# 01: Quality Control and Aggregation to Proteins

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### 1. Introduction

This is a large experiment by Veronica testing the effects of Insulin deprivation and stimulation on MCF10A "normal" breast cells that are highly dependent on insulin for their growth. The experimental set up is shown below. As you can see, there are 5 replicates for each conditions. Set1 and Set 2 have been analysed in two 10-plex TMT experiments on the mass spectrometer. Here, we would like to assess the differences in RNA-binding proteins, if any, in (1) Insulin-starved and (2) Insulin-stimulated cells relative to their controls.

In the following lines of code, we will:

- 1. Look the raw data
- 2. Filter data to remove those mapping to multiple proteins
- 3. Aggregate the data into protein-level quantification
- 4. Filter the data to remove contaminants
- 5. Normalise the data (if needed)
- 6. Perform QC checks
- 7. Look for differentially expressed RBPs across conditions
- 8. Look for GO term enrichment in the differential RBPs

We start by installing and loading the libraries required for our analysis. Make sure you have downloaded the GitHub repository https://github.com/TomSmithCGAT/CamProt\_R locally. Also make sure you are in the directory that contains the Rmd notebooks prior to running this code, otherwise program will not run. Raw data is in the folder "../raw", plots will be printed out to the folder "../plots" and results in the form of tables will be printed out to the folder "../results". Large annotation files necessary for GO term enrichment are in the folder "../shared\_files".

```
# Libraries needed for analysis
suppressMessages(library(MSnbase))
suppressMessages(library(dplyr))
suppressMessages(library(gridExtra))

# source file that contains useful functions for
# analysis
source("../../CamProt_R/Utility.R", chdir = TRUE)

# Source file that contains a list of glycoproteins
# that have been identified in previous OOPS
```

## **Experimental design**

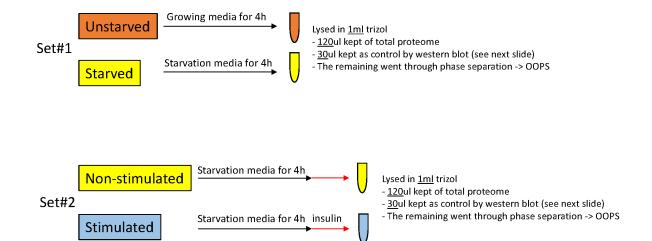


Figure 1: Experimental setup for MCF10A cells stimulated by/starved of Insulin

## 2. Read in the peptide-level quantification

What we obtain following a mass spectrometer run is peptide-level quantification from Proteome Discoverer (PD). Here we perform some Quality Control checks before aggregating data to protein-level quantification.

As discussed before, there are 2 sets of experiments that need to be analysed:

- a. Non-Insulin Stimulated (4hr-Starved) vs Insulin Stimulated (30min.Insulin) MCF10A cells
- b. Unstarved vs Starved (4hr-Starved) MCF10A cells

The function 'parse\_features' reads in a peptide-level data file and processes it remove any contaminants, peptides missing a protein assignment and those that are missing quantification values (details in 'Utility.R').

```
assign(paste(suff[f], "df", sep = "_"), r$df)
    assign(paste(suff[f], "df_noglyc", sep = "_"),
        r$df_noglyc)
## [1] "RBP NI"
## Tally of features at each stage:
## 13492
           All features
## These features are associated with 1685 master proteins
## 12823
           Excluding features without a master protein
## These features are associated with 1684 master proteins
           Excluding features without a unique master protein
## 11591
## These features are associated with 1493 master proteins
## 11559
           Excluding features matching a cRAP protein
## These features are associated with 1487 master proteins
## Identified an additional O proteins as 'cRAP associated'
## 10302
           Excluding glycoproteins
##
## These peptides are associated with 1325 master proteins
## [1] "RBP_US"
## Tally of features at each stage:
## 9910 All features
## These features are associated with 1291 master proteins
## 9313 Excluding features without a master protein
## These features are associated with 1290 master proteins
## 8219 Excluding features without a unique master protein
## These features are associated with 1127 master proteins
## 8187 Excluding features matching a cRAP protein
## These features are associated with 1118 master proteins
## Identified an additional O proteins as 'cRAP associated'
## 6729 Excluding glycoproteins
##
## These peptides are associated with 917 master proteins
## [1] "TOTAL NI"
## Tally of features at each stage:
## 24929
            All features
## These features are associated with 3263 master proteins
            Excluding features without a master protein
## These features are associated with 3262 master proteins
## 21934
            Excluding features without a unique master protein
## These features are associated with 2909 master proteins
            Excluding features matching a cRAP protein
## These features are associated with 2905 master proteins
## Identified an additional O proteins as 'cRAP associated'
## 20456
            Excluding glycoproteins
##
## These peptides are associated with 2713 master proteins
## [1] "TOTAL_US"
## Tally of features at each stage:
## 21898
            All features
## These features are associated with 3201 master proteins
            Excluding features without a master protein
## 20709
## These features are associated with 3200 master proteins
            Excluding features without a unique master protein
## 19348
```

```
## These features are associated with 2879 master proteins
## 19328
           Excluding features matching a cRAP protein
## These features are associated with 2875 master proteins
## Identified an additional O proteins as 'cRAP associated'
           Excluding glycoproteins
##
## These peptides are associated with 2689 master proteins
# List objects that have been created
grep("df", ls(), value = T)
## [1] "rbp_ni_df"
                            "rbp_ni_df_noglyc"
                                                 "rbp us df"
                            "total_ni_df"
## [4] "rbp_us_df_noglyc"
                                                  "total_ni_df_noglyc"
## [7] "total_us_df"
                            "total_us_df_noglyc"
# Summarise the number of RBPs and Total proteins
# in each set of experiments
# 1. Non-insulin (4hr-Starved) vs Insulin
# Stimulated (30min-Insulin)
assess_rbp_tot_overlap(rbp_ni_df, total_ni_df, "N-vs-I")
## [1] "RBP master proteins also in total N-vs-I = 1173"
## [1] "RBP master proteins NOT in total N-vs-I = 314"
## [1] "Percentage RBP master proteins in total N-vs-I = 78.88 %"
# 2. Unstarved vs Starved (4hr-Starved)
assess_rbp_tot_overlap(rbp_us_df, total_us_df, "U-vs-S")
## [1] "RBP master proteins also in total U-vs-S = 783"
## [1] "RBP master proteins NOT in total U-vs-S = 335"
## [1] "Percentage RBP master proteins in total U-vs-S = 70.04 %"
```

In the Non-Stimulated vs Insulin Stimulated experiments, nearly 80% of RBPs are also in the total samples. In the Unstarved vs Starved experiments, only about 70% of RBPs are also in the total samples. For most of the RBPs we will also have information regarding the changes in the total abundance for the protein, regardless of the abundance of the RNA-bound fraction. However, for 20-30% of them, we won't.

## 3. Creating and working with MSnSets

First we create the dataframes to make an MSnSet object. It is based on a microarray eSet or ExpressionSet where the object contains slots with information and during data processing, the functions that work with MSnSets handle data within these slots as they expect very specific data types. The MSnSet has 3 main slots. a. exprs: Contains a dataframe of protein abundance values with samples in columns and proteins/peptides in rows

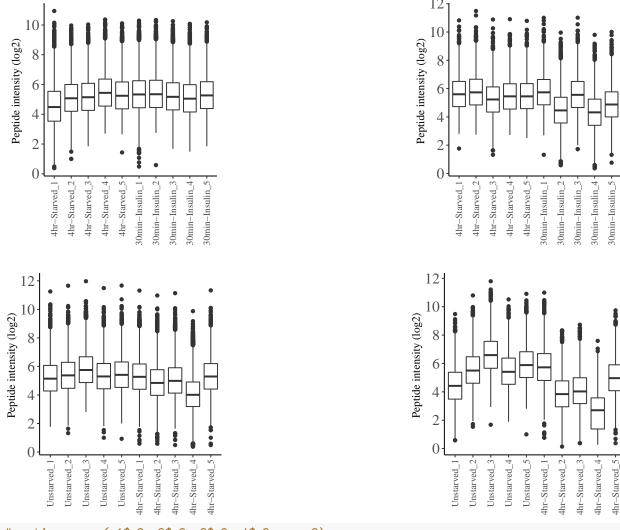
b. fData: (feature Data)Contains annotation information about each of the proteins/peptides in the exprs dataframe. Can also include abundance information c. pData: (phenotype Data) Contains annotation information about each sample in the exprs dataframe. Condition, replicate number, treatment type are all valid pieces of information.

```
# Read in experimental set-up data
samples_ni_inf <- "../raw/samples_ni.tsv"
samples_us_inf <- "../raw/samples_us.tsv"

total_ni_res <- makeMSNSet(total_ni_df, samples_ni_inf)</pre>
```

## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values

```
##
             1
                  10
## 17404
            14 4478
##
## 4478 peptides do not have any quantification values
rbp_ni_res <- makeMSNSet(rbp_ni_df, samples_ni_inf)</pre>
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
           1
               10
      0
## 8701
          27 2831
## 2831 peptides do not have any quantification values
total_us_res <- makeMSNSet(total_us_df, samples_us_inf)</pre>
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
                    2
                          4
                               10
##
             1
## 16284
            50
                    2
                          2 2990
##
## 2990 peptides do not have any quantification values
rbp_us_res <- makeMSNSet(rbp_us_df, samples_us_inf)</pre>
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
      0
           1
                2
                      3
                                5
                                    10
## 5239 1028
               57
                      5
                           1
                                1 1856
##
## 1856 peptides do not have any quantification values
# Check relative quantification in data
q1 <- plotLabelQuant(total_ni_res, log = T, print = F)</pre>
q2 <- plotLabelQuant(rbp_ni_res, log = T, print = F)</pre>
q3 <- plotLabelQuant(total_us_res, log = T, print = F)
q4 <- plotLabelQuant(rbp_us_res, log = T, print = F)
# Boxplots of raw data
g = grid.arrange(q1$p1, q2$p1, q3$p1, q4$p1, nrow = 2)
```



# grid.arrange(q1\$p2,q2\$p2,q3\$p2,q4\$p2,nrow=2)

Once we've created MSnSets, we look at the distribution of abundance values on a per-sample basis keeping in mind that it is currently at the level of peptides. From the plots on the left, you can see that for the Total N\_I experiment, 4hr-Starved\_1 seems to have a different profile with more lowly expressed proteins than the remaining 9. For the Total & RBP U\_S experiment, 4hr-Starved\_4 seems to have strikingly lowly expressed proteins. It could be that slightly lower protein amount was mixed into the multiplex experiment for this replicate but need to chat to Rayner and Veronica about this.

In general, the RBP experiments are more variable than the Total Proteome experiments but that is to be expected given the functioning RBPs in a snapshot of time can be different in each replicate experiment. Additionally, at least in the Straved-vs-Insulin treated experiments, the density curves of each treatment are shifted away from each other (squint a little bit!). If there is a convincing biological reason to do so, we would remove probelmatic samples - particularly replicate 4 in the Unstarved vs Starved experiment for both TotalProt and RBPs.

### 3a. Aggregating over peptides

If you look at the fData slot in the MSnSets above, you will see that there is a column called "Sequence" that contains the sequence of the peptide whose abundance has been measured. Interestingly, there are some repeats of these sequences for the same protein that only differ in their Modifications i.e any amino

acid modifications that the mass spectrometer has picked up. We will first aggregate over the peptides with the same sequence but different modifications so that we only have one peptide representing a given sequence. The abundance values are summed across different modifications. Note: Don't worry about the errors. Missing values are correctly handled here!!

```
# Aggregate to peptides
total_ni_res_pep_agg <- agg_to_peptides(total_ni_res)</pre>
rbp_ni_res_pep_agg <- agg_to_peptides(rbp_ni_res)</pre>
total_us_res_pep_agg <- agg_to_peptides(total_us_res)</pre>
rbp_us_res_pep_agg <- agg_to_peptides(rbp_us_res)</pre>
# Summarise missing values
summariseMissing(total_ni_res_pep_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
             1
## 16974
            14
summariseMissing(rbp_ni_res_pep_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
      0
           1
## 8443
          26
summariseMissing(total_us_res_pep_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
             1
                    2
## 15876
            46
                    2
                          2
summariseMissing(rbp_us_res_pep_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
      0
           1
                2
                      3
                           4
                                5
## 5108 966
               52
                      5
                           1
# Save to RDS files for downstream use
saveRDS(total_ni_res_pep_agg, file = "../results/total_ni_res_pep_agg.rds")
saveRDS(rbp_ni_res_pep_agg, file = "../results/rbp_ni_res_pep_agg.rds")
saveRDS(total_us_res_pep_agg, file = "../results/total_us_res_pep_agg.rds")
saveRDS(rbp_us_res_pep_agg, file = "../results/rbp_us_res_pep_agg.rds")
```

You might have noticed that while we created the MSnSet, we also did a tally for how many samples had missing values across all of the peptides. Across the four studies, the number of peptides missing all 10 values in the 10-plex is shown in the table below.

Experiment	Raw peptide data	Aggregated peptide data
Total Insulin-Starved vs Stimulated	4478 peptides	0 peptides
RBPs Insulin-Starved vs Stimulated	2831 peptides	0 peptides
Total Unstarved vs Starved	2990 peptides	0 peptides
RBP Unstarved vs Starved	1856 peptides	0 peptides

Once we aggregate across modifications, there are no peptides where all 10 values are missing. They must have all been peptides with two or more alternate modifications that have now been rolled into one. However, there are still a small number of peptides that have some missing values but mostly in one or 2 samples only as shown in the plot below. The grey bars display missing values and black display non-missing values. Samples

with most number of missing values mostly seem to correspond to those that stick out in the PCA plots in the next notebook.

```
names = c("TotalProt-Non-Insulin-vs-Insulin-Stimulated",
    "RBPs-Non-Insulin-vs-Insulin-Stimulated", "TotalProt-Unstarved-vs-Starved",
    "RBPs-Unstarved-vs-Starved")
pdf("../plots/Missing-value-heatmaps-peptide-level-data.pdf",
    paper = "a4r", width = 14, height = 8)
for (i in list(total_ni_res_pep_agg, rbp_ni_res_pep_agg,
   total_us_res_pep_agg, rbp_us_res_pep_agg)) {
    if (length(summariseMissing(i)) >= 3) {
        plotMissing(i, cexCol = 0.8, srtCol = 45, main = names[c])
   }
    c = c + 1
}
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 16974
            14
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
      0
           1
## 8443
          26
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
       0
             1
                   2
                         4
## 15876
            46
                   2
                         2
## Out of 15926 total features, 50 (0.314%) have missing values
##
##
   1
       2 4
## 46 2 2
## And 4 features have more than one missing value
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
      0
           1
                2
                     3
                          4
## 5108 966
               52
                     5
                          1
## Out of 6133 total features, 1025 (16.713%) have missing values
         2
                 4
                     5
##
             3
     1
## 966 52
## And 59 features have more than one missing value
dev.off()
## pdf
##
```

Since we want to aggregate peptides into proteins, we check initially to see how many peptides we have per protein. We are particularly interested in the proportion of "one-hit" or "single-hit" across the samples as these would generally be low-confidence finds.

```
# Use function 'plotPepCounts' to plot distribution
# over peptide level data
p1 = plotPepCounts(total_ni_res_pep_agg)
```

## [1] "Out of 2792 master proteins, we have 438 one-hit wonder proteins (15.7 %)"

So we have 13-19% "one-hit" wonders across the 4 experiments (NI - Total (15.7%),RBP (17.8%); US - Total (12.5%),RBP(18.5%)). We'll leave these in for now but we could consider excluding these as we have less confident abundance estimates here.

#### 3b. Aggregating over proteins

Having aggregated across peptides with multiple modifications, we now was an abundance value per protein per samples. To achieve this, we need to aggregate again, this time using Uniprot IDs to identify all peptides that belong to a single protein and summing abundance values across these peptides to get a single value for a given protein. Following this, we once again do a tally for missing values at the protein level.

```
# Aggregate to protein
total_ni_res_pro_agg <- agg_to_protein(total_ni_res_pep_agg,</pre>
    "Master.Protein.Accessions")
rbp_ni_res_pro_agg <- agg_to_protein(rbp_ni_res_pep_agg,</pre>
    "Master.Protein.Accessions")
total_us_res_pro_agg <- agg_to_protein(total_us_res_pep_agg,</pre>
    "Master.Protein.Accessions")
rbp_us_res_pro_agg <- agg_to_protein(rbp_us_res_pep_agg,</pre>
    "Master.Protein.Accessions")
# Summarise missing values
summariseMissing(total_ni_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 2792
summariseMissing(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
      Λ
           1
## 1398
           1
summariseMissing(total_us_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
      0
           1
##
                 4
```

```
## 2802 2 1
```

```
summariseMissing(rbp_us_res_pro_agg)
```

```
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
## 0 1 2
## 1015 32 1
```

Note, we're now down to very few missing values and that too in very few samples (1,2,4) out of 10). So few that we could remove these proteins entirely (0/2792) Total NI proteins; 1/1399 RBP NI proteins; 3/2805 for Total US proteins, 33/1048). Since at most we are only missing 3% of values, we will keep proteins with missing values in for now. We might consider removing them later.

```
names = c("TotalProt-Non-Insulin-vs-Insulin-Stimulated",
    "RBPs-Non-Insulin-vs-Insulin-Stimulated", "TotalProt-Unstarved-vs-Starved",
    "RBPs-Unstarved-vs-Starved")
c = 1
pdf("../plots/Missing-value-heatmaps-protein-level-data.pdf",
   paper = "a4r", width = 14, height = 8)
for (i in list(total_ni_res_pro_agg, rbp_ni_res_pro_agg,
    total_us_res_pro_agg, rbp_us_res_pro_agg)) {
    if (length(summariseMissing(i)) >= 3) {
        plotMissing(i, cexCol = 0.8, srtCol = 45, main = names[c])
   }
    c = c + 1
}
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 2792
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
```

```
##
      0
           1
## 1398
           1
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
                4
##
      0
           1
           2
## 2802
## Out of 2805 total features, 3 (0.107%) have missing values
##
## 1 4
## 2 1
## And O features have more than one missing value
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
      0
           1
                2
##
## 1015
          32
                1
## Out of 1048 total features, 33 (3.149%) have missing values
##
## 1 2
## 32 1
## And O features have more than one missing value
dev.off()
```

## pdf

##

Having carried on with missing values, they do cause trouble at the PCA level so I'm going to replace missing values with the smallest non-missing value (min) in the dataset. For the Total NI dataset, this has no impact. For the RBP NI dataset, this changes one value. For the Total US dataset, this changes 6 values and for the RBP US dataset, 34 values are set to 'min' of which 32 are missing only from one sample (4hr Starved, Rep 4). I'm using the MSnBase 'impute' function here for ease of use.

```
total_ni_res_pro_agg <- MSnbase::impute(total_ni_res_pro_agg,</pre>
    method = "min")
rbp_ni_res_pro_agg <- MSnbase::impute(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg,</pre>
    method = "min")
total_us_res_pro_agg <- MSnbase::impute(total_us_res_pro_agg,</pre>
    method = "min")
rbp_us_res_pro_agg <- MSnbase::impute(rbp_us_res_pro_agg,</pre>
    method = "min")
summariseMissing(total_ni_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 2792
summariseMissing(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 1399
summariseMissing(total_us_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 2805
summariseMissing(rbp_us_res_pro_agg)
## Number of peptides VS samples with missing values
##
## 1048
# Save to RDS files for downstream use
saveRDS(total_ni_res_pro_agg, file = "../results/total_ni_res_pro_agg.rds")
saveRDS(rbp ni res pro agg, file = "../results/rbp ni res pro agg.rds")
saveRDS(total_us_res_pro_agg, file = "../results/total_us_res_pro_agg.rds")
saveRDS(rbp_us_res_pro_agg, file = "../results/rbp_us_res_pro_agg.rds")
```

#### 3c. Normalising data

Next, we log center normalise the data. The total amount of peptide labelled in each sample should be the same so we can assume any difference in the total intensity per tag is due to inaccuracies in peptide quantification prior to labelling, pipetting etc, or non-identical labelling efficiencies. Whatever the cause, we can normalise the tags since we want to obtain a relative measure between tags.

So we log centre normalise the data first. This leaves us with the median abundance for each sample at 0 and values below or above median for the proteins analysed in that samples. To these values, we add the median of all protein abundance values (a constant) which then shifts the range of values into the positive range making it more interpretable. The plots below show protein abundance data before and after normalisation.

```
# Median central normalise
total_ni_res_pro_agg_norm <- logCenterNormalise(total_ni_res_pro_agg)</pre>
exprs(total_ni_res_pro_agg_norm) <- exprs(total_ni_res_pro_agg_norm) +</pre>
    median(log2(exprs(total_ni_res_pro_agg)), na.rm = T)
rbp_ni_res_pro_agg_norm <- logCenterNormalise(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg)</pre>
exprs(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg_norm) <- exprs(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg_norm) +</pre>
    median(log2(exprs(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg)), na.rm = T)
total_us_res_pro_agg_norm <- logCenterNormalise(total_us_res_pro_agg)</pre>
exprs(total_us_res_pro_agg_norm) <- exprs(total_us_res_pro_agg_norm) +</pre>
    median(log2(exprs(total_us_res_pro_agg)), na.rm = T)
rbp_us_res_pro_agg_norm <- logCenterNormalise(rbp_us_res_pro_agg)</pre>
exprs(rbp_us_res_pro_agg_norm) <- exprs(rbp_us_res_pro_agg_norm) +</pre>
    median(log2(exprs(rbp_us_res_pro_agg)), na.rm = T)
# Create plots
pa <- plotLabelQuant(total_ni_res_pro_agg, log = TRUE,</pre>
    print = F)
pb <- plotLabelQuant(total_ni_res_pro_agg_norm, log = FALSE,</pre>
    print = F)
pc <- plotLabelQuant(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg, log = TRUE,</pre>
pd <- plotLabelQuant(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg_norm, log = FALSE,</pre>
    print = F)
pe <- plotLabelQuant(total_us_res_pro_agg, log = TRUE,</pre>
    print = F)
pf <- plotLabelQuant(total_us_res_pro_agg_norm, log = FALSE,</pre>
    print = F
pg <- plotLabelQuant(rbp_us_res_pro_agg, log = TRUE,</pre>
    print = F)
ph <- plotLabelQuant(rbp_us_res_pro_agg_norm, log = FALSE,</pre>
    print = F)
# Draw combined plot
pdf("../plots/Density-plots-before-after-normalisation.pdf",
    paper = "a4r", width = 14, height = 8)
grid.arrange(pa$p2, pb$p2, pc$p2, pd$p2, pe$p2, pf$p2,
    pg$p2, ph$p2, nrow = 4)
dev.off()
## pdf
##
# Save normalised, protein level data
saveRDS(total_ni_res_pro_agg_norm, file = "../results/total_ni_res_pro_agg_norm")
saveRDS(rbp_ni_res_pro_agg_norm, file = "../results/rbp_ni_res_pro_agg_norm")
saveRDS(total_us_res_pro_agg_norm, file = "../results/total_us_res_pro_agg_norm")
saveRDS(rbp_us_res_pro_agg_norm, file = "../results/rbp_us_res_pro_agg_norm")
```

From this step, we move on to further QC of the datas using principal components analysis for dimensionality

reduction. The main takeaway from this first analysis notebook is that Replicate 4 in the Unstarved vs Starved experiment is a bit ropey, particularly in the RNA binding protein setting.

# Notes:

Things to do with this notebook before closing it

- 1. Evaluate functions but leave them out of the output
- 2. Modify function 'summariseMissing' and 'makeMSNSet' to be less verbose
- 3. Change plotLabel