# Package 'maCorrPlot'

October 24, 2025

Title Visualize artificial correlation in microarray data
<b>Version</b> 1.79.0
Author Alexander Ploner <alexander.ploner@ki.se></alexander.ploner@ki.se>
<b>Description</b> Graphically displays correlation in microarray data that is due to insufficient normalization
Maintainer Alexander Ploner <alexander.ploner@ki.se></alexander.ploner@ki.se>
Depends lattice
Imports graphics, grDevices, lattice, stats
License GPL (>= 2)
biocViews Microarray, Preprocessing, Visualization
<pre>URL http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&amp;pubmedid=15799785</pre>
git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/maCorrPlot
git_branch devel
git_last_commit ea087dc
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.22
<b>Date/Publication</b> 2025-10-23
Contents
CorrSample
CutCI
oligodata
plot.corr.sample
Index

2 CorrSample

CorrSample	Sample correlations for random pairs of genes	

### **Description**

CorrSample calculates the correlations, standard deviations and some auxiliary variables for random pairs of genes. A plot of the resulting object that shows that these correlations dependend systematically on the genes' variability, suggests a lack of normalization.

RandPairs is a helper function for generating random pairs from a list of genes.

#### Usage

```
CorrSample(x, np, seed, rp, ndx)
RandPairs(probes, number)
```

# **Arguments**

a gene expression matrix, with samples as columns and genes as rows; missing

values are accepted.

np, number the number of random pairs

seed an optional seed for the random sampling

rp an optional matrix with two columns specifying the random pairs, see Details.

ndx an optional logical matrix of the same dimension as x that allows to eliminate a

subset of the expression values from the calculation of the correlations, standard

deviations and auxiliary variables.

probes a vector of genes from which to draw random pairs; can be integer, as a vector

of row indices, or character, as a vector of row names.

#### **Details**

The sample of random pairs can be specified in a replicable manner either via np and seed, or by using the output from RandPairs for the parameter rp. In case we want to use the same set of random pairs (e.g. when comparing different expression measures on the same data set), the second option will be faster.

#### Value

An object of class corr.sample; this is just a data frame with an extra class tag to allow for a plotting method.

The data frame has np rows and nine columns:

Correlation the correlation between the two genes across samples

StdDev the geometric mean of the standard deviations of the two genes

sd1, sd2 the standard deviations of the genes

m1, m2 the means of the genes

ndx1, ndx2 the indices of the two genes; by default, these will be the corresponding row

indices of x, but if rp is specified, they might be gene names.

CutCI 3

#### Author(s)

Alexander Ploner <Alexander . Ploner@ki.se>

#### References

Ploner A, Miller LD, Hall P, Bergh J, Pawitan Y. Correlation test to assess low-level processing of high-density oligonucleotide microarray data. BMC Bioinformatics, 2005, 6(1):80 http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=15799785

#### See Also

```
plot.corr.sample
```

#### **Examples**

```
# Get small example data
data(oligodata)
dim(datA.rma)
# Compute the correlations for 500 random pairs,
\# that is ca. 1/1000 of all possible pairs
# Larger numbers are reasonable for larger data sets
cs1 = CorrSample(datA.rma, 500, seed=210)
cs1[1:5,]
# Clear correlation for pairs of genes with low average variability
plot(cs1)
# A different way of specifying the same
set.seed(210)
rp = RandPairs(rownames(datA.rma), 500)
cs2 = CorrSample(datA.rma, rp=rp)
cs2[1:5,]
plot(cs2)
```

CutCI

Calculate confidence intervals for grouped values

#### **Description**

CutCI groups values of one variable into intervals with the same number of observations each and computes confidence intervals for the mean of another variable in each interval.

CIrho computes the normal theory confidence interval for a vector of values.

# Usage

```
CutCI(dat, number = 10, func = mean, alpha=0.95)
CIrho(rho, alpha = 0.95)
```

4 oligodata

# **Arguments**

dat a numerical data frame or matrix with two columns, the first of which gets aver-

aged, and the second of which defines the grouping

number the number of equal-count intervals

func summary function for computing the mean

rho a vector of measurements alpha the desired confidence level

#### **Details**

The quantiles for the confidence interval are taken from the standard normal distribution, so a reasonable number of observations per interval would be good.

#### Value

CutCI returns invisibly a list of length three:

x the midpoints of the grouping intervals

y the means within each interval, as computed by func

yci a matrix with two columns, giving the lower and upper end of the confidence

interval respectively

CIrho returns a vector of length two, containing the lower and upper end of the confidence interval.

# See Also

```
co.intervals
```

#### **Examples**

```
x = rnorm(100, mean=2)
CIrho(x)

y = 2 + 3*x + rnorm(100)
cc = CutCI(cbind(x,y), number=5)
print(cc)

# Show it
plot(cc$x, cc$y)
arrows(cc$x, cc$yci[,1], cc$x, cc$yci[,2], length=0)
```

oligodata

Example data for package maCorrSample

# **Description**

Example expression data to demonstrate the functionality of the package: two data sources A and B with 30 patients and 1000 genes each, for each of which we have RMA expression values, (logarithmized) MAS5 expression values, and MAS5 absent/present calls.

Correspondingly, we have six data matrices whose name are constructed as dat[A|B].[rma|mas5|amp].

# Usage

```
data(oligodata)
```

#### **Format**

All matrices have genes as rows and samples as columns.

#### **Source**

These are small anonymized excerpts from a real breast cancer data set.

#### See Also

```
CorrSample, plot.corr.sample
```

#### **Examples**

```
data(oligodata)
str(datA.rma)
str(datB.rma)
str(datA.mas5)
str(datB.mas5)
str(datA.amp)
str(datB.amp)
```

plot.corr.sample

Plot correlation of random pairs of genes

#### **Description**

plot.corr.sample provides the main functionality of package maCorrPlot: it plots the correlation of random pairs of genes against their variability. Systematic deviations of the plot from a constant zero indicate lack of normalization of the underlying expression matrix.

Formally, plot.corr.sample is the plotting method for objects of class corr.sample generated by CorrSample.

panel.corr.sample is the panel function that does the actual plotting work.

# Usage

#### **Arguments**

for plot.corr.sample, x is an object of class corr.sample, generated by funcx, y tion CorrSample that contains the pre-computed correlations and standard deviations for the random pairs of genes; for panel.corr.sample, x and y are the xand y-components (or standard deviation and correlation) of the pairs of genes to be plotted in a specific panel. either more objects of class corr. sample or plotting arguments passed to the underlying xyplot. either a vector or a list of vectors describing multiple objects of class corr.sample; cond ignored if only one such object (x) is specified. See Details and Examples. groups a vector or a list of vectors giving group membership for the random pairs of genes in the corr. sample objects to be plotted, resulting in multiple overlayed plots for each object. See Details and Examples. grid logical value indicating whether to draw a reference grid refline logical value indicaitng whether to draw a horizontal reference line a zero. logical value indicating whether to use log-scale on the horizontal axis. xlog scatter logical value indicaiting whether the plot the individual pairwise correlations. logical value indicating whether to fit a simple model for lack of fit to the correcurve lations. ci logical value indicating whether to add confidence intervals. nint number of intervals into which to divide the horizontal axis for calculating average correlations. alpha the level of confidence to be plotted. length the length of the horizontal ticks indicating the ends of the confidence intervals (in inches). the label for the horizontal axis. xlab col.line, col.symbol

graphical parameters that control the color of the correlation lines and the scatter plotting symbols

#### **Details**

The underlying plotting engine is xyplot, using panel.corr.sample as panel function, which also interprets most of the graphical parameters. Note that two kinds of arguments can be specified via . . .: First, an unlimited number of extra corr.sample objects, in case we want to display different expression measures for the same expression matrix, or compare different expression matrices, or both; this is somewhat similar to the behaviour of boxplot.default. Second, everything that does not inherit from corr.sample is passed on to xyplot, so in theory, the full range of lattice control options is available, as long as they do not conflixt with named arguments to plot.corr.sample, like xlog or xlab.

Two mechanisms for comparisons within the same plot are available: First, as mentioned above, multiple corr.sample objects can be shown in the same graph, each within its own panel. If no cond is specified, these panels are just numbered in the order in which the objects appear in the arguments. Alternatively, one or two factors can be associated with each factor: in the first case, cond is just a vector with as many entries as corr.sample objects in the argument list; these entries are used to label the panels of the corresponding corr.sample objects. In the second case, cond is a list with two such vectors, and the objects are cross-classified according to both categories, and the panels are arranged in a row-column pattern reflecting this cross-classification, see Examples.

The other mechanism for graphical comparisons within the same plot is via groups, which draws different correlation curves for different sub-groups of pairs of genes; the standard example is to classify pairs of genes according to their common or average score in regard to a quality control measure like the MAS5 presence calls, see Examples. These sub-groups are specified via groups; if there is only one corr.sample object in the function call (x), groups is just a vector with as many entries as there are random paris of genes in x. If several objects of class corr.sample have been specified in the function call, groups is a list of as many vectors as objects, where each vector has as many entries as the corresponding object has pairs of genes.

#### Value

A plot created by xyplot.

# Warning

cond is translated into conditioning variables for xyplot, which will not hesitate to average correlations across different corr.sample objects. It's hard to see when this would be a good idea, therefore plot.corr.sample will generate a warning.

# Author(s)

Alexander Ploner <Alexander . Ploner@ki.se>

#### References

Ploner A, Miller LD, Hall P, Bergh J, Pawitan Y. Correlation test to assess low-level processing of high-density oligonucleotide microarray data. BMC Bioinformatics, 2005, 6(1):80 http://www.pubmedcentral.gov/articlerender.fcgi?tool=pubmed&pubmedid=15799785

# See Also

```
CorrSample, xyplot
```

# **Examples**

```
# Get small example data
data(oligodata)
dim(datA.rma)
dim(datB.rma)
# Compute the correlations for 500 random pairs,
# Larger numbers are reasonable for larger data sets
cs1.rma = CorrSample(datA.rma, 500, seed=210)
plot(cs1.rma)
# Change the plot
plot(cs1.rma, scatter=TRUE, curve=TRUE, alpha=0.99)
# Compare with MAS5 values for the same data set
cs1.mas5 = CorrSample(datA.mas5, 500, seed=210)
plot(cs1.rma, cs1.mas5, cond=c("RMA","MAS5"))
# We group pairs of gene by their average number of MAS5 present calls
pcntA = rowSums(datA.amp[cs1.mas5$ndx1, ]=="P") +
        rowSums(datA.amp[cs1.mas5$ndx2, ]=="P")
hist(pcntA)
```

# **Index**

```
* datagen
    CorrSample, 2
* datasets
    oligodata, 4
* hplot
    plot.corr.sample, 5
* utilities
    CutCI, 3
CIrho (CutCI), 3
co.intervals, 4
CorrSample, 2, 5, 7
CutCI, 3
datA.amp(oligodata), 4
datA.mas5(oligodata),4
datA.rma(oligodata),4
datB.amp(oligodata), 4
datB.mas5(oligodata),4
datB.rma(oligodata),4
{\tt oligodata}, {\tt 4}
panel.corr.sample(plot.corr.sample), 5
plot.corr.sample, 3, 5, 5
RandPairs (CorrSample), 2
xyplot, 7
```