

# Package ‘flowTrans’

September 7, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** Parameter Optimization for Flow Cytometry Data Transformation

**Version** 1.61.0

**Date** 2010-04-21

**Author** Greg Finak <gfinak@fredhutch.org>, Juan Manuel-Perez  
<jperez@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo  
<rgottard@fredhutch.org>

**Maintainer** Greg Finak <gfinak@fredhutch.org>

**Description** Profile maximum likelihood estimation of parameters for  
flow cytometry data transformations.

**License** Artistic-2.0

**LazyLoad** yes

**Depends** R (>= 2.11.0), flowCore, flowViz, flowClust

**Imports** flowCore, methods, flowViz, stats, flowClust

**Collate** mclMultivArcSinh.R mclMultivBiexp.R mclMultivLinLog.R  
mclMultivBoxCox.R arcsinhTransformWrapper.R  
biexponentialTransformWrapper.R boxcoxTransform.R flowTrans.R  
linLog.R setMethods.R

**biocViews** ImmunoOncology, FlowCytometry

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

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** 92a1a6c

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

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.22

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

## Contents

|                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| flowTrans-package . . . . .       | 2 |
| extractParams . . . . .           | 3 |
| flowTrans . . . . .               | 4 |
| flowTrans-methods . . . . .       | 5 |
| flowTransResult-class . . . . .   | 5 |
| summary-methods . . . . .         | 6 |
| summary.flowTransResult . . . . . | 7 |

**Index****8**

flowTrans-package

*Parameter Optimization for Flow Cytometry Data Transformation***Description**

Maximum likelihood estimation of parameters for common flow cytometry data transformations.

**Details**

Package: flowTrans  
 Type: Package  
 Version: 0.6.0  
 Date: 2010-03-25  
 License: Artistic-2.0  
 LazyLoad: yes  
 biocViews: Bioinformatics, FlowCytometry  
 Depends: flowCore, methods  
 Imports: flowCore, methods, stats, flowViz, flowClust  
 Collate: logicleTransformWrapper.R mclMultivArcSinh.R mclMultivBiexp.R mclMultivLinLog.R mclMultivBoxCo  
 Packaged: 2010-03-25 16:49:03 UTC; finak  
 Built: R 2.10.0; ; 2009-11-30 16:49:05 UTC; unix

Index:

|           |                                                    |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|
| flowTrans | Optimizing transformations for flow cytometry data |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------|

**Author(s)**

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Juan Manuel-Perez <jperez@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

Maintainer: Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>

**References**

Finak G, Perez J M, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Transformations for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

**Examples**

```
#Load some data
data(GvHD)
#transform the first sample, forward and side scatter.
result<-flowTrans(GvHD[[1]], "mclMultivArcSinh", colnames(GvHD[[1]])[1:2], n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE);
plot(result$result);
summary(result);
```

---

extractParams*Extract the transformation parameters from a flowTransResult*

---

## Description

Extracts the transformation parameters from a `flowTransResult` object

## Usage

```
extractParams(x, dims = NULL)
```

## Arguments

|                   |                                                                                              |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>x</code>    | An object of type <code>flowTransResult</code> returned by a call to <code>flowTrans</code>  |
| <code>dims</code> | A character vector specifying the dimensions for which to extract transformation parameters. |

## Value

A list of length `length(dims)`. Each element contains a vector of parameters for transforming the particular dimension. The names of the list elements correspond to the names of the dimensions.

## Note

`flowTrans` estimates common transformation parameters.

## Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

## References

Finak G, Perez JM, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Data Transformation for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

## See Also

[summary](#), [flowTrans](#), [flowTransResult](#)

## Examples

```
m <- t(matrix(rnorm(10000),2))
colnames(m) <- c("A","B")
m <- flowFrame(m)
res <- flowTrans(m,"mclMultivBoxCox", c("A","B"), n2f=FALSE,
               parameters.only=FALSE)
summary(res)
extractParams(res)
```

**Description**

This is the principal function in the package. The function takes data, a transformation function name, dimension names, and optional preselection parameter as input, and runs the maximum likelihood optimization on the data, performs the transformation, and returns the transformed data together with a list of transformation parameters for each dimension. The optimization is set to maximize the likelihood of the parameters given the data, such that the transformed data is normally distributed. An optional parameter `n2f=[T,F]` allows an automated preselection of an approximately bivariate normal population via the `norm2Filter` function. The transformation parameters are then optimized for this preselected region, and finally applied globally to the entire range of data. The optional argument `parameters.only=[T,F]` specifies whether to return the parameters or the transformed data.

**Usage**

```
flowTrans(dat, fun, dims, n2f, parameters.only)
```

**Arguments**

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>dat</code>             | The data to be transformed, should be a <code>flowFrame</code> object.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <code>fun</code>             | A character string naming the transformation function to be applied. Can be one of: <code>mclMultivBiexp</code> , <code>mclMultivBoxCox</code> , <code>mclMultivArcSinh</code> , and <code>mclMultivLinLog</code> . The Multiv series of functions estimate common transformation parameters for all dimensions. |
| <code>dims</code>            | A character vector identifying the dimensions to be transformed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <code>n2f</code>             | An optional TRUE, FALSE value identifying whether the data should be pre-filtered with <code>norm2Filter</code> to select a region of the data for which to optimize the transformation. Default is FALSE.                                                                                                       |
| <code>parameters.only</code> | A logical specifying whether to return only the parameters, and not the transformed data. <code>mclMultivArcSinh a, b, c; c=0 mclMultivBiexp a, b, c, d, f, w; f=0 mclMultivBoxCox theta mclMultivLinLog theta</code>                                                                                            |

**Details**

The transformation functions are multivariate, common parameter transformations. The implementation utilizes a look up table to call optimization routines for the different transformations as well as optional `flowCore` and `flowClust` transformation implementations to optimize parameters and transform data from a single interface. Parameters are optimized such that the transformed data is multivariate-normal.

**Value**

if `parameters.only = FALSE` then:

`flowTransResult`

A `flowTransResult` object

If `parameters.only=TRUE` the returned value will be a vector of common transformation parameters: if `mclMultivArcSinh` is called, the returned vector will contain `a`, `b`, and `c=0`; if `mclMultivBiexp` is called, the returned vector will contain `a`, `b`, `c`, `d`, `w`; if `mclMultivBoxCox` is called, the returned vector will contain `theta`; if `mclMultivLinLog` is called, the returned vector will contain `theta`.

### Author(s)

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

### References

Finak G, Perez J M, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Transformations for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

### Examples

```
data(GvHD)
result <- flowTrans(GvHD[[1]], "mclMultivArcSinh",
  colnames(GvHD[[1]])[1:2], n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE)
par(mfrow=c(1,2))
contour(GvHD[[1]][,1:2], main="Untransformed FSC vs SSC")
contour(result$result[,1:2], main="Transformed FSC vs SSC")
summary(result)
```

---

|                   |                                                                                                             |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| flowTrans-methods | <i>S4 method for optimizing parameters of a flow transformation and optionally transforming a flowFrame</i> |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

---

### Description

Transforms a `flowFrame` and optimizes the parameters for the selected transformation.

### Methods

**dat = "flowFrame", fun = "character", dims = "character", n2f = "logical", parameters.only = "logical"**  
 Transforms the `flowFrame` using the function `fun` over the dimensions `dims`, with optional bivariate normal prefiltering. Parameters are optimized to make the transformed data multivariate normal depending on the selected transformation

---

|                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| flowTransResult-class | <i>Class "flowTransResult"</i> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|

---

### Description

Class that contains the results of a call to `flowTrans` on a `flowFrame`

### Objects from the Class

Objects can be created by calls of the form `new("flowTransResult", ...)`. The object contains three slots: the transformed `flowFrame`, a transform object from which the parameters can be extracted, and a `dims` slot containing a character vector of the dimensions that have been transformed.

**Slots**

**result:** Object of class "flowFrame". The transformed data.

**trans:** Object of class "transform". The transform applied to the flowFrame. Parameters can be extracted via `summary(trans)`.

**dims:** Object of class "character". The names of the dimensions that have been transformed.

**Methods**

**summary** signature(object = "flowTransResult"): Summarize the transformed data.

**Author(s)**

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>.

**References**

Finak G, Perez JM, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Data Transformation for Flow Cytometry.

**See Also**

[extractParams](#) [summary](#)

**Examples**

```
m <- t(matrix(rnorm(10000),2))
colnames(m) <- c("A", "B")
m <- flowFrame(m)
res <- flowTrans(m, "mclMultivBoxCox", c("A", "B"),
                 n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE)
summary(res)
extractParams(res)
```

---

summary-methods

*Summarize a flowTransResult object*


---

**Description**

Print a summary of the contents of a `flowTransResult` object.

**Methods**

**object = "flowTransResult"** Prints a summary of the `flowTransResult` object

---

`summary.flowTransResult`*Summarize a flowTransResult object*

---

**Description**

Print a summary of the contents of a `flowTransResult` object, including the type of transformation, the transformed data frame, and the transformed dimensions and transformation parameters.

**Usage**

```
summary.flowTransResult(object, ...)
```

**Arguments**

|                     |                                                                                        |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>object</code> | An object of <code>flowTransResult</code> returned by a call to <code>flowTrans</code> |
| <code>...</code>    | Additional parameters passed through.                                                  |

**Value**

No return value

**Author(s)**

Greg Finak <greg.finak@ircm.qc.ca>, Raphael Gottardo <raphael.gottardo@ircm.qc.ca>

**References**

Finak G, Perez JM, Weng A, Gottardo R. Optimizing Transformations for Flow Cytometry. (Submitted)

**See Also**

[extractParams](#), [flowTransResult](#)

**Examples**

```
m <- t(matrix(rnorm(10000),2))
colnames(m) <- c("A","B")
m <- flowFrame(m)
res <- flowTrans(m, "mclMultivBoxCox", c("A","B"),
                 n2f=FALSE, parameters.only=FALSE)
summary(res)
```

# Index

- \* **classes**
  - flowTransResult-class, [5](#)
- \* **manip**
  - extractParams, [3](#)
- \* **methods**
  - flowTrans-methods, [5](#)
  - summary-methods, [6](#)
- \* **misc**
  - summary.flowTransResult, [7](#)
- \* **models**
  - flowTrans, [4](#)
  - flowTrans-methods, [5](#)
  - flowTrans-package, [2](#)
- \* **optimize**
  - flowTrans, [4](#)
  - flowTrans-methods, [5](#)
  - flowTrans-package, [2](#)
- \* **package**
  - flowTrans-package, [2](#)

extractParams, [3](#), [6](#), [7](#)

flowTrans, [3](#), [4](#)

flowTrans, flowFrame, character, character, logical, logical-method  
(flowTrans-methods), [5](#)

flowTrans-methods, [5](#)

flowTrans-package, [2](#)

flowTransResult, [3](#), [7](#)

flowTransResult  
(flowTransResult-class), [5](#)

flowTransResult-class, [5](#)

summary, [3](#), [6](#)

summary (summary-methods), [6](#)

summary, flowTransResult-class  
(flowTransResult-class), [5](#)

summary, flowTransResult-method  
(summary-methods), [6](#)

summary-methods, [6](#)

summary.flowTransResult, [7](#)