

Package ‘ssize’

May 6, 2026

Title Estimate Microarray Sample Size

Version 1.87.0

Date 2012-06-07

Author Gregory R. Warnes, Peng Liu, and Fasheng Li

Description Functions for computing and displaying sample size information for gene expression arrays.

Maintainer Gregory R. Warnes <greg@random-technologies-llc.com>

Depends gdata, xtable

License LGPL

biocViews Microarray, DifferentialExpression

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/ssize>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 66383f1

git_last_commit_date 2026-04-28

Repository Bioconductor 3.24

Date/Publication 2026-05-05

Contents

exp.sd	1
pow	2
power.t.test.FDR	4
Index	7

exp.sd	<i>Example baseline variability for gene expression experiment</i>
--------	--

Description

Example baseline variability for gene expression experiment

Usage

```
data(exp.sd)
```

Format

Vector of 12,625 standard deviations of gene expression data normalized via the RMA method (ie on log2 scale) with names from Affymetrix probe set IDs.

Examples

```
data(exp.sd)

hist(exp.sd, prob=TRUE)
lines(density(exp.sd), col="red", lwd=2)
```

pow	<i>Compute and plot power, required sample-size, or detectible effect size for gene expression experiment</i>
-----	---

Description

Compute and plot power, required sample-size, or detectible effect size for gene expression experiment

Usage

```
pow(sd, n, delta, sig.level, alpha.correct = "Bonferonni")
power.plot(x, xlab = "Power", ylab = "Proportion of Genes with Power >= x",
           marks = c(0.7, 0.8, 0.9), ...)

ssize(sd, delta, sig.level, power, alpha.correct = "Bonferonni")
ssize.plot(x, xlab = "Sample Size (per group)",
           ylab = "Proportion of Genes Needing Sample Size <= n",
           marks = c(2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 20), ...)

delta(sd, n, power, sig.level, alpha.correct = "Bonferonni")
delta.plot(x, xlab = "Fold Change",
           ylab = "Proportion of Genes with Power >= 80% at Fold Change=delta",
           marks = c(1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 4, 6, 10), ...)
```

Arguments

sd	Vector of standard deviations for control samples, *on the log2 scale*
n	Number of observations (per group)
delta	Hypothetical True difference in expression, on the log2 scale.
sig.level	Significance level (Type I error probability)
power	Power
alpha.correct	Type of correction for multiple comparison. One of "Bonferonni" or "None".
x	Vector of powers generated by pow
xlab, ylab	x and y axis labels
marks	Powers at which percent of genes achieving the specified cutoff is annotated on the plot.
...	Additional graphical parameters

Details

The `pow` function computes power for each element of a gene expression experiment using an vector of estimated standard deviations. The power is computed separately for each gene, with an optional correction to the significance level for multiple comparison. The `power.plot` function generates a cumulative power plot illustrating the fraction and number of genes achieve a given power for the specified sample size, significance level, and delta.

Periods are printed for every 10 calculations so that the user can see that the computation is proceeding.

Value

`pow` returns a vector containing the power for each standard deviation.

Note

This code was intended to be used with data are on the \log_2 scale, in which case the delta can be set to becomes $\log_2(\text{fold-change})$.

Author(s)

Gregory R. Warnes <greg@warnes.net>

References

Warnes GR and Fasheng Li Warnes GR and Liu P, "Sample Size Selection for Microarray Experiments" submitted to *Biometrics*.

Warnes GR and Fasheng Li, "Sample Size Selection for Microarray based Gene Expression Studies," Talk, "2003 FDA/Industry Statistics Workshop: From Theory to Regulatory Acceptance", American Statistical Association, Bethesda, MD, Sept 18-19, 2003. <http://www.warnes.net/Research/PresentationFolder/SampleSize.pdf>

See Also

[ssize](#), [ssize.plot](#), [delta](#), [delta.plot](#)

Examples

```
library(gdata) # for nobs()

data(exp.sd)

# Histogram of the standard deviations

hist(exp.sd,n=20, col="cyan", border="blue", main="",
      xlab="Standard Deviation (for data on the log scale)")
dens <- density(exp.sd)
lines(dens$x, dens$y*par("usr")[4]/max(dens$y),col="red",lwd=2)

title("Histogram of Standard Deviations")

# 1) What is the power if using 6 patients 3 measurements assuming
#    Delta=1.0, Alpha=0.05 and Observed SDs?
#
```

```

n=6; fold.change=2.0; power=0.8; sig.level=0.05;
#
all.power <- pow(sd=exp.sd, n=n, delta=log2(fold.change),
                sig.level=sig.level)

power.plot(all.power, lwd=2, col="blue")
xmax <- par("usr")[2]-0.05; ymax <- par("usr")[4]-0.05
legend(x=xmax, y=ymax,
       legend= strsplit( paste("n=",n,"",
                                "fold change=",fold.change,"",
                                "alpha=", sig.level, "",
                                "# genes=", nobs(exp.sd), sep=''), ",")[[1]],
       xjust=1, yjust=1, cex=1.0)
title("Power to Detect 2-Fold Change")

# 2) What is necessary sample size for 80% power using 3 measurements/patient
# assuming Delta=1.0, Alpha=0.05 and Observed SDs?
#
all.size <- ssize(sd=exp.sd, delta=log2(fold.change),
                 sig.level=sig.level, power=power)
ssize.plot(all.size, lwd=2, col="magenta", xlim=c(1,20))
xmax <- par("usr")[2]-1; ymin <- par("usr")[3] + 0.05
legend(x=xmax, y=ymin,
       legend= strsplit( paste("fold change=",fold.change,"",
                                "alpha=", sig.level, "",
                                "power=",power,"",
                                "# genes=", nobs(exp.sd), sep=''), ",")[[1]],
       xjust=1, yjust=0, cex=1.0)
title("Sample Size to Detect 2-Fold Change")

# 3) What is necessary fold change to achieve 80% power using 3
# measurements/patient assuming n=6, Delta=1.0, Alpha=0.05 and Observed
# SDs?
#
all.delta <- delta(sd=exp.sd, power=power, n=n,
                  sig.level=sig.level)
delta.plot(all.delta, lwd=2, col="magenta", xlim=c(1,10))
xmax <- par("usr")[2]-1; ymin <- par("usr")[3] + 0.05
legend(x=xmax, y=ymin,
       legend= strsplit( paste("n=",n,"",
                                "alpha=", sig.level, "",
                                "power=",power,"",
                                "# genes=", nobs(exp.sd), sep=''), ",")[[1]],
       xjust=1, yjust=0, cex=1.0)
title("Fold Change to Achieve 80% Power")

```

power.t.test.FDR

Power calculations for one and two sample t tests using FDR correction

Description

Compute power of test, or determine parameters to obtain target power.

Usage

```
power.t.test.FDR(sd=1, n=NULL, delta=NULL,
                 FDR.level=0.05,
                 pi0,
                 power=NULL,
                 type=c("two.sample", "one.sample", "paired"),
                 alternative=c("two.sided", "one.sided") )
```

Arguments

sd	Standard deviation
n	Number of observations (per group)
delta	True difference in means
FDR.level	False Discovery Rate (expected ratio of false discoveries among all discoveries)
pi0	Proportion of true null hypotheses (fraction of tests that with no difference)
power	Power of test (1 minus Type II error probability)
type	Type of t test
alternative	One- or two-sided test

Details

Exactly one of the parameters `n`, `delta`, `power`, `sd`, and `FDR.level` must be passed as `NULL`, and that parameter is determined from the others. Notice that the last two have non-`NULL` defaults so `NULL` must be explicitly passed if you want to compute them.

Value

Object of class `"power.htest"`, a list of the arguments (including the computed one) augmented with method and note elements.

Note

`uniroot` is used to solve power equation for unknowns, so you may see errors from it, notably about inability to bracket the root when invalid arguments are given.

Author(s)

Peng Liu, based on `power.t.test` code by Peter Dalgaard, which in turn is based on previous work by Claus Ekstrøm

See Also

[t.test](#), [uniroot](#)

Examples

```
## Compute power given sd, n, delta, FDR & pi.0
power.t.test.FDR(sd=1, n=5, delta=2, FDR.level=0.05, pi0=0.95,
                 power=NULL, type="two.sample", alternative="two.sided")

## Compute power
power.t.test.FDR(n=20, delta=1, FDR=0.05, pi0=0.75)
```

```
power.t.test.FDR(n=29, delta=1, FDR=0.05, pi0=0.75)

## compute n
power.t.test.FDR(n=NULL, sd=1, power=.90, delta=1, FDR=0.05, pi0=0.975)
power.t.test.FDR(n=NULL, sd=1, power=.90, delta=1, FDR=0.05, pi0=0.975,
                 alt="one.sided")

## compute sd
power.t.test.FDR(sd=NULL, n=29, power=.90, delta=1, FDR=0.05, pi0=0.975)

## compute FDR level
power.t.test.FDR(sd=1, n=29, power=.90, delta=1, FDR=NULL, pi0=0.975)
```

Index

- * **datasets**

- exp.sd, 1

- * **design**

- pow, 2

- * **htest**

- pow, 2

- power.t.test.FDR, 4

delta, 3

delta (pow), 2

delta.plot, 3

exp.sd, 1

pow, 2

power.plot (pow), 2

power.t.test.FDR, 4

ssize, 3

ssize (pow), 2

ssize.plot, 3

t.test, 5

uniroot, 5