

# Package ‘metabCombiner’

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**Title** Method for Combining LC-MS Metabolomics Feature Measurements

**License** GPL-3

**Description** This package aligns LC-HRMS metabolomics datasets acquired from biologically similar specimens analyzed under similar, but not necessarily identical, conditions. Two peak-picked and aligned metabolomics feature tables (consisting of m/z, rt, and per-sample abundance measurements, plus optional identifiers & adduct annotations) are accepted as input. The package outputs a combined table of feature pair alignments, organized into groups of similar m/z, and ranked by a similarity score. Input tables are assumed to be acquired using similar (but not necessarily identical) analytical methods.

**Depends** R (>= 4.0), dplyr (>= 1.0)

**Imports** methods, mgcv, caret, S4Vectors, stats, utils, rlang,  
graphics, matrixStats

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat

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'combinerCheck.R' 'compare\_strings.R' 'data.R' 'detectFields.R'  
'evaluateParams.R' 'fit\_model.R' 'formCombinedTable.R'  
'generics.R' 'labelRows.R' 'metabCombiner.R'  
'metabCombiner\_package\_doc.R' 'metabData.R'  
'methods-metabCombiner.R' 'methods-metabData.R' 'mzGroup.R'  
'plot\_fit.R' 'selectAnchors.R' 'write2file.R' 'zzz.R'

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## R topics documented:

adjustData . . . . .	3
calcScores . . . . .	4
combinedTable . . . . .	6
combinerCheck . . . . .	7
crossValFit . . . . .	7
detectFields . . . . .	8
evaluateParams . . . . .	9
filterAnchors . . . . .	11
filterRT . . . . .	12
findDuplicates . . . . .	12
fit_gam . . . . .	13
fit_loess . . . . .	15
formCombinedTable . . . . .	17
getAnchors . . . . .	17
getCoefficients . . . . .	18
getData . . . . .	19
getExtra . . . . .	19
getModel . . . . .	20
getSamples . . . . .	21
getStats . . . . .	22
identityAnchorSelection . . . . .	23
isCombinedTable . . . . .	23
isMetabCombiner . . . . .	24
isMetabData . . . . .	24
iterativeAnchorSelection . . . . .	25
labelRows . . . . .	25
metabCombiner . . . . .	27
metabCombiner-class . . . . .	28
metabData . . . . .	28
metabData-class . . . . .	30
mzGroup . . . . .	31
nonmatched . . . . .	31
objective . . . . .	32
plasma20 . . . . .	34
plasma30 . . . . .	34
plot,metabCombiner,ANY-method . . . . .	34
scorePairs . . . . .	36
selectAnchors . . . . .	37
write2file . . . . .	39

---

adjustData

*Process and Filter Metabolomics Feature Lists*

---

### Description

adjustData contains a set of pre-analysis steps for processing LC-MS metabolomics feature tables individually

### Usage

```
adjustData(Data, misspc, measure, rtmin, rtmax, zero, duplicate)
```

### Arguments

Data	a metabData object.
misspc	Numeric. Threshold missingness percentage for analysis.
measure	Character. Choice of central abundance measure; either "median" or "mean".
rtmin	Numeric. Minimum retention time for analysis.
rtmax	Numeric. Maximum retention time for analysis.
zero	Logical. Whether to consider zero values as missing.
duplicate	Ordered numeric pair (m/z, rt) tolerance parameters for duplicate feature search.

### Details

The pre-analysis adjustment steps include: 1) Restriction to a feature retention time range  $rtmin \leq rt \leq rtmax$  2) Removal of features with a percent missingness exceeding `misspc` 3) Removal of duplicate metabolomics features.

After processing, abundance quantile (Q) values are calculated between 0 & 1 for the remaining features, as ranked by the `measure` argument, unless provided by the user.

### Value

Updated metabData object. The data field is processed by the listed steps and stats list updated to contain feature statistics.

### See Also

[metabData](#): the constructor for metabData objects, [filterRT](#): function for filtering by retention times, [findDuplicates](#): function for finding duplicates

calcScores

*Compute Feature Similarity Scores***Description**

Calculates a pairwise similarity (between 0 & 1) between all grouped features in metabCombiner object. The similarity score calculation is described in [scorePairs](#).

**Usage**

```
calcScores(
  object,
  A,
  B,
  C,
  fit = c("gam", "loess"),
  groups = NULL,
  useAdduct = FALSE,
  adduct = 1.25,
  usePPM = FALSE,
  brackets_ignore = c("(", "[", "{")
)
```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object.
A	Numeric weight for penalizing m/z differences.
B	Numeric weight for penalizing differences between fitted & observed retention times
C	Numeric weight for differences in Q (abundance quantiles).
fit	Character. Choice of fitted rt model, "gam" or "loess."
groups	integer. Vector of feature groups to score. If set to NULL (default), will compute scores for all feature groups.
useAdduct	logical. Option to penalize mismatches in (non-empty, non-bracketed) adduct column annotations.
adduct	numeric. If useAdduct is TRUE, divides score of mismatched, non-empty and non-bracketed adduct column labels by this value.
usePPM	logical. Option to use relative (as opposed to absolute) m/z differences in score computations.
brackets_ignore	If useAdduct = TRUE, bracketed adduct character strings of these types will be ignored according to this argument

**Details**

This function updates the rtProj, score, rankX, and rankY columns in the combinedTable report. First, using the RT mapping model computed in the previous step(s), rtx values are projected onto rty. Then similarity scores are calculated based on m/z, rt (fitted vs observed), and Q differences, with multiplicative weight penalties A, B, and C.

If the datasets contain representative set of shared identities (`idx = idy`), `evaluateParams` provides some guidance on appropriate A, B, and C values to use. In testing, the best values for A should lie between 50 and 120, according to mass accuracy; B should lie between 5 and 15 depending on fitting accuracy (higher if datasets processed under roughly identical conditions); C should vary between 0 and 1, depending on sample similarity. See examples below.

If using ppm (`usePPM = TRUE`), do not use the above guidelines for A values. The suggested range is between 0.01 and 0.05, though this hasn't been thoroughly tested yet. Also, if using adduct information (`useAdduct = TRUE`), the score is divided by the numeric adduct argument if non-empty and non-bracketed adduct values do not match. Be sure that adduct annotations are accurate before using this functionality.

### Value

metabCombiner object with updated `combinedTable`. `rtProj` column will contain fitted retention times determined from previously computed model; `score` will contain computed pairwise similarity scores of feature pairs; `rankX` & `rankY` are the integer ranks of scores for x & y features in descending order.

### See Also

[evaluateParams](#), [scorePairs](#)

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)

p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
p.comb <- fit_gam(p.comb, k = 20, iterFilter = 1)

#example: moderate m/z deviation, accurate rt fit, high sample similarity
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 90, B = 14, C = 0.8, useAdduct = FALSE,
  groups = NULL, fit = "gam", usePPM = FALSE)
cTable = combinedTable(p.comb) #to view results

#example 2: high m/z deviation, moderate rt fit, low sample similarity
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 50, B = 8, C = 0.2)

#example 3: low m/z deviation, poor rt fit, moderate sample similarity
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 120, B = 5, C = 0.5)

#example 4: using ppm for mass deviation; note different A value
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 0.05, B = 14, C = 0.5, usePPM = TRUE)

#example 5: limiting to specific m/z groups 1-1000
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 90, B = 14, C = 0.5, groups = seq(1,1000))

#example 6: using adduct information
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 90, B = 14, C = 0.5, useAdduct = TRUE,
  adduct = 1.25)
```

---

combinedTable	<i>Obtain metabCombiner Feature Alignment Report</i>
---------------	--

---

**Description**

Obtain constructed table reporting every possible metabolomics feature alignment.

**Usage**

```
combinedTable(object)

## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
combinedTable(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            metabCombiner object.

**Value**

Feature Pair Alignment report data.frame. The columns of the report are as follows:

idx	Identities of features from dataset X
idy	Identities of features from dataset Y
mzx	m/z values of features from dataset X
mzy	m/z values of features from dataset Y
rtx	retention time values of features from dataset X
rtY	retention time values of features from dataset Y
rtProj	model-projected (X->Y) retention times values
Qx	abundance quantile values of features from dataset X
Qy	abundance quantile values of features from dataset Y
group	m/z feature group of feature pairing
score	computed similarity scores of feature pairing
rankX	ranking of pairing score for X dataset features
rankY	ranking of pairing score for Y dataset features
adductX	adduct label of features from dataset X
adductY	adduct label of features from dataset Y
...	Sample and extra columns from both datasets X & Y

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red")

p.comb <- metabCombiner(p30, p20)
p.comb.table <- combinedTable(p.comb)
```

---

 combinerCheck

*Obtain Errors for metabCombiner Object Checks*


---

**Description**

This function stores and returns a customized error message when checking the validity of certain objects.

**Usage**

```
combinerCheck(errNo, type, error = "stop")
```

**Arguments**

errNo	integer error code.
type	character object type (either "combinedTable", "metabCombiner" or "metabData")
error	character. If "stop", gives an error message; if "warning", provides a warning message; if "silent", returns silently

**Details**

In certain functions, an object must be checked for correctness. A metabData must have a properly formatted dataset with the correct column names & types. A metabCombiner must have properly formatted combinedTable, with expected names and columns. If one of these conditions is not met, a non-zero numeric code is returned and this function is used to print a specific error message corresponding to the appropriate object and error code.

**Value**

A customized error message for specific object check.

---

 crossValFit

*Cross Validation for Model Fits*


---

**Description**

Helper function for `fit_gam()` & `fit_loess()`. Determines optimal value of k basis functions for Generalized Additive Model fits or span for loess fits from among user-defined choices, using a 10-fold cross validation minimizing mean squared error.

**Usage**

```
crossValFit(rts, fit, vals, bs, family, m, method, optimizer, loess.pars, ...)
```

**Arguments**

rts	data.frame of ordered pair retention times
fit	Either "gam" for GAM fits, or "loess" for loess fits
vals	numeric vector: k values for GAM fits, spans for loess fits. Best value chosen by 10-fold cross validation.
bs	character. Choice of spline method, either "bs" or "ps"
family	character. Choice of mgcv family; see: ?mgcv::family.mgcv
m	integer. Basis and penalty order for GAM; see ?mgcv::s
method	character. Smoothing parameter estimation method; see: ?mgcv::gam
optimizer	character. Method to optimize smoothing parameter; see: ?mgcv::gam
loess.pars	parameters for LOESS fitting; see ?loess.control
...	Other arguments passed to mgcv : gam.

**Value**

Optimal parameter value as determined by 10-fold cross validation

---

detectFields

*Detect metabData Input Columns*

---

**Description**

This function ensures that metabolomics datasets used as inputs for the program possess all of the required fields, plus any optional columns that may appear in the final report table.

**Usage**

```
detectFields(Data, table, mz, rt, id, adduct, samples, extra, Q)
```

**Arguments**

Data	a metabData object.
table	data frame containing metabolomics features or path to metabolomics data file.
mz	Character name(s) / regular expressions associated with data column containing m/z values. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
rt	Character name(s) / regular expression associated with data column containing retention time values. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
id	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data column containing metabolomics feature identifiers. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
adduct	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data column containing adduct, formula, or additional annotations. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.



samples	Character names of columns containing sample values. All numeric columns containing these keywords are selected for analysis. If no keywords given, searches for longest stretch of numeric columns remaining.
extra	Character names of columns containing additional feature information, e.g. non-analyzed sample values. All columns containing these keywords are selected for analysis.
Q	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with numeric feature abundance quantiles.

**Value**

an initialized and formatted metabData object.

---

 evaluateParams

*Evaluate Similarity Score Parameters*


---

**Description**

This function provides a method for guiding selection of suitable values for A, B, & C weight arguments in the `calcScores` method, based on the similarity scores of shared identified compounds. Datasets must have at least one identity in common (i.e. `idx = idy`, case-insensitive), and preferably more than 10.

**Usage**

```
evaluateParams(
  object,
  A = seq(60, 150, by = 10),
  B = seq(6, 15),
  C = seq(0.1, 0.5, by = 0.1),
  fit = c("gam", "loess"),
  usePPM = FALSE,
  minScore = 0.5,
  penalty = 5,
  groups = NULL,
  brackets_ignore = c("(", "[", "{")
)
```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object
A	Numeric weights for penalizing m/z differences.
B	Numeric weights for penalizing differences between fitted & observed retention times
C	Numeric weight for differences in Q (abundance quantiles).
fit	Character. Choice of fitted rt model, "gam" or "loess."
usePPM	logical. Option to use relative parts per million (ppm) as opposed to absolute) m/z differences in score computations.

minScore	numeric minimum score to count towards objective function calculation for known matching features (idx = idy) and mismatches.
penalty	numeric. Subtractive mismatch penalty.
groups	integer. Vector of feature groups to score. If set to NULL (default), will compute scores for all feature groups.
brackets_ignore	bracketed identity and adduct character strings of these types will be ignored according to this argument

### Details

This uses an objective function, based on the accurate and inaccurate alignments of shared pre-identified compounds. For more details, see: [objective](#).

### Value

A data frame with the following columns:

A	m/z weight values
B	rt weight values
C	Q weight values
score	objective function evaluation of (A,B,C) weights

### Note

In contrast to [calcScores](#) function, A, B, & C take numeric vectors as input, as opposed to constants. The total number of rows in the output will be equal to the products of the lengths of these input vectors

### See Also

[calcScores](#), [objective](#)

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb = metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)

p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, windx = 0.03, windy = 0.02)
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, k = 20, iterFilter = 2)

#example 1
scores = evaluateParams(p.comb, A = seq(60,100,10), B = seq(10,15), C = 0.5,
  minScore = 0.7, penalty = 10)

##example 2: using PPM mass deviation (note change to A argument)
scores = evaluateParams(p.comb, usePPM = TRUE, A = seq(0.01,0.05,0.01))

##example 3: limiting to groups 1-2000
```

```
scores = evaluateParams(p.comb, minScore = 0.5, groups = 1:2000)
```

---

filterAnchors                      *Filter Outlier Ordered Pairs*

---

### Description

Helper function for `fit_gam` & `fit_loess`. It filters the set of ordered pairs using the residuals calculated from multiple GAM / loess fits.

### Usage

```
filterAnchors(
  rts,
  fit,
  vals,
  iterFilter,
  ratio,
  frac,
  bs,
  m,
  family,
  method,
  optimizer,
  loess.pars,
  ...
)
```

### Arguments

<code>rts</code>	Data frame of ordered retention time pairs.
<code>fit</code>	Either "gam" for GAM fits, or "loess" for loess fits
<code>vals</code>	numeric values: k values for GAM fits, spans for loess fits
<code>iterFilter</code>	integer number of residual filtering iterations
<code>ratio</code>	numeric. A point is an outlier if the ratio of residual to mean residual of a fit exceeds this value. Must be greater than 1.
<code>frac</code>	numeric. A point is excluded if deemed a residual in more than this fraction value times the number of fits. Must be between 0 & 1.
<code>bs</code>	character. Choice of spline method from mgcv; either "bs" or "ps"
<code>m</code>	integer. Basis and penalty order for GAM; see <code>?mgcv::s</code>
<code>family</code>	character. Choice of mgcv family; see: <code>?mgcv::family.mgcv</code>
<code>method</code>	character. Smoothing parameter estimation method; see: <code>?mgcv::gam</code>
<code>optimizer</code>	character. Method to optimize smoothing parameter; see: <code>?mgcv::gam</code>
<code>loess.pars</code>	parameters for LOESS fitting; see <code>?loess.control</code>
<code>...</code>	other arguments passed to <code>mgcv::gam</code> .

### Value

anchor rts data frame with updated weights.

---

filterRT *Filter Features by Retention Time*

---

### Description

Restricts input metabolomics feature table in metabData object to a range of retention times defined by rtmin & rtmax.

### Usage

```
filterRT(data, rtmin, rtmax)
```

### Arguments

data	formatted metabolomics data frame.
rtmin	lower range of retention times for analysis. If "min", defaults to minimum observed retention time. .
rtmax	upper range of retention times for analysis. If "max", defaults to maximum observed retention time.

### Details

Retention time restriction is often recommended to aid the analysis of comparable metabolomics datasets. The beginning and end of a chromatogram typically contain features that do not correspond with true biological compounds derived from the sample. rtmin and rtmax should be set slightly before and slightly after the first and last commonly observed metabolites, respectively.

### Value

A data frame of metabolomics features, limited to time window  $rtmin \leq rt \leq rtmax$

---

findDuplicates *Find and Remove Duplicate Features*

---

### Description

Pairs of features with nearly identical m/z and retention time values are removed in this step.

### Usage

```
findDuplicates(data, missing, counts, duplicate)
```

### Arguments

data	Constructed metabolomics data frame.
missing	Numeric vector. Percent missingness for each feature.
counts	Numeric vector. Central measure for each feature.
duplicate	Ordered numeric pair (m/z, rt) tolerance parameters for duplicate feature search.

**Details**

Pairs of features are deemed duplicates if pairwise differences in m/z & rt fall within tolerances defined by the `duplicate` argument. If a pair of duplicate features is found, one member is removed. The determination of which feature to remove is first by percent missingness, followed by central abundance measure (median or mean). If the features have equal missingness and abundance, then row order determines the feature to be removed.

**Value**

integer indices of removable duplicate features

---

 fit\_gam

*Fit RT Projection Model With GAMs*


---

**Description**

Fits a (penalized) basis splines curve through a set of ordered pair retention times, modeling one set of retention times (`rty`) as a function on the other set (`rtx`). Filtering iterations of high residual points are performed first. Multiple acceptable values of `k` can be supplied used, with one value selected through 10-fold cross validation.

**Usage**

```
fit_gam(
  object,
  useID = FALSE,
  k = seq(10, 20, by = 2),
  iterFilter = 2,
  ratio = 2,
  frac = 0.5,
  bs = c("bs", "ps"),
  family = c("scat", "gaussian"),
  weights = 1,
  m = c(3, 2),
  method = "REML",
  optimizer = "newton",
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>object</code>	a <code>metabCombiner</code> object.
<code>useID</code>	logical. Option to use matched IDs to inform fit
<code>k</code>	integer vector values controlling the number of basis functions for GAM construction. Best value chosen by 10-fold cross validation.
<code>iterFilter</code>	integer number of residual filtering iterations to perform
<code>ratio</code>	numeric. A point is an outlier if the ratio of residual to mean residual of a fit exceeds this value. Must be greater than 1.
<code>frac</code>	numeric. A point is excluded if deemed a residual in more than this fraction value times the number of fits. Must be between 0 & 1.

bs	character. Choice of spline method from mgcv, either "bs" (basis splines) or "ps" (penalized basis splines)
family	character. Choice of mgcv family; see: ?mgcv::family.mgcv
weights	Optional user supplied weights for each ordered pair. Must be of length equal to number of anchors (n) or a divisor of (n + 2).
m	integer. Basis and penalty order for GAM; see ?mgcv::s
method	character. Smoothing parameter estimation method; see: ?mgcv::gam
optimizer	character. Method to optimize smoothing parameter; see: ?mgcv::gam
...	Other arguments passed to mgcv::gam.

### Details

A set of ordered pair retention times must be previously computed using `selectAnchors()`. The minimum and maximum retention times from both input datasets are included in the set as ordered pairs (`min_rtx, min_rty`) & (`max_rtx, max_rty`).

The `weights` argument initially determines the contribution of each point to the model fits; they are equally weighed by default, but can be changed using an `n+2` length vector, where `n` is the number of ordered pairs and the first and last of the weights determines the contribution of the min and max ordered pairs.

The model complexity is determined by `k`. Multiple values of `k` are allowed, with the best value chosen by 10 fold cross validation. Before this happens, certain ordered pairs are removed based on the model errors. In each iteration, a GAM is fit using each selected value of `k`. A point is "removed" (its corresponding `weights` value set to 0) if its residual is `ratio` times average residual for a fraction of fitted models, as determined by `frac`. If an ordered pair is an "identity" (discovered in the `selectAnchors` by setting the `useID` to `TRUE`), then setting `useID` here will prevent its removal.

Other arguments, e.g. `family`, `m`, `optimizer`, `bs`, and `method` are GAM specific parameters. The `family` option is currently limited to the "scat" (scaled t) and "gaussian" families; `scat` family model fits are more robust to outliers than gaussian fits, but compute much slower. Type of splines are currently limited to basis splines (`bs = "bs"`) or penalized basis splines (`bs = "ps"`).

### Value

metabCombiner with a fitted GAM model object

### See Also

[selectAnchors](#), [fit\\_loess](#),

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb = metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)

p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
anchors = getAnchors(p.comb)
```

```

#version 1: using faster, but less robust, gaussian family
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, k = c(10,12,15,17,20), frac = 0.5,
  family = "gaussian")

#version 2: using slower, but more robust, scat family
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, k = seq(12,20,2), family = "scat",
  iterFilter = 1, ratio = 3, method = "GCV.Cp")

#version 3 (with identities)
p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, useID = TRUE)
anchors = getAnchors(p.comb)
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, useID = TRUE, k = seq(12,20,2), iterFilter = 1)

#version 4 (using identities and weights)
weights = ifelse(anchors$labels == "I", 2, 1)
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, useID = TRUE, k = seq(12,20,2),
  iterFilter = 1, weights = weights)

#version 5 (assigning weights to the boundary points)
weights = c(2, rep(1, nrow(anchors)), 2)
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, k = seq(12,20,2), weights = weights)

#to preview result of fit_gam
plot(p.comb, xlab = "CHEAR Plasma (30 min)",
  ylab = "Red-Cross Plasma (20 min)", pch = 19,
  main = "Example fit_gam Result Fit")

```

---

fit\_loess

*Fit RT Projection Model With LOESS*


---

## Description

Fits a local regression smoothing spline through a set of ordered pair retention times. modeling one set of retention times (rty) as a function on the other set (rtx). Filtering iterations of high residual points are performed first. Multiple acceptable values of span can be used, with one value selected through 10-fold cross validation.

## Usage

```

fit_loess(
  object,
  useID = FALSE,
  spans = seq(0.2, 0.3, by = 0.02),
  iterFilter = 2,
  ratio = 2,
  frac = 0.5,
  iterLoess = 10,
  weights = 1
)

```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object.
useID	logical. Option to use matched IDs to inform fit
spans	numeric span values (between 0 & 1) used for loess fits
iterFilter	integer number of residual filtering iterations to perform
ratio	numeric. A point is an outlier if the ratio of residual to mean residual of a fit exceeds this value. Must be greater than 1.
frac	numeric. A point is excluded if deemed a residual in more than this fraction value times the number of fits. Must be between 0 & 1.
iterLoess	integer. Number of robustness iterations to perform in loess(). See ?loess.control for more details.
weights	Optional user supplied weights for each ordered pair. Must be of length equal to number of anchors (n) or a divisor of (n + 2).

**Value**

metabCombiner object with model slot updated to contain the fitted loess model

**See Also**

[selectAnchors, fit\\_gam](#)

**Examples**

```

data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb = metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)
p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)

#version 1
p.comb = fit_loess(p.comb, spans = seq(0.2,0.3,0.02), iterFilter = 1)

#version 2 (using weights)
anchors = getAnchors(p.comb)
weights = c(2, rep(1, nrow(anchors)), 2) #weight = 2 to boundary points
p.comb = fit_loess(p.comb, spans = seq(0.2,0.3,0.02), weights = weights)

#version 3 (using identities)
p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, useID = TRUE, tolMz = 0.003)
p.comb = fit_loess(p.comb, spans = seq(0.2,0.3,0.02), useID = TRUE)

#to preview result of fit_loess
plot(p.comb, fit = "loess", xlab = "CHEAR Plasma (30 min)",
      ylab = "Red-Cross Plasma (20 min)", pch = 19,
      main = "Example fit_loess Result Fit")

```



---

formCombinedTable	<i>Form Combiner Report Table</i>
-------------------	-----------------------------------

---

**Description**

Takes previously computed m/z groups using `mzGroup()` and creates merged `combinedTable` consisting of all possible feature alignments, all initialized with equivalent score and ranking.

**Usage**

```
formCombinedTable(object, xset, yset, nGroups)
```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object
xset	data frame. A processed metabolomics feature table.
yset	data frame. A processed metabolomics feature table.
nGroups	integer. Total number of computed feature groups

**Value**

metabCombiner object with initialized `combinedTable` data frame.

---

getAnchors	<i>Get Ordered Retention Time Pairs</i>
------------	---

---

**Description**

This returns the data frame of feature alignments used to anchor a retention time projection model, constructed by [selectAnchors](#).

**Usage**

```
getAnchors(object)

## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
getAnchors(object)
```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object
--------	----------------------

**Value**

Data frame of anchor features

**See Also**

[selectAnchors](#)

**Examples**

```

data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red")

p.comb <- metabCombiner(p30, p20)
p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, windx = 0.05, windy = 0.03)

anchors <- getAnchors(p.comb)

```

---

getCoefficients

*Obtain Last-Used Score Coefficients*


---

**Description**

Provides the last used weight arguments from calcScores() function. Returns empty list if calcScores() has not yet been called.

**Usage**

```

getCoefficients(object)

## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
getCoefficients(object)

```

**Arguments**

object            metabCombiner object

**Value**

A list of the last used weight parameters:

A	Specific weight penalizing feature m/z differences
B	Specific weight penalizing retention time projection error
C	Specific weight penalizing differences in abundance quantiles

**Examples**

```

data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red")

p.comb <- metabCombiner(p30, p20)
p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, windx = 0.05, windy = 0.03)
p.comb <- fit_gam(p.comb, k = 20, iterFilter = 1)
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 90, B = 14, C = 0.5)

```

```
getCoefficients(p.comb)
```

---

getData	<i>Get Processed Dataset</i>
---------	------------------------------

---

**Description**

Get Processed Dataset

**Usage**

```
getData(object)

## S4 method for signature 'metabData'
getData(object)
```

**Arguments**

object                   metabData object

**Value**

Single Metabolomics Data Frame

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
data <- getData(p30)
```

---

getExtra	<i>Get Extra Data Column Names</i>
----------	------------------------------------

---

**Description**

Get Extra Data Column Names

**Usage**

```
getExtra(object, data = c("x", "y"))

## S4 method for signature 'metabData'
getExtra(object)
```

**Arguments**

object                   metabCombiner or metabData object  
 data                    Choice of input dataset, 'x' or 'y'

**Value**

character vector of extra column names

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR", extra = "Red")
getExtra(p30)
```

---

getModel

*Get Fitted RT Model*


---

**Description**

Returns the last fitted RT projection model from a metabCombiner object of type "gam" or "loess".

**Usage**

```
getModel(object, fit = c("gam", "loess"))

## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
getModel(object, fit = c("gam", "loess"))
```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object
fit	Choice of model, "gam" or "loess"

**Value**

nonlinear retention time fit object

**See Also**

[fit\\_gam](#), [fit\\_loess](#)

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)
p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.005)
p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
p.comb <- fit_gam(p.comb, iterFilter = 1, k = 20)
p.comb <- fit_loess(p.comb, iterFilter = 1, spans = 0.2)
model.gam <- getModel(p.comb, fit = "gam")
model.loess <- getModel(p.comb, fit = "loess")
```

---

`getSamples`*Get Sample Names From metabCombiner or metabData Object*

---

**Description**

Returns the sample names from one of the two datasets used in metabCombiner analysis, denoted as 'x' or 'y'.

**Usage**

```
getSamples(object, data = c("x", "y"))

## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
getSamples(object, data = c("x", "y"))

## S4 method for signature 'metabData'
getSamples(object)
```

**Arguments**

<code>object</code>	A metabData object
<code>data</code>	Character. One of either 'x' or 'y'.

**Value**

character vector of sample names. For metabCombiner objects these may come from the 'x' dataset (if data = "x") or the 'y' dataset (if data = "y").

names of samples of formatted dataset.

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)

p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20)

getSamples(p30)
getSamples(p.comb, data = "x") #equivalent to previous
getSamples(p20)
getSamples(p.comb, data = "y") #equivalent to previous
```

---

getStats	<i>Get Object Statistics</i>
----------	------------------------------

---

### Description

Prints out a list of object-specific statistics for both `metabCombiner` and `metabData` objects

### Usage

```
getStats(object)

## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
getStats(object)

## S4 method for signature 'metabData'
getStats(object)
```

### Arguments

`object`            `metabCombiner` or `metabData` object

### Value

list of object-specific statistics

### Methods (by class)

- `metabCombiner`: Method for 'metabCombiner' object

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)
p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)

getStats(p30) #metabData stats

p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.005)
p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
p.comb <- fit_gam(p.comb, iterFilter = 1, k = 20)

getStats(p.comb) #metabCombiner stats
```

---

`identityAnchorSelection`*Select Matching Ids as Anchors*

---

**Description**

This is an optional helper function for `selectAnchors`. Uses identities to guide selection of ordered retention time pairs. If `useID` option is set to `TRUE`, it will select pairs of features with matching ID character strings before proceeding with iterative anchor selection.

**Usage**

```
identityAnchorSelection(cTable, windx, windy, useID, brackets)
```

**Arguments**

<code>cTable</code>	data frame, contains only feature ids, mzs, rts, Qs, & labels
<code>windx</code>	numeric positive retention time exclusion window in X dataset
<code>windy</code>	numeric positive retention time exclusion window in Y dataset
<code>useID</code>	logical. Operation proceeds if <code>TRUE</code> , terminates otherwise.
<code>brackets</code>	If <code>useID = TRUE</code> , bracketed identity strings of the types included in this argument will be ignored

**Details**

Identity anchors are allowed to violate constraints of `m/z`, `Q`, and `rtq` difference tolerances, and will not be removed if they fall within a `rt` exclusion window of other features. If a name appears more than once, only the pair with the highest relative abundance is selected.

**Value**

`combinedTable` with updated anchor labels

**See Also**

[selectAnchors](#)

---

`isCombinedTable`*Determine combinedTable Validity*

---

**Description**

Checks whether input object is a valid `metabData`. Returns an integer code if invalid. Function is used alongside `combinerCheck`.

**Usage**

```
isCombinedTable(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            Any R object.

**Value**

0 if object is a valid Combiner Table; an integer code otherwise

---

isMetabCombiner            *Determine if object is a valid metabCombiner object*

---

**Description**

Checks whether input object is a valid metabCombiner. Returns an integer code if invalid. Function is used alongside combinerCheck.

**Usage**

```
isMetabCombiner(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            Any R object.

**Value**

0 if object is a valid metabData object; an integer code otherwise

---

isMetabData                *Determine validity of input metabData object*

---

**Description**

Checks whether input object is a valid metabData. Returns an integer code if invalid. Function is used alongside combinerCheck.

**Usage**

```
isMetabData(object)
```

**Arguments**

object            Any R object

**Value**

0 if object is a valid metabData object; an integer code otherwise.



---

`iterativeAnchorSelection`*Iterative Selection of Ordered Pairs*

---

### Description

This is a helper function for `selectAnchors`. Anchors are iteratively selected from highly abundant feature pairs, subject to feature m/z, rt, & Q constraints set by the user.

### Usage

```
iterativeAnchorSelection(cTable, windx, windy, swap = FALSE)
```

### Arguments

<code>cTable</code>	data frame, contains only feature ids, mzs, rts, Qs, & labels
<code>windx</code>	numeric positive retention time exclusion window in X dataset.
<code>windy</code>	numeric positive retention time exclusion window in Y dataset.
<code>swap</code>	logical. When FALSE, searches for abundant features in dataset X, complemented by dataset Y features; when TRUE, searches for abundant features in dataset Y, complemented by dataset X features.

### Value

data frame of anchor feature alignments.

### See Also

[selectAnchors](#)

---

`labelRows`*Annotate and Remove Report Rows*

---

### Description

Method for annotation of identity-matched, removable, & conflicting feature pair alignments (FPAs) in `combinedTable`. FPAs that fall within some small measure (in score or mz/rt) of the top-ranked FPA may require further inspection are organized into subgroups. .

### Usage

```
labelRows(  
  object,  
  maxRankX = 3,  
  maxRankY = 3,  
  minScore = 0.3,  
  conflict,  
  method = c("score", "mzrt"),  
  balanced = TRUE,
```

```

remove = FALSE,
brackets_ignore = c("(", "[", "{")
)

```

### Arguments

object	Either a <code>metabCombiner</code> object or <code>combinedTable</code> .
maxRankX	Integer. Maximum allowable rank for X dataset features.
maxRankY	Integer. Maximum allowable rank for Y dataset features.
minScore	Numeric. Minimum allowable score (between 0 & 1) for metabolomics FPAs.
conflict	numeric used to determine subgroups. If <code>method = "score"</code> , a constant (between 0 & 1) score difference between a pair of conflicting FPAs. If <code>method = "mzrt"</code> , a length 4 numeric: (m/z, rt, m/z, rt) tolerances, the first pair for X dataset features and the second pair for Y dataset features.
method	Conflict detection method. If equal to "score" (default), assigns a conflict subgroup if score of lower-ranking FPA is within some tolerance of higher-ranking FPA. If set to "mzrt", assigns a conflicting subgroup if within a small m/z & rt distance of the top-ranked FPA.
balanced	Logical. Optional processing of "balanced" groups, defined as groups with an equal number of features from input datasets where all features have a 1-1 match.
remove	Logical. Option to keep or discard rows deemed removable.
brackets_ignore	character. Bracketed identity strings of the types in this argument will be ignored

### Details

`metabCombiner` initially reports all possible FPAs in the rows of the `combinedTable` report. Most of these are misalignments that require removal. This function is used to automate most of the reduction process by labeling rows as removable or conflicting, based on certain conditions, and is performed after computing similarity scores.

A label may take on one of four values:

- a) "": No determination made
- b) "IDENTITY": an alignment with matching identity "idx & idy" strings
- c) "REMOVE": a row determined to be a misalignment
- d) "CONFLICT": competing alignments for one or multiple shared features

The labeling rules are as follows: 1) Rows with matching idx & idy strings are labeled "IDENTITY". These rows are not labeled "REMOVE", irrespective of subsequent criteria. 2) Groups determined to be 'balanced': label rows with `rankX > 1` & `rankY > 1` "REMOVE" irrespective of conflict criteria 3) Rows with a `score < minScore`: label "REMOVE" 4) Rows with `rankX > maxRankX` and/or `rankY > maxRankY`: label "REMOVE" 5) Conflicting subgroup assignment as determined by `method` & `conflict` arguments. Conflicting alignments following outside conflict thresholds: labeled "REMOVE". Otherwise,

### Value

updated `combinedTable` or `metabCombiner` object. The table will have three new columns:

labels	characterization of feature alignments as described
subgroup	conflicting subgroup number of feature alignments
alt	alternate subgroup for rows in multiple feature pair conflicts

**Examples**

```

data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb = metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)
p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, k = 20, iterFilter = 1)
p.comb = calcScores(p.comb, A = 90, B = 14, C = 0.5)
cTable = combinedTable(p.comb)

##example using score-based conflict detection method
lTable = labelRows(cTable, maxRankX = 3, maxRankY = 2, minScore = 0.5,
  method = "score", conflict = 0.2)

##example using mzrt-based conflict detection method
lTable = labelRows(cTable, method = "mzrt", maxRankX = 3, maxRankY = 2,
  conflict = c(0.005, 1, 0.005, 0.5))

```

---

metabCombiner

*Form a metabCombiner object.*


---

**Description**

metabCombiner() takes two metabolomics featurelists, contained in metabData objects and constructs a merged dataset containing groups of features detected in both featurelists with similar m/z values.

Takes two untargeted metabolomics feature lists (consisting of m/z, rt, and sample intensity measurements, plus optional identifiers & adduct labels) and outputs a merged feature list consisting of potential compound matches, ranked by a similarity score for groups of features. Inputs are assumed to be derived from biologically similar samples analyzed with a similar analytical method.

**Usage**

```
metabCombiner(xdata, ydata, binGap = 0.005)
```

**Arguments**

xdata	metabData object. One of two datasets to be combined.
ydata	metabData object. One of two datasets to be combined.
binGap	numeric. Parameter used for grouping features by m/z. See ?mzGroup for more details.

**Details**

The binGap argument defines consecutive differences between grouped m/z features. metabCombiner objects are used for all subsequent processing steps.

**Value**

a metabCombiner object

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)

p.comb = metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)
```

---

metabCombiner-class     *'metabCombiner' Combined Metabolomics Dataset Class*

---

**Description**

This is the main object for the metabCombiner package workflow. This object holds a combined feature table, along with a retention time projection model, the ordered pair anchors used to generate this model, and key object statistics.

**Slots**

combinedTable data.frame displaying all feature pair alignments, combining measurements of all possible shared compounds

nonmatched list of data frames consisting of nonmatched features

anchors data.frame of feature alignments used for rt modeling

model list containing the last fitted nonlinear model(s)

coefficients list of last used A,B,C similarity weight values

samples list of sample name vectors from input datasets

extra list of extra column name vectors from input datasets

stats set of useful metabCombiner statistics

---

metabData                     *Constructor for the metabData object.*

---

**Description**

This is a constructor for objects of type metabData.

**Usage**

```
metabData(
  table,
  mz = "mz",
  rt = "rt",
  id = "id",
  adduct = "adduct",
  samples = NULL,
  Q = NULL,
  extra = NULL,
  rtmin = "min",
  rtmax = "max",
  misspc = 50,
  measure = c("median", "mean"),
  zero = FALSE,
  duplicate = c(0.0025, 0.05)
)
```

**Arguments**

table	Path to file containing feature table or data.frame object containing features
mz	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data column containing m/z values. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
rt	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data column containing retention time values. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
id	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data column containing metabolomics feature identifiers. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
adduct	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data column containing adduct or chemical formula annotations. The first column whose name contains this expression will be selected for analysis.
samples	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with data columns. All numeric columns whose names contain these keywords are selected for analysis. If no keywords given, program searches longest stretch of remaining numeric columns.
Q	Character name(s) or regular expression associated with numeric feature abundance quantiles. If NULL, abundance quantiles are calculated from sample intensities.
extra	Character names of columns containing additional feature information, e.g. non-analyzed sample values. All columns containing these keywords selected and will be displayed in the final output.
rtmin	Numeric. Minimum retention time for analysis.
rtmax	Numeric. Maximum retention time for analysis.
misspc	Numeric. Threshold missingness percentage for analysis.
measure	Central quantitation measure, either "median" or "mean".
zero	Logical. Whether to consider zero values as missing.

`duplicate` Numeric ordered pair (m/z, rt) duplicate feature tolerances. Pairs of features within these tolerances are deemed duplicates and one of the pair is removed (see: [findDuplicates](#))

### Details

Processed metabolomics feature table must contain columns for m/z, rt, and numeric sample intensities. Some optional fields such as identity id and adduct label columns may also be supplied. Non-analyzed columns can be included into the final output by specifying the names of these columns in the `extra` argument. All required arguments are checked for validity (e.g. no negative m/z or rt values, each column is used at most once, column types are valid, etc...).

Following this is a pre-analysis filtering of rows that are either: 1) Outside of a specified retention time range (`rtmin,rtmax`), 2) Missing in excess of `misspc` percent of analyzed samples, or 3) deemed duplicates by small pairwise <m/z, rt> differences as specified by the `duplicate` argument.

Remaining features are ranked by abundance quantiles, `Q`, using a central measure, either "median" or "mean." Alternatively, the abundance quantiles column can be specified in the argument `Q`.

### Value

An object of class `metabData` containing the specific information specified by `mz`, `rt`, `samples`, `id`, `adduct`, `Q`, and `extra` arguments, and adjusted by pre-processing steps.

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)

#samples: CHEAR; RedCross samples non-analyzed "extra" columns
p30 <- metabData(plasma30, mz = "mz", rt = "rt", id = "identity",
                 adduct = "adduct", samples = "CHEAR", extra = "RedCross")

getSamples(p30) #should print names of 5 CHEAR Sample column names
getExtra(p30)  #should print names of 5 Red Cross Sample column names

#equivalent to above
p30 <- metabData(plasma30, id = "id", samples = "CHEAR", extra = "Red")

#analyzing Red Cross samples with retention time limitations (0.5-17.5min)
p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "Red", rtmin = 0.5, rtmax = 17.5)
data = getData(p30)
range(data$rt)

#using regular expressions for field searches
p30.2 <- metabData(plasma30, id = "identity|id|ID", samples = ".[3-5]$")
getSamples(p30.2) #should print all column names ending in .3, .4, .5
```

---

`metabData-class`                    *'metabData' Single Metabolomics Dataset Class*

---

### Description

This class is designed to process and format input metabolomics feature tables. It stores the information from individual metabolomics datasets, including the formatted feature table, sample names, and feature statistics.

**Slots**

data formatted metabolomics data frame.  
 samples character vector of analyzed sample names  
 extra character vector of non-analyzed columns names  
 stats A list of dataset statistics

---

mzGroup	<i>Binning of mass spectral features in m/z dimension</i>
---------	---

---

**Description**

Features in two input feature lists are grouped by their m/z values.

**Usage**

```
mzGroup(xset, yset, binGap)
```

**Arguments**

xset	data frame containing metabolomics features
yset	data frame containing metabolomics features
binGap	numeric gap value between consecutive sorted & pooled feature m/z values.

**Details**

The m/z values from both datasets are pooled, sorted, and binned by the binGap argument. Feature groups form when there is at least one pair of features from both datasets whose consecutive difference is less than binGap. Grouped features are joined together in combinedTable data report.

**Value**

list object containing updated xset & yset with group information

---

nonmatched	<i>Get Nonmatched Features</i>
------------	--------------------------------

---

**Description**

Features that lack a any counterparts in the complementary dataset may be obtained from this method.

**Usage**

```
nonmatched(object, data = c("x", "y"))
```

```
## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner'
nonmatched(object, data = c("x", "y"))
```

**Arguments**

object	metabCombiner object
data	Either one of 'x' or 'y', specifying which dataset's nonmatched features to return.

**Value**

If data is "x", returns non-matched X features ; if "y", returns non-matched Y features

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.005)

nmx <- nonmatched(p.comb, data = "x")
nmy <- nonmatched(p.comb, data = "y")
```

---

objective

*Weight Parameter Objective Function*

---

**Description**

This function evaluates the A, B, C weight parameters in terms of score separability of matching versus mismatching compound alignments. Higher objective function value imply a superior weight parameter selection.

**Usage**

```
objective(
  cTable,
  idtable,
  A,
  B,
  C,
  minScore,
  mzdiff,
  rtdiff,
  qdiff,
  rtrange,
  adductdiff,
  penalty,
  matches,
  mismatches
)
```



**Arguments**

cTable	data frame. Abridged metabCombiner report table.
idtable	data frame containing all evaluated identities
A	Numeric weight for penalizing m/z differences.
B	Numeric weight for penalizing differences between fitted & observed retention times
C	Numeric weight for differences in Q (abundance quantiles).
minScore	numeric. Minimum score to count towards objective value.
mzdiff	numeric differences between feature m/z values
rtdiff	Differences between model-projected retention time value & observed retention time
qdiff	Difference between feature quantile Q values.
rtrange	range of dataset Y retention times
adductdiff	Numeric divisors of computed score when non-empty adduct labels do not match
penalty	positive numeric penalty wherever $S(i,j) > S(i,i)$ , $i \neq j$
matches	integer row indices of identity matches
mismatches	list of integer identity row mismatches for each identity

**Details**

First, the similarity scores between all grouped features are calculated as described in scorePairs

Then, the objective value for a similarity S is evaluated as:

$$OBJ(S) = \sum h(S(i, i)) - h(S(i, j)) - p(S(i, i) > S(i, j))$$

-S(i,i) represents the similarity between correct identity alignments

-S(i,j), represents the maximum similarity of i to grouped feature j,  $i \neq j$  (the highest-scoring misalignment)

-h(x) = x if  $x > \text{minScore}$ , 0 otherwise

-p(COND) = 0 if the condition is true, and a penalty value otherwise

This is summed over all labeled compound identities (e.g. idx = idy) shared between input datasets.

**Value**

A numeric value quantifying total separability of compound match similarity scores from mismatch scores, given A,B,C values

---

`plasma20`*20 minute Metabolomics Analysis of Human Plasma*

---

**Description**

An example metabolomics dataset consisting of human plasma from Red Cross and CHEAR cohorts, plus pooled aliquots and blanks, acquired with a 20 minute total Reversed-Phase Liquid Chromatography & QTOF-MS instrument in the positive ionization mode.

**Usage**

```
data(plasma20)
```

**Format**

A data frame with 8910 rows and 22 columns:

---

`plasma30`*30 minute Metabolomics Analysis of Human Plasma*

---

**Description**

An example metabolomics dataset consisting of human plasma from Red Cross and CHEAR cohorts, plus pooled aliquots and blanks, acquired with a 30 minute total Reversed-Phase Liquid Chromatography and a QTOF-MS instrument in the positive ionization mode.

**Usage**

```
data(plasma30)
```

**Format**

A data frame with 8910 rows and 22 columns

---

`plot,metabCombiner,ANY-method`*Plot metabCombiner Fits*

---

**Description**

This is a plotting method for metabCombiner objects. It displays ordered pairs and a curve fit computed using `fit_gam` or `fit_loess`, using base R graphics.

**Usage**

```
## S4 method for signature 'metabCombiner,ANY'
plot(x, y, ...)

plot_fit(
  object,
  fit = c("gam", "loess"),
  pcol,
  lcol,
  lwd,
  remove.outliers = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

**Arguments**

x	metabCombiner object
y	...
...	Other variables passed into graphics::plot
object	metabCombiner object
fit	choice of model (either "gam" or "loess").
pcol	color of the points (ordered pairs) in the plot.
lcol	color of the fitted line in the plot
lwd	line width of the curve fit between anchor points
remove.outliers	logical, option to exclude outlier anchors in plot

**Value**

no values returned

**Examples**

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb = metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)
p.comb = selectAnchors(p.comb, tolMz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
p.comb = fit_gam(p.comb, k = 20, iterFilter = 1)

##plot of GAM fit
plot(p.comb, main = "Example GAM Fit Plot", xlab = "X Dataset RTs",
      ylab = "Y Dataset RTs", pcol = "red", lcol = "blue", lwd = 5,
      fit = "gam", pch = 19, remove.outliers = TRUE)

grid(lwd = 2, lty = 3) #adding gridlines
```

---

 scorePairs

*Calculate Pairwise Alignment Scores*


---

### Description

Helper function for `calcScores` & `evaluateParams`. Calculates a pairwise similarity score between grouped features using differences in m/z, rt, and Q.

### Usage

```
scorePairs(A, B, C, mzdifff, rtdifff, qdifff, rtrange, adductdifff)
```

### Arguments

A	Numeric weight for penalizing m/z differences.
B	Numeric weight for penalizing differences between fitted & observed retention times.
C	Numeric weight for differences in Q (abundance quantiles).
mzdifff	Numeric differences between feature m/z values
rtdifff	Differences between model-projected retention time value & observed retention time
qdifff	Difference between feature quantile Q values
rtrange	Range of dataset Y retention times
adductdifff	Numeric divisors of computed score when non-empty adduct labels do not match

### Details

The score between two grouped features x & y is calculated as:

$$S = -\exp(-A|mzx - mzy| - B|rty - rtproj|/rtrange - C|Qx - Qy|)$$

where mzx & Qx correspond to the m/z and abundance quantile values of feature x; mzy, rty, and Qy correspond to the m/z, retention time, and quantile values of feature y; rtproj is the model-projected retention time of feature x onto the Y dataset chromatogram and rtrange is the retention time range of the Y dataset chromatogram. A, B, C are non-negative constant weight parameters for penalizing m/z, rt, and Q differences. Values between 0 (no confidence alignment) and 1 (high confidence alignment).

### Value

Numeric similarity score between 0 & 1

selectAnchors

*Select Anchors for Nonlinear RT Model***Description**

A subset of possible alignments in the `combinedTable` are used as ordered pairs to anchor a retention time projection model. Alignments of abundant features are prominent targets for anchor selection, but shared identified features (i.e. feature pairs where `idx = idy`) may be used.

**Usage**

```
selectAnchors(
  object,
  useID = FALSE,
  tolMz = 0.003,
  tolQ = 0.3,
  tolRTQ = 0.5,
  windX = 0.03,
  windY = 0.03,
  brackets_ignore = c("(", "[", "{")
)
```

**Arguments**

<code>object</code>	metabCombiner object.
<code>useID</code>	logical. Option to first search for IDs as anchors.
<code>tolMz</code>	numeric. m/z tolerance for prospective anchors
<code>tolQ</code>	numeric. Quantile Q tolerance for prospective anchors
<code>tolRTQ</code>	numeric. Linear RT quantile tolerance for prospective anchors.
<code>windX</code>	numeric. Retention time exclusion window around each anchor in X dataset. Optimal values are between 0.01 and 0.05 min (1-3s)
<code>windY</code>	numeric. Retention time exclusion window around each anchor in dataset Y. Optimal values are between 0.01 and 0.05 min (1-3s)
<code>brackets_ignore</code>	If <code>useID = TRUE</code> , bracketed identity strings of the types included in this argument will be ignored.

**Details**

In order to map between two sets of retention times, a set of ordered pairs need to be selected for the spline fit. This function relies on mutually abundant features to select these ordered pairs. In iterative steps, the most abundant (as indicated by Q value) in one dataset is selected along with its counterpart, and all features within some retention time window specified by `windX` & `windY` arguments are excluded. This process is repeated until all features have been considered.

`tolQ` & `tolMz` arguments restrict to feature pairs that have differences in Q & m/z within these tolerances. `tolRTQ` further limits to feature pairs those with relative differences in linear retention time quantiles, calculated as  $rtqx = (rtx - \min(rtx)) / (\max(rtx) - \min(rtx))$  &  $rtqy = (rty - \min(rty)) / (\max(rty) - \min(rty))$

Shared identities (in which `idx` & `idy` columns have matching, non-empty & non-bracketed strings) may be used if `useID` is set to `TRUE`. In this case, shared identities will be searched first and will not be subject to any of the restrictions in `m/z`, `Q`, or `rt`. The iterative process proceeds after processing of shared identities.

### Value

`metabCombiner` object with updated `anchors` slot. This is a `data.frame` of feature pairs that shall be used to map between retention times using a `GAM` or `LOESS` model.

<code>idx</code>	identities of features from dataset X
<code>idy</code>	identities of features from dataset Y
<code>mzx</code>	m/z values of features from dataset X
<code>mzy</code>	m/z values of features from dataset Y
<code>rtx</code>	retention time values of features from dataset X
<code>rty</code>	retention time values of features from dataset Y
<code>rtProj</code>	model-projected retention time values from X to Y
<code>Qx</code>	abundance quantile values of features from dataset X
<code>Qy</code>	abundance quantile values of features from dataset Y
<code>adductX</code>	adduct label of features from dataset X
<code>adductY</code>	adduct label of features from dataset Y
<code>group</code>	m/z feature group of feature pairing
<code>labels</code>	anchor labels; "I" for identity, "A" for normal anchors

### See Also

[getAnchors](#), [fit\\_gam](#), [fit\\_loess](#)

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.005)

##example 1 (no known IDs used)
p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, tol mz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3, windx = 0.03,
  windy = 0.02, tolrtq = 0.3)

##example 2 (known IDs used)
p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, useID = TRUE, tol mz = 0.003, tolQ = 0.3)

##To View Plot of Ordered Pairs
anchors = getAnchors(p.comb)
plot(anchors$rtx, anchors$rty, main = "Selected Anchor Ordered Pairs",
  xlab = "rtx", ylab = "rty")
```

---

write2file	<i>Print metabCombiner Report to File.</i>
------------	--

---

### Description

Prints a combinedTable report to a file, specified by file argument. Output file has an empty line between each separate m/z group for ease of viewing.

### Usage

```
write2file(object, file, sep = ",")
```

### Arguments

object	metabCombiner object or combinedTable
file	character string naming the output file path
sep	Character field separator. Values within each row are separated by this character.

### Value

no values returned

### Examples

```
data(plasma30)
data(plasma20)

p30 <- metabData(plasma30, samples = "CHEAR")
p20 <- metabData(plasma20, samples = "Red", rtmax = 17.25)
p.comb <- metabCombiner(xdata = p30, ydata = p20, binGap = 0.0075)

p.comb <- selectAnchors(p.comb, tolmz = 0.003, tolrtq = 0.3, windy = 0.02)
p.comb <- fit_gam(p.comb, k = 20, iterFilter = 1)
p.comb <- calcScores(p.comb, A = 90, B = 14, C = 0.5)

###using metabCombiner object as input
write2file(p.comb, file = "plasma-combined.csv", sep = ",")

###using combinedTable report as input
cTable <- combinedTable(p.comb)
write2file(cTable, file = "plasma-combined.txt", sep = "\t")
```

# Index

- \* **datasets**
  - plasma20, [34](#)
  - plasma30, [34](#)
- adjustData, [3](#)
- calcScores, [4](#), [9](#), [10](#), [36](#)
- combinedTable, [6](#)
- combinedTable,metabCombiner-method (combinedTable), [6](#)
- combinerCheck, [7](#)
- crossValFit, [7](#)
- detectFields, [8](#)
- evaluateParams, [5](#), [9](#), [36](#)
- filterAnchors, [11](#)
- filterRT, [3](#), [12](#)
- findDuplicates, [3](#), [12](#), [30](#)
- fit\_gam, [11](#), [13](#), [16](#), [20](#), [38](#)
- fit\_loess, [11](#), [14](#), [15](#), [20](#), [38](#)
- formCombinedTable, [17](#)
- getAnchors, [17](#), [38](#)
- getAnchors,metabCombiner-method (getAnchors), [17](#)
- getCoefficients, [18](#)
- getCoefficients,metabCombiner-method (getCoefficients), [18](#)
- getData, [19](#)
- getData,metabData-method (getData), [19](#)
- getExtra, [19](#)
- getExtra,metabData-method (getExtra), [19](#)
- getModel, [20](#)
- getModel,metabCombiner-method (getModel), [20](#)
- getSamples, [21](#)
- getSamples,metabCombiner-method (getSamples), [21](#)
- getSamples,metabData-method (getSamples), [21](#)
- getStats, [22](#)
- getStats,metabCombiner-method (getStats), [22](#)
- getStats,metabData-method (getStats), [22](#)
- identityAnchorSelection, [23](#)
- isCombinedTable, [23](#)
- isMetabCombiner, [24](#)
- isMetabData, [24](#)
- iterativeAnchorSelection, [25](#)
- labelRows, [25](#)
- metabCombiner, [27](#)
- metabCombiner-class, [28](#)
- metabData, [3](#), [28](#)
- metabData-class, [30](#)
- mzGroup, [31](#)
- nonmatched, [31](#)
- nonmatched,metabCombiner-method (nonmatched), [31](#)
- objective, [10](#), [32](#)
- plasma20, [34](#)
- plasma30, [34](#)
- plot,metabCombiner,ANY-method, [34](#)
- plot\_fit (plot,metabCombiner,ANY-method), [34](#)
- scorePairs, [4](#), [5](#), [36](#)
- selectAnchors, [14](#), [16](#), [17](#), [23](#), [25](#), [37](#)
- write2file, [39](#)