## Multivariate Cutoff Level Analysis (MultiCoLA) of Large Community Datasets

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## Supplementary Figures:

**Supplementary Figure 1.** MultiCoLA profiles of biological variation with the datasetbased cutoff approach.

**Supplementary Figure 2.** MultiCoLA profiles of biological variation with the sample-based cutoff approach.

**Supplementary Figure 3.** MultiCoLA profiles of biological variation with the datasetbased and sample-based approaches on PyroNoise corrected data.

Supplementary Figure 4. MultiCoLA profiles based on the dataset- (A, B, C) and sample-based (D, E, F) cutoff approaches only retaining the rare OTUs in each truncated dataset. (A, D) Abundance of rare OTUs in each truncated dataset at the phylum, class, order, family, genus and OTU levels. A black solid line indicates comparisons at the OTU level for the dataset with a complete annotation and a black dashed line indicates the OTU level for the whole dataset (OTU whole DS). (B, E) Nonparametric Spearman correlations comparing the deviation in complete data structure between the original matrix and truncated matrices. (C, F) Comparison of most important axes of extracted variation between the original and truncated datasets. Lacking points are due to sample loss by applying a given cutoff to the original dataset. In the panels D, E, F, the upper x-axis corresponds to cutoff levels defined as a function of the samplebased approach, and the lower x-axis represents the corresponding proportion of removed sequences in the OTU dataset (all OTUs). This enables the comparison of the datasetbased approach with the sample-based approach. ODS, original dataset.



Supplementary Figure 1. MultiCoLA profiles of biological variation with the dataset-based cutoff approach. Partitioning of the biological variation at the (A) phylum, (B) class, (C) order, (D) family, (E) genus and (F) OTU levels for the dataset with a complete annotation, into the respective effects of environmental factors (nutrients and cell abundance). Negative values, unexplained variation and non-significant models are not shown. SiO<sub>2</sub>, silicate; PO<sub>4</sub>, phosphate; NH<sub>4</sub>, ammonium; Covariation of any of the 4 environmental factors is represented under the same category. A star indicates a significant effect of the pure factors (P < 5%), whereas "NS" indicates non-significant models. A cross indicates non-significant Bonferroni corrected models. Absence of data (lacking bar) is due to sample loss by applying a given cutoff to the original dataset.



**Supplementary Figure 2. MultiCoLA profiles of biological variation with the sample-based cutoff approach.** See Supplementary Figure 1 for details.



Supplementary Figure 3. MultiCoLA profiles of biological variation with the dataset-based (A, B, C, D) and sample-based (E, F, G, H) approaches for PyroNoise

**corrected data.** For the sample-based approach panel **H**, the upper x-axis corresponds to cutoff levels defined as a function of the sample-based approach (as for panels **E**, **F**, **G**), and the lower x-axis represents the corresponding proportion of removed sequences in the OTU dataset (all OTUs). This enables the comparison of the sample-based with dataset-based approach. Each panel consists of PyroNoise-corrected datasets whose sequences were clustered at various sequence dissimilarity levels (0-10%). See Supplementary Figure 1 for further details.



Supplementary Figure 4. MultiCoLA profiles based on the dataset- (A, B, C) and sample-based (D, E, F) cutoff approaches only retaining the rare OTUs in each truncated dataset. (A, D) Abundance of rare OTUs in each truncated dataset at the phylum, class, order, family, genus and OTU levels. A black solid line indicates comparisons at the OTU level for the dataset with a complete annotation and a black dashed line indicates the OTU level for the whole dataset (OTU whole DS). (B, E) Nonparametric Spearman correlations comparing the deviation in complete data structure between the original matrix and truncated matrices. (C, F) Comparison of most important axes of extracted variation between the original and truncated datasets. Lacking points are due to sample loss by applying a given cutoff to the original dataset. In the panels D, E, F, the upper x-axis corresponds to cutoff levels defined as a function of the samplebased approach, and the lower x-axis represents the corresponding proportion of removed sequences in the OTU dataset (all OTUs). This enables the comparison of the datasetbased approach with the sample-based approach. ODS, original dataset.