Package: schex (via r-universe)

November 1, 2026

Type Package

Title Hexbin plots for single cell omics data

Version 1.27.0

Description Builds hexbin plots for variables and dimension reduction stored in single cell omics data such as SingleCellExperiment. The ideas used in this package are based on the excellent work of Dan Carr, Nicholas Lewin-Koh, Martin Maechler and Thomas Lumley.

Depends SingleCellExperiment (>= 1.7.4), ggplot2 (>= 3.2.1)

Imports hexbin, stats, methods, cluster, dplyr, entropy, ggforce, grid, rlang, concaveman

Suggests ggrepel, knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 2.1.0), covr, TENxPBMCData, scater, Seurat, shinydashboard, iSEE, igraph, scran, tibble, scuttle

URL https://github.com/SaskiaFreytag/schex

BugReports https://github.com/SaskiaFreytag/schex/issues

License GPL-3

Encoding UTF-8

RoxygenNote 7.2.3

biocViews Software, Sequencing, SingleCell, DimensionReduction, Visualization, ImmunoOncology, DataImport

VignetteBuilder knitr

Config/pak/sysreqs libabsl-dev cmake libfontconfig1-dev libfreetype6-dev libgdal-dev gdal-bin libgeos-dev libssl-dev libproj-dev libsqlite3-dev libudunits2-dev libnode-dev zlib1g-dev

Repository https://bioc.r-universe.dev

Date/Publication 2026-04-28 12:51:14 UTC

RemoteUrl https://github.com/bioc/schex

RemoteRef HEAD

RemoteSha da21fcbc4d29ddd3a874cff325e4e50857c8bc6b

Contents

make_hexbin 2
make_hexbin_label 3
plot_hexbin_bivariate 4
plot_hexbin_density 5
plot_hexbin_fc 6
plot_hexbin_feature 7
plot_hexbin_feature_plus 9
plot_hexbin_interact 11
plot_hexbin_meta 12
plot_hexbin_meta_plus 14
schex 16

Index **17**

`make_hexbin` *Bivariate binning of single cell data into hexagon cells.*

Description

`make_hexbin` returns a `SingleCellExperiment` object of binned hexagon cells.

Usage

```
make_hexbin(sce, nbins = 80, dimension_reduction = "UMAP", use_dims = c(1, 2))

## S4 method for signature 'SingleCellExperiment'
make_hexbin(sce, nbins = 80, dimension_reduction = "UMAP", use_dims = c(1, 2))
```

Arguments

`sce`	A `SingleCellExperiment` object.
`nbins`	The number of bins partitioning the range of the first component of the chosen dimension reduction.
`dimension_reduction`	A string indicating the reduced dimension result to calculate hexagon cell representation of.
`use_dims`	A vector of two integers specifying the dimensions used.

Details

This function bins observations with computed reduced dimension results into hexagon cells. For a `SingleCellExperiment` as a list in the `@metadata`. The list contains two items. The first item stores a vector specifying the hexagon ID for each observation. The second item stores a matrix with the x and y positions of the hexagon cells and the number of observations in each of them.

Value

A SingleCellExperiment object.

Functions

- make_hexbin(SingleCellExperiment): Bivariate binning of SingleCellExperiment into hexagon cells.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 80, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
```

---

make_hexbin_label *Group label plot position.*

Description

Group label plot position.

Usage

```
make_hexbin_label(sce, col)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
col	The name referring to one column in meta data for which the label position on the plot is calculated for every level. The chosen column needs to be a factor.

Value

A dataframe.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 80, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
tenx_pbmc3k$random <- factor(sample(1:3, ncol(tenx_pbmc3k), replace = TRUE))
make_hexbin_label(tenx_pbmc3k, col = "random")
```

---

plot_hexbin_bivariate *Plot of feature expression and uncertainty of single cells in bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of feature expression and uncertainty of single cells in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_bivariate(
  sce,
  mod = "RNA",
  type,
  feature,
  fan = FALSE,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL
)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
mod	A string referring to the name of the modality used for plotting. For RNA modality use "RNA". For other modalities use name of alternative object for the SingleCellExperiment object.
type	A string referring to the type of assay in the SingleCellExperiment object.
feature	A string referring to the name of one feature.
fan	Logical indicating whether to plot uncertainty surpressing palette.
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.

Details

This function plots the mean expression and a measure of uncertainty of any feature in the hexagon cell representation calculated with make_hexbin using a bivariate scale. When fan=FALSE, the standard deviation and the mean expression are plotted. When fan=TRUE, the mean expression and coefficient of variation are calculated. The coefficient of variation is converted to a percentage of uncertainty. When using fan=TRUE the raw count data should be used. In order to enable the calculation of the coefficient of variation a pseduo-count of 1 is added to every count.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 80, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
plot_hexbin_bivariate(tenx_pbmc3k, type = "counts", feature = "ENSG00000135250")
plot_hexbin_bivariate(tenx_pbmc3k, type = "counts", feature = "ENSG00000135250", fan = TRUE)
```

---

plot_hexbin_density *Plot of density of observations from single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of density of observations from single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_density(sce, title = NULL, xlab = NULL, ylab = NULL)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 10, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
plot_hexbin_density(tenx_pbmc3k)
```

`plot_hexbin_fc` *Plot of fold change of selected gene in single cell data using bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of fold change of selected gene in single cell data using bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_fc(
  sce,
  col,
  mod = "RNA",
  type,
  feature,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL,
  colors
)
```

Arguments

`sce`	A `SingleCellExperiment` object.
`col`	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce by which to compare. Note this factor can only contain two levels.
`mod`	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce by which to compare. Note this factor can only contain two levels.
`type`	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce by which to compare. Note this factor can only contain two levels.
`feature`	A string referring to the name of one feature.
`title`	A string containing the title of the plot.
`xlab`	A string containing the title of the x axis.

ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.
colors	A vector of strings specifying which colors to use for plotting the different levels in the selected column of the meta data.

Details

This function plots fold change within each hexagon, which are calculated with make_hexbin. Note that the fold change is only accurate if the condition investigated is within the same individual. For conditions across different individuals different methods that account for individual-specific effects are required.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
colData(tenx_pbmc3k) <- cbind(colData(tenx_pbmc3k), perCellQCMetrics(tenx_pbmc3k))
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 20, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
tenx_pbmc3k$random <- factor(sample(1:2, ncol(tenx_pbmc3k), replace = TRUE))
plot_hexbin_fc(tenx_pbmc3k, col = "random", feature = "ENSG00000187608", type = "counts")
```

---

plot_hexbin_feature *Plot of feature expression of single cells in bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of feature expression of single cells in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_feature(
  sce,
  mod = "RNA",
  type,
  feature,
  action,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL,
```

```
  lower_cutoff = 0,
  upper_cutoff = 1
)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
mod	A string referring to the name of the modality used for plotting. For RNA modality use "RNA". For other modalities use name of alternative object for the SingleCellExperiment object.
type	A string referring to the type of assay in the SingleCellExperiment object.
feature	A string referring to the name of one feature.
action	A strings pecifying how meta data of observations in binned hexagon cells are to be summarized. Possible actions are prop_0, mode, mean and median (see details).
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.
lower_cutoff	For mode, mean and median actions, remove expression values below this quantile. Expressed as decimal. Default: 0
upper_cutoff	For mode, mean and median actions, remove expression values above this quantile. Expressed as decimal. Default: 1

Details

This function plots the expression of any feature in the hexagon cell representation calculated with make_hexbin. The chosen gene expression is summarized by one of four actions prop_0, mode, mean and median:

prop_0 Returns the proportion of observations in the bin greater than 0. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

mode Returns the mode of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

mean Returns the mean of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

median Returns the median of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
colData(tenx_pbmc3k) <- cbind(
    colData(tenx_pbmc3k),
    perCellQCMetrics(tenx_pbmc3k)
)
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 20, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
plot_hexbin_feature(tenx_pbmc3k,
    type = "logcounts",
    feature = "ENSG00000135250", action = "median"
)
plot_hexbin_feature(tenx_pbmc3k,
    type = "logcounts",
    feature = "ENSG00000135250", action = "mode"
)
```

---

plot_hexbin_feature_plus

Plot of gene expression and meta data of single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.

Description

Plot of gene expression and meta data of single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_feature_plus(
  sce,
  col,
  mod = "RNA",
  type,
  feature,
  action,
  colors = NULL,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL,
  expand_hull = 3,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment.
col	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce by which to colour the hexagons.
mod	A string referring to the name of the modality used for plotting. For RNA modality use "RNA". For other modalities use name of alternative object for the SingleCellExperiment object.
type	A string referring to the type of assay in the SingleCellExperiment object.
feature	A string referring to the name of one feature.
action	A string specifying how gene expression of observations in binned hexagon cells are to be summarized. Possible actions are prop_0, mode, mean and median (see details).
colors	A vector of strings specifying which colors to use for plotting the different levels in the selected column of the meta data.
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.
expand_hull	A numeric value determining the expansion of the line marking different clusters.
...	Additional arguments passed on to ggforce{geom_mark_hull}.

Details

This function plots any gene expresssion in the hexagon cell representation calculated with make_hexbin as well as at the same time representing outlines of clusters. The chosen gene expression is summarized by one of four actions prop_0, mode, mean and median:

prop_0 Returns the proportion of observations in the bin greater than 0. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

mode Returns the mode of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

mean Returns the mean of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

median Returns the median of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 10, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
tenx_pbmc3k$random <- factor(sample(1:3, ncol(tenx_pbmc3k), replace = TRUE))
plot_hexbin_feature_plus(tenx_pbmc3k,
    col = "random", type = "counts",
    feature = "ENSG00000135250", action = "mean"
)
```

---

plot_hexbin_interact *Plot of interaction of expression of single cells in bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of interaction of expression of single cells in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_interact(
  sce,
  mod,
  type,
  feature,
  interact,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL
)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
mod	A vector of strings referring to the names of the modularities. For SingleCellExperiment use "RNA" to access the RNA expression data stored as the main experiment type.
type	A vector of strings referring to the types of assays in the SingleCellExperiment object.
feature	A vector of strings referring to the names of one features in the same order as the vector of modularities.

interact	A string specifying how interaction between features is calculated. Possible interaction measures are corr_spearman and mi (see details).
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.

Details

This function plots the interaction between any features in the hexagon cell representation calculated with make_hexbin. The interaction between the chosen features is calculated by one of two measurers corr_spearman, ratio and mi:

mi Returns the mutual information coefficient.

corr_spearman Returns the Spearman correlation.

fc Return the log fold change between the features.

Note that fc should be applied to log normalized values.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[!rm_ind, ]
colData(tenx_pbmc3k) <- cbind(colData(tenx_pbmc3k), perCellQCMetrics(tenx_pbmc3k))
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 10, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
plot_hexbin_interact(tenx_pbmc3k,
    type = c("counts", "counts"), mod = c("RNA", "RNA"),
    feature = c("ENSG00000146109", "ENSG00000102265"), interact = "fc"
)
```

---

plot_hexbin_meta *Plot of meta data of single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of meta data of single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_meta(
  sce,
  col,
  action,
  no = 1,
  colors = NULL,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL,
  na.rm = FALSE
)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
col	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce by which to colour the hexagons.
action	A string specifying how meta data of observations in binned hexagon cells are to be summarized. Possible actions are majority, prop, prop_0, mode, mean and median (see details).
no	An integer specifying which level to plot of the column. Only in effect when action=prop.
colors	A vector of strings specifying which colors to use for plotting the different levels in the selected column of the meta data. Only in effect when the selected action="majority".
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.
na.rm	Logical indicating whether NA values should be removed.

Details

This function plots any column of the meta data in the hexagon cell representation calculated with make_hexbin. The chosen meta data column is summarized by one of six actions majority, prop, prop_0, mode, mean and median:

majority Returns the value of the majority of observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be a factor or character.

prop Returns the proportion of each level or unique character in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be a factor or character

prop_0 Returns the proportion of observations in the b factor or character in the bin greater than 0. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

mode Returns the mode of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

`mean` Returns the mean of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

`median` Returns the median of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[-rm_ind, ]
colData(tenx_pbmc3k) <- cbind(
    colData(tenx_pbmc3k),
    perCellQCMetrics(tenx_pbmc3k)
)
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 20, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
plot_hexbin_meta(tenx_pbmc3k, col = "total", action = "median")
```

---

plot_hexbin_meta_plus *Plot of meta data with annotation of single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.*

Description

Plot of meta data with annotation of single cell data in bivariate hexagon cells.

Usage

```
plot_hexbin_meta_plus(
  sce,
  col1,
  col2,
  action,
  no = 1,
  colors = NULL,
  title = NULL,
  xlab = NULL,
  ylab = NULL,
  expand_hull = 3,
  na.rm = FALSE,
  ...
)
```

Arguments

sce	A SingleCellExperiment object.
col1	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce by which to make the outlines. Note that this should be a factor or a character.
col2	A string referring to the name of one column in the meta data of sce specifying what to color hexagons by.
action	A string specifying how meta data as specified in col2 of observations in binned hexagon cells are to be summarized. Possible actions are prop, mode, mean and median (see details).
no	An integer specifying which level to plot of the column. Only in effect when action=prop.
colors	A vector of strings specifying which colors to use for plotting the different levels in the selected column of the meta data.
title	A string containing the title of the plot.
xlab	A string containing the title of the x axis.
ylab	A string containing the title of the y axis.
expand_hull	A numeric value determining the expansion of the line marking different clusters.
na.rm	Logical indicating whether NA values should be removed.
...	Additional arguments passed on to ggforce{geom_mark_hull}.

Details

This function plots any meta data in the hexagon cell representation calculated with make_hexbin as well as at the same time representing outlines of clusters. The chosen gene expression is summarized by one of four actions prop_0, mode, mean and median:

prop Returns the proportion of each level or unique character in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be a factor or character.

mode Returns the mode of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

mean Returns the mean of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

median Returns the median of the observations in the bin. The associated meta data column needs to be numeric.

Value

A ggplot2{ggplot} object.

Examples

```
# For SingleCellExperiment object
library(TENxPBMCData)
library(scater)
tenx_pbmc3k <- TENxPBMCData(dataset = "pbmc3k")
rm_ind <- calculateAverage(tenx_pbmc3k) < 0.1
tenx_pbmc3k <- tenx_pbmc3k[-rm_ind, ]
colData(tenx_pbmc3k) <- cbind(colData(tenx_pbmc3k), perCellQCMetrics(tenx_pbmc3k))
tenx_pbmc3k <- logNormCounts(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- runPCA(tenx_pbmc3k)
tenx_pbmc3k <- make_hexbin(tenx_pbmc3k, 20, dimension_reduction = "PCA")
tenx_pbmc3k$random <- factor(sample(1:3, ncol(tenx_pbmc3k), replace = TRUE))
tenx_pbmc3k$random <- as.factor(tenx_pbmc3k$random)
plot_hexbin_meta_plus(tenx_pbmc3k, col1 = "random", col2 = "total", action = "median")
```

---

schex *schex: A package for plotting hexbin plots for single cell omics data.*

Description

Builds hexbin plots for variables and dimension reduction stored single cell omics data such as SingleCellExperiment. The ideas used in this package are based on the excellent work of Dan Carr, Nicholas Lewin-Koh, Martin Maechler and Thomas Lumley.

Details

Please see the help pages listed below:

- make_hexbin
- plot_hexbin_feature
- plot_hexbin_meta

Also see the vignettes for more usage examples.

Please report issues and suggest improvements at Github:

https://github.com/SaskiaFreytag/schex

Index

ggforce, *10*, *15*
ggplot2, *5*, *7, 8*, *10*, *12*, *14, 15*

make_hexbin, 2, *5*, *7, 8*, *10*, *12, 13*, *15, 16*
make_hexbin,SingleCellExperiment-method
(make_hexbin), 2
make_hexbin_label, 3

plot_hexbin_bivariate, 4
plot_hexbin_density, 5
plot_hexbin_fc, 6
plot_hexbin_feature, 7, *16*
plot_hexbin_feature_plus, 9
plot_hexbin_interact, 11
plot_hexbin_meta, 12, *16*
plot_hexbin_meta_plus, 14

schex, 16
SingleCellExperiment, *2–6*, *8*, *10, 11*, *13*, *15*