

Package ‘CFAssay’

November 18, 2025

Type Package

Title Statistical analysis for the Colony Formation Assay

Version 1.45.0

Date 2020-03-27

Author Herbert Braselmann

Maintainer Herbert Braselmann <hbraselmann@online.de>

Depends R (>= 2.10.0)

Description The package provides functions for calculation of linear-quadratic cell survival curves and for ANOVA of experimental 2-way designs along with the colony formation assay.

License LGPL

biocViews CellBasedAssays, CellBiology, ImmunoOncology, Regression, Survival

git_url <https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/CFAssay>

git_branch devel

git_last_commit f9526bc

git_last_commit_date 2025-10-29

Repository Bioconductor 3.23

Date/Publication 2025-11-18

Contents

cellsurvLQdiff	2
cellsurvLQfit	3
cfa2way	5
pes	6
plot.cellsurvLQfit	7
plotExp	8
plotExp.cellsurvLQfit	9
plotExp.cfa2way	10

plotExp.default	11
print.cellsurvLQdiff	12
print.cellsurvLQfit	13
print.cfa2way	14
sfpmean	14
Index	16

cellsurvLQdiff	<i>Comparison of two linear-quadratic cell survival curves</i>
----------------	--

Description

The function does an ANOVA test for overall comparison of the parameters *alpha* and *beta* of two linear-quadratic cell survival curves. The parameters are fitted simultaneously to the data with this function, i.e. no other function is necessary to derive the fits.

Usage

```
cellsurvLQdiff(X, curvevar, method="ml", PEmethod="fit")
```

Arguments

X	A data frame which contains columns Exp, dose, ncells, ncolonies and a further column containing two different values (character strings), which identify the two curves. Moreover, if there is no 0-value in the dose-column, X has to contain a column pe for plating efficiencies.
curvevar	Character string, which has to be one of the column names of the data frame X, that contains the two different values (character strings that distinguishes between the two curves).
method	Determines the method used for the fit. "ml" is for maximum-likelihood, "ls" for least-squares. "franken" performs weighed least-squares with weights as described in Franken et al. (2006).
PEmethod	Controls the value of the plating efficiencies, i.e. the colony counts for untreated cells. "fit" calculates fitted plating efficiencies as model parameters, "fix" uses fixed ones calculated from the observed zero dose data or from a column named pe in X.

Details

In the data frame X, Exp identifies the experimental replicates and may be numeric or non-numeric. method="ml" for maximum-likelihood uses R function `glm` with family "quasipoisson" and link function "log". method="ls" uses R function `lm`.

Value

The function returns an object of class `cellsurvLQdiff` containing three elements, `fit1`, `fit2` and `anv`. `fit1` and `fit2` are objects of class `glm` when `method="ml"` or of class `lm` when `method="ls"`. `fit1` has parameters `alpha` and `beta` fitted in common for both cell survival curves. `fit2` has parameters `alpha` and `beta` fitted differently for both curves. `anv` is of class `anova` and contains the F-test. Test results are printed, however, the full result including curve parameters is returned invisibly, i.e. the function has to be used with `print` or assigned to a variable, say for e.g. `fitcomp` as in the example below.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

`glm` and `family` with references for generalized linear modelling. `anova`, `cellsurvLQfit`.

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
names(datatab) #contains a column "cline"
table(datatab$cline)
fitcomp<- cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline") #using default options
print(fitcomp)
plot(cellsurvLQfit(subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")), col=1)
plot(cellsurvLQfit(subset(datatab, cline=="cal33")), col=2, add=TRUE)
legend(0, 0.02, c("okf6TERT1", "cal33"), text.col=1:2)
#using different options:
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", method="ls"))
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", PEmethod="fix"))
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", method="ls", PEmethod="fix"))
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", method="franken"))
```

cellsurvLQfit

Fit the linear-quadratic (LQ) model to cell survival data

Description

This function calculates the linear coefficient *alpha* and the coefficient *beta* of the dose-squared term (see manual for this R-package) for colony counts measured for a set of irradiation doses and repeated experiments. The function is a wrapper for the R-functions `glm` or `lm`, which simplifies use of these functions for cell survival data.

Usage

```
cellsurvLQfit(X, method="ml", PEmethod="fit")
```

Arguments

<code>X</code>	A data frame which contains at least columns <code>Exp</code> , <code>dose</code> , <code>ncells</code> , <code>ncolonies</code> and if there is no 0-value in the dose-column, <code>X</code> has to contain a further column <code>pe</code> for plating efficiencies.
<code>method</code>	Determines the method used for the fit. <code>"ml"</code> is for maximum-likelihood, <code>"ls"</code> for least-squares. <code>"franken"</code> performs weighed least-squares with weights as described in Franken et al. (2006).
<code>PEmethod</code>	Controls the value of the plating efficiencies, i.e. the colony counts for untreated cells. <code>"fit"</code> calculates fitted plating efficiencies as model parameters, <code>"fix"</code> uses fixed ones calculated from the observed zero dose data or from a column named <code>pe</code> in <code>X</code> .

Details

In the data frame `X`, `Exp` identifies the experimental replicates and may be numeric or non-numeric. `method="ml"` uses R function `glm` with quasipoisson family and link function `"log"`. `method="ls"` uses R function `lm`. `PEmethod="fit"` fits plating efficiencies for every experiments. `PEmethod="fix"` uses observed plating efficiencies. If there is no 0-value in the dose-column, `PEmethod` is overwritten with `"fix"` and `X` has to contain a further column `pe` containing the plating efficiencies, i.e. `ncolonies/ncells` from untreated cells, not per hundred or percent.

Value

The function returns an object of class `cellsurvLQfit`, which is similar to classes `glm` or `lm`, however containing two additional entries, `type` and `PEmethod`, which are used for printing and plotting. The full result is returned invisibly, i.e. the function has to be used with `print` or `plot` or assigned to a variable, say for e.g. `fit` as in the example below.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

References

Franken NAP, Rodermond HM, Stap J, et al. Clonogenic assay of cells in vitro. Nature Protoc 2006;1:2315-19.

See Also

`glm` and `family` with references for generalized linear modelling, `lm`

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X<- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")
fit<- cellsurvLQfit(X) #using default options
print(fit)
print(fit$type)
print(fit$PEmethod)
```

```
#Using other options:
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, method="ls"))
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, PEmethod="fix"))
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, method="ls", PEmethod="fix"))
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, method="franken"))
```

cfa2way

Two-way analysis for cell survival data

Description

The function does an ANOVA of cell survival data from experimental 2-way designs where a treatment factor is tested on a control and on an altered cell line or where two different simultaneous treatments are tested on cells from a common unaltered clone. The function is a wrapper for the R-function `glm`. `quasipoisson` family is used with link function "log", i.e. dependency of treatment factors is considered as logarithmically additive.

Usage

```
cfa2way(X, A, B, param="A/B", method="ml")
```

Arguments

X	a data frame which contains columns <code>Exp</code> , <code>ncells</code> , <code>ncolonies</code> and two further columns for the treatment variables, see details.
A	a character string containing the name of a treatment or cell line variable (first factor in the model)
B	a character string containing the name of a treatment or cell line variable (second factor in the model)
param	Controls the parametrization of the model. Options are "A/B" for B nested in A, "B/A" for A nested in B and "A*B" for interaction term.
method	determines the method used for the fit. "ml" is for maximum-likelihood, "ls" for least-squares.

Details

In the data frame X, `Exp` identifies the experimental replicates and may be numeric or non-numeric. The two treatment or cell line columns should have numeric values 0, 1, ... for 2, 3, ... levels. For e.g. if a column describes clonal alteration (transfection, knock-down etc.) by a gene then 0 means unaltered or control and 1 means altered. Similar if a column describes treatment with one dose then 0 means untreated and 1 treated. 2 would indicate another dose level from the same treatment drug without taking it as a continuous covariate as for cell survival curves for radiation.

Value

The function returns an object of class `cfa2way` containing three elements, `fit1`, `fit2` and `anv`. `fit1` and `fit2` are objects of class `glm` when `method="ml"` or of class `lm` when `method="ls"`. `fit1` has logarithmic additive parameters without interaction. `fit2` has logarithmic additive parameters and interaction. `anv` is of class `anova` and contains the F-test. The full result is returned invisibly, i.e. the function has to be used with `print` or assigned to a variable, say for e.g. `fitcomp` as in the example below.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

`glm` and `family` with references for generalized linear modelling.

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "exp2_2waycfa.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
names(datatab) # has columns "x5fuCis" and "siRNA"
fitcomp<- cfa2way(datatab, A="siRNA", B="x5fuCis", param="A/B")
print(fitcomp, labels=c(A="siRNA", B="x5fuCis"))
print(cfa2way(datatab, A="siRNA", B="x5fuCis", param="A/B", method="ls"))
```

pes

Calculation of plating efficiencies from a curve data set containing one specified curve

Description

The function calculates plating efficiencies, i.e. fractions of colonies per cell of untreated cells, for every experimental replicate in a data frame with one specified curve. For that, lines with zero dose ($dose = 0$) are extracted from the data frame.

Usage

`pes(X)`

Arguments

`X` A data frame which contains columns `Exp`, `dose`, `ncells`, `ncolonies`.

Details

In the data frame `X`, `Exp` identifies the experimental replicates and may be numeric or non-numeric.

Value

The function returns a data frame with three columns Exp, pe and S0, containing experiment identifiers (biological replicates), measured plating efficiencies and plating efficiencies fitted separately for each repeated experiments. Rows of the data frame are named for the different experiments.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

Examples

```
datatab <- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X <- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1") #Specification of curve
pes(X)
pes(subset(datatab, cline=="cal33") )
```

plot.cellsurvLQfit	<i>Plot of an LQ model fit</i>
--------------------	--------------------------------

Description

This function plots a cell survival curve derived from fitting an LQ model with function `cellsurvLQfit`

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'cellsurvLQfit'
plot(x, xlim = NULL, ylim = c(0.008, 1), xlab = "Dose (Gy)", ylab = "Survival (1 = 100%)", col=1, pch=1, add=FALSE, ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	an object of class <code>cellsurvLQfit</code> resulting from function <code>cellsurvLQfit</code> .
<code>xlim</code>	plot range for the x-axis. Default is the dose range of the data.
<code>ylim</code>	plot range for the y-axis. Default is from 0.008 to 1.0
<code>xlab</code>	label for the x-axis. Default is "Dose (Gy)".
<code>ylab</code>	label for the y-axis. Default is "Survival (1 = 100%)".
<code>col</code>	colour for plot. Default is <code>col = 1</code> .
<code>pch</code>	symbol for plotting points. Default is <code>pch = 1</code> .
<code>add</code>	logical; if TRUE add to an already existing plot, see curve .
<code>...</code>	further arguments to pass to R function <code>plot</code> .

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also[cellsurvLQfit](#)**Examples**

```

datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X<- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")
fit<- cellsurvLQfit(X)
plot(fit)
S0 <- pes(X)$S0
names(S0) <- pes(X)$Exp
sfpmean(X, S0) #values of plotted mean survival fractions and error bars
# add second plot
plot(cellsurvLQfit(subset(datatab, cline=="cal33")), col=2, add=TRUE)

```

plotExp

*Generic plotting of experimental repeats***Description**

Generic plotting of experimental repeats of cell survival data in separated plots. plotExp methods are defined for objects resulting from CFAssay functions [cellsurvLQfit](#) and [cfa2way](#).

Usage

```
plotExp(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	should be an object of class <code>cellsurvLQfit</code> or <code>cfa2way</code> , see details.
...	further arguments to pass to generic function <code>plotExp</code> , dependent of the class of the argument x.

Details

For other objects than of class `cellsurvLQfit` or `cfa2way`, [plot.default](#) will be called. In this version of CFAssay this will give an error message and a hint to use one of the two defined classes.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also[plotExp.cellsurvLQfit](#) and [plotExp.cfa2way](#)

Examples

```

datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X<- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")
fit<- cellsurvLQfit(X)
#pdf("okf6TERT1_experimental_plots.pdf")
  plotExp(fit)
#dev.off()
## Not run:
x <- 1
plotExp(X) #yields an error for this data type

## End(Not run)

```

plotExp.cellsurvLQfit *Diagnostic plots of LQ model versus experiments*

Description

This function plots the fit of an LQ model versus the fits of each experiment in a series of plots. It is recommended to direct it in a pdf-file.

Usage

```

## S3 method for class 'cellsurvLQfit'
plotExp(x, xlim = NULL, ylim = c(0.001, 1.5), xlab = "Dose (Gy)", ylab = "Survival (1 = 100%)", ...)

```

Arguments

x	an object of class <code>cellsurvLQfit</code> resulting from function cellsurvLQfit .
xlim	range of x axis (dose).
ylim	range of y-axis.
xlab	label of x-axis.
ylab	label of y-axis.
...	further arguments to pass to generic function <code>plotExp</code> .

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

`cellsurvLQfit`

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X<- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")
fit<- cellsurvLQfit(X)
print(fit)
#pdf("okf6TERT1_experimental_plots.pdf")
  plotExp(fit)
#dev.off()
```

plotExp.cfa2way	<i>Diagnostic plot of experimental replicates for two-way analysis of cell survival data</i>
-----------------	--

Description

This function plots the estimated means of a two-way ANOVA for each experiment in a series of plots. It is recommended to direct it in a pdf-file.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'cfa2way'
plotExp(x, labels=c(A="A",B="B"), ...)
```

Arguments

x	an R object of class cfa2way and resulting from function cfa2way .
labels	Labels for output description. These describe the meaning of A and of B.
...	further arguments to pass to generic function plotExp.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

[cfa2way](#)

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "exp2_2waycfa.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
names(datatab) # has columns "x5fuCis" and "siRNA"
fitcomp<- cfa2way(datatab, A="siRNA", B="x5fuCis", param="A/B")
print(fitcomp, labels=c(A="siRNA",B="x5fuCis"))
  pdf("TwoWay_experimental_plots.pdf")
    plotExp(fitcomp, labels=c(A="siRNA", B="x5fuCis"))
  dev.off()
```

plotExp.default	<i>Default function for plotting of experimental repeats</i>
-----------------	--

Description

plotExp.default is the formal default method of the generic [plotExp](#) function.

Usage

```
## Default S3 method:
plotExp(x, ...)
```

Arguments

x	should be an object of class <code>cellsurvLQfit</code> or <code>cfa2way</code> , see details.
...	further arguments to pass to generic function <code>plotExp</code> , dependent of the class of the argument x.

Details

In this version of CFAssay other objects than of class `cellsurvLQfit` or `cfa2way` this will give an error message and a hint to use one of the two defined classes.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

[plotExp.cellsurvLQfit](#) and [plotExp.cfa2way](#)

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X<- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")
fit<- cellsurvLQfit(X)
#pdf("okf6TERT1_experimental_plots.pdf")
  plotExp(fit)
#dev.off()
## Not run:
x <- 1
plotExp(X) #yields an error for this data type

## End(Not run)
```

print.cellsurvLQdiff	<i>Print test results of comparison of two linear-quadratic cell survival curves</i>
----------------------	--

Description

The function prints linear coefficients alpha and dose-squared coefficients beta of calculated with function `cellsurvLQdiff`. In addition quality statistics of the fit and ANOVA F-test results for overall comparison of the coefficients are printed.

Usage

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

Arguments

x	an object of class <code>cellsurvLQdiff</code> resulting from function <code>cellsurvLQdiff</code> .
...	further arguments to pass to R function <code>print</code> .

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

[cellsurvLQdiff](#)

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")  
fitcomp<- cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline") #using default options  
print(fitcomp)  
#using different options for cellsurvLQdiff:  
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", method="ls"))  
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", PEmethod="fix"))  
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", method="ls", PEmethod="fix"))  
print(cellsurvLQdiff(datatab, curvevar="cline", method="franken"))
```

print.cellsurvLQfit *Print summary of an LQ-model fit for cell survival data*

Description

The function prints the results of an LQ-model fit for radiation dose dependent cell survival.

Usage

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

Arguments

x an object of class cellsurvLQfit resulting from [cellsurvLQfit](#).
... further arguments to pass to R function print.

Details

In this version of CFAssay the class argument x is checked by its entry fit\$type and results in an error, when x results from an independent use of [glm](#) or [lm](#).

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

[cellsurvLQfit](#)

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")  
X<- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")  
fit<- cellsurvLQfit(X) #using default options  
print(fit)  
print(fit$type)  
print(fit$PEmethod)  
#using other options  
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, method="ls"))  
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, PEmethod="fix"))  
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, method="ls", PEmethod="fix"))  
print(cellsurvLQfit(X, method="franken"))
```

<code>print.cfa2way</code>	<i>Print summary of two-way analysis for cell survival data.</i>
----------------------------	--

Description

The function prints a summary of two-way analysis for cell survival data.

Usage

```
## S3 method for class 'cfa2way'
print(x, labels=c(A="A",B="B"), ...)
```

Arguments

<code>x</code>	an R object of class <code>cfa2way</code> and resulting from function <code>cfa2way</code> .
<code>labels</code>	labels for output description. These describe the meaning of A and of B.
<code>...</code>	further arguments to pass to R function <code>print</code> .

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

[cfa2way](#)

Examples

```
datatab<- read.table(system.file("doc", "exp2_2waycfa.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
names(datatab) # has columns "x5fuCis" and "siRNA"
fitcomp<- cfa2way(datatab, A="siRNA", B="x5fuCis", param="A/B")
print(fitcomp, labels=c(A="siRNA",B="x5fuCis"))
```

<code>sfpmean</code>	<i>Pointwise mean survival fractions for curves with several experimental replicates</i>
----------------------	--

Description

The function calculates mean survival fractions for curves averaged over experimental replicates. The function is employed by function `plot.cellsurvLQfit` for plotting observed means

Usage

```
sfpmean(X, S0=NULL)
```

Arguments

X	A data frame which contains columns Exp, dose, ncells, ncolonies and if S0=NULL, X has to contain a further column pe for plating efficiencies.
S0	If not NULL, a named numerical vector of length equal to the number of different experiments, i.e. <code>length(S0)==length(unique(X\$Exp))</code> has to be TRUE. Default is S0=NULL, i.e. undefined.

Details

In the data frame X, Exp identifies the experimental replicates and may be numeric or non-numeric. S0 may contain plating efficiencies for each replicate, resulting from function [pes](#) or from [cellsurvLQfit](#) (fitted). When S0=NULL, X must have a column with name pe, containing the plating efficiencies.

Value

A numerical matrix with two rows, the first row containing the survival fractions for each radiation dose, second row the standard deviations.

Author(s)

Herbert Braselmann

See Also

[pes](#), [cellsurvLQfit](#), [plot.cellsurvLQfit](#)

Examples

```
datatab <- read.table(system.file("doc", "expl1_cellsurvcurves.txt", package="CFAssay"), header=TRUE, sep="\t")
X <- subset(datatab, cline=="okf6TERT1")
## S0 from data with fuction pes
S0 <- pes(X)$pe #observed plating efficiencies
length(S0)==length(unique(X$Exp)) #length ok?
names(S0) <- pes(X)$Exp
sfpmean(X, S0)
## Not run:
## S0 from LQ model fit
fit <- cellsurvLQfit(X)
fit$coef #contains fitted log-pe
grep("Exp",names(fit$coef))
S01 <- exp(fit$coef[1:8]) #fitted pe
sfpmean(X, S01) #names of S01 still to adjust!

## End(Not run)
## Not run: sfpmean(X) #yields an error for this data set
```

Index

anova, [3](#), [6](#)

cellsurvLQdiff, [2](#), [12](#)

cellsurvLQfit, [3](#), [3](#), [7–9](#), [13](#), [15](#)

cfa2way, [5](#), [8](#), [10](#), [14](#)

curve, [7](#)

family, [3](#), [4](#), [6](#)

glm, [2–4](#), [6](#), [13](#)

lm, [2](#), [4](#), [13](#)

pes, [6](#), [15](#)

plot.cellsurvLQfit, [7](#), [15](#)

plot.default, [8](#)

plotExp, [8](#), [11](#)

plotExp.cellsurvLQfit, [8](#), [9](#), [11](#)

plotExp.cfa2way, [8](#), [10](#), [11](#)

plotExp.default, [11](#)

print.cellsurvLQdiff, [12](#)

print.cellsurvLQfit, [13](#)

print.cfa2way, [14](#)

sfpmean, [14](#)