

# Package ‘NanoTube’

April 27, 2024

**Type** Package

**Title** An Easy Pipeline for NanoString nCounter Data Analysis

**Version** 1.9.1

**Date** 2023-05-31

**Depends** R (>= 4.1), Biobase, ggplot2, limma

**Imports** fgsea, methods, reshape, stats, utils

**Suggests** grid, kableExtra, knitr, NanoStringDiff, pheatmap, plotly,  
rlang, rmarkdown, ruv, RUVSeq, shiny, testthat, xlsx

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Description** NanoTube includes functions for the processing, quality control, analysis, and visualization of NanoString nCounter data. Analysis functions include differential analysis and gene set analysis methods, as well as postprocessing steps to help understand the results. Additional functions are included to enable interoperability with other Bioconductor NanoString data analysis packages.

**License** GPL-3 + file LICENSE

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** false

**RoxygenNote** 7.2.1

**biocViews** Software, GeneExpression, DifferentialExpression,  
QualityControl

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

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** 4811751

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2023-11-16

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.19

**Date/Publication** 2024-04-26

**Author** Caleb Class [cre, aut] (<<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3130-3613>>),  
Caiden Lukan [ctb]

**Maintainer** Caleb Class <cclass@butler.edu>

## Contents

deVolcano . . . . .	2
ExamplePathways . . . . .	3
ExampleResults . . . . .	3
fgseaPostprocessing . . . . .	4
fgseaPostprocessingXLSX . . . . .	5
fgseaToLEdge . . . . .	6
gm_mean . . . . .	7
groupedGSEAtoStackedReport . . . . .	8
groupFGSEA . . . . .	9
limmaToFGSEA . . . . .	10
makeDiffExprFile . . . . .	11
makeFGSEAMasterTable . . . . .	12
makeNanoStringSetFromEset . . . . .	13
nanostringPCA . . . . .	14
NanoTube . . . . .	15
negativeQC . . . . .	15
normalize_housekeeping . . . . .	16
normalize_pos_controls . . . . .	17
nsdiffToFGSEA . . . . .	18
positiveQC . . . . .	19
processNanostringData . . . . .	20
read_cpdb_sourceDBs . . . . .	23
read_cpdb_tab . . . . .	24
read_merge_rcc . . . . .	24
read_rcc . . . . .	25
read_sampleData . . . . .	25
remove_background . . . . .	26
runLimmaAnalysis . . . . .	28
untar_dirs . . . . .	29
unzip_dirs . . . . .	30
<b>Index</b>	<b>31</b>

---

deVolcano

*Draw volcano plot of differential expression results*

---

### Description

Draw a volcano plot for results of a differential expression analysis by limma.

### Usage

```
deVolcano(limmaResults, plotContrast = NULL, y.var = c("p.value", "q.value"))
```

**Arguments**

limmaResults	Result from runLimmaAnalysis.
plotContrast	Contrast to select for volcano plot. Should be one of the columns in the limma coefficients matrix (for example, a sample group that was compared against the base group, or one of the contrasts in the design matrix). If NULL (default), will plot the first non-Intercept column from the limma coefficients matrix.
y.var	The variable to plot for the y axis, either "p.value" or "q.value" (the false discovery adjusted p-value)

**Value**

A volcano plot using ggplot2

**Examples**

```
data(ExampleResults) # Results from runLimmaAnalysis
deVolcano(ExampleResults, plotContrast = "Autoimmune.retinopathy")
```

---

ExamplePathways	<i>Example pathway database</i>
-----------------	---------------------------------

---

**Description**

A list object containing example gene sets from WikiPathways.

**Usage**

```
data(ExamplePathways)
```

**Format**

A list object with 30 vectors of gene symbols, for 30 pathways

---

ExampleResults	<i>Example results from runLimmaAnalysis</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Results of runLimmaAnalysis using the example data set GSE117751 (in extdata).

**Usage**

```
data(ExampleResults)
```

**Format**

An MArrayLM object from limma

---

fgseaPostprocessing    *Postprocessing for GSEA analyses*

---

### Description

Clusters GSEA results by leading edge genes, and writes reports showing gene expression profiles of these genes.

### Usage

```
fgseaPostprocessing(
  genesetResults,
  leadingEdge,
  limmaResults,
  join.threshold = 0.5,
  ngroups = NULL,
  dist.method = "binary",
  reportDir
)
```

### Arguments

<code>genesetResults</code>	Results from pathway analysis using <code>limmaToFGSEA</code> .
<code>leadingEdge</code>	Results from <code>fgseaToLEdge</code>
<code>limmaResults</code>	Results from <code>runLimmaAnalysis</code>
<code>join.threshold</code>	The threshold distance to join gene sets. Gene sets with a distance below this value will be joined to a single "cluster."
<code>ngroups</code>	The desired number of gene set groups. Either ' <code>join.threshold</code> ' or ' <code>ngroups</code> ' must be specified, ' <code>ngroups</code> ' takes priority if both are specified.
<code>dist.method</code>	Method for distance calculation (see options for <code>dist()</code> ). We recommend the ' <code>binary</code> ' (also known as Jaccard) distance.
<code>reportDir</code>	Directory for the GSEA reports (each comparison will be a separate txt file). Directory will be created if it does not exist.

### Value

A table of gene set analysis results, as well as reports showing differential expression of leading edge genes.

### Examples

```
data("ExamplePathways")
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways)
```

```
leadingEdge <- fgseaToLEdge(fgseaResults, cutoff.type = "padj", cutoff = 0.1)

fgseaPostprocessing(fgseaResults, leadingEdge,
                    limmaResults = ExampleResults,
                    join.threshold = 0.5,
                    reportDir = "GSEAResults")
```

---

fgseaPostprocessingXLSX

*Postprocessing for GSEA analyses for Excel*

---

## Description

Clusters GSEA results by leading edge genes, and writes reports showing gene expression profiles of these genes (to Excel).

## Usage

```
fgseaPostprocessingXLSX(
  genesetResults,
  leadingEdge,
  limmaResults,
  join.threshold = 0.5,
  ngroups = NULL,
  dist.method = "binary",
  filename
)
```

## Arguments

genesetResults	Results from pathway analysis using limmaToFGSEA.
leadingEdge	Results from fgseaToLEdge
limmaResults	Results from runLimmaAnalysis
join.threshold	The threshold distance to join gene sets. Gene sets with a distance below this value will be joined to a single "cluster."
ngroups	The desired number of gene set groups. Either 'join.threshold' or 'ngroups' must be specified, 'ngroups' takes priority if both are specified.
dist.method	Method for distance calculation (see options for dist()). We recommend the 'binary' (also known as Jaccard) distance.
filename	File name for the output Excel file.

## Value

An Excel file where the first sheet summarizes the gene set analysis results. Subsequent sheets are reports showing differential expression statistics of leading edge genes.

**Examples**

```

data("ExamplePathways")
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways)

leadingEdge <- fgseaToLEdge(fgseaResults, cutoff.type = "padj", cutoff = 0.1)

fgseaPostprocessingXLSX(fgseaResults, leadingEdge,
                        limmaResults = ExampleResults,
                        join.threshold = 0.5,
                        filename = "Results.xlsx")

```

---

fgseaToLEdge	<i>Generate leading edge matrix from fgsea results.</i>
--------------	---

---

**Description**

Extract leading edge genes from gene sets identified in fgsea analysis. Gene sets may be filtered by significance or NES.

**Usage**

```

fgseaToLEdge(
  fgsea.res,
  cutoff.type = c("padj", "pval", "NES", "none"),
  cutoff = 0.05,
  nes.abs.cutoff = TRUE
)

```

**Arguments**

fgsea.res	Result from limmaToFGSEA
cutoff.type	Filter gene sets by adjusted p-value ('padj'), nominal p-value ('pval'), normalized enrichment score ('NES'), or include all gene sets ('none')
cutoff	Numeric cutoff for filtering (not used if cutoff.type == "none")
nes.abs.cutoff	If cutoff.type == "NES", should we use extreme positive and negative values (TRUE), or only filter in the positive or negative direction (FALSE). If TRUE, will select gene sets with abs(NES) > cutoff. If FALSE, will select gene sets with NES > cutoff (if cutoff >= 0) or NES < cutoff (if cutoff < 0)

**Value**

a list containing the leading edge matrix for each comparison

**Examples**

```
data("ExamplePathways")
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways)

# Generate the leading edge for pathways with padj < 0.25
leadingEdge <- fgseaToLEdge(fgseaResults,
                           cutoff.type = "padj", cutoff = 0.25)

# Generate the leading edge for pathways with abs(NES) > 2
leadingEdge <- fgseaToLEdge(fgseaResults, cutoff.type = "NES",
                           cutoff = 2, nes.abs.cutoff = TRUE)
```

---

gm\_mean

*Calculate the geometric mean*

---

**Description**

Calculates the geometric mean of a numeric vector

**Usage**

```
gm_mean(x, na.rm = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

x	A numeric vector
na.rm	Logical (default TRUE). Should NA values be ignored in this calculation? If FALSE, a vector containing NA values will return a geometric mean of NA.

**Value**

The geometric mean

**Examples**

```
gm_mean(c(1, 3, 5))
```

---

groupedGSEAtoStackedReport

*Build a report from gene set enrichment results.*

---

### Description

After clustering FGSEA results by gene set similarity, this function builds a report containing the individual gene expression profiles for genes contained in each gene set cluster.

### Usage

```
groupedGSEAtoStackedReport(grouped.gsea, leadingEdge, de.fit, outputDir = NULL)
```

### Arguments

grouped.gsea	Output from groupFGSEA()
leadingEdge	Leading edge analysis results used in groupFGSEA()
de.fit	Differential Expression results from Limma or NanoStringDiff
outputDir	Directory for output files. If NULL (default), will return the stacked report instead of writing to a file.

### Value

A stacked report containing statistics and gene expression profiles for genes contained in each cluster

### Examples

```
data("ExamplePathways")
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways,
                             min.set = 5, rank.by = "t")
leadingEdge <- fgseaToLEdge(fgseaResults, cutoff.type = "padj", cutoff = 0.1)

fgseaGrouped <- groupFGSEA(fgseaResults$Autoimmune.retinopathy,
                           leadingEdge$Autoimmune.retinopathy,
                           join.threshold = 0.5,
                           dist.method = "binary")

results.AR <- groupedGSEAtoStackedReport(
  fgseaGrouped,
  leadingEdge = leadingEdge$Autoimmune.retinopathy,
  de.fit = ExampleResults)
```



groupFGSEA

*Cluster gene set analysis results***Description**

Groups the pathway analysis results (using limmaToFGSEA or nsdiffToFGSEA) based on the enriched gene sets' leading edges. If the calculated distance metric is lower than the given threshold (i.e. the gene sets have highly overlapping leading edge genes), these gene sets will be joined to a single gene set "cluster." Or if 'ngroups' is specified, gene sets will be clustered by similarity into that number of groups.

**Usage**

```
groupFGSEA(
  gsea.res,
  l.edge,
  join.threshold = NULL,
  ngroups = NULL,
  dist.method = "binary",
  returns = c("signif", "all")
)
```

**Arguments**

gsea.res	Results from pathway analysis for a single comparison, using limmaToFGSEA.
l.edge	Leading edge result from fgseaToLEdge.
join.threshold	The threshold distance to join gene sets. Gene sets with a distance below this value will be joined to a single "cluster."
ngroups	The desired number of gene set groups. Either 'join.threshold' or 'ngroups' must be specified, 'ngroups' takes priority if both are specified.
dist.method	Method for distance calculation (see options for dist()). We recommend the 'binary' (also known as Jaccard) distance.
returns	Either "signif" or "all". This argument defines whether only significantly enriched gene sets are included in the output table, or if the full results are included. Regardless of this selection, only significantly enriched gene sets are clustered.

**Value**

A data frame including the FGSEA results, plus two additional columns for the clustering results:

Cluster	The cluster that the gene set was assigned to. Gene sets in the same cluster have a distance below the join.threshold.
best	Whether the gene set is the most enriched (by p-value) in a given cluster.

## Examples

```

data("ExamplePathways")
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways,
                             min.set = 5, rank.by = "t")

leadingEdge <- fgseaToLEdge(fgseaResults, cutoff.type = "padj",
                           cutoff = 0.25)

# Group the results, and only returns those satisfying the cutoff specified
# in leadingEdge()
groupedResults <- groupFGSEA(fgseaResults$Autoimmune.retinopathy,
                             leadingEdge$Autoimmune.retinopathy,
                             join.threshold = 0.5,
                             returns = "signif")

```

---

limmaToFGSEA

*Run gene set enrichment analysis using DE results.*


---

## Description

Use the fgsea library to run gene set enrichment analysis from the Limma analysis results. Genes will be ranked by their log<sub>2</sub> fold changes or t-statistics (specified using 'rank.by').

## Usage

```

limmaToFGSEA(
  limmaResults,
  gene.sets,
  sourceDB = NULL,
  min.set = 1,
  rank.by = c("coefficients", "t"),
  skip.first = TRUE
)

```

## Arguments

limmaResults	Result from runLimmaAnalysis.
gene.sets	Gene set file name, in .rds (list), .gmt, or .tab format; or a list object containing the gene sets. Gene names must be in the same form as in the ranked.list.
sourceDB	Source database to include (only if using a .tab-format geneset.file from CPDB).
min.set	Number of genes required to conduct analysis on a given gene set (default = 1). If fewer than this number of genes from limmaResults are included in a gene set, that gene set will be skipped for this analysis.
rank.by	Rank genes by log <sub>2</sub> fold changes ('coefficients', default) or t-statistics ('t').
skip.first	Logical: Skip the first factor for gene set analysis? Frequently the first factor is the 'Intercept', which is generally uninteresting for GSEA (default TRUE).

**Details**

Limma returns matrices of coefficients and t statistics with columns for each column in the design matrix. This function will conduct a separate enrichment analysis on each column from the relevant matrix. Because the first column may be an "intercept" term, which is generally not relevant for enrichment analysis, the user may want to skip analysis for that term (using `skip.first = TRUE`, the default).

**Value**

A list containing data frames with the fgsea results for each comparison.

**Examples**

```
data("ExamplePathways")
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

# Use the default settings
fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways)

# Only include gene sets with at least 5 genes in the NanoString data set,
# and rank genes by their "t" statistics.
fgseaResults <- limmaToFGSEA(ExampleResults, gene.sets = ExamplePathways,
                             min.set = 5, rank.by = "t")
```

---

makeDiffExprFile	<i>Make differential expression results file.</i>
------------------	---

---

**Description**

Make a data frame or text file containing coefficients, p-, and q-values from Limma differential expression analysis. If `returns == "all"`, will also center the log-expression data on the median of base.group expression, and include the expression data in the output.

**Usage**

```
makeDiffExprFile(
  limmaResults,
  filename = NULL,
  returns = c("all", "stats"),
  skip.first = TRUE
)
```

**Arguments**

limmaResults	Result from runLimmaAnalysis
filename	The desired name for the output tab-delimited text file. If NULL (default) the resulting table will be returned as an R data frame.

returns If "all" (default), will center the log-expression data on median of base.group expression and include the expression data in the output. If "stats", will only include the differential expression statistics.

skip.first Logical: Skip the first factor for gene set analysis? Frequently the first factor is the 'Intercept', which is generally uninteresting for GSEA (default TRUE).

### Value

A table of differential expression results

### Examples

```
data("ExampleResults") # Results from runLimmaAnalysis

# Include expression data in the results table
deResults <- makeDiffExprFile(ExampleResults, returns = "all")

# Only include statistics, and save to a .txt file
makeDiffExprFile(ExampleResults, file = "DE.txt",
                 returns = "stats")
```

---

makeFGSEAMasterTable *Make master table of all GSEA results*

---

### Description

This function clusters GSEA results by leading edge similarity, and then combines to a data frame or text file.

### Usage

```
makeFGSEAMasterTable(
  genesetResults,
  leadingEdge,
  join.threshold = 0.5,
  ngroups = NULL,
  dist.method = "binary",
  filename = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

genesetResults Results from pathway analysis using limmaToFGSEA.

leadingEdge Results from fgseaToLEdge

join.threshold The threshold distance to join gene sets. Gene sets with a distance below this value will be joined to a single "cluster."

ngroups	The desired number of gene set groups. Either 'join.threshold' or 'ngroups' must be specified, 'ngroups' takes priority if both are specified.
dist.method	Method for distance calculation (see options for dist()). We recommend the 'binary' (also known as Jaccard) distance.
filename	File name for the output text file. If NULL (default), data will be returned as an R data frame.

**Value**

A table of GSEA results, clustered by similarity of leading edge.

---

```
makeNanoStringSetFromEset
```

*Convert NanoString ExpressionSet to NanoStringSet*

---

**Description**

Convert ExpressionSet from processNanoStringData to a NanoStringSet for use with the NanoStringDiff package.

**Usage**

```
makeNanoStringSetFromEset(eset, designs = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

eset	NanoString data ExpressionSet, from processNanostringData
designs	Design matrix. If NULL, will look for "groups" column in pData(eset).

**Value**

A NanoStringSet for NanoStringDiff

**Examples**

```
# Example data
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
package = "NanoTube")

# Load data without normalization
dat <- processNanostringData(nsFiles = example_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_data, groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
                             normalization = "none")

# Convert to NanoStringSet
dat.ns <- makeNanoStringSetFromEset(dat)
```

---

nanosttringPCA	<i>Plot PCA</i>
----------------	-----------------

---

**Description**

Conduct principal components analysis and plot the results, using either ggplot2 or plotly.

**Usage**

```
nanosttringPCA(
  ns,
  pc1 = 1,
  pc2 = 2,
  interactive.plot = FALSE,
  exclude.zeros = TRUE,
  codeclass.retain = "endogenous"
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>ns</code>	Processed NanoString data
<code>pc1</code>	Principal component to plot on x-axis (default 1)
<code>pc2</code>	Principal component to plot on y-axis (default 2)
<code>interactive.plot</code>	Plot using plotly? Default FALSE (in which case ggplot2 is used)
<code>exclude.zeros</code>	Exclude genes that are not detected in all samples (default TRUE)
<code>codeclass.retain</code>	The CodeClasses to retain for principal components analysis. Generally we're interested in endogenous genes, so we keep "endogenous" only by default. Others can be included by entering a character vector for this option. Alternatively, all targets can be retained by setting this option to ".".

**Value**

A list containing:

<code>pca</code>	The PCA object
<code>plt</code>	The PCA plot

**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
                           package = "NanoTube")

# Process and normalize data first
dat <- processNanosttringData(example_data,
```

```

        sampleTab = sample_data,
        groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
        normalization = "nSolver",
        bgType = "t.test", bgPVal = 0.01)

# Interactive PCA using plotly
nanostringPCA(dat, interactive.plot = TRUE)$plt

# Static plot using ggplot2, for the 3rd and 4th PC's.
nanostringPCA(dat, pc1 = 3, pc2 = 4, interactive.plot = FALSE)$plt

```

---

 NanoTube

*NanoTube*


---

### Description

A package for NanoString nCounter gene expression data processing, analysis, and visualization.

---

 negativeQC

*Calculate negative control statistics*


---

### Description

Provide a table the negative control statistics, and plot the counts of negative control genes in each sample.

### Usage

```
negativeQC(ns, interactive.plot = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

`ns` NanoString data, processed by ‘processNanostringData’ with output.format set to ‘list’ and ‘nSolver’ normalization.

`interactive.plot` Generate an interactive plot using plotly? Only recommended for fewer than 20 samples (default FALSE)

### Value

A list object containing:

`tab` The table of negative control statistics, including the mean & standard deviation of negative control genes, calculated background threshold, and number of endogenous genes below that threshold

`plt` An object containing the negative control plots.

## Examples

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
                           package = "NanoTube")

# Process and normalize data first
dat <- processNanostringData(example_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_data,
                             groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
                             normalization = "nSolver",
                             bgType = "threshold",
                             bgThreshold = 2, bgProportion = 0.5,
                             output.format = "list")

negQC <- negativeQC(dat, interactive.plot = FALSE)

# View negative QC table & plot
head(negQC$tab)
negQC$plt
```

---

normalize\_housekeeping

*Housekeeping gene normalization*

---

## Description

Scale endogenous and housekeeping genes by the geometric mean of housekeeping genes. This should be conducted after positive control normalization and background correction. This step is conducted within `processNanostringData`, when normalization is set to "nCounter".

## Usage

```
normalize_housekeeping(dat, genes = NULL, logfile = "")
```

## Arguments

<code>dat</code>	NanoString data, including expression matrix and gene dictionary.
<code>genes</code>	List of housekeeping genes to use for normalization. If NULL (default), will use all genes marked as "Housekeeping" in codeset.
<code>logfile</code>	Optional name of logfile to print messages, warnings or errors.

## Value

NanoString data, with expression matrix now normalized by housekeeping gene expression.



**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")

# Load data, positive control normalization, and background filtering
dat <- read_merge_rcc(list.files(example_data, full.names = TRUE))
dat <- normalize_pos_controls(dat)
dat <- remove_background(dat, mode = "t.test", pval = 0.05)

# Normalize by genes marked "Housekeeping" in RCC files
dat <- normalize_housekeeping(dat)

# Normalize by specified housekeeping genes (gene symbol or accession)
dat <- normalize_housekeeping(dat,
                              genes = c("TUBB", "TBP", "POLR2A", "GUSB", "SDHA"))
```

---

normalize\_pos\_controls

*Positive control gene normalization*

---

**Description**

Scale genes by the geometric mean of positive control genes. This step is conducted within processNanostringData, when normalization is set to "nCounter".

**Usage**

```
normalize_pos_controls(dat, logfile = "")
```

**Arguments**

dat	NanoString data, including expression matrix and gene dictionary.
logfile	Optional name of logfile to print messages, warnings or errors.

**Value**

NanoString data, with expression matrix now normalized by positive control gene expression.

**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")

dat <- read_merge_rcc(list.files(example_data, full.names = TRUE))

# Positive controls are identified in the RCC files, and used to
# normalize the data
dat <- normalize_pos_controls(dat)
```



```

#contrast: Autoimmune retinopathy vs. None

# FGSEA with example pathways, only for pathways with at least 5 genes
# analyzed in NanoString experiment
data("ExamplePathways")
fgseaResult <- nsdiffToFGSEA(result, gene.sets = ExamplePathways,
                             min.set = 5)

```

---

positiveQC

*Calculate positive control statistics*


---

### Description

Calculate the linearity and scale factors of positive control genes, and plot the expected vs. observed counts for each sample.

### Usage

```
positiveQC(ns, samples = NULL, expected = NULL)
```

### Arguments

ns	NanoString data, processed by 'processNanostringData' with normalization set to 'none' or with output.format set to 'list'.
samples	A subset of samples to analyze (either a vector of sample names, or column indexes). If NULL (default), will include all samples.
expected	The expected values of each positive control gene, as a numeric vector. These are frequently provided by NanoString in the 'Name' field of the genes, in which case those values will be read automatically and this option can be left as NULL (the default).

### Value

A list object containing:

tab	The table of positive control statistics, included the positive scale factor and the R-squared value for the expected vs. measured counts
plt	An object containing the positive control plots. This gets cumbersome if there are lots of samples.

**Examples**

```

example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_data <- system.file("extdata",
                           "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
                           package = "NanoTube")

# Process data first. Must be output as a "list" or without normalization to
# obtain positive control statistics
dat <- processNanostringData(example_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_data,
                             groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
                             normalization = "nSolver",
                             bgType = "t.test",
                             bgPVal = 0.01,
                             output.format = "list")

# Generate positive QC metrics for all samples
posQC <- positiveQC(dat)

# View positive QC table & plot
head(posQC$tab)
posQC$plt

# Plot for only the first three samples
posQC <- positiveQC(dat, samples = 1:3)
posQC$plt

```

---

processNanostringData *Process NanoString nCounter gene expression data.*

---

**Description**

This function reads in a zip file or folder containing multiple .rcc files (or a txt/csv file containing raw count data), and then optionally conducts positive control normalization, background correction, and housekeeping normalization.

**Usage**

```

processNanostringData(
  nsFiles,
  sampleTab = NULL,
  idCol = NULL,
  groupCol = NULL,
  replicateCol = NULL,
  normalization = c("nSolver", "RUVIII", "RUVg", "none"),
  bgType = c("threshold", "t.test", "none"),
  bgThreshold = 2,
  bgProportion = 0.5,

```

```

    bgPVal = 0.001,
    bgSubtract = FALSE,
    n.unwanted = NULL,
    RUVg.drop = 0,
    housekeeping = NULL,
    skip.housekeeping = FALSE,
    includeQC = FALSE,
    sampIds = NULL,
    output.format = c("ExpressionSet", "list"),
    logfile = ""
)

```

### Arguments

nsFiles	file path (or zip file) containing the .rcc files, or multiple directories in a character vector, or a single text/csv file containing the combined counts, or .rcc files in a character vector.
sampleTab	.txt (tab-delimited) or .csv (comma-delimited) file containing sample data table (optional, default NULL)
idCol	the column name of the sample identifiers in the sample table, which should correspond to the column names in the count table (default NULL: will assume the first column contains the sample identifiers)
groupCol	the column name of the group identifiers in the sample table.
replicateCol	the column name of the technical replicate identifiers (default NULL). Multiple replicates of the same sample will have the same value in this column. Replicates are used to improve normalization performance in the "RUVIII" method; otherwise they are averaged.
normalization	If "nSolver" (default), continues with background, positive control, and housekeeping control normalization steps to return a NanoStringSet of normalized data. If "RUVIII", runs RUV normalization using controls, housekeeping genes and technical replicates. If "RUVg", runs RUV normalization using housekeeping genes. If "none", returns a NanoStringSet with the raw counts, suitable for running NanoStringDiff.
bgType	(Only if normalization is not "none") Type of background correction to use: "threshold" sets a threshold for N standard deviations above the mean of negative controls. "t.test" conducts a one-sided t test for each gene against all negative controls. "none" to skip background removal
bgThreshold	If bgType=="threshold", number of sd's above the mean to set as threshold for background correction.
bgProportion	If bgType=="threshold", proportion of samples that a gene must be above threshold to be included in analysis.
bgPVal	If bgType=="t.test", p-value threshold to use for gene to be included in analysis.
bgSubtract	Should calculated background levels be subtracted from reported expressions? If TRUE, will subtract mean+numSD*sd of the negative controls from the endogenous genes, and then set negative values to zero (default FALSE)

<code>n.unwanted</code>	The number of unwanted factors to use (for RUVIII or RUVg normalization only). If NULL (default), the maximum possible value will be identified and used.
<code>RUVg.drop</code>	The number of singular values to drop for RUVg normalization (see <code>RUVSeq::RUVg</code> )
<code>housekeeping</code>	vector of genes (symbols or accession) to use for housekeeping correction (" <code>nCounter</code> " or " <code>RUVg</code> " normalization). If NULL, will use genes listed as "Housekeeping" under <code>CodeClass</code> .
<code>skip.housekeeping</code>	Skip housekeeping normalization? (default FALSE)
<code>includeQC</code>	Should we include the QC from the <code>.rcc</code> files? This can cause errors, particularly when reading in files from multiple experiments.
<code>sampIds</code>	a vector of sample identifiers, important if there are technical replicates. Currently, this function averages technical replicates. <code>sampIds</code> will be extracted from the <code>replicateCol</code> in the <code>sampleTab</code> , if provided.
<code>output.format</code>	If "list", will return the normalized (optional) and raw expression data, as well as various QC and relevant information tables. If "ExpressionSet" (default), will convert to an <code>n*p</code> <code>ExpressionSet</code> , with <code>n</code> rows representing genes and <code>p</code> columns representing samples. <code>ExpressionSet</code> objects are required for some steps, such as <code>runLimmaAnalysis</code> .
<code>logfile</code>	a filename for the logfile (optional). If blank, will print warnings to screen.

**Value**

An list or `ExpressionSet` containing the raw and/or normalized counts, dictionary, and sample info if provided

**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
                           package = "NanoTube")

# Process NanoString data from RCC files present in example_data folder.
# Use standard nCounter normalization, removing genes that do
# pass a t test against negative control genes with p < 0.05. Return the
# result as an "ExpressionSet".

dat <- processNanostringData(nsFiles = example_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_data,
                             groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
                             normalization = "nSolver",
                             bgType = "t.test", bgPVal = 0.01,
                             output.format = "ExpressionSet")

# Load NanoString data from a csv file (from NanoString's RCC Collector tool,
# for example). Skip normalization by setting 'normalization = "none"'.

csv_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_expression_matrix.csv",
                       package = "NanoTube")
```

```
dat <- processNanostringData(nsFile = csv_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_data,
                             idCol = "GEO_Accession",
                             groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
                             normalization = "none")

# Load NanoString data from RCC files, using a threshold background level for
# removing low-expressed genes. Also, specify which genes to use for
# housekeeping normalization. Save the result in "list" format (useful for
# some QC functions) instead of an "ExpressionSet".

dat <- processNanostringData(nsFiles = example_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_data,
                             groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis",
                             normalization = "nSolver",
                             bgType = "threshold",
                             bgThreshold = 2, bgProportion = 0.5,
                             housekeeping = c("TUBB", "TBP", "POLR2A",
                                                "GUSB", "SDHA"),
                             output.format = "list")
```

---

read\_cpdb\_sourceDBs     *Identify source databases from a .tab file*

---

## Description

Read in a .tab file from the Consensus Pathway Database (CPDB), and identify the source databases present.

## Usage

```
read_cpdb_sourceDBs(file)
```

## Arguments

file                    The filename

## Value

A table of the source databases, with the number of gene sets from each one.

---

read_cpdb_tab	<i>Read .tab file.</i>
---------------	------------------------

---

**Description**

Read in a .tab file from the Consensus Pathway Database (CPDB)

**Usage**

```
read_cpdb_tab(file, sourceDB = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

file	The filename
sourceDB	The source database to use. If NULL (default), retains gene sets from all source databases

**Value**

A list object, containing a character vector of genes for each gene set.

---

read_merge_rcc	<i>Merge multiple .rcc files</i>
----------------	----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Read in multiple .rcc files named in the fileList and merge the expression data. This step is conducted within processNanostringData.

**Usage**

```
read_merge_rcc(fileList, includeQC = FALSE, logfile = "")
```

**Arguments**

fileList	a character vector of .rcc file names
includeQC	include merged QC data (from the "Lane Attributes" part of file) in the output? Default FALSE
logfile	a filename for the logfile (optional). If blank, will print warnings to screen.

**Value**

A list object including:

exprs	The expression matrix
dict	The gene dictionary
qc	QC metrics included in the .rcc files, if includeQC == TRUE



**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
dat <- read_merge_rcc(list.files(example_data, full.names = TRUE))
```

---

read_rcc	<i>Read .rcc file</i>
----------	-----------------------

---

**Description**

This function reads in a single .rcc file and splits into expression, sample data, and qc components.

**Usage**

```
read_rcc(file)
```

**Arguments**

file	file name
------	-----------

**Value**

list containing expression data, sample attributes, and basic qc from the .rcc file.

**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
# First file only
single_file <- list.files(example_data, full.names = TRUE)[1]
single_dat <- read_rcc(single_file)
```

---

read_sampleData	<i>Read in a sample data table.</i>
-----------------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Read in a .txt or .csv file containing sample names, group identifiers, replicate identifiers, and any other sample data. Sample names must be in the first column and must correspond with sample names in the count data file(s).

**Usage**

```
read_sampleData(dat, file.name, idCol = NULL, groupCol, replicateCol = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

dat	expression data, read in by read_merge_rcc or read.delim
file.name	the path/name of the .txt or .csv file
idCol	the column name of the sample identifiers in the sample table, which should correspond to the column names in the count table (default NULL: will assume the first column contains the sample identifiers).
groupCol	the column name of the group identifiers.
replicateCol	the column name of the replicate identifiers (default NULL). Multiple replicates of the same sample will have the same value in this column.

**Value**

The list with the expression data, now combined with the sample information

**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_info <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
                           package = "NanoTube")

dat <- read_merge_rcc(list.files(example_data, full.names = TRUE))

# Merge expression data with sample info
dat <- read_sampleData(dat, file.name = sample_info,
                      groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis")
```

---

remove\_background      *Assess background expression*

---

**Description**

Compare endogenous gene expression data against negative control genes and remove data for genes that fail the comparison. This step is conducted within processNanostringData, when normalization is set to "nCounter".

**Usage**

```
remove_background(
  dat,
  mode = c("threshold", "t.test"),
  numSD,
  proportionReq,
  pval,
  subtract = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>dat</code>	Positive control-scaled NanoString data
<code>mode</code>	Either "threshold" (default) or "t.test". If "threshold", requires <code>proportionReq</code> of samples to have expression <code>numSD</code> standard deviations above the mean of negative control genes. If "t.test", each gene will be compared with all negative control genes in a one-sided two-sample t-test.
<code>numSD</code>	Number of standard deviations above mean of negative control genes to used as background threshold for each sample: $\text{mean}(\text{negative\_controls}) + \text{numSD} * \text{sd}(\text{negative\_controls})$ . Required if <code>mode == "threshold"</code> or <code>subtract == TRUE</code>
<code>proportionReq</code>	Required proportion of sample expressions exceeding the sample background threshold to include gene in further analysis. Required if <code>mode == "threshold"</code> or <code>subtract == TRUE</code>
<code>pval</code>	p-value (from one-sided t-test) threshold to declare gene expression above background expression level. Genes with p-values above this level are removed from further analysis. Required if <code>mode == "t.test"</code>
<code>subtract</code>	Should calculated background levels be subtracted from reported expressions? If TRUE, will subtract $\text{mean} + \text{numSD} * \text{sd}$ of the negative controls from the endogenous genes, and then set negative values to zero (default FALSE).

**Value**

NanoString data, with genes removed that fail the comparison test against negative control genes. Expression levels are updated for all genes if `subtract == TRUE`.

**Examples**

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")

# Load data and positive control normalization
dat <- read_merge_rcc(list.files(example_data, full.names = TRUE))
dat <- normalize_pos_controls(dat)

# Remove endogenous genes that fail to reject the null hypothesis
# in a one-sided t test against negative control genes with p < 0.05.
dat <- remove_background(dat, mode = "t.test", pval = 0.05)

# Remove endogenous genes where fewer than 25% of samples have an expression
# 2 standard deviations above the average negative control gene. Also,
# subtract this background level (mean + 2*sd) from endogenous genes.
dat <- remove_background(dat, mode = "threshold",
                        numSD = 2, proportionReq = 0.25, subtract = TRUE)
```

---

runLimmaAnalysis	<i>Conduct differential expression analysis</i>
------------------	---

---

### Description

Use Limma to conduct a simple differential expression analysis. All groups are compared against the base.group, and empirical Bayes method is used to identify significantly differentially expressed genes. Alternatively, a design matrix can be supplied, as explained in `limma::limmaUsersGuide()`

### Usage

```
runLimmaAnalysis(
  dat,
  groups = NULL,
  base.group = NULL,
  design = NULL,
  codeclass.retain = "endogenous",
  ...
)
```

### Arguments

<code>dat</code>	NanoString data ExpressionSet, from <code>processNanostringData</code>
<code>groups</code>	character vector, in same order as the samples in <code>dat</code> . NULL if already included in <code>'dat'</code>
<code>base.group</code>	the group against which other groups are compared (must be one of the levels in <code>'groups'</code> ). Will use the first group if NULL.
<code>design</code>	a design matrix for Limma analysis (default NULL, will do analysis based on provided <code>'group'</code> data)
<code>codeclass.retain</code>	The CodeClasses to retain for Limma analysis. Generally we're interested in endogenous genes, so we keep "endogenous" only by default. Others can be included by entering a character vector for this option (see <code>limmaResults3</code> example). Alternatively, all targets can be retained by setting this option to ".".
<code>...</code>	Optional arguments to be passed to <code>limma::lmFit</code>

### Value

The fit Limma object

### Examples

```
example_data <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_RAW", package = "NanoTube")
sample_info <- system.file("extdata", "GSE117751_sample_data.csv",
  package = "NanoTube")
```

```
dat <- processNanosttringData(nsFiles = example_data,
                             sampleTab = sample_info,
                             groupCol = "Sample_Diagnosis")

# Compare the two diseases against healthy controls ("None")
limmaResults <- runLimmaAnalysis(dat, base.group = "None")

# You can also supply a design matrix
# Generate fake batch labels
batch <- rep(c(0, 1), times = ncol(dat) / 2)

# Reorder groups ("None" first)
group <- factor(dat$groups, levels = c("None", "Autoimmune retinopathy",
                                       "Retinitis pigmentosa"))

# Design matrix including sample group and batch
design <- model.matrix(~group + batch)

# Analyze data
limmaResults2 <- runLimmaAnalysis(dat, design = design)

# Run Limma analysis including endogenous *and* housekeeping genes.
limmaResults3 <- runLimmaAnalysis(dat, design = design,
                                  codeclass.retain = c("endogenous", "housekeeping"))
```

---

untar\_dirs

*Untar*

---

### **Description**

Untars provided list of directories (analogous to unzip\_dirs)

### **Usage**

```
untar_dirs(fileDirs)
```

### **Arguments**

fileDirs          character list of tar files

### **Value**

Names of now-untarred directories

---

`unzip_dirs`*Unzip*

---

**Description**

Unzips provided list of directories

**Usage**

```
unzip_dirs(fileDirs)
```

**Arguments**

`fileDirs`      character list of zip files

**Value**

Names of now-unzipped directories

# Index

## \* datasets

ExamplePathways, [3](#)

ExampleResults, [3](#)

deVolcano, [2](#)

ExamplePathways, [3](#)

ExampleResults, [3](#)

fgseaPostprocessing, [4](#)

fgseaPostprocessingXLSX, [5](#)

fgseaToLEdge, [6](#)

gm\_mean, [7](#)

groupedGSEAtoStackedReport, [8](#)

groupFGSEA, [9](#)

limmaToFGSEA, [10](#)

makeDiffExprFile, [11](#)

makeFGSEAMasterTable, [12](#)

makeNanoStringSetFromEset, [13](#)

nanostringPCA, [14](#)

NanoTube, [15](#)

negativeQC, [15](#)

normalize\_housekeeping, [16](#)

normalize\_pos\_controls, [17](#)

nsdiffToFGSEA, [18](#)

positiveQC, [19](#)

processNanostringData, [20](#)

read\_cpdb\_sourceDBs, [23](#)

read\_cpdb\_tab, [24](#)

read\_merge\_rcc, [24](#)

read\_rcc, [25](#)

read\_sampleData, [25](#)

remove\_background, [26](#)

runLimmaAnalysis, [28](#)

untar\_dirs, [29](#)

unzip\_dirs, [30](#)