

# Package ‘MultiAssayExperiment’

November 27, 2020

**Title** Software for the integration of multi-omics experiments in Bioconductor

**Version** 1.16.0

**Description** MultiAssayExperiment harmonizes data management of multiple experimental assays performed on an overlapping set of specimens. It provides a familiar Bioconductor user experience by extending concepts from SummarizedExperiment, supporting an open-ended mix of standard data classes for individual assays, and allowing subsetting by genomic ranges or rownames. Facilities are provided for reshaping data into wide and long formats for adaptability to graphing and downstream analysis.

**Depends** R (>= 4.0.0), SummarizedExperiment (>= 1.3.81)

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'MatchedAssayExperiment-class.R' 'subsetBy-methods.R'  
'MultiAssayExperiment-subset.R'  
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'MultiAssayExperiment-helpers.R' 'MultiAssayExperiment-pkg.R'  
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'mapToList.R' 'prepMultiAssay.R' 'reexports.R' 'upsetSamples.R'  
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MultiAssayExperiment-package

*MultiAssayExperiment: Build an integrative multi-assay container*

---

## Description

MultiAssayExperiment allows the manipulation of related multiassay datasets with partially overlapping samples, associated metadata at the level of an entire study, and at the level of the "biological unit". The biological unit may be a patient, plant, yeast strain, etc.

## Details

The package hierarchy of information:

- study
- experiments
- samples

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- MultiAssay SIG <biocmultiassay@googlegroups.com> [contributor]

**See Also**

Useful links:

- <http://waldronlab.io/MultiAssayExperiment/>
- Report bugs at <https://github.com/waldronlab/MultiAssayExperiment/issues>

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ExperimentList

*Represent multiple experiments as a List-derivative* ExperimentList

---

**Description**

The ExperimentList class can contain several different types of data. The only requirements for an ExperimentList class are that the objects contained have the following set of methods: dim, [, dimnames

**Usage**

```
ExperimentList(...)
```

**Arguments**

...                    A named list class object

**Value**

A ExperimentList class object of experiment data

**Examples**

```
## Create an empty ExperimentList instance
ExperimentList()

## Create array matrix and AnnotatedDataFrame to create an ExpressionSet class
arraydat <- matrix(data = seq(101, length.out = 20), ncol = 4,
  dimnames = list(
    c("ENST00000294241", "ENST00000355076",
      "ENST00000383706", "ENST00000234812", "ENST00000383323"),
    c("array1", "array2", "array3", "array4")
  ))

colDat <- data.frame(slope53 = rnorm(4),
  row.names = c("array1", "array2", "array3", "array4"))
```

```

## SummarizedExperiment constructor
exprdat <- SummarizedExperiment::SummarizedExperiment(arraydat,
  colData = colDat)

## Create a sample methylation dataset
methyldat <- matrix(data = seq(1, length.out = 25), ncol = 5,
  dimnames = list(
    c("ENST00000355076", "ENST00000383706",
      "ENST00000383323", "ENST00000234812", "ENST00000294241"),
    c("methy11", "methy12", "methy13",
      "methy14", "methy15")
  ))

## Create a sample RNASeqGene dataset
rnadat <- matrix(
  data = sample(c(46851, 5, 19, 13, 2197, 507,
    84318, 126, 17, 21, 23979, 614), size = 20, replace = TRUE),
  ncol = 4,
  dimnames = list(
    c("XIST", "RPS4Y1", "KDM5D", "ENST00000383323", "ENST00000234812"),
    c("samparray1", "samparray2", "samparray3", "samparray4")
  ))

## Create a mock RangedSummarizedExperiment from a data.frame
rangedat <- data.frame(chr="chr2", start = 11:15, end = 12:16,
  strand = c("+", "-", "+", "*", "."),
  samp0 = c(0,0,1,1,1), samp1 = c(1,0,1,0,1), samp2 = c(0,1,0,1,0),
  row.names = c(paste0("ENST", "00000", 135411:135414), "ENST00000383323"))

rangeSE <- SummarizedExperiment::makeSummarizedExperimentFromDataFrame(rangedat)

## Combine to a named list and call the ExperimentList constructor function
assayList <- list(Affy = exprdat, Methy1450k = methyldat, RNASeqGene = rnadat,
  GISTIC = rangeSE)

## Use the ExperimentList constructor
ExpList <- ExperimentList(assayList)

```

---

ExperimentList-class *ExperimentList* - A container for multi-experiment data The ExperimentList class is a container that builds on the SimpleList with additional checks for consistency in experiment names and length. It contains a SimpleList of experiments with sample identifiers. One element present per experiment performed. Convert from SimpleList or list to the multi-experiment data container. When using the **mergeReplicates** method, additional arguments are passed to the given simplify function argument (e.g., *na.rm = TRUE*)

---

## Description

ExperimentList - A container for multi-experiment data

The `ExperimentList` class is a container that builds on the `SimpleList` with additional checks for consistency in experiment names and length. It contains a `SimpleList` of experiments with sample identifiers. One element present per experiment performed.

Convert from `SimpleList` or `list` to the multi-experiment data container. When using the **mergeReplicates** method, additional arguments are passed to the given `simplify` function argument (e.g., `na.rm = TRUE`)

### Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
show(object)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
isEmpty(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
dimnames(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
mergeReplicates(x, replicates = list(), simplify = BiocGenerics::mean, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY,missing'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
assays(x, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,missing'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,numeric'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,character'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)
```

### Arguments

<code>object, x</code>	An <code>ExperimentList</code> object
<code>replicates</code>	<code>mergeReplicates</code> : A list or <code>LogicalList</code> where each element represents a sample and a vector of repeated measurements for the sample
<code>simplify</code>	A function for merging columns where duplicates are indicated by replicates
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments. See details for more information.
<code>i</code>	A scalar character or integer index
<code>withDimnames</code>	logical (default <code>TRUE</code> ) whether to return dimension names

### Value

An `ExperimentList` class object

**Methods (by generic)**

- show: Show method for [ExperimentList](#) class
- isEmpty: check for zero length across all experiments
- dimnames: Get the dimension names for an ExperimentList using [CharacterList](#)
- mergeReplicates: Apply the mergeReplicates method on the ExperimentList elements
- assay: Obtain the specified assay with a numeric or character reference
- assays: Get the assay data from each element in the [ExperimentList](#)

**coercion**

Convert a list or S4 List to an ExperimentList using the `as()` function.

In the following example, `x` is either a list or [List](#):

```
\code{as(x, "ExperimentList")}
```

**Examples**

```
ExperimentList()
```

---

hasAssay

*Checking assay method for any class*

---

**Description**

The `hasAssay` function is intended for developers who would like to include new classes into a `MultiAssayExperiment` instance. It checks the methods tables of the assay function for the specified class of the argument.

**Usage**

```
hasAssay(object)
```

**Arguments**

`object`            A `MultiAssayExperiment` or named list object instance

**Value**

A logical value indicating method availability

**Examples**

```
lst <- structure(list(), .Names=character())
hasAssay(lst)
```

---

listToMap	<i>Convert map from data.frame or DataFrame to list and vice versa</i>
-----------	--

---

### Description

The `mapToList` function provides a convenient way of reordering a `data.frame` to a `list`. The `listToMap` function does the opposite by taking a `list` and converting it to `DataFrame`.

### Usage

```
listToMap(listmap)
```

```
mapToList(dfmap, assayCol = "assay")
```

### Arguments

<code>listmap</code>	A named <code>list</code> object containing <code>DataFrames</code> with "primary" and "colname" columns
<code>dfmap</code>	A <code>data.frame</code> or <code>DataFrame</code> object with identifiers in the first column
<code>assayCol</code>	A character vector of length one indicating the assay names column

### Value

A `DataFrame` class object of names

A `list` object of `DataFrames` for each assay

### Functions

- `listToMap`: The inverse of the `listToMap` operation

### Examples

```
example("MultiAssayExperiment")

## Create a sampleMap from a list using the listToMap function
sampMap <- listToMap(maplist)

## The inverse operation is also available
maplist <- mapToList(sampMap)
```

---

MatchedAssayExperiment-class

*MatchedAssayExperiment* - A *matched-samples MultiAssayExperiment* class

---

### Description

This class supports the use of matched samples where an equal number of observations per biological unit are present in all assays.

### Usage

```
MatchedAssayExperiment(...)
```

### Arguments

... Either a single `MultiAssayExperiment` or the components to create a valid `MultiAssayExperiment`

### Value

A `MatchedAssayExperiment` object

### Functions

- `MatchedAssayExperiment`: Construct a `MatchedAssayExperiment` class from [MultiAssayExperiment](#)

### See Also

[MultiAssayExperiment](#)

### Examples

```
data("miniACC")
acc <- as(miniACC, "MatchedAssayExperiment")
acc
```

---

miniACC

*Adrenocortical Carcinoma (ACC) MultiAssayExperiment*

---

### Description

A [MultiAssayExperiment](#) object providing a reduced version of the TCGA ACC dataset for all 92 patients. RNA-seq, copy number, and somatic mutations are included only for genes whose proteins are included in the reverse-phase protein array. The MicroRNA-seq dataset is also included, with infrequently expressed microRNA removed. Clinical, pathological, and subtype information are provided by `colData(miniACC)`, and some additional details are provided by `metadata(miniACC)`.



**Usage**

```
miniACC
```

**Format**

A MultiAssayExperiment with 5 experiments, providing:

**RNASeq2GeneNorm** RNA-seq count data: an ExpressionSet with 198 rows and 79 columns

**gistic2** Recurrent copy number lesions identified by GISTIC2: a SummarizedExperiment with 198 rows and 90 columns

**RPPAArray** Reverse Phase Protein Array: an ExpressionSet with 33 rows and 46 columns. Rows are indexed by genes, but protein annotations are available from `featureData(miniACC[["RPPAArray"]])`. The source of these annotations is noted in `abstract(miniACC[["RPPAArray"]])`

**Mutations** Somatic mutations: a matrix with 223 rows and 90 columns. 1 for any kind of non-silent mutation, zero for silent (synonymous) or no mutation.

**miRNASeqGene** microRNA sequencing: an ExpressionSet with 471 rows and 80 columns. Rows not having at least 5 counts in at least 5 samples were removed.

**Author(s)**

Levi Waldron <lwaldron.research@gmail.com>

**Source**

<https://github.com/waldronlab/multiassayexperiment-tcga>

**References**

Zheng S \*et al.\*: Comprehensive Pan-Genomic Characterization of Adrenocortical Carcinoma. Cancer Cell 2016, 29:723-736.

**Examples**

```
miniACC
metadata(miniACC)
colnames(colData(miniACC))
table(miniACC$vital_status)
longFormat(
  miniACC["MAPK3", , ],
  colDataCols = c("vital_status", "days_to_death")
)

wideFormat(
  miniACC["MAPK3", , ],
  colDataCols = c("vital_status", "days_to_death")
)
```

---

MultiAssayExperiment *Construct an integrative representation of multi-omic data with MultiAssayExperiment*

---

## Description

The constructor function for the [MultiAssayExperiment-class](#) combines multiple data elements from the different hierarchies of data (study, experiments, and samples). It can create instances where neither a `sampleMap` or a `colData` set is provided. Please see the [MultiAssayExperiment API documentation](#) for more information.

## Usage

```
MultiAssayExperiment(
  experiments = ExperimentList(),
  colData = S4Vectors::DataFrame(),
  sampleMap = S4Vectors::DataFrame(assay = factor(), primary = character(), colname =
    character()),
  metadata = list(),
  drops = list()
)
```

## Arguments

<code>experiments</code>	A list or <a href="#">ExperimentList</a> of all combined experiments
<code>colData</code>	A <a href="#">DataFrame</a> or <code>data.frame</code> of characteristics for all biological units
<code>sampleMap</code>	A <code>DataFrame</code> or <code>data.frame</code> of assay names, sample identifiers, and <code>colname</code> samples
<code>metadata</code>	An optional argument of "ANY" class (usually list) for content describing the experiments
<code>drops</code>	A list of unmatched information (included after subsetting)

## Value

A `MultiAssayExperiment` object that can store experiment and phenotype data

## See Also

[MultiAssayExperiment-class](#)

## Examples

```
## Run the example ExperimentList
example("ExperimentList")

## Create sample maps for each experiment
exprmap <- data.frame(
  primary = c("Jack", "Jill", "Barbara", "Bob"),
  colname = c("array1", "array2", "array3", "array4"),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE)
```

```

methylmap <- data.frame(
  primary = c("Jack", "Jack", "Jill", "Barbara", "Bob"),
  colname = c("methyl1", "methyl2", "methyl3", "methyl4", "methyl5"),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE)

rnamap <- data.frame(
  primary = c("Jack", "Jill", "Bob", "Barbara"),
  colname = c("smparray1", "smparray2", "smparray3", "smparray4"),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE)

gistmap <- data.frame(
  primary = c("Jack", "Bob", "Jill"),
  colname = c("smp0", "smp1", "smp2"),
  stringsAsFactors = FALSE)

## Combine as a named list and convert to a DataFrame
maplist <- list(Affy = exprmap, Methyl450k = methylmap,
  RNASeqGene = rnamap, GISTIC = gistmap)

## Create a sampleMap
sampMap <- listToMap(maplist)
## Create an example phenotype data
colDat <- data.frame(sex = c("M", "F", "M", "F"), age = 38:41,
  row.names = c("Jack", "Jill", "Bob", "Barbara"))

## Create a MultiAssayExperiment instance
mae <- MultiAssayExperiment(experiments = Explist, colData = colDat,
  sampleMap = sampMap)

```

---

MultiAssayExperiment-class

*MultiAssayExperiment* - An integrative multi-assay class for experiment data

---

## Description

The MultiAssayExperiment class can be used to manage results of diverse assays on a collection of specimen. Currently, the class can handle assays that are organized instances of [SummarizedExperiment](#), [ExpressionSet](#), matrix, [RaggedExperiment](#) (inherits from [GRangesList](#)), and [RangedVcfStack](#). Create new MultiAssayExperiment instances with the homonymous constructor, minimally with the argument [ExperimentList](#), potentially also with the arguments colData (see section below) and [sampleMap](#).

## Usage

```

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
show(object)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
length(x)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
names(x)

```

```

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
updateObject(object, ..., verbose = FALSE)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
dimnames(x)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
c(x, ..., sampleMap = NULL, mapFrom = NULL)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
exportClass(
  object,
  dir = tempdir(),
  fmt,
  ext,
  match = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE,
  ...
)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
assays(x, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,missing'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,numeric'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,character'
assay(x, i, withDimnames = TRUE, ...)

```

### Arguments

<code>object, x</code>	A <code>MultiAssayExperiment</code> object
<code>...</code>	Additional arguments for supporting functions. See details.
<code>verbose</code>	logical(1) Whether to print additional information (default TRUE)
<code>sampleMap</code>	c method: a <code>sampleMap</code> list or <code>DataFrame</code> to guide merge
<code>mapFrom</code>	Either a logical, character, or integer vector indicating the experiment(s) that have an identical colname order as the experiment input(s)
<code>dir</code>	character(1) A directory for saving exported data (default: <code>'tempdir()'</code> )
<code>fmt</code>	character(1) or function() Either a format character atomic as supported by <code>'write.table'</code> either ( <code>'csv'</code> , or <code>'tsv'</code> ) or a function whose first two arguments are <code>'object to save'</code> and <code>'file location'</code>
<code>ext</code>	character(1) A file extension supported by the format argument
<code>match</code>	logical(1) Whether to coerce the current object to a <code>'MatchedAssayExperiment'</code> object (default: FALSE)
<code>withDimnames</code>	logical (default TRUE) whether to return dimension names included in the object
<code>i</code>	An integer or character scalar indicating the assay to return

**Details**

The dots ( . . . ) argument allows the user to specify additional arguments in several instances.

- `subsetting []`: additional arguments sent to `findOverlaps`.
- `mergeReplicates`: used to specify arguments for the `simplify` functional argument
- `assay`: may contain `withDimnames`, which is forwarded to assays
- combining `c`: compatible `MultiAssayExperiment` classes passed on to the `ExperimentList` constructor, can be a list, `List`, or a series of named arguments. See the examples below.

**Value**

A `MultiAssayExperiment` object

**Methods (by generic)**

- `show`: Show method for a `MultiAssayExperiment`
- `length`: Get the length of `ExperimentList`
- `names`: Get the names of the `ExperimentList`
- `updateObject`: Update old serialized `MultiAssayExperiment` objects to new API
- `dimnames`: Get the dimension names for a `MultiAssayExperiment` object
- `c`: Add a supported data class to the `ExperimentList`
- `exportClass`: Export data from class to a series of text files
- `assays`: Obtain a `SimpleList` of assay data for all available experiments in the object
- `assay`: Convenience function for extracting the assay of the first element (default) in the `ExperimentList`. A numeric or character index can also be provided

**Slots**

`ExperimentList` A `ExperimentList` class object for each assay dataset

`colData` A `DataFrame` of all clinical/specimen data available across experiments

`sampleMap` A `DataFrame` of translatable identifiers of samples and participants

`metadata` Additional data describing the `MultiAssayExperiment` object

`drops` A metadata list of dropped information

**colData**

The `colData` slot is a collection of primary specimen data valid across all experiments. This slot is strictly of class `DataFrame` but arguments for the constructor function allow arguments to be of class `data.frame` and subsequently coerced.

**ExperimentList**

The `ExperimentList` slot is designed to contain results from each experiment/assay. It contains a `SimpleList`.

**sampleMap**

The `sampleMap` contains a `DataFrame` of translatable identifiers of samples and participants or biological units. Standard column names of the `sampleMap` are "assay", "primary", and "colname".

**coercion**

Convert a list or S4 List to a MultiAssayExperiment object using the `as` function.

In the following example, `x` is either a list or `List`:

```
`as(x, "MultiAssayExperiment")`
```

**See Also**

[MultiAssayExperiment-methods](#) for slot modifying methods [MultiAssayExperiment API](#)

**Examples**

```
example("MultiAssayExperiment")

## Subsetting
# Rows (i) Rows/Features in each experiment
mae[1, , ]
mae[c(TRUE, FALSE), , ]

# Columns (j) Rows in colData
mae[, rownames(colData(mae))[3:2], ]

# Assays (k)
mae[, , "Affy"]

## Complete cases (returns logical vector)
completes <- complete.cases(mae)
compMAE <- mae[, completes, ]
compMAE
colData(compMAE)

example("MultiAssayExperiment")

## Add an experiment
test1 <- mae[[1L]]
colnames(test1) <- rownames(colData(mae))

## Combine current MultiAssayExperiment with additional experiment
## (no sampleMap)
c(mae, newExperiment = test1)

test2 <- mae[[3L]]
c(mae, newExp = test2, mapFrom = 3L)
```

## Description

A set of helper functions were created to help clean and manipulate a `MultiAssayExperiment` object. `intersectRows` also works for `ExperimentList` objects.

- `complete.cases`: Returns a logical vector corresponding to 'colData' rows that have data across all experiments
- `isEmpty`: Returns a logical TRUE value for zero length `MultiAssayExperiment` objects
- `intersectRows`: Takes all common rows across experiments, excludes experiments with empty rownames
- `intersectColumns`: A wrapper for `complete.cases` to return a `MultiAssayExperiment` with only those biological units that have measurements across all experiments
- `replicated`: A function that identifies multiple samples that originate from a single biological unit within each assay
- `anyReplicated`: Displays which assays have replicate measurements
- `mergeReplicates`: A function that combines replicated / repeated measurements across all experiments and is guided by the `replicated` return value
- `longFormat`: A `MultiAssayExperiment` method that returns a small and skinny `DataFrame`. The `colDataCols` arguments allows the user to append `colData` columns to the data.
- `wideFormat`: A function to return a wide `DataFrame` where each row represents an observation. Optional `colDataCols` can be added when using a `MultiAssayExperiment`.
- `hasRowRanges`: A function that identifies `ExperimentList` elements that have a `rowRanges` method
- `getWithColData`: A convenience function for extracting an assay and associated `colData`

## Usage

```
## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
complete.cases(...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
isEmpty(x)

intersectRows(x)

intersectColumns(x)

replicated(x)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
replicated(x)

anyReplicated(x)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
anyReplicated(x)

mergeReplicates(x, replicates = list(), simplify = BiocGenerics::mean, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
```

```

mergeReplicates(
  x,
  replicates = replicated(x),
  simplify = BiocGenerics::mean,
  ...
)

## S4 method for signature 'ANY'
mergeReplicates(x, replicates = list(), simplify = BiocGenerics::mean, ...)

longFormat(object, colDataCols = NULL, i = 1L)

wideFormat(
  object,
  colDataCols = NULL,
  check.names = TRUE,
  collapse = "_",
  i = 1L
)

hasRowRanges(x)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
hasRowRanges(x)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
hasRowRanges(x)

getWithColData(x, i, mode = c("append", "replace"))

```

### Arguments

...	Additional arguments. See details for more information.
x	A <code>MultiAssayExperiment</code> or <code>ExperimentList</code>
replicates	A list of <a href="#">LogicalLists</a> indicating multiple / duplicate entries for each biological unit per assay, see <code>replicated</code> (default <code>replicated(x)</code> ).
simplify	A function for merging repeat measurements in experiments as indicated by the <code>replicated</code> method for <code>MultiAssayExperiment</code>
object	Any supported class object
colDataCols	A character, logical, or numeric index for <code>colData</code> columns to be included
i	The assay indicator for <a href="#">SummarizedExperiment</a> objects. A vector input is supported in the case that the <code>SummarizedExperiment</code> object(s) has more than one assay (default 1L)
check.names	(logical default TRUE) Column names of the output <code>DataFrame</code> will be checked for syntactic validity and made unique, if necessary
collapse	(character default "_") A single string delimiter for output column names. In <code>wideFormat</code> , experiments and rownames (and when replicate samples are present, colnames) are separated by this delimiter
mode	String indicating how <a href="#">MultiAssayExperiment</a> column-level metadata should be added to the <a href="#">SummarizedExperiment</a> <code>colData</code> .



## Details

The `replicated` function finds replicate measurements in each assay and returns a list of [LogicalLists](#). Each element in a single [LogicalList](#) corresponds to a biological or *primary* unit as in the `sampleMap`. Below is a small graphic for one particular biological unit in one assay, where the logical vector corresponds to the number of measurements/samples in the assay:

```
> replicated(MultiAssayExperiment)
(list str)      '-- $ AssayName
(LogicalList str)  '-- [[ "Biological Unit" ]]
Replicated if sum(...) > 1      '-- TRUE TRUE FALSE FALSE
```

`anyReplicated` determines if any of the assays have at least one replicate. *Note.* These methods are not available for the `ExperimentList` class due to a missing `sampleMap` structure (by design).

The `mergeReplicates` function is a house-keeping method for a `MultiAssayExperiment` where only `complete.cases` are returned. This by-assay operation averages replicate measurements (by default) and columns are aligned by the row order in `colData`. Users can provide their own function for merging replicates with the `simplify` functional argument. Additional inputs ... are sent to the 'simplify' function.

The `mergeReplicates` "ANY" method consolidates duplicate measurements for rectangular data structures, returns object of the same class (endomorph). The ellipsis or ... argument allows the user to provide additional arguments to the `simplify` functional argument.

The `longFormat` "ANY" class method, works with classes such as [ExpressionSet](#) and [SummarizedExperiment](#) as well as `matrix` to provide a consistent long and skinny [DataFrame](#).

The `hasRowRanges` method identifies assays that support a `rowRanges` method *and* return a [GRanges](#) object.

## Value

See the itemized list in the description section for details.

## mergeReplicates

The `mergeReplicates` function makes use of the output from `replicated` which will point out the duplicate measurements by biological unit in the `MultiAssayExperiment`. This function will return a `MultiAssayExperiment` with merged replicates. Additional arguments can be provided to the `simplify` argument via the ellipsis (...). For example, when replicates "TCGA-B" and "TCGA-A" are found in the assay, the name of the first appearing replicate is taken (i.e., "B"). Note that a typical use case of merging replicates occurs when there are multiple measurements on the **same** sample (within the same assay) and can therefore be averaged.

## longFormat

The `longFormat` method takes data from the [ExperimentList](#) in a `MultiAssayExperiment` and returns a uniform [DataFrame](#). The resulting `DataFrame` has columns indicating primary, rowname, colname and value. This method can optionally include `colData` columns with the `colDataCols` argument (`MultiAssayExperiment` method only). The `i` argument allows the user to specify the assay value in a [SummarizedExperiment](#). It directly relates to the `i` argument in the assay method.

**wideFormat**

The `wideFormat` function returns standardized wide `DataFrame` where each row represents a biological unit as in the `colData`. Depending on the data and setup, biological units can be patients, tumors, specimens, etc. Optionally, `colData` columns can be added to the wide data output (see the `colDataCols` argument). Metadata columns are generated based on the names produced in the wide format `DataFrame`. These can be accessed via the `mcols` function. See the `Arguments` and `longFormat` sections for argument descriptions.

**hasRowRanges**

The `hasRowRanges` method identifies assays with associated ranged row data by directly testing the method on the object. The result from the test must be a `GRanges` class object to satisfy the test.

**getWithColData**

The `getWithColData` function allows the user to conveniently extract a particular assay as indicated by the `i` index argument. It will also attempt to provide the `colData` along with the extracted object using the `colData<-` replacement method when possible. Typically, this method is available for `SummarizedExperiment` and `RaggedExperiment` classes.

The setting of `mode` determines how the `colData` is added. If `mode="append"`, the `MultiAssayExperiment` metadata is appended onto that of the `SummarizedExperiment`. If any fields are duplicated by name, the values in the `SummarizedExperiment` are retained, with a warning emitted if the values are different. For `mode="replace"`, the `MultiAssayExperiment` metadata replaces that of the `SummarizedExperiment`, while for `mode="none"`, no replacement or appending is performed.

**Examples**

```
example(MultiAssayExperiment)

complete.cases(mae)

isEmpty(MultiAssayExperiment())
```

---

MultiAssayExperiment-methods

*Accessing and modifying information in MultiAssayExperiment*

---

**Description**

A set of accessor and setter generic functions to extract either the `sampleMap`, the `ExperimentList`, `colData`, or metadata slots of a `MultiAssayExperiment` object

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
sampleMap(x)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
experiments(x)
```

```

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
colData(x, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
metadata(x)

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,DataFrame'
sampleMap(object) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY'
sampleMap(object) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ExperimentList'
experiments(object) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,DataFrame'
colData(x) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY'
colData(x) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
metadata(x, ...) <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
x$name <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
names(x) <- value

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
x$name

```

### Arguments

...	Argument not in use
object, x	A MultiAssayExperiment object
value	See details.
name	A column in colData

### Value

Accessors: Either a sampleMap, ExperimentList, or DataFrame object  
 Setters: A MultiAssayExperiment object

### Accessors

Eponymous names for accessing MultiAssayExperiment slots with the exception of the [ExperimentList](#) accessor named experiments.

- colData: Access the colData slot

- `sampleMap`: Access the `sampleMap` slot
- `experiments`: Access the `ExperimentList` slot
- `'[['`: Access the `ExperimentList` slot
- `'$'`: Access a column in `colData`

## Setters

Setter method values (i.e., 'function(x) <-value'):

- `experiments<-`: An `ExperimentList` object containing experiment data of supported classes
- `sampleMap<-`: A `DataFrame` object relating samples to biological units and assays
- `colData<-`: A `DataFrame` object describing the biological units
- `metadata<-`: A `list` object of metadata
- `'[[<-'`: Equivalent to the `experiments<-` setter method for convenience
- `'$<-'`: A vector to replace the indicated column in `colData`

## Examples

```
## Load example MultiAssayExperiment
example(MultiAssayExperiment)

## Access the sampleMap
sampleMap(mae)

## Replacement method for a MultiAssayExperiment sampleMap
sampleMap(mae) <- S4Vectors::DataFrame()

## Access the ExperimentList
experiments(mae)

## Replace with an empty ExperimentList
experiments(mae) <- ExperimentList()

## Access the metadata
metadata(mae)

## Replace metadata with a list
metadata(mae) <- list(runDate =
  format(Sys.time(), "%B %d, %Y"))

## Access the colData
colData(mae)

## Access a column in colData
mae$age

## Replace a column in colData
mae$age <- mae$age + 1
```

---

prepMultiAssay	<i>Prepare a MultiAssayExperiment instance</i>
----------------	--

---

## Description

The purpose of this helper function is to facilitate the creation of a `MultiAssayExperiment` object by detecting any inconsistencies with all types of names in either the `ExperimentList`, the `colData`, or `sampleMap`.

## Usage

```
prepMultiAssay(ExperimentList, colData, sampleMap, ...)
```

## Arguments

<code>ExperimentList</code>	A list of all combined experiments
<code>colData</code>	A <code>DataFrame</code> of the phenotype data for all participants
<code>sampleMap</code>	A <code>DataFrame</code> of sample identifiers, assay samples, and assay names
<code>...</code>	Optional arguments for the <code>MultiAssayExperiment</code> constructor function such as metadata and drops.

## Value

A list containing all the essential components of a `MultiAssayExperiment` as well as a "drops" metadata element that indicates non-matched names. The names of the resulting list correspond to the arguments of the `MultiAssayExperiment` constructor function.

## Checks

The `prepMultiAssay` function checks that all columns in the `sampleMap` are character.

It checks that all names and lengths match in both the `ExperimentList` and in the unique assay names of the `sampleMap`.

If `ExperimentList` names and assay names only differ by case and are not duplicated, the function will standardize all names to lowercase.

If names cannot be matched between the `colname` column of the `sampleMap` and the `colnames` of the `ExperimentList`, those unmatched will be dropped and found in the "drops" element of the resulting list.

Names in the "primary" column of the `sampleMap`, will be matched to those in the `colData`. Unmatched "primary" column rows will be dropped from the `sampleMap`. Suggestions for name fixes in either the `ExperimentList` or `colnames` will be made when necessary.

## Examples

```
## Run example
example("MultiAssayExperiment")

## Check if there are any inconsistencies within the different names
preparedMAE <- prepMultiAssay(ExpList, colDat, sampMap)

## Results in a list of components for the MultiAssayExperiment constructor
```

```
## function
MultiAssayExperiment(preparedMAE$experiments, preparedMAE$colData,
preparedMAE$sampleMap)

## Alternatively, use the do.call function
do.call(MultiAssayExperiment, preparedMAE)
```

---

reexports

*Objects exported from other packages*


---

### Description

These objects are imported from other packages. Click on the function name to see their documentation.

- S4Vectors: [DataFrame](#)

### Examples

```
DataFrame()
```

---

subsetBy

*Subsetting a MultiAssayExperiment object*


---

### Description

A set of functions for extracting and dividing a MultiAssayExperiment

### Usage

```
subsetByRow(x, y, ...)
```

```
subsetByColData(x, y)
```

```
subsetByColumn(x, y)
```

```
subsetByAssay(x, y)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,ANY'
subsetByRow(x, y, ...)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,list'
subsetByRow(x, y)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,List'
subsetByRow(x, y)
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,logical'
```

```

subsetByRow(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,list'
subsetByColumn(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,List'
subsetByColumn(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList,logical'
subsetByColumn(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'ExperimentList'
subsetByAssay(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY'
subsetByColData(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,character'
subsetByColData(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY'
subsetByRow(x, y, ...)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY'
subsetByColumn(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment'
subsetByAssay(x, y)

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY,ANY,ANY'
x[i, j, k, ..., drop = TRUE]

## S4 method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY,ANY'
x[[i, j, ...]]

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY,ANY'
x[[i, j, ...]] <- value

## S4 replacement method for signature 'MultiAssayExperiment,ANY,ANY,ANY'
x[i, j, ...] <- value

```

### Arguments

x	A MultiAssayExperiment or ExperimentList
y	Any argument used for subsetting, can be a character, logical, integer, list or List vector
...	Additional arguments passed on to lower level functions.
i	Either a character, integer, logical or GRanges object for subsetting by rows
j	Either a character, logical, or numeric vector for subsetting by colData rows. See details for more information.

k	Either a character, logical, or numeric vector for subsetting by assays
drop	logical (default TRUE) whether to drop empty assay elements in the ExperimentList
value	An assay compatible with the MultiAssayExperiment API

### Details

Subsetting a `MultiAssayExperiment` by the `j` index can yield a call to either `subsetByColData` or `subsetByColumn`. For vector inputs, the subset will be applied to the `colData` rows. For `List`-type inputs, the `List` will be applied to each of the elements in the `ExperimentList`. The order of the subsetting elements in the `List` must match that of the `ExperimentList` in the `MultiAssayExperiment`.

- `subsetByColData`: Select biological units by vector input types
- `subsetByColumn`: Select observations by assay or for each assay
- `subsetByRow`: Select rows by assay or for each assay
- `subsetByAssay`: Select experiments

### Value

`subsetBy*` operations are endomorphic and return either `MultiAssayExperiment` or `ExperimentList` depending on the input.

### Examples

```
## Load the example MultiAssayExperiment
example("MultiAssayExperiment")

## Using experiment names
subsetByAssay(mae, "Affy")

## Using numeric indices
subsetByAssay(mae, 1:2)

## Using a logical vector
subsetByAssay(mae, c(TRUE, FALSE, TRUE))

## Subset by character vector (Jack)
subsetByColData(mae, "Jack")

## Subset by numeric index of colData rows (Jack and Bob)
subsetByColData(mae, c(1, 3))

## Subset by logical indicator of colData rows (Jack and Jill)
subsetByColData(mae, c(TRUE, TRUE, FALSE, FALSE))

subsetByColumn(mae, list(Affy = 1:2,
  Methyl450k = c(3,5,2), RNASeqGene = 2:4, GISTIC = 1))

subsetWith <- S4Vectors::mendoapply(`[,`, colnames(mae),
  MoreArgs = list(1:2))
subsetByColumn(mae, subsetWith)

## Use a GRanges object to subset rows where ranged data present
egr <- GenomicRanges::GRanges(seqnames = "chr2",
  IRanges::IRanges(start = 11, end = 13), strand = "-")
```



```
subsetByRow(mae, egr)

## Use a logical vector (recycling used)
subsetByRow(mae, c(TRUE, FALSE))

## Use a character vector
subsetByRow(mae, "ENST00000355076")
```

---

upsetSamples	<i>Create a generalized Venn Diagram analog for sample membership in multiple assays, using the upset algorithm in UpSetR</i>
--------------	---

---

## Description

Create a generalized Venn Diagram analog for sample membership in multiple assays, using the upset algorithm in UpSetR

## Usage

```
upsetSamples(
  MultiAssayExperiment,
  nsets = length(MultiAssayExperiment),
  nintersects = 24,
  order.by = "freq",
  nameFilter = force,
  check.names = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

## Arguments

MultiAssayExperiment	A <a href="#">MultiAssayExperiment</a> instance
nsets	integer number of sets to analyze
nintersects	Number of intersections to plot. If set to NA, all intersections will be plotted.
order.by	How the intersections in the matrix should be ordered by. Options include frequency (entered as "freq"), degree, or both in any order.
nameFilter	function, defaulting to force, to manipulate colnames of incidence matrix
check.names	logical(1) used when incidence matrix is coerced to data.frame for use in UpSetR::upset
...	parameters passed to <a href="#">upset</a>

## Value

Produces a visualization of set intersections using the UpSet matrix design

**Note**

This function is intended to provide convenient visualization of assay availability configurations in `MultiAssayExperiment` instances. The `upset` function requires `data.frame` input and has many parameters to tune appearance of the result. Assay name handling is important for interpretability, and the `nameFilter` parameter may be useful to simplify resulting outputs.

**Author(s)**

Vincent J Carey

**Examples**

```
data(miniACC)
upsetSamples(miniACC)
upsetSamples(miniACC, nameFilter = function(x) substr(x, 1, 5))
```

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