

Package ‘massiR’

October 2, 2025

Type Package
Title massiR: MicroArray Sample Sex Identifier
Version 1.44.0
Date 2014-09-15
Author Sam Buckberry
Maintainer Sam Buckberry <sam.buckberry@adelaide.edu.au>
Description Predicts the sex of samples in gene expression microarray datasets
License GPL-3
Collate 'massi_y.R' 'massi_y_plot.R' 'massi_select.R' 'massi_cluster.R' 'massi_cluster_plot.R' 'massi_dip.R'
LazyData true
Depends cluster, gplots, diptest, Biobase, R (>= 3.0.2)
Suggests biomaRt, RUnit, BiocGenerics
biocViews Software, Microarray, GeneExpression, Clustering, Classification, QualityControl
git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/massiR>
git_branch RELEASE_3_21
git_last_commit 5b95c70
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.21
Date/Publication 2025-10-01

Contents

massi-package	2
massi.eset	3
massi.test.dataset	4
massi.test.probes	7
massi_cluster	7

massi_cluster_plot	8
massi_dip	10
massi_select	11
massi_y	12
massi_y_plot	13
y.probes	14
Index	16

massi-package	<i>massiR: a microarray Gene Expression Sample Sex Identifier</i>
---------------	---

Description

massi uses y chromosome probe information to cluster samples and predict the sex of each sample in gene expression microarray datasets.

Details

Package: massi
Type: Package
Version: 0.99.0
Date: 2014-01-27
License: GPL-3

The massi analysis requires a typical normalized sample/probe values produced by a microarray experiment. The `massi_y` function will extract the y chromosome probe information and caculate y chromosome probe variance to allow the used to select the most informative probes. Using the `massi_select` function the used can select a probe variation threshold to reduce the number of probes used in the `massi.cluster` step. The `massi_cluster` function clusters samples into two clusters using the y chromosome probe values. Clustering is performed using the K-medoids method as implimented in the "fpc" package. There are two plotting fucntions, `massi_y_plot` and `massi_cluster_plot`, that allow the user to explore the data at various stages of the analysis. There is also a function, `massi_dip`, that can be used to test if there may be a sample sex-bias in the dataset.

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry
Maintainer: Sam Buckberry <sam.buckberry@adelaide.edu.au>

References

Christian Hennig (2013). fpc: Flexible procedures for clustering. R package version 2.1-6. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=fpc>

Martin Maechler (2013). diptest: Hartigan's dip test statistic for unimodality - corrected code. R package version 0.75-5. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=diptest>

Gregory R. Warnes, Ben Bolker, Lodewijk Bonebakker, Robert Gentleman, Wolfgang Huber Andy Liaw, Thomas Lumley, Martin Maechler, Arni Magnusson, Steffen Moeller, Marc Schwartz and Bill Venables (2013). gplots: Various R programming tools for plotting data. R package version 2.12.1. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=gplots>

See Also

[massi_y](#), [massi_select](#), [massi_cluster](#), [massi_y_plot](#), [massi_dip](#), [massi_cluster_plot](#)

Examples

```
# load the test datasets
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

# use the massi.y function to calculate probe variation
massi_y_out <- massi_y(expression_data=massi.test.dataset, y_probes=massi.test.probes)

# plot probe variation to aid in deciding on the most informative subset of y chromosome probes
massi_y_plot(massi_y_out)

# Extract the informative probes for clustering
massi_select_out <- massi_select(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes, threshold=4)

# cluster samples to predict the sex for each sample
massi_cluster_out <- massi_cluster(massi_select_out)

# get the predicted sex for each sample
data.frame(massi_cluster_out[[2]])
```

massi.eset

massi.eset

Description

Object of ExpressionSet class containing the massiR test expression data.

Usage

```
data(massi.eset)
```

Format

The format is: Formal class 'ExpressionSet' [package "Biobase"] with 7 slots ..@ experimentData :Formal class 'MIAME' [package "Biobase"] with 13 slots@ name : chr ""@ lab : chr ""@ contact : chr ""@ title : chr ""@ abstract : chr ""@ url : chr ""@ pubMedIds : chr ""@ samples : list()@ hybridizations : list()@ normControls : list()@ preprocessing : list()@ other : list()@ .__classVersion__:Formal class 'Versions' [package "Biobase"] with 1 slots@ .Data:List of 2@ : int [1:3] 1 0 0@ : int [1:3] 1 1 0 ..@ assayData :<environment: 0x7fd91fda9d50> ..@ phenoData :Formal class 'AnnotatedDataFrame' [package "Biobase"] with 4 slots@ varMetadata :'data.frame': 0 obs. of 1 variable:@ : chr(0)@ data :'data.frame': 60 obs. of 0 variables@ dimLabels : chr [1:2] "rowNames" "columnNames"@ .__classVersion__:Formal class 'Versions' [package "Biobase"] with 1 slots@ .Data:List of 1@ : int [1:3] 1 1 0 ..@ featureData :Formal class 'AnnotatedDataFrame' [package "Biobase"] with 4 slots@ varMetadata :'data.frame': 0 obs. of 1 variable:@ : chr(0)@ data :'data.frame': 1026 obs. of 0 variables@ dimLabels : chr [1:2] "featureNames" "featureColumns"@ .__classVersion__:Formal class 'Versions' [package "Biobase"] with 1 slots@ .Data:List of 1@ : int [1:3] 1 1 0 ..@ annotation : chr(0) ..@ protocolData :Formal class 'AnnotatedDataFrame' [package "Biobase"] with 4 slots@ varMetadata :'data.frame': 0 obs. of 1 variable:@ : chr(0)@ data :'data.frame': 60 obs. of 0 variables@ dimLabels : chr [1:2] "sampleNames" "sampleColumns"@ .__classVersion__:Formal class 'Versions' [package "Biobase"] with 1 slots@ .Data:List of 1@ : int [1:3] 1 1 0 ..@ .__classVersion__:Formal class 'Versions' [package "Biobase"] with 1 slots@ .Data:List of 4@ : int [1:3] 3 0 2@ : int [1:3] 2 22 0@ : int [1:3] 1 3 0@ : int [1:3] 1 0 0

massi.test.dataset

The massi test dataset

Description

This data.frame object contains expression data for 60 samples and 1026 probes

Usage

```
data(massi.test.dataset)
```

Format

A data frame with 1026 observations on the following 60 variables.

S1 a numeric vector

S2 a numeric vector

S3 a numeric vector

S4 a numeric vector

S5 a numeric vector

S6 a numeric vector
S7 a numeric vector
S8 a numeric vector
S9 a numeric vector
S10 a numeric vector
S11 a numeric vector
S12 a numeric vector
S13 a numeric vector
S14 a numeric vector
S15 a numeric vector
S16 a numeric vector
S17 a numeric vector
S18 a numeric vector
S19 a numeric vector
S20 a numeric vector
S21 a numeric vector
S22 a numeric vector
S23 a numeric vector
S24 a numeric vector
S25 a numeric vector
S26 a numeric vector
S27 a numeric vector
S28 a numeric vector
S29 a numeric vector
S30 a numeric vector
S31 a numeric vector
S32 a numeric vector
S33 a numeric vector
S34 a numeric vector
S35 a numeric vector
S36 a numeric vector
S37 a numeric vector
S38 a numeric vector
S39 a numeric vector
S40 a numeric vector
S41 a numeric vector
S42 a numeric vector

S43 a numeric vector
S44 a numeric vector
S45 a numeric vector
S46 a numeric vector
S47 a numeric vector
S48 a numeric vector
S49 a numeric vector
S50 a numeric vector
S51 a numeric vector
S52 a numeric vector
S53 a numeric vector
S54 a numeric vector
S55 a numeric vector
S56 a numeric vector
S57 a numeric vector
S58 a numeric vector
S59 a numeric vector
S60 a numeric vector

Details

This test dataset is in the `data.frame` format with sample names as column names and probe id's as `row.names`. This test dataset is a subset of an empirical dataset obtained from Illumina human-6 v2.0 expression beadchip arrays.

Source

Data were adapted from dataset GSE25906 <<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/geo/query/acc.cgi?acc=GSE25906>>

Examples

```
data(massi.test.dataset)
```

massi.test.probes	<i>The massi test probes</i>
-------------------	------------------------------

Description

A data.frame containing 56 probes which correspond to y chromosome genes

Usage

```
data(massi.test.probes)
```

Format

data.frame

A data frame with 56 observations on the following 0 variables.

Examples

```
data(massi.test.probes)
```

massi_cluster	<i>massi_cluster</i>
---------------	----------------------

Description

The massi_cluster function predicts the sex of samples using k-medoids clustering.

Usage

```
massi_cluster(y_data)
```

Arguments

y_data	the y_data object is the data.frame returned from the massi_select function. This is a data.frame with sample names as column names and probe id's as row.names.
--------	--

Details

This function clusters samples into two clusters using y chromosome probe values. K-medoids clustering is performed using the partitioning around medoids (pam) method implimented in the "fpc" package. The cluster with the highest probe values is determined to be the cluster of male samples and the cluster the lowest values as female samples.

Value

cluster data	Contains all of the results from the k-medoids clustering.
massi.results	Contains the results for each sample, including sample id, predicted sex, sample z-score and mean probe expression.

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry

References

Christian Hennig (2013). fpc: Flexible procedures for clustering. R package version 2.1-6. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=fpc>

See Also

[massi_y](#), [massi_select](#), [massi_y_plot](#), [massi_dip](#), [massi_cluster_plot](#)

Examples

```
# load the test dataset
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

# select the y chromosome probes using massi_select
massi_select_out <-
massi_select(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

# cluster samples to predict sex using massi_cluster
massi_cluster_out <-
massi_cluster(massi_select_out)

# get the results in a data.frame format
data.frame(massi_cluster_out[[2]])
```

massi_cluster_plot	<i>massi_cluster_plot</i>
--------------------	---------------------------

Description

This function produces three figures in a new graphics device to enable the exploration of the massi_cluster and massi_select results.

Usage

```
massi_cluster_plot(massi_select_data, massi_cluster_data)
```


Arguments

massi_select_data

A data.frame containing the subset of y chromosome probe values for each sample. This is returned when running the massi_select function.

massi_cluster_data

This is the list returned from the massi_cluster function.

Details

The first figure is a heatmap depicting probe values for each sample. The second figure is a bar plot showing the mean probe expression and standard deviation for each sample. The bars are colored with respect to the predicted sex. The third figure is a principal component plot which represents the distances between samples, with each cluster highlighted with ellipses.

Value

Returns three plots in a new graphics device.

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry

References

Gregory R. Warnes, Ben Bolker, Lodewijk Bonebakker, Robert Gentleman, Wolfgang Huber, Andy Liaw, Thomas Lumley, Martin Maechler, Arni Magnusson, Steffen Moeller, Marc Schwartz and Bill Venables (2013). gplots: Various R programming tools for plotting data. R package version 2.12.1. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=gplots>

See Also

[massi_cluster](#), [massi_select](#)

Examples

```
# load the test dataset
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

# select the y chromosome probes using massi_select
massi_select_out <-
massi_select(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

# cluster samples to predict sex using massi_cluster
massi_cluster_out <-
massi_cluster(massi_select_out)

# produce plots using massi_cluster_plot
massi_cluster_plot(massi_select_out, massi_cluster_out)
```

massi_dip

massi_dip

Description

The `massi_dip` function applies the dip test to the subset of y chromosome probe values returned from the `massi_select` function. This can be used to indicate if there may be either a male or female bias in the dataset. This function returns a message indicating if the dataset may have a sex bias. The results for `massi_dip` are not reliable for datasets with 10 or less samples.

Usage

```
massi_dip(y_subset_values)
```

Arguments

`y_subset_values`

A data.frame containing the subset of y chromosome probe values for each sample, as returned from the `massi_select` function.

Details

This function calculates z-scores for the y.chromosome probe values returned from the `massi_select` function and then checks if the average z-scores for each sample show a unimodal or multi-modal distribution by applying the dip test. If the proportion of male and female samples in the dataset is relatively balanced, the distribution of average z-scores should be bi-modal. If the distribution looks unimodal, the dataset likely contains a high proportion of one sex. By testing with empirical datasets and randomly generating data subsets with different male/female proportions, guideline values were developed to provide an indication if there is a potential sex bias in the dataset. If the dip statistic is > 0.08 then the dataset is highly likely to have a proportions of male and female samples that will allow the `massi_cluster` function to predict the sex of samples with a high degree of accuracy. The results of this test should only be used as a guide and the results should be interpreted in light of the `massi_cluster` results. For more details see the `massi` package vignette.

Value

This function returns a list containing

`dip.statistics` The results from the dip test

`sample.mean.z.score`

The mean of the probe z-scores for each sample used to calculate the dip statistics

`density`

Density values for the z-scores. Can be informative to plot these results

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry

References

Martin Maechler (2013). diptest: Hartigan's dip test statistic for unimodality - corrected code. R package version 0.75-5. <http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=diptest>

See Also

[massi_y](#), [massi_select](#), [massi_cluster](#), [massi_y_plot](#), [massi_cluster_plot](#)

Examples

```
# load the test dataset
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

massi_select_out <- massi_select(expression_data=massi.test.dataset, y_probes=massi.test.probes, threshold=4)

# Use the list returned from massi.select to calculate dip statistics and z-scores.
massi_dip_out <- massi_dip(y_subset_values=massi_select_out)

# view a density plot
plot(massi_dip_out[[3]])

# view a histogram of z-scores
hist(x=massi_dip_out[[2]])
```

massi_select

massi_select

Description

This function selects the y chromosome probe data for each sample.

Usage

```
massi_select(expression_data, y_probes, threshold = 3)
```

Arguments

expression_data

The expression.data item contains normalized array expression data for all samples. This can be a data.frame with sample names as columns and probe id's as row names. This argument also allows the specification of an ExpressionSet object.

y_probes

A data.frame of probe id's in one column that match y chromosome genes for the array platform. massiR includes probes for several Illumina and Affymetrix platforms. Details on using these probes are included in the vignette and the [y.probes](#) manual.

threshold The threshold value corresponds to probe variation quantiles. This option allows the selection of the most variable probes. Deciding on a probe threshold value should be informed by viewing the plot generated by the [massi_y_plot](#) function. Threshold must be an integer "1", "2", "3", or "4". A threshold of "1" will select all y chromosome probes matching the id's in y.probes, Thresholds of "2", "3" and "4" will select probes with a CV in the top 75%, 50% and 25% respectively. The aim here is to remove probes with little to no variance across the samples. Default = 3.

Value

A data.frame containing the subset of y chromosome probe values for each sample.

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry

See Also

[massi_y](#), [massi_cluster](#), [massi_y_plot](#), [massi_dip](#), [massi_cluster_plot](#)

Examples

```
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)
```

```
massi_select(expression_data=massi.test.dataset, y_probes=massi.test.probes)
```

massi_y

massi_y

Description

The massi_y function extracts the y chromosome probe values for each sample and calculates the coefficient of variation (CV) for each probe. The returned list contains CV values (%) for each probe and quantile data. The probe variation data can be visualized using the massi_y_plot function.

Usage

```
massi_y(expression_data, y_probes)
```

Arguments

expression_data

The expression.data item contains normalized array expression data for all samples. This can be a data.frame with sample names as columns and probe id's as row names. This argument also allows the specification of an ExpressionSet object.

y_probes A data.frame of probe id's in one column that match y chromosome genes for the array platform. massiR includes probes for several Illumina and Affymetrix platforms. Details on using these probes are included in the vignette and the [y.probes](#) manual.

Details

The expression.data must be as a data.frame with sample names as column names and probe id's as row.names. ExpressionSet objects can be input and with expression data will be extracted from the ExpressionSet and the returned list would be the same as if data as entered in data.frame format.

Value

The massi_y function returns a list containing probe id's, probe cv and quantiles.

id	Probe id's
cv	Probe cv values
quantiles	Quantiles of cv values data

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry

See Also

[massi_select](#), [massi_cluster](#), [massi_y_plot](#), [massi_dip](#), [massi_cluster_plot](#)

Examples

```
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)
massi_y(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)
```

massi_y_plot

massi_y_plot

Description

The massi_y_plot function plots the data output from massi.y function.

Usage

```
massi_y_plot(massi_y_out)
```

Arguments

massi_y_out This object is the list returned from [massi_y](#) function.

Details

This function produces a bar plot of the coefficient of variation (CV) for each probe in the dataset. This allows the user to identify the most variable probes that are likely to be the most informative in the sex prediction step. The 25%, 50% and 75% quantiles are represented as horizontal lines and represent the threshold values that can be specified for the `massi_select` function.

Value

This function produces a bar plot in a new graphics device.

Note

See vignette for more details.

Author(s)

Sam Buckberry

See Also

`massi_y`, `massi_select`, `massi_cluster`, `massi_dip`, `massi_cluster_plot`

Examples

```
data(massi.test.dataset, massi.test.probes)

massi_y_out <-
  massi_y(expression_data=massi.test.dataset, y_probes=massi.test.probes)

massi_y_plot(massi_y_out)
```

y.probes

Y chromosome probe list

Description

A list containing probes corresponding to y chromosome genes for Illumina and Affymetrix platforms. Each item in the list is a data.frame of y chromosome probes that can be used in the massi analysis. The names of each item in the list correspond to the ensembl biomaRt attribute names.

Usage

```
data(y.probes)
```

Format

The format is: List of 6 \$ illumina_humanwg_6_v1:'data.frame': 58 obs. of 0 variables \$ illumina_humanwg_6_v2:'data.frame': 74 obs. of 0 variables \$ illumina_humanwg_6_v1:'data.frame': 112 obs. of 0 variables \$ illumina_humanht_12:'data.frame': 112 obs. of 0 variables \$ affy_hugene_1_0_st_v1:'data.frame': 138 obs. of 0 variables \$ affy_hg_u133_plus_2:'data.frame': 94 obs. of 0 variables

Details

The y chromosome probes for each platform were downloaded from Ensembl biomaRt using the 'biomaRt' package. For more details on the methods of selecting the probes and how to obtain probes for other platform, see the vignette for the massiR package.

References

Mapping identifiers for the integration of genomic datasets with the R/Bioconductor package biomaRt. Steffen Durinck, Paul T. Spellman, Ewan Birney and Wolfgang Huber, Nature Protocols 4, 1184-1191 (2009).

BioMart and Bioconductor: a powerful link between biological databases and microarray data analysis. Steffen Durinck, Yves Moreau, Arek Kasprzyk, Sean Davis, Bart De Moor, Alvis Brazma and Wolfgang Huber, Bioinformatics 21, 3439-3440 (2005).

Examples

```
# load the probes list
data(y.probes)
# look at the platform names
names(y.probes)
# extract the probes using the platform name
probe.list <- y.probes[["illumina_humanwg_6_v2"]]
```

Index

* datasets

- `massi.eset`, [3](#)
- `massi.test.dataset`, [4](#)
- `massi.test.probes`, [7](#)
- `y.probes`, [14](#)

- `massi` (`massi-package`), [2](#)
- `massi-package`, [2](#)
- `massi.eset`, [3](#)
- `massi.test.dataset`, [4](#)
- `massi.test.probes`, [7](#)
- `massi_cluster`, [2](#), [3](#), [7](#), [9–14](#)
- `massi_cluster_plot`, [2](#), [3](#), [8](#), [8](#), [11–14](#)
- `massi_dip`, [2](#), [3](#), [8](#), [10](#), [12–14](#)
- `massi_select`, [2](#), [3](#), [7–11](#), [11](#), [13](#), [14](#)
- `massi_y`, [2](#), [3](#), [8](#), [11](#), [12](#), [12](#), [13](#), [14](#)
- `massi_y_plot`, [2](#), [3](#), [8](#), [11–13](#), [13](#)

- `y.probes`, [11](#), [13](#), [14](#)