

Package ‘flowTrans’

January 23, 2026

Type Package

Title Parameter Optimization for Flow Cytometry Data Transformation

Version 1.63.0

Date 2010-04-21

Author Greg Finak <gfinak@fredhutch.org>, Juan Manuel-Perez
<jperez@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo
<rgottard@fredhutch.org>

Maintainer Greg Finak <gfinak@fredhutch.org>

Description Profile maximum likelihood estimation of parameters for
flow cytometry data transformations.

License Artistic-2.0

LazyLoad yes

Depends R (>= 2.11.0), flowCore, flowViz,flowClust

Imports flowCore, methods, flowViz, stats, flowClust

Collate mclMultivArcSinh.R mclMultivBiexp.R mclMultivLinLog.R
mclMultivBoxCox.R arcsinhTransformWrapper.R
biexponentialTransformWrapper.R boxcoxTransform.R flowTrans.R
linLog.R setMethods.R

biocViews ImmunoOncology, FlowCytometry

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

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 6e8f2c2

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2026-01-23

Contents

flowTrans-package	2
extractParams	3
flowTrans	4
flowTrans-methods	5
flowTransResult-class	6
summary-methods	7
summary.flowTransResult	7
Index	9

flowTrans-package	<i>Parameter Optimization for Flow Cytometry Data Transformation</i>
-------------------	--

Description

Maximum likelihood estimation of parameters for common flow cytometry data transformations.

Details

Package: flowTrans
Type: Package
Version: 0.6.0
Date: 2010-03-25
License: Artistic-2.0
LazyLoad: yes
biocViews: Bioinformatics, FlowCytometry
Depends: flowCore, methods
Imports: flowCore, methods, stats, flowViz, flowClust
Collate: logicleTransformWrapper.R mclMultivArcSinh.R mclMultivBiexp.R mclMultivLinLog.R mclMultivBoxCox.R
Packaged: 2010-03-25 16:49:03 UTC; finak
Built: R 2.10.0; ; 2009-11-30 16:49:05 UTC; unix

Index:

flowTrans	Optimizing transformations for flow cytometry data
-----------	--

Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Juan Manuel-Perez <jperez@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>
Maintainer: Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>

References

Finak G, Perez J M, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Transformations for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

Examples

```
#Load some data
data(GvHD)
#transform the first sample, forward and side scatter.
result<-flowTrans(GvHD[[1]], "mclMultivArcSinh", colnames(GvHD[[1]])[1:2], n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE);
plot(result$result);
summary(result);
```

extractParams

Extract the transformation parameters from a flowTransResult

Description

Extracts the transformation parameters from a flowTransResult object

Usage

```
extractParams(x, dims = NULL)
```

Arguments

x	An object of type flowTransResult returned by a call to flowTrans
dims	A character vector specifying the dimensions for which to extract transformation parameters.

Value

A list of length length(dims). Each element contains a vector of parameters for transforming the particular dimension. The names of the list elements correspond to the names of the dimensions.

Note

flowTrans estimates common transformation parameters.

Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

References

Finak G, Perez JM, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Data Transformation for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

See Also

[summary](#), [flowTrans](#), [flowTransResult](#)

Examples

```
m <- t(matrix(rnorm(10000),2))
colnames(m) <- c("A","B")
m <- flowFrame(m)
res <- flowTrans(m,"mclMultivBoxCox", c("A","B"), n2f=FALSE,
                 parameters.only=FALSE)
summary(res)
extractParams(res)
```

flowTrans

Optimizing transformations for flow cytometry data.

Description

This is the principal function in the package. The function takes data, a transformation function name, dimension names, and optional preselection parameter as input, and runs the maximum likelihood optimization on the data, performs the transformation, and returns the transformed data together with a list of transformation parameters for each dimension. The optimization is set to maximize the likelihood of the parameters given the data, such that the transformed data is normally distributed. An optional parameter `n2f=[T,F]` allows an automated preselection of an approximately bivariate normal population via the `norm2Filter` function. The transformation parameters are then optimized for this preselected region, and finally applied globally to the entire range of data. The optional argument `parameters.only=[T,F]` specifies whether to return the parameters or the transformed data.

Usage

```
flowTrans(dat, fun, dims, n2f,parameters.only)
```

Arguments

<code>dat</code>	The data to be transformed, should be a <code>flowFrame</code> object.
<code>fun</code>	A character string naming the transformation function to be applied. Can be one of: <code>mclMultivBiexp</code> , <code>mclMultivBoxCox</code> , <code>mclMultivArcSinh</code> , and <code>mclMultivLinLog</code> . The Multiv series of functions estimate common transformation parameters for all dimensions.
<code>dims</code>	A character vector identifying the dimensions to be transformed.
<code>n2f</code>	An optional TRUE, FALSE value identifying whether the data should be pre-filtered with <code>norm2Filter</code> to select a region of the data for which to optimize the transformation. Default is FALSE.
<code>parameters.only</code>	A logical specifying whether to return only the parameters, and not the transformed data. <code>mclMultivArcSinh a, b, c; c=0 mclMultivBiexp a, b, c, d, f, w; f=0 mclMultivBoxCox theta mclMultivLinLog theta</code>

Details

The transformation functions are multivariate, common parameter transformations. The implementation utilizes a look up table to call optimization routines for the different transformations as well as optional `flowCore` and `flowClust` transformation implementations to optimize parameters and transform data from a single interface. Parameters are optimized such that the transformed data is multivariate-normal.

Value

if `parameters.only = FALSE` then:

`flowTransResult`

A `flowTransResult` object

If `parameters.only=TRUE` the returned value will be a vector of common transformation parameters: if `mclMultivArcSinh` is called, the returned vector will contain `a`, `b`, and `c=0`; if `mclMultivBiexp` is called, the returned vector will contain `a`, `b`, `c`, `d`, `w`; if `mclMultivBoxCox` is called, the returned vector will contain `theta`; if `mclMultivLinLog` is called, the returned vector will contain `theta`.

Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

References

Finak G, Perez J M, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Transformations for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

Examples

```
data(GvHD)
result <- flowTrans(GvHD[[1]], "mclMultivArcSinh",
  colnames(GvHD[[1]])[1:2], n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE)
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
contour(GvHD[[1]][,1:2], main="Untransformed FSC vs SSC")
contour(result$result[,1:2], main="Transformed FSC vs SSC")
summary(result)
```

flowTrans-methods

S4 method for optimizing parameters of a flow transformation and optionally transforming a flowFrame

Description

Transforms a `flowFrame` and optimizes the parameters for the selected transformation.

Methods

dat = "flowFrame", fun = "character", dims = "character", n2f = "logical", parameters.only = "logical"

Transforms the flowFrame using the function fun over the dimensions dims, with optional bivariate normal prefiltering. Parameters are optimized to make the transformed data multivariate normal depending on the selected transformation

flowTransResult-class *Class "flowTransResult"*

Description

Class that contains the results of a call to flowTrans on a flowFrame

Objects from the Class

Objects can be created by calls of the form `new("flowTransResult", ...)`. The object contains three slots: the transformed flowFrame, a transform object from which the parameters can be extracted, and a dims slot containing a character vector of the dimensions that have been transformed.

Slots

result: Object of class "flowFrame". The transformed data.

trans: Object of class "transform". The transform applied to the flowFrame. Parameters can be extracted via `summary(trans)`.

dims: Object of class "character". The names of the dimensions that have been transformed.

Methods

summary signature(object = "flowTransResult"): Summarize the transformed data.

Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>.

References

Finak G, Perez JM, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Data Transformation for Flow Cytometry.

See Also

[extractParams](#) [summary](#)

Examples

```

m <- t(matrix(rnorm(10000),2))
colnames(m) <- c("A","B")
m <- flowFrame(m)
res <- flowTrans(m,"mclMultivBoxCox", c("A","B"),
               n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE)
summary(res)
extractParams(res)

```

summary-methods

*Summarize a flowTransResult object***Description**

Print a summary of the contents of a flowTransResult object.

Methods

object = "flowTransResult" Prints a summary of the flowTransResult object

summary.flowTransResult

*Summarize a flowTransResult object***Description**

Print a summary of the contents of a flowTransResult object, including the type of transformation, the transformed data frame, and the transformed dimensions and transformation parameters.

Usage

```
summary.flowTransResult(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of flowTransResult returned by a call to flowTrans
...	Additional parameters passed through.

Value

No return value

Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

References

Finak G, Perez JM, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Transformations for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

See Also

[extractParams](#), [flowTransResult](#)

Examples

```
m <- t(matrix(rnorm(10000),2))
colnames(m) <- c("A","B")
m <- flowFrame(m)
res <- flowTrans(m, "mclMultivBoxCox", c("A","B"),
                 n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE)
summary(res)
```

Index

- * **classes**
 - flowTransResult-class, 6
- * **manip**
 - extractParams, 3
- * **methods**
 - flowTrans-methods, 5
 - summary-methods, 7
- * **misc**
 - summary.flowTransResult, 7
- * **models**
 - flowTrans, 4
 - flowTrans-methods, 5
 - flowTrans-package, 2
- * **optimize**
 - flowTrans, 4
 - flowTrans-methods, 5
 - flowTrans-package, 2
- * **package**
 - flowTrans-package, 2

extractParams, 3, 6, 8

flowTrans, 4, 4

flowTrans, flowFrame, character, character, logical, logical-method
(flowTrans-methods), 5

flowTrans-methods, 5

flowTrans-package, 2

flowTransResult, 4, 8

flowTransResult
(flowTransResult-class), 6

flowTransResult-class, 6

summary, 4, 6

summary(summary-methods), 7

summary, flowTransResult-class
(flowTransResult-class), 6

summary, flowTransResult-method
(summary-methods), 7

summary-methods, 7

summary.flowTransResult, 7