

# FLIM-FRET measurements of protein-protein interactions in live bacteria

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## How to ?

This is a short vignette showing how to use the *flimDiagRam* package.

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## Installation

To be able to use the functions and utilities of the *flimDiagRam* package, you need first to install the package. This can be done by installing the last updated version directly from github.

Note that there is no need to clone the repository from github to use the package. Instead the package can be installed from the github source repository directly in R.

```
if(!require(devtools)){install.packages("devtools")}
if(!require(flimDiagRam)){devtools::install_github("jgodet/flimDiagRam")}
if(!require(xtable)){install.packages('xtable')}
```

Then, call the package

```
library(flimDiagRam)
```

**Note:** installation needs to be done only once. On the contrary, packages must be called on every new R sessions

We will also install two additional packages

```
if(!require(utitlR)){devtools::install_github("jgodet/utitlR")}
if(!require('tidyverse')){install.packages('tidyverse')}
```

## Read the \*.asc files

The first step is to read the data. We can use file examples available on github. These files correspond to data of a singly labelled protein (labelled with eGFP) acquired at two different days of experiment.

```
path <- "https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jgodet/flimDiagRam/master/data/"
tauFilePath <- paste(path, "PAS406_001_t1.asc", sep="")
photFilePath <- paste(path, "PAS406_001_photons.asc", sep="")

data <- getData(pathTau = tauFilePath, pathPhoton = photFilePath,
               label = "Image1", minPhotons = 1000)
```

Let's check everything went OK

```
head(data)
```

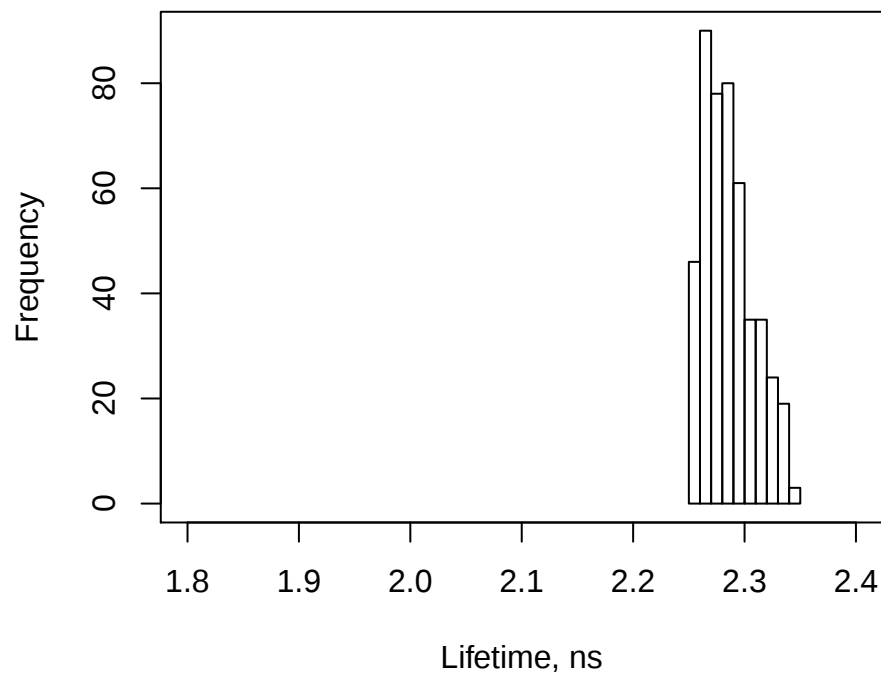
```
##      tau1d photons row col   ind
## 59  2316.74   1604  59   1 Image1
## 60  2317.43   3156  60   1 Image1
## 61  2313.05   4051  61   1 Image1
## 62  2312.28   2880  62   1 Image1
## 188 2321.20   2184  60   2 Image1
## 189 2315.67   2999  61   2 Image1
```

This table (data.frame) gives for each line the lifetime value (tau1d in ps), the intensity (photons), and the coordinates (row and column index in the image) of a pixel of the FLIM image.

## Basic data exploration

### Histogram of the lifetime distribution

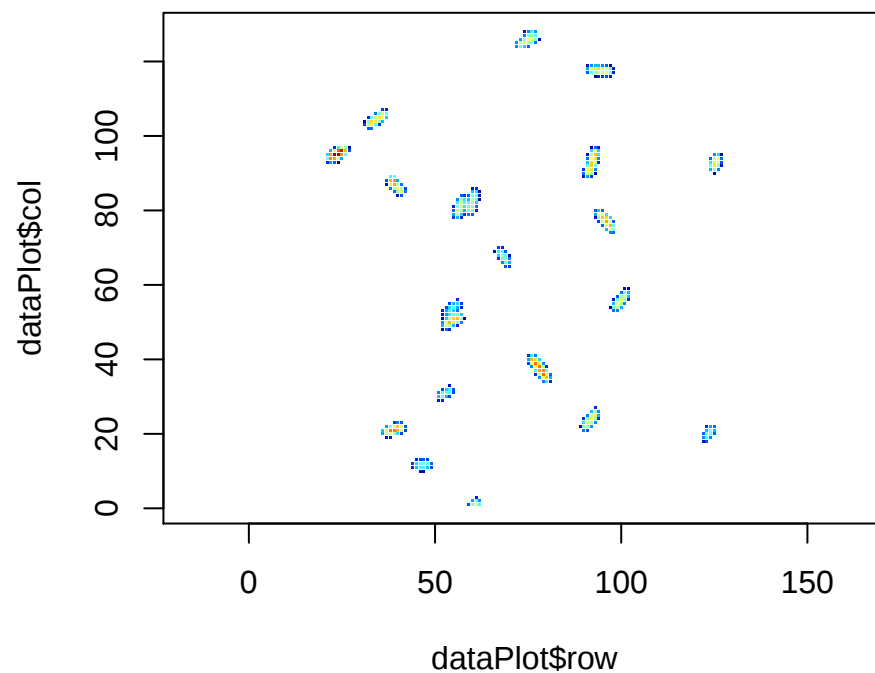
```
hist(data$tau1d/1000, main="",
     xlab="Lifetime, ns",
     xlim=c(1.8, 2.4))
box()
```



Aggregate data by bacteria

Plot the image

```
dataPlot <- data %>% dplyr::filter(photons>1000)
plot(x = dataPlot$row, y = dataPlot$col ,pch='.' ,
     col=utilitR::contColor(dataPlot$photons),asp=1)
```

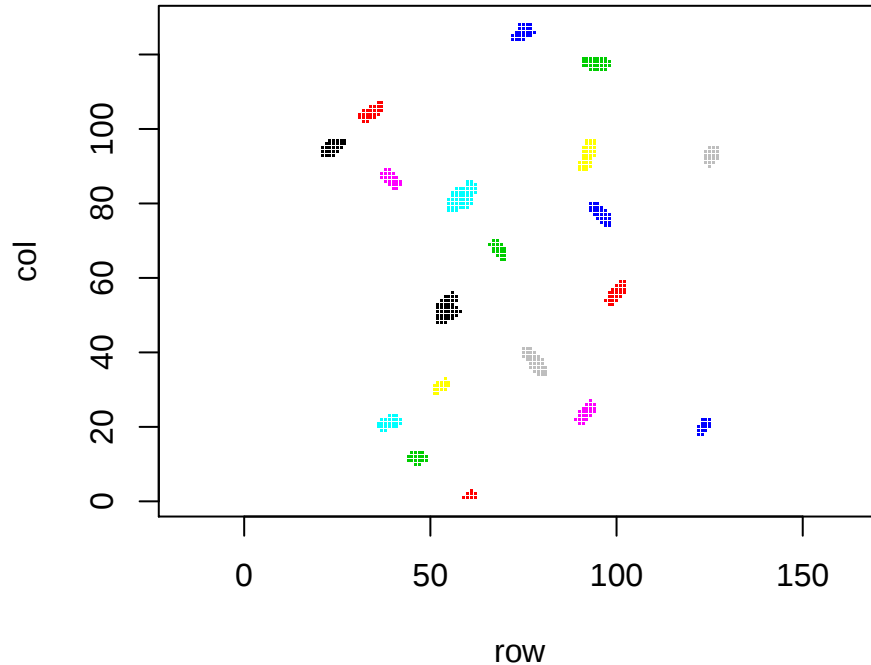


We will use the *dbscan* package to cluster pixels belonging to the same bacteria and the *tidyverse* package to explore the data

```

if(!require('dbscan')){install.packages('dbscan')}
require(dbscan)
res <- dbscan(data[,c("row","col")], eps = 2, minPts = 5)
data$bacteria <- res$cluster
plot(data[,c("row","col")], col = res$cluster + 1L, pch='.', asp=1)

```



**Note :** The cluster labelled “0” gathers pixel that were not attributed to any cluster (if exist).

**Note 2 :** Some bacteria are not correctly segmented using this basic clustering approach - or more exactly two or more bacteria can be clustered in a single cluster. It might be a good option to filter clusters according to their area (or number of pixels in the cluster) to discard the one corresponding to multiple bacteria

Now we will aggregate data by clusters of pixels corresponding to one bacteria

```

Im1_sumup <- data %>% filter(bacteria != 0) %>%
  group_by(bacteria) %>%
  dplyr::summarise( nPixels = n(),
                    tau_mean = mean(tau1d, na.rm = T),
                    tau_sd = sd(tau1d, na.rm = T),
                    tau_med = median(tau1d, na.rm = T),
                    label = unique(ind)) %>%
  filter(nPixels < 60)

```

Im1\_sumup

```

## # A tibble: 19 x 6
##   bacteria nPixels tau_mean tau_sd tau_med label
##   <int>    <int>    <dbl>  <dbl>  <dbl> <chr>
## 1         1         8    2318.   4.38   2317. Image1
## 2         2        18    2310.   3.91   2309. Image1
## 3         3        15    2270.   4.85   2270. Image1
## 4         4        24    2290.   1.76   2290. Image1
## 5         5        23    2272.   2.08   2272. Image1
## 6         6        16    2279.   4.97   2278. Image1

```

```
## 7      7      33    2259.    2.78    2258. Image1
## 8      8      42    2312.    4.23    2310. Image1
## 9      9      24    2291.    3.63    2289. Image1
## 10     10     19    2323.    2.71    2325. Image1
## 11     11     26    2263.    3.82    2263. Image1
## 12     12     47    2268.    3.17    2267. Image1
## 13     13     22    2335.    3.30    2335. Image1
## 14     14     32    2295.    13.0    2295. Image1
## 15     15     19    2283.    3.59    2283. Image1
## 16     16     26    2276.    3.22    2277. Image1
## 17     17     25    2259.    4.08    2259. Image1
## 18     18     28    2293.    3.31    2294. Image1
## 19     19     24    2281.    1.88    2281. Image1
```

We have some nice descriptive statistics of 19 individual bacteria of image 1.

We can repeat the same procedure for a second FLIM image - in short:

```
tauFilePath2 <- paste(path, "PAS406_002_t1.asc", sep="")
photFilePath2 <- paste(path, "PAS406_002_photons.asc", sep="")

data2 <- getData(pathTau = tauFilePath2, pathPhoton = photFilePath2,
                 label = "Image2", minPhotons = 1000)

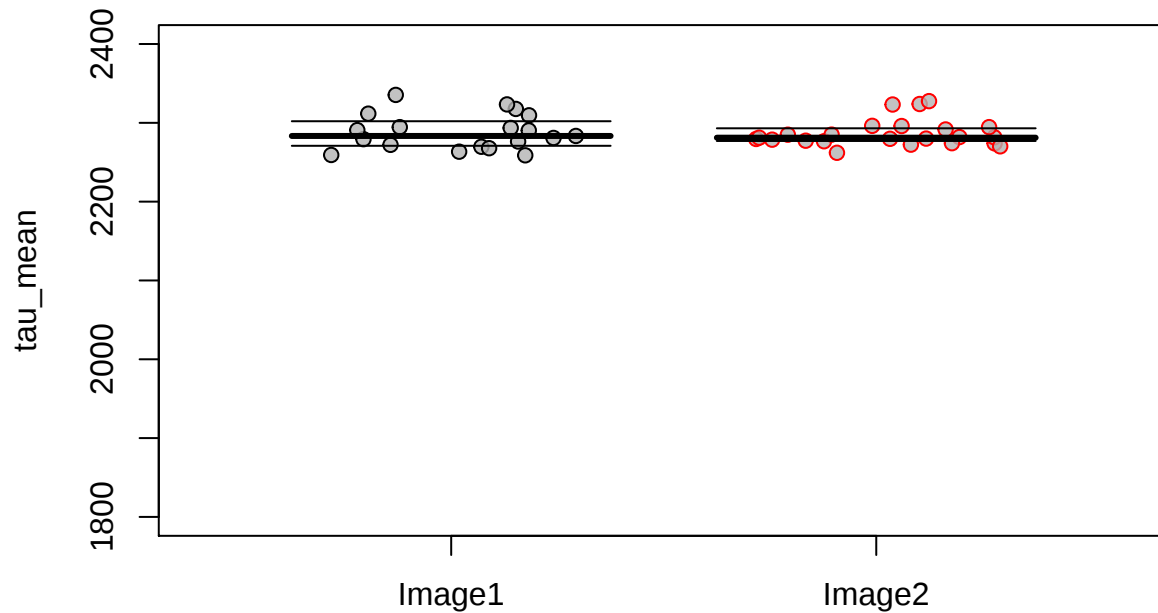
res2 <- dbscan(data2[,c("row","col")], eps = 2, minPts = 3)
data2$bacteria <- res2$cluster

Im2_sumup <- data2 %>% filter(bacteria != 0) %>%
  group_by(bacteria) %>%
  dplyr::summarise( nPixels =n(),
                   tau_mean = mean(tau1d, na.rm = T),
                   tau_sd = sd(tau1d, na.rm = T),
                   tau_med = median(tau1d, na.rm = T),
                   label = unique(ind)) %>%
  filter(nPixels<60)

#Im2_sumup
```

Let's bind table 1 and table 2 to check for example visually if we obtained the same results and lifetime values in these two images.

```
finalTable <- bind_rows( Im1_sumup, Im2_sumup)
utilitR::stripPlot(data = finalTable, tau_mean ~ label,
                   addBoxplot = T, ylim=c(1800, 2400))
```



In this plot, each point corresponds to the average lifetime of a bacteria measured either in image 1 or in image 2. Horizontal lines (hard to distinguish on this graph) correspond to the median value of cells (bold line) and the first and third quartile defining the interquartile range (IQR).

The lifetimes obtained for the two images look very similar. Indeed, a null hypothesis statistical t-test fails to demonstrate any difference between the bacteria cell average lifetime in these two images ( $p = 0.786$ ) with a mean difference of only 1.67 ps - confirming that reproducible results can be easily obtained for independent experiments realized on different dates on the same setup.

```
mod <- glm(tau_mean ~ label, data = finalTable, family = "gaussian")
options(xtable.comment = FALSE)
xtable(mod)
```

|             | Estimate  | Std. Error | t value | Pr(> t ) |
|-------------|-----------|------------|---------|----------|
| (Intercept) | 2288.2863 | 4.5296     | 505.18  | 0.0000   |
| labelImage2 | -1.6729   | 6.1210     | -0.27   | 0.7860   |

## Empirical distribution functions

When FRET occurs, the lifetime of the donor is shortened and the lifetime distribution of the pixels of the FLIM images is shifted towards shorter times.

```
data406 <- getData(pathTau = paste(path, "PAS406_003_t1.asc", sep=""),
  pathPhoton = paste(path, "PAS406_003_photons.asc", sep=""),
  label = "PAS180")
data407 <- getData(pathTau = paste(path, "PAS407_001_t1.asc", sep=""),
  pathPhoton = paste(path, "PAS407_001_photons.asc", sep=""),
  label = "PAS181")
data461 <- getData(pathTau = paste(path, "PAS461_001_t1.asc", sep=""),
  pathPhoton = paste(path, "PAS461_001_photons.asc", sep=""),
  label = "PAS215")
data476 <- getData(pathTau = paste(path, "PAS476_001_t1.asc", sep=""),
  pathPhoton = paste(path, "PAS476_001_photons.asc", sep=""),
  label = "PAS230")

globalData <- bind_rows(data406, data407, data461, data476)
boxplot(data = globalData, (tau1d/1000) ~ ind, ylim=c(1.5, 2.5),
  xlab="", ylab="Lifetime, ns")
abline(h=2.250, lty=2)
```

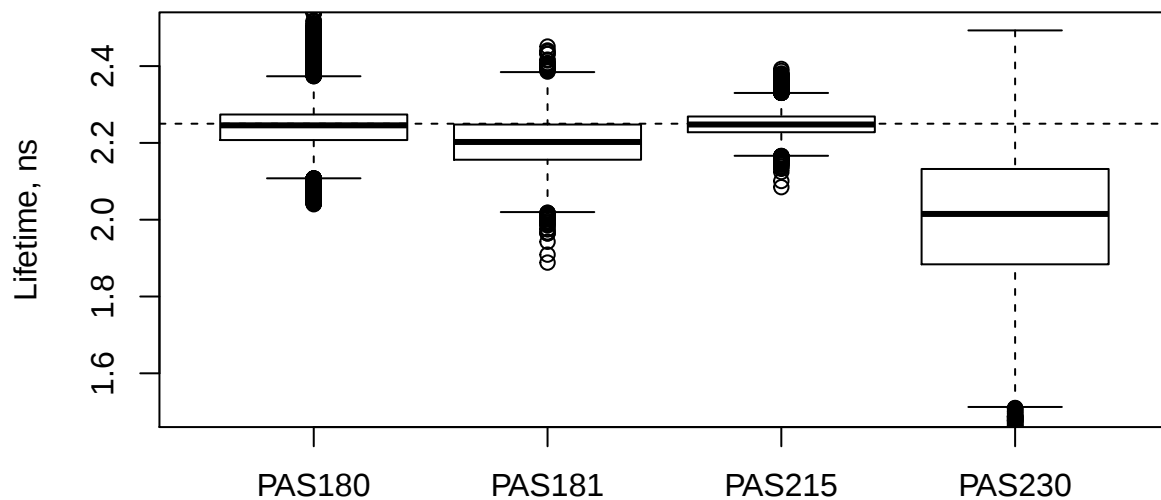
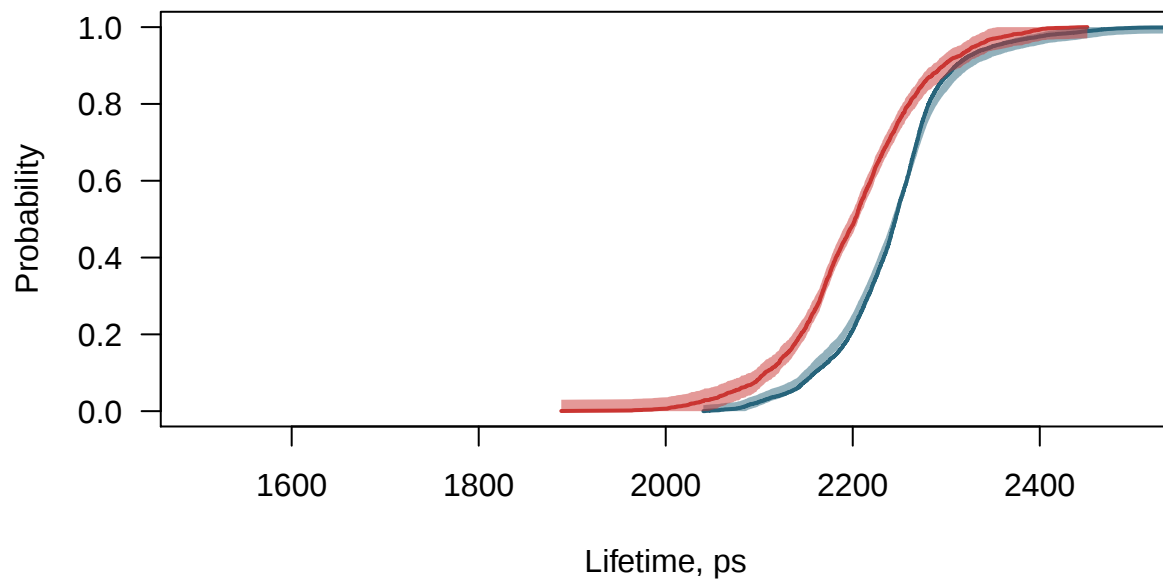


Figure 1: Lifetime distribution of the different mutants

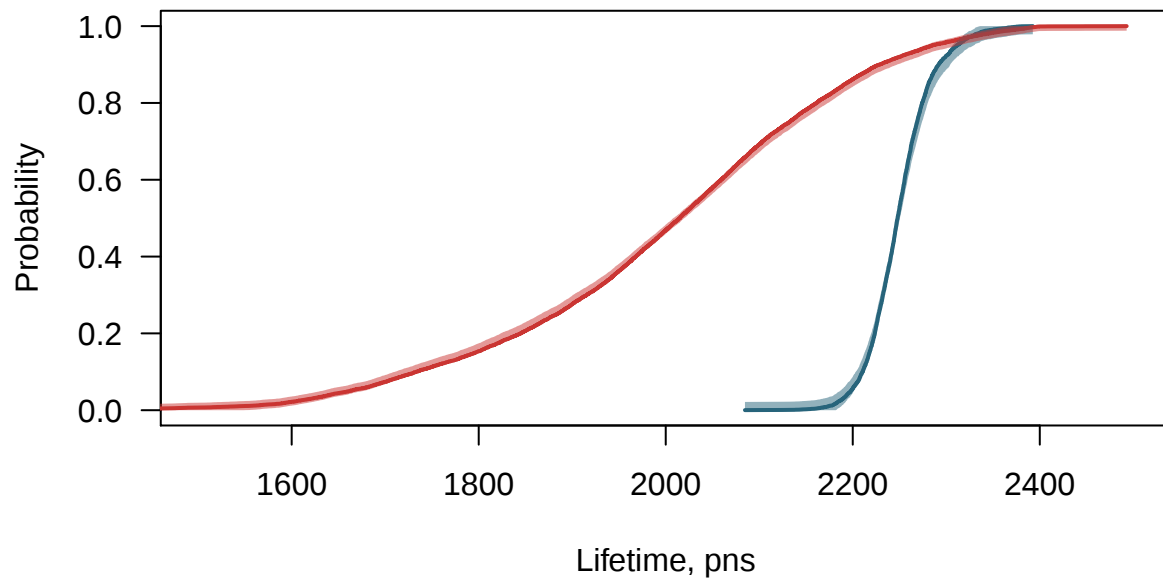
PAS180: PvdA-eGFP, PAS181: mCherry-PvdL / PvdA-EGFP, PAS215: eGFP-PvdL, PAS230: eGFP-PvdL / PvdA-mCherry

An easy way for comparing distributions visually is to use their empirical cumulative distribution functions. This can be done with the *plotEcdf* function

```
plotEcdf(AA =data406$tau1d, BB = data407$tau1d,
  xlim=c(1500,2500), xlab="Lifetime, ps",
  las=1,
  ylab= "Probability",
  CI=TRUE)
```



```
plotEcdf(AA =data461$tau1d, BB = data476$tau1d,
        xlim=c(1500,2500), xlab="Lifetime, pns",
        las=1,
        ylab= "Probability",
        CI = TRUE)
```



See figure 10 in Manko et al. 2020 for the interpretation of these data.

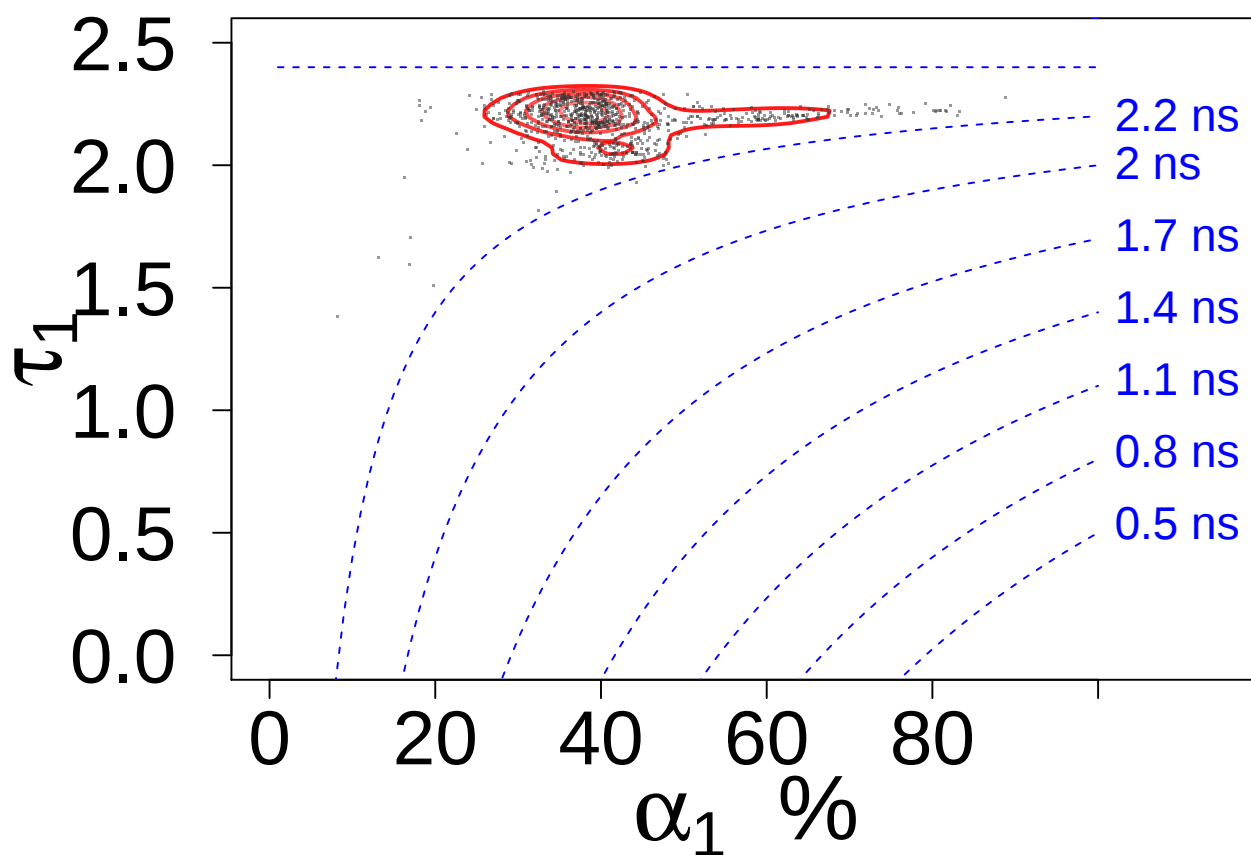
## Advanced data exploration for double-exponential fit with FLIM diagrams

First upload the example data files corresponding to double-exponential fit and write them locally. Lifetime matrix (shortest lived - called `"*_t1.asc"`) and amplitude matrix (`"*_a1.asc"` and `"*_a2.asc"`) contain the necessary information.

```
download.file(url = paste(path, "407_20170302_002_t1.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "407_20170302_002_t1.asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "407_20170302_002_a1%5B%25%5D.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "407_20170302_002_a1[%].asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "407_20170302_002_a2%5B%25%5D.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "407_20170302_002_a2[%].asc"))
```

Then to plot the FLIM diagram, two lines of code are necessary. First load and read the data, then render the plot.

```
pathlowFret <- paste(getwd(), "407_20170302_002", sep="/")
qsD <- getDataD(pathEGFP = pathlowFret, label = "PAS407", ref = 2300) #load
plotDiagram(data = qsD, silence = TRUE)
```



This plot corresponds to a situation for which the number of donors is much higher than the number of acceptors.

The fraction of transferring species is low (about 25-30 %). The lifetime values distribution is narrow with  $\tau_1$  values centered at about 2.3 ns.

If we now look at data corresponding to a strain with the opposite labelling strategy (the donor is now labelling the lowest expressed protein), the diagram plot looks very different.

```

download.file(url = paste(path, "476_20170428_001_t1.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "476_20170428_001_t1.asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "476_20170428_001_a1%5B%25%5D.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "476_20170428_001_a1[%].asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "476_20170428_001_a2%5B%25%5D.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "476_20170428_001_a2[%].asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "476_20170428_002_t1.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "476_20170428_002_t1.asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "476_20170428_002_a1%5B%25%5D.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "476_20170428_002_a1[%].asc"))
download.file(url = paste(path, "476_20170428_002_a2%5B%25%5D.asc", sep=""),
  destfile = file.path(getwd(), "476_20170428_002_a2[%].asc"))

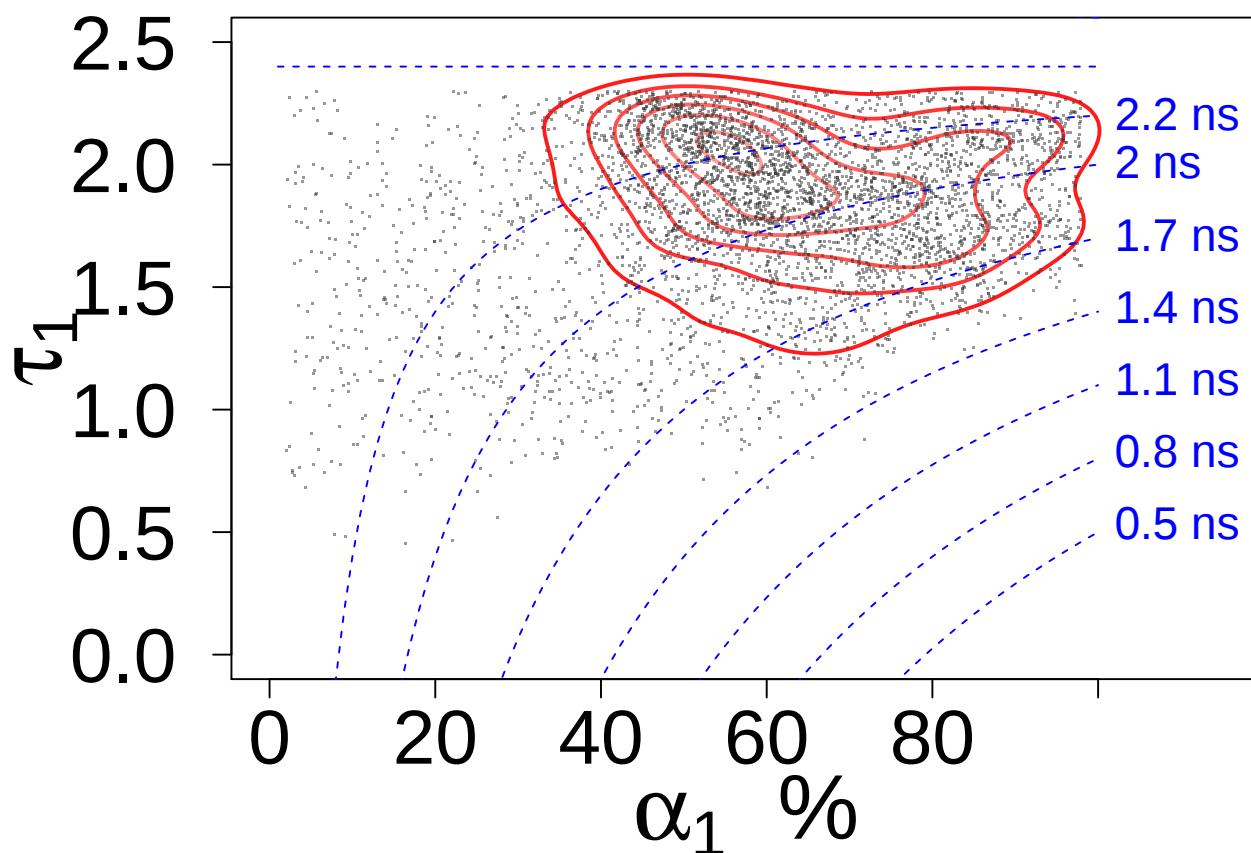
```

In this example, the data of two images are combined

```

pathhighFret1 <- paste(getwd(), "476_20170428_001", sep="/")
pathhighFret2 <- paste(getwd(), "476_20170428_002", sep="/")
qsF1 <- getDataF(pathFRET = pathhighFret1, label = "PAS476") #load
qsF2 <- getDataF(pathFRET = pathhighFret2, label = "PAS476") #load
qsF <- bind_rows(qsF1, qsF2)
plotDiagram(data = qsF, silence = TRUE, nl = 8)

```



Here,  $\alpha_1$  values are much higher than in the previous plot, ranging from 40% to nearly 100%. The large distribution of lifetimes shows the coexistence of complexes with different numbers of acceptors and different FRET efficiencies.

The graphical analysis and comparison of the FLIM diagram of the same complex but with two different labelling order demonstrates how the FLIM diagram can find very interesting visualization properties regarding

complexes with unbalanced stoichiometry - a situation usually challenging to interpretate in FLIM-FRET data.