

Journal of Statistical Software

January 2014, Volume 56, Issue 7.

http://www.jstatsoft.org/

lmdme: Linear Models on Designed Multivariate Experiments in R

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Abstract

The **Imdme** package decomposes analysis of variance (ANOVA) through linear models on designed multivariate experiments, allowing ANOVA-principal component analysis (APCA) and ANOVA-simultaneous component analysis (ASCA) in R. It also extends both methods with the application of partial least squares (PLS) through the specification of a desired output matrix. The package is freely available from **Bioconductor** and licensed under the GNU General Public License.

ANOVA decomposition methods for designed multivariate experiments are becoming popular in "omics" experiments (transcriptomics, metabolomics, etc.), where measurements are performed according to a predefined experimental design, with several experimental factors or including subject-specific clinical covariates, such as those present in current clinical genomic studies. ANOVA-PCA and ASCA are well-suited methods for studying interaction patterns on multidimensional datasets. However, currently an R implementation of APCA is only available for *Spectra* data in the **ChemoSpec** package, whereas ASCA is based on average calculations on the indices of up to three design matrices. Thus, no statistical inference on estimated effects is provided. Moreover, ASCA is not available in an R package.

Here, we present an R implementation for ANOVA decomposition with PCA/PLS analysis that allows the user to specify (through a flexible formula interface), almost any linear model with the associated inference on the estimated effects, as well as to display functions to explore results both of PCA and PLS. We describe the model, its implementation and two high-throughput *microarray* examples: one applied to interaction pattern analysis and the other to quality assessment.

Keywords: linear model, ANOVA decomposition, PCA, PLS, designed experiments, R.

1. Introduction

Current "omics" experiments (proteomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics or genomics) are multivariate in nature. Modern technology allows us to explore the whole genome or a big subset of the proteome, where each gene/protein is in essence a variable explored to elucidate its relationship with an outcome. In addition, these experiments are including an increasing number of experimental factors (time, dose, etc.) from design or subject-specific information, such as age, gender and linage, which are then available for analysis. Hence, to decipher experimental design or subject-specific patterns, some multivariate approaches should be applied, with principal component analysis (PCA) and partial least squares (PLS) regression being the most common. However, it is known that working with raw data might mask information of interest. Therefore, analysis of variance (ANOVA)-based decomposition is becoming popular to split variability sources before applying such multivariate approaches.

Seminal works on genomics were that of Haan, Wehrens, Bauerschmidt, Piek, Schaik, and Buydens (2007) on ANOVA-PCA (APCA) and of Smilde, Jansen, Hoefsloot, Lamers, Greef, and Timmerman (2005) on ANOVA-SCA (ASCA) models. However, to the best of our knowledge an R (R Core Team 2013) implementation of APCA is only available for *Spectra* data in the R package **ChemoSpec** by Hanson (2012). Regarding ASCA, as there is no R package for this model, it can only be used by uploading script-function files resulting from a MATLAB (The MathWorks, Inc. 2011) code translation (Nueda *et al.* 2007). In addition, ASCA only accepts up to three design matrices, which limits its use. Moreover, coefficient estimations are based on average calculations using binary design matrices, without any statistical inference available for them.

Here, we provide a flexible linear model-based decomposition framework. Almost any model can be specified, according to the experimental design, by means of a flexible formula interface. Because coefficient estimation is carried out by means of maximum likelihood, statistical significance is naturally given. The framework also provides the capacity to perform PCA and PLS analysis on appropriate ANOVA decomposition results as well as graphical representations. The implementation is well-suited for direct analysis of gene expression matrices (variables on rows) from high-throughput data such as microarray or RNA-seq experiments. Below we provide two examples to introduce the user to the application of the package, through the exploration of interaction patterns and assessment of microarray experiment quality.

2. The model

A detailed explanation of ANOVA decomposition and multivariate analysis can be found in Smilde et al. (2005) and Zwanenburg, Hoefsloot, Westerhuis, Jansen, and Smilde (2011). Briefly and without the loss of generality, let us assume a microarray experiment where the expression of (G_1, G_2, \ldots, G_g) genes are arrayed in a chip. In this context, let us consider an experimental design with two main factors: A, with a levels $(A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_i, \ldots, A_a)$ and B, with b levels $(B_1, B_2, \ldots, B_j, \ldots, B_b)$, with replicates $R_1, R_2, \ldots, R_k, \ldots, R_r$ for each $A \times B$ combination levels. After preprocessing steps are performed as described in Smyth (2004), each chip is represented by a column vector of gene expression measurements of $g \times 1$. Then, the whole experimental data is arranged into a $g \times n$ expression matrix (X), where $n = a \times b \times r$. In this data scheme, single gene measurements across the different treatment combinations

 $(A_i \times B_j)$ are presented in a row on the X matrix, as depicted in Figure 1. An equivalent X matrix structure needs to be obtained for 2D-DIGE or RNA-seq experiments and so forth.

Regardless of the data generation, the ANOVA model for each gene (row) in X can be expressed as (1):

$$x_{ijk} = \mu + \alpha_i + \beta_j + \alpha_i \times \beta_j + \varepsilon_{ijk}, \tag{1}$$

where x_{ijk} is the measured expression for "some" gene, at combination "ij" of factors A and B for replicate k; μ is the overall mean; α, β and $\alpha \times \beta$ are the main and interaction effects respectively; and the error term $\varepsilon_{ijk} \sim N(0, \sigma^2)$. In addition, (1) can also be expressed in matrix form for all genes:

$$X = X_{\mu} + X_{\alpha} + X_{\beta} + X_{\alpha\beta} + E = \sum_{l \in \{\mu, \alpha, \beta, \alpha\beta\}} X_l + E, \tag{2}$$

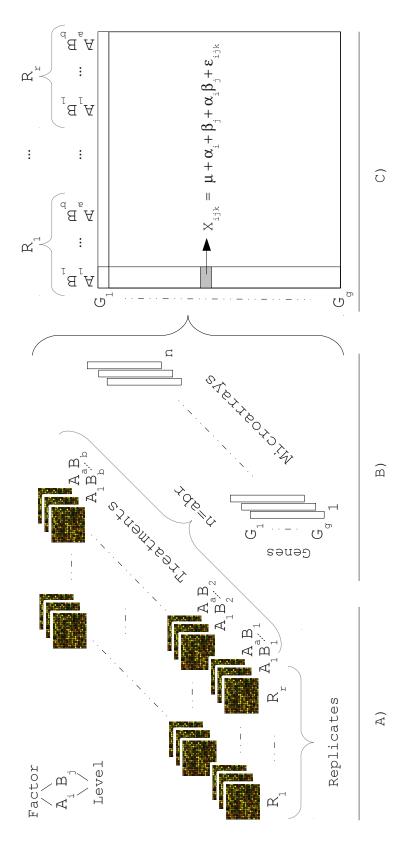
where the matrices X_l and E are of dimension $g \times n$ and contain the level means of the corresponding lth term and the random error respectively. However, in the context of linear models X_l can also be written as a linear combination of two matrix multiplications in the form of (3):

$$X = \sum_{l \in \{\mu,\alpha,\beta,\alpha\beta\}} X_l + E = \sum_{l \in \{\mu,\alpha,\beta,\alpha\beta\}} B_l Z_l^\top + E = B_\mu Z_\mu^\top + \dots + B_{\alpha\beta} Z_{\alpha\beta}^\top + E = \mu 1^\top + B_\alpha Z_\alpha^\top + \dots + B_{\alpha\beta} Z_{\alpha\beta}^\top + E, \quad (3)$$

where B_l and Z_l are referenced in the literature as *coefficient* and *model* matrices of dimensions $g \times m_{(l)}$ and $n \times m_{(l)}$, respectively, and $m_{(l)}$ is the number of levels of factor l. The first term is usually called *intercept*, with $B_{\mu} = \mu$ and $Z_{\mu} = 1$ being of dimension $g \times 1$ and $n \times 1$, respectively. In this example, all Z_l are binary matrices, identifying whether a measurement belongs ("1") or not ("0") to the corresponding factor.

In the implementations provided by Smilde et al. (2005) and Nueda et al. (2007), the estimation of the coefficient matrices is based on calculations of averages using the design matrix (up to three design matrices $Z_{\alpha,\beta,\alpha\beta}$), to identify the average samples. In theory, these authors fully decompose the original matrix as shown in (1). On the contrary, in this package the model coefficients are estimated, iteratively, by the maximum likelihood approach, using the lmFit function provided by limma package (Smyth et al. 2011). Consequently, three desirable features are also incorporated:

- 1. Flexible formula interface to specify any potential model. The user only needs to provide: i) the gene expression matrix (X), ii) the experimental data.frame (design) with treatment structure, and iii) the model using a formula interface, just as in a call to the R function lm. Internal a model.matrix call, will automatically build the appropriate Z matrices, overcoming the constraint on factorial design size, and tedious model matrix definitions.
- 2. Hypothesis tests on coefficient matrices B_l . A T test is automatically carried out for the sth gene model, to test whether or not the oth coefficient is equal to zero, i.e., $H_0: b_{so} = 0$ vs. $H_1: b_{so} \neq 0$. In addition, an F test is performed to simultaneously determine whether or not all b_{so} are equal to zero.



combination of treatment factor levels A_iB_i and their replicates R_k can be measured on the chips, yielding a total of $n=a\times b\times r$ Figure 1: Data representation of microarray gene expression. A) Genes are spotted on the chip. Then, expression levels for each microarrays. B) Gene expression of each chip (microarray) is then interpreted as a column vector of expression levels. C) Then, these column vectors are combined by columns producing the experiment gene expression matrix X. Expression measurements under all treatment combinations for a gene are represented by the X matrix rows. Thus, measurements on a row are subjected to the ANOVA model of (1).

3. Empirical Bayes correction can also be achieved through the eBayes function in package limma. It uses an empirical Bayes method to shrink the row/gene-wise sample variances towards a common value and to augment the degrees of freedom for the individual variances (Smyth 2004).

By contrast, Haan et al. (2007) estimate the main and interaction effects by overall mean subtraction. Hence, genes need to be treated as an additional factor. Meanwhile, in the implementations by Smilde et al. (2005) and Nueda et al. (2007), the estimations are obtained on a gene-by-gene basis, as in (1). Therefore, in a two-way factor experiment, such as $time \times oxygen$, De Haan's model includes two additional double interactions and a triple interaction, because genes are treated as a factor, unlike the models by Smilde et al. (2005) and Nueda et al. (2007).

2.1. The decomposition algorithm

The ANOVA model (2) is decomposed iteratively using (3), where in each step the lth coefficients \hat{B}_l , \hat{E}_l matrices and $\hat{\sigma}_l^2$ are determined. Then, the particular term contribution matrix $\hat{X}_l = \hat{B}_l Z_l^{\top}$ is subtracted from the preceding residuals to feed the next model, as depicted in (4):

$$X = X_{\mu} + X_{\alpha} + X_{\beta} + X_{\alpha\beta} + E = \sum_{l \in \{\mu,\alpha,\beta,\alpha\beta\}} X_{l} + E$$

$$\text{Step } \mu : \qquad X = X_{\mu} + E_{\mu} \Rightarrow X = \hat{B}_{\mu} Z_{\mu}^{\top} + \hat{E}_{\mu} \Rightarrow \hat{E}_{\mu} = X - \hat{B}_{\mu} Z_{\mu}^{\top}$$

$$\text{Step } \alpha : \qquad E_{\mu} = X_{\alpha} + E_{\alpha} \Rightarrow \hat{E}_{\mu} = \hat{B}_{\alpha} Z_{\alpha}^{\top} + \hat{E}_{\alpha} \Rightarrow \hat{E}_{\alpha} = \hat{E}_{\mu} - \hat{B}_{\alpha} Z_{\alpha}^{\top}$$

$$\vdots \qquad \vdots$$

$$\text{Step } l : \qquad E_{l-1} = X_{l} + E_{l} \Rightarrow \hat{E}_{l-1} = \hat{B}_{l} Z_{l}^{\top} + \hat{E}_{l} \Rightarrow \hat{E}_{l} = \hat{E}_{l-1} - \hat{B}_{l} Z_{l}^{\top} \qquad (4)$$

$$\vdots \qquad \vdots$$

$$\text{Step } \alpha\beta : \qquad E_{\beta} = X_{\alpha\beta} + E \Rightarrow \hat{E}_{\beta} = \hat{B}_{\alpha\beta} Z_{\alpha\beta}^{\top} + \hat{E} \Rightarrow \hat{E} = \hat{E}_{\beta} - \hat{B}_{\alpha\beta} Z_{\alpha\beta}^{\top}$$

Where the hat ("^") denotes estimated coefficients. In this implementation, the first step always estimates the *intercept* term, i.e., formula = ~ 1 in R style, with $\hat{B}_{\mu} = \hat{\mu}$ and $Z_{\mu} = 1$. The following models will only include the lth factor without the intercept, i.e., formula = ~ 1th_term - 1, where lth_term stands for α , β or $\alpha\beta$ in this example. This procedure is quite similar to the one proposed by de B. Harrington, Vieira, Espinoza, Nien, Romero, and Yergey (2005).

2.2. PCA and PLS analyses

These methods explain the variance/covariance structure of a set of observations (e.g., genes) through a few linear combinations of variables (e.g., experimental conditions). Both methods can be applied to the lth ANOVA decomposed step of (4) to deal with different aspects:

• PCA concerns with the *variance* of a single matrix, usually with the main objectives of reducing and interpreting data. Accordingly, depending on the matrix to which it is applied, there are two possible methods: ASCA, when PCA is applied to the *coefficient*

matrix, \hat{B}_l , (Smilde *et al.* 2005); and APCA when PCA is calculated on the *residual*, \hat{E}_{l-1} . The latter is conceptually an ASCA and is usually applied to, $X_l + E$, i.e., the mean factor matrix X_l , plus the error of the fully decomposed model E of (1), as in Haan *et al.* (2007).

• PLS not only generalizes but also combines features from PCA and regression to explore the covariance structure between input and some output matrices, as described by Abdi and Williams (2010) and Shawe-Taylor and Cristianini (2004). It is particularly useful when one or several dependent variables (outputs; O) must be predicted from a large and potentially highly correlated set of independent variables (inputs). In our implementation, the input can be either the coefficient matrix \hat{B}_l or the residual \hat{E}_{l-1} . According to the choice, the respective output matrix will be a diagonal $O = \text{diag}(\text{nrow}(\hat{B}_l))$ or design matrix $O = Z_l$. In addition, users can specify their own output matrix, O, to verify a particular hypothesis. For instance, in functional genomics it could be the Gene Ontology class matrix as used in gene set enrichment analysis (GSEA) by Subramanian, Tamayo, Mootha, Mukherjee, Ebert, Gillette, Paulovich, Pomeroy, Golub, Lander, and Mesirov (2005).

When working with the *coefficient* matrix, the user will not have to worry about the expected number of components in X (rank of the matrix, given the number of replicates per treatment level), as suggested by Smilde *et al.* (2005), because the components are directly summarized in the coefficient \hat{B}_l matrix. In addition, for both PCA/PLS, the **lmdme** package (Fresno and Fernández 2013a) also offers different methods to visualize results, e.g., biplot, loadingplot and screeplot or leverage calculation, in order to filter out rows/genes as in Tarazona, Prado-López, Dopazo, Ferrer, and Conesa (2012).

3. Examples

In this section we provide an overview of the **Imdme** package (Fresno and Fernández 2013a), using two examples. The package is freely available on the **Bioconductor** website (Gentleman et al. 2004), licensed under the GNU General Public License. The first example consists of an application of the analysis of gene expression interaction pattern, where we address: how to define the model, undertake ANOVA decomposition, perform PCA/PLS analysis and visualize the results. In the second example, the method is applied to assess the quality of high-throughput microarray data.

From here onwards, some outputs were removed for reasons of clarity and the examples were performed with options(digits = 4).

3.1. Example 1: Package overview

The original data files for the first example are available at Gene Expression Omnibus (Edgar, Domrachev, and Lash 2002), with accession GSE37761 and in the **stemHypoxia** package (Fresno and Fernández 2013b) on the **Bioconductor** website. In this dataset, Prado-Lopez *et al.* (2010) studied differentiation of human embryonic stem cells under hypoxia conditions. They measured gene expression at different time points under controlled oxygen levels. This experiment has a typical two-way ANOVA structure, where factor A stands for "time" with a = 3 levels $\{0.5, 1, 5 \ days\}$, factor B stands for "oxygen" with b = 3 levels $\{1, 5, 21\%\}$ and

r=2 replicates, yielding a total of 18 samples. The remainder of the dataset was excluded in order to have a balanced design, as suggested by Smilde *et al.* (2005) to fulfil orthogonality assumptions in the ANOVA decomposition.

First, we load the data, which consists of the experimental design and gene expression intensities M.

```
R> data("stemHypoxia", package = "stemHypoxia")
```

Now we manipulate the design object to maintain only those treatment levels which create a balanced dataset. Then, we change rownames(M) of each gene in M, with their corresponding M\$Gene_ID.

```
R> timeIndex <- design$time %in% c(0.5, 1, 5)
R> oxygenIndex <- design$oxygen %in% c(1, 5, 21)
R> design <- design[timeIndex & oxygenIndex,]
R> design$time <- as.factor(design$time)
R> design$oxygen <- as.factor(design$oxygen)
R> rownames(M) <- M$Gene_ID
R> M <- M[, colnames(M) %in% design$samplename]
```

Now we can explore microarray gene expression data present in the M matrix, with g=40736 rows (individuals/genes) and n=18 columns (samples/microarrays). In addition, the experimental design data frame design contains main effect columns (e.g., time and oxygen) and the sample names (samplename). A brief summary of these objects is shown using the head function:

R> head(design)

```
time oxygen samplename
            1
                 12h_1_1
3 0.5
4 0.5
            1
                 12h_1_2
5 0.5
            5
                 12h_5_1
6 0.5
            5
                 12h_5_2
7
  0.5
           21
                12h_21_1
8 0.5
           21
                12h_21_2
```

R> head(M)[, 1:3]

```
12h_1_1 12h_1_2 12h_5_1
               7.182
                        7.512
                                8.225
A_24_P66027
                        6.035
A_32_P77178
               6.385
                                6.440
A_23_P212522
               9.562
                        9.390
                                9.211
A_24_P934473
               6.288
                        6.397
                                6.265
A_24_P9671
              12.007
                       11.995
                              12.282
A_32_P29551
              10.176
                        9.273
                                9.360
```

1

2

2

gene (CoefCols).

1 (Intercept)

time

Once the preprocessing of the experiment data is completed, package **Imdme** needs to be loaded. This instruction will automatically load the required packages, i.e., **limma** (Smyth et al. 2011) and **pls** (Mevik, Wehrens, and Liland 2011). Once the data are loaded, the ANOVA decomposition of Section 2.1 can be carried out using (4) by calling **Imdme** function with the model formula, the actual data and the experimental design.

```
R> library("lmdme")
R> fit <- lmdme(model = ~time * oxygen, data = M, design = design)
R> fit
lmdme object:
Data dimension:
                  40736
                            18
Design (head):
  time oxygen samplename
  0.5
            1
                  12h_1_1
  0.5
4
             1
                  12h_1_2
5 0.5
            5
                  12h_5_1
   0.5
            5
                  12h_5_2
   0.5
           21
                 12h_21_1
7
   0.5
           21
                 12h_21_2
Model: "time * oxygen
Model decomposition:
  Step
                               Formula CoefCols
             Names
```

3 3 oxygen ~ -1 + oxygen 3
4 4 time:oxygen ~ -1 + time:oxygen 9

The results of lmdme will be stored inside the 'fit' object, which is an S4 class. By printing the 'fit' object, a brief description of the data and design used are shown as well as the Model applied and a summary of the decomposition. This data.frame describes the applied

~ -1 + time

At this point, we can choose those subjects/genes in which at least one interaction coefficient is statistically different from zero (F test on the coefficients) with a threshold p value of 0.001 and perform ASCA on the interaction *coefficient* term, and PLS against the identity matrix (default option).

Formula and Names for each Step, as well as the amount of estimated coefficients for each

3

```
R> id <- F.p.values(fit, term = "time:oxygen") < 0.001
R> decomposition(fit, decomposition = "pca", type = "coefficient",
+ term = "time:oxygen", subset = id, scale = "row")
R> fit.plsr <- fit
R> decomposition(fit.plsr, decomposition = "plsr", type = "coefficient",
+ term = "time:oxygen", subset = id, scale = "row")
```

These instructions will perform ASCA and PLS decomposition over the scale = "row" version of the 305 selected subjects/genes (subset = id) on the 'fit' and 'fit.plsr' object,

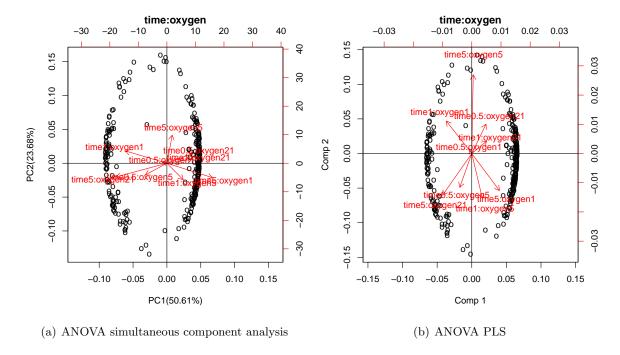


Figure 2: Biplot on the decomposed interaction coefficients ($time \times oxygen$) on genes satisfying the F test with p value < 0.001. Notice that the interaction matrix in the ASCA model is of rank 9. Thus, 9 arrows are expected and the score of the 305 selected subjects are projected onto the space spanned by the first two principal components in Figure 2(a).

respectively. The results will be stored inside these objects. In addition, we have explicitly indicated the decomposition type = "coefficient" (default value) in order to apply it to the coefficient matrix, on "time:oxygen" interaction term $(\hat{B}_{\alpha\beta})$.

Now, we can visualize the associated biplots (see Figure 2 (a) and (b)).

For visual clarity, xlabs are changed with the "o" symbol, instead of using the rownames(M) with manufacturer ids, and the second axis is printed with the expand = 0.7 option to avoid cutting off loading labels. In addition, PLS biplot is modified from the default pls behavior to obtain a graph similar to ASCA output (which = "loadings"). Accordingly, ylabs is changed to match the corresponding coefficients of the interaction term and var.axes is set to TRUE.

The ASCA biplot of the first two components (see Figure 2(a)), explain over 70% of the coefficient variance. The genes are arranged in an elliptical shape. Thus, it can be observed that some genes tend to interact with different combinations of time and oxygen. A similar behavior is observed in the PLS biplot in Figure 2(b).

The interaction effect on the 'fit' object can also be displayed using the loadingplot function (see Figure 3). For every combination of two consecutive levels of factors (time and oxygen),

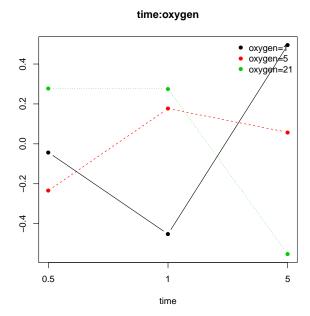


Figure 3: ANOVA simultaneous component analysis loadingplot on genes satisfying the F test with p value < 0.001 on the interaction coefficients ($time \times oxygen$).

the figure shows an interaction effect on the first component, which explains 50.61% of the total variance of the "time:oxygen" term.

In the case of an ANOVA-PCA/PLS analysis, the user only needs to change the type = "residuals" parameter in the decomposition function and perform a similar exploration, as will be shown in Section 3.2.

3.2. Example 2: Application to quality assessment

In this example we use two-color microarray technology to explore gene expression profiles (data available as supplementary material and at http://www.bdmg.com.ar/). Expression intensity at different time points under diverse substrate growing conditions (protein concentration) on melanoma cell lines was measured. This experiment also has a two-way ANOVA structure, where factor A stands for "time" with a = 3 levels $\{0.5, 4, 12 \ hours\}$, factor B stands for "concentration" with b = 3 levels $\{0, 1, 10 \ units\}$ and r = 3 replicates, yielding a total of 27 samples. Data owners are particularly interested in finding genes with a differential expression using an F test with a p value < 0.05 for the $time \times concentration$ interaction term, which they have already confirmed in previous experiments. Preliminary results on differential expression analysis using limma did not show any interaction pattern. Here we show that, by means of the limdme approach, we were able to identify unexpected technical effects that could bias biological interpretation and demonstrated how to remove this unexpected artefact through package limdme.

Once again, we need to load the **lmdme** package and experimental data, which were previously stored on file. Using load(file = "example2.RData") the experimental design and gene

expression intensities, M, will be loaded. It is always recommended to explore these objects, to check if they were properly loaded, using the head function, as we did in the previous example.

```
R> library("lmdme")
R> load(file = "example2.RData")
R> head(design)
  Time Conc SampleName HybridDate
   0.5
          0 221732.gpr
                               nov
2
   0.5
          0 338515.gpr
                               jan
   0.5
3
          0 339577.gpr
                               feb
  0.5
          1 221678.gpr
                               nov
   0.5
          1 338514.gpr
5
                               jan
  0.5
          1 339576.gpr
                               feb
R> head(M)[, 1:3]
```

```
221732.gpr 338515.gpr 339577.gpr
[1,]
         0.1287
                     0.1181
                                0.72294
[2,]
        -0.1653
                    -0.1080
                                0.10825
[3,]
        -0.5227
                    -0.2300
                               -0.29959
[4,]
         0.3142
                     0.5636
                                0.07366
[5,]
         0.1519
                     0.2008
                               -1.10059
         0.2542
[6,]
                               -0.40284
                    -0.1083
```

The dimension of matrix M is g=2520 rows (individuals/genes) and n=27 columns (samples/microarrays). In addition, the experimental design data frame design contains main effect columns (i.e., Time and Conc for concentration), the SampleName and the date when the chips were hybridized (HybridDate).

Using the lmdme function we can fit model = ~ Time * Conc using empirical Bayes = TRUE correction and verbose = TRUE to give the user feedback about the progress of the ANOVA decomposition. In addition, we can check if the results obtained by the data owners about non-differently expressed gene for the interaction term were correct.

```
R> fit <- lmdme(model = ~ Time * Conc, data = M, design = design,
+ Bayes = TRUE, verbose = TRUE)

testing: ~ 1
testing: ~ Time -1
testing: ~ Conc -1
testing: ~ Time:Conc -1

R> id.fit <- F.p.values(fit, term = "Time:Conc") < 0.05
R> sum(id.fit)

[1] 0
```

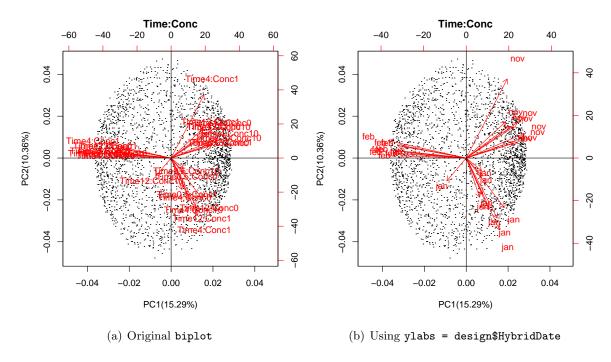


Figure 4: ANOVA-PCA biplot on the interaction residuals ($time \times concentration$).

The result of sum(id.fit) which is equal to 0 promotes further exploration of the data. In this context the APCA approach can be applied to the 'fit' object to get a visual exploration on the biplot on term = "Time:Conc" (see Figure 4(a)).

```
R> decomposition(fit, "pca", scale = "row", type = "residual")
R> biplot(fit, term = "Time:Conc", xlabs = ".", expand = 0.9)
```

Some strange, uncontrolled variability source pattern seems to cluster the chips into three groups (see Figure 4(a)). By inspecting the data frame design, we decided to label HybridData (Hybridization Date) to explore a possible relationship between the observed biplot clusters.

```
R> biplot(fit, term = "Time:Conc", ylabs = design$HybridDate, xlabs = ".",
+ expand = 0.8)
```

Figure 4(b) shows that the cluster structure may be associated with hybridization date, an unconsidered variability source.

Given this evidence, we can use PLS with a user-defined Omatrix using the model.matrix function with ~HybridDate - 1 with the design object and ask whether or not the data cope or not with this structure.

```
R> decomposition(fit, "plsr", scale = "row", type = "residual",
+ term = "Time:Conc",
+ Omatrix = model.matrix(~ HybridDate - 1, design))
R> biplot(fit, term = "Time:Conc", which = "loadings", xlabs = ".",
+ var.axes = TRUE)
```

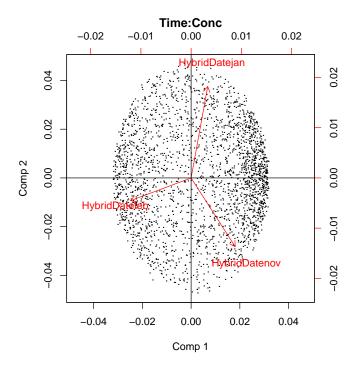


Figure 5: Biplot of PLS regression on the interaction residuals ($time \times concentration$) using the hybridization date as output matrix.

In addition, visual exploration of the resulting biplot of Figure 5 proved our assumption. The data owners explained to us that, the original deployment was planned to hybridize the three replicates on the same day. But, due to custom constraints, it had to be modified to hybridize one replicate per shipment reception: the first in November (nov), the second in January (jan) and the last one in February (feb). The confirmation of our data exploration with the constraint in randomization suggests that HybridDate should be included in the model:

[1] 13

By including HybridDate in the model, we were able to estimate and remove this effect. Then, the statistical inference about the individuals/genes has been modified, showing 13 candidates affected by $time \times concentration$ levels. In addition, the corresponding APCA biplot of Figure 6 shows that the previous pattern of Figure 4(a) was removed.

```
R> decomposition(fit.date, "pca", scale = "row", type = "residual")
R> biplot(fit.date, term = "Time:Conc", xlabs = ".", expand = 0.8)
```

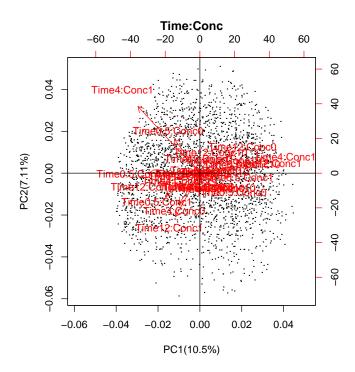


Figure 6: ANOVA-PCA biplot on the interaction residuals ($time \times concentration$) including hybridization date in the model.

Acknowledgments

Funding: This work was supported by the National Agency for Promoting Science and Technology, Argentina (PICT00667/07 to E.A.F. and PICT 2008-0807 BID to E.A.F.), Córdoba Ministry of Science and Technology, Argentina (PID2008 to E.A.F and PIP2009 to M.G.B.), Catholic University of Córdoba, Argentina and National Council of Scientific and Technical Research (CONICET), Argentina.

Data: Thanks to Osvaldo Podhajcer and Edgardo Salvatierra from the Laboratory of Molecular and Cellular Therapy at Leloir Institute, Buenos Aires, Argentina for letting us use their yet unpublished data and making it freely available from http://www.jstatsoft.org/.

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http://www.amstat.org/

Submitted: 2012-10-04

Accepted: 2013-06-26

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Journal of Statistical Software published by the American Statistical Association Volume 56, Issue 7

January 2014