

# Package ‘scregclust’

July 24, 2025

**Title** Reconstructing the Regulatory Programs of Target Genes in  
scRNA-Seq Data

**Version** 0.2.1

**Description** Implementation of the scregclust algorithm  
described in Larsson, Held, et al. (2024) <[doi:10.1038/s41467-024-53954-3](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-024-53954-3)>  
which reconstructs regulatory programs of target genes in scRNA-seq data.  
Target genes are clustered into modules and each module is associated with a linear  
model describing the regulatory program.

**Encoding** UTF-8

**Depends** R (>= 4.1.0)

**Imports** Matrix, stats, methods, utils, reshape, igraph, graphics,  
grid, cli, prettyunits, ggplot2, rlang, Rcpp (>= 1.0.8)

**Suggests** knitr, rmarkdown, testthat (>= 3.0.0), Seurat (>= 5.0.0),  
glmGamPoi, hdf5r, GEOquery

**LinkingTo** Rcpp, RcppEigen

**VignetteBuilder** knitr

**RoxygenNote** 7.3.2

**License** GPL (>= 3)

**Config/testthat/edition** 3

**URL** <https://scmethods.github.io/scregclust/>,  
<https://github.com/scmethods/scregclust/>

**BugReports** <https://github.com/scmethods/scregclust/issues>

**NeedsCompilation** yes

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**Repository** CRAN

**Date/Publication** 2025-07-24 15:40:02 UTC

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available_results	<i>Extract final configurations into a data frame</i>
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Description

Extract final configurations into a data frame

Usage

available\_results(obj)

Arguments

obj                    An object of class scregclust

Value

A [data.frame](#) containing penalization parameters and final configurations for those penalizations.

---

cluster_overlap	Create a table of module overlap for two clusterings
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**Description**

Compares two clusterings and creates a table of overlap between them. Module labels do not have to match.

**Usage**

```
cluster_overlap(k1, k2)
```

**Arguments**

k1	First clustering
k2	Second clustering

**Value**

A matrix showing the module overlap with the labels of k1 in the columns and the labels of k2 in the rows.

---

fast_cor	Fast computation of correlation
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**Description**

This uses a more memory-intensive but much faster algorithm than the built-in cor function.

**Usage**

```
fast_cor(x, y)
```

**Arguments**

x	first input matrix
y	second input matrix

**Details**

Computes the correlation between the columns of x and y.

**Value**

Correlations matrix between the columns of x and y

---

find_module_sizes	<i>Determine module sizes</i>
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**Description**

Determine module sizes

**Usage**

```
find_module_sizes(module, n_modules)
```

**Arguments**

module	Vector of module indices
n_modules	Total number of modules

**Value**

A named vector containing the name of the module (its index or "Noise") and the number of elements in that module

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get_avg_num_regulators	<i>Get the average number of active regulators per module</i>
------------------------	---

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**Description**

Get the average number of active regulators per module

**Usage**

```
get_avg_num_regulators(fit)
```

**Arguments**

fit	An object of class scRegClust
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**Value**

A [data.frame](#) containing the average number of active regulators per module for each penalization parameter.

---

get\_num\_final\_configs    *Return the number of final configurations*

---

**Description**

Returns the number of final configurations per penalization parameter in an scRegClust object.

**Usage**

```
get_num_final_configs(fit)
```

**Arguments**

fit                      An object of class scRegClust

**Value**

An integer vector containing the number of final configurations for each penalization parameter.

---

get\_rand\_indices            *Compute Rand indices*

---

**Description**

Compute Rand indices for fitted scregclust object

**Usage**

```
get_rand_indices(fit, groundtruth, adjusted = TRUE)
```

**Arguments**

fit                      An object of class scregclust  
groundtruth            A known clustering of the target genes (integer vector)  
adjusted                If TRUE, the Adjusted Rand index is computed. Otherwise the ordinary Rand index is computed.

**Value**

A `data.frame` containing the Rand indices. Since there can be more than one final configuration for some penalization parameters, Rand indices are averaged for each fixed penalization parameter. Returned are the mean, standard deviation and number of final configurations that were averaged.

## References

- W. M. Rand (1971). "Objective criteria for the evaluation of clustering methods". *Journal of the American Statistical Association* 66 (336): 846–850. DOI:10.2307/2284239
- Lawrence Hubert and Phipps Arabie (1985). "Comparing partitions". *Journal of Classification*. 2 (1): 193–218. DOI:10.1007/BF01908075

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get_regulator_list	<i>Return list of regulator genes</i>
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## Description

Return list of regulator genes

## Usage

```
get_regulator_list(mode = c("TF", "kinase"))
```

## Arguments

mode	Determines which genes are considered to be regulators. Currently supports TF=transcription factors and kinases.
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## Value

a list of gene symbols

## See Also

[scregclust\\_format\(\)](#)

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get_target_gene_modules	<i>Extract target gene modules for given penalization parameters</i>
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## Description

Extract target gene modules for given penalization parameters

## Usage

```
get_target_gene_modules(fit, penalization = NULL)
```

**Arguments**

fit	An object of class <code>scregclust</code>
penalization	A numeric vector of penalization parameters. The penalization parameters specified here must have been used during fitting of the <code>fit</code> object.

**Value**

A list of lists of final target modules. One list for each parameter in `penalization`. The lists contain the modules of target genes for each final configuration.

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kmeanspp	<i>Perform the k-means++ algorithm</i>
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---

**Description**

Performs the k-means++ algorithm to cluster the rows of the input matrix.

**Usage**

```
kmeanspp(x, n_cluster, n_init_clusterings = 10L, n_max_iter = 10L)
```

**Arguments**

x	Input matrix (n x p)
n_cluster	Number of clusters
n_init_clusterings	Number of repeated random initializations to perform
n_max_iter	Number of maximum iterations to perform in the k-means algorithm

**Details**

Estimation is repeated

**Value**

An object of class `stats::kmeans`.

**References**

David Arthur and Sergei Vassilvitskii. K-Means++: The advantages of careful seeding. In Proceedings of the Eighteenth Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms, SODA '07, pages 1027—1035. Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, 2007.

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```
plot_module_count_helper
```

*Plot average silhouette scores and average predictive  $R^2$*

---

### Description

Plot average silhouette scores and average predictive  $R^2$

### Usage

```
plot_module_count_helper(list_of_fits, penalization)
```

### Arguments

<code>list_of_fits</code>	A list of <code>scregclust</code> objects each fit to the same dataset across a variety of module counts (varying <code>n_modules</code> while running <code>scregclust</code> ).
<code>penalization</code>	Either a single numeric value requesting the results for the same penalty parameter across all fits in <code>list_of_fits</code> , or one for each individual fit.

### Value

A `ggplot2` plot showing the average silhouette score and the average predictive  $R^2$

---

```
plot_regulator_network
```

*Plotting the regulatory table from `scregclust` as a directed graph*

---

### Description

Plotting the regulatory table from `scregclust` as a directed graph

### Usage

```
plot_regulator_network(
  output,
  arrow_size = 0.3,
  edge_scaling = 30,
  no_links = 6,
  col = c("gray80", "#FC7165", "#BD828C", "#9D8A9F", "#7D92B2", "#BDA88C", "#FCBD65",
    "#F2BB90", "#E7B9BA", "#BDB69C", "#92B27D", "#9B8BA5", "#9D7DB2", "#94A5BF")
)
```



**Arguments**

output	Object of type scregclust_output from a fit of the scregclust algorithm.
arrow_size	Size of arrow head
edge_scaling	Scaling factor for edge width
no_links	Threshold value (0-10) for number of edges to show, higher value = more stringent threshold = less edges
col	color

**Value**

Graph with gene modules and regulators as nodes

---

plot_silhouettes	<i>Plot individual silhouette scores</i>
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---

**Description**

Plot individual silhouette scores

**Usage**

```
plot_silhouettes(list_of_fits, penalization, final_config = 1L)
```

**Arguments**

list_of_fits	A list of scregclust objects each fit to the same dataset across a variety of module counts (varying n_modules when running <a href="#">scregclust</a> ).
penalization	Either a single numeric value requesting the results for the same penalty parameter across all fits in list_of_fits, or one for each individual fit.
final_config	The final configuration that should be visualized. Either a single number to be used for all fits in list_of_fits, or one for each individual fit.

**Value**

A ggplot2 plot showing the the silhouette scores for each supplied fit.

---

scregclust	<i>Uncover gene modules and their regulatory programs from single-cell data</i>
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## Description

Use the scRegClust algorithm to determine gene modules and their regulatory programs from single-cell data.

## Usage

```
scregclust(
  expression,
  genesymbols,
  is_regulator,
  penalization,
  n_modules,
  initial_target_modules = NULL,
  sample_assignment = NULL,
  center = TRUE,
  split1_proportion = 0.5,
  total_proportion = 1,
  split_indices = NULL,
  prior_indicator = NULL,
  prior_genesymbols = NULL,
  prior_baseline = 1e-06,
  prior_weight = 0.5,
  min_module_size = 0L,
  allocate_per_obs = TRUE,
  noise_threshold = 0.025,
  n_cycles = 50L,
  use_kmeanspp_init = TRUE,
  n_initializations = 50L,
  max_optim_iter = 10000L,
  tol_coop_rel = 1e-08,
  tol_coop_abs = 1e-12,
  tol_nnls = 1e-04,
  compute_predictive_r2 = TRUE,
  compute_silhouette = FALSE,
  nowarnings = FALSE,
  verbose = TRUE,
  quick_mode = FALSE,
  quick_mode_percent = 0.1
)
```

**Arguments**

expression	p × n matrix of pre-processed single cell expression data with p rows of genes and n columns of cells.
genesymbols	A vector of gene names corresponding to rows of expression. Has to be of length p.
is_regulator	An indicator vector where 1 indicates that the corresponding row in expression is a candidate regulator. All other rows represent target genes. Has to be of length p.
penalization	Sparsity penalty related to the amount of regulators associated with each module. Either a single positive number or a vector of positive numbers.
n_modules	Requested number of modules (integer). If this is provided without specifying initial_target_modules, then an initial module allocation is performed on the cross-correlation matrix of targets and genes on the first dataset after data splitting.
initial_target_modules	The initial assignment of target genes to modules of length sum(is_regulator == 0L). If this is not specified, then see n_modules regarding module initialization. If provided, use_kmeanspp_init and n_initializations are ignored.
sample_assignment	A vector of sample assignment for each cell, can be used to perform the data splitting with stratification. Has to be of length n. No stratification if NULL is supplied.
center	Whether or not genes should be centered within each subgroup defined in sample_assignment.
split1_proportion	The proportion to use for the first dataset during data splitting. The proportion for the second dataset is 1 - split1_proportion. If stratification with sample_assignment is used, then the proportion of each strata is controlled.
total_proportion	Can be used to only use a proportion of the supplied observations. The proportion of the first dataset during data splitting in relation to the full dataset will be total_proportion * split1_proportion.
split_indices	Can be used to provide an explicit data split. If this is supplied then split1_proportion, and total_proportion are ignored. Note that if sample_assignment is provided and center == TRUE, then subgroup centering will be performed as in the case of random splitting. A vector of length n containing entries 1 for cells in the first data split, 2 for cells in the second data split and NA for cells that should be excluded from the computations.
prior_indicator	An indicator matrix (sparse or dense) of size q × q that indicates whether there is a known functional relationship between two genes. Ideally, this is supplied as a sparse matrix (sparseMatrix in the Matrix package). If not, then the matrix is converted to one.
prior_genesymbols	A vector of gene names of length q corresponding to the rows/columns in prior_indicator. Does not have to be the same as genesymbols, but only useful if there is overlap.

prior_baseline	A positive baseline for the network prior. The larger this parameter is, the less impact the network prior will have.
prior_weight	A number between 0 and 1 indicating the strength of the prior in relation to the data. 0 ignores the prior and makes the algorithm completely data-driven. 1 uses only the prior during module allocation.
min_module_size	Minimum required size of target genes in a module. Smaller modules are emptied.
allocate_per_obs	Whether module allocation should be performed for each observation in the second data split separately. If FALSE, target genes are allocated into modules on the aggregate sum of squares across all observations in the second data split.
noise_threshold	Threshold for the best $R^2$ of a target gene before it gets identified as noise.
n_cycles	Number of maximum algorithmic cycles.
use_kmeanspp_init	Use kmeans++ for module initialization if initial_target_modules is a single integer; otherwise use kmeans with random initial cluster centers
n_initializations	Number of kmeans(++) initialization runs.
max_optim_iter	Maximum number of iterations during optimization in the coop-Lasso and NNLS steps.
tol_coop_rel	Relative convergence tolerance during optimization in the coop-Lasso step.
tol_coop_abs	Absolute convergence tolerance during optimization in the coop-Lasso step.
tol_nnls	Convergence tolerance during optimization in the NNLS step.
compute_predictive_r2	Whether to compute predictive $R^2$ per module as well as regulator importance.
compute_silhouette	Whether to compute silhouette scores for each target gene.
nowarnings	When turned on then no warning messages are shown.
verbose	Whether to print progress.
quick_mode	Whether to use a reduced number of noise targets to speed up computations.
quick_mode_percent	A number in [0, 1) indicating the amount of noise targets to use in the re-allocation process if quick_mode = TRUE.

### Value

A list with S3 class scregclust containing

penalization	The supplied penalization parameters
results	A list of result lists (each with S3 class scregclust_result), one for each supplied penalization parameter. See below.
initial_target_modules	Initial allocation of target genes into modules.

`split_indices` either verbatim the vector given as input or a vector encoding the splits as NA = not included, 1 = split 1 or 2 = split 2. Allows reproducibility of data splits.

For each supplied penalization parameter, `results` contains a list with

- the current penalization parameter,
- the supplied genesymbols after filtering (as used during fitting),
- the supplied `is_regulator` vector after filtering (as used during fitting),
- the number of fitted modules `n_modules`,
- whether the current run converged to a single configuration (as a boolean),
- as well as an output object containing the numeric results for each final configuration.

It is possible that the algorithm ends in a finite cycle of configurations instead of a unique final configuration. Therefore, output is a list with each element itself being a list with the following contents:

`reg_table` a regulator table, a matrix of weights for each regulator and module

`module` vector of same length as genesymbols containing the module assignments for all genes with regulators marked as NA. Genes considered noise are marked as -1.

`module_all` same as `module`, however, genes that were marked as noise (-1 in `module`) are assigned to the module in which it has the largest  $R^2$ , even if it is below `noise_threshold`.

`r2` matrix of predictive  $R^2$  value for each target gene and module

`best_r2` vector of best predictive  $R^2$  for each gene (regulators marked with NA)

`best_r2_idx` module index corresponding to best predictive  $R^2$  for each gene (regulators marked with NA)

`r2_module` a vector of predictive  $R^2$  values for each module (included if `compute_predictive_r2 == TRUE`)

`importance` a matrix of importance values for each regulator (rows) and module (columns) (included if `compute_predictive_r2 == TRUE`)

`r2_cross_module_per_target` a matrix of cross module  $R^2$  values for each target gene (rows) and each module (columns) (included if `compute_silhouette == TRUE`)

`silhouette` a vector of silhouette scores for each target gene (included if `compute_silhouette == TRUE`)

`models` regulator selection for each module as a matrix with regulators in rows and modules in columns

`signs` regulator signs for each module as a matrix with regulators in rows and modules in columns

`weights` average regulator coefficient for each module

`coeffs` list of regulator coefficient matrices for each module for all target genes as re-estimated in the NNLS step

`sigmas` matrix of residual variances, one per target gene in each module; derived from the residuals in NNLS step

---

scregclust_format	<i>Package data before clustering</i>
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---

**Description**

Package data before clustering

**Usage**

```
scregclust_format(expression_matrix, mode = c("TF", "kinase"))
```

**Arguments**

expression_matrix	The p x n gene expression matrix with gene symbols as rownames.
mode	Determines which genes are considered to be regulators.

**Value**

A list with

genesymbols	The gene symbols extracted from the expression matrix
sample_assignment	A vector filled with 1's of the same length as there are columns in the gene expression matrix.
is_regulator	Whether a gene is considered to be a regulator or not, determined dependent on mode.

**See Also**

[get\\_regulator\\_list\(\)](#)

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