# Package 'metapone'

October 24, 2025

Type Package
Title Conducts pathway test of metabolomics data using a weighted permutation test
Version 1.15.0
Date 2022-8-20
Date The state of metabolomics data using a weighted permutation test

**Description** The package conducts pathway testing from untargetted metabolomics data. It requires the user to supply feature-level test results, from case-control testing, regression, or other suitable feature-level tests for the study design. Weights are given to metabolic features based on how many metabolites they could potentially match to. The package can combine positive and negative mode results in pathway tests.

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0), BiocParallel, fields, markdown, fdrtool, fgsea, ggplot2, ggrepel

**Imports** methods

biocViews Technology, MassSpectrometry, Metabolomics, Pathways

License Artistic-2.0

LazyLoad yes

NeedsCompilation no

Suggests rmarkdown, knitr

VignetteBuilder knitr

git\_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/metapone

git\_branch devel

git\_last\_commit d8c1c3c

git\_last\_commit\_date 2025-04-15

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2025-10-24

Author Leqi Tian [aut],

Tianwei Yu [aut],

Tianwei Yu [cre]

Maintainer Tianwei Yu <yutianwei@cuhk.edu.cn>

2 metapone-package

# **Contents**

meta	metapone-package Conducts pathway test of metabolomics data using a weighted permutation test															
Index																14
	ptable					 	•	 •	•	13						
pos																
	pa															
	neg					 										11
metaponeResult-class																
	metapone	-														
	hmdbCompMZ.meta															
	ftable hmdbCompMZ															
bbplot2d																
	bbplot1d															
	metapone-package					 	•					 •				2

## **Description**

The package conducts pathway testing from untargetted metabolomics data. It requires the user to supply feature-level test results, from case-control testing, regression, or other suitable feature-level tests for the study design. Weights are given to metabolic features based on how many metabolites they could potentially match to. The package can combine positive and negative mode results in pathway tests. The package contains two types of statistical testing that considers matching uncertainty - (1) a permutation test that is based on the hypergeometric test and (2) a GSEA type test with weighted features/metabolites.

## **Details**

The package conducts (1) a weighted hypergeometric test using permutations on metabolomics data. The weights are assigned based on how many metabolites each data feature can match to, (2) a GSEA type test based on an estimation of importance of metabolites/features. The importance is evluated by the size of matching for each metabolite/feature and the p-value of features.

The user can tune a parameter to change the penalty for multiple-matched features and choose the type of pathway testing.

## Author(s)

Tianwei Yu (<yutianwei@cuhk.edu.cn>)

bbplot1d 3

	bbplot1d	Plot of metapone result.	
--	----------	--------------------------	--

# Description

The function bbplot1d() select important pathways with their P-value less than a threshold and returns ranked bubble plot showing important pathways names and their corresponding -log10(Pvalue).

## Usage

```
bbplot1d(res, p_thres = 0.05, sig_metab_thres = 1, low.color = "MidnightBlue", high.color = "LightSkyBl
```

# **Arguments**

res	The result matrix obtained from metapone with columns: "p_value", "n_significant
	matabalitas" "n mannad matabalitas" "n matabalitas" "significant mataba

metabolites", "n\_mapped\_metabolites", "n\_metabolites", "significant metabo-

lites", "mapped\_metabolites", "fdr".

default threshold is 0.05.

sig\_metab\_thres

The threshold of fractional matched significant metabolite count for pathways

to be shown in the bubble plot. The default is 1.

low.color The GRB color of the lowest ldfr value to be shown in the bubble plot.

high.color The GRB color of the highest ldfr value to be shown in the bubble plot.

## Author(s)

```
Leqi Tian (<leqitian@link.cuhk.edu.cn>)
```

#### See Also

metapone

```
data(hmdbCompMZ.metapone)
data(pa)
data(pos)
data(neg)
dat <- list(pos, neg)
type <- list("pos", "neg")
r<-metapone(dat, type, pa, hmdbCompMZ=hmdbCompMZ.metapone, p.threshold=0.05,
    n.permu=100,fractional.count.power=0.5, max.match.count=10)
bbplot1d(ptable(r)) # p_thres = 0.05</pre>
```

4 bbplot2d

b				

Plot of metapone result.

# Description

The function bbplot2d() select important pathways with their P-value less than a threshold and returns a 2-D bubble plot with -log10(Pvalue) and the number of significant metabolites as coordinate axes.

## Usage

```
bbplot2d(res, p_thres = 0.05, sig_metab_thres = 1, low.color = "MidnightBlue", high.color = "LightSkyBl
```

## **Arguments**

res The result matrix obtained from metapone with columns: "p\_value", "n\_significant

metabolites", "n\_mapped\_metabolites", "n\_metabolites", "significant metabo-

lites", "mapped\_metabolites", "fdr".

p\_thres The threshold of P-value for pathways to be shown in the bubble plot. The

default threshold is 0.05.

sig\_metab\_thres

The threshold of fractional matched significant metabolite count for pathways

to be shown in the bubble plot. The default is 1.

low.color The GRB color of the lowest ldfr value to be shown in the bubble plot.

high.color The GRB color of the highest ldfr value to be shown in the bubble plot.

## Author(s)

```
Leqi Tian (<leqitian@link.cuhk.edu.cn>)
```

## See Also

metapone

```
data(hmdbCompMZ.metapone)
data(pa)
data(pos)
data(neg)
dat <- list(pos, neg)
type <- list("pos", "neg")
r<-metapone(dat, type, pa, hmdbCompMZ=hmdbCompMZ.metapone, p.threshold=0.05,
    n.permu=100,fractional.count.power=0.5, max.match.count=10)
bbplot2d(ptable(r)) # p_thres = 0.05</pre>
```

ftable 5

ftable

Acessor functions for the feature mapping table in a metaponeResult object.

## **Description**

Returns a list containing the mapped features in each pathway.

## Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'metaponeResult'
ftable(object)
```

## **Arguments**

object

A metaponeResult object.

## **Details**

Each pathway is represented by a data.frame as an item in the list object. The dataframe include information of m.z, retention.time, p.value, statistic, HMDB\_ID, theoretical m.z, ion.type, fractional counts.

## Value

The method returns a list. Each item is for a pathway. Matched significant metabolites are included.

## Author(s)

Tianwei Yu <yutianwei@cuhk.edu.cn>

#### See Also

ptable

```
data(hmdbCompMZ.metapone)
data(pa)
data(pos)
data(neg)
dat <- list(pos, neg)
type <- list("pos", "neg")
r<-metapone(dat, type, pa, hmdbCompMZ=hmdbCompMZ.metapone, p.threshold=0.05,
    n.permu=100,fractional.count.power=0.5, max.match.count=10)
ftable(r)[1:6]</pre>
```

hmdbCompMZ

the m/z values of common adduct ions of HMDB metaboites

## **Description**

Monoisotopic mass of common adduct ions.

## Usage

```
data("hmdbCompMZ")
```

## **Format**

A data frame with 5704350 observations on the following 3 variables.

```
HMDB_ID HMDB ID.
```

ion.type Adduct ion type.

m.z the m/z of the adduct ion.

## **Source**

https://hmdb.ca/

# References

https://hmdb.ca/

# **Examples**

data(hmdbCompMZ)

 $\verb|hmdbCompMZ.metapone||$ 

the m/z values of common adduct ions of metapone metaboites

# Description

Monoisotopic mass of common adduct ions, limited to those included in the pathways in metapone.

## Usage

```
data("hmdbCompMZ.metapone")
```

metapone 7

## **Format**

A data frame with 79350 observations on the following 3 variables.

```
HMDB_ID HMDB ID.ion.type Adduct ion type.m.z the m/z of the adduct ion.
```

#### **Details**

The main difference of using this dataset vs using hmdbCompMZ, is the metabolite universe in testing is limited to those metabolites matched to metapone pathways, not all HMDB metabolites.

#### Source

The Human Metabolome Database

#### References

The Human Metabolome Database

## **Examples**

data(hmdbCompMZ)

metapone	METAbolic pathway testing using both POsitive and NEgative mode
	data

# Description

Metapone conducts pathway tests for untargeted metabolomics data. It has three main characteristics: (1) expanded database combining SMPDB and Mummichog databases, with manual cleaning to remove redundancies; (2) A new weighted testing scheme to address the issue of metabolite-feature matching uncertainties; (3) Can consider positive mode and negative mode data in a single analysis.

## Usage

```
\label{eq:metapone} $$ \text{metapone}(\text{dat=NULL}, \ \text{type=NULL}, \ \text{pa}, \ \text{hmdbCompMZ}, \ \text{pos.adductlist} = c("M+H", "M+N4", "M+N4", "M+N4", "M+ACN+H", "M+2CN+H", "2M+H", "2M+N4", "2M+N4", "M+2CN+H", "M-2H+N4", "M-2H+N4", "M-2H+N4", "M-H+Cl", "M+Cl", "M+Cl", "M+2Cl"), \\ \text{use.fractional.count=TRUE}, \ \text{match.tol.ppm=5}, \ \text{p.threshold=0.05}, \\ \text{n.permu=200}, \ \text{fractional.count.power=0.5}, \ \text{max.match.count=10}, \\ \text{use.fgsea} = \text{FALSE}, \ \text{use.meta} = \text{FALSE}) \\ \end{aligned}
```

8 metapone

#### **Arguments**

dat The list of test results. An element in the list should be postive ion mode test re-

sults or negative ion mode test results with four columns: m/z, retention time, p-value, test statistic. The package doesn't require both pos and neg to be present.

One ion mode result is sufficient. Multiple ion mode results are allowed.

type The list of corresponding ion mode of each element in dat. Each element in the

list should be "pos" or "neg". The size of type should be consistent with the size

of dat.

pa Pathway information. A data frame with five columns: database pathway ID,

pathway name, HMDB ID, KEGG ID, category of pathway.

hmdbCompMZ the m/z values of common adduct ions of HMDB metaboites. See the help file

of hmdbCompMZ for details.

pos.adductlist The vector of positive adduct ions to be considered.

neg.adductlist The vector of negative adduct ions to be considered.

use.fractional.count

A lot of features match to multiple metabolites by m/z. Whether to discount

such matches by using fractional counts.

match.tol.ppm The ppm level when conducting m/z match.

p. threshold The threshold of p-values of metabolic features to be considered significant.

n.permu The number of permutations in permutation test.

fractional.count.power

The fractional counts are taken to this power to transform the weights.

max.match.count

When calculating fractional counts, some features might be matched to too many. In that case the number of matches is capped by the value of max.match.count.

use.fgsea Whether to use a GSEA type test when performing pathway testing. When it is

FALSE, a permutation-based weighted hypergeometric test is performed.

use.meta Whether to perform a GSEA type test with weighted metabolites. When it is

FALSE, a GSEA type test is performed on weighted features.

#### Value

The method returns a generic S4 object of class "metapone.result":

@test.results A matrix with 8 columns: "p\_value", "n\_significant metabolites", "n\_mapped\_metabolites",

"n\_metabolites", "significant metabolites", "mapped\_metabolites", "lfdr", "adjust.p". Each row is for a pathway. When using GSEA test, "ES", "NES",

"nMoreExtreme" are returned additionally.

@mapped.features

A list. Each item is for a pathway. The item lists matched significant metabo-

lites.

The columns in test.result are the following:

p\_value The p-value for each enrichment.

metapone 9

n\_significant metabolites

The number of weighted significant metabolites associated with the enrichment.

n\_mapped\_metabolites

The number of weighted metabolites associated with the enrichment.

significant metabolites

A string with the names of significant metabolites that drive the enrichment.

mapped\_metabolites

A string with the names of metabolites that drive the enrichment.

1fdr The local fdr value for each enrichment.

adjust.p The enrichment BH-adjusted p-value for each enrichment.

ES The enrichment score (Avaliable in GSEA test).

NES The enrichment score normalized to mean enrichment of random samples of the

same size (Avaliable in GSEA test).

nMoreExtreme The number of times a random metabolite set had a more extreme enrichment

score value (Avaliable in GSEA test).

## Author(s)

Tianwei Yu (<yutianwei@cuhk.edu.cn>) Leqi Tian (<leqitian@link.cuhk.edu.cn>)

#### References

Small Molecule Pathway Database Mummichog

#### See Also

pa, hmdbCompMZ

10 metaponeResult-class

```
# Features based GSEA test
r<-metapone(dat, type, pa, hmdbCompMZ=hmdbCompMZ.metapone, p.threshold=0.05,
    n.permu=100,fractional.count.power=0.5, max.match.count=10, use.fgsea = FALSE, use.meta = FALSE)
hist(ptable(r)[,1])</pre>
```

metaponeResult-class Class "metaponeResult"

## **Description**

This class represents the results of pathway testing. The testing result contain two major components: the significant level of each pathway, and the features matched to each pathway.

## **Objects from the Class**

Objects can be created by calls of the form new("metaponeResult", ...).

#### Slots

test.result: a dataframe containing p\_value, n\_significant metabolites, n\_mapped\_metabolites, n\_metabolites, significant metabolites, mapped\_metabolite IDs, lfdr and pathway name.

mapped.features: A list containing n entries, where n is the number of pathways. Each entry is a data frame, containing the features mapped to this pathway. The information include m.z, retention.time, p.value, statistic, HMDB\_ID, theoretical m.z, ion.type, fractional counts.

## Methods

**ptable** signature(object = "metaponeResult"): return the data.frame of test statistics for each pathway, including p\_value, n\_significant metabolites, n\_mapped\_metabolites, n\_metabolites, significant metabolites, mapped\_metabolite IDs lfdr and and pathway name.

**ftable** signature(object = "metaponeResult"): Returns a list containing the mapped features in each pathway. Each pathway is represented by a data.frame as an item in the list object. The dataframe include information of m.z, retention.time, p.value, statistic, HMDB\_ID, theoretical m.z, ion.type, fractional counts.

## Author(s)

Tianwei Yu

neg 11

neg Example negative mode data from the Metabolome Atlas of the Aging Mouse Brain

## **Description**

The data is generated from the hypocampus data of the Metabolome Atlas of the Aging Mouse Brain (ST001888) dataset. The p-values and test statistics were obtained by contrasting mouse hypocampus metabolome between prime-age mice and aging mice.

## Usage

```
data("neg")
```

#### **Format**

A data frame with 6947 observations on the following 4 variables.

```
m.z a numeric vector. The mass-to-charge ratio of the features.
```

retention.time a numeric vector. The retention time of the features.

p. value a numeric vector. The p-values of the features.

statistic a numeric vector. The test statistics of the features.

## References

https://www.metabolomicsworkbench.org/data/DRCCMetadata.php?Mode=Study&DataMode=FactorsData&StudyID=ST0

## **Examples**

data(neg)

ра

Pathway-metabolite match file.

## Description

mapps pathways with metabolites.

## Usage

```
data("pa")
```

pos pos

## **Format**

A data frame with 5395 observations on the following 5 variables.

```
database a character vector
pathway.name a character vector
HMDB.ID a character vector
KEGG.ID a character vector
category a character vector
```

## Source

Small Molecule Pathway Database Mummichog

# **Examples**

data(pa)

pos

Example positive mode data from the Metabolome Atlas of the Aging Mouse Brain

## **Description**

The data is generated from the hypocampus data of the Metabolome Atlas of the Aging Mouse Brain (ST001888) dataset. The p-values and test statistics were obtained by contrasting mouse hypocampus metabolome between prime-age mice and aging mice.

## Usage

```
data("pos")
```

## **Format**

A data frame with 10085 observations on the following 4 variables.

```
m.z a numeric vector. The mass-to-charge ratio of the features.
```

retention. time a numeric vector. The retention time of the features.

p. value a numeric vector. The p-values of the features.

statistic a numeric vector. The test statistics of the features.

#### References

https://www.metabolomicsworkbench.org/data/DRCCMetadata.php?Mode=Study&DataMode=FactorsData&StudyID=ST0

```
data(pos)
```

ptable 13

ptable

Acessor functions for the test result table in a metaponeResult object.

## **Description**

return the data. frame of test statistics for each pathway.

## Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'metaponeResult'
ptable(object)
```

## **Arguments**

object

A metaponeResult object.

#### **Details**

Includes p\_value, n\_significant metabolites, n\_mapped\_metabolites, n\_metabolites, significant metabolites, mapped\_metabolite IDs and pathway name.

#### Value

The method returns a data frame with 6 columns: "p\_value", "n\_significant metabolites", "n\_mapped\_metabolites", "n\_metabolites", "significant metabolites", "mapped\_metabolites".

## Author(s)

Tianwei Yu <yutianwei@cuhk.edu.cn>

# See Also

ftable

```
data(hmdbCompMZ.metapone)
data(pa)
data(pos)
data(neg)
dat <- list(pos, neg)
type <- list("pos", "neg")
r<-metapone(dat, type, pa, hmdbCompMZ=hmdbCompMZ.metapone,
    p.threshold=0.05,n.permu=100,fractional.count.power=0.5, max.match.count=10)
head(ptable(r))</pre>
```

# **Index**

```
* classes
    metaponeResult-class, 10
* datasets
    hmdbCompMZ, 6
    hmdbCompMZ.metapone, 6
    neg, 11
    pa, 11
    pos, 12
* package
    metapone-package, 2
bbplot1d, 3
bbplot2d, 4
ftable, 5
ftable, metaponeResult-method
        ({\tt metaponeResult-class}),\,10
ftable, metaponeResult-method (ftable), 5
hmdbCompMZ, 6, 9
hmdbCompMZ.metapone, 6
metapone, 3, 4, 7
metapone-package, 2
metaponeResult (metaponeResult-class),
        10
metaponeResult-class, 10
metaponeResult-method
        (metaponeResult-class), 10
neg, 11
pa, 9, 11
pos, 12
ptable, 13
ptable, metaponeResult-method
        (metaponeResult-class), 10
ptable,metaponeResult-method(ptable),
```