

# Package ‘SingleCellStat’

May 7, 2026

**Type** Package

**Title** A Toolkit for Statistical Analysis of Single-Cell Omics Data

**Version** 0.3.1

**Date** 2025-04-28

**Description**

A suite of statistical methods for analysis of single-cell omics data including linear model-based methods for differential abundance analysis for individual level single-cell RNA-seq data. For more details see Zhang, et al. (Submitted to Bioinformatics)<[https://github.com/Lujun995/DiSC\\_Replication\\_Code](https://github.com/Lujun995/DiSC_Replication_Code)>.

**Depends** R (>= 4.3.0)

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown

**Imports** matrixStats, Matrix, stats, utils, vegan

**License** GPL-3

**Encoding** UTF-8

**LazyData** true

**LazyDataCompression** xz

**NeedsCompilation** no

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**Repository** CRAN

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DiSC *DiSC: A statistical tool for differential expression analysis of individual level single-cell RNA-Seq data*

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## Description

A statistical tool for differential expression analysis of individual level single-cell RNA-Seq data

## Usage

```
DiSC(data.mat, cell.ind, metadata, outcome, covariates = NULL,
      cell.id = "cell_id",
      individual.id = "individual", perm.no = 999,
      features = c('prev', 'm', 'nzsds'), verbose = TRUE,
      sequencing.data = TRUE)
```

## Arguments

<code>data.mat</code>	A data matrix for single-cell RNA sequencing data, or other single-cell data such as CyToF data. Rows - genes/features, columns - cells. Column names are cell ids.
<code>cell.ind</code>	A data frame of cell-individual relationship. It includes two columns for cell ids and individual ids. It links cell ids to individual ids.
<code>metadata</code>	A data frame of individual-level metadata. It includes a column for individual ids, a column for the outcome of interest and columns for other covariates if applicable.
<code>outcome</code>	A character string for the column name of the outcome variable in metadata.
<code>covariates</code>	A character string or vector of character strings for the covariates to be adjusted. Should be the column names in metadata. Default: NULL.
<code>cell.id</code>	A character string for the column name of cell ids in <code>cell.ind</code> .
<code>individual.id</code>	A character string for the column name of the individual ids in <code>cell.ind</code> and metadata.
<code>perm.no</code>	An integer, number of permutations used. Default: 999. It can be reduced to 99 if adjusted P-values (false discovery rate) are the only interest.
<code>features</code>	Features of the distribution used to test for the differentially expressed genes. Choose from "prev" (logit(non-zero proportion)), "nzm" (sqrt(non-zero mean)), "nzsds" (sqrt(non-zero standard deviation)), "m" (overall mean), "sd" (overall standard deviation), "nzm^1", "nzsds^1", "m^1", "sd^1" (non-sqrt-transformed versions). Default: "prev", "m" and "nzsds".
<code>verbose</code>	Logical. Should the function print the processes? Default: TRUE.
<code>sequencing.data</code>	Logical. Is the data.mat a sequencing data matrix (i.e., count data)? If TRUE, the total sum scaling will be used to normalize the count data. The users can normalize/transform the data themselves by setting it to be FALSE. Default: TRUE.

**Value**

**call** How was the function called?  
**R2** Description of R2  
**F0** Description of F0  
**RSS** Description of RSS  
**df.model** Description of df.model  
**df.residual** Description of df.residual  
**coef.list** Description of coef.list  
**p.raw** Raw, unadjusted P-values.  
**p.adj.fdr** P-values which have been adjusted for false discovery rate.  
**p.adj.fwer** P-values which have been adjusted for family-wise error rate.

**Author(s)**

Jun Chen <<chen.jun2@mayo.edu>> and Lujun Zhang

**References**

Zhang, L., Yang, L., Ren, Y., Zhang, S., Guan, W., & Chen, J. (Bioinformatics): DiSC: a Statistical Tool for Fast Differential Expression Analysis of Individual-level Single-cell RNA-seq Data.

**Examples**

```
set.seed(seed = 1234556)
data(sim_data)

count_matrix <- sim_data$count_matrix
meta_cell <- sim_data$meta_cell
gene_index <- sim_data$gene_index
meta_ind <- sim_data$meta_ind

obj1 <- DiSC(data.mat = count_matrix, cell.ind = meta_cell,
            metadata = meta_ind, outcome = "phenotype",
            covariates = "RIN", cell.id = "cell_id",
            individual.id = "individual", perm.no = 999,
            features = c('prev', 'm', 'nzsd'), verbose = TRUE,
            sequencing.data = TRUE)
# Type I error (the nominal level: 0.05)
mean(obj1$p.raw[gene_index$EE_index] <= 0.05)
# True positive rate (based on raw P-values, the higher the better.)
mean(obj1$p.raw[gene_index$mean_index] <= 0.05)
mean(obj1$p.raw[gene_index$var_index] <= 0.05)
mean(obj1$p.raw[gene_index$mean_var_index] <= 0.05)
# False discovery rate (the nominal level: 0.10)
sum(obj1$p.adj.fdr[gene_index$EE_index] <= 0.10)/
  sum(obj1$p.adj.fdr <= 0.10)
# True positive rate (based on FDR-adjusted P-values, the higher the better.)
mean(obj1$p.adj.fdr[gene_index$mean_index] <= 0.10)
```

```

mean(obj1$p.adj.fdr[gene_index$var_index] <= 0.10)
mean(obj1$p.adj.fdr[gene_index$mean_var_index] <= 0.10)

# By default, DiSC normalizes the scRNA-seq data using TSS (total sum scaling),
# adjusted for log median sequencing depths
# Other user-specified normalization methods can also be used:
# log2 transformed, adjusted for log median sequencing depth
# data_mat_log <- log2(data_mat+1)
# inds <- unique(meta_cell[["individual"]])
# meta_ind <- meta_ind[base::match(inds, meta_ind[["individual"]]), ]
# data_mat <- count_matrix
# depth <- colSums(data_mat)
# cell.list <- list()
# for (ind in inds)
#   cell.list[[ind]] <- meta_cell[meta_cell$individual == ind, ][["cell_id"]]
# log_md_depth <- numeric(length = length(inds))
# names(log_md_depth) <- inds
# for(ind in inds)
#   log_md_depth[ind] <- log(median(depth[cell.list[[ind]]]))
# meta_ind$log_md_depth <- log_md_depth
# obj_log <-
#   DiSC(data.mat = data_mat_log, cell.ind = meta_cell,
#         metadata = meta_ind, outcome = "phenotype",
#         covariates = c("RIN", "log_md_depth"),
#         cell.id = "cell_id", individual.id = "individual",
#         perm.no = 999, verbose = FALSE,
#         sequencing.data = FALSE, # sequencing.data needs to be FALSE
#         features = c('prev', 'm', 'nzsd'))
# Size factor: DESeq2, adjusted for log median sequencing depths
# require(DESeq2)
# colData <- data.frame(condition = rep(meta_ind$phenotype, each = 375),
#                       row.names = colnames(data_mat))
# dds <- DESeq2::DESeqDataSetFromMatrix(countData = data_mat + 1,
#                                       # avoid every gene contains at least one zero
#                                       colData = colData, design = ~ condition)
#
# dds <- DESeq2::estimateSizeFactors(dds)
# data_mat_des <- sweep(data_mat, 2, DESeq2::sizeFactors(dds), FUN = "/")
# obj_des <-
#   DiSC(data.mat = data_mat_des, cell.ind = meta_cell,
#         metadata = meta_ind, outcome = "phenotype",
#         covariates = c("RIN", "log_md_depth"),
#         cell.id = "cell_id", individual.id = "individual",
#         perm.no = 999, verbose = FALSE,
#         sequencing.data = FALSE, # sequencing.data needs to be FALSE
#         features = c('prev', 'm', 'nzsd'))

```

**Description**

This dataset was generated in the "Generate Simulation Datasets" step in the Parametric\_simulation.rmd ([https://github.com/Lujun995/DiSC\\_Replication\\_Code](https://github.com/Lujun995/DiSC_Replication_Code))

**Usage**

```
data("sim_data")
```

**Format**

It contains 12 cases and 12 controls, each with 375 cell replicates. The read depths of each cell replicate are well-balanced. A covariate called RIN (RNA Integrity Number) at the individual level is included in the dataset.

The dataset comprises a total of 1,000 genes. The signal density was 15%, with differences in mean, variance, and mean+variance (each at 5%). The ground truth of differential/equally expression genes are indicated by gene\_index, including mean\_index (genes with a difference in mean), var\_index (genes with a difference in variance), mean\_var\_index (genes with a difference in both mean and variance), EE\_index (otherwise (to estimate type-I error)).

A list of elements:

count\_matrix A numeric count matrix.

meta\_cell A data.frame of the metadata at the cell level.

meta\_ind A data.frame of the metadata at the individual level.

gene\_index A list of 4 numeric vectors representing the ground truth of the IDs of the differentially or equally expressed genes.

**Source**

Simulated in the "Generate Simulation Datasets" step in the Parametric\_simulation.rmd ([https://github.com/Lujun995/DiSC\\_Replication\\_Code](https://github.com/Lujun995/DiSC_Replication_Code))

**Examples**

```
data(sim_data)
str(sim_data)
```

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