# Package 'flowTime'

July 2, 2025

**Title** Annotation and analysis of biological dynamical systems using flow cytometry

**Version** 1.32.0

**Description** This package facilitates analysis of both timecourse and steady state flow cytometry experiments.

This package was originially developed for quantifying the function of gene

regulatory networks in yeast (strain W303) expressing fluorescent reporter proteins using BD Accuri C6 and SORP cytometers. However, the functions are for the most part general and may be adapted for analysis of other organisms using other flow cytometers. Functions in this package facilitate the annotation of flow cytometry data with experimental metadata, as often required for publication and general ease-of-reuse. Functions for creating, saving and loading gate sets are also included. In the past, we have typically generated summary statistics for each flowset for each timepoint and then annotated and analyzed these summary statistics. This method loses a great deal of the power that comes from the large amounts of individual cell data generated in flow cytometry, by essentially collapsing this data into a bulk measurement after subsetting. In addition to these summary functions, this package also contains functions to facilitate annotation and analysis of steady-state or time-lapse data utilizing all of the data collected from the thousands of individual cells in each sample.

**Depends** R (>= 3.4), flowCore

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LazyData true

**biocViews** FlowCytometry, TimeCourse, Visualization, DataImport, CellBasedAssays, ImmunoOncology

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, flowViz, ggplot2, BiocGenerics, stats, flowClust, openCyto, flowStats, ggcyto

**Imports** utils, dplyr (>= 1.0.0), tibble, magrittr, plyr, rlang

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VignetteBuilder knitr
RoxygenNote 7.2.2
${\bf git\_url}\ \ {\rm https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/flowTime}$
git_branch RELEASE_3_21
git_last_commit 2ca5ff9
git_last_commit_date 2025-04-15
Repository Bioconductor 3.21
Date/Publication 2025-07-02
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addbs

Add background subtraction to a summary data frame

#### **Description**

Makes a new column from column with the background value of a given baseline control from a chosen identifier column baseline\_column subtracted from the values of column.

## Usage

```
addbs(data, column, baseline_column, baseline = "noYFP")
```

## **Arguments**

data the summary data frame of a flowSet (from summarizeFlow or flsummary) to

be used in calculating the background subtracted column

column the column containing the fluorescent (or other) measurement to be background

subtracted

baseline\_column

the column containing the identifier of the rows containing background values

baseline character the identified or name of representing background fluorescent values

#### Value

A summary data frame with an additional column column\_bs containing the background subtracted values

```
dat<-read.flowSet(path=system.file("extdata", "tc_example",
package = "flowTime"),alter.names = TRUE)
annotation <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "tc_example.csv",
package = "flowTime"))
annotation[which(annotation$treatment == 0), 'strain'] <- 'background'
adat <- annotateFlowSet(dat, annotation)
dat_sum <- summarizeFlow(adat, gated = TRUE,
channel = 'FL1.A')
dat_sum <- addbs(data = dat_sum, column = FL1.Amean,
baseline_column = strain,
baseline = "background")</pre>
```

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addnorm

Normalize fluorescence

#### **Description**

Produces a normalized fluorescence column 'normed'. Expects the 'FL1.A\_bs' column to exist or a column to be specified. Has three different methods, version 1 and version 2, described in the script

#### Usage

```
addnorm(
  frame,
  factor_in = c("strain", "treatment"),
  method = 1,
  column = "FL3.Amean_bs"
)
```

## **Arguments**

frame data frame of summary statistics to be normalized

factor\_in character vector containing the varibles to split the data frame by

method which normalization method to use, 1, 2 or 3.

column character the column to apply the normalization to

## Details

Method 1, the default normalization method, takes the highest point in each dataset grouped by 'factor\_in' and normalizes all values in the group by this point. This method is default because it works regardless of whether the data is a time series. Method 2 finds the mean value of all time points with time values less than 0 for each group and normalizes each group by this respective value. Requires a time series with negative time values to work. Method 3 fits a linear model to the pre-zero time points for each groups, infers the y-intercept, and normalizes using this intercept. Method 3 also requires a time series with negative time values to work.

## Value

data frame containing the additional normalized variable

```
dat <- read.flowSet(path=system.file("extdata", "tc_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
annotation <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "tc_example.csv",
package = "flowTime"))
adat <- annotateFlowSet(dat, annotation)
loadGates(gatesFile = 'C6Gates')
dat_sum <- summarizeFlow(adat, ploidy = "diploid", only = "singlets",</pre>
```

annotateFlowSet 5

```
channel = "FL1.A")
dat_sum <- addnorm(dat_sum, c("strain", "treatment"), method = 1,
column = "FL1.Amean")</pre>
```

annotateFlowSet

Annotate a flowSet with experimental metadata

## **Description**

Add annotations to a flow Sets pheno Data and plate numbers, strain names, and treatment also set T0

#### Usage

```
annotateFlowSet(yourFlowSet, annotation_df, mergeBy = "name")
```

## **Arguments**

yourFlowSet a flowSet with sampleNames of the format 'plate#\_Well', we typically use the

following code chunk to read data from individual plates as exported from BD

Accuri C6 software.

annotation\_df A data frame with columns 'well', 'strain', 'treatment', containing all of the

wells in the flowset labeled with the strain and treatment in that well.

mergeBy the unique identifier column

#### Value

An annotated flowSet

```
dat <- read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
annotation <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ss_example.csv", package =
"flowTime"))
annotateFlowSet(dat, annotation, mergeBy = "name")</pre>
```

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createAnnotation

Create an annotation dataframe

## **Description**

Creates a data frame with rows containing the sample names of your flow set that can then be filled in with experimental metadata.

## Usage

```
createAnnotation(yourFlowSet)
```

## **Arguments**

yourFlowSet

the flowSet to create an annotation data frame for

#### Value

annotation\_df a data frame containing the sample names of your flow set

## **Examples**

```
dat <- read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
annotation <- createAnnotation(yourFlowSet = dat)
head(annotation)</pre>
```

dipdoubletGate

A gate for the set of all diploid doublets

## **Description**

A gate for the set of all diploid doublets

#### Usage

```
data(dipdoubletGate)
```

#### **Format**

formal class polygonGate

dipsingletGate 7

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uт	บรา	LIST	eι	Gate

A gate for the set of all diploid singlet yeast cells

#### **Description**

Typically set in FSC.A by FSC.H space Diploids are typically 5um x 6um ellipsoids while haploids are typically 4um x 4um spheroids. As a result, diploids are longer and you get a larger 'area/volume'.

## Usage

```
data(dipsingletGate)
```

#### **Format**

formal class polygonGate

flsummary

Get summary statistics for fluorescence or other data channels of a flowSet

## **Description**

Get summary statistics for fluorescence or other data channels of a flowSet

## Usage

```
flsummary(flowset, channel)
```

#### **Arguments**

flowset the flowSet to create summary statistics for

channel option character vector of the data channel(s) to summarize. By default all

channels will be summarized. Setting channels does not reduce computation

time

#### Value

A data frame containing summary statistics (mean, median, SD) for the specified fluorescent channel and time moments of the flowSet.

```
plate1 <- read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata",
   "ss_example", package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
flsummary(flowset = plate1, channel = "FL1.A")</pre>
```

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getTime

Get the time at which at flowFrame began collection

## Description

Get the time at which at flowFrame began collection

## Usage

```
getTime(flowframe)
```

## **Arguments**

flowframe

The flowFrame for which you would like the initial time

#### Value

numeric time value in minutes

## **Examples**

```
plate1<-read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example", package =
"flowTime"),alter.names = TRUE)
getTime(plate1$A01.fcs)</pre>
```

hapdoubletGate

A gate for the set of all haploid doublets

## **Description**

A gate for the set of all haploid doublets

## Usage

```
data(hapdoubletGate)
```

#### **Format**

formal class polygonGate

hapsingletGate 9

hapsingletGate
----------------

A gate for the set of all haploid singlets

## **Description**

A gate for the set of all haploid singlets

## Usage

```
data(hapsingletGate)
```

#### **Format**

formal class polygonGate

loadGates

Load a yeast gate file

## Description

Loads a set of yeast gates into active memory to be used in analysis functions

## Usage

```
loadGates(gatesFile = NULL, path = NULL, envir = environment())
```

#### **Arguments**

gatesFile the gates file to be loaded into memory, or path to the gates file

path The path to the gates file. If 'NULL' this will look through lazy loaded data for

the gatesFile

envir The environment in which to load the gates

## Value

gate objects created in the current environment

```
loadGates(system.file("extdata/SORPGates.RData", package = "flowTime"))
```

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meanMedianSD

Summary statistic columns for a flow frame

## **Description**

Summary statistic columns for a flow frame

## Usage

```
meanMedianSD(frame)
```

## **Arguments**

frame

a flowFrame

#### Value

a matrix with a single row for the flow frame and mean, median, and sd columns for each column of the expression measurements

## **Examples**

```
plate1<-read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example", package =
"flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
meanMedianSD(plate1@frames$A01.fcs)
fsApply(plate1, meanMedianSD)</pre>
```

ploidy

Guess the ploidy of a given flowframe

## **Description**

Use the FSC.A/FSC.H ratio. Diploids are typically 5um x 6um ellipsoids while haploids are typically 4um x 4um spheroids. As a result, diploids are longer and you get a larger 'area/volume' FSC.A. 'Width' might also be useful on certain cytometers.

## Usage

```
ploidy(flowframe)
```

#### **Arguments**

flowframe

the flowFrame you would like to identify the ploidy of

#### Value

"Diploid" or "Haploid" and the mean FSC.A/FSC.H quotient

polyGate 11

#### **Examples**

```
dat <- read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
ploidy(dat$A01.fcs)</pre>
```

polyGate

Create a polygon gate

#### **Description**

Create a polygon gate

## Usage

```
polyGate(x, y, filterID = "newGate", channels = c("FSC.A", "FSC.H"))
```

## Arguments

x a vector of x coordinatesy a vector of y coordinates

filterID name of the gate

channels vector containing the channels matching the x and y coordinates above

#### Value

```
a polygon gate object
```

## Examples

```
polyGate(x = c(1,1,10000,10000), y = c(1,10000, 10000, 1), )
```

qaGating

Quality assurance check

## Description

Check whether a flowSet (or a single flowFrame) contains empty values, in which case normalization may fail (divide by zero). This is particularly useful for removing wash wells from a flowSet.

## Usage

```
qaGating(x, threshold = 100)
```

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## **Arguments**

x flowSet or flowFrame to be checked

threshold flowFrames with fewer events than this threshold will be identified.

#### Value

A vector containing the flowFrames with fewer events than the threshold.

## **Examples**

```
plate1<-read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example", package =
"flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
qaGating(plate1)</pre>
```

read.plateSet

Read FCS files from set of plates

#### **Description**

Reads all folders within the specified path containing the specified pattern in the folder names. Each folder contains a set a plate of FCS files. These folders typically make up a whole experiment. Plates are numbered according to the standard lexicographical ordering of your operating system.

#### **Usage**

```
read.plateSet(path = getwd(), pattern = "", ...)
```

## Arguments

path The path to search for folders containing FCS files

pattern The regex pattern used to identify the folders of FCS files to be read

... Additional arguments passed to read.flowSet. Note that 'alter.names' is forced

to be TRUE in this implementation.

#### Value

A single flowSet containing all FCS files within the identified folders. The index of each folder in the list according to lexicographical ordering (1,2,...) is prepended to the sampleNames.

```
# Read in both of the example data sets as a single flowSet
plate1<-read.plateSet(path = system.file("extdata", package = "flowTime"),
pattern = "")</pre>
```

saveGates 13

saveGates

Save a yeast gate set

## **Description**

Save a yeast gate set

#### Usage

```
saveGates(
  yeastGate = NULL,
  dipsingletGate = NULL,
  dipdoubletGate = NULL,
  hapsingletGate = NULL,
  hapdoubletGate = NULL,
  path = getwd(),
  fileName = "defaultGates.RData"
)
```

#### **Arguments**

```
yeastGate a gate object defining the population of yeast cells
dipsingletGate a gate object defining the population of diploid singlet cells
dipdoubletGate a gate object defining the population of diploid doublet cells
hapsingletGate a gate object defining the population of haploid singlet cells
hapdoubletGate a gate object defining the population of haploid doublet cells
path path to the folder in which you would like to save the gates
fileName name of the .Rdata file you would like to save these gates within
```

#### Value

a .RData file in the "extdata" folder of the package containing the specified gates

```
loadGates(system.file("extdata/SORPGates.RData", package = "flowTime"))
#not run:
#saveGates()
```

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steadyState	Analysis of steady state fluorescence flow cytometry

## Description

Generates a data frame which can be used to visualize and analyze steady state flow cytometry data. Steady state in this case means that

#### Usage

```
steadyState(flowset, gated = FALSE, ploidy = NA, only = NA)
```

#### **Arguments**

flowset	your flowSet to be analyzed
gated	boolean is the data already gated?
ploidy	character gate to subset your flowset based on the ploidy of you strains
only	character which population of events to analyze, 'yeast', 'singlets', or 'doublets'?

#### Value

a data frame containing all of the selected subset of events from the original flowSet

#### **Examples**

```
dat <- read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
annotation <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "ss_example.csv",
package = "flowTime"))
dat <- annotateFlowSet(dat, annotation, mergeBy = "name")
loadGates(gatesFile = 'SORPGates')
steadyState(dat, gated = FALSE, ploidy = "diploid", only = "singlets")</pre>
```

summarizeFlow

Generate summary statistics for a flowSet

## Description

Gates a sample to all yeast, then singlet, then doublets. Also calculates singlet to doublet ratio. Returns a list of data frames, e.g. output\$singlets, output\$doublets, etc.

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#### Usage

```
summarizeFlow(
  flowset,
  channel = NA,
  gated = FALSE,
  ploidy = FALSE,
  only = FALSE
)
```

## Arguments

the flowSet to be summarized

channel character vector which data channel(s) should be summarized? If excluded (or NA) all channels will be summarized (default)

gated boolean is the data already appropriately gated?

ploidy character does the flowSet contain haploid or diploid cells?

only character summarize only "singlet", "doublet", or all "yeast" cells, FALSE will

return all

#### Value

data frame containing the specified summary statistics of the specified cell populations for each frame

## **Examples**

```
plate1 <- read.flowSet(path = system.file("extdata", "ss_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
summarizeFlow(plate1, channel = "FL1.A", gated = TRUE,
ploidy = "diploid", only = "yeast")</pre>
```

tidyFlow

Generate a tidy dataset from time-course flow cytometry data

## Description

Generates a tibble containing all parameters and phenoData from a flowSet which can be used to visualize and analyze timecourse flow cytometry data.

#### Usage

```
tidyFlow(flowset, gated = TRUE, ploidy = NA, only = NA)
```

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## **Arguments**

flowset	your flowSet to be analyzed
gated	boolean is the data already gated?
ploidy	character gate to subset your flowset based on the ploidy of you strains
only	character which population of events to analyze, 'yeast', singlets', or 'dou-

blets'?

## Value

a data frame containing all of the selected subset of events from the original flowSet for all parameters including experiment time, etime, the time after the initial reading at which each event was collected.

## **Examples**

```
plate1<-read.flowSet(path=system.file("extdata", "tc_example",
package = "flowTime"), alter.names = TRUE)
annotation <- read.csv(system.file("extdata", "tc_example.csv",
package = "flowTime"))
plate1 <- annotateFlowSet(plate1, annotation)
tidy_dat <- tidyFlow(plate1, gated = TRUE)
head(tidy_dat)</pre>
```

yeastGate

A gate for the set of all yeast cells

## Description

Typically set in FSC.A by SSC.A space to exclued any debris

## Usage

```
data(yeastGate)
```

#### **Format**

formal class polygonGate

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