Package 'glmGamPoi'

December 5, 2025

Type Package

Title Fit a Gamma-Poisson Generalized Linear Model

Version 1.23.0

Description Fit linear models to overdispersed count data.
The package can estimate the overdispersion and fit repeated models
for matrix input. It is designed to handle large input datasets as they
typically occur in single cell RNA-seq experiments.

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

SystemRequirements C++17

Suggests testthat (>= 2.1.0), zoo, DESeq2, edgeR, limma, MASS,
statmod, ggplot2, bench, BiocParallel, knitr, rmarkdown,
BiocStyle, TENxPBMCData, muscData, scran, dplyr

LinkingTo Rcpp, RcppArmadillo, beachmat, assorthead

Imports Rcpp, beachmat, DelayedMatrixStats, matrixStats,
MatrixGenerics, SparseArray (>= 1.5.21), S4Vectors,
DelayedArray, HDF5Array, Matrix, SummarizedExperiment,
SingleCellExperiment, BiocGenerics, methods, stats, utils,
splines, rlang, vctrs

Roxygen list(markdown = TRUE)

RoxygenNote 7.3.2

URL <https://github.com/const-ae/glmGamPoi>

BugReports <https://github.com/const-ae/glmGamPoi/issues>

biocViews Regression, RNASeq, Software, SingleCell

VignetteBuilder knitr

git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/glmGamPoi

git_branch devel

git_last_commit 23ac45d

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Author Constantin Ahlmann-Eltze [aut, cre] (ORCID:
      <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3762-068X>),
    Nathan Lubock [ctb] (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8064-2465>),
    Michael Love [ctb]

Maintainer Constantin Ahlmann-Eltze <artjom31415@googlemail.com>

Contents

---

as.list.glmGamPoi   *Convert glmGamPoi object to a list*

Description

Convert glmGamPoi object to a list

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'glmGamPoi'
as.list(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	an object with class glmGamPoi
...	not used

Value

The method returns a list with the following elements:

Beta a matrix with dimensions `nrow(data) x n_coefficients` where `n_coefficients` is based on the `design` argument. It contains the estimated coefficients for each gene.

overdispersions a vector with length `nrow(data)`. The overdispersion parameter for each gene. It describes how much more the counts vary than one would expect according to the Poisson model.

Mu a matrix with the same dimensions as `dim(data)`. If the calculation happened on disk, than Mu is a `HDF5Matrix`. It contains the estimated mean value for each gene and sample.

size_factors a vector with length `ncol(data)`. The size factors are the inferred correction factors for different sizes of each sample. They are also sometimes called the exposure factor.

model_matrix a matrix with dimensions `ncol(data) x n_coefficients`. It is build based on the `design` argument.

---

estimate_betas_fisher_scoring
Estimate the Betas for Fixed Dispersions

Description

Estimate the Betas for Fixed Dispersions

Usage

```
estimate_betas_fisher_scoring(
  Y,
  model_matrix,
  offset_matrix,
  dispersions,
  beta_mat_init,
  ridge_penalty,
  try_recovering_convergence_problems = TRUE
)
```

Value

a list with two elements

- Beta a matrix with one column for each coefficient
- iterations the number of iterations

---

estimate_betas_group_wise

Estimate the Betas for Fixed Dispersions

Description

Estimate the Betas for Fixed Dispersions

Usage

```
estimate_betas_group_wise(
  Y,
  offset_matrix,
  dispersions,
  beta_group_init = NULL,
  beta_mat_init = NULL,
  groups,
  model_matrix
)
```

Value

a list with three elements

- Beta a matrix with one column per group and a row for each gene

- iterations the number of iterations from the Newton-Raphson method

- deviances the deviance for each gene (sum of the deviance per group)

---

estimate_betas_roughly

Make a quick first guess where reasonable beta would be

Description

Make a quick first guess where reasonable beta would be

Usage

```
estimate_betas_roughly(
  Y,
  model_matrix,
  offset_matrix,
  pseudo_count = 1,
  ridge_penalty = NULL
)
```

Value

a matrix with one column for each coefficient

---

estimate_betas_roughly_group_wise
Make a quick first guess where reasonable beta would be for a set of groups

---

Description

Make a quick first guess where reasonable beta would be for a set of groups

Usage

```
estimate_betas_roughly_group_wise(Y, offset_matrix, groups)
```

Value

a matrix with the mean per group for each gene

---

estimate_size_factors *Estimate the Size Factors*

Description

Estimate the Size Factors

Usage

```
estimate_size_factors(Y, method, verbose = FALSE)
```

Arguments

Y	any matrix-like object (base::matrix(), DelayedArray, HDF5Matrix, Matrix::Matrix(), etc.)
method	one of c("normed_sum", "deconvolution", "poscounts")

Value

a vector with one size factor per column of Y

---

format_matrix   *Helper to format a matrix nicely*

Description

Helper to format a matrix nicely

Usage

```
format_matrix(matrix, digits = NULL)
```

Value

a string

---

glm_gp   *Fit a Gamma-Poisson Generalized Linear Model*

Description

This function provides a simple to use interface to fit Gamma-Poisson generalized linear models. It works equally well for small scale (a single model) and large scale data (e.g. thousands of rows and columns, potentially stored on disk). The function automatically determines the appropriate size factors for each sample and efficiently finds the best overdispersion parameter for each gene.

Usage

```
glm_gp(
  data,
  design = ~1,
  col_data = NULL,
  reference_level = NULL,
  offset = 0,
  size_factors = c("normed_sum", "deconvolution", "poscounts", "ratio"),
  overdispersion = TRUE,
  overdispersion_shrinkage = TRUE,
  ridge_penalty = 0,
  do_cox_reid_adjustment = TRUE,
  subsample = FALSE,
  on_disk = NULL,
  use_assay = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

data	any matrix-like object (e.g. [matrix](#), sparse matrix ([dgCMatrix](#)), [DelayedArray](#), [HDF5Matrix](#)) or anything that can be cast to a [SummarizedExperiment](#) (e.g. MSnSet, eSet etc.) with one column per sample and row per gene.
design	a specification of the experimental design used to fit the Gamma-Poisson GLM. It can be a [model.matrix()](#) with one row for each sample and one column for each coefficient.
	Alternatively, design can be a formula. The entries in the formula can refer to global objects, columns in the col_data parameter, or the colData(data) of data if it is a SummarizedExperiment.
	The third option is that design is a vector where each element specifies to which condition a sample belongs.
	Default: design = ~ 1, which means that all samples are treated as if they belong to the same condition. Note that this is the fasted option.
col_data	a dataframe with one row for each sample in data. Default: NULL.
reference_level	
	a single string that specifies which level is used as reference when the model matrix is created. The reference level becomes the intercept and all other coefficients are calculated with respect to the reference_level. Default: NULL.
offset	Constant offset in the model in addition to log(size_factors). It can either be a single number, a vector of length ncol(data) or a matrix with the same dimensions as dim(data). Default: 0.
size_factors	in large scale experiments, each sample is typically of different size (for example different sequencing depths). A size factor is an internal mechanism of GLMs to correct for this effect.
	size_factors is either a numeric vector with positive entries that has the same lengths as columns in the data that specifies the size factors that are used. Or it can be a string that species the method that is used to estimate the size factors (one of c("normed_sum", "deconvolution", "poscounts", "ratio")). Note that "normed_sum" and "poscounts" are fairly simple methods and can lead to suboptimal results. For the best performance on data with many zeros, I recommend to use size_factors = "deconvolution" which calls scran::calculateSumFactors(). However, you need to separately install the scran package from Bioconductor for this method to work. For small datasets common for bulk RNA-seq experiments, I recommend to use size_factors = "ratio", which uses the same procedure as DESeq2 and edgeR. Also note that size_factors = 1 and size_factors = FALSE are equivalent. If only a single gene is given, no size factor is estimated (ie. size_factors = 1). Default: "normed_sum".
overdispersion	the simplest count model is the Poisson model. However, the Poisson model assumes that $variance = mean$. For many applications this is too rigid and the Gamma-Poisson allows a more flexible mean-variance relation ($variance = mean + mean^2 * overdispersion$).
	overdispersion can either be
	• a single boolean that indicates if an overdispersion is estimated for each gene.

- a numeric vector of length nrow(data) fixing the overdispersion to those values.
- the string "global" to indicate that one dispersion is fit across all genes.

Note that overdispersion = 0 and overdispersion = FALSE are equivalent and both reduce the Gamma-Poisson to the classical Poisson model. Default: TRUE.

overdispersion_shrinkage

the overdispersion can be difficult to estimate with few replicates. To improve the overdispersion estimates, we can share information across genes and shrink each individual overdispersion estimate towards a global overdispersion estimate. Empirical studies show however that the overdispersion varies based on the mean expression level (lower expression level => higher dispersion). If overdispersion_shrinkage = TRUE, a median trend of dispersion and expression level is fit and used to estimate the variances of a quasi Gamma Poisson model (Lund et al. 2012). Default: TRUE.

ridge_penalty   to avoid overfitting, we can penalize fits with large coefficient estimates. Instead of directly minimizing the deviance per gene ($\sum dev(y_i, X_i b)$), we will minimize $\sum dev(y_i, X_i b) + N * \sum (penalty_p * b_p)^2$.
ridge_penalty can be

- a scalar in which case all parameters except the intercept are penalized.
- a vector which has to have the same length as columns in the model matrix
- a matrix with the same number of columns as columns in the model matrix. This gives maximum flexibility for expert users and allows for full Tikhonov regularization.

Default: ridge_penalty = 0, which is internally replaced with a small positive number for numerical stability.

do_cox_reid_adjustment

the classical maximum likelihood estimator of the overdisperion is biased towards small values. McCarthy *et al.* (2012) showed that it is preferable to optimize the Cox-Reid adjusted profile likelihood.
do_cox_reid_adjustment can be either be TRUE or FALSE to indicate if the adjustment is added during the optimization of the overdispersion parameter. Default: TRUE.

subsample   the estimation of the overdispersion is the slowest step when fitting a Gamma-Poisson GLM. For datasets with many samples, the estimation can be considerably sped up without loosing much precision by fitting the overdispersion only on a random subset of the samples. Default: FALSE which means that the data is not subsampled. If set to TRUE, at most 1,000 samples are considered. Otherwise the parameter just specifies the number of samples that are considered for each gene to estimate the overdispersion.

on_disk   a boolean that indicates if the dataset is loaded into memory or if it is kept on disk to reduce the memory usage. Processing in memory can be significantly faster than on disk. Default: NULL which means that the data is only processed in memory if data is an in-memory data structure.

use_assay   Specify which assay to use. Default: NULL, which means that if available 'counts' are used. Otherwise an error is thrown except if there is only a single assay.

verbose	a boolean that indicates if information about the individual steps are printed while fitting the GLM. Default: FALSE.

Details

The method follows the following steps:

1. The size factors are estimated.
   If size_factors = "normed_sum", the column-sum for each cell is calculated and the resulting size factors are normalized so that their geometric mean is 1. If size_factors = "poscounts", a slightly adapted version of the procedure proposed by Anders and Huber (2010) in equation (5) is used. To handle the large number of zeros the geometric means are calculated for $Y + 0.5$ and ignored during the calculation of the median. Columns with all zeros get a default size factor of 0.001. If size_factors = "deconvolution", the method scran::calculateSumFactors() is called. If size_factors = "ratio", the unmodified procedure from Anders and Huber (2010) in equation (5) is used.

2. The dispersion estimates are initialized based on the moments of each row of Y.

3. The coefficients of the model are estimated.
   If all samples belong to the same condition (i.e. design = ~ 1), the betas are estimated using a quick Newton-Raphson algorithm. This is similar to the behavior of edgeR. For more complex designs, the general Fisher-scoring algorithm is used. Here, the code is based on a fork of the internal function fitBeta() from DESeq2. It does however contain some modification to make the fit more robust and faster.

4. The mean for each gene and sample is calculate.
   Note that this step can be very IO intensive if data is or contains a DelayedArray.

5. The overdispersion is estimated.
   The classical method for estimating the overdispersion for each gene is to maximize the Gamma-Poisson log-likelihood by iterating over each count and summing the the corresponding log-likelihood. It is however, much more efficient for genes with many small counts to work on the contingency table of the counts. Originally, this approach had already been used by Anscombe (1950). In this package, I have implemented an extension of their method that can handle general offsets.
   See also overdispersion_mle().

6. The beta coefficients are estimated once more with the updated overdispersion estimates

7. The mean for each gene and sample is calculated again.

This method can handle not just in memory data, but also data stored on disk. This is essential for large scale datasets with thousands of samples, as they sometimes encountered in modern single-cell RNA-seq analysis. glmGamPoi relies on the DelayedArray and beachmat package to efficiently implement the access to the on-disk data.

Value

The method returns a list with the following elements:

Beta a matrix with dimensions nrow(data) x n_coefficients where n_coefficients is based on the design argument. It contains the estimated coefficients for each gene.

overdispersions a vector with length nrow(data). The overdispersion parameter for each gene. It describes how much more the counts vary than one would expect according to the Poisson model.

overdispersion_shrinkage_list a list with additional information from the quasi-likelihood shrinkage. For details see overdispersion_shrinkage().

deviances a vector with the deviance of the fit for each row. The deviance is a measure how well the data is fit by the model. A smaller deviance means a better fit.

Mu a matrix with the same dimensions as dim(data). If the calculation happened on disk, than Mu is a HDF5Matrix. It contains the estimated mean value for each gene and sample.

size_factors a vector with length ncol(data). The size factors are the inferred correction factors for different sizes of each sample. They are also sometimes called the exposure factor.

Offset a matrix with the same dimensions as dim(data). If the calculation happened on disk, than Offset is a HDF5Matrix. It contains the log(size_factors) + offset from the function call.

data a SummarizedExperiment that contains the input counts and the col_data

model_matrix a matrix with dimensions ncol(data) x n_coefficients. It is build based on the design argument.

design_formula the formula that used to fit the model, or NULL otherwise

ridge_penalty a vector with the specification of the ridge penalty.

References

- McCarthy, D. J., Chen, Y., & Smyth, G. K. (2012). Differential expression analysis of multifactor RNA-Seq experiments with respect to biological variation. Nucleic Acids Research, 40(10), 4288–4297. https://doi.org/10.1093/nar/gks042.

- Anders Simon, & Huber Wolfgang. (2010). Differential expression analysis for sequence count data. Genome Biology. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcf.2018.05.006.

- Love, M. I., Huber, W., & Anders, S. (2014). Moderated estimation of fold change and dispersion for RNA-seq data with DESeq2. Genome Biology, 15(12), 550. https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-014-0550-8.

- Robinson, M. D., McCarthy, D. J., & Smyth, G. K. (2009). edgeR: A Bioconductor package for differential expression analysis of digital gene expression data. Bioinformatics, 26(1), 139–140. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btp616.

- Lun ATL, Pagès H, Smith ML (2018). "beachmat: A Bioconductor C++ API for accessing high-throughput biological data from a variety of R matrix types." PLoS Comput. Biol., 14(5), e1006135. doi: 10.1371/journal.pcbi.1006135..

- Lund, S. P., Nettleton, D., McCarthy, D. J., & Smyth, G. K. (2012). Detecting differential expression in RNA-sequence data using quasi-likelihood with shrunken dispersion estimates. Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology, 11(5). https://doi.org/10.1515/1544-6115.1826.

- Lun ATL, Bach K and Marioni JC (2016). Pooling across cells to normalize single-cell RNA sequencing data with many zero counts. Genome Biol. 17:75 https://doi.org/10.1186/s13059-016-0947-7

See Also

overdispersion_mle() and overdispersion_shrinkage() for the internal functions that do the work. For differential expression analysis, see test_de().

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
# The simplest example
y <- rnbinom(n = 10, mu = 3, size = 1/2.4)
c(glm_gp(y, size_factors = FALSE))

# Fitting a whole matrix
model_matrix <- cbind(1, rnorm(5))
true_Beta <- cbind(rnorm(n = 30), rnorm(n = 30, mean = 3))
sf <- exp(rnorm(n = 5, mean = 0.7))
model_matrix
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 30 * 5, mu = sf * exp(true_Beta %*% t(model_matrix)), size = 1/2.4),
            nrow = 30, ncol = 5)

fit <- glm_gp(Y, design = model_matrix, size_factors = sf, verbose = TRUE)
summary(fit)

# Fitting a model with covariates
data <- data.frame(fav_food = sample(c("apple", "banana", "cherry"), size = 50, replace = TRUE),
city = sample(c("heidelberg", "paris", "new york"), size = 50, replace = TRUE),
age = rnorm(n = 50, mean = 40, sd = 15))
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 100 * 50, mu = 3, size = 1/3.1), nrow = 100, ncol = 50)
fit <- glm_gp(Y, design = ~ fav_food + city + age, col_data = data)
summary(fit)

# Specify 'ridge_penalty' to penalize extreme Beta coefficients
fit_reg <- glm_gp(Y, design = ~ fav_food + city + age, col_data = data, ridge_penalty = 1.5)
summary(fit_reg)
```

---

glm_gp_impl   *Internal Function to Fit a Gamma-Poisson GLM*

Description

Internal Function to Fit a Gamma-Poisson GLM

Usage

```
glm_gp_impl(
  Y,
  model_matrix,
  offset = 0,
```

```
    size_factors = c("normed_sum", "deconvolution", "poscounts", "ratio"),
    overdispersion = TRUE,
    overdispersion_shrinkage = TRUE,
    ridge_penalty = 0,
    do_cox_reid_adjustment = TRUE,
    subsample = FALSE,
    verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

Y	any matrix-like object (e.g. `matrix()`, `DelayedArray()`, `HDF5Matrix()`) with one column per sample and row per gene.
model_matrix	a numeric matrix that specifies the experimental design. It can be produced using `stats::model.matrix()`. Default: `NULL`
offset	Constant offset in the model in addition to `log(size_factors)`. It can either be a single number, a vector of length `ncol(data)` or a matrix with the same dimensions as `dim(data)`. Default: `0`.
size_factors	in large scale experiments, each sample is typically of different size (for example different sequencing depths). A size factor is an internal mechanism of GLMs to correct for this effect.
	`size_factors` is either a numeric vector with positive entries that has the same lengths as columns in the data that specifies the size factors that are used. Or it can be a string that species the method that is used to estimate the size factors (one of `c("normed_sum", "deconvolution", "poscounts", "ratio")`). Note that `"normed_sum"` and `"poscounts"` are fairly simple methods and can lead to suboptimal results. For the best performance on data with many zeros, I recommend to use `size_factors = "deconvolution"` which calls `scran::calculateSumFactors()`. However, you need to separately install the `scran` package from Bioconductor for this method to work. For small datasets common for bulk RNA-seq experiments, I recommend to use `size_factors = "ratio"`, which uses the same procedure as DESeq2 and edgeR. Also note that `size_factors = 1` and `size_factors = FALSE` are equivalent. If only a single gene is given, no size factor is estimated (ie. `size_factors = 1`). Default: `"normed_sum"`.
overdispersion	the simplest count model is the Poisson model. However, the Poisson model assumes that $variance = mean$. For many applications this is too rigid and the Gamma-Poisson allows a more flexible mean-variance relation ($variance = mean + mean^2 * overdispersion$).
	`overdispersion` can either be

- a single boolean that indicates if an overdispersion is estimated for each gene.
- a numeric vector of length `nrow(data)` fixing the overdispersion to those values.
- the string `"global"` to indicate that one dispersion is fit across all genes.

Note that `overdispersion = 0` and `overdispersion = FALSE` are equivalent and both reduce the Gamma-Poisson to the classical Poisson model. Default: `TRUE`.

overdispersion_shrinkage

> the overdispersion can be difficult to estimate with few replicates. To improve the overdispersion estimates, we can share information across genes and shrink each individual overdispersion estimate towards a global overdispersion estimate. Empirical studies show however that the overdispersion varies based on the mean expression level (lower expression level => higher dispersion). If `overdispersion_shrinkage = TRUE`, a median trend of dispersion and expression level is fit and used to estimate the variances of a quasi Gamma Poisson model (Lund et al. 2012). Default: `TRUE`.

ridge_penalty

> to avoid overfitting, we can penalize fits with large coefficient estimates. Instead of directly minimizing the deviance per gene ($\sum dev(y_i, X_i b)$), we will minimize $\sum dev(y_i, X_i b) + N * \sum(penalty_p * b_p)^2$.
> `ridge_penalty` can be

> - a scalar in which case all parameters except the intercept are penalized.
> - a vector which has to have the same length as columns in the model matrix
> - a matrix with the same number of columns as columns in the model matrix. This gives maximum flexibility for expert users and allows for full Tikhonov regularization.

> Default: `ridge_penalty = 0`, which is internally replaced with a small positive number for numerical stability.

do_cox_reid_adjustment

> the classical maximum likelihood estimator of the `overdisperion` is biased towards small values. McCarthy *et al.* (2012) showed that it is preferable to optimize the Cox-Reid adjusted profile likelihood.
> `do_cox_reid_adjustment` can be either be `TRUE` or `FALSE` to indicate if the adjustment is added during the optimization of the `overdispersion` parameter. Default: `TRUE`.

subsample

> the estimation of the overdispersion is the slowest step when fitting a Gamma-Poisson GLM. For datasets with many samples, the estimation can be considerably sped up without loosing much precision by fitting the overdispersion only on a random subset of the samples. Default: `FALSE` which means that the data is not subsampled. If set to `TRUE`, at most 1,000 samples are considered. Otherwise the parameter just specifies the number of samples that are considered for each gene to estimate the overdispersion.

verbose

> a boolean that indicates if information about the individual steps are printed while fitting the GLM. Default: `FALSE`.

Value

a list with four elements

- `Beta` the coefficient matrix
- `overdispersion` the vector with the estimated overdispersions
- `Mu` a matrix with the corresponding means for each gene and sample
- `size_factors` a vector with the size factor for each sample
- `ridge_penalty` a vector with the ridge penalty

See Also

[glm_gp()](#) and [overdispersion_mle()](#)

---

loc_median_fit   *Estimate local median fit*

Description

This function fits y based on x through a (weighted) median using the `npoints/2` neighborhood.

Usage

```
loc_median_fit(
  x,
  y,
  fraction = 0.1,
  npoints = max(1, round(length(x) * fraction)),
  weighted = TRUE,
  ignore_zeros = FALSE,
  sample_fraction = 1
)
```

Arguments

x, y   the x and y coordinates of the points.

fraction, npoints
                    the fraction / number of the points that are considered for each fit. `npoints` is
                    the argument that is used in the end it is at least one. Default: `fraction = 0.1`
                    and `npoints = length(x) * fraction`.

weighted   a boolean that indicates if a weighted median is calculated.

ignore_zeros   should the zeros be excluded from the fit

sample_fraction
                    use a fraction of the data to estimate the local median. Useful for extremely
                    large datasets where the trend is well-sampled

Details

This function is low-level implementation detail and should usually not be called by the user.

See Also

`locfit`: a package dedicated to local regression.

Examples

```
x <- runif(n = 1000, max = 4)
y <- rpois(n = 1000, lambda = x * 10)

plot(x, y)
fit <- loc_median_fit(x, y, fraction = 0.1)
fit2 <- loc_median_fit(x, y, fraction = 0.1, sample_fraction = 0.75)
points(x, fit, col = "red")
points(x, fit2, col = "blue")
```

---

overdispersion_mle   *Estimate the Overdispersion for a Vector of Counts*

Description

Estimate the Overdispersion for a Vector of Counts

Usage

```
overdispersion_mle(
  y,
  mean,
  model_matrix = NULL,
  do_cox_reid_adjustment = !is.null(model_matrix),
  global_estimate = FALSE,
  subsample = FALSE,
  max_iter = 200,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

y	a numeric or integer vector or matrix with the counts for which the overdispersion is estimated
mean	a numeric vector of either length 1 or length(y) or if y is a matrix, a matrix with the same dimensions. Contains the predicted value for that sample. If missing: mean(y) / rowMeans(y)
model_matrix	a numeric matrix that specifies the experimental design. It can be produced using stats::model.matrix(). Default: NULL
do_cox_reid_adjustment	
	the classical maximum likelihood estimator of the overdisperion is biased towards small values. McCarthy *et al.* (2012) showed that it is preferable to optimize the Cox-Reid adjusted profile likelihood.
	do_cox_reid_adjustment can be either be TRUE or FALSE to indicate if the adjustment is added during the optimization of the overdispersion parameter. Default: TRUE if a model matrix is provided, otherwise FALSE

global_estimate

> flag to decide if a single overdispersion for a whole matrix is calculated instead of one estimate per row. This parameter has no affect if y is a vector. Default: FALSE

subsample

> the estimation of the overdispersion is the slowest step when fitting a Gamma-Poisson GLM. For datasets with many samples, the estimation can be considerably sped up without loosing much precision by fitting the overdispersion only on a random subset of the samples. Default: FALSE which means that the data is not subsampled. If set to TRUE, at most 1,000 samples are considered. Otherwise the parameter just specifies the number of samples that are considered for each gene to estimate the overdispersion.

max_iter   the maximum number of iterations for each gene

verbose   a boolean that indicates if information about the individual steps are printed while fitting the GLM. Default: FALSE.

Details

The function is optimized to be fast on many small counts. To achieve this, the frequency table of the counts is calculated and used to avoid repetitive calculations. If there are probably many unique counts the optimization is skipped. Currently the heuristic is to skip if more than half of the counts are expected to be unique. The estimation is based on the largest observed count in y.

An earlier version of this package (< 1.1.1) used a separate set of functions for the case of many small counts based on a paper by Bandara et al. (2019). However, this didn't bring a sufficient performance increase and meant an additional maintenance burden.

Value

The function returns a list with the following elements:

estimate the numerical estimate of the overdispersion.

iterations the number of iterations it took to calculate the result.

message additional information about the fitting process.

See Also

glm_gp()

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
# true overdispersion = 2.4
y <- rnbinom(n = 10, mu = 3, size = 1/2.4)
# estimate = 1.7
overdispersion_mle(y)


# true overdispersion = 0
y <- rpois(n = 10, lambda = 3)
# estimate = 0
```

```
overdispersion_mle(y)
# with different mu, overdispersion estimate changes
overdispersion_mle(y, mean = 15)
# Cox-Reid adjustment changes the result
overdispersion_mle(y, mean = 15, do_cox_reid_adjustment = FALSE)


# Many very small counts, true overdispersion = 50
y <- rnbinom(n = 1000, mu = 0.01, size = 1/50)
summary(y)
# estimate = 31
overdispersion_mle(y, do_cox_reid_adjustment = TRUE)

# Function can also handle matrix input
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 10 * 3, mu = 4, size = 1/2.2), nrow = 10, ncol = 3)
Y
as.data.frame(overdispersion_mle(Y))
```

---

overdispersion_shrinkage

Shrink the overdispersion estimates

Description

Low-level function to shrink a set of overdispersion estimates following the quasi-likelihood and Empirical Bayesian framework.

Usage

```
overdispersion_shrinkage(
  disp_est,
  gene_means,
  df,
  disp_trend = TRUE,
  ql_disp_trend = NULL,
  ...,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

disp_est	vector of overdispersion estimates
gene_means	vector of average gene expression values. Used to fit disp_trend if that is NULL.
df	degrees of freedom for estimating the Empirical Bayesian variance prior. Can be length 1 or same length as disp_est and gene_means.
disp_trend	vector with the dispersion trend. If NULL or TRUE the dispersion trend is fitted using a (weighted) local median fit. Default: TRUE.

ql_disp_trend   a logical to indicate if a second abundance trend using splines is fitted for the
                  quasi-likelihood dispersions. Default: NULL which means that the extra fit is
                  only done if enough observations are present.

...   additional parameters for the loc_median_fit() function

verbose   a boolean that indicates if information about the individual steps are printed
                  while fitting the GLM. Default: FALSE.

Details

The function goes through the following steps

1. Fit trend between overdispersion MLE's and the average gene expression. Per default it uses
    the loc_median_fit() function.

2. Convert the overdispersion MLE's to quasi-likelihood dispersion estimates by fixing the trended
    dispersion as the "true" dispersion value: $disp_{ql} = (1 + mu * disp_{mle})/(1 + mu * disp_{trend})$

3. Shrink the quasi-likelihood dispersion estimates using Empirical Bayesian variance shrinkage
    (see Smyth 2004).

Value

the function returns a list with the following elements

dispersion_trend the dispersion trend provided by disp_trend or the local median fit.

ql_disp_estimate the quasi-likelihood dispersion estimates based on the dispersion trend, disp_est,
    and gene_means

ql_disp_trend the ql_disp_estimate still might show a trend with respect to gene_means. If
    ql_disp_trend = TRUE a spline is used to remove this secondary trend. If ql_disp_trend =
    FALSE it corresponds directly to the dispersion prior

ql_disp_shrunken the shrunken quasi-likelihood dispersion estimates. They are shrunken towards
    ql_disp_trend.

ql_df0 the degrees of freedom of the empirical Bayesian shrinkage. They correspond to spread of
    the ql_disp_estimate's

References

*   Lund, S. P., Nettleton, D., McCarthy, D. J., & Smyth, G. K. (2012). Detecting differential
    expression in RNA-sequence data using quasi-likelihood with shrunken dispersion estimates.
    Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology, 11(5). https://doi.org/10.
    1515/1544-6115.1826.

*   Smyth, G. K. (2004). Linear models and empirical bayes methods for assessing differential
    expression in microarray experiments. Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular
    Biology, 3(1). https://doi.org/10.2202/1544-6115.1027

See Also

limma::squeezeVar()

Examples

```
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 300 * 4, mu = 6, size = 1/4.2), nrow = 300, ncol = 4)
disps <- sapply(seq_len(nrow(Y)), function(idx){
  overdispersion_mle(Y[idx, ])$estimate
})
shrink_list <- overdispersion_shrinkage(disps, rowMeans(Y), df = ncol(Y) - 1,
                                        disp_trend = FALSE, ql_disp_trend = FALSE)

plot(rowMeans(Y), shrink_list$ql_disp_estimate)
lines(sort(rowMeans(Y)), shrink_list$ql_disp_trend[order(rowMeans(Y))], col = "red")
points(rowMeans(Y), shrink_list$ql_disp_shrunken, col = "blue", pch = 16, cex = 0.5)
```

---

predict.glmGamPoi	*Predict 'link' or 'response' values for Gamma-Poisson GLMs*

Description

Predict mu (i.e., type = "response") or log(mu) (i.e., type = "link") from a 'glmGamPoi' fit (created by glm_gp(...)) with the corresponding estimate of the standard error. If newdata is NULL, mu is returned for the original input data.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'glmGamPoi'
predict(
  object,
  newdata = NULL,
  type = c("link", "response"),
  se.fit = FALSE,
  offset = mean(object$Offset),
  on_disk = NULL,
  verbose = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

object   a glmGamPoi fit object (produced by glm_gp()).

newdata   a specification of the new data for which the expression for each gene is pre-
                dicted. newdata should be a

                data.frame if the original fit was specified with a formula, provide a data.frame
                        with one column for each variable in the formula. For example, if glm_gp(se,
                        design = ~ age + batch + treatment), then the data.frame needs a age,
                        batch, and treatment column that contain the same data types as the orig-
                        inal fit.

vector if the original fit was specified using a vector, you need to again provide
a vector with the same format.

matrix if newdata is a matrix, it is applied directly as Mu <- exp(object$Beta
%*% t(newdata) + object$offset_matrix). So make sure, that it is con-
structed correctly.

NULL if newdata is NULL, the predicted values for the original input data are
returned.

type   either 'link' or 'response'. The default is 'link', which returns the predicted val-
ues before the link function (exp()) is applied. Thus, the values can be positive
and negative numbers. However, often the predicted values are easier to inter-
pret **after** the link function is applied (i.e., type = "response"), because then the
values are on the same scale as the original counts.

se.fit   boolean that indicates if in addition to the mean the standard error of the mean
is returned.

offset   count models (in particular for sequencing experiments) usually have a sample
specific size factor (offset = log(size factor)). It defines how big we
expect the predicted results are. If newdata is NULL, the offset is ignored,
because the predict() returns a result based on the pre-calculated object$Mu.
If newdata is not NULL, by default the offset is mean(object$Offset), which
puts the in the same size as the average sample.

on_disk   a boolean that indicates if the results are HDF5Matrix's from the HDF5Array
package. If newdata is NULL, on_disk is ignored. Otherwise, if on_disk =
NULL, the result is calculated on disk depending if offset is stored on disk.

verbose   a boolean that indicates if information about the individual steps are printed
while predicting. Default: FALSE.

...   currently ignored.

Details

For se.fit = TRUE, the function sticks very close to the behavior of stats::predict.glm() for
fits from MASS::glm.nb().

Note: If type = "link", the results are computed using the natural logarithm as the link function.
This differs from the lfc estimate provided by [test_de](#), which are on the log2 scale.

Value

If se.fit == FALSE, a matrix with dimensions nrow(object$data) x nrow(newdata).
If se.fit == TRUE, a list with three entries

fit the predicted values as a matrix with dimensions nrow(object$data) x nrow(newdata). This
is what would be returned if se.fit == FALSE.

se.fit the associated standard errors for each fit. Also a matrix with dimensions nrow(object$data) x nrow(newdata).

residual.scale Currently fixed to 1. In the future, this might become the values from object$overdispersion_shrinkage_

See Also

[stats::predict.lm()](#) and [stats::predict.glm()](#)

Examples

```
set.seed(1)
# The simplest example
y <- rnbinom(n = 10, mu = 3, size = 1/2.4)
fit <- glm_gp(y, size_factors = FALSE)
predict(fit, type = "response")
predict(fit, type = "link", se.fit = TRUE)


# Fitting a whole matrix
model_matrix <- cbind(1, rnorm(5))
true_Beta <- cbind(rnorm(n = 30), rnorm(n = 30, mean = 3))
sf <- exp(rnorm(n = 5, mean = 0.7))
model_matrix
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 30 * 5, mu = sf * exp(true_Beta %*% t(model_matrix)), size = 1/2.4),
            nrow = 30, ncol = 5)
fit <- glm_gp(Y, design = model_matrix, size_factors = sf, verbose = TRUE)

head(predict(fit, type = "response"))
pred <- predict(fit, type = "link", se.fit = TRUE, verbose = TRUE)
head(pred$fit)
head(pred$se.fit)


# Fitting a model with covariates
data <- data.frame(fav_food = sample(c("apple", "banana", "cherry"), size = 50, replace = TRUE),
            city = sample(c("heidelberg", "paris", "new york"), size = 50, replace = TRUE),
                    age = rnorm(n = 50, mean = 40, sd = 15))
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 4 * 50, mu = 3, size = 1/3.1), nrow = 4, ncol = 50)
fit <- glm_gp(Y, design = ~ fav_food + city + age, col_data = data)
predict(fit)[, 1:3]

nd <- data.frame(fav_food = "banana", city = "paris", age = 29)
predict(fit, newdata = nd)

nd <- data.frame(fav_food = "banana", city = "paris", age = 29:40)
predict(fit, newdata = nd, se.fit = TRUE, type = "response")
```

---

print.glmGamPoi	*Pretty print the result from glm_gp()*

Description

Pretty print the result from glm_gp()

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'glmGamPoi'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'glmGamPoi'
format(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'glmGamPoi'
summary(object, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.glmGamPoi'
print(x, ...)

## S3 method for class 'summary.glmGamPoi'
format(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	the glmGamPoi object
...	additional parameters, currently ignored
object	the glmGamPoi object that is summarized

Value

The print() methods return the object x. The format() method returns a string. The summary() method returns an object of class summary.glmGamPoi.

---

pseudobulk   *Create a 'SingleCellExperiment' containing pseudo-bulk samples*

Description

Create a 'SingleCellExperiment' containing pseudo-bulk samples

Usage

```
pseudobulk(
  data,
  group_by,
  ...,
  aggregation_functions = list(counts = "rowSums2", .default = "rowMeans2"),
  col_data = NULL,
  make_colnames = TRUE,
  verbose = TRUE
)
```

Arguments

data	a 'SingleCellExperiment' or an object of a related class
group_by	an unquoted expression that can refer to columns in the 'colData()'. All observations with the same factor level are aggregated. The argument follows the same logic as dplyr::group_by(). The argument must wrapped using vars().
...	named expressions that summarize columns in 'colData()'. Each expression must produce a value of length 1. The arguments follow the same logic as dplyr::summarize().
aggregation_functions	
	a named list with functions that are used to aggregate the assays in the data.
col_data	additional data with ncol(data) rows. The group_by and named arguments can refer to the columns of the col_data in addition to the columns in colData(data) (assuming data is a SummarizedExperiment).
make_colnames	a boolean that decides if the column names are the concatenated values of group_by. Default: TRUE
verbose	a boolean that indicates if information about the process are printed Default: TRUE.

Value

a SingleCellExperiment object

Examples

```
library(SingleCellExperiment)
data <- data.frame(sample = sample(c("samp1", "samp2", "samp3"), size = 50, replace = TRUE),
    celltype = sample(c("T cells", "B cells", "Macrophages"), size = 50, replace = TRUE),
    size = rnorm(n = 50, mean = 40, sd = 15))
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 100 * 50, mu = 3, size = 1/3.1), nrow = 100, ncol = 50)
sce <- SingleCellExperiment(Y, colData = data)
aggr_sce <- pseudobulk(sce, group_by = vars(sample, celltype), size = mean(size))
aggr_sce
colData(aggr_sce)
```

---

residuals.glmGamPoi   *Extract Residuals of Gamma Poisson Model*

Description

Extract Residuals of Gamma Poisson Model

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'glmGamPoi'
residuals(
  object,
  type = c("deviance", "pearson", "randomized_quantile", "working", "response"),
  ...
)
```

Arguments

object	a fit of type `glmGamPoi`. It is usually produced with a call to `glm_gp()`.
type	the type of residual that is calculated. See details for more information. Default: `"deviance"`.
...	currently ignored.

Details

This method can calculate a range of different residuals:

deviance The deviance for the Gamma-Poisson model is

$$dev = 2*(1/theta*\log((1+m*theta)/(1+y*theta)) - y\log((m+y*theta)/(y+y*m*theta)))$$

and the residual accordingly is

$$res = sign(y-m)\sqrt{dev}.$$

pearson The Pearson residual is $res = (y-m)/\sqrt{m+m^2*theta}$.

randomized_quantile The randomized quantile residual was originally developed by Dunn & Smyth, 1995. Please see that publication or [statmod::qresiduals()](#) for more information.

working The working residuals are $res = (y-m)/m$.

response The response residuals are $res = y-m$

Value

a matrix with the same size as `fit$data`. If `fit$data` contains a `DelayedArray` than the result will be a `DelayedArray` as well.

See Also

[glm_gp()](#) and 'stats::residuals.glm()

---

solve_lm_for_A   *Solve the equation Y = A B for A or B*

Description

Solve the equation Y = A B for A or B

Usage

```
solve_lm_for_A(Y, B, w = NULL)

solve_lm_for_B(Y, A, w = NULL)
```

Arguments

Y	the left side of the equation
w	a vector with weights. If NULL it is ignored, otherwise it must be of length 1 or have the same length as columns in Y. Default: NULL
A, B	the known matrix on the right side of the equation

---

test_de   *Test for Differential Expression*

Description

Conduct a quasi-likelihood ratio test for a Gamma-Poisson fit.

Usage

```
test_de(
  fit,
  contrast,
  reduced_design = NULL,
  full_design = fit$model_matrix,
  subset_to = NULL,
  pseudobulk_by = NULL,
  pval_adjust_method = "BH",
  sort_by = NULL,
  decreasing = FALSE,
  n_max = Inf,
  max_lfc = 10,
  compute_lfc_se = FALSE,
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

fit	object of class glmGamPoi. Usually the result of calling glm_gp(data, ...)
contrast	The contrast to test. Can be a single column name (quoted or as a string) that is removed from the full model matrix of fit. Or a complex contrast comparing two or more columns: e.g. A - B, "A - 3 * B", (A + B) / 2 - C etc. For complicated experimental design that involved nested conditions, you specify the condition level to compare using the cond() helper function. Only one of contrast or reduced_design must be specified.
reduced_design	a specification of the reduced design used as a comparison to see what how much better fit describes the data. Analogous to the design parameter in glm_gp(), it can be either a formula, a model.matrix(), or a vector. Only one of contrast or reduced_design must be specified.
full_design	option to specify an alternative full_design that can differ from fit$model_matrix. Can be a formula or a matrix. Default: fit$model_matrix
subset_to	a vector with the same length as ncol(fit$data) or an expression that evaluates to such a vector. The expression can reference columns from colData(fit$data). A typical use case in single cell analysis would be to subset to a specific cell type (e.g. subset_to = cell_type == "T-cells"). Note that if this argument is set a new the model for the full_design is re-fit. Default: NULL which means that the data is not subset.
pseudobulk_by	*DEPRECTATED*, please use the [pseudobulk](#) function instead. A vector with the same length as ncol(fit$data) that is used to split the columns into different groups (calls [split()](#)). pseudobulk_by can also be an expression that evaluates to a vector. The expression can reference columns from colData(fit$data). The counts are summed across the groups to create "pseudobulk" samples. This is typically used in single cell analysis if the cells come from different samples to get a proper estimate of the differences. This is particularly powerful in combination with the subset_to parameter to analyze differences between samples for subgroups of cells. Note that this does a fresh fit for both the full and the reduced design. Default: NULL which means that the data is not aggregated.
pval_adjust_method	
	one of the p-value adjustment method from [p.adjust.methods.](#) Default: "BH".
sort_by	the name of the column or an expression used to sort the result. If sort_by is NULL the table is not sorted. Default: NULL
decreasing	boolean to decide if the result is sorted increasing or decreasing order. Default: FALSE.
n_max	the maximum number of rows to return. Default: Inf which means that all rows are returned
max_lfc	set the maximum absolute log fold change that is returned. Large log fold changes occur for lowly expressed genes because the ratio of two small numbers can be impractically large. For example, limiting the range of log fold changes can clarify the patterns in a volcano plot. Default: 10 which corresponds to a thousand-fold (2^10) increase in expression.

| compute_lfc_se | Compute standard errors for the log fold changes, and add a column lfc_se to the returned dataframe. Only has an effect when using contrast instead of reduced_design. Default: FALSE |
| verbose | a boolean that indicates if information about the individual steps are printed while fitting the GLM. Default: FALSE. |

Details

The cond() helper function simplifies the specification of a contrast for complex experimental designs. Instead of working out which combination of coefficients corresponds to a research question, you can simply specify the two conditions that you want to compare.

You can only call the cond function inside the contrast argument. The arguments are the selected factor levels for each covariate. To compare two conditions, simply subtract the two cond calls. Internally, the package calls model.matrix using the provided values and the original formula from the fit to produce a vector. Subtracting two of these vectors produces a contrast vector. Missing covariates are filled with the first factor level or zero for numerical covariates.

Value

a data.frame with the following columns

name the rownames of the input data

pval the p-values of the quasi-likelihood ratio test

adj_pval the adjusted p-values returned from p.adjust()

f_statistic the F-statistic: $F = (Dev_{full} - Dev_{red})/(df_1 * disp_{ql-shrunken})$

df1 the degrees of freedom of the test: ncol(design) - ncol(reduced_design)

df2 the degrees of freedom of the fit: ncol(data) - ncol(design) + df_0

lfc the log2-fold change. If the alternative model is specified by reduced_design will be NA.

lfc_se the standard error of the log2-fold change. Only calculated if compute_lfc_se == TRUE.

References

• Lund, S. P., Nettleton, D., McCarthy, D. J., & Smyth, G. K. (2012). Detecting differential expression in RNA-sequence data using quasi-likelihood with shrunken dispersion estimates. Statistical Applications in Genetics and Molecular Biology, 11(5). https://doi.org/10.1515/1544-6115.1826.

See Also

glm_gp()

Examples

```
# Make Data
Y <- matrix(rnbinom(n = 30 * 100, mu = 4, size = 0.3), nrow = 30, ncol = 100)
annot <- data.frame(mouse = sample(LETTERS[1:6], size = 100, replace = TRUE),
      celltype = sample(c("Tcell", "Bcell", "Macrophages"), size = 100, replace = TRUE),
       cont1 = rnorm(100), cont2 = rnorm(100, mean = 30))
```

```
annot$condition <- ifelse(annot$mouse %in% c("A", "B", "C"), "ctrl", "treated")
head(annot)
se <- SummarizedExperiment::SummarizedExperiment(Y, colData = annot)

# Fit model
fit <- glm_gp(se, design = ~ condition + celltype + cont1 + cont2)
# Test with reduced design
res <- test_de(fit, reduced_design = ~ celltype + cont1 + cont2)
head(res)
# Test with contrast argument, the results are identical
res2 <- test_de(fit, contrast = conditiontreated)
head(res2)
# Test with explicit specification of the conditions
# The results are still identical
res3 <- test_de(fit, contrast = cond(condition = "treated", celltype = "Bcell") -
                                 cond(condition = "ctrl", celltype = "Bcell"))
head(res3)


# The column names of fit$Beta are valid variables in the contrast argument
colnames(fit$Beta)
# You can also have more complex contrasts:
# the following compares cont1 vs cont2:
test_de(fit, cont1 - cont2, n_max = 4)
# You can also sort the output
test_de(fit, cont1 - cont2, n_max = 4,
        sort_by = "pval")
test_de(fit, cont1 - cont2, n_max = 4,
        sort_by = - abs(f_statistic))

# If the data has multiple samples, it is a good
# idea to aggregate the cell counts by samples.
# This is called forming a "pseudobulk".
se_reduced <- pseudobulk(se, group_by = vars(mouse, condition, celltype),
                         cont1 = mean(cont1), cont2 = min(cont2))
fit_reduced <- glm_gp(se_reduced, design = ~ condition + celltype)
test_de(fit_reduced, contrast = "conditiontreated", n_max = 4)
test_de(fit_reduced, contrast = cond(condition = "treated", celltype = "Macrophages") -
                                 cond(condition = "ctrl", celltype = "Macrophages"),
        n_max = 4)
```

| variance_prior | *Estimate the scale and df for a Inverse Chisquare distribution that generate the true gene variances* |

Description

This function implements Smyth's 2004 variance shrinkage. It also supports covariates that are fitted to log(s2) with natural splines. This is based on the 2012 Lund et al. quasi-likelihood paper.

Usage

```
variance_prior(s2, df, covariate = NULL, abundance_trend = NULL)
```

Arguments

s2	vector of observed variances. Must not contain 0's.
df	vector or single number with the degrees of freedom
covariate	a vector with the same length as s2. covariate is used to regress out the trend in s2. If covariate = NULL, it is ignored.
abundance_trend	
	logical that decides if the additional abundance trend is fit to the data. If NULL the abundance trend is fitted if there are more than 10 observations and the covariate is not NULL. Default: NULL

Value

a list with three elements:

variance0 estimate of the scale of the inverse Chisquared distribution. If covariate is NULL a single number, otherwise a vector of length(covariate)

df0 estimate of the degrees of freedom of the inverse Chisquared distribution

var_pos the shrunken variance estimates: a combination of s2 and variance0

See Also

```
limma::squeezeVar()
```

---

vars	*Quote grouping variables*

Description

Quote grouping variables

Usage

```
vars(...)
```

Arguments

...	the quoted expression

See Also

ggplot2::vars, dplyr::vars

Index