estimation for the calibration and variance stabilization of microarray data, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, and Martin Vingron; *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology* (2003) Vol. 2 No. 1, Article 3. <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol2/>

[3] L-BFGS-B: Fortran Subroutines for Large-Scale Bound Constrained Optimization, C. Zhu, R.H. Byrd, P. Lu and J. Nocedal, Technical Report, Northwestern University (1996).

[4] Package vignette: Likelihood Calculations for vsn

**See Also**

[justvsn](#), [predict](#)

**Examples**

```
data("kidney")

fit = vsn2(kidney)          ## fit
nkid = predict(fit, newdata=kidney) ## apply fit

plot(exprs(nkid), pch=".")
abline(a=0, b=1, col="red")
```

---

vsn2trsf

*Apply the vsn transformation to data*


---

**Description**

Apply the vsn transformation to data.

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'vsn'
predict(object, newdata, strata=object@strata, log2scale=TRUE, useDataInFit=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

object	An object of class <code>vsn</code> that contains transformation parameters and strata information, typically this is the result of a previous call to <code>vsn2</code> .
newdata	Object of class <code>ExpressionSet</code> , <code>NChannelSet</code> , <code>AffyBatch</code> (from the <code>affy</code> package), <code>RGList</code> (from the <code>limma</code> package), matrix or numeric, with the data to which the fit is to be applied to.
strata	Optional, a factor or integer that aligns with the rows of <code>newdata</code> ; see the <code>strata</code> argument of <code>vsn2</code> .

- `log2scale` If TRUE, the data are returned on the glog scale to base 2, and an overall offset `c` is added (see *Value* section of the [vs2](#) manual page). If FALSE, the data are returned on the glog scale to base `e`, and no offset is added.
- `useDataInFit` If TRUE, then no transformation is attempted and the data stored in object is transferred appropriately into resulting object, which otherwise preserves the class and metadata of `newdata`. This option exists to increase performance in constructs like

```
fit = vsn2(x, ...)
nx = predict(fit, newdata=x)
```

and is used, for example, in the [justvsn](#) function.

### Value

An object typically of the same class as `newdata`. There are two exceptions: if `newdata` is an [RGList](#), the return value is an [NChannelSet](#), and if `newdata` is numeric, the return value is a matrix with 1 column.

### Author(s)

Wolfgang Huber

### Examples

```
data("kidney")

## nb: for random subsampling, the 'subsample' argument of vsn
## provides an easier way to do this
fit = vsn2(kidney[sample(nrow(kidney), 500), ])
tn = predict(fit, newdata=exprs(kidney))
```

---

vsnh

*A function that transforms a matrix of microarray intensities.*

---

### Description

A function that transforms a matrix of microarray intensities. This function works in conjunction with [vsn](#). `vsn` and `vsnh` have been superseded by [vs2](#) and the [predict](#) method for `vsn` objects. The functions `vsn` and `vsnh` remain in the package for backward compatibility, but for new projects, please use [vs2](#) and [predict](#).

### Usage

```
vsnh(y, p, strata)
```

**Arguments**

y	A numeric matrix containing intensity values from an array experiment. It may contain NA values.
p	An array with the transformation parameters. If strata is specified, it must be a 3d array, <code>dim(p)[1]</code> must be greater than or equal to the maximum of strata, <code>dim(p)[2]</code> must be <code>ncol(y)</code> , and <code>dim(p)[3]</code> must be 2. If strata is missing, then the first dimension may be omitted. NA values are not allowed. See Details.
strata	Integer vector of length <code>nrow(y)</code> . See <a href="#">vsu</a> for details.

**Details**

The transformation is:

$$\text{vsnh}(y, p, s)[k, i] = \text{asinh}(p[s[k], i, 1] + p[s[k], i, 2] * y[k, i]) - \log(2 * p[s[1], 1, 2])$$

where `k=1:nrow(y)` counts over the probes, `i=1:ncol(y)` counts over the samples, `p[s[k], i, 1]` is the calibration offset for stratum `s[k]` in sample `i`, `p[s[k], i, 2]` is the calibration factor for stratum `s[k]` in sample `i`, and `s[k]` is the stratum of the `k`-th probe.

The constant offset `- log(2 * p[s[1], 1, 2])` is there to make sure that for large `y`, `vsnh(y)` for the first stratum on the first chip is approximately the same as `log(y)`. This has no effect on the generalized log-ratios (glog-ratios), which are differences between transformed intensities, but some users are more comfortable with the absolute values that are obtained this way, since they are more comparable to the log scale.

**Value**

A numeric matrix of the same size as `y`, with the transformed data.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**References**

Variance stabilization applied to microarray data calibration and to the quantification of differential expression, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, Martin Vingron; *Bioinformatics* (2002) 18 Suppl.1 S96-S104.

Parameter estimation for the calibration and variance stabilization of microarray data, Wolfgang Huber, Anja von Heydebreck, Holger Sueltmann, Annemarie Poustka, and Martin Vingron; *Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology* (2003) Vol. 2 No. 1, Article 3. <http://www.bepress.com/sagmb/vol2/iss1>

**See Also**

[vsu](#)

**Examples**

```
data(kidney)
y = exprs(kidney)
p = array(c(-0.2, -0.1, 0.1, 0.2, 0.0026, 0.0028, 0.0030, 0.0032), dim=c(2,2,2))
strata = sample(1:2, nrow(y), replace=TRUE)
res1 = vsnh(exprs(kidney), p, strata)

res2 = asinh(p[strata,,1] + p[strata,,2] * y) - log(2 * p[strata,1,2])
```

```
stopifnot(max(abs(res1 - res2)) < 1e-10)
```

---

vsnInput

*Class to contain input data and parameters for vsn functions*


---

### Description

Class to contain input data and parameters for vsn functions

### Creating Objects

```
new("vsnInput")
```

### Slots

**x:** A numeric matrix with the input data.

**reference:** An object of [vsn](#), typically this would have been obtained from a previous fit to a set of reference arrays (data).

**strata:** A factor of length 0 or n. If its length is n, then its levels correspond to different normalization strata (see [vsn2](#)).

**ordered:** Logical scalar; are the rows reordered so that the strata are contiguous.

**lts.quantile:** Numeric scalar, see [vsn2](#).

**subsample:** Integer scalar, see [vsn2](#).

**verbose:** Logical scalar, see [vsn2](#).

**calib** Character of length 1, see manual page of [vsn2](#).

**pstart:** A 3D array of size (number of strata) x (number of columns of the data matrix) x 2. It contains the start parameters.

**optimpar:** List with parameters for the numerical optimiser L-BFGS-B; see the manual page of [vsn2](#).

### Methods

[ Subset

dim Get dimensions of data matrix.

nrow Get number of rows of data matrix.

ncol Get number of columns of data matrix.

show Print a summary of the object

### Author(s)

Wolfgang Huber

### See Also

[vsn2](#)

---

vsnPlotPar	<i>Plot trajectories of calibration and transformation parameters for a vsn fit</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

Plot trajectories of calibration and transformation parameters for a vsn fit

**Usage**

```
vsnPlotPar(x, what, xlab="iter", ylab=what, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	An object of class <a href="#">ExpressionSet-class</a> which has been created by the function <a href="#">vsn</a> .
what	Character, should either be "factors" or "offsets".
xlab	Character, label for the x-axis.
ylab	Character, label for the y-axis.
...	Further arguments that get passed to plot.default.

**Details**

The plot that is created by this function may help in assessing whether the parameter estimation in [vsn](#) was sufficiently converged.

**Value**

The function is called for its side effect, creating a plot on the active graphics device.

**Author(s)**

Wolfgang Huber

**See Also**

[vsn](#)

**Examples**

```
## see example for vsn
```

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