

# Package ‘maskBAD’

November 14, 2025

**Version** 1.55.0

**Title** Masking probes with binding affinity differences

**Author** Michael Dannemann <michael\_dannemann@eva.mpg.de>

**Maintainer** Michael Dannemann <michael\_dannemann@eva.mpg.de>

**Depends** R (>= 2.10), gcrma (>= 2.27.1), affy

**Suggests** hgu95av2probe, hgu95av2cdf

**Description** Package includes functions to analyze and mask microarray expression data.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**biocViews** Microarray

**git\_url** <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/maskBAD>

**git\_branch** devel

**git\_last\_commit** f7b7871

**git\_last\_commit\_date** 2025-10-29

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.23

**Date/Publication** 2025-11-13

## Contents

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| exmask . . . . .                 | 2  |
| mask . . . . .                   | 2  |
| newAffyBatch . . . . .           | 4  |
| newCdf . . . . .                 | 4  |
| overlapExprExtMasks . . . . .    | 5  |
| plotProbe . . . . .              | 7  |
| prepareMaskedAffybatch . . . . . | 8  |
| sequenceMask . . . . .           | 10 |

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| <b>Index</b> | <b>11</b> |
|--------------|-----------|

---

|        |                                           |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|
| exmask | <i>Output object of the function mask</i> |
|--------|-------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This data is the output object of the function mask for the AffyBatch object newAffyBatch.

**Usage**

exmask

**Format**

List of 1 or 2 objects.

**Source**

??

**References**

??

---

|      |                                          |
|------|------------------------------------------|
| mask | <i>Filtering/Masking expression data</i> |
|------|------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Identyfing probes with binding affinity difference (BAD probes) between two groups of samples on the basis of expression data.

**Usage**

mask(affy,exprlist=NULL,useExpr=TRUE,ind,PM=FALSE,verbose=TRUE)

**Arguments**

|          |                                                                                                            |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| affy     | An object of class AffyBatch.                                                                              |
| exprlist | A vector with probesetnames to be used. If NULL, all probesets are analyzed.                               |
| useExpr  | Logical. If 'TRUE', only expressed genes (see Details) are used. If 'FALSE', all probes are analyzed.      |
| ind      | Numeric vector, with values 1 and 2, definining group assignement for samples in affy.                     |
| PM       | Logical. If 'TRUE', only probes with a mean pm value greater than the mean mm value are used.              |
| verbose  | Logical. If 'TRUE', it writes out some messages indicating progress. If 'FALSE' nothing should be printed. |

## Details

The function `mask` identifies in expression data probes which binding affinity (BAD probes) differs between two groups of samples, e.g. two species. The basic input data is `AffyBatch` object (expression data prepared using the function `ReadAffy` from the library `Affy`) and a vector defining group assignment of samples. As masking is based on expression values, only expressed probes should be used. As a default they are defined by the `affy` function `mas5calls` and condition of being expressed (having "P" value) in at least 90% of samples from each group, but any set of probesets might be submitted with `exprlist` argument. Probes are analyzed for difference in binding affinity between groups. Each probe is assigned a quality score, based on all pairwise probes' correlations within probesets (for details see vignette or paper). Probes' quality scores, their x and y coordinates on the microarray and the probeset names are stored in a matrix.

## Value

A list of two objects will be returned.

|                      |                                                                                                        |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>probes</code>  | A data frame with x,y coordinates, quality score and probeset for each analyzed probe.                 |
| <code>notUsed</code> | If <code>PM=TRUE</code> : A vector with unused probes having a lower pm mean value than mm mean value. |

## Author(s)

Michael Dannemann, Michael Lachmann

## References

Dannemann et al, The effects of probe binding affinity differences on gene expression measurements and how to deal with them. *Bioinformatics* 2009 \ Khaitovich et al, Parallel Patterns of Evolution in the Genomes and Transcriptomes of Humans and Chimpanzees, *Science* 2005

## See Also

[overlapExprExtMasks](#), [prepareMaskedAffybatch](#), [mas5calls](#), [plotProbe](#)

## Examples

```
data(AffyBatch)
## we provide 20 samples (10 for both human and chimpanzee)
## the first 10 entries are chimpanzee samples the last 10 from human
ind.vec=rep(1:2,each=10)
## mask on AffyBatch with all genes
exmask <-
mask(newAffyBatch,ind=ind.vec,PM=TRUE,useExpr=FALSE)
```

---

|              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| newAffyBatch | <i>AffyBatch with reduced genes</i> |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This data is an AffyBatch object with a subset of 100 genes with human chimpanzee data (cdf hgu95av2) - 10 individuals each.

**Usage**

```
newAffyBatch
```

**Format**

AffyBatch object

**Source**

??

**References**

Khaitovich et al., Parallel Patterns of Evolution in the Genomes and Transcriptomes of Humans and Chimpanzees, Science 2005

---

|        |                                   |
|--------|-----------------------------------|
| newCdf | <i>Object of type environment</i> |
|--------|-----------------------------------|

---

**Description**

The environment object is part of the masked object newAffyBatch.

**Usage**

```
newCdf
```

**Format**

Object of type environment

**Source**

??

**References**

??

---

|                     |                                          |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|
| overlapExprExtMasks | <i>Error Analysis of Masking Results</i> |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

Expression mask results for a range of cutoff values are compared with an external mask (for example a mask based on sequence data) and type 1 and type 2 errors are estimated.

**Usage**

```
overlapExprExtMasks(probes, seqdata, cutoffs="none", wilcox.ks=FALSE, sample=10, plotCutoffs=TRUE, verbose)
```

**Arguments**

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| probes      | A matrix with 3 columns. The first and second column represent the x and y coordinates on the Microarray. The third column contains a quality entry for each probe, e.g. the quality score obtained from mask analysis.                                                              |
| seqdata     | A matrix with 3 columns containing x, y coordinates and 0,1 entries in column 3, defining whether a probe has a sequence difference (0) or not.                                                                                                                                      |
| cutoffs     | A vector including all cutoff values for the quality scores of an expression mask that should be used for the error analysis. If no cutoffs are given (default is "none") the cutoffs are the quantiles of the quality scores starting from 0 to 1 in steps of 0.01.                 |
| wilcox.ks   | Logical, default=FALSE element determining whether the Kolmogorow-Smirnow Test and Wilcoxon Rank Test analysis should be performed (see reference below).                                                                                                                            |
| sample      | To compare the p value distribution with the Kolmogorow-Smirnow Test and Wilcoxon Rank Test for different cutoffs, the sampling option can be used to compute the quality score distribution for different cutoffs. This value indicates how often the sampling should be performed. |
| plotCutoffs | Logical, default=TRUE element determining whether the cutoffs should be drawn in the overlap plot.                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| verbose     | Logical. If 'TRUE', it writes out some messages indicating progress. If 'FALSE' nothing should be printed.                                                                                                                                                                           |

**Details**

The function `overlapExprExtMasks` compares expression mask results with an external (for example sequence-based) mask and might help to choose a quality score cutoff for masking probes.

**Value**

A list of five objects will be returned.

|       |                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| type1 | A vector of the type 1 error for each cutoff. |
| type2 | A vector of the type 2 error for each cutoff. |

|             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| confT1      | A matrix with the upper (column 1) and lower (column 2) confidence intervals for the type 1 error.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| confT2      | A matrix with the upper (column 1) and lower (column 2) confidence intervals for the type 2 error.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| ksP         | If wilcox.ks is 'TRUE', a vector of quality scores from a two sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov comparing distributions of quality score for probes designated as BAD and not in external mask.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| wilcoxonP   | If wilcox.ks is 'TRUE', a vector of quality scores from a two sample Wilcoxon rank test comparing distributions of quality score for probes designated as BAD and not in external mask.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ksBoot      | For each cutoff sample(default=10) times cutoff values for the Kolmogorov-Smirnov test will be generated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| wilcoxBoot  | For each cutoff sample(default=10) times cutoff values for the wilcoxon rank sum test will be generated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| cutoffs     | List of cutoffs used for the error analysis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| testCutoffs | If wilcox.ks is 'TRUE', a list with cutoff information will be provided. The first list entry includes all cutoffs used in the two sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test and the two sample wilcoxon rank sum test analysis will be produced. A cutoff can appear sample(default=10) times. In theory there should be sample times the number of cutoff values entries in this vector, but usually there are fewer entries, because for certain cutoff values, it is not possible to calculate the exact p value in one of the tests. The second list entry transforms the cutoffs in ranks and can be used for the plotting of the test results. |

### Author(s)

Michael Dannemann

### References

Dannemann et al, The effects of probe binding affinity differences on gene expression measurements and how to deal with them. Bioinformatics 2009

### See Also

[mask](#), [prepareMaskedAffybatch](#), [plotProbe](#)

### Examples

```
## loading mask on all genes (exmask1) of the same dataset
data(exmask)
overlapExSeq <- overlapExprExtMasks(exmask$probes[,1:3],sequenceMask[,c(1,2,4)])

## plot results
plot(overlapExSeq$type1,overlapExSeq$type2,type="l",col="red",
     main="Overlap expression based mask - sequence based mask",xlab="Type 1",ylab="Type 2")
abline(1,-1,col="gray")
```

```
## performing wilcoxon rank sum test and Kolmogorov-Smirnov test on
## expression mask with all genes (exmask)
overlapTests <-
  overlapExprExtMasks(exmask$probes[,1:3],sequenceMask[,c(1,2,4)],wilcox.ks=TRUE)
layout(matrix(1:2,ncol=1))
plot(overlapTests$testCutoff[[1]],overlapTests$ksBoot,col="red",main="Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test",xlab="Quality score",
      ylab="p value (Kolmogorov-Smirnov Test)",ylim=c(0,1),pch=16,xaxt="n")
axis(1,at=1:length(unique(overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]])),labels=signif(unique(overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]]),2))
lines(which(unique(overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]]) %in% overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]]),overlapTests$ksP[!is.na(overlapTests$ksP)],col="red",lty=1)
plot(overlapTests$testCutoff[[1]],overlapTests$wilcoxonBoot,col="green",main="Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test",xlab="Quality score",
      ylab="p value (Wilcoxon Rank Sum Test)",ylim=c(0,1),pch=16,xaxt="n")
axis(1,at=1:length(unique(overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]])),labels=signif(unique(overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]]),2))
lines(which(unique(overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]]) %in% overlapTests$testCutoff[[2]]),overlapTests$wilcoxonP[!is.na(overlapTests$wilcoxonP)],col="green",lty=1)
```

plotProbe

*Plot probes*

## Description

Pairwise plot probes of a probeset.

## Usage

```
plotProbe(affy,probeset,probe=NA,probeXY=NA,scan=TRUE,ind,exmask="none",seqmask="none",names=FALSE)
```

## Arguments

|          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| affy     | An object of class AffyBatch.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| probeset | Probe set name (Affymetrix ID).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| probe    | Number of the main probe.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| probeXY  | If probe is NA the x and y coordinates of the main probe can be given in the format 'x.y'.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| scan     | If scan is 'TRUE', each probewise comparison of the probe against all other probes in this probeset will be performed seperately. If scan is 'FALSE', all plots will be plotted in one layout. The layout has 3 columns. If the number of remaining probes that the probe should be compared with is not a multiple of 3, the number of probes will be reduced to the next lower multiple of 3. |
| ind      | Numeric vector, with values 1 and 2, definining group assignement for samples in affy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| exmask   | Optional: an expression mask object for this affy batch. Data frame with probe information, for example first element of the output of function mask. Should contain: column 1: probe x-coordinate, column 2:probe y coordinate, column 3: probeset, column 4: quality score: values to based filtering on, probes with values smaller than cutoff are discarded.                               |
| seqmask  | Optional: a sequence mask object for this mask.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| names    | If 'TRUE' , the sample names are plotted to identify each individual.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

**Details**

The function `plotProbe` plots single probe against all other probes of its probe set. The information from the expression based mask, the sequence based mask and the test for the two plotted probes is shown.

**Author(s)**

Michael Dannemann

**References**

Dannemann et al, The effects of probe binding affinity differences on gene expression measurements and how to deal with them. Bioinformatics 2009

**See Also**

[mask](#), [overlapExprExtMasks](#), [prepareMaskedAffybatch](#)

**Examples**

```
data(exmask)
data(AffyBatch)
## plot for one probe comparisons with other probes of the probeset
## for a random probeset
availableProbesets <- as.character(unique(exmask$probes[,4]))
availableProbesets
## scan the plots
## Not run: plotProbe(affy=newAffyBatch,probeset=availableProbesets[22],probe=5,scan=TRUE,ind=rep(1:2,each=10),
## scan with names=TRUE
## Not run: plotProbe(affy=newAffyBatch,probeset=availableProbesets[22],probe=5,scan=TRUE,ind=rep(1:2,each=10),
## plot with given x y information
## Not run: plotProbe(affy=newAffyBatch,probeset=availableProbesets[22],probeXY="313.415",scan=TRUE,ind=rep(1:2,each=10),
## all plots in one layout
plotProbe(affy=newAffyBatch,probeset=availableProbesets[22],probe=5,scan=FALSE,ind=rep(1:2,each=10),exmask=exmask)
```

---

```
prepareMaskedAffybatch
```

*Creating a new CDF*

---

**Description**

Create a new `affyBatch`, with probes and probesets defined by mask.

**Usage**

```
prepareMaskedAffybatch(affy, cdfTablePath, exmask="none", cdfName="new_cdf", exclude=NA, cutoff=0.2)
```

**Arguments**

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>affy</code>         | An object of class <code>AffyBatch</code> .                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <code>cdfTablePath</code> | Location of the probe information table. This is a plain text file with probes to build new cdf. It should contain 3 or 5 columns. Column 1: Probeset ID. Column 2: probe x-coordinate. Column 3: probes y-coordinate. Optional column 4: Mismatch probe x-coordinate. Optional column 5: Mismatch probe y coordinate.  |
| <code>exmask</code>       | Data frame with probe information, for example first element of the output of function <code>mask</code> . Should contain: column 1: probe x-coordinate, column 2: probe y coordinate, column 3 :probeset, column 4: quality score: values to based filtering on, probes with values smaller than cutoff are discarded. |
| <code>cdfName</code>      | Name for the new CDF.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <code>cutoff</code>       | With <code>mask</code> .object, defines the minimum quality score necessary for a probe to qualify to the new cdf.                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <code>exclude</code>      | Default 'NA'. If exclude set to a number>0, probesets with less than 'exclude' probes remaining after masking are excluded from the new <code>affyBatch</code> object.                                                                                                                                                  |

**Details**

The function `prepareMaskedAffybatch` creates a new `affyBatch` including only the probes remaining after masking. Set of probes might be defined by a txt file, with `cdfTablePath` argument, or by a data frame `mask`.object and `cutoff` the probes have to exceed to be used in the new cdf.

**Value**

`newAffyBatch` A list with an `affyBatch` object and an environment for the new CDF identifier.

**Author(s)**

Michael Lachmann, Mehmet Somel, Michael Dannemann, Anna Lorenc

**References**

Dannemann et al, The effects of probe binding affinity differences on gene expression measurements and how to deal with them. Bioinformatics 2009

**See Also**

[mask](#), [overlapExprExtMasks](#), [plotProbe](#)

**Examples**

```
## prepare new affy batch after masking
## using the expression mask object from the example of the mask function
data(AffyBatch)
data(exmask)
## AffyBatch object before masking
newAffyBatch
```

```
affyBatchAfterMasking <-  
  prepareMaskedAffybatch(affy=newAffyBatch,exmask=exmask$probes)  
## AffyBatch object after masking  
affyBatchAfterMasking
```

---

|              |                                                           |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| sequenceMask | <i>Object containing sequence information for probes.</i> |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|

---

**Description**

This data is a table with information about sequence difference between human and chimpanzee for all available probes.

**Usage**

```
sequenceMask
```

**Format**

```
data.frame.
```

**Source**

```
??
```

**References**

```
??
```

# Index

## \* **datasets**

- exmask, [2](#)
- newAffyBatch, [4](#)
- newCdf, [4](#)
- sequenceMask, [10](#)

## \* **internal**

- mask, [2](#)
- overlapExprExtMasks, [5](#)
- plotProbe, [7](#)
- prepareMaskedAffybatch, [8](#)

exmask, [2](#)

mas5calls, [3](#)

mask, [2](#), [6](#), [8](#), [9](#)

newAffyBatch, [4](#)

newCdf, [4](#)

overlapExprExtMasks, [3](#), [5](#), [8](#), [9](#)

plotProbe, [3](#), [6](#), [7](#), [9](#)

prepareMaskedAffybatch, [3](#), [6](#), [8](#), [8](#)

sequenceMask, [10](#)