

# Package ‘RnaSeqSampleSize’

December 2, 2025

**Type** Package

**Title** RnaSeqSampleSize

**Version** 2.20.0

**Date** 2021-12-02

**Description** RnaSeqSampleSize package provides a sample size calculation method based on negative binomial model and the exact test for assessing differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data. It controls FDR for multiple testing and utilizes the average read count and dispersion distributions from real data to estimate a more reliable sample size. It is also equipped with several unique features, including estimation for interested genes or pathway, power curve visualization, and parameter optimization.

**License** GPL (>= 2)

**LazyLoad** yes

**Depends** R (>= 4.0.0), ggplot2, RnaSeqSampleSizeData

**Imports** biomaRt, edgeR, heatmap3, matlab, KEGGREST, methods, grDevices, graphics, stats, Rcpp (>= 0.11.2), recount, ggpubr, SummarizedExperiment, tidyr, dplyr, tidyselect, utils

**LinkingTo** Rcpp

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**Suggests** BiocStyle, knitr, testthat

**biocViews** ImmunoOncology, ExperimentalDesign, Sequencing, RNASeq, GeneExpression, DifferentialExpression

**RoxygenNote** 7.1.2

**Encoding** UTF-8

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

**git\_branch** RELEASE\_3\_22

**git\_last\_commit** 6b8556b

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

**Repository** Bioconductor 3.22

**Date/Publication** 2025-12-01

**Author** Shilin Zhao Developer [aut, cre],  
 Chung-I Li [aut],  
 Yan Guo [aut],  
 Quanhu Sheng [aut],  
 Yu Shyr [aut]

**Maintainer** Shilin Zhao Developer <zhaoshilin@gmail.com>

## Contents

|                                    |    |
|------------------------------------|----|
| analyze_dataset . . . . .          | 2  |
| convertIdOneToOne . . . . .        | 3  |
| est_count_dispersion . . . . .     | 4  |
| est_power . . . . .                | 5  |
| est_power_curve . . . . .          | 6  |
| est_power_distribution . . . . .   | 7  |
| optimize_parameter . . . . .       | 9  |
| plot_gene_counts_range . . . . .   | 10 |
| plot_mappedReads_percent . . . . . | 10 |
| plot_power_curve . . . . .         | 11 |
| sample_size . . . . .              | 12 |
| sample_size_distribution . . . . . | 13 |

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| <b>Index</b> | <b>15</b> |
|--------------|-----------|

---

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| analyze_dataset | <i>analyze_dataset</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|

---

## Description

A function analyze data set

## Usage

```
analyze_dataset(  
  expObj,  
  expObjGroups = NULL,  
  fdrCut = 0.05,  
  subset = 0,  
  repN = 2,  
  useAllSamplesAsNegativeControl = FALSE  
)
```

## Arguments

|                                |                                                                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| expObj                         | RangedSummarizedExperiment object.                                  |
| expObjGroups                   | sample groups. Should be a vector of 0 and 1. 0 as control samples. |
| fdrCut                         | FDR cutoff to select differential genes.                            |
| subset                         | RangedSummarizedExperiment object.                                  |
| repN                           | Number of replications.                                             |
| useAllSamplesAsNegativeControl | Logic. If true, will Use all samples in the obj as negative control |

**Value**

Figures and a list of result data.

**Examples**

1

---

|                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| convertIdOneToOne | <i>convertId</i> |
|-------------------|------------------|

---

**Description**

A function to convert ID based on the biomaRt package.

**Usage**

```
convertIdOneToOne(
  x,
  dataset = "hsapiens_gene_ensembl",
  filters = "uniprotswissprot",
  attributes = c(filters, "entrezgene_id"),
  verbose = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

|            |                                                                                                                                                               |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| x          | the Ids need to be converted.                                                                                                                                 |
| dataset    | Dataset you want to use. To see the different datasets available within a biomaRt you can e.g. do: mart = useMart('ensembl'), followed by listDatasets(mart). |
| filters    | Filters (one or more) that should be used in the query. A possible list of filters can be retrieved using the function listFilters.                           |
| attributes | Attributes you want to retrieve. A possible list of attributes can be retrieved using the function listAttributes.                                            |
| verbose    | Logical. Indicate report extra information on progress or not.                                                                                                |

**Details**

A function to convert ID based on the biomaRt package..

**Value**

A converted ID character with the same order of parameter x.

**Examples**

```
x<-c("Q04837", "P0C0L4", "P0C0L5", "O75379", "Q13068", "A2MYD1")
convertIdOneToOne(x, filters="uniprotswissprot", verbose=TRUE)
```

---

```
est_count_dispersion  est_count_dispersion
```

---

## Description

A function to estimate the gene read count and dispersion distribution of RNA-seq data.

## Usage

```
est_count_dispersion(
  counts,
  group = rep(1, NCOL(counts)),
  subSampleNum = 20,
  minAveCount = 1,
  convertId = FALSE,
  dataset = "hsapiens_gene_ensembl",
  filters = "hgnc_symbol"
)
```

## Arguments

|              |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| counts       | numeric matrix of read counts.                                                                                                                                                            |
| group        | vector or factor giving the experimental group/condition for each sample/library.                                                                                                         |
| subSampleNum | number of samples used to estimate distribution.                                                                                                                                          |
| minAveCount  | Only genes with average read counts above this value are used in the estimation of distribution.                                                                                          |
| convertId    | logical, whether to convert the gene Id into entrez gene Id. If set as True, then dataset and filters parameter should also be set.                                                       |
| dataset      | Dataset you want to use. To see the different datasets available within a biomaRt you can e.g. do: <code>mart = useMart('ensembl')</code> , followed by <code>listDatasets(mart)</code> . |
| filters      | Filters (one or more) that should be used in the query. A possible list of filters can be retrieved using the function <code>listFilters</code> .                                         |

## Details

A function to estimate the gene read count and dispersion distribution of RNA-seq data.

## Value

A DEGList from edgeR package.

## Examples

```
counts<-matrix(sample(1:1000,6000,replace=TRUE),ncol=6)
est_count_dispersion(counts=counts,group=rep(0,6))
```

---

`est_power`*est\_power*

---

**Description**

A function to estimate the power for differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data.

**Usage**

```
est_power(  
  n,  
  w = 1,  
  k = 1,  
  rho = 2,  
  lambda0 = 5,  
  phi0 = 1,  
  alpha = 0.05,  
  f,  
  m = 20000,  
  m1 = 200  
)
```

**Arguments**

|                      |                                                                                   |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <code>n</code>       | Numer of samples.                                                                 |
| <code>w</code>       | Ratio of normalization factors between two groups.                                |
| <code>k</code>       | Ratio of sample size between two groups (Treatment/Control).                      |
| <code>rho</code>     | minimum fold changes for prognostic genes between two groups (Treatment/Control). |
| <code>lambda0</code> | Average read counts for prognostic genes.                                         |
| <code>phi0</code>    | Dispersion for prognostic genes.                                                  |
| <code>alpha</code>   | alpha level.                                                                      |
| <code>f</code>       | FDR level                                                                         |
| <code>m</code>       | Total number of genes for testing.                                                |
| <code>m1</code>      | Expected number of prognostic genes.                                              |

**Value**

Estimate power

**Examples**

```
n<-63;rho<-2;lambda0<-5;phi0<-0.5;f<-0.01  
est_power(n=n, rho=rho, lambda0=lambda0, phi0=phi0,f=f)
```

---

|                 |                        |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| est_power_curve | <i>est_power_curve</i> |
|-----------------|------------------------|

---

## Description

A function to estimate the power curve for differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data.

## Usage

```
est_power_curve(
  n,
  w = 1,
  rho = 2,
  lambda0 = 5,
  phi0 = 1,
  alpha = 0.05,
  f = 0.05,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

|         |                                                                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| n       | Numer of samples.                                                                 |
| w       | Ratio of normalization factors between two groups.                                |
| rho     | minimum fold changes for prognostic genes between two groups (Treatment/Control). |
| lambda0 | Average read counts for prognostic genes.                                         |
| phi0    | Dispersion for prognostic genes.                                                  |
| alpha   | alpha level.                                                                      |
| f       | FDR level                                                                         |
| ...     | other parameters for est_power function.                                          |

## Value

A list including parameters, sample size and power.

## Examples

```
result1<-est_power_curve(n=63, f=0.01, rho=2, lambda0=5, phi0=0.5)
result2<-est_power_curve(n=63, f=0.05, rho=2, lambda0=5, phi0=0.5)
plot_power_curve(list(result1,result2))
```

---

```
est_power_distribution
      est_power_distribution
```

---

## Description

A function to estimate the power for differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data.

## Usage

```
est_power_distribution(
  n,
  f = 0.1,
  m = 10000,
  m1 = 100,
  w = 1,
  k = 1,
  rho = 2,
  repNumber = 100,
  dispersionDigits = 1,
  distributionObject,
  libSize,
  minAveCount = 5,
  maxAveCount = 2000,
  selectedGenes,
  pathway,
  species = "hsa",
  storeProcess = FALSE,
  countFilterInRawDistribution = TRUE,
  selectedGeneFilterByCount = FALSE,
  removedGenePower = TRUE
)
```

## Arguments

|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| n                  | Numer of samples.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| f                  | FDR level                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| m                  | Total number of genes for testing.                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| m1                 | Expected number of prognostic genes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| w                  | Ratio of normalization factors between two groups.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| k                  | Ratio of sample size between two groups (Treatment/Control).                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| rho                | minimum fold changes for prognostic genes between two groups (Treatment/Control).                                                                                                                                                                   |
| repNumber          | Number of genes used in estimation of read counts and dispersion distribution.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| dispersionDigits   | Digits of dispersion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| distributionObject | A DGEList object generated by est_count_dispersion function. RnaSeqSample-SizeData package contains 13 datasets from TCGA, you can set distributionObject as any one of "TCGA_BLCA", "TCGA_BRCA", "TCGA_CESC", "TCGA_COAD", "TCGA_HNS" to use them. |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| libSize                      | numeric vector giving the total count for each sample. If not specified, the libsize in distributionObject will be used.                                                                                                                                                    |
| minAveCount                  | Minimal average read count for each gene. Genes with smaller read counts will not be used.                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| maxAveCount                  | Maximal average read count for each gene. Genes with larger read counts will be taken as maxAveCount.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| selectedGenes                | Optional. Name of interested genes. Only the read counts and dispersion distribution for these genes will be used in power estimation.                                                                                                                                      |
| pathway                      | Optional. ID of interested KEGG pathway. Only the read counts and dispersion distribution for genes in this pathway will be used in power estimation.                                                                                                                       |
| species                      | Optional. Species of interested KEGG pathway.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| storeProcess                 | Logical. Store the power and n in sample size or power estimation process.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| countFilterInRawDistribution | Logical. If the count filter will be applied on raw count distribution. If not, count filter will be applied on libSize scaled count distribution.                                                                                                                          |
| selectedGeneFilterByCount    | Logical. If the count filter will be applied to selected genes when selectedGenes parameter was used.                                                                                                                                                                       |
| removedGene0Power            | Logical. When selectedGenes or pathway are used, some genes may have read count less than minAveCount and will be removed by count filter. This parameter indicates if they will be used as 0 power in power estimation. If not, they will not be used in power estimation. |

## Details

A function to estimate the power for differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data.

## Value

Average power or a list including count, distribution and power for each gene.

## Examples

```
#Please note here the parameter repNumber was very small (2) to make the example code faster.
#We suggest repNumber should be at least set as 100 in real analysis.
est_power_distribution(n=65,f=0.01,rho=2,distributionObject="TCGA_READ",repNumber=2)
#Power estimation based on some interested genes. We use storeProcess=TRUE to return the
#details for all selected genes.
selectedGenes<-c("A1BG","A2BP1","A2M","A4GALT","AAAS")
powerDistribution<-est_power_distribution(n=65,f=0.01,rho=2,distributionObject="TCGA_READ",
selectedGenes=selectedGenes,minAveCount=1,storeProcess=TRUE,repNumber=2)
str(powerDistribution)
mean(powerDistribution$power)
#Power estimation based on genes in interested pathway
## Not run:
powerDistribution<-est_power_distribution(n=65,f=0.01,rho=2,distributionObject="TCGA_READ",
pathway="00010",minAveCount=1,storeProcess=TRUE,repNumber=2)
mean(powerDistribution$power)

## End(Not run)
```

---

|                    |                           |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| optimize_parameter | <i>optimize_parameter</i> |
|--------------------|---------------------------|

---

## Description

A function to optimize the parameters in power or sample size estimation.

## Usage

```
optimize_parameter(
  fun = est_power,
  opt1,
  opt2,
  opt1Value,
  opt2Value,
  main,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

|           |                                                          |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| fun       | function to be optimized, can be est_power, sample_size. |
| opt1      | parameter1 to be optimized.                              |
| opt2      | parameter2 to be optimized.                              |
| opt1Value | values of parameter1 to be optimized.                    |
| opt2Value | values of parameter2 to be optimized.                    |
| main      | Title of optimization result figure.                     |
| ...       | Other parameters for optimized funtion.                  |

## Details

A function to optimize the parameters in power or sample size estimation.

## Value

A power or sample size matrix, generated by different pair of two paramters.

## Examples

```
#Optimization for power estimation
result<-optimize_parameter(fun=est_power,opt1="n",opt2="lambda0",opt1Value=c(3,5,10,15,20),
opt2Value=c(1:5,10,20))
#Optimization for sample size estimation
result<-optimize_parameter(fun=sample_size,opt1="lambda0",opt2="phi0",opt1Value=c(1,3),
opt2Value=c(1.5,2),power=0.8)
```

---

```
plot_gene_counts_range
      plot_gene_counts_range
```

---

**Description**

A function to plot propotion of genes in different count range.

**Usage**

```
plot_gene_counts_range(expObj, targetSize = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|            |                                                                        |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| expObj     | RangedSummarizedExperiment object or an expression matrix.             |
| targetSize | The target library size to scale to. Will not do scale if set as NULL. |

**Value**

A barplot.

**Examples**

```
1
```

---

```
plot_mappedReads_percent
      plot_mappedReads_percent
```

---

**Description**

A function to plot percent of mapped reads in total reads. Only RangedSummarizedExperiment object generated by recount package have total reads information to to this.

**Usage**

```
plot_mappedReads_percent(expObj, groupVar = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

|          |                                                                                    |
|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| expObj   | RangedSummarizedExperiment object generated by recount package.                    |
| groupVar | variable name in colData(expObj) to be used to group the samples to make box-plot. |

**Value**

A barplot or boxplot.

**Examples**

```
1
```

---

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| plot_power_curve | <i>plot_power_curve</i> |
|------------------|-------------------------|

---

## Description

A function to plot power curves based on the result of [sample\\_size](#) or [est\\_power\\_curve](#) function.

## Usage

```
plot_power_curve(
  result,
  cexLegend = 1,
  type = "b",
  xlab = "Sample Size",
  ylab = "Power",
  pch = 16,
  lwd = 3,
  las = 1,
  cex = 1.5,
  main = "Power Curve",
  col = "red"
)
```

## Arguments

|           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| result    | the result of <a href="#">sample_size</a> or <a href="#">est_power_curve</a> function. The storeProcess parameter should be set as True when performing <a href="#">sample_size</a> function. If you want to plot more than one curves in the same figure, the results from <a href="#">sample_size</a> function should first be combined into a new list. At most five curves were allowed in one figure. |
| cexLegend | the cex for legend.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| type      | 1-character string giving the type of plot desired. The following values are possible, for details, see plot.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| xlab      | a label for the x axis, defaults to a description of x.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| ylab      | a label for the y axis, defaults to a description of y.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| pch       | Either an integer specifying a symbol or a single character to be used as the default in plotting points.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| lwd       | The line width.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| las       | Numeric in 0,1,2,3; the style of axis labels.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| cex       | A numerical value giving the amount by which plotting text and symbols should be magnified relative to the default.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| main      | a main title for the plot                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| col       | The line color.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

## Value

A power curve plot.

**Examples**

```
result1<-sample_size(rho=2,phi0=1,lambda0=1,f=0.01,power=0.8,m=20000,m1=500,
showMessage=TRUE,storeProcess=TRUE)
result2<-sample_size(rho=4,phi0=1,lambda0=1,f=0.01,power=0.8,m=20000,m1=500,
showMessage=TRUE,storeProcess=TRUE)
plot_power_curve(list(result1,result2))
```

sample\_size

*sample\_size***Description**

A function to estimate the sample size for differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data.

**Usage**

```
sample_size(
  power = 0.8,
  m = 20000,
  m1 = 200,
  f = 0.1,
  k = 1,
  w = 1,
  rho = 2,
  lambda0 = 5,
  phi0 = 1,
  showMessage = FALSE,
  storeProcess = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

|              |                                                                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| power        | Power to detect prognostic genes.                                                 |
| m            | Total number of genes for testing.                                                |
| m1           | Expected number of prognostic genes.                                              |
| f            | FDR level                                                                         |
| k            | Ratio of sample size between two groups (Treatment/Control).                      |
| w            | Ratio of normalization factors between two groups.                                |
| rho          | minimum fold changes for prognostic genes between two groups (Treatment/Control). |
| lambda0      | Average read counts for prognostic genes.                                         |
| phi0         | Dispersion for prognostic genes.                                                  |
| showMessage  | Logical. Display the message in the estimation process.                           |
| storeProcess | Logical. Store the power and n in sample size or power estimation process.        |

**Details**

A function to estimate the sample size for differential expression analysis of RNA-seq data.

**Value**

Estimate sample size or a list including parameters and sample size in the process.

**Examples**

```
power<-0.8;rho<-2;lambda0<-5;phi0<-0.5;f<-0.01
sample_size(power=power, f=f,rho=rho, lambda0=lambda0, phi0=phi0)
```

---

```
sample_size_distribution
      sample_size_distribution
```

---

**Description**

A function to estimate the sample size based on read counts and dispersion distribution in real data.

**Usage**

```
sample_size_distribution(
  power = 0.8,
  m = 10000,
  m1 = 100,
  f = 0.1,
  k = 1,
  w = 1,
  rho = 2,
  showMessage = FALSE,
  storeProcess = FALSE,
  distributionObject,
  libSize,
  minAveCount = 5,
  maxAveCount = 2000,
  repNumber = 100,
  dispersionDigits = 1,
  selectedGenes,
  pathway,
  species = "hsa",
  countFilterInRawDistribution = TRUE,
  selectedGeneFilterByCount = FALSE
)
```

**Arguments**

|       |                                                              |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| power | Power to detect prognostic genes.                            |
| m     | Total number of genes for testing.                           |
| m1    | Expected number of prognostic genes.                         |
| f     | FDR level                                                    |
| k     | Ratio of sample size between two groups (Treatment/Control). |

|                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| w                            | Ratio of normalization factors between two groups.                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| rho                          | minimum fold changes for prognostic genes between two groups (Treatment/Control).                                                                                                                                                                   |
| showMessage                  | Logical. Display the message in the estimation process.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| storeProcess                 | Logical. Store the power and n in sample size or power estimation process.                                                                                                                                                                          |
| distributionObject           | A DGEList object generated by est_count_dispersion function. RnaSeqSample-SizeData package contains 13 datasets from TCGA, you can set distributionObject as any one of "TCGA_BLCA", "TCGA_BRCA", "TCGA_CESC", "TCGA_COAD", "TCGA_HNS" to use them. |
| libSize                      | numeric vector giving the total count for each sample. If not specified, the libsize in distributionObject will be used.                                                                                                                            |
| minAveCount                  | Minimal average read count for each gene. Genes with smaller read counts will not be used.                                                                                                                                                          |
| maxAveCount                  | Maximal average read count for each gene. Genes with larger read counts will be taken as maxAveCount.                                                                                                                                               |
| repNumber                    | Number of genes used in estimation of read counts and dispersion distribution.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| dispersionDigits             | Digits of dispersion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| selectedGenes                | Optional. Name of interested genes. Only the read counts and dispersion distribution for these genes will be used in power estimation.                                                                                                              |
| pathway                      | Optional. ID of interested KEGG pathway. Only the read counts and dispersion distribution for genes in this pathway will be used in power estimation.                                                                                               |
| species                      | Optional. Species of interested KEGG pathway.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| countFilterInRawDistribution | Logical. If the count filter will be applied on raw count distribution. If not, count filter will be applied on libSize scaled count distribution.                                                                                                  |
| selectedGeneFilterByCount    | Logical. If the count filter will be applied to selected genes when selectedGenes parameter was used.                                                                                                                                               |

## Details

A function to estimate the sample size based on read counts and dispersion distribution in real data.

## Value

Estimate sample size or a list including parameters and sample size in the process.

## Examples

```
#Please note here the parameter repNumber was very small (5) to make the example code faster.
#We suggest repNumber should be at least set as 100 in real analysis.
sample_size_distribution(power=0.8, f=0.01, distributionObject="TCGA_READ", repNumber=5,
  showMessage=TRUE)
```

# Index

`analyze_dataset`, [2](#)

`convertIdOneToOne`, [3](#)

`est_count_dispersion`, [4](#)

`est_power`, [5](#)

`est_power_curve`, [6](#), [11](#)

`est_power_distribution`, [7](#)

`optimize_parameter`, [9](#)

`plot_gene_counts_range`, [10](#)

`plot_mappedReads_percent`, [10](#)

`plot_power_curve`, [11](#)

`sample_size`, [11](#), [12](#)

`sample_size_distribution`, [13](#)