Package ‘plgem’

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Title Detect differential expression in microarray and proteomics datasets with the Power Law Global Error Model (PLGEM)

Version 1.46.0

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Description The Power Law Global Error Model (PLGEM) has been shown to faithfully model the variance-versus-mean dependence that exists in a variety of genome-wide datasets, including microarray and proteomics data. The use of PLGEM has been shown to improve the detection of differentially expressed genes or proteins in these datasets.

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Imports utils, Biobase (>= 2.5.5), MASS

Depends R (>= 2.10)

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**LPSeset**  
*ExpressionSet for Testing PLGEM*

**Description**
This ExpressionSet object contains a subset of the microarray data used in References for PLGEM set-up and validation. Briefly, it contains normalized gene expression values from a total of 6 hybridizations on MG-U74Av2 Affymetrix GeneChip microarrays. Two experimental conditions are represented in this dataset: the baseline condition (‘C’) contains data of immature murine dendritic cells (4 replicates); the other condition (‘LPS’) contains data of the same cells stimulated for 4 hours with LPS (2 replicates).

**Usage**
```
data(LPSeset)
```

**Format**
An object of class `ExpressionSet`.

**Author(s)**
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**References**

**Examples**
```
data(LPSeset)  
library(Biobase)  
head(exprs(LPSeset))
```

---

**plgem.deg**  
*Selection of Differentially Expressed Genes/Proteins With PLGEM*

**Description**
This function selects differentially expressed genes/proteins (DEG) at a given significance level, based on observed PLGEM signal-to-noise ratio (STN) values (typically obtained via a call to `plgem.obsStn`) and pre-computed p-values (typically obtained via a call to `plgem.pValue`).

**Usage**
```
plgem.deg(observedStn, plgemPval, delta=0.001, verbose=FALSE)
```
Arguments

- **observedStn**: list containing a matrix of observed PLGEM-STN values; output of function `plgem.obsStn`.
- **plgemPval**: matrix of p-values; output of function `plgem.pValue`.
- **delta**: numeric vector; the significance level(s) to be used for the selection of DEG; value(s) must be between 0 and 1 (excluded).
- **verbose**: logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.

Details

This function allows for the selection of DEG by setting a significance cut-off on pre-calculated p-values. The significance level $\delta$ roughly represents the false positive rate of the DEG selection, e.g. if a $\delta$ of 0.001 is chosen in a microarray dataset with 10,000 genes (none of which is truly differentially expressed), on average 10 genes/proteins are expected to be selected by chance alone.

Value

A list of four elements:

- **fit**: the input `plgemFit`.
- **PLGEM.STN**: the input matrix of observed PLGEM-STN values (see `plgem.obsStn` for details).
- **p-value**: the input matrix of p-values (see `plgem.pValue` for details).
- **significant**: a list with a number of elements equal to the number of different significance levels ($\delta$s) used as input. Each element of this list is again a list, whose number of elements correspond to the number of performed comparisons (i.e. the number of conditions in the starting ExpressionSet minus the baseline). Each of these second level elements is a character vector of significant gene/protein names that passed the statistical test at the corresponding significance level.

Author(s)

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References


See Also

`plgem.fit`, `plgem.obsStn`, `plgem.resampledStn`, `plgem.pValue`, `run.plgem`
Examples

```r
data(LPSeset)
LPSfit <- plgem.fit(data=LPSeset, fittingEval=FALSE)
LPSobsStn <- plgem.obsStn(data=LPSeset, plgemFit=LPSfit)
set.seed(123)
LPSresampledStn <- plgem.resampledStn(data=LPSeset, plgemFit=LPSfit)
LPSpValues <- plgem.pValue(LPSobsStn, LPSresampledStn)
LPSdegList <- plgem.deg(observedStn=LPSobsStn, plgemPval=LPSpValues, delta=0.001)
```

plgem.fit

**PLGEM Fitting and Evaluation**

**Description**

Function for fitting and evaluating goodness of fit of a PLGEM on a set of replicated samples defined in an ExpressionSet.

**Usage**

```r
plgem.fit(data, covariate=1, fitCondition=1, p=10, q=0.5, trimAllZeroRows=FALSE, zeroMeanOrSD=c("replace", "trim"), fittingEval=FALSE, plot.file=FALSE, prefix=NULL, gPar=setGpar(), verbose=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

- `data` an object of class `ExpressionSet`; see Details for important information on how the phenoData slot of this object will be interpreted by the function.
- `covariate` integer, numeric or character; specifies the covariate to be used to fit the PLGEM. See Details for how to specify the covariate.
- `fitCondition` integer, numeric or character; specifies the condition to be used to fit the PLGEM. See Details for how to specify the fitCondition.
- `p` integer (or coercible to integer); number of intervals used to partition the expression value range.
- `q` numeric in [0,1]; the quantile of standard deviation used for PLGEM fitting.
- `trimAllZeroRows` logical; if TRUE, rows in the data set containing only zero values are trimmed before fitting PLGEM.
- `zeroMeanOrSD` either NULL or character; what should be done if a row with non-positive mean or zero standard deviation is encountered before fitting PLGEM? Current options are one of "replace" or "trim". Partial matching is used to switch between the options and setting the value to NULL will cause the default behaviour to be enforced, i.e. to "replace" (see Details).
- `fittingEval` logical; if TRUE, the fitting is evaluated generating a diagnostic plot.
- `plot.file` logical; if TRUE, a png file is written on the current working directory.
- `prefix` optional character to use as a prefix of the file name to be written.
- `gPar` optional list of graphical parameters to define plotting boundaries in PLGEM fitting evaluation plots. If left unspecified suitable boundaries will be determined from the data. The recommended way to set these parameters if via a call to `setGpar()`.
- `verbose` logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.
plgem.fit fits a Power Law Global Error Model (PLGEM) to an ExpressionSet and optionally evaluates the quality of the fit. This PLGEM aims to find the mathematical relationship between standard deviation and mean gene expression values (or protein abundance levels) in a set of replicated microarray (or proteomics) samples, according to the following power law:

\[
\log(\text{modeledSpread}) = \text{PLGEMslope} \times \log(\text{mean}) + \text{PLGEMintercept}
\]

It has been demonstrated that this model fits to Affymetrix GeneChip datasets, as well as to datasets of normalized spectral counts obtained by mass spectrometry-based proteomics. Technically, two replicates are required and sufficient to fit a PLGEM. Having 3 or more replicates, of course, improves the fitting and is recommended (see References for details).

The phenoData slot of the ExpressionSet given as input is expected to contain the necessary information to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. The columns of the pData are referred to as ‘covariates’. There has to be at least one covariate defined in the input ExpressionSet. The sample attributes according to this covariate must be distinct for samples that are to be treated as distinct experimental conditions and identical for samples that are to be treated as replicates.

There is a couple different ways to specify the covariate: If an integer or a numeric is given, it will be taken as the covariate number (in the same order in which the covariates appear in the colnames of the pData). If a character is given, it will be taken as the covariate name itself (in the same way the covariates are specified in the colnames of the pData). By default, the first covariate appearing in the colnames of the pData is used.

Similarly, there is a couple different ways to specify on which experimental condition to fit the model. The available ‘condition names’ are taken from unique(as.character(pData(data)[, covariate])). If fitCondition is given as a character, it will be taken as the condition name itself. If fitCondition is given as an integer or a numeric value, it will be taken as the condition number (in the same order of appearance as in the ‘condition names’). By default, the first condition name is used.

Setting trimAllZeroRows=TRUE is especially useful in proteomics data sets, where there is no guarantee of identifying a protein across all experimental conditions. Since PLGEM is fitted only to the data corresponding to a single experimental condition (as defined by fitCondition), it is possible to generate a non-negligible number of rows containing only zero values, even if there were no such rows in the original (complete) data set containing all experimental conditions.

Setting zeroMeanOrSD="replace" (the current default, for backward compatibility) will cause the function to replace zero or negative means with the smallest positive mean found in the data set and to replace zero standard deviations with the smallest non-zero standard deviation found in the data set. Setting zeroMeanOrSD="trim" is the current recommended option, especially for spectral counting proteomics data sets that are typically characterized by a high data granularity or for microarray data sets with a small number of replicates. In both cases, there are chances for data values for a same gene or protein to be identical across replicates (and therefore with zero standard deviation) by chance alone. Note that setting trimAllZeroRows=TRUE does not guarantee that there will be no rows with zero mean or zero standard deviation.

If argument fittingEval is set to TRUE, a graphical control of the goodness of the PLGEM fitting is produced and a plot containing four panels is generated. The top-left panel shows the power law, characterized by a ‘SLOPE’ and an ‘INTERCEPT’. The top-right panel represents the distribution of model residuals. The bottom-left reports the contour plot of ranked residuals. The bottom-right panel finally shows the relationship between the distribution of observed residuals and the normal distribution. A good fit normally gives a horizontal symmetric rank-plot and a near normal distribution of residuals.

Warnings are issued if the fitted PLGEM slope is above 1 or under 0.5, if the adjusted \( r^2 \) is below 0.95 or if the Pearson correlation coefficient is below 0.85. These are the ranges of values inside
which most GeneChip MAS5 dataset and NSAF proteomics dataset have been empirically observed to lie (see References).

Value

A list of six elements (see Details):

- SLOPE the slope of the fitted PLGEM.
- INTERCEPT the intercept of the fitted PLGEM.
- DATA.PEARSON the Pearson correlation coefficient between the log (sd) and the log (mean) in the original data.
- ADJ.R2.MP the adjusted $r^2$ of PLGEM fitted on the modelling points.
- COVARIATE a character indicating the covariate used for fitting.
- FIT_CONDITION a character indicating the condition used for fitting.

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References


See Also

setGpar, plgem.obsStn, plgem.resampledStn, plgem.pValue, plgem.deg, run.plgem

Examples

data(LPSeset)
LPSfit <- plgem.fit(data=LPSeset, fittingEval=TRUE)
as.data.frame(LPSfit)
Description
This function computes observed signal-to-noise ratio (STN) values using PLGEM fitting parameters (obtained via a call to function `plgem.fit`) to detect differential expression in an `ExpressionSet`, containing either microarray or proteomics data.

Usage
```r
plgem.obsStn(data, plgemFit, covariate=1, baselineCondition=1, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments
- `data`: an object of class `ExpressionSet`; see Details for important information on how the `phenoData` slot of this object will be interpreted by the function.
- `plgemFit`: list; the output of function `plgem.fit`.
- `covariate`: integer, numeric or character; specifies the covariate to be used to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. See Details for how to specify the covariate.
- `baselineCondition`: integer, numeric or character; specifies the condition to be treated as the baseline. See Details for how to specify the baselineCondition.
- `verbose`: logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.

Details
The `phenoData` slot of the `ExpressionSet` given as input is expected to contain the necessary information to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. The columns of the `pData` are referred to as ‘covariates’. There has to be at least one covariate defined in the input `ExpressionSet`. The sample attributes according to this covariate must be distinct for samples that are to be treated as distinct experimental conditions and identical for samples that are to be treated as replicates.

There is a couple different ways how to specify the covariate: If an integer or a numeric is given, it will be taken as the covariate number (in the same order in which the covariates appear in the `colnames` of the `pData`). If a character is given, it will be taken as the covariate name itself (in the same way the covariates are specified in the `colnames` of the `pData`). By default, the first covariate appearing in the `colnames` of the `pData` is used.

Similarly, there is a couple different ways how to specify which experimental condition to treat as the baseline. The available ‘condition names’ are taken from `unique(as.character(pData(data)[, covariate]))`. If `baselineCondition` is given as a character, it will be taken as the condition name itself. If `baselineCondition` is given as an integer or a numeric value, it will be taken as the condition number (in the same order of appearance as in the ‘condition names’). By default, the first condition name is used.

PLGEM-STN values are a measure of the degree of differential expression between a condition and the baseline:

\[
STN = \frac{ mean_{condition} - mean_{baseline} }{ modeledSpread_{condition} + modeledSpread_{baseline} },
\]
where:

\[
\log(\text{modeledSpread}) = \text{PLGEMslope} \times \log(\text{mean}) + \text{PLGEMintercept}
\]

\text{plgem.obsStn} determines the observed PLGEM-STN values for each gene or protein in \text{data}; see \text{References} for details.

\text{Value}

A list of two elements:

- \text{fit} \quad \text{the input plgemFit.}
- \text{PLGEM.STN} \quad \text{a matrix of observed PLGEM-STN values. The rownames of this matrix are identical to the rownames of \text{data}. The colnames represent the different experimental conditions that were compared to the baseline.}

\text{Author(s)}

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\text{References}


\text{See Also}

\text{plgem.fit}, \text{plgem.resampledStn}, \text{plgem.pValue}, \text{plgem.deg}, \text{run.plgem}

\text{Examples}

\begin{verbatim}
data(LPSetet)
LPSfit <- plgem.fit(data=LPSetet)
LPSobsStn <- plgem.obsStn(data=LPSetet, plgemFit=LPSfit)
head(LPSobsStn[["PLGEM.STN"]])
\end{verbatim}
plgem.pValue

Computation of PLGEM p-values

Description

This function computes p-values for observed PLGEM signal-to-noise ratio (STN) values (typically obtained via a call to `plgem.obsStn`) from resampled STN values (typically obtained via a call to `plgem.resampledStn`).

Usage

```r
plgem.pValue(observedStn, plgemResampledStn, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

- `observedStn` list containing a matrix of observed PLGEM-STN values; output of function `plgem.obsStn`.
- `plgemResampledStn` list containing a matrix of resampled PLGEM-STN values; output of function `plgem.resampledStn`.
- `verbose` logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.

Details

The p-value of each given observed STN value is computed based on the quantile that the given value occupies in the corresponding distribution of resampled PLGEM-STN values, based on the following relationship:

$$P = \min(2 \times \text{quantile}, 2 \times (1 - \text{quantile}))$$

Value

A matrix with the same dimensions and dimnames as the input `observedStn$PLGEM.STN`, where each entry represents the p-value of the corresponding observed PLGEM-STN value.

Author(s)

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References


plgem.resampledStn

Computation of Resampled PLGEM-STN Statistics

Description
This function computes resampled signal-to-noise ratio (STN) values using PLGEM fitting parameters (obtained via a call to function `plgem.fit`) to detect differential expression in an ExpressionSet, containing either microarray or proteomics data.

Usage
`plgem.resampledStn(data, plgemFit, covariate=1, baselineCondition=1, iterations="automatic", verbose=FALSE)`

Arguments
- `data`: an object of class `ExpressionSet`; see Details for important information on how the phenoData slot of this object will be interpreted by the function.
- `plgemFit`: list; the output of function `plgem.fit`.
- `covariate`: integer, numeric or character; specifies the covariate to be used to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. See Details for how to specify the covariate.
- `baselineCondition`: integer, numeric or character; specifies the condition to be treated as the baseline. See Details for how to specify the baselineCondition.
- `verbose`: logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.
- `iterations`: number of iterations for the resampling step; if "automatic" it is automatically determined.

Details
The phenoData slot of the ExpressionSet given as input is expected to contain the necessary information to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. The columns of the pData are referred to as ‘covariates’. There has to be at least one covariate defined in the input ExpressionSet. The sample attributes according to this covariate must be distinct for samples that
are to be treated as distinct experimental conditions and identical for samples that are to be treated as replicates.

There is a couple different ways how to specify the covariate: If an integer or a numeric is given, it will be taken as the covariate number (in the same order in which the covariates appear in the colnames of the pData). If a character is given, it will be taken as the covariate name itself (in the same way the covariates are specified in the colnames of the pData). By default, the first covariate appearing in the colnames of the pData is used.

Similarly, there is a couple different ways how to specify which experimental condition to treat as the baseline. The available ‘condition names’ are taken from unique(as.character(pData(data)[, covariate])). If baselineCondition is given as a character, it will be taken as the condition name itself. If baselineCondition is given as an integer or a numeric value, it will be taken as the condition number (in the same order of appearance as in the ‘condition names’). By default, the first condition name is used.

PLGEM-STN values are a measure of the degree of differential expression between a condition and the baseline:

\[ STN = \frac{\text{mean}_{\text{condition}} - \text{mean}_{\text{baseline}}}{\text{modeledSpread}_{\text{condition}} + \text{modeledSpread}_{\text{baseline}}}, \]

where:

\[ \log(\text{modeledSpread}) = PLGEM\text{slope} \ast \log(\text{mean}) + PLGEM\text{intercept} \]

plgem.resampledStn determines the resampled PLGEM-STN values for each gene or protein in data using a resampling approach; see References for details. The number of iterations should be chosen depending on the number of available replicates of the condition used for fitting the model.

Value

A list of two elements:

- **RESAMPLED.STN** matrix of resampled PLGEM-STN values, with rownames identical to those in data, and colnames representing the different number of replicates found in the different comparisons; see References for details.
- **REPL.NUMBER** the number of replicates found for each experimental condition; see References for details.

Author(s)

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References


plgem.write.summary

Write the Result of a PLGEM Analysis to the Working Directory

Description

This function writes the output of function `plgem.deg` or `run.plgem` to a series of files in the current working directory.

Usage

```
plgem.write.summary(x, prefix=NULL, verbose=FALSE)
```

Arguments

- **x** list; the output of either `plgem.deg` or `run.plgem` (see corresponding help pages for details).
- **prefix** optional character to use as a prefix of the file names to be written.
- **verbose** logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.

Details

This function writes three types of files to the current working directory:

1) A comma-separated text file containing the PLGEM fitting parameters;
2) A comma-separated text file containing the observed STN values and their associated p-values for all performed comparisons; (STN values and p-values from different comparisons appear in different columns, with column headers reflecting the underlying comparison)
3) One or more plain text files containing the identifiers of the significant genes or proteins, with filenames reflecting the specific comparisons that were performed (i.e. which experimental condition was compared to the baseline) and the specific significance threshold that were used in the DEG selection step.

Before files are written, the function checks for existence of files with identical names in the working directory and prompts the user to decide whether to abort the writing process or to overwrite the existing files.
**Value**

The function returns no value. It is called for its side effect to write files to the working directory.

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**References**


**See Also**

`plgem.deg`, `run.plgem`

**Examples**

```r
## Not run:
data(LPSeset)
LPSdegList <- run.plgem(LPSeset, fitting.eval=FALSE)
plgem.write.summary(LPSdegList, prefix="test", verbose=TRUE)
## End(Not run)
```

**run.plgem**

*Wrapper for Power Law Global Error Model (PLGEM) analysis method*

**Description**

This function automatically performs PLGEM fitting and evaluation, determination of observed and resampled PLGEM-STN values, and selection of differentially expressed genes/proteins (DEG) using the PLGEM method.

**Usage**

```r
run.plgem(esdata, signLev=0.001, rank=100, covariate=1,
  baselineCondition=1, Iterations="automatic", trimAllZeroRows=FALSE,
  zeroMeanOrSD=c("replace", "trim"), fitting.eval=TRUE,
  plotFile=FALSE, writeFiles=FALSE, Verbose=FALSE)
```
run.plgem

Arguments

esdata an object of class ExpressionSet; see Details for important information on how the phenoData slot of this object will be interpreted by the function.
signLev numeric vector; significance level(s) for the DEG selection. Value(s) must be in (0,1).
rank integer (or coercible to integer); the number of genes or proteins to be selected according to their PLGEM-STN rank. Only used if number of available replicates is too small to perform resampling (see Details).
covariate integer, numeric or character; specifies the covariate to be used to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. See Details for how to specify the covariate.
baselineCondition integer, numeric or character; specifies the condition to be treated as the baseline. See Details for how to specify the baselineCondition.
Iterations number of iterations for the resampling step; if "automatic" it is automatically determined.
trimAllZeroRows logical; if TRUE, rows in the data set containing only zero values are trimmed before fitting PLGEM. See help page of function plgem.fit for details.
zeroMeanOrSD either NULL or character; what should be done if a row with non-positive mean or zero standard deviation is encountered before fitting PLGEM? Current options are one of "replace" or "trim". Partial matching is used to switch between the options and setting the value to NULL will cause the default behaviour to be enforced, i.e. to "replace". See help page of function plgem.fit for details.
fitting.eval logical; if TRUE, the fitting is evaluated generating a diagnostic plot.
plotFile logical; if TRUE, the generated plot is written on a file.
writeFiles logical; if TRUE, the generated list of DEG is written on disk file(s).
Verbose logical; if TRUE, comments are printed out while running.

Details

The phenoData slot of the ExpressionSet given as input is expected to contain the necessary information to distinguish the various experimental conditions from one another. The columns of the pData are referred to as 'covariates'. There has to be at least one covariate defined in the input ExpressionSet. The sample attributes according to this covariate must be distinct for samples that are to be treated as distinct experimental conditions and identical for samples that are to be treated as replicates.

There is a couple different ways how to specify the covariate: If an integer or a numeric is given, it will be taken as the covariate number (in the same order in which the covariates appear in the colnames of the pData). If a character is given, it will be taken as the covariate name itself (in the same way the covariates are specified in the colnames of the pData). By default, the first covariate appearing in the colnames of the pData is used.

Similarly, there is a couple different ways how to specify which experimental condition to treat as the baseline. The available 'condition names' are taken from unique(as.character(pData(data)[, covariate])). If baselineCondition is given as a character, it will be taken as the condition name itself. If baselineCondition is given as an integer or a numeric value, it will be taken as the condition number (in the same order of appearance as in the 'condition names'). By default, the first condition name is used.
The model is fitted on the most replicated condition. When more conditions exist with the maximum number of replicates, the condition providing the best fit is chosen (based on the adjusted $r^2$). If there is again a tie, the first one is arbitrarily taken.

If less than 3 replicates are provided for the condition used for fitting, then the selection is based on ranking according to the observed PLGEM-STN values. In this case the first rank genes or proteins are selected for each comparison.

Otherwise DEG are selected comparing the observed and resampled PLGEM-STN values at the signLev significance level(s), based on p-values obtained via a call to function `plgem.pValue`. See References for details.

**Value**

A list of four elements:

- `fit` the input `plgemFit`.
- `PLGEM.STN` a matrix of observed PLGEM-STN values (see `plgem.obsStn` for details).
- `p-value` a matrix of p-values (see `plgem.pValue` for details).
- `significant` a list with a number of elements equal to the number of different significance levels (delta) used as input. If ranking method is used due to insufficient number of replicates (see Details), this list will be of length 1 and named `firstXXX`, where XXX is the number provided by argument `rank`. Each element of this list is again a list, whose number of elements correspond to the number of performed comparisons (i.e. the number of conditions in the starting `ExpressionSet` minus the baseline). Each of these second level elements is a character vector of significant gene/protein names that passed the statistical test at the corresponding significance level.

**Author(s)**

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**References**


**See Also**

`plgem.fit`, `plgem.obsStn`, `plgem.resampledStn`, `plgem.pValue`, `plgem.deg`, `plgem.write.summary`

**Examples**

data(LPSeset)
set.seed(123)
LPSdegList <- run.plgem(esdata=LPSeset, fitting.eval=FALSE)
setGpar

Set graphical parameters for PLGEM fitting evaluation plots

Description

Function to set graphical parameters for PLGEM fitting evaluation plots produced by function plgem.fit.

Usage

setGpar(minLnM=NULL, maxLnM=NULL, minLnSD=NULL, maxLnSD=NULL, minRes=NULL, maxRes=NULL)

Arguments

- minLnM: minimum 'ln(mean)' value in upper left plot.
- maxLnM: maximum 'ln(mean)' value in upper left plot.
- minLnSD: minimum 'ln(sd)' value in upper left plot.
- maxLnSD: maximum 'ln(sd)' value in upper left plot.
- minRes: minimum 'residual' value in upper right plot.
- maxRes: maximum 'residual' value in upper right plot.

Details

A call to setGpar() is the recommended way to set graphical parameters in plgem.fit. If parameters are left unspecified, suitable defaults will be found by plgem.fit.

Value

A list of six elements:

- minLnM: minimum 'ln(mean)' value in upper left plot.
- maxLnM: maximum 'ln(mean)' value in upper left plot.
- minLnSD: minimum 'ln(sd)' value in upper left plot.
- maxLnSD: maximum 'ln(sd)' value in upper left plot.
- minRes: minimum 'residual' value in upper right plot.
- maxRes: maximum 'residual' value in upper right plot.

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References


See Also

plgem.fit, run.plgem

Examples

setGpar(minLnM=-1, maxLnM=8)
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