

# Package ‘msmsEDA’

July 10, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Exploratory Data Analysis of LC-MS/MS data by spectral counts

**Version** 1.46.0

**Date** 2014-01-19

**Author** Josep Gregori, Alex Sanchez, and Josep Villanueva

**Maintainer** Josep Gregori <josep.gregori@gmail.com>

**Depends** R (>= 3.0.1), MSnbase

**Imports** MASS, gplots, RColorBrewer

**Description** Exploratory data analysis to assess the quality of a set of LC-MS/MS experiments, and visualize de influence of the involved factors.

**License** GPL-2

**Encoding** latin1

**biocViews** ImmunoOncology, Software, MassSpectrometry, Proteomics

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/msmsEDA>

**git\_branch** RELEASE\_3\_21

**git\_last\_commit** f2d10a2

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

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.21

**Date/Publication** 2025-07-09

## Contents

msmsEDA-package . . . . .	2
batch.neutralize . . . . .	3
count.stats . . . . .	4
counts.hc . . . . .	5
counts.heatmap . . . . .	6
counts.pca . . . . .	7
disp.estimates . . . . .	8
filter.flags . . . . .	9

gene.table . . . . .	10
msms.dataset . . . . .	11
norm.counts . . . . .	12
pnms . . . . .	13
pp.msms.data . . . . .	13
spc.barplots . . . . .	14
spc.boxplots . . . . .	15
spc.densityplots . . . . .	16
spc.scatterplot . . . . .	17

<b>Index</b>	<b>18</b>
--------------	-----------

---

msmsEDA-package	<i>Exploratory Data Analysis of label-free LC-MS/MS spectral counts</i>
-----------------	---

---

## Description

Exploratory data analysis to assess the quality of a set of label-free LC-MS/MS experiments, quantified by spectral counts, and visualize the influence of the involved factors. Visualization tools to assess quality and to discover outliers and eventual confounding.

## Details

Package: msmsEDA  
 Type: Package  
 Version: 1.2.0  
 Date: 2014-01-18  
 License: GPL-2

pp.msms.data	data preprocessing
gene.table	extract gene symbols from protein description
count.stats	summaries by sample
counts.pca	principal components analysis
counts.hc	hierarchical clustering of samples
norm.counts	normalization of spectral counts matrix
counts.heatmap	experiment heatmap
disp.estimates	dispersion analysis and plots
filter.flags	flag informative features
spc.barplots	sample sizes barplots
spc.boxplots	samples SpC boxplots
spc.densityplot	samples SpC density plots
spc.scatterplot	scatterplot comparing two conditions
batch.neutralize	batch effects correction

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori, Alex Sanchez and Josep Villanueva  
Maintainer: Josep Gregori <josep.gregori@gmail.com>

**References**

Gregori J, Villarreal L, Mendez O, Sanchez A, Baselga J, Villanueva J, "Batch effects correction improves the sensitivity of significance tests in spectral counting-based comparative discovery proteomics." J Proteomics. 2012 Jul 16;75(13):3938-51. doi: 10.1016/j.jprot.2012.05.005. Epub 2012 May 12.

---

batch.neutralize	<i>Batch effects correction</i>
------------------	---------------------------------

---

**Description**

Computes the SpC matrix where the fixed effects of a blocking factor are subtracted.

**Usage**

```
batch.neutralize(dat, fbatch, half=TRUE, sqrt.trans=TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

dat	A SpC matrix with proteins in the rows and samples in the columns.
fbatch	A blocking factor of length equal to the number of columns in the expression matrix.
half	When FALSE, the contrast coefficients are of the contr.treatment style. When TRUE, the contrast coefficients are of the contr.sum style, its aim is to distribute equally the effect to each batch level, instead of having untouched reference levels.
sqrt.trans	When TRUE the fit is done on the square root transformed SpC matrix.

**Details**

A model with intercept and the blocking factor is fitted. The batch effects corrected SpC matrix is computed by subtracting the estimated effect of the given blocking factor. When there is no clear reference batch level, the default option half=TRUE should be preferred. The square root transformation is known to stabilize the variance of Poisson distributed counts (with variance equal to the mean). The linear model fitting gives more accurate errors and p-values on the square root transformed SpC matrix. Nevertheless with exploratory data analysis purposes, both the raw and square root transformed SpC matrix may give good results.

**Value**

The batch effects corrected SpC matrix.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**See Also**

The [MSnSet](#) class documentation and [normalize](#)

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
### Plot the PCA on the two first PC, and colour by treatment level
ftreat <- pData(msnset)$treat
counts.pca(msnset, facs=ftreat, do.plot=TRUE, snms=as.character(ftreat))
### Correct the batch effects
spcm <- exprs(msnset)
fbatch <- pData(msnset)$batch
spcm2 <- batch.neutralize(spcm, fbatch, half=TRUE, sqrt.trans=TRUE)
### Plot the PCA on the two first PC, and colour by treatment level
### to visualize the improvement.
exprs(msnset) <- spcm2
counts.pca(msnset, facs=ftreat, do.plot=TRUE, snms=as.character(ftreat))
### Incidence of the correction
summary(as.vector(spcm-spcm2))
plot(density(as.vector(spcm-spcm2)))
```

---

count.stats

*Summary of statistics of spectral counts by sample in the dataset*

---

**Description**

Computes the number of proteins identified, the total spectral counts, and a summary of each sample

**Usage**

```
count.stats(msnset)
```

**Arguments**

msnset                    A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.

**Value**

A data frame with one row by sample and with variables:

proteins	Number of identified proteins in sample
counts	Total spectral counts in sample
min	Min spectral counts

lwh	Tukey's lower hinge spectral counts
med	Median spectral counts
hgh	Tukey's upper hinge spectral counts
max	Max spectral counts

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**See Also**

[MSnSet](#), [fivenum](#)

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
res <- count.stats(msnset)
res
```

---

counts.hc

*Hierarchical clustering on an spectral counts matrix.*

---

**Description**

Hierarchical clustering of samples in an spectral counts matrix, coloring tree branches according to factor levels.

**Usage**

```
counts.hc(msnset, do.plot=TRUE, facs=NULL, wait=TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

msnset	A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.
do.plot	A logical indicating whether to plot the dendrograms.
facs	NULL, or a data frame with factors. See details below.
wait	This function may draw different plots, one by given factor in facs. When in interactive mode the default is to wait for confirmation before proceeding to the next plot. When wait is FALSE and R in interactive mode, instructs not to wait for confirmation.

**Details**

The hierarchical clustering is done by means of `hclust` with default parameters. If `do.plot` is TRUE, a dendrogram is plotted for each factor, with branches colored as per factor level. If `facs` is NULL then the factors are taken from `pData(msnset)`.

**Value**

Invisibly returns the the value obtained from hclust.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**See Also**

[MSnSet](#), [hclust](#)

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
hc <- counts.hc(msnset)
str(hc)
```

---

counts.heatmap

*Heatmap of an spectral counts matrix.*

---

**Description**

Heatmap showing the clustering of proteins and samples in a matrix of spectral counts

**Usage**

```
counts.heatmap(msnset, etit=NULL, fac=NULL, to.pdf=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

msnset	A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.
etit	The root name of the pdf file names where the heatmaps are sent.
fac	A factor which is used for the column color bar.
to.pdf	A logical indicating whether the heatmaps are sent to a pdf file.

**Details**

A heatmap of the msnset expression matrix is plot. If to.pdf is TRUE two heatmaps are plot, the first is fitted on an A4 page, the second is plotted with 3mm by row, allocating enough height to make the rownames readable. If fac is not NULL then a column color bar will show the levels of the factor. If to.pdf is TRUE the heatmaps are sent to pdf files whose names are the concatenation of etit and "-HeatMap.pdf" and "-FullHeatMap.pdf", otherwise etit has no effect.

**Value**

No value is returned

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**See Also**[MSnSet](#), [heatmap](#) and [heatmap.2](#)**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
counts.heatmap(msnset, fac = pData(msnset)$treat)
```

counts.pca

*Principal components analysis of an spectral counts matrix.***Description**

A summary and different plots are given as a result of principal components analysis of an spectral counts matrix.

**Usage**

```
counts.pca(msnset, facs = NULL, do.plot = TRUE, snms = NULL, wait = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

msnset	A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.
do.plot	A logical indicating whether to plot the PCA PC1/PC2 map.
facs	NULL or a data frame with factors. See details below.
snms	Character vector with sample short names to be plotted. If NULL then 'Xnn' is plotted where 'nn' is the column number in the dataset.
wait	This function may draw different plots, one by given factor in facs. When in interactive mode the default is to wait for confirmation before proceeding to the next plot. When wait is FALSE and R in interactive mode, instructs not to wait for confirmation.

**Details**

The spectral counts matrix is decomposed by means of prcomp. If do.plot is TRUE, a plot is generated for each factor showing the PC1/PC2 samples map, with samples colored as per factor level. If facs is NULL then the factors are taken from pData(msnset).

**Value**

Invisibly returns a list with values:

pca	The return value obtained from prcomp.
pc.vars	The percentage of variability corresponding to each principal component.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**See Also**

[MSnSet](#), [prcomp](#)

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
lst <- counts.pca(msnset)
str(lst)
print(lst$pc.vars[,1:4])
```

---

disp.estimates	<i>Residual dispersion estimates</i>
----------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Estimates the residual dispersion of each row of a spectral counts matrix as the ratio residual variance to mean of mean values by level, for each factor in facs. Different plots are drawn to help in the interpretation of the results.

**Usage**

```
disp.estimates(msnset, facs=NULL, do.plot=TRUE, etit=NULL, to.pdf=FALSE, wait=TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

msnset	A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.
facs	A factor or a data frame with factors.
do.plot	A logical indicating whether to produce dispersion distribution plots.
etit	Root name of the pdf file where to send the plots.
to.pdf	A logical indicating whether a pdf file should be produced.
wait	This function draws different plots, two by given factor in facs. When in interactive mode and to.pdf FALSE, the default is to wait for confirmation before proceeding to the next plot. When wait is FALSE and R in interactive mode and to.pdf FALSE, instructs not to wait for confirmation.



## Details

Estimates the residual dispersion of each protein in the spectral counts matrix, for each factor in `facs`, and returns the quantiles at `c(0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9, 0.95, 0.99, 1)` of the distribution of dispersion values for each factor. If `facs` is `NULL` the factors are taken from `pData(msnset)`. If `do.plot` is `TRUE` this function produces a density plot of dispersion values, and the scatterplot of residual variance vs mean values, in `log10` scale. If `do.pdf` is `TRUE` `etit` provides the root name for the pdf file name, ending with `"-DispPlots.pdf"`. If `etit` is `NULL` a default value of `"MSMS"` is provided. A different set of plots is produced for each factor in `facs`.

## Value

Invisibly returns a matrix with the quantiles at `c(0.25, 0.5, 0.75, 0.9, 0.95, 0.99, 1)` of the residual dispersion estimates. Each row has the residual dispersion values attributable to each factor in `facs`.

## Author(s)

Josep Gregori

## Examples

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
disp.q <- disp.estimates(msnset)
disp.q
```

---

`filter.flags`

*Flag proteins with a minimum signal and/or sufficient dispersion.*

---

## Description

In general the spectral counts (SpC) matrix of a LC-MS/MS experiment is a sparse matrix, where most of the features have very low signal. Besides, the features with low variance to mean ratio (dispersion) will be scarcely informative in a biomarker discovery experiment. Given a minimum number of spectral counts and/or a fraction of the features to be excluded by low dispersion, this function returns a vector of logicals flagging all features with values above the given thresholds.

## Usage

```
filter.flags(data,minSpC=2,frac.out=0.4)
```

## Arguments

<code>data</code>	A SpC matrix with proteins in the rows and samples in the columns.
<code>minSpC</code>	All features with SpC below this threshold will be flagged as <code>FALSE</code> .
<code>frac.out</code>	The fraction of features to be excluded, with the lowest observed dispersion. These will be flagged as <code>FALSE</code> .

**Details**

The less informative features in a SpC matrix are flagged as FALSE. Those with high enough signal and dispersion are flagged as TRUE. This vector of logicals may be used to filter the SpC matrix which is used in plots where only the relevant information matters, and where the high number of 0 may distort the plot and difficult its interpretation.

**Value**

A vector of logical values.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
fraction <- 0.3
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
flags <- filter.flags(exprs(msnset),minSpC=2,frac.out=fraction)
cat("\nNumber of informative features:",sum(flags),"\\n")
```

---

gene.table	<i>Gene symbols associated to protein accessions</i>
------------	--

---

**Description**

Given a character vector with protein accessions, and a character vector with protein descriptions including gene symbols, returns a character vector with gene symbols whose names are the protein accessions. A character pattern should also be given to match the gene symbols.

**Usage**

```
gene.table(Accession, Protein, patt = "GN=[A-Z0-9_]*", off = 3)
```

**Arguments**

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| Accession | A character vector with protein accessions                                       |
| Protein   | A character vector of protein descriptions including gene name symbols.          |
| patt      | A character pattern to match the gene symbol within the protein description.     |
| off       | Offset from the first character in the pattern corresponding to the gene symbol. |

**Details**

NA is inserted where no match is found

**Value**

A character vector with gene symbols, whose names are the corresponding protein accessions.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**Examples**

```
data(pnms)
head(pnms)
gene.smb <- gene.table(pnms$Accession,pnms$Proteins)
head(gene.smb)
```

---

msms.dataset

*LC-MS/MS dataset*

---

**Description**

A MSnSet with a spectral counts matrix as expression and two factors in the phenoData.  
The spectral counts matrix has samples in the columns, and proteins in the rows.  
The factors give the treatment and batch conditions of each sample in the dataset.

**Usage**

```
data(msms.dataset)
```

**Format**

A MSnSet

**References**

Josep Gregori, Laura Villarreal, Olga Mendez, Alex Sanchez, Jose Baselga, Josep Villanueva, "Batch effects correction improves the sensitivity of significance tests in spectral counting-based comparative discovery proteomics." J Proteomics. 2012 Jul 16;75(13):3938-51. doi: 10.1016/j.jprot.2012.05.005. Epub 2012 May 12.

Laurent Gatto and Kathryn S. Lilley, MSnbase - an R/Bioconductor package for isobaric tagged mass spectrometry data visualization, processing and quantitation, Bioinformatics 28(2), 288-289 (2012).

**See Also**

See [MSnSet](#) for detail on the class, and the `exprs` and `pData` accessors.

### Examples

```
data(msms.dataset)
msms.dataset
dim(msms.dataset)
head(exprs(msms.dataset))
head(pData(msms.dataset))
table(pData(msms.dataset)$treat)
table(pData(msms.dataset)$batch)
table(pData(msms.dataset)$treat, pData(msms.dataset)$batch)
```

---

norm.counts

*Spectral counts matrix normalization*

---

### Description

An spectral counts matrix is normalized by means of a set of samples divisors.

### Usage

```
norm.counts(msnset, div)
```

### Arguments

msnset	A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.
div	A vector of divisors by sample

### Details

Each column in the data matrix is divided by the corresponding divisor to obtain the normalized matrix.

### Value

A MSnSet object with the normalized spectral counts.

### Author(s)

Josep Gregori

### See Also

The [MSnSet](#) class documentation and [normalize](#)

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
(tspc <- apply(exprs(msnset),2,sum))
div <- tspc/median(tspc)
e.norm <- norm.counts(msnset, div)
apply(exprs(e.norm),2,sum)
e.norm
```

pnms

*Accessions and gene symbols***Description**

A data frame with accessions in one column, and protein description including gene symbols in the second column.

**Usage**

```
data(pnms)
```

**Format**

A data frame with 1160 observations on the following 2 variables.

**Accession** a character vector with the protein accessions

**Proteins** a character vector with a description of each protein, including the gene symbol

**Examples**

```
data(pnms)
str(pnms)
head(pnms)
```

pp.msms.data

*Spectral counts matrix pre-processing***Description**

Given a MSnSet, possibly subsetting from a bigger dataset, removes the all zero rows, and those with row names (accessions) ending with '-R' in the corresponding expression matrix. NAs are replaced by zeroes, as usually a NA in a spectral counts matrix corresponds to a protein not identified in a sample.

**Usage**

```
pp.msms.data(msnset)
```

**Arguments**

msnset                    A MSnSet with spectral counts in the expression matrix.

**Details**

An '-R' protein corresponds to an artefactual identification.

Rows with all zeros are uninformative and may give rise to errors in the analysis.

A NA is understood as a unidentified protein in a sample.

**Value**

Returns an updated MSnSet object.

Its processingData slot shows that the object has been processed by pp.msms.data

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**See Also**

[MSnSet](#)

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
dim(msms.dataset)
msnset <- pp.msms.data(msms.dataset)
dim(msnset)
```

---

spc.barplots	<i>Set of SpC barplots by sample</i>
--------------	--------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Draws bars of height proportional to the sample size of each column in a SpC matrix. The sizes are scaled to the median of the total SpC by sample.

**Usage**

```
spc.barplots(msms.counts, fact=NULL, ...)
```

**Arguments**

msms.counts            A SpC matrix with proteins in the rows and samples in the columns.

fact                    NULL or a factor of length equal to the number of columns in the expression matrix. If provided the bars are colored by factor level.

...                    Extra parameters passed to the plot function.

**Details**

.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
spc.barplots(exprs(msms.dataset), fact=pData(msms.dataset)[,1],
             main="UPS1 200fm vs 600fm")
```

---

spc.boxplots

*Set of SpC boxplots by sample*


---

**Description**

Draws a boxplot for each column (sample) in a SpC matrix. The SpC are previously transformed by log2, with an offset of 0.1. If a factor is provided the boxplots are colored by factor level to better visualize the differences.

**Usage**

```
spc.boxplots(msms.counts, fact=NULL, minSpC=2, ...)
```

**Arguments**

msms.counts	A SpC matrix with proteins in the rows and samples in the columns.
minSpC	All matrix cells with values below this threshold are excluded.
fact	NULL or a factor of length equal to the number of columns in the expression matrix. If provided the boxplots are colored by factor level.
...	Extra parameters passed to the plot function.

**Details**

More informative plots are obtained when excluding the cells with values below 2, the default for minSpC.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
spc.boxplots(exprs(msms.dataset), fact=pData(msms.dataset)[,1],
             main="UPS1 200fm vs 600fm")
```

---

spc.densityplots	<i>SpC density plots of a SpC matrix</i>
------------------	--

---

## Description

Draws superposed density plots, one for each column (sample) in a SpC matrix. The SpC are previously transformed by log2, with an offset of 0.1. If a factor is provided the density curves are colored by factor level to better visualize the differences.

## Usage

```
spc.densityplots(msms.counts, fact=NULL, minSpC=2, ...)
```

## Arguments

msms.counts	A SpC matrix with proteins in the rows and samples in the columns.
minSpC	All matrix cells with values below this threshold are excluded.
fact	NULL or a factor of length equal to the number of columns in the expression matrix. If provided the density curves are colored by factor level.
...	Extra parameters passed to the plot function.

## Details

More informative plots are obtained when excluding the cells with values below 2, the default for minSpC.

## Author(s)

Josep Gregori

## Examples

```
data(msms.dataset)
spc.densityplots(exprs(msms.dataset), fact=pData(msms.dataset)[,1],
  main="UPS1 200fm vs 600fm")
```



---

spc.scatterplot	<i>Scatterplot of SpC means comparing two conditions</i>
-----------------	--

---

**Description**

Given a SpC matrix and a two levels factor, draws a scatterplot with SpC means of one condition in the x axis and SpC means of the second condition in the y axis.

**Usage**

```
spc.scatterplot(msms.counts, treat, trans="log2", minSpC=2, minLFC=1, ...)
```

**Arguments**

msms.counts	A SpC matrix with proteins in the rows and samples in the columns.
treat	A two level factor of length equal to the number of columns in the expression matrix. The two levels represent the conditions to be compared.
trans	The transformation made on the means before plotting. One among "log2", "sqrt", or "none". The default is "log2".
minSpC	Used as signal threshold.
minLFC	Used as size effect threshold.
...	Extra parameters passed to the plot function.

**Details**

The transformed means are plotted, one condition versus the other. The borders representing absolute log fold change 1 are drawn as dashed lines. All features with log fold change equal to or greather than minLFC and with mean SpC in the most abundant condition equal to or greather than minSpC are colored in red.

**Author(s)**

Josep Gregori

**Examples**

```
data(msms.dataset)
spc.scatterplot(exprs(msms.dataset), treat=pData(msms.dataset)[,1], trans="log2",
  minSpC=2, minLFC=1, main="UPS1 200fm vs 600fm")
```

# Index

- \* **array**
  - pp.msms.data, [13](#)
- \* **cluster**
  - msmsEDA-package, [2](#)
- \* **datasets**
  - msms.dataset, [11](#)
  - pnms, [13](#)
- \* **distribution**
  - disp.estimates, [8](#)
- \* **hplot**
  - counts.hc, [5](#)
  - counts.heatmap, [6](#)
  - counts.pca, [7](#)
  - disp.estimates, [8](#)
  - msmsEDA-package, [2](#)
- \* **manip**
  - batch.neutralize, [3](#)
  - filter.flags, [9](#)
  - gene.table, [10](#)
  - norm.counts, [12](#)
  - pp.msms.data, [13](#)
- \* **multivariate**
  - counts.hc, [5](#)
  - counts.heatmap, [6](#)
  - counts.pca, [7](#)
  - msmsEDA-package, [2](#)
- \* **package**
  - msmsEDA-package, [2](#)
- \* **plots**
  - spc.barplots, [14](#)
  - spc.boxplots, [15](#)
  - spc.densityplots, [16](#)
  - spc.scatterplot, [17](#)
- \* **univar**
  - count.stats, [4](#)

batch.neutralize, [3](#)

count.stats, [4](#)

counts.hc, [5](#)

counts.heatmap, [6](#)

counts.pca, [7](#)

disp.estimates, [8](#)

filter.flags, [9](#)

fivenum, [5](#)

gene.table, [10](#)

hclust, [6](#)

heatmap, [7](#)

heatmap.2, [7](#)

msms.dataset, [11](#)

msmsEDA (msmsEDA-package), [2](#)

msmsEDA-package, [2](#)

MSnSet, [4-8](#), [11](#), [12](#), [14](#)

norm.counts, [12](#)

normalize, [4](#), [12](#)

pnms, [13](#)

pp.msms.data, [13](#)

prcomp, [8](#)

spc.barplots, [14](#)

spc.boxplots, [15](#)

spc.densityplots, [16](#)

spc.scatterplot, [17](#)