

Analysis of Fiedler et al. 2009 using MALDIquant

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Abstract

This vignette describes the analysis of the MALDI-TOF spectra described in Fiedler et al. (2009) using MALDIquant

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1 Foreword

MALDIquant is free and open source software for the R (R Core Team, 2014) environment and under active development. If you use it, please support the project by citing it in publications:

Gibb, S. and Strimmer, K. (2012). MALDIquant: a versatile R package for the analysis of mass spectrometry data. *Bioinformatics*, 28(17):2270–2271

If you have any questions, bugs, or suggestions do not hesitate to contact me (mail@sebastiangibb.de).

Please visit <http://strimmerlab.org/software/malDIquant/>.

2 Dataset

In this vignette we use the dataset described in Fiedler et al. (2009). Please contact the authors directly if you want to use the dataset in your own analysis.

This dataset contains 480 MALDI-TOF mass spectra from blood sera of 60 patients and 60 healthy controls (each sample has four technical replicates).

It is divided in three set:

1. *Discovery Set A*: 20 patients with pancreatic cancer and 20 healthy patients from the University Hospital Leipzig.
2. *Discovery Set B*: 20 patients with pancreatic cancer and 20 healthy patients from the University Hospital Heidelberg.
3. *Discovery Set C*: 20 patients with pancreatic cancer and 20 healthy patients from the University Hospital Leipzig (half resolution).

Both discovery sets *A* and *B* were measured on the same target (batch). The validation set *C* was measured a few months later.

Please see Fiedler et al. (2009) for details.

3 Analysis

3.1 Setup

First we need to install the necessary packages (you can skip this part if you have already done this). You can install MALDIquant (Gibb and Strimmer, 2012), MALDIquantForeign (Gibb, 2014), sda (Ahdesmäki and Strimmer, 2010) and crossval (Strimmer, 2014) directly from CRAN. To install this data package from <http://github.com/sgibb/MALDIquantExamples> you need the devtools (Wickham and Chang, 2014) package.

```
install.packages(c("MALDIquant", "MALDIquantForeign",  
                  "sda", "crossval", "devtools"))  
library("devtools")  
install_github("sgibb/MALDIquantExamples")
```

Next we load the packages.

```
library("MALDIquant")  
library("MALDIquantForeign")  
library("sda")  
library("crossval")  
  
library("MALDIquantExamples")
```

3.2 Import Raw Data

We use the `getPathFiedler2009` function to get the correct file path to the spectra and the metadata file respectively.

```
## import the spectra  
spectra <- import(getPathFiedler2009()["spectra"],  
                  verbose=FALSE)  
  
## import metadata  
spectra.info <- read.table(getPathFiedler2009()["info"],  
                           sep="," , header=TRUE)
```

Because of heavy batch effects between the two hospitals we consider only the data collected in the University Hospital Heidelberg.

```
isHeidelberg <- spectra.info$location == "heidelberg"

spectra <- spectra[isHeidelberg]
spectra.info <- spectra.info[isHeidelberg,]
```

We do a basic quality control and test whether all spectra contain the same number of data points and are not empty.

3.3 Quality Control

```
table(sapply(spectra, length))

42388
  160

any(sapply(spectra, isEmpty))

[1] FALSE

all(sapply(spectra, isRegular))

[1] TRUE
```

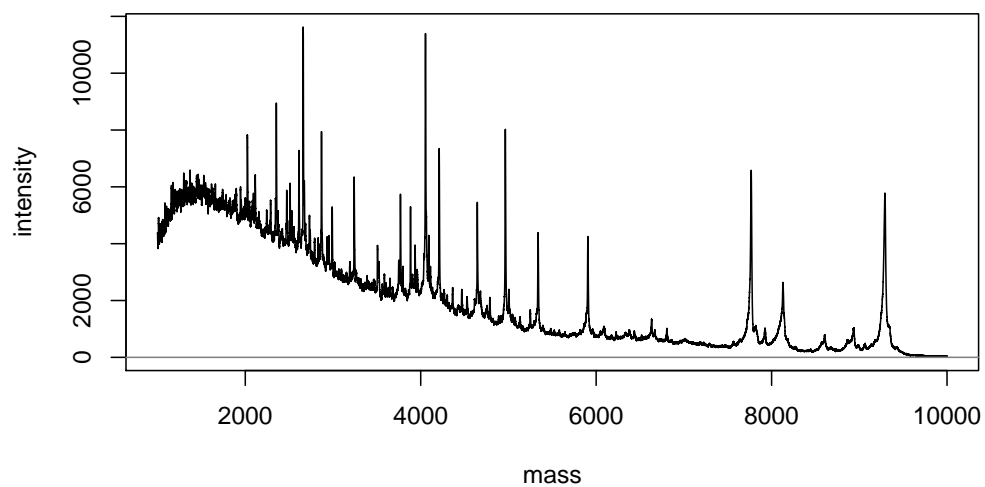
Subsequently we ensure that all spectra have the same mass range.

```
spectra <- trim(spectra)
```

Finally we draw some plots and inspect the spectra visually.

```
idx <- sample(length(spectra), size=2)
plot(spectra[[idx[1]]])
```

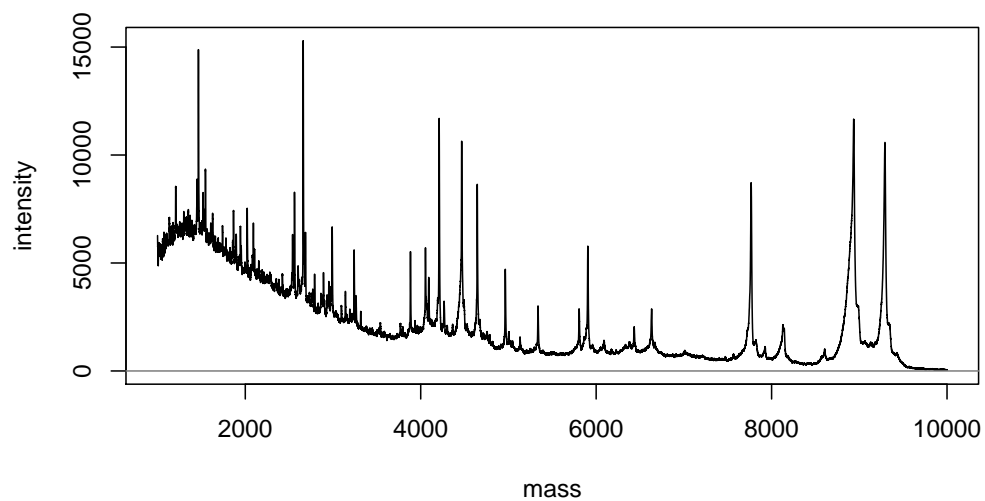
Pankreas_HB_L_061019_B10.D19



.DlquantForeign_uncompress/spectra_365330f9eb7/fiedler_et_al_2009/set B – discovery heidelberg/control/Pankreas_HB_L_0

```
plot(spectra[[idx[2]]])
```

Pankreas_HB_L_061019_D10.G20



LDlquantForeign_uncompress/spectra_365330f9eb7/fiedler_et_al_2009/set B – discovery heidelberg/tumor/Pankreas_HB_L_0

3.4 Transformation and Smoothing

We apply the square root transformation to simplify graphical visualization and to overcome the potential dependency of the variance from the mean.

```
spectra <- transformIntensity(spectra, method="sqrt")
```

In the next step we use a 21 point *Savitzky-Golay*-Filter (Savitzky and Golay, 1964) to smooth the spectra.

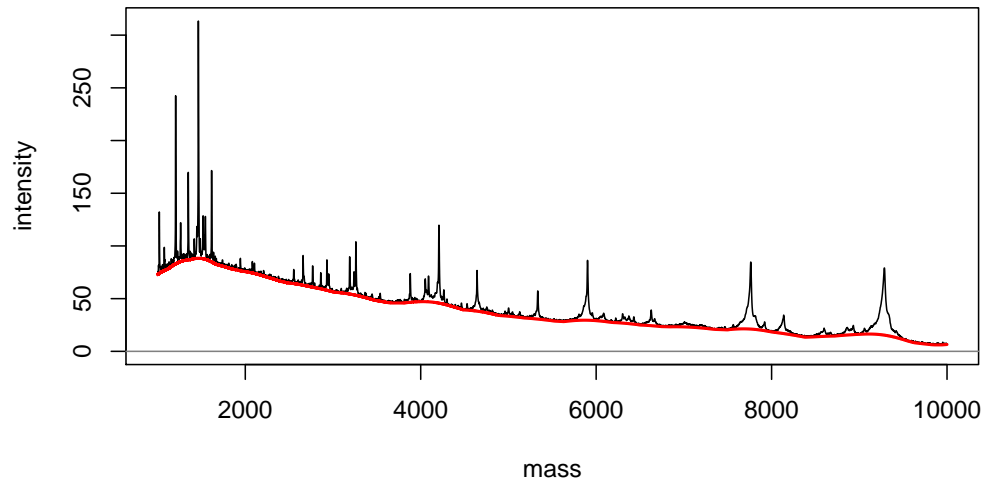
```
spectra <- smoothIntensity(spectra, method="SavitzkyGolay",  
                           halfWindowSize=10)
```

3.5 Baseline Correction

Matrix effects and chemical noise results in some background noise. That's why we have to apply a baseline correction. In this example we use the *SNIP* algorithm (Ryan et al., 1988) to correct the baseline.

```
baseline <- estimateBaseline(spectra[[1]], method="SNIP",  
                            iterations=150)  
plot(spectra[[1]])  
lines(baseline, col="red", lwd=2)
```

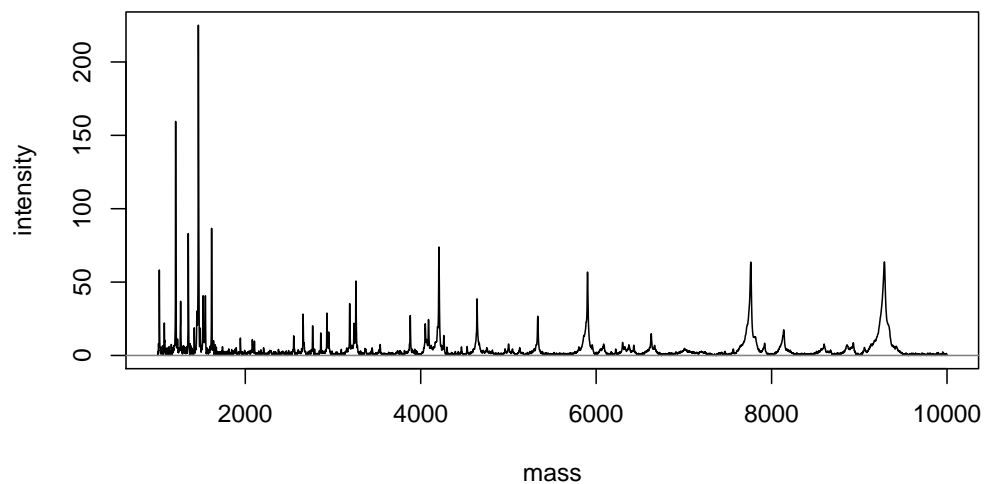
Pankreas_HB_L_061019_A1.A1



\\DlquantForeign_uncompress/spectra_365330f9eb7/fiedler_et_al_2009/set B – discovery heidelberg/control/Pankreas_HB_L_

```
spectra <- removeBaseline(spectra, method="SNIP",  
                           iterations=150)  
plot(spectra[[1]])
```

Pankreas_HB_L_061019_A1.A1



\\DlquantForeign_uncompress/spectra_365330f9eb7/fiedler_et_al_2009/set B – discovery heidelberg/control/Pankreas_HB_L_

3.6 Intensity Calibration

We perform the *Total-Ion-Current*-calibration (TIC; often called normalization) to equalize the intensities across spectra.

```
spectra <- calibrateIntensity(spectra, method="TIC")
```

3.7 Alignment

Next we need to (re)calibrate the mass values. Our alignment procedure is a peak based warping algorithm. MALDIquant offers `alignSpectra` as a wrapper around more complicated functions. If you need a finer control or want to investigate the impact of different parameters please use `determineWarpingFunctions` instead (see `?determineWarpingFunctions` for details).

```
spectra <- alignSpectra(spectra)
```

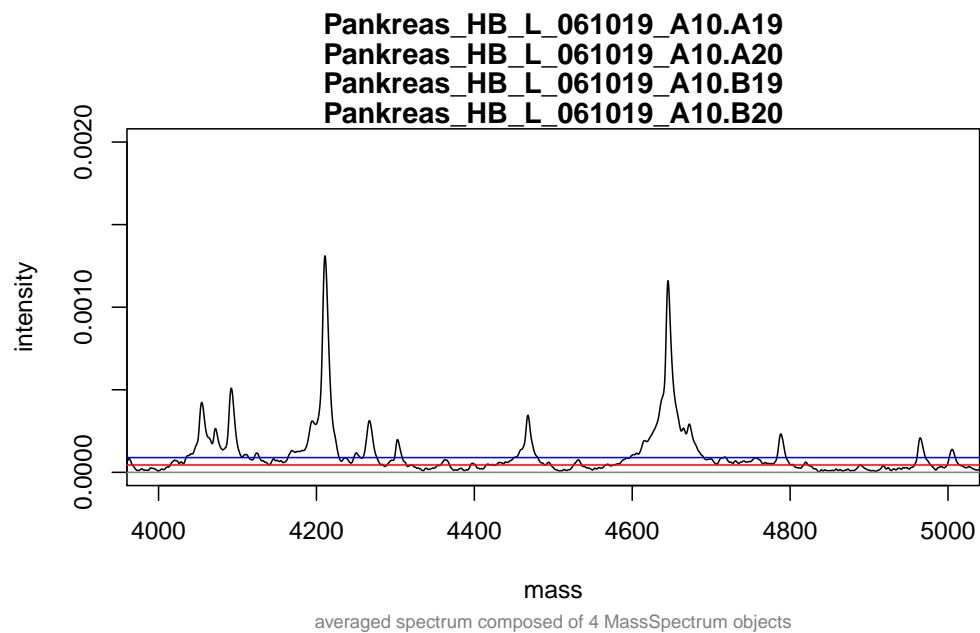
We average the technical replicates before we look for peaks and adjust our metadata table accordingly.

```
avgSpectra <-  
  averageMassSpectra(spectra, labels=spectra.info$patientID)  
avgSpectra.info <-  
  spectra.info[!duplicated(spectra.info$patientID), ]
```

3.8 Peak Detection

The peak detection is the crucial feature reduction step. Before performing the peak detection we estimate the noise of some spectra to get a feeling for the *signal-to-noise ratio* (SNR).

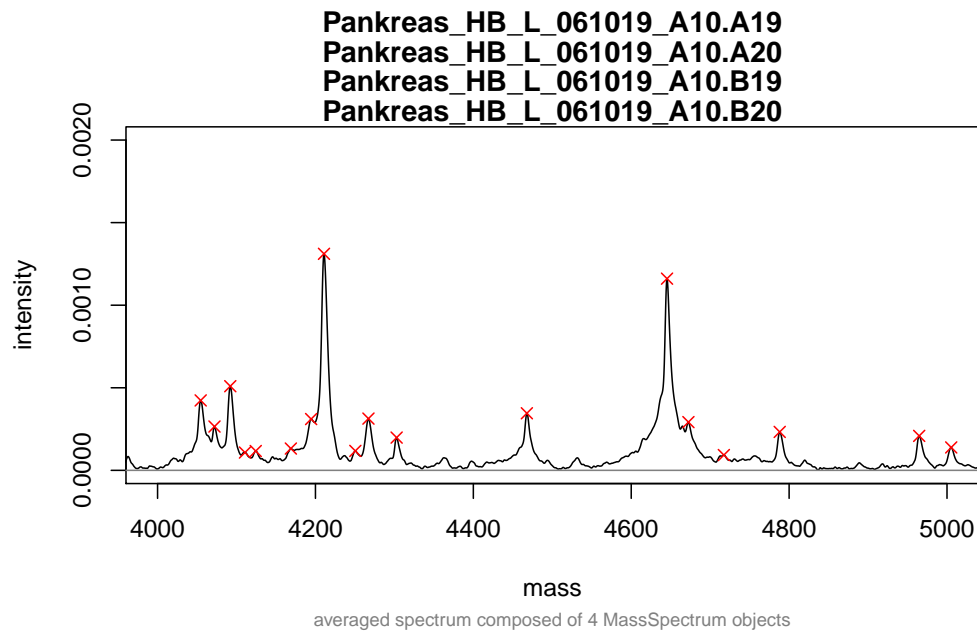
```
noise <- estimateNoise(avgSpectra[[1]])  
plot(avgSpectra[[1]], xlim=c(4000, 5000), ylim=c(0, 0.002))  
lines(noise, col="red") # SNR == 1  
lines(noise[, 1], 2*noise[, 2], col="blue") # SNR == 2
```



In this case we decide to set a *SNR* of 2 (blue line).

```
peaks <- detectPeaks(avgSpectra, SNR=2, halfWindowSize=20)
```

```
plot(avgSpectra[[1]], xlim=c(4000, 5000), ylim=c(0, 0.002))
points(peaks[[1]], col="red", pch=4)
```



3.9 Post Processing

After the alignment the peak positions (mass) are very similar but not identical. The binning is needed to make similar peak mass values identical.

```
peaks <- binPeaks(peaks)
```

We choose a very low signal-to-noise ratio to keep as much features as possible. To remove some false positive peaks we remove peaks that appear in less than 50 % of all spectra in each group.

```
peaks <- filterPeaks(peaks, minFrequency=c(0.5, 0.5),
                     labels=avgSpectra.info$health,
                     mergeWhitelists=TRUE)
```

Finally we create the feature matrix and label the rows with the corresponding patient ID.

```
featureMatrix <- intensityMatrix(peaks, avgSpectra)
rownames(featureMatrix) <- avgSpectra.info$patientID
```

3.10 Diagonal Discriminant Analysis

We finish the MALDIquant preprocessing and use the *diagonal discriminant analysis* (DDA) function of sda (Ahdesmäki and Strimmer, 2010) to find the most important peaks.

```
Xtrain <- featureMatrix
Ytrain <- avgSpectra.info$health
ddar <- sda.ranking(Xtrain=featureMatrix, L=Ytrain, fdr=FALSE,
                    diagonal=TRUE)
```

Computing t-scores (centroid vs. pooled mean) for feature ranking

```
Number of variables: 177
Number of observations: 40
Number of classes: 2
```

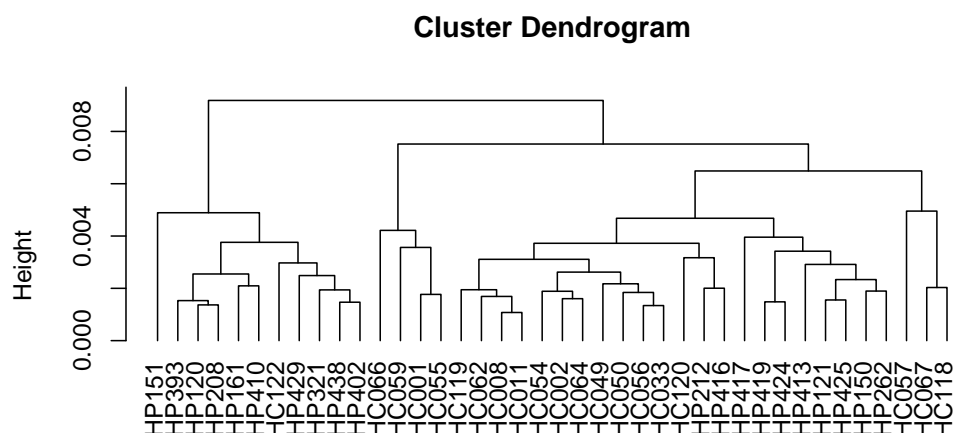
```
Estimating optimal shrinkage intensity lambda.freq (frequencies): 1
Estimating variances (pooled across classes)
Estimating optimal shrinkage intensity lambda.var (variance vector): 0.1072
```

	idx	score	t.cancer	t.control
8937.02377967774	169.00	89.24	9.45	-9.45
4467.82760195335	123.00	80.21	8.96	-8.96
8868.21035969657	168.00	79.76	8.93	-8.93
4494.72923193083	124.00	70.05	8.37	-8.37
8989.39357377299	170.00	65.53	8.09	-8.09
5864.40916105019	144.00	37.51	-6.12	6.12
5906.05239413598	145.00	34.49	-5.87	5.87
2022.76307818314	52.00	33.90	5.82	-5.82
5945.59928865137	146.00	33.34	-5.77	5.77
1866.06934418929	46.00	32.42	5.69	-5.69

3.11 Hierarchical Clustering

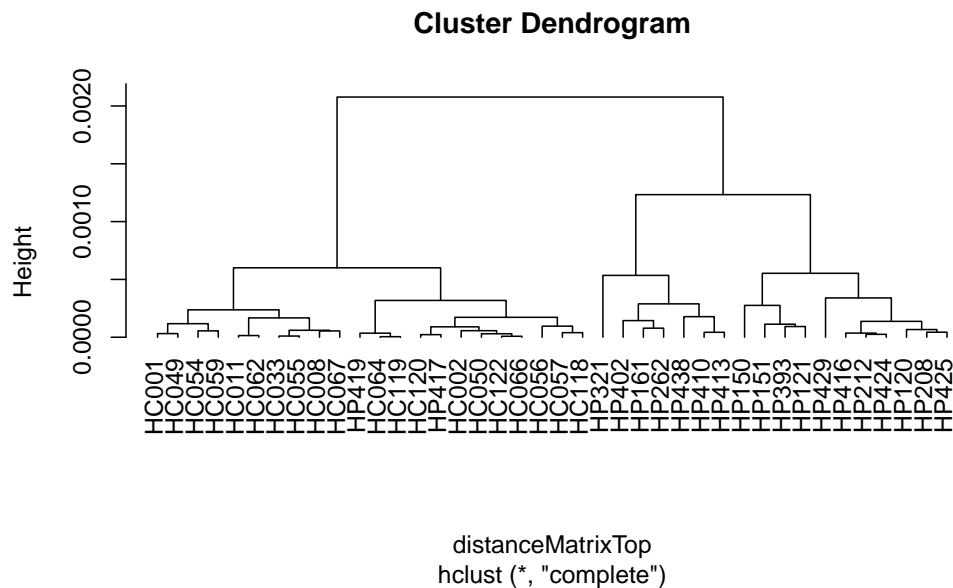
To visualize the results without any feature selection by *DDA* we apply a hierarchical cluster analysis based on the euclidean distance.

```
distanceMatrix <- dist(featureMatrix, method="euclidean")  
  
hClust <- hclust(distanceMatrix, method="complete")  
  
plot(hClust, hang=-1)
```



Next we use only the 2 top peaks selected in the *DDA* and we get a nearly perfect split between the cancer and control group.

```
top <- ddar[1:2, "idx"]  
  
distanceMatrixTop <- dist(featureMatrix[, top],  
                           method="euclidean")  
  
hClustTop <- hclust(distanceMatrixTop, method="complete")  
  
plot(hClustTop, hang=-1)
```



3.12 Cross Validation

Subsequently we use the `crossval` (Strimmer, 2014) package to perform a 10-fold cross validation of these two selected peaks.

```
# create a prediction function for the cross validation
predfun.dda <- function(Xtrain, Ytrain, Xtest, Ytest,
                        negative) {
  dda.fit <- sda(Xtrain, Ytrain, diagonal=TRUE, verbose=FALSE)
  ynew <- predict(dda.fit, Xtest, verbose=FALSE)$class
  return(confusionMatrix(Ytest, ynew, negative=negative))
}

# set seed to get reproducible results
set.seed(1234)

cv.out <- crossval(predfun.dda,
                   X=featureMatrix[, top],
                   Y=avg$spectra.info$health,
                   K=10, B=20,
```

```

        negative="control",
        verbose=FALSE)
diagnosticErrors(cv.out$stat)

      acc   sens   spec   ppv   npv   lor
0.9500 0.9000 1.0000 1.0000 0.9091   Inf

```

3.13 Summary

We found the peaks m/z 8937 and 4467 as important features for the discrimination between the cancer and control group.

4 Session Information

- R version 3.1.0 (2014-04-10), x86_64-pc-linux-gnu
- Base packages: base, datasets, grDevices, graphics, methods, stats, utils
- Other packages: MALDIquant~1.10.1, MALDIquantExamples~0.2, MALDIquantForeign~0.7.2, corpcor~1.6.6, crossval~1.0.1, entropy~1.2.0, fdrtool~1.2.12, knitr~1.6, pvclust~1.2-2, sda~1.3.3, xtable~1.7-3
- Loaded via a namespace (and not attached): XML~3.98-1.1, base64enc~0.1-1, digest~0.6.4, downloader~0.3, evaluate~0.5.5, formatR~0.10, highr~0.3, readBruckerFlexData~1.7, readMzXmlData~2.7, stringr~0.6.2, tools~3.1.0

References

Ahdesmäki, M. and Strimmer, K. (2010). Feature selection in omics prediction problems using cat scores and false nondiscovery rate control. *The Annals of Applied Statistics*, 4(1):503–519.

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