deltaRpkm

An R pacakge for rapid detection of differential presence of genes associated with a phenotype

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deltaRpkm is an R package whose main purpose is to quickly identify genes potentially involved in a given phenotype by performing a differential analysis of genes coverage between two sets of closely related genomes. The package provides functions to compute the RPKM, the δ RPKM, candidate genes filtering and heatmap plot. It also includes methods to perform some batch effects controls and diagnostics plots.

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1 Prerequisites

1.1 Input files

The deltaRpkm package requires 2 user input files:

1. a metadata table that provides parameters information for the groups comparisons, with the following mandatory fields:

```
<sample> <phenotype_1> <phenotype_2> <genome_length> <mapped_reads> <...>
```

- < sample > the column containing the samples names
- <phenotype_1> the column containing the column name of the phenotype being
 investigated for the genes differential presence analysis
- <phenotype_2> the column containing the 2nd phenotype that can be added on
 the heatmap for comparison
- < genome length > the column containing the reference genome length
- < mapped_reads > the column containing the total number of mapped reads in each sample
- <...>

These are the minimum required elements to be given to the pipeline; more factors can be included for alternative analysis if desired.

2. a coverage table that combines the mapped reads counts per gene and per sample, as this:

```
<chr> <start> <end> <geneID> <sample1_readsCounts> <sample2_readsCounts> <...>
```

- <chr> the column containing the chromosome name
- <start> the column containing the gene start coordinate
- <end> the column containing the gene end coordinate
- **<geneID>** the column containing the gene identifier
- < sample1_readsCounts> the column containing the mapped reads counts of sample1
- < sample2_readsCounts> the column containing the mapped reads counts of sample2
- <...>

Please make sure that the input tables follow as much as possible those formats (columns order and names for the minimum required information). For instance, the samples names in the <sample> column of metadata table MUST be the same as the <sample_readsCounts> ones in the coverage table.

The working examples provided by the package correspond to datasets of different sizes from Listeria monocytogenes (Aguilar-Bultet et al., 2018).

1.2 Minimum of R knowledge

Although deltaRpkm is very simple/user-friendly and comes with an extensive documentation (https://github.com/frihaka/deltaRpkm/tree/master/doc), it assumes a minimum familiarity with R, e.g installing libraries from CRAN and Bioconductor, awareness of working environment, basic R commands and objects etc.

1.3 R dependencies

The R package deltaRpkm, like any R packages, is built upon common R **CRAN** libraries that should be already installed in your system if you are an R user (ggplot2, ggfortify, dplyr, data.table...).

It also requires some **Bioconductor** R packages. If not already in your system, please make sure that the following R packages from Bioconductor - sva and Biostrings - are installed:

```
# for R >= 3.5
> if (!requireNamespace("BiocManager", quietly = TRUE))
    install.packages("BiocManager")
BiocManager::install("sva", version = "3.8")
BiocManager::install("Biostrings", version = "3.8")

# for R <= 3.4
source("https://bioconductor.org/biocLite.R")
biocLite("sva")
biocLite("sva")</pre>
```

1.4 Download and install deltaRpkm

From GitHub https://github.com/frihaka/deltaRpkm/, download the compressed binary file on a local directory.

If you are familiar with R and have already most of the common R packages (ggplot2, ggfortify, dplyr...), you can install from the terminal with the R CMD INSTALL command:

```
R CMD INSTALL deltaRpkm_0.1.0_R_x86_64-pc-linux-gnu.tar.gz
```

and then just install the Bioconductor packages as shown above.

If you are not very familiar with R ecosystem, try rather to install deltaRpkm with the function install.packages(), from inside R/RStudio:

```
> install.packages("path/2/deltaRpkm_0.1.0_R_x86_64-pc-linux-gnu.tar.gz",
    repos = NULL,
    dependencies = TRUE)
```

This will download your missing CRAN libraries that are required by deltaRpkm. You will still need to install the Bioconductor packages, as shown above.

2 Overview of the pipeline

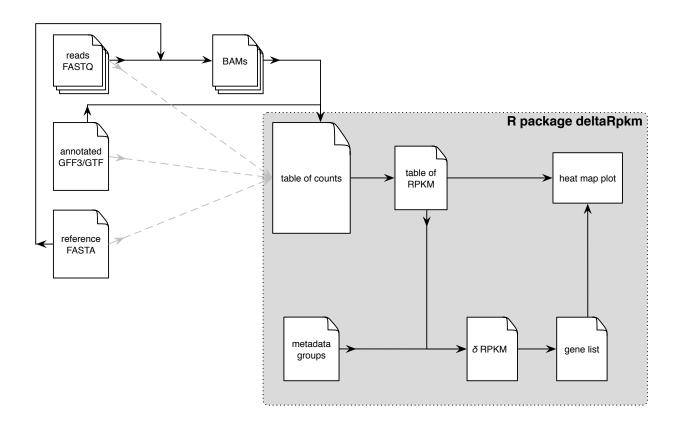


Figure 1: Overview of the deltaRpkm pipeline.

3 Building and loading the coverage table

The reads counts per gene table must be pre-computed and provided by the user. Below is the command used to build it with bedtools multicov on a terminal:

```
bedtools multicov -bams aln.1.bam ... aln.n.bam -bed <bed/gff/vcf> > coverage_table.csv
```

Notes on bedtools multicov:

- any number of bam files can be run together in a batch mode, thus allowing all the samples of the dataset to be included in the coverage table
- do not forget to redirect/output the results into a coverage table

The user can build its reads counts table with other methods, like the RNA-seq aligner called STAR that mapps and produces the coverage table at once.

Please do not forget to ensure that your custom coverage table (either produced by bedtools multicov or by STAR etc) follows the following required format:

- · <chr>
- . <start>
- <end>
- · <geneID>
- <sample1_readsCounts>
- <sample2_readsCounts>
- <...>

Alternatively, example datasets derived from Aguilar-Bultet et al., 2018 are available in the deltaRpkm package:

```
> data("coverage table N51") # this creates coverage_table df in the
   environment
> head(coverage table N51[, 1:8])
                 chr start
                                         geneID JF4931 JF5172 JF5761
                    JF5827
1 JF5203 chromosome
                       318 1674 LMJF5203 00001
                                                   3109
                                                          1466
                                                                  5582
   5761
                      1867 3013 LMJF5203 00002
2 JF5203 chromosome
                                                   2778
                                                          1099
                                                                  4737
   4882
3 JF5203 chromosome
                      3120 4464 LMJF5203 00003
                                                                  4914
                                                   3218
                                                          1473
   5365
4 JF5203 chromosome
                      4577 4865 LMJF5203 00004
                                                    947
                                                           358
                                                                  1568
   1546
                      4868 5981 LMJF5203 00005
5 JF5203 chromosome
                                                   2578
                                                           932
                                                                  4415
   4572
6 JF5203 chromosome
                      6029 7970 LMJF5203 00006
                                                                  7018
                                                   4125
                                                          1853
   7681
```

4 Loading the metadata table

The user must provide a metadata table with some minimum informations/columns about the samples:

- a column containing the phenotype 1 data, that will be used for the RPKM comparisons. This is the main phenotype of interest being studied, *i.e* the phenotype of group 1 with the reference genome. This phenotype is the criteria of categorizing the datasets into 2 distinct groups and the basis of the whole comparison. For example: "neurovirulence"
- a column containing the phenotype 2 data, that will be used as a colored sidebar of the heatmap: this corresponds to a 2nd phenotype that the user can add to check whether the clustering in the heatmap correlates with this 2nd phenotype. For example: "infection_origin"

- reference genome length
- total number of mapped reads

The metadata/design table must be a data frame that looks like this:

Table 1: Example of input metadata table.

sample	platform	lineage_type	infection	genome_length	mapped_reads
JF4839	HiSeq2000	Lineage_II	ENV	2900890	8288011
JF4899	HiSeq4000	Lineage_I	CNS	2900890	9797440
JF4901	HiSeq2000	Lineage_I	CNS	2900890	1926369
JF4902	HiSeq2000	Lineage_I	CNS	2900890	1750981
JF4904	HiSeq2000	${\rm Lineage_I}$	CNS	2900890	1469430

A working example metadata dataset from deltaRpkm package is shown below:

```
> data("metadata table N51") # this creates metadata table df in the
> head(metadata table N51)
  sample platform lineage type infection genome length mapped reads
1 JF4906 HiSeq2000
                       Lineage |
                                       CNS
                                                  2900890
                                                                2042865
2 JF4929 HiSeq4000
                       Lineage |
                                        CNS
                                                  2900890
                                                                9469100
3 JF4931 HiSeq3000
                      Lineage II
                                       CNS
                                                  2900890
                                                                5285534
```

Format the metadata informations with deltaRpkm::loadMetadata function, giving in as arguments:

- user metadata = <data frame of user input design table>
- **delta_phenotype_colname** = <phenotype 1 column name used to build the 2 categories>
- heatmapbar_phenotype_colname = <phenotype 2 column name used to build the extra bar in the heatmap>
- samples colname = <column name containing the samples ID>
- **genome_length_colname** = < genomic length (in bp) of the reference genome used for mapping>
- mapped reads colname = <total number of mapped reads, for each sample ID>

```
genome length colname = "genome length"
                                 mapped reads colname = "mapped reads")
> head(design table)
  sample lineage type infection genome length mapped reads
                                         2900890
1 JF4906
             Lineage |
                              CNS
                                                      2042865
2 JF4929
             Lineage |
                              CNS
                                         2900890
                                                      9469100
3 JF4931
            Lineage II
                              CNS
                                         2900890
                                                      5285534
```

5 Convert reads counts to RPKM values

5.1 RPKM formula

deltaRpkm uses the **Reads Per Kilobase Million RPKM** - a standard RNA-seq metrics that normalizes the reads counts per gene for **Sequencing Depth** and **Gene Length**:

with N_s being the total number of reads counts in the sample,

$$scalingFactor = \frac{N_s}{10^6} \tag{1}$$

$$RPM = \frac{ReadsCountsPerGene}{scalingFactor} \tag{2}$$

$$RPKM = \frac{RPM}{qeneLength.10^{-3}} \tag{3}$$

The equation (2) corresponds to the normalization of the reads counts by the sample sequencing depth; and equation (3) to the normalization by the gene length.

5.2 Run deltaRpkm::rpkm

Run the following deltaRpkm::rpkm function to compute the RPKM values of each gene, in each sample:

```
> rpkmtable <- rpkm(user metadata = design table,
                     coverage table = coverage table N51,
                     delta_phenotype_colname = "lineage_type",
                     heatmapbar phenotype colname = "infection")
> head(rpkmtable)
  sample
                  genelD lineage type infection reads rpkm
1 JF4906 LMJF5203 00001
                            Lineage I
                                             CNS
                                                                  425
                                                            1177
2 JF4906 LMJF5203 00002
                                                                  406
                            Lineage_|
                                             CNS
                                                             952
3 JF4906 LMJF5203 00003
                            Lineage I
                                             CNS
                                                            1080
                                                                  393
```

6 $\delta RPKM$ values

6.1 $\delta RPKM$ formula

The analysis is centered around a pairwise comparison of genes presence/absence between genomes categorized into two different groups following the selected phenotype:

- a group 1 that shares the phenotype A of the reference genome
- a group 2 that does not have the reference phenotype A

For each pairwise comparison of a gene j between a genome x from group 1 and a genome y from group 2, deltaRpkm::deltarpkm function computes the difference of their RPKM values at gene j ($\delta RPKM_{j_{xy}}$) as:

$$\delta RPKM_{j_{xy}} = RPKM_{j_x} - RPKM_{j_y} \tag{4}$$

6.2 Run deltaRpkm::deltarpkm

```
> deltarpkm table <- deltarpkm(rpkm table = rpkmtable,
                                 genes names = unique(rpkmtable$geneID),
                                 samples_colname = "sample",
                                 delta_phenotype_colname = "lineage type
                                 reference sample = "JF5203".
                                 nonref delta phenotype = "Lineage II")
> head(deltarpkm table)
geneID sample.group1 lineage_type.group1 infection.group1 reads.group1
    rpkm.group1 sample.group2 lineage type.group2 infection.group2
   reads.group2 rpkm.group2 deltarpkm
1 LMJF5203 00001
                         JF4906
                                           Lineage
                                                                    CNS
                     1177
                                               JF4931
                                   425
                                                                Lineage II
                  CNS
                                        3109
                                                      433
                                                                  -8
2 LMJF5203 00001
                         JF4906
                                           Lineage_|
                                                                    CNS
                     1177
                                   425
                                               JF5172
                                                                Lineage II
                  CNS
                                        1466
                                                      520
                                                                 -95
3 LMJF5203 00001
                         JF4906
                                                                    CNS
                                           Lineage_
                     1177
                                   425
                                               JF5761
                                                                Lineage II
                  ENV
                                                                 -40
                                        5582
                                                      465
```

This run might take few minutes, depending on the size of datasets.

7 Differential genes presence

7.1 Strategy

The deltaRpkm package main feature is to screen for the preferential presence of genes in the reference genome group, versus a comparison group.

We use the method deltaRpkm::deltaRPKMStats to infer this set of genes, since they could potentially be involved in the reference genome phenotype (eage_type> ="Lineage type I"). This function:

- 1. computes for each gene j the **median value of all its** $\delta RPKM$ (m_j) derived from the samples pairwise comparisons. Note: a negative median value of all $\delta RPKM$ of a given gene would mean that this gene is "preferentially present" in the comparison samples group 2 than in the reference genome group 1.
- 2. calculates the **standard deviation** s of all the m_i values in the analysis
- 3. selects genes as present in the reference genome group 1 based on an **arbitrary threshold** of 2.s:

$$selectedGene: m_j >= 2.s$$
 (5)

In other words, a gene j that presents a median $\delta RPKM$ value greater than 2.s will be considered as "preferentially present" in the reference genome group 1 (with <lineage_type> = "Lineage_type_I") than in the comparison group 2 (with <lineage_type> = "Lineage_type_II").

7.2 Run deltaRpkm::deltaRPKMStats

```
> stats_table <- deltaRPKMStats(deltarpkm_table = deltarpkm_table)
```

The default threshold value to select genes is based on 2.s. But one can change this threshold in the deltaRpkm::deltaRpkMStats parameter min_SD_foldChange, e.g:

```
> stats table fcnew <- deltaRPKMStats(min SD foldChange = 1.5,
                                  deltarpkm table = deltarpkm table)
> head(stats table fcnew)
           genelD sample.group1 lineage type.group1 infection.group1
              reads.group1 rpkm.group1 sample.group2 lineage type.
1 LMJF5203 00001
                                                                     CNS
                          JF4906
                                            Lineage
            1177
                          425
                                      JF4931
                                                       Lineage II
2 LMJF5203 00001
                          JF4906
                                            Lineage_I
                                                                     CNS
            1177
                          425
                                      JF5172
                                                       Lineage II
3 LMJF5203 00001
                          JF4906
                                                                     CNS
                                            Lineage |
                          425
                                      JF5761
            1177
                                                       Lineage II
  infection.group2 reads.group2 rpkm.group2 deltarpkm deltarpkm_median
      deltarpkm medianSD thres SD median value selected gene
1
                CNS
                             3109
                                           433
                                                                        -31
                                                       -8
                 114.24
                                         228.48
2
                CNS
                             1466
                                           520
                                                      -95
                                                                        -31
                                         228.48
                 114.24
3
                ENV
                             5582
                                           465
                                                      -40
                                                                        -31
                                         228.48
                 114.24
```

Note the column **selected_gene** that contains information about whether a given gene should be selected as present preferentially in the reference genome group - noted as "+" - or not - noted as "-". These data column will be used later to filter the relevant genes.

7.3 Visual check of the m_i distribution

With the function deltaRpkm::median_plot one can check visually how all genes medians values of $\delta RPKM$ vary.

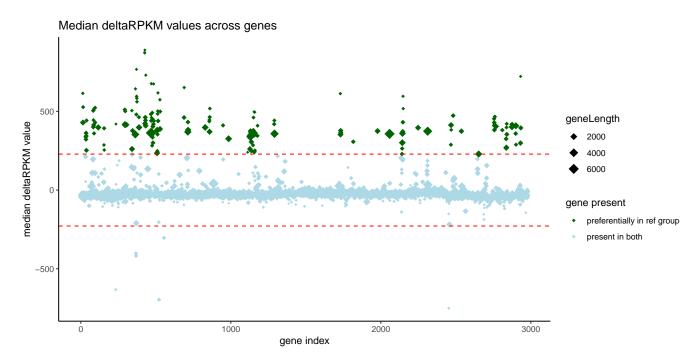


Figure 2: All genes median values of their $\delta RPKM$. Plot output from deltaRpkm::median_plot.The negative median $\delta RPKM$ values correspond to genes that appear as better covered in the comparison group 2 than in the reference genome's group 1. Note: the gene index value reflects the genomic coordinates since they are ordered as the gene names (these later being themselves given during de novo annotation based on the genomic coordinates, roughly speaking).

The genes in darkgreen in **Figure 2** correspond to the set of genes present in the reference genome group 1 and potentially linked to the studied phenotype ("lineage_type").

7.4 Selected genes set

For a given threshold value of median $\delta RPKM$ (by default 2.s of all median $\delta RPKM$ values), we can simply extract the genes appearing as differentially present in the reference genome group 1 (green dots in the **Figure 2**):

```
> differential_present_genes <- unique(stats_table[stats_table$
    selected_gene %in% "+", ]$geneID)
> length(differential_present_genes)
> [1] 173
> head(differential_present_genes)
> [1] "LMJF5203_00013" "LMJF5203_00014" "LMJF5203_00015" "LMJF5203
```

```
_00033" "LMJF5203_00034" "LMJF5203_00035"
```

This genes set can be used to perform various functional clustering analysis. We propose in the package a method to build a summary heatmap of their RPKM values and how they relate (or not) to a second phenotype of interest.

8 Heatmap

8.1 Rational

The idea is to analyse how the RPKM values of the genes specific to the reference genome group 1 distribute across all samples of group 1 and group 2. The aim is:

- to confirm (or infirm) that the heatmap clustering of the samples into two distinct categories is coherent with the initial group 1 and group 2 definition. Typically, the selected genes should present in overall higher RPKM values in the reference genome group 1 than in group 2
- to investigate at a higher resolution the homogeneity of each group

Thus deltaRpkm allows to investigate the clustering of the selected genes based on their RPKM values computed earlier. One can visualize a putative correlation with the second phenotype given in the metadata table - which is "infection" in the working example dataset.

The heatmap plot is made with the deltaRpkm::rpkmHeatmap function, derived from the gplots::heatmap.2 method (Warnes et al., 2018).

8.2 Preparing the RPKM values for the heatmap

The heatmap will be focusing only on the *RPKM values of the set of genes that are relevant*, *i.e* the ones that appear as differentially present in the reference genome group 1 (see the dark-green dots in **Figure 2**).

For this, we first subset the RPKM data table and keep only the rows/genes that were selected using the deltaRpkm::subsetRPKMTable:

```
# Subset the RPKM table for the selected genes
> heatmap table <- subsetRPKMTable(rpkm table = rpkmtable,</p>
                         user metadata = design table,
                         delta phenotype colname = "lineage type",
                         heatmapbar phenotype colname = "infection",
                         sd filtered genes = differential present genes
> head(heatmap table)
  sample lineage type infection LMJF5203 00013 LMJF5203 00014 LMJF5203
     _00015 LMJF5203_00033 LMJF5203_00034 LMJF5203 00035 LMJF5203
      00036
1 JF4906
             Lineage |
                             CNS
                                             607
                                                             450
               630
                               421
                                               445
                                                               521
               553
                             CNS
2 JF4929
             Lineage |
                                             581
                                                             397
```

	498 423	456	447	427	
3 JF4931	Lineage_II 0 1	CNS 68	0 1	0 2	

Then the subsetted RPKM values data frame is converted to a matrix (since this is the required format for the heatmap function) using the deltaRpkm::convertHeatmapToMatrix function:

```
# Convert the subsetted RPKM table to a matrix
> heatmap matrix <- convertHeatmapToMatrix(wide rpkm table = heatmap
   table,
                               delta phenotype colname = "lineage type",
                               heatmapbar phenotype colname = "infection"
> head(heatmap matrix)
        LMJF5203 00013 LMJF5203 00014 LMJF5203 00015 LMJF5203 00033
           LMJF5203 _ 00034 LMJF5203 _ 00035 LMJF5203 _ 00036 LMJF5203 _ 00037
           LMJF5203 00038 LMJF5203 00082 LMJF5203 00083 LMJF5203 00084
JF4906
                    607
                                    450
                                                    630
                                                                     421
               445
                                521
                                                553
                                                                472
               491
                                619
                                                352
                                                                 450
JF4929
                    581
                                    397
                                                    498
                                                                     456
               447
                                427
                                                423
                                                                412
               484
                                  0
                                                  0
                                                                  0
JF4931
                      0
                                                                      68
                                  2
                 1
                                                  1
                                                                  0
                 1
                                  0
                                                 18
                                                                 457
```

It is important to note that the heatmap matrix must contain samples names as row names.

8.3 Plot heatmap

Finally, we plot a summary plot as a heatmap to highlight the selected genes RPKMs difference between group 1 and group 2 samples, using the deltaRpkm::rpkmHeatmap function:

This creates an output heatmap file - deltaRpkm_heatmap.tiff - in the working directory. The heatmap for the example dataset (Listeria monocytogenes, N=51) is shown in **Figure 3**. It confirms the clustering of the samples into the initial two categories: the group 1 samples cluster together on the upper part corresponding to high RPKM values, while the group 2 samples cluster together in the lower part of the heatmap with lower RPKM values, for the selected genes set.

The heatmap colors can be easily changed with the color breaks parameters:

See next section for more on color breaks tuning.

8.4 Tuning heatmap parameters: color breaks

Note that deltaRpkm::rpkmHeatmap comes with various parameters options (see ?rpkmHeatmap), some derived from the original gplots::heatmap.2, and some specific to deltaRpkm analysis.

In particular, the heatmap **color breaks** can be adjusted with i) the binsize (default 200), ii) the lower_limit (default value 300) and iii) upper_limit (default value 550) arguments. These values are based on the RPKM values distribution and correspond to the lower and upper boundary RPKM values of the main peak:

```
> hist(rpkmtable$rpkm, freq = FALSE, breaks = 1000)
```

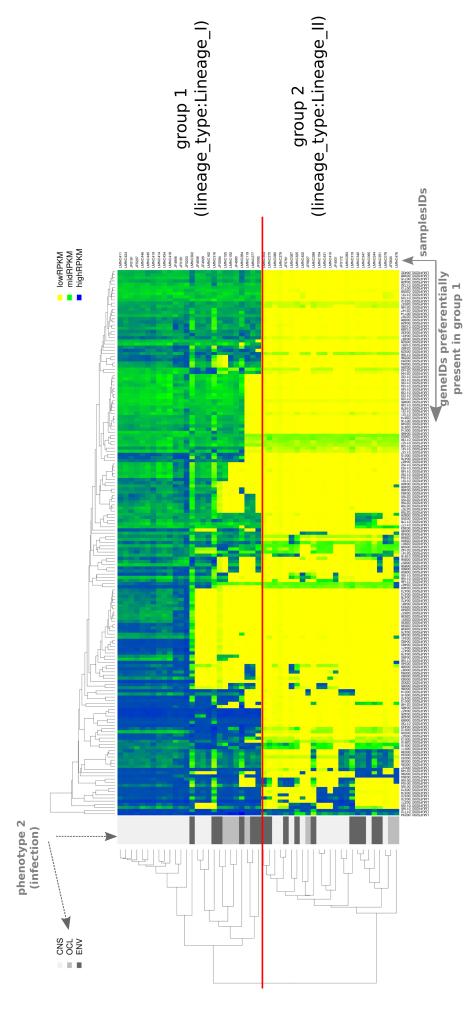


Figure 3: Selected genes RPKMs distribution across samples from group 1 and group 2. Plot output from deltaRpkm::rpkmHeatmap. The samples cluster following the phenotype 1 ("lineage_type"), with group 1 annotated as "Lineage_I" and group 2 annotated as "Lineage_II". Most of the selected genes sets appear with a low RPKM value in group 2 cluster, eventhough some group 2 samples present high RPKM values (blue pixels) for certain geneIDs, suggesting these as potential false positives.

Histogram of RPKM values

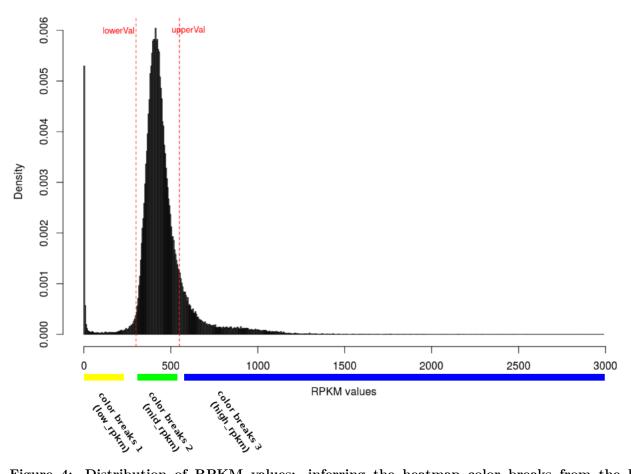


Figure 4: Distribution of RPKM values: inferring the heatmap color breaks from the histogram main peak boundary values. The lower (~ 300) and upper (~ 550) values of RPKM are used in the deltaRpkm::rpkmHeatmap to adjust the heatmap color breaks. Working dataset *Listeria monocytogenes*, N=51.

Also, deltaRPKM proposes some methods to infer these RPKM boundary values with the function deltaRpkm::boundaries:

```
# default method mclust
> res <- boundaries(x = rpkmtable$rpkm)
> res$boundaries df
   boundaries rpkm_values
1 lower_limit
                       300
2 upper limit
                       624
  res <- boundaries(x = rpkmtable$rpkm, strategy = "ratios")</pre>
     boundaries rpkm_values
1 lower limit
                       295
 upper limit
                       585
 res <- boundaries(x = rpkmtable$rpkm, strategy = "quartiles")
     boundaries rpkm values
   boundaries rpkm_values
1 lower limit
                       383
2 upper limit
                       487
```

deltaRpkm::boundaries applies by default the **mclust**, which is derived from the method mclust::densityMclust. This can be changed with the parameter strategy. The boundary RPKM values can be simply extracted as res\$boundaries_df containing the RPKM boundary values of interest.

Feel free to play with these RPKM boundary and colors breaks parameters values in rp-kmHeatmap function and observe the effect(s) on the heatmap readout.

9 deltaRpkm performance: downsampling

The initial *Listeria monocytogenes* dataset of N=225 samples is downsampled up to N=7 samples. Each dataset is run through deltaRpkm pipeline and the different outcomes are compared.

9.1 Dataset size effect on thresholding and gene set selection

The gene differential presence is based on a threshold value defined as 2 times (default value) the standard deviation of the medians of $\delta RPKM$ values. The median plots (see **Figure 2**) for all the datasets of different sizes can be summarized in a single boxplot, as shown in **Figure 5**.

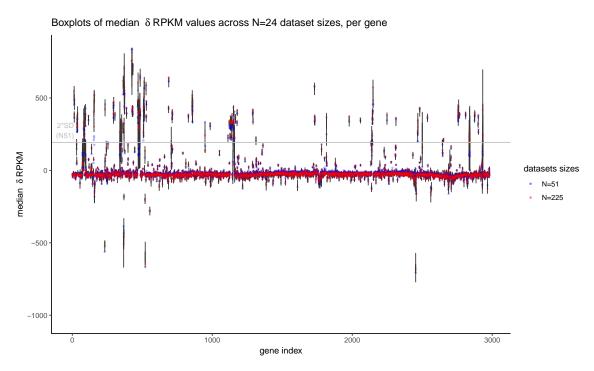


Figure 5: Dataset size effect on the median $\delta RPKM$ distribution (boxplots series). N=24 datasets of different sizes (N=225 to N=7 samples) are plotted as boxplots, one per gene. Datasets with N=51 and N=225 samples are highlighted, showing that the median $\delta RPKM$ values of a given geneID (m_j) does not vary so much between datasets of different sizes.

We can see in the boxplot series of **Figure 5** that most of the genes that are selected present a consistent median $\delta RPKM$ distribution across all datasets sizes (bars fully above the 2.s threshold).

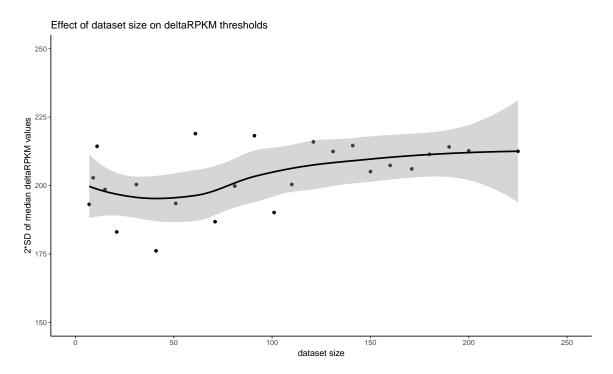


Figure 6: Dataset size effect on the 2*SD(median $\delta RPKM$) thresholding values.

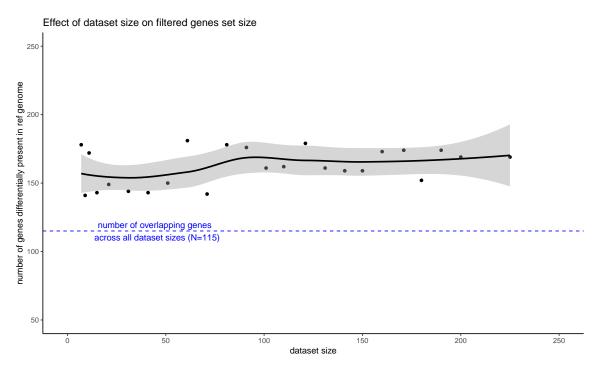


Figure 7: Dataset size effect on genes differentially present in reference genome.

9.2 Dataset size effect on runtime

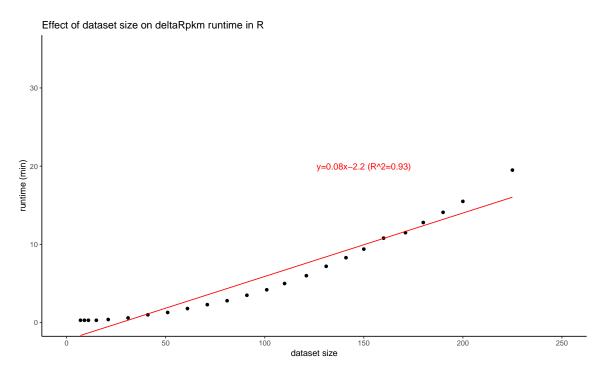


Figure 8: Dataset size and runtime when using deltaRpkm. Including the pipeline steps of RPKM computing, batch effect correction, computing $\delta RPKM$ values, statistics, gene selection and plotting heatmap. Analysing with deltaRpkm a large dataset of N=225 samples takes < 20min in total in R 3.4.4 (under Ubuntu 14.04.5 LTS).

9.3 Dataset size effect on memory usage

The memory requirement by deltaRpkm analysis grows with the sample size, but in a rather linear way: expect $\sim 400 \mathrm{M}$ every N ~ 20 samples. So one should be able to run a dataset of up to N ~ 800 samples on a normal desktop machine with 16G of RAM.

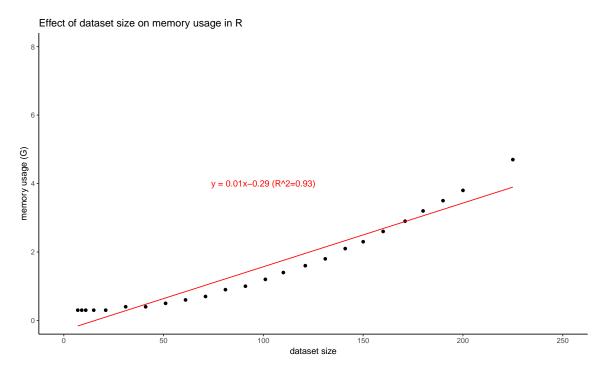


Figure 9: Dataset size and memory usage when using deltaRpkm. The pipeline uses < 4G of memory for a dataset of N=225 samples, when ran in R 3.4.4 (under Ubuntu 14.04.5 LTS).

9.4 Random datasets

Random datasets confirm the robustness of selected genes with the deltaRpkm method (**Fig** 10). When comparing datasets of different sizes (N=51, N=101, N=225) containing either real or random samples groups, most of genes that are identified as differentially present in the group 1 are conserved across datasets (**Fig** 10(a), N=144). While on the other hand, the genes sets derived from random groupings are small and not consistent (**Fig** 10(b), N=0).

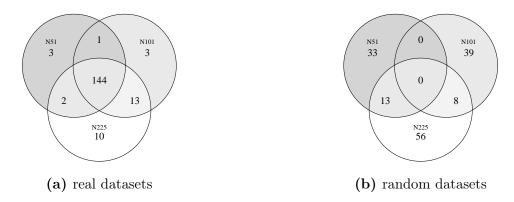


Figure 10: Real versus random datasets: random datasets give non-robust gene sets across different sizes of datasets. deltaRpkm *Listeria monocytogenes* datasets. Batch effect corrected.

10 Binaries and OS platforms

10.1 Ubuntu Trusty Tahr (14.04.5 LTS)

The Linux binary has been built and tested with R 3.4 under Ubuntu 14.04 LTS (Trusty Tahr):

```
R version 3.4.4 (2018-03-15)
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
Running under: Ubuntu 14.04.5 LTS
Matrix products: default
BLAS: /usr/lib/libblas/libblas.so.3.0
LAPACK: /usr/lib/lapack/liblapack.so.3.0
 locale:
                                           LC_NUMERIC=C
 [1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8
                                                                                LC_TIME=en_GB.UTF-8
                                                                                                                     LC_COLLATE=en_US.UTF-8
  [5] LC_MONETARY=en_GB.UTF-8
                                           LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
                                                                                LC_PAPER=en_GB.UTF-8
                                                                                                                     LC_NAME=C
                                                                                LC_MEASUREMENT=en_GB.UTF-8 LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
 [9] LC_ADDRESS=C
                                           LC_TELEPHONE=C
attached base packages:
[1] stats graphics grDevices utils
[1] stats
                                                           datasets methods base
other attached packages:
[1] deltaRpkm_0.1.0 ggplot2_3.0.0 bindrcpp_0.2.2 testthat_2.0.0
loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
[1] colorspace_1.3-2
[6] XVector_0.16.0
[11] xml2_1.2.0
                                  pryr_0.1.4
rstudioapi_0.7
                                                               colorRamps_2.3 roxygen2_6.1.0
                                                                                            mclust 5.4.1
                                                                                                                         rprojroot_1.3-2
                                                                                            bit64_0.9-7
                                                                                                                         AnnotationDbi 1.38.2
                                                               splines_3.4.4
assertthat_0.2.0
                                                                                            annotate_1.54.0
Matrix_1.2-14
                                                                                                                         compiler_3.4.4
lazyeval_0.2.1
                                   codetools_0.2-15
[16] tictoc_1.0
[21] limma_3.32.10
                                   backports_1.1.2
                                                                                                                         glue_1.3.0
                                   cli_1.0.1
                                                                tools_3.4.4
                                                                                            gtable_0.2.0
                                   dplyr_0.7.6
nlme_3.1-137
zlibbioc_1.22.0
                                                                                                                         Biostrings_2.44.2
[26] reshape2_1.4.3
                                                                Rcpp_1.0.0
                                                                                            Biobase_2.36.2
                                                               stringr_1.4.0
scales_1.0.0
stringi_1.2.4
caTools_1.17.1.1
[31] gdata_2.18.0
[36] XML_3.98-1.16
[41] memoise_1.1.0
                                                                                            gtools_3.8.1
parallel_3.4.4
                                                                                                                         devtools_1.13.6
                                                                                                                         RColorBrewer_1.1-2
genefilter_1.58.1
BiocParallel_1.10.1
                                                                                            RSQLite_2.1.1
                                   gridExtra_2.3
[46] S4Vectors_0.14.7
                                   desc_1.2.0
                                                                                            BiocGenerics_0.22.1
[51] rlang_0.3.1
[56] lattice_0.20-38
                                   pkgconfig_2.0.2
                                                                commonmark_1.6
                                                                                            matrixStats_0.54.0
                                                                                                                         bitops_1.0-6
                                   purrr_0.2.5
                                                                bindr_0.1.1
                                                                                             labeling_0.3
                                                                                                                         bit_1.1-14
                                                                                                                         IRanges_2.10.5
withr_2.1.2
tibble_1.4.2
data.table_1.11.8
                                   plyr_1.8.4
DBI_1.0.0
[61] tidyselect_0.2.4
                                                                magrittr_1.5
                                                                                            R6_2.3.0
[66] gplots_3.0.1
[71] mgcv_1.8-27
[76] crayon_1.3.4
[81] blob_1.1.1
                                                                pillar_1.3.0
RCurl_1.95-4.11
                                                                                            whisker_0.3-2
ggfortify_0.4.5
sva_3.24.4
                                   survival_2.42-6
                                                                grid_3.4.4
                                   KernSmooth_2.23-15
                                   digest_0.6.18
                                                                xtable_1.8-3
                                                                                             tidyr_0.8.1
                                                                                                                         stats4_3.4.4
[86] munsell_0.5.0
```

Figure 11: Session info in R 3.4.4, with RStudio 1.0.143, run under Ubuntu 14.04.5 LTS.

10.2 Ubuntu Bionic Beaver (18.04.2 LTS)

The Linux binary has been built and tested with R 3.4 under Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS (Bionic Beaver):

```
R version 3.4.4 (2018-03-15)
Platform: x86_64-pc-linux-gnu (64-bit)
Running under: Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS
Matrix products: default
BLAS: /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/blas/libblas.so.3.7.1
LAPACK: /usr/lib/x86_64-linux-gnu/lapack/liblapack.so.3.7.1
locale:
[1] LC_CTYPE=en_US.UTF-8
                               LC_NUMERIC=C
                                                          LC_TIME=fr_FR.UTF-8
[4] LC_COLLATE=en_US.UTF-8
                                                         LC_MESSAGES=en_US.UTF-8
                               LC_MONETARY=fr_FR.UTF-8
[7] LC_PAPER=fr_FR.UTF-8
                               LC_NAME=C
                                                          LC_ADDRESS=C
[10] LC_TELEPHONE=C
                               LC_MEASUREMENT=fr_FR.UTF-8 LC_IDENTIFICATION=C
attached base packages:
[1] stats
             graphics grDevices utils
                                           datasets methods base
other attached packages:
[1] ggfortify_0.4.5
                        ggplot2_3.1.0
                                             deltaRpkm 0.1.0
                                                                 BiocInstaller_1.28.0
loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
[1] Biobase_2.38.0
                       pkgload_1.0.2
                                              tidyr_0.8.2
                                                                  bit64_0.9-7
[5] splines_3.4.4
[9] blob_1.1.1
                                              assertthat_0.2.0
                                                                  stats4_3.4.4
                         gtools_3.8.1
                                                                  pillar_1.3.1
                         remotes_2.0.2
                                              sessioninfo_1.1.1
[13] RSQLite_2.1.1
                        backports_1.1.3
                                             lattice_0.20-35
                                                                  glue_1.3.θ
[17] limma_3.34.9
                         digest_0.6.18
                                              RColorBrewer_1.1-2 colorspace_1.4-0
[21] Matrix_1.2-12
                        plyr_1.8.4
                                              XML_3.98-1.17
                                                                  pkgconfig_2.0.2
                        genefilter_1.60.0
                                              purrr_0.3.0
[25] devtools_2.0.1
                                                                  xtable_1.8-3
                                                                  BiocParallel_1.12.0
[29] scales_1.0.0
                        gdata_2.18.0
                                              processx_3.2.1
[33] tibble_2.0.1
                        annotate_1.56.2
                                              mgcv_1.8-23
                                                                   IRanges_2.12.0
[37] usethis_1.4.0
                        withr_2.1.2
                                              BiocGenerics_0.24.0 lazyeval_0.2.1
                        survival_2.41-3
[41] cli_1.θ.1
                                              magrittr_1.5
                                                                  crayon_1.3.4
[45] memoise_1.1.0
                         ps_1.3.0
                                              fs_1.2.6
                                                                  nlme_3.1-131
[49] gplots_3.0.1.1
                         pkgbuild_1.0.2
                                              tools_3.4.4
                                                                  prettyunits_1.0.2
[53] matrixStats_0.54.0 stringr_1.4.0
                                                                  munsell_0.5.0
                                              S4Vectors_0.16.0
compiler_3.4.4
RCurl_1.95-4.11
                                                                  caTools_1.17.1.1
                                                                   rstudioapi_0.9.0
[65] bitops_1.0-6
                         labeling_0.3
                                              gtable_0.2.0
                                                                  DBI_1.0.0
                                              gridExtra_2.3 dplyr_0.8.0.1
KernSmooth_2.23-15 desc_1.2.0
[69] reshape2_1.4.3
                         R6_2.4.0
[73] bit_1.1-14
                         rprojroot_1.3-2
                                              sva_3.26.0
[77] stringi_1.3.1
                         parallel_3.4.4
                                                                  Rcpp_1.0.0
[81] tidyselect_0.2.5
```

Figure 12: Session info in R 3.4.4, with RStudio 1.1.463, run under Ubuntu 18.04.2 LTS.

10.3 MacOS High Sierra (10.13.6)

The MacOS binary has been built and tested with R 3.4 under MacOS 10.13.6 (High Sierra):

```
R version 3.4.0 (2017-04-21)
Platform: x86_64-apple-darwin15.6.0 (64-bit)
Running under: macOS 10.13.6
Matrix products: default
BLAS: \ / System/Library/Frameworks/Accelerate.framework/Versions/A/Frameworks/vecLib.framework/Versions/A/libBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS.dylibBLAS
LAPACK: /Library/Frameworks/R.framework/Versions/3.4/Resources/lib/libRlapack.dylib
[1] en_GB.UTF-8/en_GB.UTF-8/en_GB.UTF-8/C/en_GB.UTF-8/en_GB.UTF-8
attached base packages:
[1] stats
                              graphics grDevices utils
                                                                                                  datasets methods base
other attached packages:
[1] ggfortify_0.4.5 ggplot2_3.1.0 deltaRpkm_0.1.0
loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
 [1] Rcpp_1.0.0
                                                          lattice_0.20-38
                                                                                                          tidyr_0.8.2
                                                                                                                                                          qtools_3.8.1
  [5] assertthat_0.2.0
                                                         digest_0.6.18
                                                                                                          R6_2.4.0
                                                                                                                                                          plyr_1.8.4
                                                                                                                                                         pillar_1.3.1
gdata_2.18.0
S4Vectors_0.16.0
                                                         RSQLite_2.1.1
 [9] stats4_3.4.0
                                                                                                          sva_3.26.0
[13] gplots_3.0.1.1
                                                        rlang_0.3.1
                                                                                                          lazyeval_0.2.1
[17] rstudioapi_0.9.0
[21] Matrix_1.2-15
                                                          annotate_1.56.2
                                                                                                          blob_1.1.1
                                                                                                          splines_3.4.0
                                                                                                                                                          BiocParallel_1.12.0
                                                          labeling_0.3
                                                         RCurl_1.95-4.11
[25] stringr_1.4.0
                                                                                                          bit_1.1-14
                                                                                                                                                         munsell 0.5.0
                                                          pkgconfig_2.0.2
                                                                                                          BiocGenerics_0.24.0 mgcv_1.8-27
[29] compiler_3.4.0
                                                           tibble_2.0.1
[33] tidyselect_0.2.5
                                                                                                          gridExtra_2.3
                                                                                                                                                         IRanges_2.12.0
                                                        XML_3.98-1.17
[37] matrixStats_0.54.0
                                                                                                          crayon_1.3.4
                                                                                                                                                          dplyr_0.8.0.1
                                                                                                          grid_3.4.0
[41] withr_2.1.2
                                                         bitops_1.0-6
                                                                                                                                                         nlme_3.1-137
[45] xtable_1.8-3
                                                          gtable_0.2.0
                                                                                                          DBI_1.0.0
                                                                                                                                                         magrittr_1.5
                                                          KernSmooth_2.23-15
                                                                                                          stringi_1.3.1
[49] scales_1.0.0
                                                                                                                                                          reshape2_1.4.3
[53] genefilter_1.60.0
                                                         limma_3.34.9
                                                                                                          RColorBrewer_1.1-2 tools_3.4.0
                                                                                                          glue_1.3.0
[57] bit64_0.9-7
                                                          Biobase_2.38.0
                                                                                                                                                          purrr_0.3.0
[61] parallel_3.4.0
                                                          survival_2.43-3
                                                                                                           AnnotationDbi_1.40.0 colorspace_1.4-0
[65] caTools_1.17.1.1
                                                          memoise_1.1.0
```

Figure 13: Session info in R 3.4.0 with RStudio, run under MacOS 10.13.6.

10.4 Windows7

The Windows binary has been built and tested with R 3.5 under Windows 7:

```
R version 3.5.2 (2018-12-20)
Platform: x86_64-w64-mingw32/x64 (64-bit)
Running under: Windows 7 x64 (build 7601) Service Pack 1
Matrix products: default
locale:
[1] LC_COLLATE=French_Switzerland.1252 LC_CTYPE=French_Switzerland.1252
                                                                                                      LC_MONETARY=French_Switzerland.1252
[4] LC NUMERIC=C
                                                      LC TIME=French Switzerland.1252
attached base packages:
                  graphics grDevices utils
[1] stats
                                                           datasets methods base
 other attached packages:
[1] deltaRpkm_0.1.0 ggfortify_0.4.5 ggplot2_3.1.0
loaded via a namespace (and not attached):
 [1] Biobase_2.42.0
[6] gtools_3.8.1
                                 pkgload_1.0.2
                                                               tidyr_0.8.2
                                                                                           bit64 0.9-7
                                                                                                                        splines_3.5.2
                                 assertthat_0.2.0
sessioninfo_1.1.1
                                                               BiocManager_1.30.4
                                                                                          stats4_3.5.2
RSQLite 2.1.1
                                                                                                                       blob_1.1.1
[11] remotes_2.0.2
[16] lattice_0.20-38
                                                               pillar_1.3.1
                                                                                                                       backports_1.1.3
                                                              limma_3.38.3
plyr_1.8.4
purrr_0.3.0
                                                                                                                       RColorBrewer_1.1-2
pkgconfig_2.0.2
                                  glue_1.3.0
Matrix_1.2-15
                                                                                           digest_0.6.18
[21] colorspace_1.4-0
                                                                                           XML_3.98-1.17
                                  genefilter_1.64.0
processx_3.2.1
IRanges_2.16.0
                                                               purrr 0.3.0 xtable 1.8-3
BiocParallel 1.16.6 tibble 2.0.1
usethis 1.4.0 withr 2.1.2
[26] devtools_2.0.1
                                                                                                                        scales_1.0.0
[31] gdata_2.18.0
                                                                                                                        annotate_1.60.0
                                                              usethis_1.4.0
survival_2.43-3
[36] mgcv_1.8-27
                                                                                                                       BiocGenerics 0.28.0
[41] lazyeval_0.2.1
[46] memoise_1.1.0
                                  cli_1.0.1
ps_1.3.0
tools_3.5.2
munsell_0.5.0
                                                                                                                       crayon_1.3.4
gplots_3.0.1.1
stringr_1.4.0
compiler_3.5.2
                                                                                          magrittr_1.5
nlme_3.1-137
                                                               fs 1.2.6
 [51] pkgbuild_1.0.2
                                                               prettyunits_1.0.2
                                                                                           matrixStats_0.54.0
                                                              AnnotationDbi_1.44.0 callr_3.1.1
grid_3.5.2 RCurl_1.95-4.11
gtable_0.2.0 DBI_1.0.0
dplyr_0.8.0.1 bit_1.1-14
[56] S4Vectors_0.20.1
[61] caTools_1.17.1.1
                                   rlang_0.3.1
                                                                                                                        rstudioapi_0.9.0
                                                              gtable_0.2.0
dplyr_0.8.0.1
                                                                                                                       reshape2_1.4.3
rprojroot_1.3-2
sva_3.30.1
[66] bitops_1.0-6
                                  labeling_0.3
                                   gridExtra 2.3
 [71] R6_2.4.0
                                  desc_1.2.0
tidyselect_0.2.5
      KernSmooth_2.23-15
                                                               stringi_1.3.1
                                                                                           parallel_3.5.2
 [76]
[81] Rcpp 1.0.0
```

Figure 14: Session info in R 3.5.2, with RStudio 1.1.463, run under Windows7.