# MSnID Package for Handling MS/MS Identifications

## Vladislav A. Petyuk

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## 1 Introduction

The *MSnID* package is a convenience tool to manipulating MS/MS identifications in R/Bioconductor environment. The input file can be a flat text file with the results of MS/MS search in a table format or mzldentML files. The main S4 class for storing data is *MSnID*. A class for handling MS/MS filtering criteria is *MSnIDFilter*.

# 2 Case study

> library("MSnID")

## 2.1 Downloading example mzldentML files

As an example we will use datasets from C.elegans proteomics study describing the effect of daf-16 mutation on the protein abundances Depuydt et al. (2013, 2014). There will be 5 datasets corresponding to long-living glp-4; daf-2 strain and 5 datasets corresponding to the strain with compensatory mutation in daf-16 transcription factor that restores (shortens) life-span back to normal. Files available at PeptideAtlas repository PASS00308.

## 2.2 Setting up working directory

First, the MSnID object has to be initialized. The main argument is path to the working directory. This directory will be used for storing cached analysis results. Caching/memoisation mechanism is based on *R.cache*.

```
> library("MSnID")
> # start the project by providing work directory
> msnid <- MSnID(".")</pre>
```

Note, the anticipated/suggested columns in the peptide-to-spectrum matching results are:

Peptide, Accession, isDecoy, calculatedMassToCharge, experimentalMassToCharge, chargeState, spect

## 2.3 Reading MS/MS data

The main intended way to read MS/MS results is by parsing mzldentML files (\*.mzid or \*.mzid.gz extensions) using mzlD package facilities.

```
> mzids <- list.files(".", pattern=".mzid.gz")
> # in this case I read all *.mzid.gz files present in the current directory.
> msnid <- read_mzIDs(msnid, mzids)</pre>
```

Reading from mzIdentMLs ...

Alternative way is to pass MS/MS search results as peptide-to-spectra matches (PSMs) *data.frame*. Internally PSMs stored as *data.table* object.

```
> psms(msnid) <- yourPSMresults
```

## 2.4 Updating columns

Note, to have a fully functioning MSnID object, the following columns has to be present.

```
> MSnID:::.mustBeColumns
```

```
[1] "Peptide" "Accession" "isDecoy"
[4] "calculatedMassToCharge" "experimentalMassToCharge" "chargeState"
[7] "spectrumFile" "spectrumID"
```

Check what are the current column names of the MS/MS search results.

```
> names(msnid)
```

```
[1] "spectrumid"
                                   "acquisitionnum"
                                                                "passthreshold"
 [4] "rank"
                                  "calculatedmasstocharge"
                                                                "experimentalmasstocharge"
 [7] "chargestate"
                                  "ms-gf:denovoscore"
                                                                "ms-gf:evalue"
[10] "ms-gf:pepqvalue"
                                  "ms-gf:qvalue"
                                                                "ms-gf:rawscore"
[13] "ms-gf:specevalue"
                                  "assumeddissociationmethod" "isotopeerror"
[16] "pepseq"
                                  "modified"
                                                                "modification"
[19] "isdecoy"
                                  "post"
                                                                "pre"
[22] "end"
                                  "start"
                                                                "accession"
[25] "length"
                                                                "spectrumFile"
                                  "description"
[28] "databaseFile"
```

Trivial updates to some of the columns to make sure upper/lower letter cases are correct.

```
> msnid$Accession <- msnid$accession
```

- > msnid\$isDecoy <- msnid\$isdecoy</pre>
- $\verb|>msnid$calculatedMassToCharge| <-msnid$calculatedmasstocharge|$
- > msnid\$experimentalMassToCharge <- msnid\$experimentalmasstocharge
- > msnid\$chargeState <- msnid\$chargestate
- > msnid\$spectrumID <- msnid\$spectrumid

Creating "Peptide" column as peptide sequence with flanking amino acids (X.XXXX.X).

> msnid\$Peptide <- paste(msnid\$pre, msnid\$pepseq, msnid\$post, sep='.')

Removing the columns we don't need anymore.

```
> msnid$accession <- NULL
```

- > msnid\$pepseq <- NULL
- > msnid\$pre <- NULL
- > msnid\$post <- NULL
- > msnid\$isdecoy <- NULL
- > msnid\$spectrumid <- NULL
- > msnid\$experimentalmasstocharge <- NULL
- > msnid\$calculatedmasstocharge <- NULL
- > msnid\$chargestate <- NULL

## 2.5 Exploring the MSnID object

Printing the MSnID object returns some basic information such as

- Working directory.
- Number of spectrum files used to generate data.
- Number of peptide-to-spectrum matches and corresponding FDR.
- Number of unique peptide sequences and corresponding FDR.
- Number of unique proteins or amino acid sequence accessions and corresponding FDR.

False discovery rate or FDR is defined here as a ratio of hits to decoy accessions to the non-decoy accessions. In terms of forward and revese protein sequences that would mean ratio of #reverse/#forward. While computing FDRs of PSMs and unique peptide sequences is trivial, definition of protein (accession) FDR is a subject for discussion in the field of proteomics. Here, protein (accession) FDR is computed the same way as in IDPicker software? and simply constitutes a ratio of unque accessions from decoy component to non-decoy component of sequence database.

#### > show(msnid)

MSnID object

Working directory: "."

#Spectrum Files: 10

#PSMs: 190589 at 31 % FDR

#Peptides: 57662 at 75 % FDR

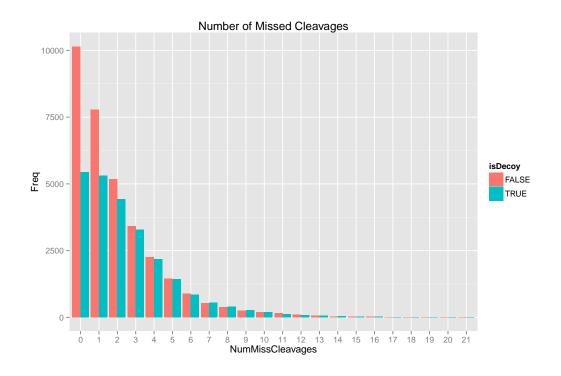
#Accessions: 28728 at 94 % FDR

## 2.6 Analysis of peptide sequences

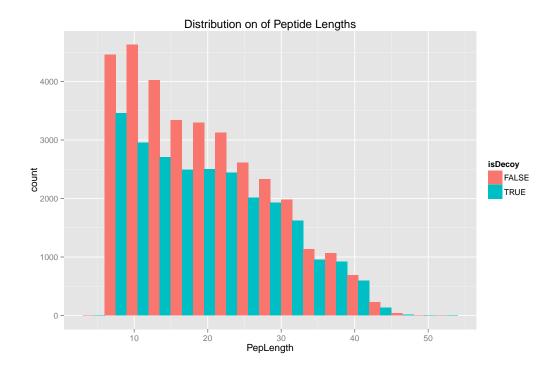
A particular properties of peptide sequences we are interested in are 1) irregular cleavages at the termini of the peptides and 2) missing cleavage site within the peptide sequences. The default regular expressions of valid and missed cleavage patterns correspond to trypsin.

```
> # creates new column NumIrregCleavages
> msnid <- assess_termini(msnid, validCleavagePattern="[RK]\\.[^P]")
> # creates new column NumMissCleavages
> msnid <- assess_missed_cleavages(msnid, missedCleavagePattern="[KR](?=[^P$])")</pre>
```

Now the object has two more columns, NumIrregCleavages and NumMissCleavages, evidently corresponding to the number of termini with irregular cleavages and number of missed cleavages within the peptide sequence.



Peptide sequences can by accessed by directly using \$ operator. For example:



## 2.7 Trimming the data

The main facility for trimming or filtering the data is apply\_filter function. The second argument can be either 1) a string representing expression that will be evaluated in the context of data.frame containing MS/MS results or 2) MSnFilter class object (explained below). Note, the reduction in FDR. True identifications tend to be fully tryptic and contain fewer missed cleavages. class object.

```
> # take a look at original FDRs
> show(msnid)

MSnID object
Working directory: "."
#Spectrum Files: 10
#PSMs: 190589 at 31 % FDR
```

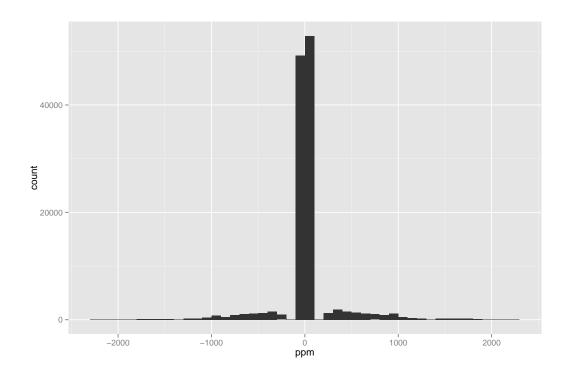
#Peptides: 57662 at 75 % FDR #Accessions: 28728 at 94 % FDR

```
> # Leave only fully tryptic.
> msnid <- apply_filter(msnid, "NumIrregCleavages == 0")</pre>
> show(msnid)
MSnID object
Working directory: "."
#Spectrum Files: 10
#PSMs: 150068 at 22 % FDR
#Peptides: 37081 at 66 % FDR
#Accessions: 22035 at 89 \% FDR
> # Retain peptides with at most 2 missed cleavages.
> msnid <- apply_filter(msnid, "NumMissCleavages <= 2")</pre>
> show(msnid)
MSnID object
Working directory: "."
#Spectrum Files: 10
#PSMs: 124163 at 14 % FDR
#Peptides: 24234 at 54 % FDR
#Accessions: 16641 at 84 % FDR
```

## 2.8 Parent ion mass measurement accuracy

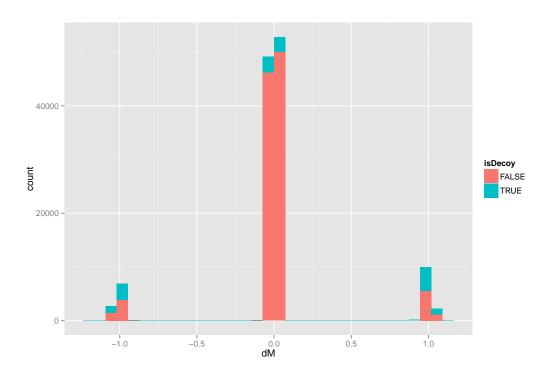
Assuming both calculatedMassToCharge and experimentalMassToCharge are present in names(msnid), one can access parent ion mass measurement in points per million (ppm) units.

```
> ppm <- mass_measurement_error(msnid)
> ggplot(as.data.frame(ppm), aes(x=ppm)) + geom_histogram(binwidth=100)
```



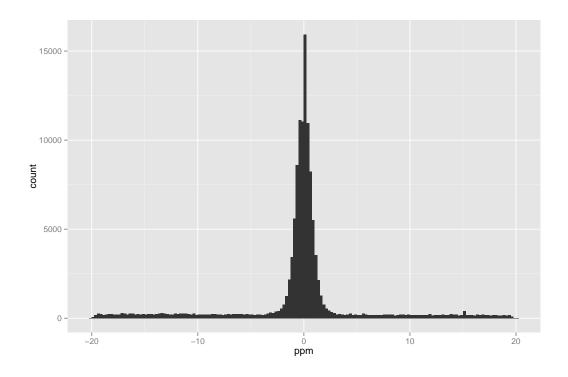
Note, although the MS/MS search was done with +/- 20ppm parent ion mass tolerance, error stretch over 1000 in ppm units. The reason is that setting of the MS/MS search engine MS-GF+ assumed imperfect peak picking for fragmentation and considered peptides that were +/- 1 Da ( $^{13}C^{-12}C$  to be exact) off.

- > dM <- with(psms(msnid), (experimentalMassToCharge-calculatedMassToCharge)\*chargeState)
- > x <- data.frame(dM, isDecoy=msnid\$isDecoy)</pre>
- > ggplot(x, aes(x=dM, fill=isDecoy)) + geom\_histogram(position='stack')



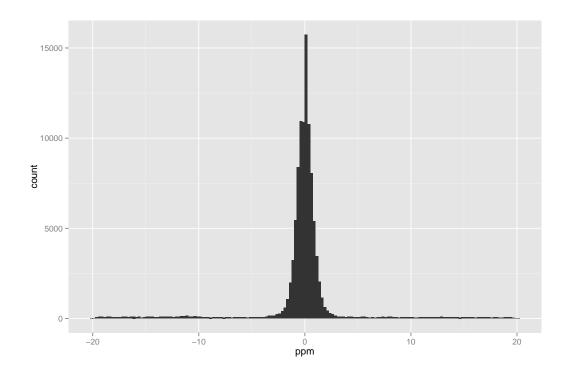
Selection and reporting of wrong monoisotopic masses can be corrected.

- > msnid.fixed <- correct\_peak\_selection(msnid)</pre>
- > ppm <- mass\_measurement\_error(msnid.fixed)</pre>
- > ggplot(as.data.frame(ppm), aes(x=ppm)) + geom\_histogram(binwidth=0.25)



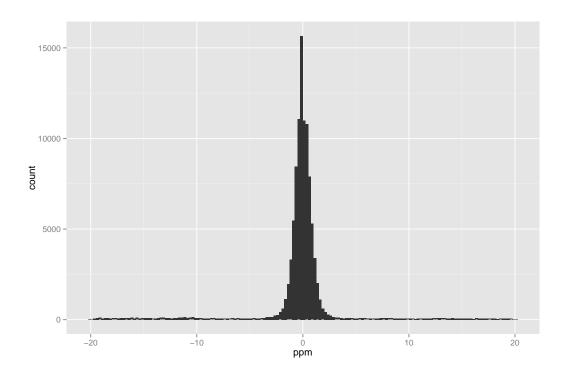
Alternatively, one can simply apply a filter to remove any matches that do not fit the  $\pm$  20 ppm tolerance.

- > msnid.chopped <- apply\_filter(msnid, "abs(mass\_measurement\_error(msnid)) < 20")
- > ppm <- mass\_measurement\_error(msnid.chopped)</pre>
- > ggplot(as.data.frame(ppm), aes(x=ppm)) + geom\_histogram(binwidth=0.25)



!NOTE! Make sure the text is correct. For further processing we'll consider msnid.chopped data that is adjusted for 1 Da errors in picking of wrong monoisotopic peak. Note, if the center of the histogram is significantly shifted from zero, experimentalMassToCharge can be recalibrated.

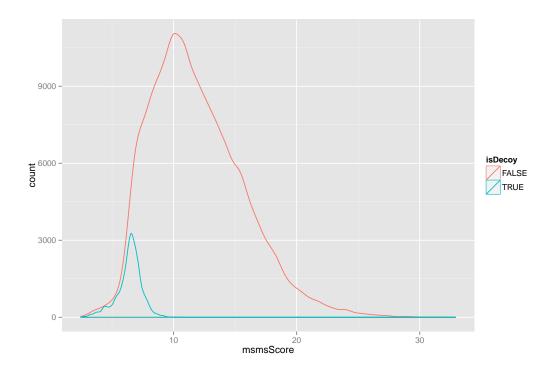
```
> msnid <- recalibrate(msnid.chopped)
> ppm <- mass_measurement_error(msnid)
> ggplot(as.data.frame(ppm), aes(x=ppm)) + geom_histogram(binwidth=0.25)
```



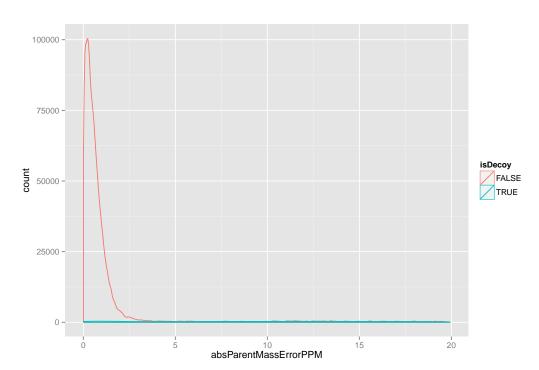
## 2.9 Defining and optimizing filters for MS/MS identifications

First, let's define criteria we are going to use for data filtration. First will be based on MS-GF+ Spectrum E-value, second will be absolute mass measurement error of the parent ion.

```
> msnid$msmsScore <- -log10(msnid$`ms-gf:specevalue`)
> params <- psms(msnid)[,c("msmsScore","isDecoy")]
> ggplot(params) + geom_density(aes(x = msmsScore, color = isDecoy, ...count..))
```



- > msnid\$absParentMassErrorPPM <- abs(mass\_measurement\_error(msnid))</pre>
- > params <- psms(msnid)[,c("absParentMassErrorPPM","isDecoy")]</pre>
- > ggplot(params) + geom\_density(aes(x = absParentMassErrorPPM, color = isDecoy, ...count..))



MS/MS fiters are handled by a special MSnIDFilter class objects. Individual filtering criteria can be set by name (that is present in names(msnid)), comparison operator (>, <, = , ...) defining what to retain, and a threshold value.

```
> filtObj <- MSnIDFilter(msnid)</pre>
> filtObj$absParentMassErrorPPM <- list(comparison="<", threshold=10.0)</pre>
> filtObj$msmsScore <- list(comparison=">", threshold=7.0)
> # print filter
> show(filtObj)
An object of calss "MSnIDFilter"
Filter as string:
(absParentMassErrorPPM < 10) & (msmsScore > 7)
> # evaluate filter
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filt0bj, level="PSM")
$fdr
[1] 0.009109768
$n
[1] 89504
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filtObj, level="Peptide")
$fdr
[1] 0.06567206
$n
[1] 7643
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filtObj, level="Accession")
$fdr
[1] 0.2468172
$n
[1] 3036
```

The threshold values in the example above are not necessarily optimal and set just be in the range of probable values. Filters can be optimized to ensure maximum number of identifications (peptide-to-spectrum matches, unique peptide sequences or proteins) within given FDR upper limit.

```
An object of calss "MSnIDFilter"
Filter as string:
(absParentMassErrorPPM < 3.5) & (msmsScore > 8)
> # (absParentMassErrorPPM < 2) & (msmsScore > 7.8)
>
> # Nelder-Mead optimization
> set.seed(0)
> system.time({
     filtObj.nm <- optimize_filter(filtObj.grid, msnid, fdr.max=0.01,
                             method="Nelder-Mead", level="Peptide", n.iter=500)})
  user system elapsed
  4.632 1.314 5.946
> show(filtObj.nm)
An object of calss "MSnIDFilter"
Filter as string:
(absParentMassErrorPPM < 3.6) & (msmsScore > 7.8)
> # (absParentMassErrorPPM < 3) & (msmsScore > 7.8)
> # simulated annealing optimization
> set.seed(0)
> system.time({
     filtObj.sann <- optimize_filter(filtObj.grid, msnid, fdr.max=0.01,</pre>
                                     method="SANN", level="Peptide", n.iter=500)})
   user system elapsed
43.192 15.261 58.452
> show(filtObj.sann)
An object of calss "MSnIDFilter"
Filter as string:
(absParentMassErrorPPM < 4) & (msmsScore > 7.8)
> # (absParentMassErrorPPM < 2.2) & (msmsScore > 7.6)
Let's check which filter turned out to be the best. The differece between the optimized filters is likely to be
very small.
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filtObj, level="Peptide")
$fdr
[1] 0.06567206
$n
[1] 7643
```

```
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filt0bj.grid, level="Peptide")
$fdr
[1] 0.007103394

$n
[1] 6380
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filt0bj.nm, level="Peptide")

$fdr
[1] 0.009967295

$n
[1] 6485
> evaluate_filter(msnid, filt0bj.sann, level="Peptide")

$fdr
[1] 0.009967295
$n
[1] 6485
```

We'll choose and apply filter produced by simulated annealing optimization procedure. Identifications that matched to decoy and contaminant protein sequences can be removed by providing filters in the forms of text strings that will be evaluated in the context of PSM table.

```
> # apply the optimized filter
> msnid <- apply_filter(msnid, filtObj.sann)</pre>
> show(msnid)
MSnID object
Working directory: "."
#Spectrum Files: 10
#PSMs: 82954 at 0.13 % FDR
#Peptides: 6485 at 1 % FDR
#Accessions: 1988 at 4.5 % FDR
> # let's remove reverse/decoy and Contaminants
> msnid <- apply_filter(msnid, "!isDecoy")</pre>
> show(msnid)
MSnID object
Working directory: "."
#Spectrum Files: 10
#PSMs: 82844 at 0 % FDR
#Peptides: 6421 at 0 % FDR
#Accessions: 1903 at 0 % FDR
```

```
> msnid <- apply_filter(msnid, "!grepl('Contaminant',Accession)")
> show(msnid)

MSnID object
Working directory: "."
#Spectrum Files: 10
#PSMs: 82747 at 0 % FDR
#Peptides: 6409 at 0 % FDR
#Accessions: 1897 at 0 % FDR
```

## 2.10 Downstream quantitative analysis

The *MSnID* package is aimed at providing convenience functionality to handle MS/MS identifications. Quantitation *per se* is outside of the scope of the package. The only type of quantitation that can be seamlessly blended with MS/MS identification analysis is so-called *spectral counting* approah. In such an approach a peptide abundance is considered to be directly proportional to the number of matched MS/MS spectra. In its turn protein abunance is proportional to the sum of the number of spectra of the matching peptides. The *MSnID* object can be converted to *MSnSet* object form *MSnbase* that extends generic Bioconductor *eSet* to quantitative proteomics data.

```
quantitative proteomics data.
> msnset <- as(msnid, "MSnSet")</pre>
> # Note, feature data is peptide-centric. Peptide to protein assigments
> # stored in feature data.
> head(fData(msnset))
                                                                       Peptide
-. APGASAPAASR.S
                                                               -. APGASAPAASR.S
-. APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGK.I
                                                   -. APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGK.I
-. APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGKIDGTQVGDVAR.A \\ -. APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGKIDGTQVGDVAR.A
-. APPTFADLGK.S
                                                               -. APPTFADLGK.S
-. GFQNLWFSHPR.K
                                                              -.GFQNLWFSHPR.K
-.GIDINHKHDR.V
                                                                -.GIDINHKHDR.V
                                               Accession
-. APGASAPAASR.S
                                                 CE25901
-. APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGK.I
                                       CE30652, CE01236
-. APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGKIDGTQVGDVAR. A CE30652, CE01236
-. APPTFADLGK.S
                                                 CE29443
-. GFQNLWFSHPR.K
                                                 CE26849
-.GIDINHKHDR.V
                                                 CE16650
> # Note, sample names in msnset are based on file names that were used as input
> # MS/MS search engine. Let's trim the file names to make them compatible with
> # dataset names.
> head(sampleNames(msnset))
[1] "c_elegans_A_3_1_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-04_dta.txt"
[2] "c_elegans_A_3_3_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-04_dta.txt"
[3] "c_elegans_B_2_1_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-05_dta.txt"
[4] "c_elegans_B_2_3_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-05_dta.txt"
[5] "c_elegans_C_1_1_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-06_dta.txt"
[6] "c_elegans_C_1_3_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-06_dta.txt"
```

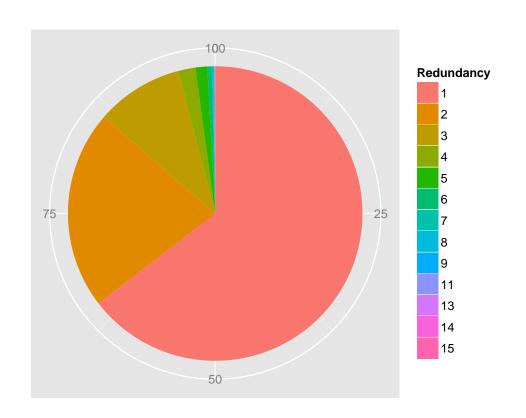
#### > head(meta)

```
PNNL.Dataset.Name Letter.Replicate Number.Replicate Diet
1 c_elegans_A_3_1_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-04
                                                                                ff
3 c_elegans_A_3_3_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-04
                                                                            1
                                                                                ff
9 c_elegans_B_2_1_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-05
                                                          В
                                                                            2
                                                                                ff
11 c_elegans_B_2_3_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-05
                                                          В
                                                                            2
                                                                                ff
17 c_elegans_C_1_1_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-06
                                                          С
                                                                            3
                                                                                ff
19 c_elegans_C_1_3_21Apr10_Draco_10-03-06
                                                          C
                                                                                ff
   Daf.16.type Age Submitted.Dataset.Name
1
           mut young
                                Y-ctrl-FF.1
3
            wt young
                                Y-daf2-FF.1
9
           mut young
                                Y-ctrl-FF.2
            wt young
                                Y-daf2-FF.2
11
17
           mut young
                                Y-ctrl-FF.3
19
            wt young
                                Y-daf2-FF.3
> # Update sample names.
> # Retain only dataset name portion from spectrum file names,
> # that were used as sample names
> sampleNames(msnset) <- sub("(.*)_dta\\.txt","\\1",sampleNames(msnset))</pre>
> show(msnset)
MSnSet (storageMode: lockedEnvironment)
assayData: 6409 features, 10 samples
  element names: exprs
protocolData: none
phenoData: none
featureData
  featureNames: -.APGASAPAASR.S -.APPSQDVLKEIFNLYDEELDGK.I ... R.YYYDHSKK.H
    (6409 total)
  fvarLabels: Peptide Accession
  fvarMetadata: labelDescription
experimentData: use 'experimentData(object)'
Annotation:
- - - Processing information - - -
MSnbase version: 1.11.9
> # prepare pheno data
> rownames(meta) <- meta$PNNL.Dataset.Name
> meta <- meta[,c("Letter.Replicate","Daf.16.type")]</pre>
> pData(msnset) <- meta[sampleNames(msnset),]</pre>
> validObject(msnset)
```

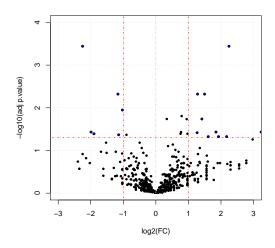
#### [1] TRUE

Currently the features in the *MSnSet* object are peptides. However, we plan to quantify differences at level of relative protein abundances. Peptides can be rolled-up to protein level using combineFeatures function from *MSnbase*. Ambiguity in peptide-to-protein assignment is handled by redundancy.handler argument. It can allow ambiguity of peptide assignment to *multiple* proteins or *unique* mapping only by discarding peptide mapping two or more proteins.

#### [1] 6409



For statistical testing we will leverage functionality available in *msmsTests*. Here we are comparing the difference between *glp-4*; *daf-2* long-living strain with a strain that bears compensatory mutation within *daf-16* transcription factor. For statistical testing of the count data we will use quasi-Poisson model msms.glm.qlll.



# References

Geert Depuydt, Fang Xie, Vladislav A. Petyuk, Nilesh Shanmugam, Arne Smolders, Ineke Dhondt, Heather M. Brewer, David G Camp, 2nd, Richard D. Smith, and Bart P. Braeckman. Reduced insulin/insulin-like growth factor-1 signaling and dietary restriction inhibit translation but preserve muscle mass in caenorhabditis elegans. *Mol Cell Proteomics*, 12(12):3624–3639, Dec 2013. doi: 10.1074/mcp.M113.027383. URL http://dx.doi.org/10.1074/mcp.M113.027383.

Geert Depuydt, Fang Xie, Vladislav A. Petyuk, Arne Smolders, Heather M. Brewer, David G Camp, 2nd, Richard D. Smith, and Bart P. Braeckman. Lc-ms proteomics analysis of the insulin/igf-1-deficient caenorhabditis elegans daf-2(e1370) mutant reveals extensive restructuring of intermediary metabolism. *J Proteome Res*, Mar 2014. doi: 10.1021/pr401081b. URL http://dx.doi.org/10.1021/pr401081b.