

# Package ‘MammalMethylClock’

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**Title** Tools for Building and Utilizing Epigenetic Clocks in Mammals

**Description** Functions for applying published epigenetic clocks, and pipelines for building new epigenetic clocks for mammals. Utility functions for evaluating and visualizing results.

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## R topics documented:

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alignDatToInfo	<i>Align Normalized Methylation Data with Metadata Sheet Using Sample ID Columns</i>
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**Description**

Align metadata info with normalized methylation data dat, by matching rows that represent each sample, and the removing sample ID's from dat. This is an important step before doing any analyses or building any clocks, because the methylation data needs to be unlabeled for use in any regression models.

**Usage**

```
alignDatToInfo(info, dat, SAMPVAR.info, SAMPVAR.dat)
```

**Arguments**

info	Data frame, the metadata for the samples
dat	Data frame, the normalized methylation data for the samples
SAMPVAR.info	String, the name of the column in info containing unique sample ID's
SAMPVAR.dat	String, the name of the column in dat containing matching sample ID's

**Details**

For the conceptual framework of this package, the file dat should still contain the sample ID's in one of its columns. In addition, info and dat should be formatted such that rows correspond to samples

This function will (if necessary) rearrange and filter the rows of both data sets so that every row in info corresponds to the same row number in dat, and then remove from dat the column containing sample ID's. We use ys and xs to refer to these half-labeled data frames that are returned by this function, and which are ready for use in regression models.

Note that this function removes all columns of dat that do not contain the string 'cg' in the column name, in order to be compatible with genome annotation probe mapping files.

**Value**

A 2-element list, containing ys and xs:

ys	The aligned version of info, otherwise unmodified. As the name suggests, use this for the 'y' in regression analyses.
xs	The aligned and modified version of dat, with the column containing sample ID's removed.

---

axis\_limits

---

*Calculate Buffered Axis Limits for Plotting*


---

**Description**

Finds buffered axis limits for plotting a single data vector along one dimension.

**Usage**

```
axis_limits(x)
```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric vector, containing data to be plotted
---	---

**Details**

In order to make plots appealing, take the range (max - min) of a data vector, and add 3% of the range to the max, and subtract 3% from the min.

**Value**

A numeric 2-element vector, the buffered axis limits for plotting the data.

---

axis_square_limits	<i>Calculate Buffered Shared Axis Limits for Square Plotting</i>
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---

**Description**

Finds buffered axis limits for plotting a pair of data vectors, such that it jointly contains the values of both.

**Usage**

```
axis_square_limits(x, y)
```

**Arguments**

x, y	Numeric vectors with same length, containing data to be plotted
------	---

**Details**

In order to make plots appealing, take the range (max - min) of a data vector, and add 3% of the range to the max, and subtract 3% from the min. Pools the data first to generate one set of axis limits for both data vectors.

**Value**

A numeric 2-element vector, the buffered axis limits for plotting the data in both dimensions.

---

fun_identity	<i>Identity Function</i>
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---

**Description**

Apply no transformation to age.

**Usage**

```
fun_identity(x, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric, the age in years
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used) to allow pipeline functions to always pass 2 parameters into age transformation functions

**Value**

A numeric, the identical value as the input.

**Examples**

```
fun_identity(1)
fun_identity(c(1,2,1))
```

fun\_llin.trans

*Log-Linear v1 Transformation and Inverse***Description**

Apply the Log-Linear v1 transformation to age, or undo the Log-Linear v1 transformation to calculate DNAm age. Requires age of sexual maturity and maximum lifespan.

**Usage**

```
fun_llin.trans(x, maturity, max)
```

```
fun_llin.inv(y, maturity, max)
```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric, the age in years
maturity	Numeric, the age of sexual maturity in years
max	Numeric, the maximum lifespan in years
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

**Details**

The Log-Linear v1 transformation of age is defined as

$$LLinAge = \begin{cases} \log\left(\frac{Age+k}{maturity+k}\right) & , Age \leq maturity \\ \frac{Age-maturity}{maturity+k} & , Age \geq maturity \end{cases} ,$$

where  $k$  is the offset parameter.

The inverse of the Log-Linear v1 transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = \begin{cases} (maturity + k) * e^{LLinAge} - k & , LLinAge \leq 0 \\ (maturity + k) * LLinAge + maturity & , LLinAge \geq 0 \end{cases} ,$$

where  $k$  is the offset parameter.

This transformation is only defined under the condition

$$max > 3 * maturity + 2.$$

$k$  is a function of maturity and max, and is defined as the unique solution to

$$(k + maturity) * \log\left(\frac{k + maturity}{k - 1}\right) = \frac{max - maturity}{2}.$$

Intuitively,  $k$  is defined this way so that the linear piece of the function is twice the size of the logarithmic piece in the co-domain.

**Value**

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

**Examples**

```
fun_llin.trans(1,1,10)
fun_llin.trans(c(1,2,1),1,10)
fun_llin.trans(c(1,2,1),c(1,10,10),c(10,50,100))
fun_llin.inv(0,1,10)
fun_llin.inv(c(0,-1,1),1,10)
fun_llin.inv(c(0,-1,1),c(1,10,10),c(10,50,100))
```

---

fun_llin2.trans	<i>Log-Linear v2 Transformation and Inverse</i>
-----------------	---

---

**Description**

Apply the Log-Linear v2 transformation to age, or undo the Log-Linear v2 transformation to calculate DNAm age. Requires age of sexual maturity and gestational period.

**Usage**

```
fun_llin2.trans(x, maturity, gestation)

fun_llin2.inv(y, maturity, gestation)
```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric, the age in years
maturity	Numeric, the age of sexual maturity in years
gestation	Numeric, the gestational period in years
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

**Details**

The Log-Linear v2 transformation of age is defined as

$$LLin2Age = \begin{cases} \log\left(\frac{Age+gestation}{1.5*maturity+gestation}\right) & , Age \leq 1.5 * maturity \\ \frac{Age-1.5*maturity}{1.5*maturity+gestation} & , Age \geq 1.5 * maturity \end{cases}.$$

The inverse of the Log-Linear v2 transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = \begin{cases} (1.5 * maturity + gestation) * e^{LLin2Age} - gestation & , LLin2Age \leq 0 \\ (1.5 * maturity + gestation) * LLin2Age + 1.5 * maturity & , LLin2Age \geq 0 \end{cases}.$$

**Value**

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

**Examples**

```

fun_llin2.trans(1,1,0.05)
fun_llin2.trans(c(1,2,1),1,0.05)
fun_llin2.trans(c(1,2,1),c(1,10,10),c(0.05,0.25,0.5))
fun_llin2.inv(0,1,0.05)
fun_llin2.inv(c(0,-1,1),1,0.05)
fun_llin2.inv(c(0,-1,1),c(1,10,10),c(0.05,0.25,0.5))

```

fun\_llin3.trans

*Log-Linear v3 Transformation and Inverse***Description**

Apply the Log-Linear v3 transformation to age, or undo the Log-Linear v3 transformation to calculate DNAm age. Requires age of sexual maturity.

**Usage**

```

fun_llin3.trans(x, maturity, ...)

fun_llin3.inv(y, maturity, ...)

```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric, the age in years
maturity	Numeric, the age of sexual maturity in years
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used) to allow pipeline functions to always pass 2 parameters into age transformation functions
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

**Details**

The Log-Linear v3 transformation of age is defined as

$$LLin3Age = \begin{cases} \log\left(\frac{Age+1.5}{maturity+1.5}\right) & , Age \leq maturity \\ \frac{Age-maturity}{maturity+1.5} & , Age \geq maturity \end{cases}.$$

The inverse of the Log-Linear v3 transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = \begin{cases} (maturity + 1.5) * e^{LLin3Age} - 1.5 & , LLin3Age \leq 0 \\ (maturity + 1.5) * LLin3Age + maturity & , LLin3Age \geq 0 \end{cases}.$$

**Value**

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

**Examples**

```

fun_llin3.trans(1,1)
fun_llin3.trans(c(1,2,1),1)
fun_llin3.trans(c(1,2,1),c(1,10,10))
fun_llin3.inv(0,1)
fun_llin3.inv(c(0,-1,1),1)
fun_llin3.inv(c(0,-1,1),c(1,10,10))

```

---

fun\_llinmouse.trans      *Log-Linear Mouse-Specific Transformation and Inverse*

---

## Description

Apply the Log-Linear Mouse-Specific transformation to age, or undo the Log-Linear Mouse-Specific transformation to calculate DNAm age.

This is the transformation used to parameterize the all of the Mouse clocks (Mozhui et. al., 2022).

## Usage

```
fun_llinmouse.trans(x, ...)
```

```
fun_llinmouse.inv(y, ...)
```

## Arguments

x	Numeric, the age in years
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used) to allow pipeline functions to always pass 2 parameters into age transformation functions
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

## Details

The Log-Linear Mouse-Specific transformation of age is defined as

$$LLinMouseAge = \begin{cases} \log(x + 0.06) & , Age \leq 1.2 \\ \frac{x-1.2}{1.26} + \log(1.26) & , Age \geq 1.2 \end{cases} .$$

The inverse of the Log-Linear Mouse-Specific transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = \begin{cases} (0) * e^{LLinMouseAge} - 0 & , LLinMouseAge \leq 0 \\ (0) * LLinMouseAge + 0 & , LLinMouseAge \geq 0 \end{cases} .$$

## Value

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

## Examples

```
fun_llinmouse.trans(1)
fun_llinmouse.trans(c(1,2,1))
fun_llinmouse.inv(1)
fun_llinmouse.inv(c(1,2,1))
```



---

fun\_llinreladult.trans

*Log-Linear Relative Adult Transformation and Inverse*


---

### Description

Apply the Log-Linear Relative Adult transformation to age, or undo the Log-Linear Relative Adult transformation to calculate DNAm age. Requires age of sexual maturity and gestational period.

This is the transformation used to parameterize the Universal Mammalian "Clock 3" (Lu et. al., 2023).

### Usage

```
fun_llinreladult.trans(x, maturity, gestation)
```

```
fun_llinreladult.inv(y, maturity, gestation)
```

### Arguments

x	Numeric, the age in years
maturity	Numeric, the age of sexual maturity in years
gestation	Numeric, the gestational period in years
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

### Details

The Log-Linear Relative Adult transformation of age is defined, in two steps, as

$$LLinRelAdultAge = \begin{cases} \log\left(\frac{RelAdultAge}{\hat{m}}\right) & , RelAdultAge \leq \hat{m} \\ \frac{RelAdultAge - \hat{m}}{\hat{m}} & , RelAdultAge \geq \hat{m} \end{cases},$$

where

$$RelAdultAge = \frac{Age + gestation}{maturity + gestation},$$

$$\hat{m} = 5.0 * \left(\frac{gestation}{maturity}\right)^{0.38}.$$

The inverse of the Log-Linear Relative Adult transformation of age is defined, in two steps, as

$$Age = (maturity + gestation) * RelAdultAge - gestation,$$

where

$$RelAdultAge = \begin{cases} \hat{m} * e^{LLinRelAdultAge} & , LLinRelAdultAge \leq 0 \\ \hat{m} * LLinRelAdultAge + \hat{m} & , LLinRelAdultAge \geq 0 \end{cases},$$

$$\hat{m} = 5.0 * \left(\frac{gestation}{maturity}\right)^{0.38}.$$

### Value

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

**Examples**

```

fun_llinreladult.trans(1,1,0.05)
fun_llinreladult.trans(c(1,2,1),1,0.05)
fun_llinreladult.trans(c(1,2,1),c(1,10,10),c(0.05,0.25,0.5))
fun_llinreladult.inv(0,1,0.05)
fun_llinreladult.inv(c(0,-1,1),1,0.05)
fun_llinreladult.inv(c(0,-1,1),c(1,10,10),c(0.05,0.25,0.5))

```

fun\_log.trans

*Logarithmic Transformation and Inverse***Description**

Apply the logarithmic transformation to age, or undo the logarithmic transformation to calculate DNAm age.

**Usage**

```
fun_log.trans(x, ...)
```

```
fun_log.inv(y, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric, the age in years
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used) to allow pipeline functions to always pass 2 parameters into age transformation functions
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

**Details**

The logarithmic transformation of age is defined as

$$LogAge = \log(Age + 1)$$

The inverse of the logarithmic transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = \exp(LogAge) - 1$$

**Value**

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

**Examples**

```

fun_log.trans(1)
fun_log.trans(c(1,2,1))
fun_log.inv(1)
fun_log.inv(c(1,2,1))

```

fun\_log2.trans

*Logarithmic v2 Transformation and Inverse***Description**

Apply the logarithmic transformation to age, or undo the logarithmic transformation to calculate DNAm age.

**Usage**

```
fun_log2.trans(x, ...)
```

```
fun_log2.inv(y, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	Numeric, the age in years
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used) to allow pipeline functions to always pass 2 parameters into age transformation functions
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

**Details**

The logarithmic transformation of age is defined as

$$Log2Age = \log(Age + 0.5)$$

The inverse of the logarithmic transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = \exp(Log2Age) - 0.5$$

**Value**

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

**Examples**

```
fun_log.trans(1)
fun_log.trans(c(1,2,1))
fun_log.inv(1)
fun_log.inv(c(1,2,1))
```

---

fun_relative.trans	<i>Relative Age Transformation and Inverse</i>
--------------------	--

---

### Description

Convert age into relative age, or convert relative age into age.

### Usage

```
fun_relative.trans(x, max)
```

```
fun_relative.inv(y, max)
```

### Arguments

x	Numeric, the age in years
max	Numeric, the maximum lifespan in years
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

### Details

Relative age is defined as

$$RelAge = \frac{Age}{max}$$

Relative age is converted back to Age via

$$Age = max * RelAge$$

### Value

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

### Examples

```
fun_relative.trans(1,10)
fun_relative.trans(c(1,2,1),10)
fun_relative.trans(c(1,2,1),c(10,50,100))
fun_relative.inv(0.1,10)
fun_relative.inv(c(0.1,0.2,0.1),10)
fun_relative.inv(c(0.1,0.2,0.1),c(10,50,100))
```

---

fun_sqrt.trans	<i>Square-Root Transformation and Inverse</i>
----------------	---

---

### Description

Apply the square root transformation to age, or undo the square root transformation to calculate DNAm age.

### Usage

```
fun_sqrt.trans(x, ...)
```

```
fun_sqrt.inv(y, ...)
```

### Arguments

x	Numeric, the age in years
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used) to allow pipeline functions to always pass 2 parameters into age transformation functions
y	Numeric, the transformed value of age (the un-transformed age is in years)

### Details

The square root transformation of age is defined as

$$SqrtAge = sqrt(Age + 1)$$

The inverse of the square root transformation of age is defined as

$$Age = (SqrtAge)^2 - 1$$

### Value

A numeric, the transformed or inverse-transformed value of the input.

### Examples

```
fun_sqrt.trans(1)
fun_sqrt.trans(c(1,2,1))
fun_sqrt.inv(1)
fun_sqrt.inv(c(1,2,1))
```

---

loadRData	<i>Load RData File as an Object</i>
-----------	-------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Load an RData file containing one object, and capture said object rather than automatically adding it to the workspace.

**Usage**

```
loadRData(data.rdata)
```

**Arguments**

data.rdata	String, the name of the file to load (ending in .rdata)
------------	---

**Details**

RData files contain the contents of a workspace when they are created, so loading them does not directly capture objects. When an RData file contains only one object (like a dataframe), it is more convenient to have a function that loads the RData file and captures the single object.

**Value**

An object, being the single object saved within the RData file.

---

panel.cor	<i>Add Correlation as Text to a Plot</i>
-----------	--

---

**Description**

Utility function which "plots" a correlation value in large text.

**Usage**

```
panel.cor(x, y, cex.cor, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x, y	Numeric vectors with compatible dimensions
cex.cor	Numeric, the character expansion factor for the text that will be plotted (1 for no change)
...	A catch-all for extra arguments (which will not be used)

**Details**

This utility function is made to help in plotting stratified EWAS results (for data containing multiple tissue types of species), when calling `graphics::pairs()` on a table stratified z-scores. It is used in either the lower.panel or upper.panel argument of `graphics::pairs()`, in order to report to the correlation of each pair-wise plot.

The purpose of the catch-all ... for extra arguments is simply to allow this function to be passed through as a valid panel function in the lower.panel or upper.panel arguments of `graphics::pairs()`.

**Examples**

```
ewas.meta.table <- data.frame(X=c(0),Y=c(0))
pairs(ewas.meta.table[,2:(ncol(ewas.meta.table)-2)],
      lower.panel=panel.cor,upper.panel=points,pch=16,
      cex.cor=1.2)
```

---

paste.species\_tissue    *Concatenate Species and Tissue Names*

---

**Description**

Pair-wise concatenate a vector of distinct species names and distinct tissue names, with the option of ignoring certain species. This is useful for plotting a set of species and tissues in a single color scheme, using a single legend.

**Usage**

```
paste.species_tissue(spec_names, tissue_names, ignore = c("Homo sapiens"))
```

**Arguments**

spec_names	String vector, containing one or more species names
tissue_names	String vector, containing one or more tissue names
ignore	String vector, a subset of spec_names, the species names to be left unmodified (default c("Homo sapiens"))

**Details**

Uses `base::paste()` with `sep='.'`.

**Value**

A string vector of the concatenated values, all of the species-tissue combinations, joined separated by periods ('.').

**Examples**

```
paste.species_tissue(c("Mus musculus","Homo sapiens"), c("Blood","Liver","Skin"))
```

---

predictAge

*Automatically Apply All Published Clocks to a New Data Set and Generate Predicted Values*


---

## Description

Applies all previously built & published Clock that are potentially applicable (based on tissue type(s) and species) to a given data set (an aligned metadata `ys.new` and an aligned and normalized methylation data `xs.new`). Ensure that the methylation array used to generate `xs.new` is the same array used to build all of the published Clocks (in other words, the Horvath Mammalian Chip).

It is **very important** to note that if the tissue(s) and species name(s) being provided in the arguments match those used to generate the methylation data being provided, because Clocks are **only designed** to be accurate with the set of tissues and set of species on which they were trained.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Table of metadata appended with all predictions, using all applicable and published Clocks.

## Usage

```
predictAge(xs.new, ys.new, tissue.names, species.name)
```

```
getClockDatabase()
```

## Arguments

<code>xs.new</code>	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples in the new, independent set
<code>ys.new</code>	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples in the new, independent set NOTE: This can be a data frame with only column, e.g., sample IDs.
<code>tissue.names</code>	String OR String Vector, the tissue(s) from which the samples in <code>xs.new</code> were generated. NOTE: These tissue names must match what is encoded in internal database, see <a href="#">getClockDatabase()</a> .
<code>species.name</code>	String, the species latin name for the species from which the samples in <code>xs.new</code> were generated. NOTE: This species latin names must match what is encoded in internal database, see <a href="#">getClockDatabase()</a> .

## Details

The output of this function is a data frame that copies `ys.new` and appends one or more additional new columns.

The appended columns will be named (automatically) to specify each clock being applied.

For all coefficient files and age transformations for all published Clocks, see the package's [GitHub repository](#).



**Value**

A data frame containing metadata and all predicted values, created by copying `ys.new` and appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are generated automatically to describe which clock is being used.

---

predictClockSimple	<i>Apply a Clock to Methylation Data</i>
--------------------	--

---

**Description**

Applies a previously built Clock to normalized methylation data `xs.new`. Ensure that the set of probes used to define the Clock are present within the column names of `xs.new` (in order words, that the methylation array used to build the Clock is the same array used to generate `xs.new`)

It is **very important** to note that if the Clock being provided was built using a transformation of the outcome variable (e.g. an age transformation), then you **must** provide the inverse transformation in order to properly generate predicted values.

**Usage**

```
predictClockSimple(
  in.valbeta,
  xs.new,
  fun_inv = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1_val = NA,
  fun_VAR2_val = NA
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>in.valbeta</code>	2-column Matrix or Data frame, the table of coefficients for the built Clock (column 1=probe, column 2=coefficient)
<code>xs.new</code>	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples in the new, independent set
<code>fun_inv</code>	Function, the name of an R function that inverse transforms the weighted sum of methylation values, with up to two additional parameters. This function, if it is present, is part of the definition of the Clock being applied. For more information, see <a href="#">saveBuildClock()</a>
<code>fun_VAR1_val</code>	Numeric OR Numeric vector, the value of the first parameter of <code>fun_inv</code> , if any, for each row of <code>xs.new</code> (default is NA, meaning no parameter is used)
<code>fun_VAR2_val</code>	Numeric OR Numeric vector, the value of the second parameter of <code>fun_inv</code> , if any, for each row of <code>xs.new</code> (default is NA, meaning no parameter is used)

**Details**

The output of this function is a vector containing the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (e.g., DNAm Age)

For all details related to building Clocks, see Details section in [saveBuildClock\(\)](#).

For efficiently applying all published Clocks, and for information on using these Clocks, see Details sections in [predictAge\(\)](#).

**Value**

A vector containing predicted values, where each entry corresponds to each row of `xs.new`.

---

rbind2.complete

*Maximally Combine Data Frames by Rows*


---

**Description**

Merge two data frames with `base::rbind()`, keeping all column names present in either data frame.

**Usage**

```
rbind2.complete(x, y, fill = NA)
```

**Arguments**

`x, y`                      Data frames

`fill`                      Missing columns in one data frame will be filled with this value (default is NA)

**Details**

Before calling `base::rbind()`, it expands the columns of `x` and `y` so that they both share all of their columns. If new columns are created, they are filled with the value of `fill` (with the default being NA)

**Value**

A data frame, the result of merging `x` and `y` by rows.

---

rbind2.inner

*Minimally Combine Data Frames by Rows*


---

**Description**

Merge two data frames with `base::rbind()`, only keeping column names present in both data frames.

**Usage**

```
rbind2.inner(x, y)
```

**Arguments**

`x, y`                      Data frames

**Details**

Before calling `base::rbind()`, it filters the columns of `x` and `y` to those that they both share

**Value**

A data frame, the result of merging x and y by rows.

---

reduct\_factor

*Character Expansion Multiplier for Multi-Panel Plots*


---

**Description**

Returns the multiplier (reduction factor) that is automatically applied to the cex in `base::plot()` when creating multi-panel plots.

**Usage**

```
reduct_factor(mfrow)
```

**Arguments**

mfrow                      2-element Numeric Vector, the dimensions of the multi-panel plot layout, given by `c(nrows, ncols)`

**Details**

Multi-panel plots can be made using the base `base::plot()` in R, by setting the value of mfrow. It is not well-known that `base::plot()` applies an automatic reduction to the cex (character expansion factor), which sets the relative size of all texts.

Specifically, this reduction is 0.83 if 2x2 plotting, and 0.66 if mfrow[1] or mfrow[2] is 3 or greater.

**Value**

A numeric, the multiplier (reduction factor) applied to the cex.

**Examples**

```
reduct_factor(mfrow=c(1,2))
reduct_factor(mfrow=c(2,2))
reduct_factor(mfrow=c(1,3))
reduct_factor(mfrow=c(2,3))
```

---

relevel.last

*Reorder Levels of Factor*


---

**Description**

The levels of a factor are re-ordered so that the level specified by ref is first and the others are moved up.

**Usage**

```
## S3 method for class 'last'
relevel(x, ref, ...)
```

**Arguments**

x	Factor
ref	String, the reference level of x to be moved to last
...	Arguments to be passed to <code>stats::relevel()</code> method

**Value**

A factor of the same length as x.

---

saveApplyClock	<i>Apply a Clock to a New Data Set and Generate Predicted Values</i>
----------------	--

---

**Description**

Applies a previously built Clock to a given data set (an aligned metadata `ys.new` and an aligned and normalized methylation data `xs.new`). Ensure that the set of probes used to define the Clock are present within the column names of `xs.new` (in order words, that the methylation array used to build the Clock is the same array used to generate `xs.new`)

It is **very important** to note that if the Clock being provided was built using a transformation of the outcome variable (e.g. an age transformation), then you **must** provide the inverse transformation in order to properly generate predicted values.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Table of metadata appended with all Clock predictions,
- Plot of Clock predictions.

**Usage**

```
saveApplyClock(
  in.valbeta,
  xs.new,
  ys.new,
  OUTVAR,
  output.csv,
  out.png,
  out.png.title,
  PREDVAR,
  RESVAR,
  fun_inv = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL,
  COLVAR = NULL,
  show.legend = T,
  oma.right = 9,
  square.axes = T
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>in.valbeta</code>	2-column Matrix or Data frame, the table of coefficients for the built Clock (column 1=probe, column 2=coefficient)
<code>xs.new</code>	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples in the new, independent set
<code>ys.new</code>	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples in the new, independent set
<code>OUTVAR</code>	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.new</code> containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
<code>output.csv</code>	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with predicted values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use <code>output.csv=NULL</code> .
<code>out.png</code>	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the plot containing Clock predictions vs. true values will be saved To skip this, use <code>out.png=NULL</code> .
<code>out.png.title</code>	String, the title to be used in the plot saved to <code>out.png</code>
<code>PREDVAR</code>	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
<code>RESVAR</code>	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the regression residual of the Clock, the difference of PREDVAR and OUTVAR (same units as OUTVAR, and typically Age Acceleration)
<code>fun_inv</code>	Function, the name of an R function that inverse transforms the weighted sum of methylation values, with up to two additional parameters. This function, if it is present, is part of the definition of the Clock being applied. For more information, see <a href="#">saveBuildClock()</a>
<code>fun_VAR1</code>	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.new</code> containing the first parameter of <code>fun_inv</code> , if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
<code>fun_VAR2</code>	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.new</code> containing the second parameter of <code>fun_inv</code> , if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
<code>COLVAR</code>	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.new</code> containing the coloring variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not color points). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
<code>show.legend</code>	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is TRUE)
<code>oma.right</code>	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
<code>square.axes</code>	Logical, Should the axis limits for the x-axis and y-axis be forced to be equal? (default is TRUE, otherwise axis limits are determined independently)

**Details**

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional plot directly to a new file in the workspace.

The output of this function is a data frame that copies `ys.new` and appends two additional new columns.

The two appended column will be named based on the values (given by the user) of the arguments PREDVAR and RESVAR.

For all details related to building Clocks, see Details section in [saveBuildClock\(\)](#).

For efficiently applying all published Clocks, and for information on using these Clocks, see Details sections in [predictAge\(\)](#).

### Value

A data frame containing metadata and predicted values, created by copying `ys.new` and appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are specified by the arguments PREDVAR and RESVAR.

---

saveBuildClock	<i>Build a New Clock based on a Training Data Set</i>
----------------	---

---

### Description

Fit an elastic net regression model, trained by using an aligned metadata `ys.train` and an aligned and normalized methylation data `xs.train`. Elastic net regression results in a sparse model, meaning that most probes will not be selected in the final fitted model.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Table of Clock coefficients,
- Table of metadata appended with Clock predictions,
- Panel plot of regression diagnostics and Clock predictions.

WARNING: This function calls `glmnet::cv.glmnet()`, so the results of this function are subject to randomness. Users should add line in their R scripts calling `set.seed()` before calling this function, in order for the results to be reproducible and consistent

### Usage

```
saveBuildClock(
  xs.train,
  ys.train,
  xs.other,
  ys.other,
  OUTVAR,
  out.csv,
  output.csv,
  out.png,
  out.png.title,
  PREDVAR,
  RESVAR,
  RESinOtherVAR,
  ALPHA = 0.5,
  NFOLD = 10,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_inv = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
```

```

    fun_VAR2 = NULL,
    loglambda.seq = NULL,
    parallel = F
)

```

## Arguments

xs.train	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples in the training set
ys.train	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples in the training set
xs.other	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for additional samples, to which the train Clock should generate predictions. For example, samples you are considering adding to the training set, or samples from an experimental or comparison group. NOTE: xs.other should be compatible with xs.train, see Details section below. To skip this, use xs.other=NULL.
ys.other	Data frame, the aligned metadata for additional samples, to which the train Clock should generate predictions. For example, samples you are considering adding to the training set, or samples from an experimental or comparison group. NOTE: ys.other should be compatible with ys.train, see Details section below. To skip this, use ys.other=NULL.
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.train and ys.other containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
out.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the table of coefficients for the Clock will be saved. For more information, see Details section below
output.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with predicted values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use output.csv=NULL.
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the panel plot containing regression diagnostics and Clock predictions will be saved. For description of the elastic net regression diagnostics, see <a href="#">glmnet::plot.cv.glmnet()</a> and <a href="#">glmnet::plot.glmnet()</a> To skip this, use out.png=NULL.
out.png.title	String, the title to be used in the panel plot saved to out.png
PREDVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
RESVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the regression residual of the Clock, the difference of PREDVAR and OUTVAR (same units as OUTVAR, and typically Age Acceleration)
RESinOtherVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the regression residual of the Clock restricted to the samples in ys.other. To skip this, use RESinOtherVAR=NULL.

ALPHA	<p>Numeric, the elasticnet mixing parameter, to be passed into <code>glmnet::glmnet()</code> and <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 0.5).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; the option to change it is mostly a formality.</p>
NFOLD	<p>Numeric, the number of folds used for selecting lambda, to be passed into <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 10).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it will change computation time, at the cost of model fitting optimality.</p>
fun_trans	<p>Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable, with up to two additional parameters. For more information, see Details section below</p>
fun_inv	<p>Function, the name of an R function that is the mathematical inverse of fun_trans, with the same parameters</p>
fun_VAR1	<p>String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the first parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)</p>
fun_VAR2	<p>String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the second parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)</p>
loglambda.seq	<p>Numeric Vector, the sequence of lambda values, on the natural log scale, to be evaluated in <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code>, instead of the sequence automatically generated (default is NULL, which automatically selects 100 values, evenly spaced on the natural log scale).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it should only be modified in the case of highly heterogeneous data, when the optimal value of lambda might be lower than the range of values automatically generated.</p>
parallel	<p>Logical, Should the elastic net regression fitting be done using parallel computing? (default is FALSE) Requires the package <code>doMC</code> to be installed and loaded. If activated, it will use approx. half the number of cores detected by <code>parallel::detectCores()</code>.</p> <p>WARNING: This option uses up a significant amount of the computers CPU and cores; it should only be used if the computer is not running any other strenuous programs, or if the code is being run on a remote server. Heavy extended use of the CPU on laptops will cause the shell to become very warm.</p>

## Details

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional table and plot directly to new files in the workspace.

This function builds a Clock using elastic net regression (see `glmnet::glmnet()`). The "optimal value" of the penalty parameter lambda is selected using `glmnet::cv.glmnet()`; specifically, it uses the value `lambda.1se` (which is the default). This is often referred to as the "one-standard-error rule" (see Friedman & Hastie, 2010).

The output of this function is a data frame that stacks `ys.train` and `ys.other`, and then appends four additional new columns. It is expected that `ys.train` and `ys.other` (as well as `xs.train` and `xs.other`) be compatible, meaning that they share the same columns and column names, in the same order. If `ys.train` and `ys.other` are not compatible, this function will only keeping column names present in both data frames, prior to row-binding them (see `rbind2.inner()`).



The first appended column is "train", which indicates whether or not a sample was part of the training set (1 means used in training, 0 means not used in training). The additional three appended column will be named based on the values (given by the user) of the arguments PREDVAR, RESVAR, and RESinOtherVAR. If RESinOtherVAR=NULL, then this column will not be appended.

The selected set of probes and the coefficients for the Clock are not returned, but are instead saved in the file given to the argument out.csv. This table of coefficients contains two columns, named "var" and "beta". The first column, "var", contains the names of the probes selected by the Clock (using the column names of xs.train). The second column, "beta", contains the regression coefficients of the Clock, which define the fitted regression model. The regression model is defined by:

$$Age = x \cdot \beta,$$

where  $\beta$  is the vector of true coefficients (or weights) and  $x$  is the vector of methylation values of a given sample, including an intercept term. The fitted regression model is used to calculate DNAm Age for a given sample, as follows:

$$DNAmAge = x \cdot \hat{\beta},$$

where  $\hat{\beta}$  is the sparse vector of estimated coefficients.

If you are using a transformation of the outcome variable, the regression model for the Clock fundamentally changes:

$$F(Age) = x \cdot \beta,$$

where  $F()$  is the transformation of the outcome variable (possibly with species-specific parameters, which are unwritten). It is *very important* to note that this changes the definition of DNAm Age as well:

$$DNAmAge = F^{-1}(x \cdot \hat{\beta}),$$

and that the inverse transformation is now tied to the definition of the Clock.

If you choose not to use one of the transformation functions provided in this package, then it is up to you, the user, to ensure that fun\_trans and fun\_inv are mathematical inverse of one another.

## Value

A data frame containing metadata and predicted values, created by stacking ys.train and ys.other, and then appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are specified by the arguments PREDVAR, RESVAR, and RESinOtherVAR.

---

saveBuildClockStrat	<i>Build a Set of Independent New Clocks based on a Training Data Set, Stratified by Species</i>
---------------------	--

---

## Description

Fit a set of independent elastic net regression models, trained by stratifying and using an aligned metadata ys.train and an aligned and normalized methylation data xs.train. Elastic net regression results in a sparse model, meaning that most probes will not be selected in a final fitted model.

This function should be used if you have a significant number of samples from multiple different species, and would like to a set of build single-species Clocks simultaneously.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Table of all Clock coefficients,

- Table of metadata appended with all Clock predictions,
- Panel plot of all Clock predictions (each panel is one stratum).

WARNING: This function calls `glmnet::cv.glmnet()`, so the results of this function are subject to randomness. Users should add line in their R scripts calling `set.seed()` before calling this function, in order for the results to be reproducible and consistent

### Usage

```
saveBuildClockStrat(
  xs.train,
  ys.train,
  xs.other,
  ys.other,
  OUTVAR,
  STRATVAR,
  out.csv,
  output.csv,
  out.png,
  out.png.title,
  PREDVAR,
  RESVAR,
  RESinOtherVAR,
  ALPHA = 0.5,
  NFOLD = 10,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_inv = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL,
  COLVAR = NULL,
  show.original = T,
  loglambda.seq = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

<code>xs.train</code>	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples in the training set
<code>ys.train</code>	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples in the training set
<code>xs.other</code>	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for additional samples, to which the train Clock should generate predictions. For example, samples you are considering adding to the training set, or samples from an experimental or comparison group. NOTE: <code>xs.other</code> should be compatible with <code>xs.train</code> , see Details section below. To skip this, use <code>xs.other=NULL</code> .
<code>ys.other</code>	Data frame, the aligned metadata for additional samples, to which the train Clock should generate predictions. For example, samples you are considering adding to the training set, or samples from an experimental or comparison group. NOTE: <code>ys.other</code> should be compatible with <code>ys.train</code> , see Details section below. To skip this, use <code>ys.other=NULL</code> .

OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
STRATVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the stratifying variable (typically Species Name), by which to stratify <code>ys.train</code> and build individual Clocks.  NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
out.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the table of coefficients for the Clock will be saved. For more information, see Details section below
output.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with predicted values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use <code>output.csv=NULL</code> .
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the panel plot containing all Clock predictions vs. true values (each panel is one stratum) will be saved. Please note that this plot will contain all the predictions, from both <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> . Unlike with <code>saveBuildClock()</code> , no diagnostic plots are generated. To skip this, use <code>out.png=NULL</code> .
out.png.title	String, the title to be used in the panel plot saved to <code>out.png</code>
PREDVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the predicted outcome variable, the output of the corresponding Clock for each stratum (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
RESVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the regression residual of the corresponding Clock for each stratum, the difference of PREDVAR and OUTVAR (same units as OUTVAR, and typically Age Acceleration)
RESinOtherVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the regression residual of the corresponding Clock for each stratum, restricted to the samples in <code>ys.other</code> . To skip this, use <code>RESinOtherVAR=NULL</code> .
ALPHA	Numeric, the elasticnet mixing parameter, to be passed into <code>glmnet::glmnet()</code> and <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 0.5). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; the option to change it is mostly a formality.
NFOLD	Numeric, the number of folds used for selecting lambda, to be passed into <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 10). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it will change computation time, at the cost of model fitting optimality.
fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable, with up to two additional parameters. For more information, see <code>saveBuildClock()</code>
fun_inv	Function, the name of an R function that is the mathematical inverse of <code>fun_trans</code> , with the same parameters
fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the first parameter of <code>fun_trans</code> / <code>fun_inv</code> , if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)

fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the second parameter of <code>fun_trans/fun_inv</code> , if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
COLVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.train</code> and <code>ys.other</code> containing the coloring variable for the panel plot (default is NULL, uses <code>COLVAR=STRATVAR</code> ). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
show.original	Logical, Should the original full-data plot be shown as the first panel? (default is TRUE)
loglambda.seq	Numeric Vector, the sequence of <code>lambda</code> values, on the natural log scale, to be used in <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> , instead of the ones automatically generated (default is NULL, which automatically selects 100 values, evenly spaced on the natural log scale, and independently for each stratum).  WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it should only be modified in the case of highly heterogeneous data, when the optimal value of <code>lambda</code> might be lower than the range of values automatically generated.

## Details

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional table and plot directly to new files in the workspace.

The output of this function is a data frame that stacks `ys.train` and `ys.other`, and then appends four additional new columns. It is expected that `ys.train` and `ys.other` (as well as `xs.train` and `xs.other`) be compatible, meaning that they share the same columns and column names, in the same order. If `ys.train` and `ys.other` are not compatible, this function will only keeping column names present in both data frames, prior to row-binding them (see `rbind2.inner()`).

The first appended column is "train", which indicates whether or not a sample was part of the training set (1 means used in training, 0 means not used in training). The additional three appended column will be named based on the values (given by the user) of the arguments `PREDVAR`, `RESVAR`, and `RESinOtherVAR`. If `RESinOtherVAR=NULL`, then this column will not be appended.

The selected set of probes and the coefficients for all of the Clocks are not returned, but are instead saved together in the file given to the argument `out.csv`. This table of coefficients contains  $S + 1$  columns, named "var" and "beta.<level>", where  $S$  refers to  $S == \text{length}(\text{levels}(\text{ys.train[, SPECVAR]}))$ . The first column, "var", contains the names of the probes selected by at least one of the Clocks (using the column names of `xs.train`). The remaining  $S$  columns, "beta.<level>", each contain the regression coefficients of the Clock (corresponding to that stratum), which define the fitted regression model.

For all other details related to building Clocks, see Details section in `saveBuildClock()`.

## Value

A data frame containing metadata and predicted values, created by stacking `ys.train` and `ys.other`, and then appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are specified by the arguments `PREDVAR`, `RESVAR`, and `RESinOtherVAR`.

saveEWAS

*Perform Epigenome-wide Association Study on Outcome Variable***Description**

Performs an epigenome-wide association study (EWAS) on the outcome variable.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Table of EWAS results.

**Usage**

```
saveEWAS(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  ewas.csv,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

xs	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples used to build a Clock
ys	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples used to build a Clock
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years, but can be binary as well)
ewas.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with the EWAS scores and significant values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use ewas.csv=NULL.
fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable prior to calculating correlations with every probe, with up to two additional parameters. If a transformation function was used to build a corresponding Clock, then the same function should be provided here. For more information, see <a href="#">saveBuildClock()</a>
fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in ys containing the first parameter of fun_trans, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in ys containing the second parameter of fun_trans, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)

**Details**

In this function, the outcome variable is first transformed, using fun\_trans, if such a function is provided. Then, with these transformed outcome values as 'traits', and along with the methylation data, the EWAS is performed. For details about the computations, see [WGCNA::standardScreeningNumericTrait\(\)](#) (or [WGCNA::standardScreeningBinaryTrait\(\)](#)).

**Value**

A data frame containing the results of the EWAS. For an explanation of each column in the output, see [WGCNA::standardScreeningNumericTrait\(\)](#) (or [WGCNA::standardScreeningBinaryTrait\(\)](#)).

---

saveLOOEstimation	<i>Generate Unbiased Predictions for a New Clock based on a Training Data Set</i>
-------------------	---

---

**Description**

Approximate the out-of-sample behavior of a Clock model by generating unbiased predictions using Leave-One-Out cross-validation. Generates an unbiased version of the Clock predictions using the entire training set of a corresponding Clock (an aligned metadata *ys* and an aligned and normalized methylation data *xs*).

Files generated and saved by this function:

- List of Tables of Clock coefficients of every Leave-One-Out Clock,
- Table of metadata appended with unbiased Clock predictions,
- Plot of unbiased Clock predictions.

WARNING: This function calls [glmnet::cv.glmnet\(\)](#), so the results of this function are subject to randomness. Users should add line in their R scripts calling [set.seed\(\)](#) before calling this function, in order for the results to be reproducible and consistent

**Usage**

```
saveLOOEstimation(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  out.rdata,
  output.csv,
  out.png,
  out.png.title,
  PREDVAR,
  RESVAR,
  ALPHA = 0.5,
  NFOLD = 10,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_inv = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL,
  COLVAR = NULL,
  NUMVAR = NULL,
  show.legend = T,
  oma.right = 9,
  xs.add_train = NULL,
  ys.add_train = NULL,
  loglambda.seq = NULL,
  parallel = F
)
```

**Arguments**

xs	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples used to build a Clock
ys	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples used to build a Clock
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
out.rdata	File name/File path String (must end in ".RData"), the name and location of the file where the list of every table of coefficients for every Leave-One-Out Clock will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use out.rdata=NULL.
output.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with unbiased predicted values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use output.csv=NULL.
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the plot containing Leave-One-Out predictions vs. true values will be saved To skip this, use out.png=NULL.
out.png.title	String, the title to be used in the plot saved to out.png
PREDVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the unbiased predicted outcome variable, the output of the corresponding Leave-One-Out Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
RESVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the residual of the Leave-One-Out predictions against the true values, roughly the difference of PREDVAR and OUTVAR (same units as OUTVAR, and typically Age Acceleration)
ALPHA	Numeric, the elasticnet mixing parameter, to be passed into <code>glmnet::glmnet()</code> and <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 0.5). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; the option to change it is mostly a formality.
NFOLD	Numeric, the number of folds used for selecting lambda, to be passed into <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 10). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it will change computation time, at the cost of model fitting optimality.
fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable, with up to two additional parameters. For more information, see <code>saveBuildClock()</code>
fun_inv	Function, the name of an R function that is the mathematical inverse of fun_trans, with the same parameters
fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in ys containing the first parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in ys containing the second parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
COLVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the coloring variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not color points). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .

NUMVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the numbering variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
show.legend	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is TRUE)
oma.right	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
xs.add_train	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for additional samples, which will be included in the training set at every iteration of the Leave-One-Out analysis
ys.add_train	Data frame, the aligned metadata for additional samples, which will be included in the training set at every iteration of the Leave-One-Out analysis
loglambda.seq	Numeric Vector, the sequence of lambda values, on the natural log scale, to be evaluated in <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> , instead of the sequence automatically generated (default is NULL, which automatically selects 100 values, evenly spaced on the natural log scale). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it should only be modified in the case of highly heterogeneous data, when the optimal value of lambda might be lower than the range of values automatically generated.
parallel	Logical, Should the elastic net regression fitting be done using parallel computing? (default is FALSE) Requires the package <code>doMC</code> to be installed and loaded. If activated, it will use approx. half the number of cores detected by <code>parallel::detectCores()</code> . WARNING: This option uses up a significant amount of the computers CPU and cores; it should only be used if the computer is not running any other strenuous programs, or if the code is being run on a remote server. Heavy extended use of the CPU on laptops will cause the shell to become very warm.

## Details

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional plot, and a list of tables, directly to new files in the workspace.

This function performs a Leave-One-Out (LOO) analysis of a specified Clock model. For every sample (every row of ys), it does the following:

- Creates a temporary copy of ys and xs with the selected sample removed,
- Fits a Clock model based on this temporary data set copy, with the same specifications as outlined in `saveBuildClock()`,
- Saves the table of coefficients of this LOO Clock to a list of matrices,
- Applies this LOO Clock to the sample that was removed, and saves the predicted value (usually called DNAm Age LOO) to the output of this function.

Please note that, in order to be computationally efficient, this function does NOT perform an internal cross-validation at every iteration, to select a potentially different optimal value of the penalty parameter lambda for every LOO Clock. Because all of these optimal lambda values will be very close to each other in practice, we instead choose to select ONE optimal lambda value based on the full data set, and use this value of lambda to fit every LOO Clock.

The output of this function is a data frame that copies ys and appends three additional new columns.

The first two appended column will be named based on the values (given by the user) of the arguments PREDVAR and RESVAR. The final appended column is "count\_probes\_selected", which



counts how many probes were selected for in the LOO Clock corresponding to that sample. These values are typically close to each other, and close to the number of probes selected in the corresponding final Clock trained on the full data.

The selected sets of probes and the coefficients for every LOO Clock are not returned, but are instead saved in the file given to the argument `out.rdata`. This file contains a list of tables (matrices) of coefficients, and every table of coefficients within this list contains two columns.

For all details related to building Clocks and using coefficients files, see Details section in [saveBuildClock\(\)](#).

## Value

A data frame containing metadata and predicted values, created by copying `ys` and unbiased appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are specified by the arguments `PREDVAR` and `RESVAR`.

---

saveLOOEstimationStrat

*Generate Unbiased Predictions for a Set of New Clocks based on a Training Data Set, Stratified by Species*

---

## Description

Approximate the out-of-sample behavior of a set of independent Clock models by generating unbiased predictions using stratified Leave-One-Out cross-validation. Generates an unbiased version of the Clock predictions within each stratum, using the entire training set of a corresponding Clock (an aligned metadata `ys` and an aligned and normalized methylation data `xs`).

This function should be used if you have a significant number of samples from multiple different species, and would like to a set of build single-species Clocks simultaneously.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Multiple Lists of Tables (one for each stratum) of Clock coefficients of every Leave-One-Out Clock,
- Table of metadata appended with all unbiased Clock predictions,
- Plot of all unbiased Clock predictions.

WARNING: This function calls `glmnet::cv.glmnet()`, so the results of this function are subject to randomness. Users should add line in their R scripts calling `set.seed()` before calling this function, in order for the results to be reproducible and consistent

## Usage

```
saveLOOEstimationStrat(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  STRATVAR,
  out.rdata.PREFIX,
  output.csv,
  out.png,
  out.png.title,
  PREDVAR,
```

```

RESVAR,
ALPHA = 0.5,
NFOLD = 10,
fun_trans = fun_identity,
fun_inv = fun_identity,
fun_VAR1 = NULL,
fun_VAR2 = NULL,
COLVAR = NULL,
NUMVAR = NULL,
show.legend = T,
oma.right = 9,
xs.add_train = NULL,
ys.add_train = NULL,
parallel = F
)

```

### Arguments

xs	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples used to build a set of independent Clocks
ys	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples used to build a set of independent Clocks
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
STRATVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the stratifying variable (typically Species Name), by which to stratify ys and perform separate Leave-One-Out analyses. NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
out.rdata.PREFIX	File name/File path String PREFIX (meaning a file name or file path without the '.RData' at the end), the name and location of the files where the lists (one list for each stratum) of every table of coefficients for every Leave-One-Out Clock will be saved. To skip this, use <code>out.rdata.PREFIX=NULL</code> .
output.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with unbiased predicted values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use <code>output.csv=NULL</code> .
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the plot containing Leave-One-Out predictions vs. true values will be saved To skip this, use <code>out.png=NULL</code> .
out.png.title	String, the title to be used in the plot saved to <code>out.png</code>
PREDVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the unbiased predicted outcome variable, the output of the corresponding stratified Leave-One-Out Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
RESVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the residual of the Leave-One-Out predictions against the true values, roughly the difference of PREDVAR and OUTVAR (same units as OUTVAR, and typically Age Acceleration)

ALPHA	Numeric, the elasticnet mixing parameter, to be passed into <code>glmnet::glmnet()</code> and <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 0.5). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; the option to change it is mostly a formality.
NFOLD	Numeric, the number of folds used for selecting lambda, to be passed into <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 10). WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it will change computation time, at the cost of model fitting optimality.
fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable, with up to two additional parameters. For more information, see <code>saveBuildClock()</code>
fun_inv	Function, the name of an R function that is the mathematical inverse of fun_trans, with the same parameters
fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in ys containing the first parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in ys containing the second parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
COLVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the coloring variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not color points). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
NUMVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the numbering variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
show.legend	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is TRUE)
oma.right	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
xs.add_train	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for additional samples, which will be included (after also being stratified) in the training set at every iteration of the appropriate Leave-One-Out analysis
ys.add_train	Data frame, the aligned metadata for additional samples, which will be included (after also being stratified) in the training set at every iteration of the appropriate Leave-One-Out analysis
parallel	Logical, Should the elastic net regression fitting be done using parallel computing? (default is FALSE) Requires the package <code>doMC</code> to be installed and loaded. If activated, it will use approx. half the number of cores detected by <code>parallel::detectCores()</code> . WARNING: This option uses up a significant amount of the computers CPU and cores; it should only be used if the computer is not running any other strenuous programs, or if the code is being run on a remote server. Heavy extended use of the CPU on laptops will cause the shell to become very warm.

## Details

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional plot, and multiple lists of tables, directly to new files in the workspace.

This function performs a set of simultaneous and independent Leave-One-Out (LOO) analyses of a specified Clock model on a stratified data set. In other words, for every stratum, it performs a LOO analysis using the same Clock model. For all details related to LOO Analysis, see Details section of `saveLOOEstimation()`.

The output of this function is a data frame that copies `ys` and appends three additional new columns. The first two appended column will be named based on the values (given by the user) of the arguments `PREDVAR` and `RESVAR`. The final appended column is `"count_probes_selected"`, which counts how many probes were selected for in the LOO Clock corresponding to that sample and that strata. These values are typically close to each other, and close to the number of probes selected in the corresponding final stratified Clock trained on the full data.

The selected sets of probes and the coefficients for every LOO Clock are not returned, but are instead saved in multiple files, named based on the file prefix given to the argument `out.rdata.PREFIX`. There is one RData file corresponding to each strata within the data. Each of these files contains a single list of tables (matrices) of coefficients, and every table of coefficients within this list contains two columns.

For all details related to building Clocks and using coefficients files, see Details section in [saveBuildClock\(\)](#).

### Value

A data frame containing metadata and predicted values, created by copying `ys` and unbiased appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are specified by the arguments `PREDVAR` and `RESVAR`.

---

<code>saveLOSOEstimation</code>	<i>Generate Species-Level Unbiased Predictions for a New Multi-Species Clock based on a Training Data Set</i>
---------------------------------	---

---

### Description

Approximate the out-of-sample behavior of a multi-species Clock model on new species by generating unbiased predictions using Leave-One-Species-Out cross-validation. Generates an unbiased version of the Clock predictions using the entire training set of a corresponding Clock (an aligned metadata `ys` and an aligned and normalized methylation data `xs`).

Files generated and saved by this function:

- List of Tables of Clock coefficients of every Leave-One-Species-Out Clock,
- Table of metadata appended with unbiased Clock predictions,
- Plot of unbiased Clock predictions.

WARNING: This function calls `glmnet::cv.glmnet()`, so the results of this function are subject to randomness. Users should add line in their R scripts calling `set.seed()` before calling this function, in order for the results to be reproducible and consistent

### Usage

```
saveLOSOEstimation(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  SPECVAR,
  out.rdata,
  output.csv,
  out.png,
  out.png.title,
```

```

    PREDVAR,
    RESVAR,
    ALPHA = 0.5,
    NFOLD = 10,
    fun_trans = fun_identity,
    fun_inv = fun_identity,
    fun_VAR1 = NULL,
    fun_VAR2 = NULL,
    COLVAR = NULL,
    NUMVAR = NULL,
    show.legend = T,
    oma.right = 9,
    cpq_names.list = NULL,
    xs.add_train = NULL,
    ys.add_train = NULL,
    loglambda.seq = NULL,
    parallel = F
)

```

### Arguments

xs	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples used to build a Clock
ys	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples used to build a Clock
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
SPECVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the stratifying variable (typically Species Name). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
out.rdata	File name/File path String (must end in ".RData"), the name and location of the file where the list of every table of coefficients for every Leave-One-Species-Out Clock will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use <code>out.rdata=NULL</code> .
output.csv	File name/File path String (must end in ".csv"), the name and location of the file where the output data frame with unbiased predicted values will be saved. For more information, see Details section below To skip this, use <code>output.csv=NULL</code> .
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the plot containing Leave-One-Species-Out predictions vs. true values will be saved To skip this, use <code>out.png=NULL</code> .
out.png.title	String, the title to be used in the plot saved to <code>out.png</code>
PREDVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the unbiased predicted outcome variable, the output of the corresponding Leave-One-Species-Out Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
RESVAR	String, the name of the NEW appended column in the output which will contain the residual of the Leave-One-Species-Out predictions against the true values, roughly the difference of PREDVAR and OUTVAR (same units as OUTVAR, and typically Age Acceleration)

ALPHA	<p>Numeric, the elasticnet mixing parameter, to be passed into <code>glmnet::glmnet()</code> and <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 0.5).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; the option to change it is mostly a formality.</p>
NFOLD	<p>Numeric, the number of folds used for selecting lambda, to be passed into <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> (default is 10).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it will change computation time, at the cost of model fitting optimality.</p>
fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable, with up to two additional parameters. For more information, see <code>saveBuildClock()</code>
fun_inv	Function, the name of an R function that is the mathematical inverse of fun_trans, with the same parameters
fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in ys containing the first parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in ys containing the second parameter of fun_trans/fun_inv, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
COLVAR	<p>String, the name of the column in ys containing the coloring variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not color points).</p> <p>NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code>.</p>
NUMVAR	<p>String, the name of the column in ys containing the numbering variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols).</p> <p>NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code>.</p>
show.legend	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is TRUE)
oma.right	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
cpg_names.list	List of String Vectors, the probe names used for pre-filtering for each iteration of the Leave-One-Species-Out analysis. The elements of cpg_names.list should match with the <code>levels(ys[, SPECVAR])</code> in order
xs.add_train	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for additional samples, which will be included in the training set at every iteration of the Leave-One-Species-Out analysis, regardless of species
ys.add_train	Data frame, the aligned metadata for additional samples, which will be included in the training set at every iteration of the Leave-One-Species-Out analysis, regardless of species
loglambda.seq	<p>Numeric Vector, the sequence of lambda values, on the natural log scale, to be evaluated in <code>glmnet::cv.glmnet()</code> every time, instead of the sequences automatically generated (default is NULL, which automatically selects 100 values, evenly spaced on the natural log scale).</p> <p>WARNING: Do not change this argument unless you understand what it is; it should only be modified in the case of highly heterogeneous data, when the optimal value of lambda might be lower than the range of values automatically generated.</p>
parallel	<p>Logical, Should the elastic net regression fitting be done using parallel computing? (default is FALSE) Requires the package <code>doMC</code> to be installed and loaded.</p> <p>If activated, it will use approx. half the number of cores detected by <code>parallel::detectCores()</code>.</p> <p>WARNING: This option uses up a significant amount of the computers CPU and cores; it should only be used if the computer is not running any other strenuous</p>

programs, or if the code is being run on a remote server. Heavy extended use of the CPU on laptops will cause the shell to become very warm.

## Details

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional plot, and a list of tables, directly to new files in the workspace.

This function performs a Leave-One-Species-Out (LOSO) analysis of a specified Clock model. For every species (level) in `ys`, it does the following:

- Creates a temporary copy of `ys` and `xs` with all samples from the selected species removed,
- Fits a Clock model based on this temporary data set copy, with the same specifications as outlined in [saveBuildClock\(\)](#),
- Saves the table of coefficients of this LOSO Clock to a list of matrices,
- Applies this LOSO Clock to all of the samples that were removed, and saves the predicted values (usually called DNAm Age LOSO) to the output of this function.

Please note that, unlike in [saveL00Estimation\(\)](#), a new optimal lambda is selected (via internal cross-validation) during every iteration of LOSO. This is done because all of these optimal lambda values will likely be significantly different to each other in practice.

The output of this function is a data frame that copies `ys` and appends four additional new columns.

The first two appended column will be named based on the values (given by the user) of the arguments `PREDVAR` and `RESVAR`. The third appended column is `"count_probes_selected"`, which counts how many probes were selected for in the LOSO Clock corresponding to that sample's species. These values may be quite different, depending on how different the species in the data are.

The final appended column is `"log_lambda_hat"`, which is the natural log of the optimal lambda that is selected based on [glmnet::cv.glmnet\(\)](#). If you manually specify `loglambda.seq` and observe that many of these values are at one end of the sequence range, it is recommended that you re-specify `loglambda.seq`.

The selected sets of probes and the coefficients for every LOSO Clock are not returned, but are instead saved in the file given to the argument `out.rdata`. This file contains a list of tables (matrices) of coefficients, and every table of coefficients within this list contains two columns.

For all details related to building Clocks and using coefficients files, see Details section in [saveBuildClock\(\)](#).

## Value

A data frame containing metadata and predicted values, created by copying `ys` and unbiased appending predicted values as new columns. The names of the new columns are specified by the arguments `PREDVAR` and `RESVAR`.

## Description

Performs a meta epigenome-wide association study (meta-EWAS) on the outcome variable, by first stratifying the data by secondary categorical variable and performing an EWAS within each stratum. The results are then aggregated via Stouffer's method to calculate a single index.

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Aggregate Table of meta-EWAS results,
- Multiple Tables of stratified EWAS results (one for each stratum),
- Plot of Clock predictions.

## Usage

```
saveMetaEWAS(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  STRATVAR,
  ewas.csv.PREFIX,
  ewas.png,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL,
  ewas.png.size = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

xs	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples used to build a Clock
ys	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples used to build a Clock
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years, but can be binary as well)
STRATVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the stratifying variable (typically Tissue Type), by which to stratify ys and calculate independent z-scores. NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
ewas.csv.PREFIX	File name/File path String PREFIX (meaning a file name or file path without the '.csv' at the end), the name and location of the files where the meta-EWAS output table, and each of the strata EWAS output tables, will be saved To skip this, use <code>ewas.csv.PREFIX=NULL</code> .
ewas.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the panel plot containing pairwise strata z-scores of the probes will be saved To skip this, use <code>ewas.png=NULL</code> .
fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable prior to calculating correlations with every probe, with up to two additional parameters. If a transformation function was used to build a corresponding Clock, then the same function should be provided here. For more information, see <a href="#">saveBuildClock()</a>



fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in <code>ys</code> containing the first parameter of <code>fun_trans</code> , if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in <code>ys</code> containing the second parameter of <code>fun_trans</code> , if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
ewas.png.size	Numeric, the width and height of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is NULL, automatically calculates based on number of strata)

## Details

While this function only returns a single data frame, it creates and saves an additional plot, and multiple tables, directly to a new file in the workspace.

The output of this function is a data frame that contains the results of the meta-EWAS. The set of tables that are saved as files contain the results of each individual EWAS, with a suffix added with the name of the stratum value.

The panel plot that is generated is a pairs plot of all of the strata z-score columns, where the upper-right plots are pairwise scatter plots, the lower-left "plots" display the pairwise correlations of each scatter plot, and the diagonal contains the name of the stratum value corresponding to every row and column.

For details about performing regular EWAS, see [saveEWAS\(\)](#).

## Value

A data frame containing the following components:

- IDThe ID/name of the probe
- Z.(Multiple columns) The score of the probe within each stratum, calculated in [saveEWAS\(\)](#)
- metaZThe aggregate score of the probe across all strata, calculated via Stouffer's method
- metaPvalueThe unadjusted p-value corresponding to metaZ

---

saveSurvivalAnalysis    *Estimate Hazard Ratios for Age Acceleration and Other Factors*

---

## Description

Estimate the level of association between Age Acceleration (or other covariates) on survival time, after building a new Clock or applying an built Clock. Estimates coefficients using GEE and fits a survival curve to the data using the metadata of the entire training set of a corresponding Clock (an aligned metadata `ys`).

Files generated and saved by this function:

- Table of GEE coefficients,
- Image of table of GEE coefficients,
- Plot of fitted survival curve.
- Plot of fitted survival curve combined with table of GEE coefficients.

**Usage**

```

saveSurvivalAnalysis(
  ys.output,
  TIMEVAR,
  STATUSVAR,
  COVARS,
  coxph.table.tsv,
  coxph.table.png,
  coxph.png,
  coxphcombined.png,
  coxph.png.title,
  STRATVAR = NULL,
  CLUSTVAR = NULL
)

```

**Arguments**

ys.output	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples, after a Clock been applied and predictions (typically DNAm Age) and residuals (typically Age Acceleration) have been generated.
TIMEVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the survival time variable (the amount of time that the individual survived after the study began)
STATUSVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the survival status indicator variable (TRUE indicates death) NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::logical()</code> .
COVARS	String or String Vector, the name(s) of the column(s) in ys.output containing the covariate variable(s) of interest for the survival analysis, such as Age Acceleration from a built Clock, or a treatment/control variable. To include no covariates (and use the intercept-only model), use COVARS=NULL.
coxph.table.tsv	File name/File path String (must end in ".tsv"), the name and location of the file where the GEE summary table will be saved. For more information, see <code>tab::tabcoxph()</code>
coxph.table.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where an image of the GEE summary table (useful for presenting) will be saved To skip this, use coxph.table.png=NULL.
coxph.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the fitted survival curve plot will be saved To skip this, use coxph.png=NULL.
coxphcombined.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the fitted survival curve plot, combined with an image of the GEE summary table, will be saved To skip this, use coxphcombined.png=NULL.
coxph.png.title	String, the title to be used in all three of the plots saved
STRATVAR	String or String Vector, the name(s) of the column(s) in ys.output containing the stratifying variable(s) (default is NULL, does not stratify the survival model) NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .

CLUSTVAR      String, the name of the column in `ys.output` containing the clustering variable (default is NULL, does not cluster the data)  
 NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a `base::factor()`.

## Details

While this function returns nothing, it creates and saves a table and three plots directly to new files in the workspace.

This function performs a survival analysis of a specified covariate (or covariates) on survival time. This function is included in this package with the intended use of performing a survival analysis on the residual variable (typically Age Acceleration) generated by `saveBuildClock()` or `saveApplyClock()`.

This function provides the option to stratify the survival analysis by one or more variables, or to cluster the samples according to a given variable. For more information, see `survival::coxph()`.

Please note that this function will always include the intercept term in the model.

For all details related to performing a survival analysis and fitting the regression model, see Details section in `survival::coxph()`.

## Value

Nothing.

---

saveValidationPanelPlot

*Save Multi-Panel Plot Image of Predicted vs. True Outcome Values with Legend*

---

## Description

Creates and saves an image of a single multi-panel plot, showing the true values of the outcome variable (on the x-axis) against the predicted values (on the y-axis) generated by a Clock; each panel is automatically labeled and titled, and shows the samples within one group of a categorical variable (typically Tissue Type or Experimental Treatment).

Includes the correlation, the MAE (median absolute error), and the sample size in the header of every panel. Provides the option to color and/or number points according to additional variables, and include a legend for the colors.

## Usage

```
saveValidationPanelPlot(
  ys.output,
  OUTVAR,
  PREDVAR,
  PANELVAR,
  out.png,
  TITLE_str,
  mfrow = NULL,
  width = NULL,
  height = NULL,
```

```

COLVAR = PANELVAR,
NUMVAR = NULL,
show.original = T,
y.axis.labs = PREDVAR,
x.axis.labs = OUTVAR,
panel.labs = LETTERS,
panel.mains = NULL,
pointsize = 12,
show.legend = F,
oma.right = 9,
consistent.axes = T,
ys.colors = NULL,
ys.numbers = NULL
)

```

### Arguments

ys.output	Data frame, the post-analysis aligned metadata for the samples, including predicted values from a Clock or LOO Analysis
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
PREDVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
PANELVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the partitioning variable for the plot. NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the validation multi-panel plot containing predictions vs. true values will be saved
TITLE_str	String, the main title to be used in the plot
mfrow	2-element Numeric Vector, the dimensions of the multi-panel plot layout, given by <code>c(nrows, ncols)</code> (default is NULL, automatically calculates a roughly square layout, favoring rectangular wide over rectangular tall)
width	Numeric, the width of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is NULL, automatically calculates based on number of strata). If height is NULL, this argument is treated as NULL as well.
height	Numeric, the height of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is NULL, automatically calculates based on number of strata). If width is NULL, this argument is treated as NULL as well.
COLVAR	String OR String Vector, the name(s) of the column(s) in ys.output containing the coloring variable(s) for every panel (default is NULL, does not color points). NOTE: This variable(s) must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
NUMVAR	String OR String Vector, the name(s) of the column(s) in ys.output containing the numbering variable(s) for every panel (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols). NOTE: This variable(s) must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
show.original	Logical, Should the plot include the original, unpartitioned data as the first panel? (default is TRUE)

y.axis.labs	String OR String Vector, the label(s) to put on the y-axis of every panel (default is PREDVAR)
x.axis.labs	String OR String Vector, the label(s) to put on the x-axis of every panel (default is OUTVAR)
panel.labs	String Vector, the labels to put in the upper-left corner of every panel, in order to enumerate them (default is LETTERS)
panel.mains	String OR String Vector, the title(s) to put on every panel (default is NULL, uses levels(ys.output[, PANELVAR]))
pointsize	Numeric, the font point size for all points (default is 12, the same default used in plot())
show.legend	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is FALSE)
oma.right	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
consistent.axes	Logical, Should the function force all the panels to have the exact same x- and y-axis limits? (default is TRUE)
ys.colors	String Vector, the color names (or hex codes) for the colors used to color the points, according to the order in levels(ys.output[, COLVAR]) (default is NULL, automatically generates colors using Dark2() or rainbow())
ys.numbers	String Vector, the numbers/symbols (as strings) used to replace the points, according to the order in levels(ys.output[, NUMVAR]) (default is NULL, automatically generates integer numbers using as.numeric(levels(ys.output[, NUMVAR])))

**Value**

Nothing.

---

saveValidationPanelPlotSeries

*Save Sequential Multi-Panel Plot Images of Predicted vs. True Outcome Values without Legend*

---

**Description**

Creates and saves multiple images of multi-panel plots in a series, showing the true values of the outcome variable (on the x-axis) against the predicted values (on the y-axis) generated by a Clock; each panel is automatically labeled and titled, and shows the samples within one group of a categorical variable (typically Tissue Type or Species). Every multi-panel plot is exactly 3x3, and the function generates as many images as are necessary to plot every group.

Includes the correlation, the MAE (median absolute error), and the sample size in the header of every panel. Provides the option to color and/or number points according to additional variables. However, it does not provide the option to include a legend for the colors.

**Usage**

```
saveValidationPanelPlotSeries(
  ys.output,
  OUTVAR,
  PREDVAR,
  PANELVAR,
  out.png.PREFIX,
  TITLE_str.PREFIX,
  COLVAR = NULL,
  NUMVAR = NULL,
  sort.by_sample_size = T,
  pointsize = 12,
  ys.colors = NULL,
  ys.numbers = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

ys.output	Data frame, the post-analysis aligned metadata for the samples, including predicted values from a Clock or LOO Analysis
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
PREDVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
PANELVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the partitioning variable for the plots. NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
out.png.PREFIX	File name/File path String PREFIX (meaning a file name or file path without the '.png' at the end), the name and location of the files where all of the validation multi-panel plots containing predictions vs. true values will be saved
TITLE_str.PREFIX	String, the main title to be used in the plot ("(part #)" will be added to the title in every plot)
COLVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the coloring variable for the plots (default is NULL, does not color points). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
NUMVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the numbering variable for the plots (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
sort.by_sample_size	Logical, Should the function sort the plots and panels based on number of samples in each panel, from largest to smallest? (default is TRUE)
pointsize	Numeric, the font point size for all points (default is 12, the same default used in <code>plot()</code> )
ys.colors	String Vector, the color names (or hex codes) for the colors used to color the points, according to the order in <code>levels(ys.output[,COLVAR])</code> (default is NULL, automatically generates colors using <code>Dark2()</code> or <code>rainbow()</code> )

ys.numbers	String Vector, the numbers/symbols (as strings) used to replace the points, according to the order in <code>levels(ys.output[,NUMVAR])</code> (default is NULL, automatically generates integer numbers using <code>as.numeric(levels(ys.output[,NUMVAR]))</code> )
------------	---

### Value

Nothing.

---

saveValidationPlot	<i>Save Plot Image of Predicted vs. True Outcome Values with Legend</i>
--------------------	---

---

### Description

Creates and saves an image of a single plot, showing the true values of the outcome variable (on the x-axis) against the predicted values (on the y-axis) generated by a Clock.

Includes the correlation, the MAE (median absolute error), and the sample size in the header of the plot. Provides the option to color and/or number points according to additional variables, and include a legend for the colors.

### Usage

```
saveValidationPlot(
  ys.output,
  OUTVAR,
  PREDVAR,
  COLVAR,
  out.png,
  TITLE_str,
  width = NULL,
  height = NULL,
  NUMVAR = NULL,
  show.legend = T,
  oma.right = 9,
  square.axes = T,
  ys.colors = NULL,
  ys.numbers = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

ys.output	Data frame, the post-analysis aligned metadata for the samples, including predicted values from a Clock or LOO Analysis
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.output</code> containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
PREDVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.output</code> containing the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
COLVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.output</code> containing the coloring variable for the plot. NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> . To not color points, use COLVAR=NULL.

out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the validation plot containing predictions vs. true values will be saved
TITLE_str	String, the main title to be used in the plot
width	Numeric, the width of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is 5). If height is NULL, this argument is treated as NULL as well.
height	Numeric, the height of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is 6). If width is NULL, this argument is treated as NULL as well.
NUMVAR	String, the name of the column in <code>ys.output</code> containing the numbering variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
show.legend	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is TRUE)
oma.right	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
square.axes	Logical, Should the function force the x- and y-axis limits to be the same? (default is TRUE)
ys.colors	String Vector, the color names (or hex codes) for the colors used to color the points, according to the order in <code>levels(ys.output[,COLVAR])</code> (default is NULL, automatically generates colors using <code>Dark2()</code> or <code>rainbow()</code> )
ys.numbers	String Vector, the numbers/symbols (as strings) used to replace the points, according to the order in <code>levels(ys.output[,NUMVAR])</code> (default is NULL, automatically generates integer numbers using <code>as.numeric(levels(ys.output[,NUMVAR]))</code> )

**Value**

Nothing.

---

saveValidationPlot.manyLevels

*Save Plot Image of Predicted vs. True Outcome Values with Truncated Legend*

---

**Description**

Creates and saves an image of a single plot, showing the true values of the outcome variable (on the x-axis) against the predicted values (on the y-axis) generated by a Clock.

This function is an extension of `saveValidationPlot()`, and assumes that there is a coloring variable with a large number of levels, such that the legend becomes to overbearing. In this case, it limits the legend to the top 9 largest factor levels.

Includes the median and mean within-group correlations, the MAE (median absolute error), and the sample size in the header of the plot. Provides the option to number points according to an additional variable.



**Usage**

```
saveValidationPlot.manyLevels(
  ys.output,
  OUTVAR,
  PREDVAR,
  COLVAR,
  out.png,
  TITLE_str,
  width = NULL,
  height = NULL,
  NUMVAR = NULL,
  show.legend = T,
  oma.right = 9,
  square.axes = T,
  ys.colors = NULL,
  ys.numbers = NULL
)
```

**Arguments**

ys.output	Data frame, the post-analysis aligned metadata for the samples, including predicted values from a Clock or LOO Analysis
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
PREDVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the predicted outcome variable, the output of the Clock (same units as OUTVAR, and typically DNAm Age)
COLVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the coloring variable for the plot. NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
out.png	File name/File path String (must end in ".png"), the name and location of the file where the validation plot containing predictions vs. true values will be saved
TITLE_str	String, the main title to be used in the plot
width	Numeric, the width of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is 5). If height is NULL, this argument is treated as NULL as well.
height	Numeric, the height of the plot, in inches (at 600 ppi) (default is 6). If width is NULL, this argument is treated as NULL as well.
NUMVAR	String, the name of the column in ys.output containing the numbering variable for the plot (default is NULL, does not convert points into number symbols). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
show.legend	Logical, Should the plot include a legend for COLVAR? (default is TRUE)
oma.right	Numeric, the size of the right outer margin for the plot, in lines of text (default is 9). Increase this value if the legend is being truncated (the image width will be automatically adjusted).
square.axes	Logical, Should the function force the x- and y-axis limits to be the same? (default is TRUE)
ys.colors	String Vector, the color names (or hex codes) for the colors used to color the points, according to the order in <code>levels(ys.output[,COLVAR])</code> (default is NULL, automatically generates colors using <code>Dark2()</code> or <code>rainbow()</code> )

`ys.numbers` String Vector, the numbers/symbols (as strings) used to replace the points, according to the order in `levels(ys.output[,NUMVAR])` (default is NULL, automatically generates integer numbers using `as.numeric(levels(ys.output[,NUMVAR]))`)

## Value

Nothing.

---

`selectProbes.middleFilter`

*Select Probes within a Methylation Dataset Based on Mean Methylation Value*

---

## Description

Find the CpG probes that are detectable within a methylation data set, as determined by the mean value of methylation across all samples. The "middle" filter finds all probes that have a mean value sufficient different from 0.5 (fully ambiguous), specified by some threshold.

## Usage

```
selectProbes.middleFilter(xs, windowsize = 0.1)
```

## Arguments

`xs` Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples

`windowsize` Numeric, the minimum difference between mean methylation and 0.5 such that a probe is not removed by the filter (default is 0.10)

## Details

The mean methylation across all samples is calculated for every probe. Then, a probe is NOT remove by the filter if the mean methylation value is greater than  $0.5 + \text{windowsize}$  or less than  $0.5 - \text{windowsize}$ .

## Value

Returns a string vector containing the names of the CpG probes remaining, after applying the filtering.

---

selectProbes.rankPvalue

*Select Probes within a Methylation Dataset Based on Rank P-Values*


---

## Description

`selectProbes.rankPvalue()` finds the CpG probes that are most significantly correlated (both positively and negatively) with the outcome variable in a given data set, using rank p-values across a stratifying variable.

`selectProbesLOSO.rankPvalue()` instead performs a LOSO variation of this process, by iterating through levels of the stratifying variable. For each iteration, it ignores one stratum of the data and then selects the same number of probes. Then, it returns a list of multiple sets of probes.

## Usage

```
selectProbes.rankPvalue(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  SPECVAR,
  halfsize = 2000,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL
)

selectProbesLOSO.rankPvalue(
  xs,
  ys,
  OUTVAR,
  SPECVAR,
  halfsize = 2000,
  fun_trans = fun_identity,
  fun_VAR1 = NULL,
  fun_VAR2 = NULL
)
```

## Arguments

xs	Data frame, the aligned and normalized methylation data for the samples
ys	Data frame, the aligned metadata for the samples
OUTVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the outcome variable (typically Age, in years)
SPECVAR	String, the name of the column in ys containing the stratifying variable (typically Species Name). NOTE: This variable must be encoded as a <code>base::factor()</code> .
halfsize	Integer, the number of probes to be selected with most significant positive and negative correlations with the outcome variable (default is 1000). The function will return sets of probes twice the size of halfsize

fun_trans	Function, the name of an R function that transforms the outcome variable, with up to two additional parameters. For more information, see <a href="#">saveBuildClock()</a>
fun_VAR1	String, the name of the column in ys containing the first parameter of fun_trans, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)
fun_VAR2	String, the name of the column in ys containing the second parameter of fun_trans, if any (default is NULL, meaning no parameter is required)

## Details

Within this documentation,  $S$  refers to  $S == \text{length}(\text{levels}(\text{ys[, SPECVAR]}))$ .

In the function [selectProbes.rankPvalue\(\)](#), the data is divided into strata by each level in SPECVAR, and within each strata, a vector of single-probe correlations are calculated (between the transformed outcome variable and the beta values of a given probe). This results in a correlation table of each probe across  $S$  strata, which is then used to calculate rank p-values for each probe, using [WGCNA::rankPvalue\(\)](#).

In the function [selectProbesLOSO.rankPvalue\(\)](#), it instead performs a LOSO variation of this process, which results in  $S$  different sets of rank p-values instead of 1. The purpose of this function is for properly doing a LOSO evaluations of a multi-species clock, if the clock was built by pre-filtering probes based on rank p-value. In this setting, instead of passing the correlation table directly into [WGCNA::rankPvalue\(\)](#), it generates  $S$  sub-tables, each with one column removed, and passes each of them into [WGCNA::rankPvalue\(\)](#). This allows the LOSO evaluation to emulate the pre-filtering process for each of the LOSO iterations independently.

## Value

[selectProbes.rankPvalue\(\)](#) returns a string vector of length  $2 * \text{halfsize}$ , containing the names of the most significant CpG probes.

[selectProbesLOSO.rankPvalue\(\)](#) returns a list of string vectors of length  $S$  (each string vector is of length  $2 * \text{halfsize}$ ), containing the names of the most significant CpG probes for each LOSO iteration.

---

transpose_dat	<i>Data Frame Transpose when Column Names and First Column contain labels</i>
---------------	---

---

## Description

Given a data frame where the first column contains labels for the rows, return the modified transpose.

## Usage

```
transpose_dat(dat_tp, VAR.label)
```

## Arguments

dat_tp	Data frame to be transposed
VAR.label	String, the name of the first column of the modified transpose, that will contain the <code>colnames(dat_tp)</code>

**Details**

This is a speciality function for handling unique data frame formatting patterns, where the row labels are in the first column rather than the row names.

The first column is pushed into the row names, then the data frame is transposed. Finally, the new row names are pulled out into the new first column. The new first column will be of type character.

**Value**

A data frame, the modified transpose of `dat_tp`.

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