Package 'GSRI'

October 16, 2018

Type Package

Title Gene Set Regulation Index

Version 2.28.0

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Imports methods, graphics, stats, utils, genefilter, Biobase, GSEABase, les (>= 1.1.6)

Depends R (>= 2.14.2), fdrtool

Suggests limma, hgu95av2.db

Enhances parallel

Description The GSRI package estimates the number of differentially expressed genes in gene sets, utilizing the concept of the Gene Set Regulation Index (GSRI).

License GPL-3

LazyLoad yes

biocViews Microarray, Transcription, DifferentialExpression, GeneSetEnrichment, GeneRegulation

git_url https://git.bioconductor.org/packages/GSRI

git_branch RELEASE_3_7

git_last_commit 2835bcc

git_last_commit_date 2018-04-30

Date/Publication 2018-10-15

R topics documented:

GSRI-package	*Gene Set Regulation Index (GSRI) package*

Description

The **GSRI** package estimates the number of differentially expressed genes in gene sets, utilizing the concept of the Gene Set Regulation Index (GSRI).

Details

The GSRI approach estimates the number of differentially expressed genes in gene sets. It is independent of the underlying statistical test used for assessing the differential effect of genes and does not require any cut-off values for the distinction between regulated and unregulated genes. The approach is based on the fact that p-values obtained from a statistical test are uniformly distributed under the null hypothesis and are shifted towards zero in case of the alternative hypothesis.

Through non-parametric fitting of the uniform component of the p-value distribution, the fraction of regulated genes r in a gene set is estimated. The GSRI η is then defined as the $\alpha * 100\%$-quantile of the distribution of r, obtained from bootstrapping the samples within the groups. The index indicates that with a probability of $(1 - \alpha)\%$ more than a fraction of η genes in the gene set is differentially expressed. It can also be employed to test the hypothesis whether at least one gene in a gene set is regulated. Further, different gene sets can be compared or ranked according to the estimated amount of regulation.

For details of the method, an application to experimental data, and a comparison with related approaches, see Bartholome et al., 2009.

The package is published under the GPL-3 license.

Author(s)

Julian Gehring, Kilian Bartholome, Clemens Kreutz, Jens Timmer

Maintainer: Julian Gehring <julian.gehring@fdm.uni-freiburg.de>

References

Kilian Bartholome, Clemens Kreutz, and Jens Timmer: Estimation of gene induction enables a relevance-based ranking of gene sets, Journal of Computational Biology: A Journal of Computational Molecular Cell Biology 16, no. 7 (July 2009): 959-967. http://www.liebertonline.com/doi/abs/10.1089/cmb.2008.0226

The **GSRI** package uses the functionality of the following packages:

Julian Gehring, Clemens Kreutz, Jens Timmer: les: Identifying Loci of Enhanced Significance in Tiling Microarray Data http://bioconductor.org/help/bioc-views/release/bioc/html/les.html

Korbinian Strimmer: fdrtool: Estimation and Control of (Local) False Discovery Rates. http://CRAN.R-project.org/package=fdrtool

Robert Gentleman, Vincent J. Carey, Wolfgang Huber, Florian Hahne: genefilter: methods for filtering genes from microarray experiments. http://bioconductor.org/help/bioc-views/release/bioc/html/genefilter.html

See Also

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Simulate expression data for a gene set of
## 100 genes, 20 samples (10 treatment, 10 control)
## and 30 regulated genes
set.seed(1)
exprs <- matrix(rnorm(100*20), 100)
exprs[1:30,1:10] <- rnorm(30*10, mean=2)
rownames(exprs) <- paste("g", 1:nrow(exprs), sep="")
groups <- factor(rep(1:2, each=10))

## Estimate the number of differentially expressed genes
res <- gsri(exprs, groups)
res

## Perform the analysis for different gene set
library(GSEABase)
gs1 <- GeneSet(paste("g", 25:40, sep=""), setName="set1")
gs2 <- GeneSet(paste("g", seq(1, nrow(exprs), by=5), sep=""), setName="set2")
gsc <- GeneSetCollection(gs1, gs2)

res2 <- gsri(exprs, groups, gs1)
res3 <- gsri(exprs, groups, gsc, verbose=TRUE)

summary(res2)
```

---

export	*Export results to file*

Description

Export the results of a Gsri object to a file.

Usage

```
export(object, file, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class Gsri whose results to export.
file	Character vector specifying the path of the file to be written.
...	Additional arguments, currently not used.

Details

The export method writes the results of the GSRI analysis, as obtained with getGsri, to a text file. The file is formatted with the standard parameters of the write.table function, while "\t" is used as field seperator.

Author(s)

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See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Not run:
export(gsri, file)

## End(Not run)
```

---

get-methods	*Get methods for* Gsri *class*

Description

Access and extract results from an object of class Gsri.

Usage

```
getGsri(object, index, ...)
getCdf(object, index, ...)
getParms(object, ...)
```

Arguments

object	An object of class Gsri whose results to access.
index	Optional argument used to subset the results of individual gene sets. For details, see the plot method.
...	Additional arguments, currently not used.

Details

getGsri returns a data frame with the results of the GSRI analysis, equivalent to the display of the print and show method. For each gene set it contains the estimated fraction and total number of regulated genes, the standard deviation of the estimated fraction, the GSRI, and the total number of genes in the analysis.

getCdf returns a data frame with ECDF of the p-values for a gene set.

getParms returns a list with the parameters used in the analysis, including the weights (weight) for each gene in the gene set, the number (nBoot) of bootstraps for the calculation of the GSRI, the function (test) and its arguments (testArgs) used for assessing the differential effect between the groups, the confidence level for the GSRI, and the application of the Grenander estimatior (grenander) in the calculation of the ECDF.

Value

getGsri and getCdf return data frame with the results from the GSRI analysis and the ECDF, respectively. getParms returns a list with the parameters used in the analysis.

If more than one gene set is accessed, a list with one element per gene set is returned.

Author(s)

Julian Gehring

Maintainer: Julian Gehring <julian.gehring@fdm.uni-freiburg.de>

See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Not run:
getGsri(object)
getCdf(object)
getParms(object)

## End(Not run)
```

---

gsri   *Methods for the Gene Set Regulation Index (GSRI)*

Description

Estimate the number of differentially expressed genes in gene sets.

Usage

```
gsri(exprs, groups, geneSet, names=NULL, weight=NULL, nBoot=100,
test=rowt, testArgs=NULL, alpha=0.05, grenander=TRUE, verbose=FALSE,
...)
```

Arguments

exprs	Matrix or object of class ExpressionSet containing the expression intensities of the microarray. If a matrix the rows represent the genes and the columns the samples, respectively.
groups	Factor with the assignments of the microarray samples to the groups, along which the differential effect should be estimated. Must have as many elements as exprs has samples.
geneSet	Optional object of class GeneSet or GeneSetCollection defining the gene set(s) used for the analysis. If missing all genes of exprs are considered to be part of the gene set. If an object of class GeneSet only these genes are considered to be part of the gene set. If an object of class GeneSetCollecton the analysis is performed for each gene set of the collection individually.

names   Optional character vector with the names of the gene set(s). If missing the names
                   are taken from the geneSet argument. Has to have as many unique elements as
                   gene sets in the analysis.

weight   Optional numerical vector of weights specifying the certainty a gene is part of
                   the gene set. If NULL all genes are assumed to have the same weight. Please
                   note that the weights are defined in a relative way and thus any kind of positive
                   weights is feasable. Must have as many elements as eighter the genes defined in
                   geneSet or in exprs.

nBoot   Integer with the number of bootstrap samples to be drawn in the calculation of
                   the GSRI (default: 100).

test   A function defining the statistical test used to assess the differential effect be-
                   tween the groups which are given by the groups argument. In this package,
                   a t-test (rowt) and an F-test (rowF) are already supplied, with rowt being the
                   default. Additionally, a custom test function can be used in order to be able to
                   include any feasible statistical test in the analysis. For details, please see the
                   'details' section.

testArgs   List of optional arguments used by the test function. For details, please see the
                   'details' section and the help for test-functions.

alpha   Single numeric specifying the confidence level for the GSRI. The estimated
                   GSRI is the lower bound of the (1-α)*100% confidence interval obtained from
                   bootstrapping.

grenander   Logical about whether the modified Grenander estimator for the cumulative den-
                   sity should be used instead of a centered ECDF. By default the modified Grenan-
                   der estimator is used. For more information, please see the 'details' section.

verbose   Logical indicating whether the progress of the computation should be printed
                   to the screen (default: FALSE). Most useful if geneSet is an object of class
                   GeneSetCollection.

...   Additional arguments, including:

                   minSize: Integer specifying the minimal number of genes in a gene set in order
                       to perform an analysis. If the gene set has less than minSize in exprs, the
                       gene set is ignored in the analysis.

                   nCores: Integer setting the number of cores used for the computation in combi-
                       nation with the **multicore** package for a GeneSetCollection. For details,
                       please see the 'details' section.

Details

The gsri method estimates the degree of differential expression in gene sets. By assessing the
part of the distribution of p-values consistent with the null hypothesis the number of differentially
expressed genes is calculated.

Through non-parametric fitting of the uniform component of the p-value distribution, the fraction
of regulated genes r in a gene set is estimated. The GSRI η is then defined as the $\alpha * 100\%$-quantile
of the distribution of r, obtained from bootstrapping the samples within the groups. The index
indicates that with a probability of $(1 - \alpha)\%$ more than a fraction of η genes in the gene set is
differentially expressed. It can also be employed to test the hypothesis whether at least one gene
in a gene set is regulated. Further, different gene sets can be compared or ranked according to the
estimated amount of regulation.

Assessing the differential effect is based on p-values obtained from statistical testing at the level of
individual genes between the groups. The GSRI approach is independent of the underlying test and

can be chosen according to the experimental design. With the t-test (`rowt`) and F-test (`rowF`) two widely used statistical test are already part of the package. Additional tests can easily used which are passed with the `test` argument to the `gsri` method. For details on how to implement custom test functions, please refer to the help of `rowt` and `rowF` or the vignette of this package.

The GSRI approach further allows weighting the influence of individual genes in the estimation. This can be beneficial including for example the certainty that genes are part of a certain gene set derived from experimental findings or annotations.

Defining gene sets is available through the **GSEABase** package which provides the `GeneSet` and `GeneSetCollection` classes a single or multiple gene sets, respectively. This ensures a powerful approach for obtaining gene sets from data objects, data bases, and other bioconductor packages. For details on how to define or retrieve gene sets, please refer to the documentation of the **GSEABase** package, with a special focus on the `GeneSet` and `GeneSetCollection` classes.

The distribution of the p-values of a gene set is assessed in the cumulative density. In addition to a symmetrical empirical cumulative density function (ECDF), the modified Grenander estimator based on the assumption about the concave shape of the cumulative density is implemented and used by default. While the modified Grenander estimator reduces the variance and makes the approach more stable especially for small gene set, it underestimates the number of regulated genes and thus leads to conservative estimates.

In the case that the computation is performed for several gene sets in the form of a `GeneSetCollection` object, it can be parallelized with the **multicore** package. Please note that this package is not available on all platforms. Using its capabilities requires attaching **multicore** prior to the calculation and specification of the `nCores` argument. For further details, please refer to the documentation of the **multicore** package. This may be especially relevant in the case that specific seed values for the bootstrapping are of interest.

Value

An object of class `Gsri` with the slots:

`result`: Data frame containing the results of the GSRI estimation, with one row for each gene set.

`cdf`: List of data frames containing the ECDF of the p-values. Each data frame covers one gene set.

`parms`: List containing the parameter values used in the analysis, with the elements.

For details, please see the help for the `Gsri` class.

Methods

Analysis for all genes of `exprs` part of the gene set:

```
signature(exprs="matrix", groups="factor", geneSet="missing")
signature(exprs="ExpressionSet", groups="factor", geneSet="missing")
```

Analysis for one gene set, defined as an object of class `GeneSet`:

```
signature(exprs="matrix", groups="factor", geneSet="GeneSet")
signature(exprs="ExpressionSet", groups="factor", geneSet="GeneSet")
```

Analysis for several gene sets, defined as an object of class `GeneSetCollection`:

```
signature(exprs="matrix", groups="factor", geneSet="GeneSetCollection")
signature(exprs="ExpressionSet", groups="factor", geneSet="GeneSetCollection")
```

In this case parallel computing capabilities provided by the **multicore** package may be available, depending on the platform.

Note

The standard deviation of the estimated number of regulated genes as well as the GSRI are obtained through bootstrapping. Thus, the results for these two parameters may differ slightly for several realizations, especially for small numbers of bootstraps (nBoot). Setting the seed of the random number generator avoids this problem and yields exactly the same results for several realizations.

Author(s)

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See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Simulate expression data for a gene set of
## 100 genes, 20 samples (10 treatment, 10 control)
## and 30 regulated genes
set.seed(1)
exprs <- matrix(rnorm(100*20), 100)
exprs[1:30,1:10] <- rnorm(30*10, mean=2)
rownames(exprs) <- paste("g", 1:nrow(exprs), sep="")
groups <- factor(rep(1:2, each=10))

## Estimate the number of differentially expressed genes
res <- gsri(exprs, groups)
res

## Perform the analysis for different gene set
library(GSEABase)
gs1 <- GeneSet(paste("g", 25:40, sep=""), setName="set1")
gs2 <- GeneSet(paste("g", seq(1, nrow(exprs), by=5), sep=""), setName="set2")
gsc <- GeneSetCollection(gs1, gs2)

res2 <- gsri(exprs, groups, gs1)
res3 <- gsri(exprs, groups, gsc, verbose=TRUE)

summary(res2)
```

Gsri-class   *Class* Gsri

Description

Objects of the class Gsri contain the results of the GSRI analysis.

Objects from the class

Objects of class Gsri are returned by the gsri methods.

Slots

result: Data frame containing the results of the GSRI estimation, with one row for each gene set and the columns:

     pRegGenes: Fraction of regulated genes in the gene set

     pRegGenesSd: Standard deviation of pRegGenes obtained from bootstrapping.

     nRegGenes: Total number of regulated genes in the gene set.

     GSRI('alpha'%): Gene Set Regulation Index, corresponding to the 'alpha'% quantile of the bootstrapped distribution.

     nGenes: Total number of genes in the gene set.

cdf: List of data frames containing the ECDF of the p-values. Each data frame covers one gene set, with the columns:

     pval: P-values obtained from the test function.

     cdf: Empirical cumulative density.

parms: List containing the parameter values used in the analysis, with the elements:

     weight: Weights for each gene in the gene set

     nBoot: Number of bootstraps for the calculation of the GSRI

     test: Statistical test function

     alpha: Confidence level for the GSRI

     grenander: Application of the Grenander estimatior in the calculation of the ECDF

     testArgs: Optional arguments for test function

Methods

Analysis:

gsri: signature(exprs="matrix", groups="factor",geneSet="missing")
     signature(exprs="ExpressionSet", groups="factor",geneSet="missing")
     signature(exprs="matrix", groups="factor",geneSet="GeneSet")
     signature(exprs="ExpressionSet", groups="factor",geneSet="GeneSet")
     signature(exprs="matrix", groups="factor",geneSet="GeneSetCollection")
     signature(exprs="ExpressionSet", groups="factor",geneSet="GeneSetCollection")
     Assess the degree of differential effect in the expression data.

Visualization:

plot: signature(x="Gsri", y=ANY)

Plot the empirical density of p-values and the corresponding estimated effect.

Export to file:

export: `signature(object="Gsri", file="character")`

Get methods:

getGsri: `signature(object="Gsri")`

getCdf: `signature(object="Gsri")`

getParms: `signature(object="Gsri")`

Show:

show: `signature(obejct="Gsri")`

summary: `signature(obejct="Gsri")`

Author(s)

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See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
showClass("Gsri")
```

---

  plot-methods   *Visualize GSRI results*

Description

Plot the empirical cumulative density along with the estimated degree of regulation of the p-value distribution for a gene set.

Usage

```
plot(x, y, ...)
```

Arguments

x	An object of class Gsri containing the results to plot.
y	A single integer or character string specifying the results of which gene set to plot. This has to be given if x contains the results of several gene sets. An integer is interpreted as the index of the gene set (i.e. the row number), while a character is matched against the names of the gene sets.
...	Optional arguments used in order to customize the plot. See the 'details' section.

Details

Plotting the p-value distribution and the estimation of the regularized compontent for a gene set allows to insepct the results in detail. The plot illustrates the empirical cumulative density function of the p-values obtained from testing for a differential effect between the groups. Additionally, the fit of the uniformly distributed component along with the estimated fraction of regularized genes and the GSRI is shown.

The `plot` method uses a special system in order to customize the graphical elements of the figure. It allows to refer to the different components with the name of the additional input argument; its value is a list containing named graphical parameters for the underlying plot function. The following list describes the possible names and their contribution.

`plot` Arguments for the axis and the labeling, passed to the `plot` function.

`fit` Arguments for the fit of the linear component of the ECDF, corresponding to the part without differential effect, passed to the `lines` function.

`ecdf` Arguments for the ECDF of the p-values, passed to the `lines` function.

`reg` Arguments for the horizontal line indicating the fraction of regulation, passed to the `lines` function.

`regText` Arguments for the text label of `reg`, passed to the `text` function.

`gsri` Arguments for the horizontal line indicating the GSRI, passed to the `lines` function.

`gsriText` Arguments for the text label of `gsri`, passed to the `text` function.

Thus, changing for example the limit of the y-axis, the plot type and color of the ECDF, and the label of the x-axis, you can use:

```
plot(x, plot=list(ylim=c(0, 0.8), xlab=expression(p)), ecdf=list(type="s", col="darkgreen"))
```

For more details, please see the 'examples' section.

Author(s)

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See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Not run:
plot(x)

plot(x, plot=list(main="Example plot"), ecdf=list(pch=21),
fit=list(lty=2, lwd=0.5, col="black"), gsri=list(col="lightblue"))

plot(x2, 2)
plot(x2, "gs2")

## End(Not run)
```

---

read-functions | *Import of '*`.cls`*' and '*`.gct`*' files*

Description

Import the groups from '`.cls`' files and the expression data from '`.gct`' files.

Usage

```
readCls(file, ...)
readGct(file, ...)
```

Arguments

file	Character vector specifying the path of the file to be read in.
...	Optinal arguments, currently not used.

Details

With these methods the expression data and the assignment of the samples to groups can be read from '`.cls`' (categorical class) and '`.gct`' (gene cluster text) files, respectively. Details on the specific formats can be found at http://www.broadinstitute.org/cancer/software/gsea/wiki/index.php/Data_formats.

Please note that the readCls method reads only categorical class labels, not continuous ones.

Value

For a '`.cls`' file, a factor containing the groups.

For a '`.gct`' file, a matrix containing the expression intensities, with rows corresponding to genes and columns to samples.

Author(s)

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See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Not run:
exprs <- readGct(file)

groups <- readCls(file)

## End(Not run)
```

---

sortGsri   *Sort GSRI results*

Description

Sort the results of an `Gsri` object.

Usage

```
sortGsri(x, names, decreasing=TRUE, na.last=NA, ...)
```

Arguments

x	Object of class `Gsri` whose results to sort.
names	Columns along which the results of x should be sorted, eighter a character vector with the names of the columns or an integer vector with the index of the columns. If the vector has several elements, sorting is performed along all of them, starting with the first and using subsequent ones to break existing ties. If names is not specified the results are sorted according to pRegGenes.
decreasing	Logical indicating whether the sorting should be in decreasing (default) or ascending order, see `sort`.
na.last	How `NA` values in the results should be treated, see `sort`.
...	Additional arguments, currently not used.

Value

An object of class `Gsri`, with sorted slots `result` and `cdf`.

Methods

signature(x="Gsri", names="ANY")

Author(s)

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Maintainer: Julian Gehring <julian.gehring@fdm.uni-freiburg.de>

See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Examples

```
## Not run:
sortGsri(object, c("pRegGenes", "nGenes"))
sortGsri(object, c(1, 5))

## End(Not run)
```

---

test-functions   *Statistical test functions*

Description

Assess the differential effect in gene expression between groups of microarray replicates.

Usage

```
rowt(exprs, groups, id, index, testArgs)
rowF(exprs, groups, id, index, testArgs=list(var.equal=TRUE))
limmat(exprs, groups, id, index, testArgs)
```

Arguments

exprs   A matrix of expression values of size n x m, with rows representing the genes
                and columns representing the samples. The structure is the same as for the exprs
                argument of the gsri method.

groups   A factor with the length m, specifying the groups of the corresponding samples
                in exprs. The structure is the same as for the exprs argument of the gsri
                method.

id   Index vector for the rows of exprs which are part of the current gene set.

index   Index for the columns of exprs, such that exprs[,index] yields the
                bootstrapped expression matrix. Similar to the index arguments for boot of the
                boot package.

testArgs   Optional list with arguments passed to the test function. If 'NULL' or missing
                it is not passed to test and any exisiting default value of the function is used
                instead.

                var.equal: For the rowF function a logical indicating whether equal variances
                     in the groups are assumed for the F-test (default: TRUE). For details, please
                     see rowFtests in the **genefilter** package.

Details

With the t-test and the F-test, two widely used statistical tests are available in this package. To allow
a fast computation the implementations from the **genefilter** package is used.

It is also possible to use custom test statistics for assessing the differential effect between groups
for each gene. In this case the function is passed as the test argument to the gsri method, while
additional parameters for the function can be passed as a list via the testArgs argument. The
defined function is required to be called as

```
function(exprs, groups, id, index, testArgs),
```

with exprs the matrix of expression intensities of the microarray and groups the factor of group
labels, with the same structure as those passed initially to the gsri method. The vector id contains
the indices of the genes part of the current gene set and is used to subset the expression intensities if
necessary. The function has to return one p-value for each gene in the gene set indicating its differ-
ential effect. The vector index contains the indicies of the samples for the bootstrapping. Applying
index on the expression matrix in the form of exprs[,index] generates the bootstrapped data
set.

For details on how to define and use your custom test functions, please refer to the 'examples'
section or the vignette of this package.

Value

A vector of p-values, indicating the significance of the differential effect between groups for each gene.

Author(s)

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See Also

Package: GSRI-package

Class: Gsri

Methods: gsri getGsri getCdf getParms export sortGsri plot show summary readCls readGct

Statistical tests from the **genefilter** package: rowFtests

Examples

```
## Not run:
## A simple example for a custom test function using a linear model.
## Note that for two groups this is equivalent to a t-test with equal variances.
testFcn <- function(exprs, groups, id, index, testArgs) {

  stat <- function(e, g, f) {
  m <- lm(f)
  pval <- summary(m)$coefficients[2,4]
  }

pvals <- apply(exprs[id,index], 1, stat, groups, testArgs$f)
return(pvals)
}

## Pass the definition of the linear model through 'testArgs'
f <- formula(e ~ g)

res <- gsri(exprs, groups, test=testFcn, testArgs=list(f=f))

## End(Not run)
```

Index