

# Package ‘ncdfFlow’

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**Title** ncdfFlow: A package that provides ncdf based storage for flow cytometry data.

**Version** 1.4.3

**Author** Mike Jiang,Greg Finak,N. Gopalakrishnan

**Description**

Provides netCDF storage based methods and functions for manipulation of flow cytometry data.

**Maintainer** M. Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

**Depends** R (>= 2.14.0), flowCore

**Imports** Biobase,flowCore,flowViz,methods

**License** Artistic-2.0

**SystemRequirements** netcdf 4.0.1, hdf5

**biocViews** FlowCytometry

**Collate** AllGeneric.R AllClasses.R AllFunctions.R

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ncdfFlow-package	<i>ncdfFlow: A package that provides netCDF storage based flow cytometry data analysis.</i>
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### Description

Define important flow cytometry data classes: `ncdfFlowSet` ( a subclass of `flowSet`) and `ncdfFlowList`(a list of `ncdfFlowSet` object) and their accessors.

Provide important compensation,transformation,filter,gating,subsetting,splitting functions for data analysis of large volumns of flow cytometry data that is too big to be held in memory.

### Details

Package:	ncdfFlow
Version:	0.99.4
Date:	2011-08-02
Depends:	R (>= 2.8.1), flowCore
License:	Artistic-2.0

### Author(s)

Mike Jiang,Greg Finak,N.Gopalakrishnan

Maintainer: Mike Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

### References

<http://www.rglab.org/>

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addFrame-methods	<i>add/replace the data in ncdfFlowSet</i>
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### Description

Add one flowFrame to the ncdfFlowSet.

### Usage

```
addFrame(ncfs,data,sampleName)
```

### Arguments

ncfs	a ncdfFlowSet object
data	a flowFrame to be added
sampleName	a character object with the name of the target sample

**Details**

The dimensions of the flowFrame to be added has to match the target sample data in ncdfFlowSet. It updates the target sample data if it already exists in ncdfFlowSet object.

**Author(s)**

Mike Jiang, Greg Finak, N. Gopalakrishnan  
 Maintainer: Mike Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

**See Also**

[read.ncdfFlowSet](#)

**Examples**

```
path<-system.file("extdata","compdata","data",package="flowCore")
files<-list.files(path,full.names=TRUE)[1:3]

##create empty ncdfFlowSet from fcs
nc1 <- read.ncdfFlowSet(files=files,ncdfFile="ncfsTest.nc",flowSetId="fs1",isWriteSlice= FALSE)
fs1<-read.flowSet(files);
#add the actual data slices afterwards
addFrame(nc1,fs1[[1]],sampleNames(fs1)[1])
nc1[[1]]##show the added flowFrame
nc1[[2]]##show empty flowFrame
```

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clone.ncdfFlowSet	<i>Clone a ncdfFlowSet</i>
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**Description**

Create a new ncdfFlowSet object from an existing one

**Usage**

```
clone.ncdfFlowSet(ncfs,fileName=NULL,isEmpty=TRUE,
isNew=TRUE,isSaveMeta=FALSE)
```

**Arguments**

ncfs	A <a href="#">ncdfFlowSet</a> .
isNew	A logical scalar indicating whether the new cdf file should be created. If FALSE, the original cdf file is associated with the new ncdfFlowSet object.
fileName	A character scalar giving the output file name. By default, It is NULL and the function will generate a random file name, potentially adding the .cdf suffix unless a file extension is already present. It is only valid when isNewNcFile=TRUE
isEmpty	A logical scalar indicating whether the raw data should also be copied. If FALSE, an empty cdf file is created with the same dimensions (sample*events*channels) as the original one.
isSaveMeta	A logical scalar indicating whether the meta data other than raw data should be saved in cdf. It should be set as TRUE if the entire ncdfFlowSet is going to be loaded by <a href="#">ncdfFlowSet_open,character-method</a> .

**Value**

A ncdfFlowSet object

**Author(s)**

Mike Jiang, Greg Finak, N. Gopalakrishnan  
 Maintainer: Mike Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

**See Also**

[read.ncdfFlowSet](#)

**Examples**

```
library(ncdfFlow)

path<-system.file("extdata","compdata","data",package="flowCore")
files<-list.files(path,full.names=TRUE)[1:3]

#create ncdfFlowSet from fcs
nc1 <- read.ncdfFlowSet(isSaveMeta=FALSE,files=files,ncdfFile="ncfsTest.nc",flowSetId="fs1",isWriteSlice= TRUE)

##clone the ncdfFlowSet object,by default the actual raw data is not added
nc2<-clone.ncdfFlowSet(nc1,"clone.nc")
nc2[[1]]

#add the actual raw data
fs1 <- read.flowSet(files=files)
addFrame(nc2,fs1[[1]],sampleNames(fs1)[1])
nc2[[1]]

#delete the cdf file associated with ncdfFlowSet before removing it from memory
ncfsUnlink(nc2)
rm(nc2)

ncfsUnlink(nc1)
rm(nc1)
```

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ncdfFlowList-class      *'ncdfFlowList': a class that stores multiple ncdfFlowSet objects*

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**Description**

It is a list of ncdfFlowSet objects

**Objects from the Class**

Objects can be created using `new("ncdfFlowList", sampleNames = ..., #character of sample names  
 datalist = ... #a list of ncdfFlowSet objects )`

or visa the constructor, which takes a list of ncdfFlowSet objects: `ncdfFlowList(ncdfList)`

**Slots**

**sampleNames:** character of sample names  
**datalist:** a list of ncdfFlowSet objects

**Methods**

[ return a list of ncdfFlowSets  
 [[ return a specific ncdfFlowset object  
**show** display object summary.  
**sampleNames** Extract and replace sample names from the phenoData object.  
**colnames** Extract or replace the colnames slot.  
**ncfsUnlink** delete the cdf files associated with ncdfFlowSet objects contained in current ncdf-FlowList

**Author(s)**

Mike Jiang, Greg Finak, N. Gopalakrishnan  
 Maintainer: Mike Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

**See Also**

[ncdfFlowSet](#)

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ncdfFlowSet-class	<i>'ncdfFlowSet': a class for storing flow cytometry raw data in netCDF format</i>
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**Description**

This class is a subclass of [flowSet](#). It stores the raw data in cdf file instead of memory so that the analysis tools provided by flowCore based packages can be used in the study that produces hundreds or thousands FCS files.

**Objects from the Class**

Objects can be created by using: [read.ncdfFlowSet](#), [clone.ncdfFlowSet](#)  
 or `ncdfFlowSet( x, #x is a flowSet fileName #the output cdf file name )`

**Slots**

**file:** A character containing the ncdf file name.  
**maxEvents:** An integer containing the maximum number of events of all samples stored in this ncdfFlowSet object  
**flowSetId:** A character for the id of ncdfFlowSet object  
**indices:** Object of class "environment" containing events indices of each sample stored as "raw" vector. Each index value is either TRUE or FALSE and the entire indices vector is used to subset the raw data. the indices vector of each sample is NA by default when the ncdfFlowSet first created. It is assigned with actual value when ncdfFlowSet object is subsetted by [Subset](#) or other subsetting methods.

**origSampleVector:** A character vector containing the sample names, which indicates the original order of samples physically stored in cdf format

**origColnames:** A character vector containing the flow channel names, which indicates the original order of columns physically stored in cdf format

**frames:** Object of class "environment" which replicates the "frame" slot in [flowSet](#), except that [exprs](#) matrix is empty and the actual data is stored in cdf file.

**phenoData:** see [phenoData](#)

**colnames:** see [colnames](#). Here it serves as the current data view which does not reflect the actual number and order of columns stored in cdf file.

## Extends

Class "[flowSet](#)", directly.

## Methods

Most of the other [flowSet](#) methods are not listed here, but they all work as the same due to its inheritance from [flowSet](#). Please see for more [flowSet](#) details for these methods.

**addFrame** add or replace the [flowFrame](#) in [ncdfFlowSet](#). See [addFrame](#) for more details

*Usage:*

```
addFrame(ncfs,data,sampleName)
```

[,][ Subsetting. similar to [,] for [flowSet](#).

**getIndices** extract the event indices of one or multiple samples from [ncdfFlowSet](#), return a logical vector.

*Usage:*

```
getIndices(ncfs,sampleName)
```

**initIndices** initialize the event indices for the entire [ncdfFlowSet](#) with either an NA or TRUE/FALSE logical value

*Usage:*

```
initIndices(ncfs,y)
```

**updateIndices** update the event indices of the target sample in [ncdfFlowSet](#)

*Usage:*

```
updateIndices(ncfs,sampleName,y)
```

**ncdfFlowSet\_open** load the [ncdfFlowSet](#) object from the cdf file, return a [ncdfFlowSet](#) object

*Usage:*

```
ncdfFlowSet_open(filename)
```

Note that in order to successfully recover the entire [ncdfFlowSet](#) object, the [phenoData](#) has to be already saved in cdf either by explicitly calling [ncdfFlowSet\\_sync](#) or setting `isSaveMeta` as TRUE when [ncdfFlowSet](#) is created by `link{read.ncdfFlowSet}` or `link{clone.ncdfFlowSet}`

**ncdfFlowSet** create [ncdfFlowSet](#) from a [flowSet](#) object

*Usage:*

```
ncdfFlowSet(fs1)
```

Note that only [flowSet](#) can be coerced to [ncdfFlowSet](#), attempt to apply this method to [flowFrame](#) will get an error message.

**ncdfFlowSet\_sync** save [phenoData](#) to cdf file.

*Usage:*

```
ncdfFlowSet_sync(filename)
```

**ncfsUnlink** delete the netCDF file associated with the ncdfFlowSet object

*Usage:*

```
ncfsUnlink(ncfs)
```

Note that ncdfFlowSet object is unrecoverable after cdf is deleted. So this method is usually called when ncdfFlowSet object is no longer in need.

**ncdfExprs** Extract or replace the raw data intensities, equivalent to [exprs](#). It reads the data matrix from cdf file instead of memory.

*Usage:*

```
ncdfExprs(ncfs,sampleName, channel,subByIndice)
```

**NcdfFlowSetToFlowSet** convert a subset of ncdfFlowSet to flowSet.

*Usage:*

```
NcdfFlowSetToFlowSet(ncfs,top)
```

Argument top specifies the number of samples evenly selected from ncdfFlowSet.

**ncfsApply** equivalent to [fsApply](#)., which could cause memory issue due to the. So ncfsApply will return a ncdfFlowSet object.

*Usage:*

```
ncfsApply(x="ncdfFlowSet",FUN="ANY")
```

Note that the function given by argument "FUN" should return an entire flowFrame object with the same size of the original one(such as compensate,transform...) Otherwise,[fsApply](#) should be used instead.

**rbind2** similar to [flowCore:rbind2](#). It returns a new ncdfFlowSet with a new cdf file that combines two raw datasets. It is recommended to construct a ncdfFlowList and apply rbind2 to it directly when combining more than two ncdfFlowSets. Because using "do.call" on a list ncdfFlowSets will create one cdf file for every two ncdfFlowSets, which is not efficient.

**split** equivalent to [flowCore:split](#). It returns a new ncdfFlowSet object without creating new cdf raw data file but assigning logical indices to subset the original raw data.

**Subset** equivalent to [flowCore:Subset](#). It returns a new ncdfFlowSet object without creating new cdf raw data file but assigning logical indices to subset the original raw data.

**densityplot,xyplot** equivalent to [flowViz:densityplot](#) and [flowViz:xyplot](#). User need to be careful about applying these plot methods to ncdfFlowSet because it could be slow for large number of flow data.

### Author(s)

Mike Jiang, Greg Finak, N. Gopalakrishnan

Maintainer: Mike Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

### See Also

[flowSet](#), [read.ncdfFlowSet](#), [ncdfFlowList](#)

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read.ncdfFlowSet      *create ncdfFlowSet from FCS files*

---

### Description

read FCS files from the disk and load them into a ncdfFlowSet object

### Usage

```
read.ncdfFlowSet(files = NULL,ncdfFile,flowSetId,
isWriteSlice=TRUE,isSaveMeta=FALSE,phenoData)
```

### Arguments

files	A character vector giving the source FCS raw file paths.
ncdfFile	A character scalar giving the output file name. By default, It is NULL and the function will generate a random file name, potentially adding the .cdf suffix unless a file extension is already present. It is only valid when isNewNcFile=TRUE
flowSetId	A character scalar giving the unique ncdfFlowSet ID.
isWriteSlice	A logical scalar indicating whether the raw data should also be copied.if FALSE, an empty cdf file is created with the dimensions (sample*events*channels) supplied by raw FCS files.
isSaveMeta	A logical scalar indicating whether the meta data other than raw data should be saved in cdf. It should be set as TRUE if the entire ncdfFlowSet is going to be loaded by <a href="#">ncdfFlowSet_open,character-method</a> .
phenoData	An object of AnnotatedDataFrame providing a way to manually set the phenotypic data for the whole data set in ncdfFlowSet.

### Value

A ncdfFlowSet object

### Author(s)

Mike Jiang,Greg Finak,N.Gopalakrishnan  
Maintainer: Mike Jiang <wjiang2@fhcrc.org>

### See Also

[clone.ncdfFlowSet](#)

### Examples

```
library(ncdfFlow)

path<-system.file("extdata","compdata","data",package="flowCore")
files<-list.files(path,full.names=TRUE)[1:3]

#create ncdfFlowSet from fcs with the actual raw data written in cdf
nc1 <- read.ncdfFlowSet(isSaveMeta=FALSE,files=files,ncdfFile="ncfsTest.nc",flowSetId="fs1",isWriteSlice= TRUE)
nc1
```

```
nc1[[1]]
ncfsUnlink(nc1)
rm(nc1)

#create empty ncdfFlowSet from fcs and add data slices afterwards
nc1 <- read.ncdfFlowSet(files=files,ncdfFile="ncfsTest.nc",flowSetId="fs1",isWriteSlice= FALSE)
fs1<-read.flowSet(files)
addFrame(nc1,fs1[[1]],sampleNames(fs1)[1])
nc1[[1]]
nc1[[2]]
```

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