# Package 'flowVS'

July 16, 2025

July 10, 2023		
Type Package		
Title Variance stabilization in flow cytometry (and microarrays)		
<b>Version</b> 1.41.0		
<b>Date</b> 2021-04-02		
Author Ariful Azad		
Maintainer Ariful Azad <azad@iu.edu></azad@iu.edu>		
<b>Description</b> Per-channel variance stabilization from a collection of flow cytometry samples by Bertlett test for homogeneity of variances. The approach is applicable to microarrays data as well.		
License Artistic-2.0		
LazyLoad yes		
VignetteBuilder knitr		
<b>Depends</b> R (>= 3.2), methods, flowCore, flowViz, flowStats		
Suggests knitr, vsn,		
biocViews ImmunoOncology, FlowCytometry, CellBasedAssays, Microarray		
git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/flowVS		
git_branch devel		
git_last_commit 49a57b4		
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15		
Repository Bioconductor 3.22		
Date/Publication 2025-07-16		
Contents		
flowVS-package		
estParamFlowVS		
HD		
microVS		
plotMeanSd		
Index		

2 estParamFlowVS

flowVS-package

flowVS: Variance stabilization in flow cytometry (and microarrays).

# **Description**

Please see the vignette.

#### Author(s)

Ariful Azad <azad@lbl.gov>

#### References

Ariful Azad, Bartek Rajwa, and Alex Pothen (2015), "flowVS: Channel-Specific Variance Stabilization in Flow Cytometry", BMC Bioinformatics, vol 17, pp 1-14, 2016.

#### See Also

transFlowVS, microVS

estParamFlowVS

Estimate optimum parameters for per-channel within-population variance stabilization.

# Description

This function estimates the variance stabilizing cofactors, one for each channel for the entire dataset. When a fluorescence channel z is transformed by asinh transformation with the optimum cofactor for z, the within-population variances of populations from all samples in the channel z are approximately stabilized.

#### Usage

estParamFlowVS(fs, channels)

# **Arguments**

fs A flowSet containing a collection of flow cyometry samples.

channels A character vector identifying the channels/dimensions to be transformed. If

any entry in this vector is not present in the flowSet, the function returns with an

error.

#### **Details**

Let z be a fluorescence channel (column of a flowFrame). We consider transforming z by asinh transformation such that after transformation we obtain the transformed channel asinh(z/c), where c is a normalizing cofactor.

The estParamFlowVS function estimates cofactors, one for each channel for the entire dataset such that the within-population variance is stabilized in each fluorescence channel. When a fluorescence channel z is transformed by asinh transformation with the optimum cofactor for z, the within-population variances of populations from all samples in the channel z are approximately stabilized.

HD 3

#### Value

estParamFlowVS returns a numeric vector representing the optimum cofactors for the requested channels. The optimum cofactor for the input channels[i] is stored in the ith entry of the returned vector.

# Author(s)

Ariful Azad

#### References

Ariful Azad, Bartek Rajwa, and Alex Pothen (2015), "flowVS: Channel-Specific Variance Stabilization in Flow Cytometry", BMC Bioinformatics, vol 17, pp 1-14, 2016.

#### See Also

transFlowVS

#### **Examples**

```
data(HD)
## identify optimum cofactor for CD3 and CD4 channels (from five samples)

cofactors = estParamFlowVS(HD[1:5], channels=c('CD3','CD4'))
# See detail examples in the documentation of the transFlowVS function.
```

HD

Sample flow cytometry data from healthy individuals

# Description

A flowSet cotaining 12 flow cytometry samples from three healthy individuals "A", "C", and "D". From each individual, the samples were drawn on two different days and two technical replicates were created from each sample (i.e., 3 x 2 x 2 = 12 samples). Each HD sample was stained using labeled antibodies against CD45, CD3, CD4, CD8, and CD19 protein markers. Here, an HD sample "C\_4\_2" means that it is collected on day 4 from individual "C" and it is the second replicate on that day. We have identified lymphocytes in each sample of the HD dataset and apply the subsequent analysis on lymphocytes.

# Usage

data(HD)

# Value

A flowSet containing 12 flowFrames. There are 3 subject groups with 4 samples each (2 days and 2 technical replicates per day).

4 lymphs

#### References

Ariful Azad, Arif Khan, Bartek Rajwa, Saumyadipta Pyne, and Alex Pothen, "Classifying immunophenotypes with templates from flow cytometry", In Proceedings of the International Conference on Bioinformatics, Computational Biology and Biomedical Informatics (ACM BCB), 2013.

lymphs

Identify lymphocyte cells from a flow cytometry sample.

# **Description**

Identify and retain lymphocytes from a flow cytometry sample based on the forward and side scatters.

#### Usage

```
lymphs(ff, lymph.boundary, fsc, ssc, plot=FALSE)
```

# **Arguments**

ff A flowFrame containing a flow cyometry sample.

lymph.boundary A list denoting an approximate rectangular boundary for lymphocytes. The first

element of the list represents the lower and upper limit of forward scatter (FSC), and the 2nd element represents the lower and upper limit of side scatter (SSC).

Example: list("FSC"=c(180000, 500000),"SSC"=c(0, 180000)).

fsc name (or numeric index) of the forward scatter channel.
ssc name (or numeric index) of the side scatter channel.

plot true/false. If true then plots the rectangular and elliptical gates for the lympho-

cytes.

# **Details**

At first a rectangular gate is created based on the lymph. boundary. Then the norm2Filter function is used to identify lymphocytes.

# Value

lymphs returns a new flowFrame containing the lymphocytes.

#### Author(s)

Ariful Azad

#### References

Ariful Azad, Bartek Rajwa, and Alex Pothen (2015), "flowVS: Channel-Specific Variance Stabilization in Flow Cytometry", BMC Bioinformatics, vol 17, pp 1-14, 2016.

#### See Also

estParamFlowVS

microVS 5

#### **Examples**

```
library(flowStats)
data(ITN)
# identify lymphocytes
ITN.lymphs = lymphs(ITN[[1]], list("FS"=c(200, 600),"SS"=c(0, 400)), "FSC", "SSC",TRUE)
```

microVS

Variance stabilization for microarray data.

# **Description**

Variance-stabilizing inverse hyperbolic sine (asinh) transformation for microarray data.

# Usage

```
microVS(data, cfLow=0, cfHigh=10, frac=1)
```

# Arguments

data The microarray data in a Matrix.

cfLow lowest possible value of cofactor (log scale).

cfHigh highest possible value of cofactor (log scale).

frac fraction of differentially expressed genes used in variance stabilization (0< frac

**<=**1).

# **Details**

This function transforms a microarray data matrix z by asinh(z/c) transformation where c is a normalizing cofactor. The cofactor is searched in the range [cfLow, cfHigh] and an optimum cofactor is obtained for which the transformed data is variance stabilized. The optimum cofactor is obtained by minimizing Bartlett's test statistics for homogeneity of variance. If the parameter frac is less then one, a fraction of differentially expressed genes are used in estimating the cofactor.

#### Value

microVS returns a matrix of the variance-stabilizing microarray data.

#### Author(s)

Ariful Azad

# References

Ariful Azad, Bartek Rajwa, and Alex Pothen (2015), "flowVS: Channel-Specific Variance Stabilization in Flow Cytometry", BMC Bioinformatics, vol 17, pp 1-14, 2016.

6 plotMeanSd

## **Examples**

```
# stabilize variance of the Kidney microarray data from the vsn package
library(vsn)
data(kidney)
kidney.t = microVS(exprs(kidney))
plotMeanSd(kidney.t)
```

plotMeanSd

Plot row standard deviations versus row means (modified from vsn package)

# **Description**

Plot row standard deviations versus row means of a data matrix.

# Usage

# **Arguments**

x	An object of class matrix
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.

transFlowVS 7

#### 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.

#### **Examples**

```
library(vsn)
data(kidney)
kidney.t = microVS(exprs(kidney))
plotMeanSd(kidney.t)
```

transFlowVS

Transform a flowSet by asinh transformation.

# Description

This function transforms a flowSet by asinh transformation with the cofactors passed on to the function. The optimum cofactors that stabilize within-population variances in different fluorescence channels are estimated beforehand and passed to this function for data transformation.

#### Usage

```
transFlowVS(fs, channels, cofactors)
```

# **Arguments**

fs A flowSet containing a collection of flow cyometry samples.

channels A character vector identifying the channels/dimensions to be transformed. If

any entry in this vector is not present in the flowSet, the function returns with an

error.

cofactors A numeric vector. cofactors[i] is used with asinh function to transform the

column with name specified by channels[i].

# Details

This function transforms a flowSet by asinh transformation with selected cofactors. The column with name channels[i] of every flowFrame of the input flowSet is transformed by asinh transformation with cofactors[i]. For example, let z\_ij be the ith column of jth flowFrame in the input flowSet fs. Then after transformation z\_ij would be converted to asinh(z\_ij/cofactors[i]).

For variance stabilization, the optimum cofactors that stabilize within-population variances in different fluorescence channels are estimated beforehand and passed to this function for data transformation. Variance stabilizing cofactors can be estimated by the estParamFlowVS function.

#### Value

transFlowVS returns a new flowSet with the transformed channels.

#### Author(s)

Ariful Azad

8 transFlowVS

#### References

Ariful Azad, Bartek Rajwa, and Alex Pothen (2015), "flowVS: Channel-Specific Variance Stabilization in Flow Cytometry", BMC Bioinformatics, vol 17, pp 1-14, 2016.

#### See Also

estParamFlowVS

# **Examples**

```
## -----
## Example 1: Healthy data from flowVS package
data(HD)
## identify optimum cofactor for CD3 and CD4 channels (from five samples)
cofactors = estParamFlowVS(HD[1:5],channels=c('CD3','CD4'))
## transform CD3 and CD4 channels in all samples
HD.VS = transFlowVS(HD, c('CD3', 'CD4'), cofactors)
densityplot(~CD3+CD4, HD.VS, main="Transfromed CD3 and CD4 channels in HD data")
## Example 2: ITN data from flowStats package
## -----
library(flowStats)
data(ITN)
# identify lymphocytes
ITN.lymphs = fsApply(ITN,lymphs, list("FS"=c(200, 600), "SS"=c(0, 400)), "FSC", "SSC", FALSE)
## identify optimum cofactor for CD3 and CD4 channels (from five samples)
cofactors = estParamFlowVS(ITN.lymphs[1:5],channels=c('CD3', 'CD4'))
## transform CD3 and CD4 channels in all samples
ITN.VS = transFlowVS(ITN.lymphs, c('CD3','CD4'), cofactors)
densityplot(~CD3+CD4, ITN.VS, main="Transfromed CD3 and CD4 channels in ITN data")
```

# **Index**

```
* datasets
    HD, 3
* hplot
    plotMeanSd, 6
* methods
    plotMeanSd, 6
* transformation
    estParamFlowVS, 2
    flowVS-package, 2
    lymphs, 4
    {\tt microVS}, {\tt 5}
    transFlowVS, 7
* variance stabilization
    estParamFlowVS, 2
    flowVS-package, 2
    lymphs, 4
    microVS, 5
    transFlowVS, 7
estParamFlowVS, 2, 4, 7, 8
flowFrames, 3
flowSet, 3
flowVS (flowVS-package), 2
flowVS-package, 2
HD, 3
lymphs, 4
matrix, 6
microVS, 2, 5
plotMeanSd, 6
transFlowVS, 2, 3, 7
```