

hyperSpec Introduction

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Reproducing the Examples in this Vignette

All spectra used in this manual are installed automatically with *hyperSpec*.
Note that some definitions are executed in `vignette.defs`.

Contents

1. Introduction	2
1.1. Notation	3
2. Remarks on R	4
2.1. Generic Functions	4
2.2. Functionality Can be Extended at Runtime	4
2.3. Validity Checking	4
2.4. Special Function Names	4
2.4.1. The Names of Operators	4
2.4.2. Assignment Functions	5
3. Loading the package	5
4. The structure of hyperSpec objects	5
5. Functions provided by hyperSpec	6
6. Obtaining Basic Information about hyperSpec Objects	6
7. Creating a hyperSpec Object, Data Import and Export	7
7.1. Creating a <i>hyperSpec</i> Object from Spectra Matrix and Wavelength Vector	8
8. Combining and Decomposing hyperspec Objects	8
8.1. Binding Objects together	8
8.2. Binding Objects that do not share the same extra data and/or wavelength axis	8
8.3. Matrix Multiplication	9
8.4. Decomposition	9

9. Access to the data	9
9.1. Selecting and Deleting Spectra	9
9.1.1. Random Samples	10
9.1.2. Sequences	11
9.2. Selecting Extra Data Columns	11
9.3. Selecting Wavelength Ranges	12
9.4. Deleting Wavelength Ranges	13
9.4.1. Converting Wavelengths to Indices and vice versa	13
9.4.2. Changing the Wavelength Axis	15
9.4.3. Ordering the Wavelength Axis	15
9.5. More on the Square-Bracket Operators for Replacing Values	16
9.6. Fast Access to Parts of the <i>hyperSpec</i> Object	17
9.7. Conversion to Long-Format data.frame	17
10. Plotting	17
11. Spectral (Pre)processing	17
11.1. Cutting the Spectral Range	17
11.2. Spectral Interpolation and Smoothing	18
11.3. Background Correction	19
11.4. Offset Correction	19
11.5. Baseline Correction	19
11.6. Intensity Calibration	19
11.6.1. Correcting by a constant, e. g. Readout Bias	19
11.6.2. Correcting Wavelength Dependence	19
11.6.3. Spectra Dependent Correction	20
11.7. Normalization	20
11.8. Centering the Data	20
11.9. Variance Scaling	21
11.10 Multiplicative Scatter Correction (MSC)	22
11.11 Spectral Arithmetic	22
12. Data Analysis	22
12.1. Data Analysis Methods using a data.frame	
e. g. Principal Component Analysis with prcomp	22
12.1.1. PCA as Noise Filter	23
12.2. Data Analysis using long-format data.frame	
e. g. plotting with ggplot2	24
12.3. Data Analysis Methods using a matrix	
e. g. Hierarchical Cluster Analysis	25
12.4. Calculating group-wise Sum Characteristics	
e. g. Cluster Mean Spectra	25
12.5. Splitting an Object, and Binding a List of <i>hyperSpec</i> Objects	26
A. Overview of the functions provided by hyperSpec	27

1. Introduction

hyperSpec is a R package that allows convenient handling of (hyper)spectral data sets, i. e. data sets comprising spectra together with further data on a per-spectrum basis. The spectra can be anything that is recorded over a common discretized axis, the *so-called* wavelength axis. Throughout the

documentation of the package, the terms intensity and wavelength refer to the spectral ordinate and abscissa, respectively.

However, *hyperSpec* works perfectly fine with any data that fits in that general scheme, so that the three terms may also be used for:

wavelength: frequency, wavenumbers, chemical shift, Raman shift, $\frac{m}{z}$, etc.

intensity: transmission, absorbance, $\frac{e^-}{s}$, ...

extra data: spatial information (spectral images, maps, or profiles), temporal information (kinetics, time series), concentrations (calibration series), class membership information, etc.
Note that there is no restriction on the number of extra data columns.

This vignette gives an introduction on basic working techniques using the R package *hyperSpec*. It comes with five data sets,

chondro a Raman map of chondrocytes in cartilage,

flu a set of fluorescence spectra of a calibration series, and

laser a time series of an unstable laser emission

paracetamol a Raman spectrum of paracetamol (acetaminophen) ranging from 100 to 3200 cm⁻¹ with some overlapping wavelength ranges.
It is used mainly in the *plotting* vignette.

barbituates GC-MS spectra with differing wavelength axes as a list of 286 *hyperSpec* objects.

In this vignette, the data sets are used to illustrate appropriate procedures for different tasks and different spectra.

In addition, the first three data sets are accompanied by vignettes that show exemplary work flows for the respective data type.

This document describes how to accomplish spectroscopic tasks. It does not give a complete reference on particular functions. It is therefore recommended to look up the methods in R's help system using `? command`.

After some remarks on the notation used in the document and on the general behaviour of R, sections 3 shows how to load the package. Section 4 describes how *hyperSpec* objects are organized internally.

A list of all functions available in *hyperSpec* is given in appendix A (27)

1.1. Notation

This vignette demonstrates working techniques mostly from a spectroscopic point of view: rather than going through the functions provided by *hyperSpec*, it is organized more closely on spectroscopic tasks. However, the functions discussed are printed on the margin for a fast overview.

In R, slots of a S4 class can be accessed directly by the `@` operator. In this vignette, the notation `@xxx` will thus mean “slot xxx of an object” see figure 1 on page 6).

Likewise, named elements of a *list*, like the columns of a *data.frame*, are accessed by the `$` operator, and `$xxx` will be used for “column xxx”, and as an abbreviation for “column xxx of the *data.frame* in slot data of the object” see figure 1 on page 6) .

2. Remarks on R

2.1. Generic Functions

Generic Functions are functions that apply to a wide range of data types or classes, e. g. *plot*, *print*, mathematical operators, etc. These functions can be implemented in a specialized way by each class.

hyperSpec implements with a variety of such functions, see the table in appendix A on page 27.

2.2. Functionality Can be Extended at Runtime

R's concept of functions offers much flexibility. Functions may be added or changed by the user in his *workspace* at any time. This is also true for methods belonging to a certain class. Neither restart of R nor reloading of the package or anything the like is needed. If the original function resides in a namespace (as it is the case for all functions in *hyperSpec*), the original function is not deleted. It is just masked by the user's new function but stays accessible via the `::` operator.

This offers the opportunity of easily writing specialized functions that are adapted to specific tasks.

For examples, see the setup of the lattice plotting functions in the `vignettes.defs` file accompanying all *hyperSpec* vignettes.

2.3. Validity Checking

S4 classes have a mechanism to define and enforce that the data actually stored in the object is appropriate for this class. In other words, there is a mechanism of *validity checking*.

The functions provided by *hyperSpec* check the validity of *hyperSpec* objects at the beginning, and — if the validity could be broken by inappropriate arguments — also before leaving the function.

It is highly recommended to use validity checking also for user-defined functions. In addition, non-generic functions should first ensure that the argument actually is a *hyperSpec* object. The two tasks are accomplished by:

```
> .is.hy (object)
> validObject (object)
```

The first line checks whether `object` is a *hyperSpec* object, the second checks its validity. Both functions return `TRUE` if the checks succeed, otherwise they raise an error and stop. `.is.hy` is not exported by *hyperSpec*. If functions are to be tested outside *hyperSpec*'s namespace

```
> .is.hy <- hyperSpec::.is.hy
```

makes it accessible in the workspace.

2.4. Special Function Names

2.4.1. The Names of Operators

Operators such as `+`, `*`, `%`, etc. are in fact functions in R. Thus they can be handed over as arguments to other functions (particularly to the vectorization functions `*apply`, `sweep`, etc.). In this case the name of the function must be quoted: ``*`` is the recommended style (although `"*"` will often work as well), e. g.:

```
> sweep (flu, 2, mean, `~`)
```

These functions can also be called in a more function-like style:

```
> `+` (3, 5)
[1] 8
```

2.4.2. Assignment Functions

R allows the definition of functions that do an assignment (or set some value), such as:

```
> wl (flu) <- new.wavelength.values
```

The actual name of the function is `wl<-` and must be quoted in order to avoid confusion with an assignment to variable `wl`: ``wl<-``.

These functions actually change the object.

3. Loading the package

To load *hyperSpec*, use

```
> library (hyperSpec)
```

4. The structure of hyperSpec objects

hyperSpec is a S4 (or new-style) class. It has four so-called *slots* that contain parts of the object:

@wavelength containing a numeric vector with the wavelength axis of the spectra.
@data a *data.frame* with the spectra and all further information belonging to the spectra
@label a list with appropriate labels (particularly for axis annotations)
@log a *data.frame* keeping track of what is done with the object

However, it is good practice to use the functions provided by *hyperSpec* to handle the objects rather than accessing the slots directly (tab). This also ensures that proper (*valid*) objects are retained.

slot	get	set
@wavelength	wl	wl<-
@data	[, [[, \$, as.data.frame, as.long.df, ...	[<-, [[<-, \$<-
@label	labels	labels<-
@log	logbook	logentry

Table 1: Get and set functions for the slots of *hyperSpec* objects

Most of the data is stored in **@data**. This *data.frame* has one special column, **\$spc**. It is the column that actually contains the spectra. The spectra are stored in a matrix inside this column, as

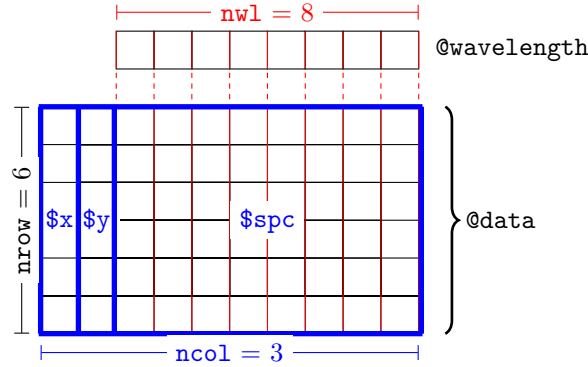


Figure 1: The structure of the data in a *hyperSpec* object.

illustrated in figure 1. Even if there are no spectra, `$spc` must still be present. It is then a matrix with zero columns.

Slot `@label` contains an element for each of the columns in `@data` plus one holding the label for the wavelength axis, `.wavelength`. The elements of the list may be anything suitable for axis annotations, i.e. they should be either character strings or expressions for “pretty” axis annotations (see figure 2 on page 18). To get familiar with expressions for axis annotation, see `? plotmath` and `demo (plotmath)`.

5. Functions provided by hyperSpec

Table A (p. 27) in the appendix gives an overview of the functions implemented by *hyperSpec*.

6. Obtaining Basic Information about hyperSpec Objects

As usual, the `print` and `show` methods display information about the object, and `summary` yields some additional details about the data handling done so far:

`print, show,`
`summary`

```
> chondro

hyperSpec object
  875 spectra
  4 data columns
  300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (875 rows x 4 columns)
  1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -4.77 -4.77 ... 19.23
  2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] -11.55 -10.55 ... 22.45
  3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 517.0329 499.7695 ... 168.0361
  4. clusters: clusters [factor] matrix matrix ... lacuna + NA

> summary (chondro)

hyperSpec object
  875 spectra
  4 data columns
```

```

      300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (875 rows x 4 columns)
  1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -4.77 -4.77 ... 19.23
  2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] -11.55 -10.55 ... 22.45
  3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 517.0329 499.7695 ... 168.0361
  4. clusters: clusters [factor] matrix matrix ... lacuna + NA
log:
      short      long      date      user
1 scan.txt.Renishaw list(...) 2010-02-24 10:04:06 cb@cb
2      orderwl list(...) 2010-02-24 10:04:06 cb@cb
3      spc.loess list(...) 2010-02-24 10:04:29 cb@cb
4          $<- list(...) 2010-02-24 10:04:47 cb@cb
5          $<- list(...) 2010-02-24 10:04:47 cb@cb

```

The data set `chondro` consists of 875 spectra with 300 data points each, and 4 data columns: two for the spatial information plus `$spc`. These informations can be directly obtained by

`nrow`, `ncol`,
`nwl`, `dim`

```

> nrow (chondro)

[1] 875

> nwl (chondro)

[1] 300

> ncol (chondro)

[1] 4

> dim (chondro)

nrow ncol  nwl
 875    4   300

```

The names of the columns in `@data` are accessed by

`colnames`,
`rownames`,
`dimnames`, `wl`

```

> colnames (chondro)

[1] "y"      "x"      "spc"    "clusters"

```

Likewise, `rownames` returns the names assigned to the spectra, and `dimnames` yields a list of these three vectors (including also the column names of `$spc`). The column names of the spectra matrix are the wavelengths. They are accessed by `wl`, see section 9.4.2.

Extra data column names and rownames of the object may be set by `colnames<-` and `rownames<-`, respectively. `colnames<-` renames the labels as well.

`colnames<-`,
`rownames<-`

7. Creating a hyperSpec Object, Data Import and Export

hyperSpec comes with filters for a variety of file formats. These are discussed in detail in a separate document. Use vignette ("file-io") to read about import and export of spectra into *hyperSpec* objects.

7.1. Creating a hyperSpec Object from Spectra Matrix and Wavelength Vector

If the data is in R's workspace, a *hyperSpec* object is created by:

```
spc <- new ("hyperSpec", spc = spectra.matrix, wavelength = wavelength.vector, data  
= extra.data)
```

You will usually give the following arguments:

`spc` the spectra matrix

`wavelength` the wavelength axis vector

`data` the extra data (possibly already including the spectra matrix in column `spc`)

`label` a list with the proper labels. Do not forget the wavelength axis label in `$.wavelength` and the spectral intensity axis label in `$spc`.

8. Combining and Decomposing hyperspec Objects

8.1. Binding Objects together

hyperspec Objects can be bound together, either by rows to append a new spectral range or by `cbind` `rbind` columns to append new spectra

```
> dim (flu)
nrow ncol nwl
  6    3  181

> dim (cbind (flu, flu))
nrow ncol nwl
  6    3  362

> dim (rbind (flu, flu))
nrow ncol nwl
 12    3  181
```

Thus, you can use `cbind` to add new spectral ranges, and `rbind` to add new spectra to your object.

There is also a more general function, `bind`, taking the direction ("`r`" or "`c`") as first argument and then all objects to bind either in separate arguments or in a list.

As usual for `rbind` and `cbind`, the objects that should be bound together must have the same rows and columns, respectively.

8.2. Binding Objects that do not share the same extra data and/or wavelength axis

`collapse` combines objects that should be bound together by row, but they do not share the columns and/or spectral range. The resulting object has all columns from all input objects, and all wavelengths from the input objects. If an input object does not have a particular column or wavelength, its value in the resulting object is `NA`. `collapse`

The `barbituates` data is a list of 286 *hyperSpec* objects, each containing one mass spectrum. The spectra have 4 to 101 data points.


```
> barb <- collapse (barbituates)
> barb [[1:3, , min ~ min + 10i]]

      25.95 157.95 157.05 142.9 142 126.9 126 113.1 108 97.05 95
[1,]    NA     NA     NA     NA NA     NA NA     NA NA     NA NA
[2,]    NA     NA     NA     NA NA     NA NA     NA NA     NA NA
[3,]    NA     NA     NA     NA NA     NA NA     NA NA     NA NA
```

8.3. Matrix Multiplication

Two *hyperSpec* objects can be matrix multiplied by `%*%`. For an example, see the principal component analysis below (section 12.1 on page 22).

8.4. Decomposition

Matrix decompositions are common operations during chemometric data analysis. The results, e. g. of a principal component analysis are two matrices, the so-called scores and loadings. The results can have either the same number of rows as the spectra matrix they were calculated from (scores-like), or they have as many wavelengths as the spectra (loadings-like).

Both types of result objects can be “re-imported” into *hyperSpec* objects with function `decomposition`. A scores-like object retains all per-spectrum information (i. e. the extra data) while the spectra matrix and wavelength vector are replaced. A loadings-like object retains the wavelength information, while extra data is deleted (set to `NA`) unless the value is constant for all spectra.

A demonstration can be found in the principal component analysis example (section 12.1) on page 22.

9. Access to the data

The main functions to retrieve the data of a *hyperSpec* object are `[]` and `[][]`.

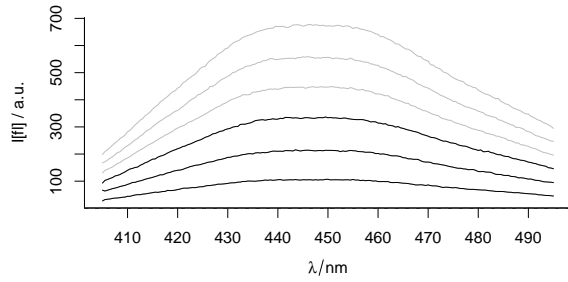
The difference between these functions is that `[]` returns a *hyperSpec* object, whereas the result of `[][]` is a data.frame if extra data columns were selected or otherwise the spectra matrix. Single extra data columns may be retrieved by `$`.

In order to change data, use `[]<-`, `[][]<-`, and `$<-` (see).

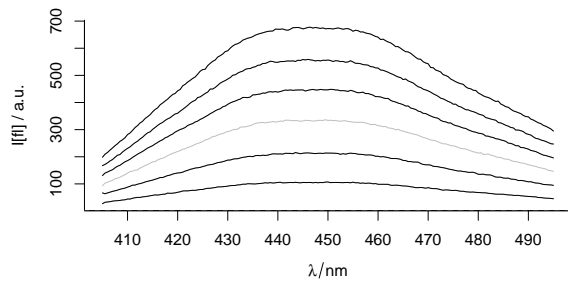
9.1. Selecting and Deleting Spectra

The extraction function `[]` takes the spectra as first argument (For detailed help: see `? `[]``). It may be a vector giving the indices of the spectra to extract (select), a vector with negative indices indicating which spectra should be deleted, or a logical. Note that a matrix given to `[]` will be treated as a vector.

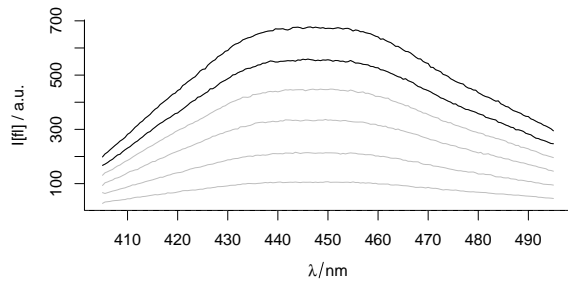
```
> plot (flu, col = "gray")
> plot (flu [1 : 3], add = TRUE)
```



```
> plot (flu, col = "gray")
> plot (flu [-3], add = TRUE)
```



```
> plot (flu, col = "gray")
> plot (flu [flu$c > 0.2], add = TRUE)
```



9.1.1. Random Samples

A random subset of spectra is conveniently selected by `sample` :

`sample`

```
> sample (chondro, 3)
```

hyperSpec object

3 spectra

4 data columns

300 data points / spectrum

wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm⁻¹ [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798

data: (3 rows x 4 columns)

1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] 12.23 -2.77 3.23

2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] 20.45 19.45 -10.55

3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 342.2190 365.2889 ... 136.9746

4. clusters: clusters [factor] cell matrix lacuna

If appropriate indices into the spectra are needed instead, use `isample`:

`isample`

```
> isample (chondro, 3)
[1] 156  89 612
```

9.1.2. Sequences

Sequences of every n^{th} spectrum or the like can be retrieved with `seq`:

`seq`

```
> seq (chondro, length.out = 3, index = TRUE)
[1]  1 438 875
> seq (chondro, by = 100)
hyperSpec object
  9 spectra
  4 data columns
 300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (9 rows x 4 columns)
  1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -4.77 -2.77 ... 17.23
  2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] -11.55 18.45 ... 18.45
  3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 517.0329 367.7032 ... 130.3662
  4. clusters: clusters [factor] matrix matrix ... lacuna
```

Here, indices may be requested using `index = TRUE`.

9.2. Selecting Extra Data Columns

The second argument of the extraction functions `[]` and `[[[]]` specifies the (extra) data columns. They can be given like any column specification for a *data.frame*, i. e. numeric, logical, or by a vector of the column names:

They can be given like any column specification for a *data.frame*, i. e. numeric, logical, or by a vector of the column names:

```
> colnames (chondro)
[1] "y"      "x"      "spc"    "clusters"
> chondro [[1 : 3, 1]]
      y
1 -4.77
2 -4.77
3 -4.77
> chondro [[1 : 3, -3]]
      y      x clusters
1 -4.77 -11.55  matrix
2 -4.77 -10.55  matrix
3 -4.77  -9.55  matrix
```

```
> chondro [[1 : 3, "x"]]

      x
1 -11.55
2 -10.55
3  -9.55

> chondro [[1 : 3, c (TRUE, FALSE, FALSE)]]

      y clusters
1 -4.77  matrix
2 -4.77  matrix
3 -4.77  matrix
```

To select one column, the `$` operator is more convenient:

`$`

```
> flu$c

[1] 0.05 0.10 0.15 0.20 0.25 0.30
```

The extra data may also be set this way:

`$<-`

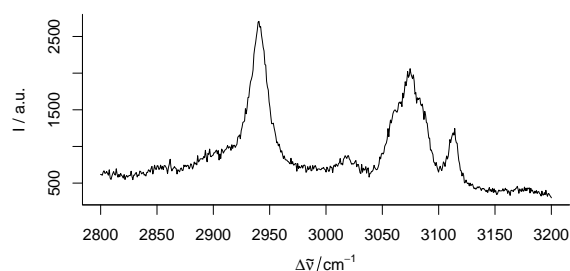
```
> flu$n <- list (1 : 6, label = "sample no.")
```

This function will append new columns, if necessary.

9.3. Selecting Wavelength Ranges

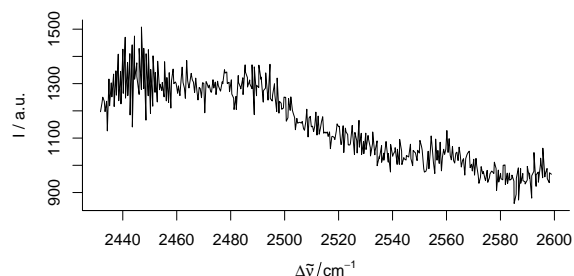
Wavelength ranges can easily be selected using `[]`'s third argument:

```
> plot (paracetamol [, , 2800 ~ 3200])
```



By default, the values given are treated as wavelengths, if they are indices into the columns of the spectra matrix, use `wl.index = TRUE`:

```
> plot (paracetamol [, , 2800 : 3200, wl.index = TRUE])
```

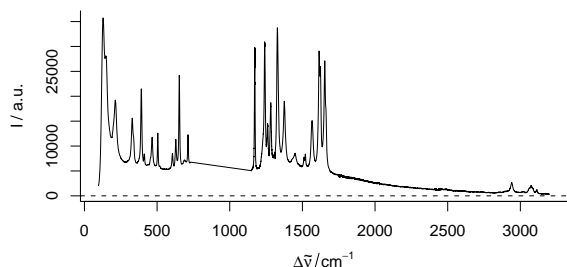


Section 9.4.1 (p. 13) details into the different possibilities of specifying wavelengths.

9.4. Deleting Wavelength Ranges

Deleting wavelength ranges may be accomplished using negative index vectors together with `wl.index = TRUE`.

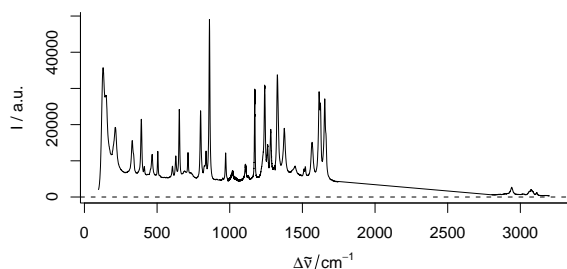
```
> plot (paracetamol [, -(500 : 1000), wl.index = TRUE])
```



However, this mechanism works only if the proper indices are known.

If the range to be cut out is rather known in the units of the wavelength axis, it is easier to select the remainder of the spectrum instead. To delete the spectral range from 1750 to 2800 cm^{-1} of the paracetamol spectrum one can thus use:

```
> plot (paracetamol [, c (min ~ 1750, 2800 ~ max)])
```



(It is possible to produce a plot of this data where the cut range is not bridged by a line and the wavelength axis is cut in order to save space. For details see the “plotting” vignette).

9.4.1. Converting Wavelengths to Indices and vice versa

Spectra in *hyperSpec* have always discretized wavelength axes, they are stored in a matrix with column corresponding to one wavelength. *hyperSpec* provides two conversion functions: `i2w1` returns the wavelength corresponding to the given indices and `w12i` calculates index vectors from wavelengths.

`w12i i2w1`

If the wavelengths are given as a numeric vector, they are each converted to the corresponding wavelength. In addition there is a more sophisticated possibility of specifying wavelength ranges using a *formula*. The basic syntax is *start ~ end*. This yields a vector *index of start : index of end*.

The result of the formula conversion differs from the numeric vector conversion in three ways:

- The colon operator for constructing vectors accepts only integer numbers, the tilde (for formulas) does not have this restriction.
- If the vector does not take into account the spectral resolution, one may get only every n^{th} point or repetitions of the same index:

```

> wl2i (flu, 405 : 410)
[1] 1 3 5 7 9 11

> wl2i (flu, 405 ~ 410)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

> wl2i (chondro, 1000 : 1010)
[1] 100 101 101 101 101 102 102 102 102 103 103

> wl2i (chondro, 1000 ~ 1010)
[1] 100 101 102 103

```

- If the object's wavelength axis is not ordered, the formula approach will give weird results. In that (probably rare) case, use `orderwl` first to obtain an object with ordered wavelength axis.

start and *end* may contain the special variables `min` and `max` that correspond to the lowest and highest wavelengths of the object:

```

> wl2i (flu, min ~ 410)
[1] 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

```

Often, specifications like *wavelength $\pm n$ data points* are needed. They can be given using complex numbers in the formula. The imaginary part is added to the index calculated from the wavelength in the real part:

```

> wl2i (flu, 450 - 2i ~ 450 + 2i)
[1] 89 90 91 92 93

> wl2i (flu, max - 2i ~ max)
[1] 179 180 181

```

To specify several wavelength ranges, use a list containing the formulas and vectors¹:

```

> wl2i (flu, 450 - 2i ~ 450 + 2i)
[1] 89 90 91 92 93

> wl2i (flu, c (min ~ 406.5, max - 2i ~ max))
[1] 1 2 3 4 179 180 181

```

This mechanism also works for the wavelength arguments of `[]`, `[[]]`, and `plotspc`.

9.4.2. Changing the Wavelength Axis

Sometimes wavelength axes need to be transformed, e. g. converting from wavelengths to frequencies. In this case, retrieve the wavelength axis vector with `wl`, convert each value of the resulting vector and assign the result with `wl<-`. Also the label of the wavelength axis may need to be adjusted.

`wl, wl<-`

As an example, convert the wavelength axis of `laser` to frequencies. As the wavelengths are in nanometers, and the frequencies are easiest expressed in terahertz, an additional conversion factor of 1000 is needed:

```
> laser

hyperSpec object
  84 spectra
  2 data columns
  36 data points / spectrum
wavelength: lambda/nm [numeric] 404.5828 404.6181 ... 405.8176
data: (84 rows x 2 columns)
  1. t: t / s [numeric] 0 2 ... 5722
  2. spc: I / a.u. [AsIs matrix x 36] 164.650 179.724 ... 112.086

> wavelengths <- wl (laser)
> frequencies <- 2.998e8 / wavelengths / 1000
> wl (laser) <- frequencies
> labels (laser, ".wavelength") <- "f / THz"
> laser

hyperSpec object
  84 spectra
  2 data columns
  36 data points / spectrum
wavelength: f / THz [numeric] 741.0103 740.9456 ... 738.7555
data: (84 rows x 2 columns)
  1. t: t / s [numeric] 0 2 ... 5722
  2. spc: I / a.u. [AsIs matrix x 36] 164.650 179.724 ... 112.086

> rm (laser)
```

There are other possibilities of invoking `wl<-` including the new label, e. g.

```
> wl (laser, "f / THz") <- frequencies
```

and

```
> wl (laser) <- list (wl = frequencies, label = "f / THz")
```

see `?`wl<-`` for more information.

9.4.3. Ordering the Wavelength Axis

If the wavelength axis of an object needs reordering (e. g. after `collapse`), `orderwl` can be used:

`orderwl`

```
> barb <- collapse (barbituates [1 : 3])
> wl (barb)
```

¹Formulas are combined to a list by `c`.

```

[1] 160.90 158.85 147.00 140.90 133.05 130.90 119.95 119.15 118.05 116.95 112.90 106.00 105.10
[14] 98.95 96.95 91.00 85.05 83.05 77.00 71.90 71.10 70.00 69.00 57.10 56.10 55.00
[27] 43.85 43.05 41.10 40.10 39.00 32.15 31.15 30.05 29.05 28.15 27.05 132.95 131.00
[40] 120.05 119.05 117.95 113.00 105.90 82.95 72.00 69.10 56.00 44.05 40.00 30.15 28.05
[53] 27.15 84.15 68.90 55.10 43.95

> barb <- orderwl (barb)
> wl (barb)

[1] 27.05 27.15 28.05 28.15 29.05 30.05 30.15 31.15 32.15 39.00 40.00 40.10 41.10
[14] 43.05 43.85 43.95 44.05 55.00 55.10 56.00 56.10 57.10 68.90 69.00 69.10 70.00
[27] 71.10 71.90 72.00 77.00 82.95 83.05 84.15 85.05 91.00 96.95 98.95 105.10 105.90
[40] 106.00 112.90 113.00 116.95 117.95 118.05 119.05 119.15 119.95 120.05 130.90 131.00 132.95
[53] 133.05 140.90 147.00 158.85 160.90

```

9.5. More on the Square-Bracket Operators for Replacing Values

`[[]]` also accepts index matrices of size $n \times 2$. In this case, a vector of values from the spectra matrix is returned.

```

> indexmatrix <- matrix (c (1 : 3, 1 : 3), ncol = 2)
> indexmatrix

      [,1] [,2]
[1,]     1     1
[2,]     2     2
[3,]     3     3

> chondro [[indexmatrix, wl.index = TRUE]]

[1] 517.0329 516.3300 436.3566

> diag (chondro [[1 : 3, , min ~ min + 2i]])

[1] 517.0329 516.3300 436.3566

```

`[[]]` also accepts index matrices of size $n \times 2$.

```

> indexmatrix <- matrix (c (1 : 3, 1 : 3), ncol = 2)
> indexmatrix

      [,1] [,2]
[1,]     1     1
[2,]     2     2
[3,]     3     3

> chondro [[indexmatrix, wl.index = TRUE]]

[1] 517.0329 516.3300 436.3566

> diag (chondro [[1 : 3, , min ~ min + 2i]])

[1] 517.0329 516.3300 436.3566

```


9.6. Fast Access to Parts of the hyperSpec Object

[[]] \$. \$..

hyperSpec comes with three abbreviation functions for easy access to the data:

```
x [[]] returns the spectra matrix (x$spc).
x [[i, , 1]] the cut spectra matrix is returned if wavelengths are specified in l.
x [[i, j, 1]] If data columns are selected (second index), the result is a data.frame.
x [[i, , 1]] <- Also, parts of the spectra matrix can be set (only indices for spectra and wavelength are allowed for this function).
x [i, j] <- sets parts of x@data.
x $. returns the complete data.frame x@data, with the spectra in column $spc.
x $.. returns the extra data (x@data without x$spc).
x $.. <- sets the extra data (x@data without x$spc). However, the columns must match exactly in this case.
```

9.7. Conversion to Long-Format data.frame

Some functions need the data being an *unstacked* or *long-format* data.frame. `as.long.df` is the appropriate conversion function. as.long.df

10. Plotting

hyperSpec offers a variety of possibilities to plot spectra, spectral maps, the spectra matrix, time series, depth profiles, etc.. This all is discussed in a separate document: see `vignette ("plotting")`.

11. Spectral (Pre)processing

11.1. Cutting the Spectral Range

[] [[]]

The extraction functions `[]` and `[[]]` can be used to cut the spectra: Their third argument takes wavelength specifications as discussed above and also logicals (i.e. vectors specifying with TRUE/FALSE for each column of `$spc` whether it should be included or not).

`[]` returns a *hyperSpec* object, `[[]]` the spectra matrix `$spc` (or the data.frame `@data` if in addition data columns were specified) only.

```
> flu [, , min ~ 408.5]

hyperSpec object
  6 spectra
  4 data columns
  8 data points / spectrum
wavelength: lambda/nm [numeric] 405.0 405.5 ... 408.5
data: (6 rows x 4 columns)
  1. file: [factor] rawdata/flu1.txt rawdata/flu2.txt ... rawdata/flu6.txt
  2. spc: I[fl] / a.u. [AsIs matrix x 8] 27.15000 66.80133 ... 256.8913
  3. c: c / (mg / l) [numeric] 0.05 0.10 ... 0.3
  4. n: sample no. [integer] 1 2 ... 6
```

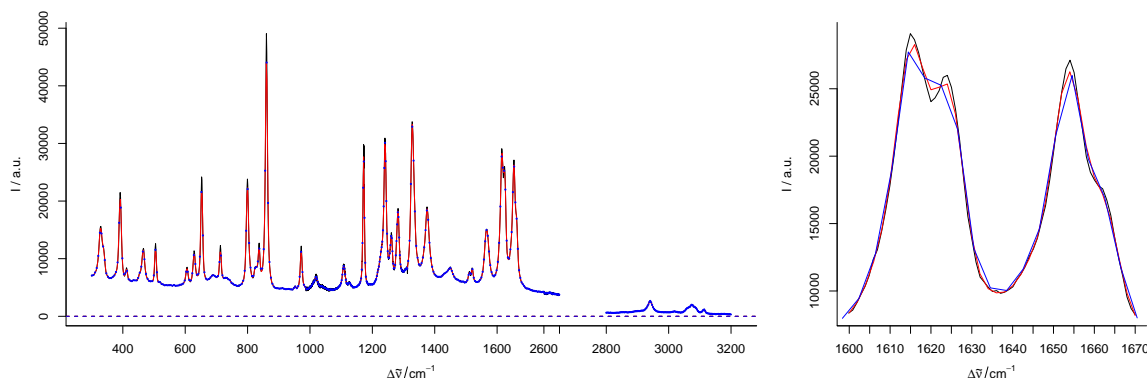


Figure 2: Smoothing interpolation by `spc.loess` with new data point spacing of 2 cm^{-1} (red) and `spc.bin` (blue). The magnification on the right shows how interpolation may cause a loss in signal height.

```
> flu [[, c (min ~ min + 2i, max - 2i ~ max)]]

      405      405.5      406      494      494.5      495
[1,] 27.15000 32.34467 33.37867 47.16267 46.41233 45.25633
[2,] 66.80133 63.71533 66.71200 96.60167 96.20600 94.61033
[3,] 93.14433 103.06767 106.19367 149.53900 148.52667 145.79333
[4,] 130.66367 139.99833 143.79767 201.48433 198.86733 195.86733
[5,] 167.26667 171.89833 177.47067 252.06567 248.06700 246.95200
[6,] 198.43033 209.45800 215.78500 307.51850 302.32550 294.64950
```

11.2. Spectral Interpolation and Smoothing

Sometimes, spectra need to be interpolated onto a new wavelength axis. e. g. because measurements resulted in slightly shifted wavelength axes. Or data from a grating spectrometer with unequal data point spacing should be interpolated onto an evenly spaced wavelength axis. Also, the spectra can be smoothed: reducing the spectral resolution allows to increase the signal to noise ratio. For chemometric data analysis reducing the number of data points per spectrum may be crucial as it reduces the dimensionality of the data.

hyperSpec provides two functions to do so: `spc.bin` and `spc.loess`.

`spc.bin` bins the spectral axis by averaging every *by* data points.

```
> plot (paracetamol, wl.range = c (300 ~ 1800, 2800 ~ max), xoffset = 850)
> p <- spc.loess (paracetamol, c(seq (300, 1800, 2), seq (2850, 3150, 2)))
> plot (p, wl.range = c (300 ~ 1800, 2800 ~ max), xoffset = 850, col = "red", add = TRUE)
> b <- spc.bin (paracetamol, 4)
> plot (b, wl.range = c (300 ~ 1800, 2800 ~ max), xoffset = 850,
+       lines.args = list (pch = 20, cex = .3, type = "p"), col = "blue", add = TRUE)
```

`spc.loess` applies R's `loess` function for spectral interpolation. Figure 2 shows the result of interpolating from 300 to 1800 and 2850 to 3150 cm^{-1} with 2 cm^{-1} data point distance. This corresponds to a spectral resolution of about 4 cm^{-1} , and the decrease in spectral resolution can be seen at the sharp bands where the maxima are not reached (due to the fact that the interpolation wavelength axis does not necessarily hit the maxima). The original spectrum had 4064 data points with unequal data point spacing (between 0 and 1.4 cm^{-1}). The interpolated spectrum has 902 data points.

`spc.bin`
`spc.loess`

11.3. Background Correction

sweep

To subtract a background spectrum of each of the spectra in an object, use `sweep (spectra, 2, background.spectrum, "-")`.

11.4. Offset Correction

apply sweep

Calculate the offsets and sweep them off the spectra:

```
> offsets <- apply (chondro, 1, min)
> chondro.offset.corrected <- sweep (chondro, 1, offsets, "-")
```

If the offset is calculated by a function, as here with the `min`, *hyperSpec*'s `sweep` method offers a shortcut: `sweep`'s *STATS* argument may be the function instead of a numeric vector:

```
> chondro.offset.corrected <- sweep (chondro, 1, min, "-")
```

11.5. Baseline Correction

hyperSpec comes with two functions to fit polynomial baselines.

spc.fit.poly
spc.fit.poly.below

`spc.fit.poly` fits a polynomial baseline of the given order. A least-squares fit is done so that the function may be used on rather noisy spectra. However, the user must supply an object that is cut appropriately. Particularly, the supplied wavelength ranges are not weighted.

`spc.fit.poly.below` tries to find appropriate support points for the baseline iteratively.

Both functions return a *hyperSpec* object containing the fitted baselines. They need to be subtracted afterwards:

```
> bl <- spc.fit.poly.below (chondro)
```

Fitting with `npts.min = 15`

```
> chondro <- chondro - bl
```

For details, see `vignette (baselinebelow)`.

11.6. Intensity Calibration

11.6.1. Correcting by a constant, e. g. Readout Bias

CCD cameras often operate with a bias, causing a constant value for each pixel. Such a constant can be immediately subtracted:

```
spectra - constant
```

11.6.2. Correcting Wavelength Dependence

sweep

This means that for each of the wavelengths the same correction needs to be applied to all spectra.

1. There might be wavelength dependent offsets (background or dark spectra). They are subtracted:

```
sweep (spectra, 2, offset.spectrum, "-")
```

2. A multiplicative dependency such as a CCD's photon efficiency:

```
sweep (spectra, 2, photon.efficiency, "/")
```

11.6.3. Spectra Dependent Correction

sweep

If the correction depends on the spectra (e.g. due to inhomogeneous illumination while collecting imaging data²), the *MARGIN* of the `sweep` function needs to be 1:

1. Pixel dependent offsets are subtracted:
`sweep (spectra, 2, pixel.offsets, "-")`
2. A multiplicative dependency:
`sweep (spectra, 2, illumination.factors, "*")`

11.7. Normalization

apply sweep

Again, `sweep` is the function of choice. E.g. for area normalization, use:

```
> chondro <- sweep (chondro, 1, mean, "/")
```

(I frequently use the mean instead of the sum, as this results in conveniently scaled spectra with intensities around 1.)

If the calculation of the normalization factors is more elaborate, use a two step procedure:

1. Calculate appropriate normalization factors
You may calculate the factors using only a certain wavelength range, thereby normalizing on a particular band or peak.
2. Again, sweep the factor off the spectra:
`normalized <- sweep (spectra, 1, factors, "*")`

```
> factors <- 1 / apply (chondro, 1, mean)
> chondro <- sweep (chondro, 1, factors, "*")
```

For minimum-maximum-normalization, first do an offset- or baseline correction, then normalize using `max`.

11.8. Centering the Data

apply sweep

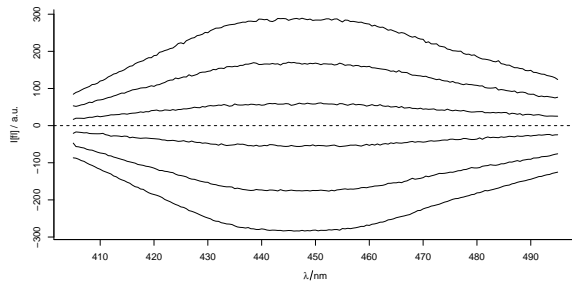
Centering means that the mean spectrum is subtracted from each of the spectra. Many data analysis techniques, like principal component analysis, partial least squares, etc., work much better on centered data.

However, from a spectroscopic point of view it depends on the particular data set whether centering does make sense or not.

To centre the `flu` data set, use:

```
> flu.centered <- sweep (flu, 2, mean, "-")
> plot (flu.centered)
```

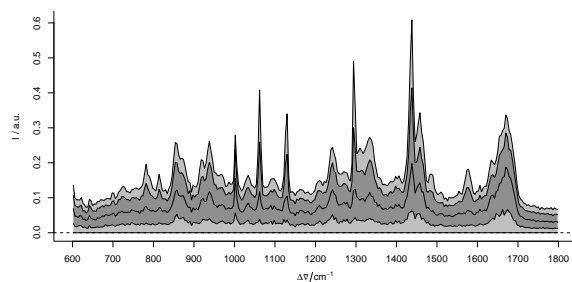
²imaging (as opposed to mapping) refers to simultaneously collecting spatially resolved spectra, either 2d images or line imaging.



On the other hand, the **chondro** data set consists of Raman spectra, so the spectroscopic interpretation of centering is getting rid of the the average chemical composition of the sample. But: what is the meaning of the “average spectrum” of an inhomogeneous sample? In this case it may be better to subtract the minimum spectrum (which will hopefully have almost the same benefit on the data analysis) as it is the spectrum of that chemical composition that is underlying the whole sample.

One more point to consider is that the actual minimum spectrum will pick up (negative) noise. In order to avoid that, using e.g. the 5th percentile spectrum is more suitable:

```
> perc.5th <- apply (chondro, 2, quantile, 0.05)
> chondro <- sweep (chondro, 2, perc.5th, "-")
> plot (chondro, "spcprct15")
```



11.9. Variance Scaling

Variance scaling is often used in multivariate analysis to adjust the influence and scaling of the variates (that are typically different physical values). However, spectra already do have the same scale of the same physical value. Thus one has to trade off the the expected numeric benefit with the fact that wavelengths with low signal will contain exploded noise after variance scaling.

Again, **sweep** may be used:

```
> scaled.chondro <- sweep (chondro, 2, var, "/")
```

Alternatively, R provides a function **scale** which works on matrices:

```
> scaled.chondro <- chondro
> scaled.chondro [[]] <- scale (scaled.chondro [[]])
```

apply sweep
scale

11.10. Multiplicative Scatter Correction (MSC)

pls::msc

MSC can be done using `msc` from package *pls*[1]. It operates on the spectra matrix:

```
> library (pls)
> chondro.msc <- chondro
> chondro.msc [[]] <- msc (chondro [[]])
```

11.11. Spectral Arithmetic

+ - * / ^ log
log10

Basic mathematical functions are defined for *hyperSpec* objects. You may convert spectra:

```
absorbance.spectra = - log10 (transmission.spectra)
```

In this case, do not forget to adapt the label:

labels

```
> labels (absorbance.spectra)$spc <- "A"
```

Be careful: R's `log` function calculates the natural logarithm if no base is given.

The basic arithmetic operators work element-wise in R. Thus they all need either a scalar, or a matrix (or *hyperSpec* object) of the correct size.

Matrix multiplication is done by `%*%`, again each of the operands may be a matrix or a *hyperSpec* object, and must have the correct dimensions. `%*%`

12. Data Analysis

12.1. Data Analysis Methods using a data.frame

e.g. Principal Component Analysis with `prcomp`

\$.

The `$.` notation is handy, if a data analysis function expects a *data.frame*. The column names can then be used in the formula:

```
> pca <- prcomp (~ spc, data = chondro$. , center = FALSE)
```

Results of such a decomposition can be put again into *hyperSpec* objects. This allows to plot e.g. the loading like spectra, or score maps, see figure 3. `decomposition`

```
> scores <- decomposition (chondro, pca$x, label.wavelength = "PC",
+                           label.spc = "score / a.u.")
> scores
```

hyperSpec object

```
875 spectra
4 data columns
300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: PC [integer] 1 2 ... 300
data: (875 rows x 4 columns)
1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -4.77 -4.77 ... 19.23
2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] -11.55 -10.55 ... 22.45
3. spc: score / a.u. [AsIs matrix x 300] -1.519974 -1.482294 ... -0.0005919229
4. clusters: clusters [factor] matrix matrix ... lacuna + NA
```

The loadings can be similarly re-imported:

```
> loadings <- decomposition (chondro, t(pca$rotation), scores = FALSE,
+                             label.spc = "loading I / a.u.")
> loadings

hyperSpec object
  300 spectra
  1 data columns
  300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (300 rows x 1 columns)
  1. spc: loading I / a.u. [AsIs matrix x 300] -0.048952872 -0.005090892 ... -0.1876058
```

There is, however, one important difference. The loadings are thought of as values computed from all spectra together. Thus no meaningful extra data can be assigned for the loadings object (at least not if the column consists of different values). Therefore, the loadings object lost all extra data (see above).

retain.columns triggers whether columns that contain different values should be dropped. If it is set to TRUE, the columns are retained, but contain NAs:

```
> loadings <- decomposition (chondro, t(pca$rotation), scores = FALSE,
+                             retain.columns = TRUE, label.spc = "loading I / a.u.")
> loadings[1]$..

  y  x clusters
1 NA NA      <NA>
```

If an extra data column does contain only one unique value, it is retained anyways:

```
> chondro$measurement <- 1
> loadings <- decomposition (chondro, t(pca$rotation), scores = FALSE,
+                             label.spc = "loading I / a.u.")
> loadings[1]$..

 measurement
1           1
```

12.1.1. PCA as Noise Filter

Principal component analysis is sometimes used as a noise filtering technique. The idea is that the relevant differences are captured in the first components while the higher components contain noise only. Thus the spectra are reconstructed using only the first p components.

This reconstruction is in fact a matrix multiplication:

$$spectra^{(nrow \times nwl)} = scores^{(nrow \times p)} loadings^{(p \times nwl)}$$

Note that this corresponds to a model based on the Beer-Lambert law:

$$A_n(\lambda) = c_{n,i} \epsilon(i, \lambda) + error$$

The matrix formulation puts the n spectra into the rows of A and c , while the i pure components appear in the columns of c and rows of the absorbance coefficients ϵ .

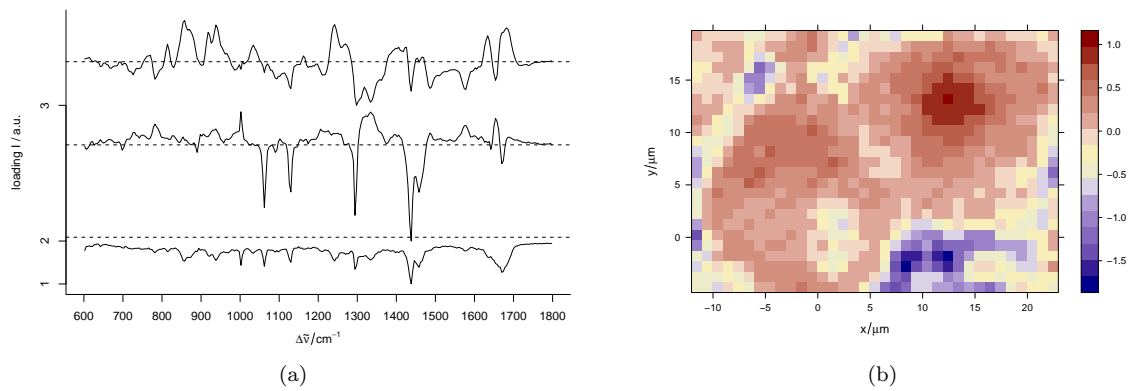


Figure 3: (a) The first three loadings: `plot (loadings [1 : 3], stacked = TRUE)`. (b) The second score map: `plotmap (scores [, , 2])`.

For an ideal data set (constituents varying independently, sufficient signal to noise ratio) one would expect the principal component analysis to extract something like the concentrations and pure component spectra.

If we decide that only the first 10 components actually carry spectroscopic information, we can reconstruct spectra with better signal to noise ratio:

%%

```
> smoothed <- scores [, , 1:10] %*% loadings [1:10]
```

Keep in mind, though, that we cannot be sure how much *useful* information was discarded with the higher components. This kind of noise reduction may influence further modeling of the data. Mathematically speaking, the rank of the new 875×300 spectra matrix is only 10.

12.2. Data Analysis using long-format data.frame e. g. plotting with ggplot2

Some functions need the data being an *unstacked* or *long-format* data.frame. `as.long.df` is the appropriate conversion function.

as.long.df

```
> library (ggplot2)
> p <- ggplot (as.long.df (chondro [1]), aes (x = .wavelength, y = spc)) + geom_line ()
```



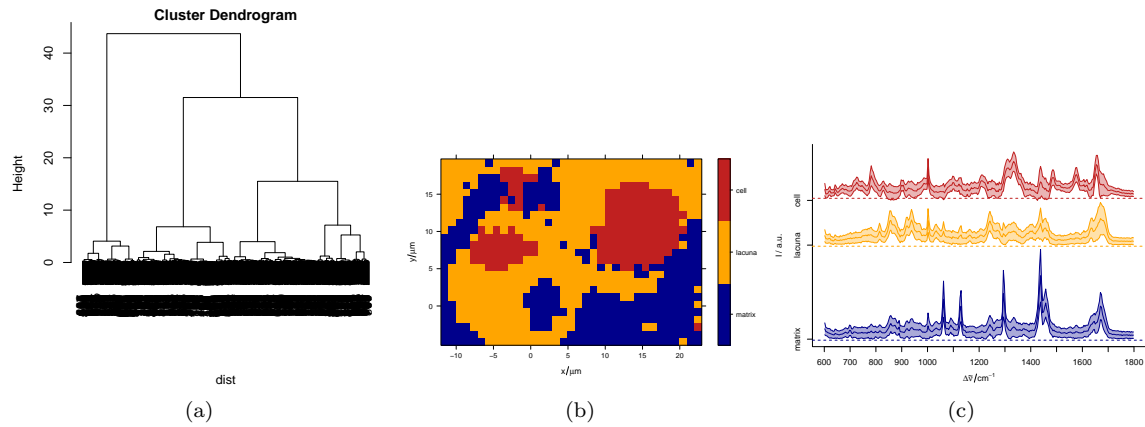


Figure 4: The results of the cluster analysis: (a) the dendrogram (b) the map of the 3 clusters (c) the mean spectra.

12.3. Data Analysis Methods using a matrix e.g. Hierarchical Cluster Analysis

[[]]

```
> dist <- pearson.dist (chondro [[]])
> dendrogram <- hclust (dist, method = "ward")

> plot (dendrogram)
```

In order to plot a cluster map, the cluster membership needs to be calculated from the dendrogram. First, cut the dendrogram so that three clusters result:

```
> chondro$clusters <- as.factor (cutree (dendrogram, k = 3))
```

As the cluster membership was stored as factor, the levels can be meaningful names, which are displayed in the color legend.

```
> levels (chondro$clusters) <- c ("matrix", "lacuna", "cell")
```

Then the result may be plotted (figure 4b):

12.4. Calculating group-wise Sum Characteristics e.g. Cluster Mean Spectra

`aggregate` applies the function given in *FUN* to each of the groups of spectra specified in *by*.

`aggregate`

So we may plot the cluster mean spectra:

```
> means <- aggregate (chondro, by = chondro$clusters, mean_pm_sd)
> plot (means, col = cluster.cols, stacked = ".aggregate", fill = ".aggregate")
```

12.5. Splitting an Object, and Binding a List of *hyperSpec* Objects

split

A *hyperSpec* object may also be split into a list of *hyperSpec* objects:

```
> clusters <- split (chondro, chondro$clusters)
> clusters

$matrix
hyperSpec object
  292 spectra
  5 data columns
  300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (292 rows x 5 columns)
  1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -4.77 -4.77 ... 19.23
  2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] -11.55 -10.55 ... 21.45
  3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 0.10834684 0.08162965 ... 0.01434837
  4. clusters: clusters [factor] matrix matrix ... matrix
  5. measurement: measurement [numeric] 1 1 ... 1

$lacuna
hyperSpec object
  417 spectra
  5 data columns
  300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (417 rows x 5 columns)
  1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -4.77 -4.77 ... 19.23
  2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] -5.55 -4.55 ... 22.45
  3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 0.05266207 0.05704105 ... 0.02574641
  4. clusters: clusters [factor] lacuna lacuna ... lacuna
  5. measurement: measurement [numeric] 1 1 ... 1

$cell
hyperSpec object
  166 spectra
  5 data columns
  300 data points / spectrum
wavelength: Delta * tilde(nu)/cm^-1 [numeric] 602 606 ... 1798
data: (166 rows x 5 columns)
  1. y: y/(mu * m) [numeric] -2.77 5.23 ... 18.23
  2. x: x/(mu * m) [numeric] 22.45 -5.55 ... -1.55
  3. spc: I / a.u. [matrix300] 0.125600985 -0.009449245 ... 0.02353212
  4. clusters: clusters [factor] cell cell ... cell
  5. measurement: measurement [numeric] 1 1 ... 1
```

Splitting can be reversed by `rbind` (see section 8.1, page 8). Another, similar way to combine a number of *hyperSpec* objects with different wavelength axes or extra data columns is `collapse` (see section 8.2, page 8).

rbind

collapse

References

- [1] Ron Wehrens and Bjørn-Helge Mevik. *pls: Partial Least Squares Regression (PLSR) and Principal Component Regression (PCR)*, 2007. URL <http://mevik.net/work/software/pls.html>. R package version 2.1-0.

A. Overview of the functions provided by hyperSpec

Function	Explanation
<i>Create and initialize an object</i>	
<code>initialize</code>	
<i>Basic information</i>	
<code>colnames</code>	
<code>colnames<-</code>	
<code>dim</code>	
<code>dimnames</code>	
<code>length</code>	
<code>ncol</code>	number of data columns (extra data plus spectra matrix)
<code>nrow</code>	number of spectra
<code>nwl</code>	number of data points per spectrum
<code>print</code>	summary information
<code>rownames</code>	
<code>show</code>	
<code>summary</code>	summary information including the log
<i>Access parts of the object</i>	
<code>[</code>	Select / extract / delete spectra, wavelength ranges or extra data
<code>[<-</code>	Set parts of spectra or extra data
<code>[[</code>	Select / extract / delete spectra, wavelength ranges or extra data, get the result as matrix or data.frame
<code>[[<-</code>	Set parts of spectra matrix
<code>\$</code>	extract a data column (including <code>\$spc</code>)
<code>\$<-</code>	replace a data column (including <code>\$spc</code>)
<code>i2wl</code>	convert spectra matrix column indices to wavelengths
<code>isample</code>	get a random sample of the spectra as index vector
<code>labels</code>	get column labels
<code>labels<-</code>	set column labels
<code>logbook</code>	logging the data treatment
<code>logentry</code>	make a logbook entry
<code>rownames<-</code>	
<code>sample</code>	generate random sample of the spectra
<code>seq.hyperSpec</code>	sequence along the spectra, either as <i>hyperSpec</i> object or index vector
<code>wl</code>	extract the wavelengths
<code>wl<-</code>	replace the wavelengths
<code>wl2i</code>	convert wavelengths to spectra matrix column indices

Function	Explanation
<i>Type conversion</i>	
<code>as.character</code>	
<code>as.data.frame</code>	
<code>as.long.df</code>	convert to a long-format data.frame.
<code>as.matrix</code>	
<code>as.wide.df</code>	convert to a wide-format data.frame with each wavelength one column
<code>decomposition</code>	re-import results of spectral matrix decomposition (or the like) into <i>hyperSpec</i> object
<i>File import/export</i>	
<code>\emph{R.matlab::readMat}</code>	import matlab file
<code>\emph{R.matlab::writeMat}</code>	export as matlab file
<code>read.ENVI</code>	import ENVI file
<code>read.ENVI.Nicolet</code>	import ENVI files written by Nicolet spectrometers
<code>read.spc</code>	import .spc file
<code>read.spc.KaiserMap</code>	import a Raman map saved by Kaiser Optical Systems' Hologram software as multiple .spc files
<code>read.txt.long</code>	import long-type ASCII file
<code>read.txt.wide</code>	import wide-type ASCII file
<code>scan.txt.Renishaw</code>	import ASCII files produced by Renishaw (InVia) spectrometers
<code>write.txt.long</code>	export as long-type ASCII file
<code>write.txt.wide</code>	export as wide-type ASCII file
<i>Combine/split</i>	
<code>bind</code>	common interface for <code>rbind</code> and <code>cbind</code>
<code>cbind2</code>	bind two <i>hyperSpec</i> objects by column
<code>cbind.hyperSpec</code>	
<code>collapse</code>	combine objects by adding columns if necessary. See <code>plyr::rbind.fill</code> .
<code>rbind2</code>	bind two <i>hyperSpec</i> objects by row, i. e. add wavelength ranges or extra data
<code>rbind.hyperSpec</code>	bind objects by row, i. e. add wavelength ranges or extra data
<code>split</code>	
<i>Vectorization</i>	
<code>aggregate</code>	
<code>apply</code>	
<code>sweep</code>	
<i>Maths</i>	
<code>%*%</code>	matrix multiplication

Function	Explanation
<code>Arith</code>	
<code>log</code>	
<code>Math</code>	mathematical functions. See (<code>help (■Math■)</code>)
<code>Math2</code>	rounding
<code>Summary</code>	summary measures such as <code>min</code> , <code>max</code> , etc.
<i>Comparison</i>	
<code>all.equal</code>	
<code>Compare</code>	<code>> < == >= <=</code> return a logical matrix
<code>is.na</code>	
<i>Plotting</i>	
<code>levelplot</code>	
<code>map.identify</code>	identify spectra in map plot
<code>matlab.dark.palette</code>	darker version of <code>matlab.palette</code>
<code>matlab.palette</code>	palette resembling Matlab's jet colors
<code>plot</code>	main switchyard for plotting
<code>plotc</code>	intensity over one other dimension: calibration plots, time series, depth series, etc.
<code>plotmap</code>	false-colour intensity over two other dimensions: spectral images, maps, etc. (rectangular tessellation)
<code>plotspc</code>	spectra plots: intensity over wavelength
<code>plotvoronoi</code>	false-colour intensity over two other dimensions: spectral images, maps, etc. (Voronoi tessellation)
<code>spc.identify</code>	identify spectra and wavelengths in spectra plot
<code>stacked.offsets</code>	calculate intensity axis offsets for stacked spectral plots
<code>trellis.factor.key</code>	modify list of <code>levelplot</code> arguments according to factor levels
<i>Spectra-specific transformations</i>	
<code>orderwl</code>	sort columns of spectra matrix according to the wavelengths
<code>spc.bin</code>	spectral binning
<code>spc.fit.poly</code>	least squares fit of a polynomial
<code>spc.fit.poly.below</code>	least squares fit of a polynomial with automatic support point determination
<code>spc.loess</code>	loess smoothing interpolation
<i>Utility functions</i>	
<code>array2df</code>	convert array into a matrix or data.frame
<code>array2vec</code>	convert array indices (n element vector) into vector indices
<code>factor2num</code>	convert a factor with numeric levels into the numeric
<code>mean_pm_sd</code>	mean \pm one standard deviation of a vector

Function	Explanation
<code>mean_sd</code>	mean and standard deviation of a vector
<code>pearson.dist</code>	distance measure based on Pearson's R^2
<code>rbind.fill</code>	transitional patch of <code>plyr::rbind.fill</code> working with matrices
<code>rbind.fill.matrix</code>	transitional until <code>plyr::rbind.fill.matrix</code> is out
<code>vec2array</code>	convert vector (one element) index into an array into an n element array index
<code>wc</code>	word count using <code>wc</code> if available on the system