

Package ‘SPACO’

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Title Spatial Component Analysis for Spatial Sequencing Data

Version 1.0.0

Description Spatial components offer tools for dimension reduction and spatially variable gene detection for high dimensional spatial transcriptomics data. Construction of a projection onto low-dimensional feature space of spatially dependent metagenes offers pre-processing to clustering, testing for spatial variability and denoising of spatial expression patterns. For more details, see Koehler et al. (2026) <[doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/btag052](https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btag052)>.

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Imports ggplot2, Seurat (>= 5.3.0), tibble, ggforce, methods, rARPACK, tidy, mgcv, scales, Matrix (>= 1.5)

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Suggests testthat (>= 3.0.0)

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create_SpaCoObject_from_KNN
create_SpaCoObject_from_KNN

Description

create_SpaCoObject_from_KNN

Usage

create_SpaCoObject_from_KNN(SeuratObject, n = 10)

Arguments

SeuratObject Seurat object to export kNN-graph from.
n Number of neighbors to consider.

Value

Returns a SPaCoObject with the SCT data and the kNN-graph as neighborhood matrix.

denoised_projection_plot
Plot denoised gene expression

Description

Plot denoised gene expression

Usage

denoised_projection_plot(SpaCoObject, feature = NULL)

Arguments

SpaCoObject	SpacoObject with computed projections
feature	Gene for which to plot denoised projection

Value

returns a ggplot object with the denoised gene expression.

denoise_profiles	<i>computes smoothed gene profiles of genes present in the data.</i>
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Description

computes smoothed gene profiles of genes present in the data.

Usage

```
denoise_profiles(SpaCoObject)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	Spaco object to compute profiles of.
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Value

smoothed gene profiles in the SpaCoObject.

eigenMapMatMult	<i>Multiply two matrices using Eigen library</i>
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Description

This function multiplies two matrices using the Eigen library, which provides fast linear algebra operations.

Usage

```
eigenMapMatMult(A, B)
```

Arguments

A	a matrix
B	a matrix

Value

the product of A and B

feature_plot	<i>Plot gene expression</i>
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Description

Plot gene expression

Usage

```
feature_plot(SpaCoObject, feature)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	SpacoObject with computed projections
feature	Gene to plot

Value

returns a ggplot object with gene expression.

read_10x_for_spaco	<i>Read in 10x Visium spatial transcriptomics data</i>
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Description

Read in 10x Visium spatial transcriptomics data

Usage

```
read_10x_for_spaco(
  data_dir,
  slice,
  filename,
  variable_features_n = variable_features_n,
  spatial_file = spatial_file,
  vars_to_regress = NULL
)
```

Arguments

data_dir	Directory containing the H5 file specified by file name and the image data in a sub directory called spatial
slice	Name for the stored image of the tissue slice
filename	Filename of data to be read

variable_features_n Number of most variable features to keep.
 spatial_file Name of csv file from which to read tissue positions.
 vars_to_regress Names of features to be regressed against using [PercentageFeatureSet](#)

Value

Returns a ready to run SPaCoObject.

set_projection *Set projections of Spaco Object*

Description

Set projections of Spaco Object

Usage

```
set_projection(SpaCoObject, data, neighborhood = SpaCoObject@neighbours)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject Fitted object of class SpaCoObject as returned from [SpaCo] on which to update the projection slot with new data.
 data gene expression data matrix; p genes as columns, n loci as rows
 neighborhood neighborhood matrix of the new data. Must be of dimension n times n, where n is the number of columns of data

Value

Returns the SpaCoObject with the updated data, neighborhood matrix, and projection matrix.

seurat_to_spaco *Wrapper to transform existing Seurat object into an SpacoObject.*

Description

Wrapper to transform existing Seurat object into an SpacoObject.

Usage

```
seurat_to_spaco(SeuratObject, assay = "SCT", n_image = 1, layer = "scale.data")
```

Arguments

SeuratObject	Seurat object to export
assay	Assay to export from the Seurat object. Default is SCT assay.
n_image	Number of the image to export from Seurat object. Only relevant if Seurat object contains multiple images. Default is 1.
layer	Which layer to export data from. Default is scale.data.

Value

Returns a SpaCoObject with all slots filled necessary to perform the spatial component analysis.

SpaCo	<i>SpaCo</i>
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Description

SpaCo

Usage

```
SpaCo(
  SpaCoObject,
  PC_criterion = "percent",
  PC_value = 0.95,
  set_nspacs = NULL,
  nSim = 1000,
  nSpacQuantile = 0.05,
  reducedSpots = FALSE,
  nReduce = 1000
)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	Object of class SpaCoObject as generated from [SpaCoObject] on which to perform SCA.
PC_criterion	criterion on which to select number of principal components for initial covariance matrix reconstruction; either "number" to select a number of PCs or "percent" to select number of PCs to explain specified amount of data variance
PC_value	Value to specify number of PCs or desired level of explained variance, see "PC_criterion"
set_nspacs	Boolean if number of relevant spacs is to be computed. Increases run time significantly
nSim	Number of simulations for computation of spac number
nSpacQuantile	Quantile to use as cutoff for spac number
reducedSpots	Should algorithm be run on a subset of spots? Default = FALSE
nReduce	Number of spots to sample to run algorithm on subset if reducedSpots==TRUE. Ignored if reducedSpots==FALSE

Value

Returns a SpaCoObject filled with the result of the spatial component analysis.

SpaCoObject	<i>Create a constructor function that creates an object of class SpaCoObject</i>
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Description

Create a constructor function that creates an object of class SpaCoObject

Usage

```
SpaCoObject(neighbours, data, coordinates)
```

Arguments

neighbours	Binary matrix with weights describing if cells are to be considered neighbours or not depending on the defined distance.
data	Matrix with normalized and scaled gene counts. Rows as cells and genes as columns
coordinates	Matri with the cell coordinates on the slides. Rows and Columns in the 10x Visium case.

Value

Returns a SpaCoObject with the given slots filled

Spaco_plot	<i>Plot SPaCo meta genes.</i>
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Description

Plot SPaCo meta genes.

Usage

```
Spaco_plot(SpaCoObject, spac = 1)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	SpacoObject with computed projections
spac	component to plot

Value

returns a ggplot object with the meta gene expression.

spacs_to_seurat *transfer computed spatial components to existing Seurat object.*

Description

transfer computed spatial components to existing Seurat object.

Usage

```
spacs_to_seurat(SpaCoObject, SeuratObject, nSpacs = SpaCoObject@nSpacs)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	SpaCoObject to export spatial components from.
SeuratObject	Seurat object to add spatial components to.
nSpacs	Number of Spacs which are to be projected on for dimension reduction

Value

Returns a Seurat Object with the spatial components projections in the dimensional reduction slot.

subset_non_neighbour_cells
Filtering function to remove cells without neighbours in defined distance from existing Seurat object to be conformable with existing SpaCoObject.

Description

Filtering function to remove cells without neighbours in defined distance from existing Seurat object to be conformable with existing SpaCoObject.

Usage

```
subset_non_neighbour_cells(SpaCoObject, SeuratObject)
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	SpaCoObject to integrate into Seurat object.
SeuratObject	Seurat object to be filtered.

Value

Returns a Seurat object with cells filtered to match SpaCoObject.

SVGTest	<i>Compute the spatial variable genes of a SpaCoObject after running runSCA</i>
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Description

Compute the spatial variable genes of a SpaCoObject after running runSCA

Usage

```
SVGTest(SpaCoObject, adjustMethod = "holm")
```

Arguments

SpaCoObject	SpaCoObject to compute spatially variable genes of.
adjustMethod	method for p-value adjustment. See p.adjust function.

Value

returns a data frame of spatial variable genes and their p-Values.

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